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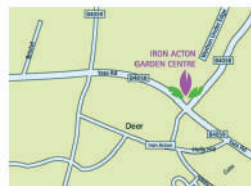


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

ARTICLES — In the past I have asked you for new articles so that the magazine does not become boring!! Sadly, the response has not been overwhelming so I am asking again. If you have anything you would like included, please, please contact me. Don't be shy.

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 spring edition is 15th January 2024. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE. You would be amazed by how many people ask me, many days past the closing date, "when is the closing date?" Even one of our team members asked me that question not too long ago! Generally, I reply with a smile "It was xxxx". No matter, I always do my very best to accommodate everyone.

FRONT PAGE: - This image is of St. James Church decked with poppies. Churchwarden Annette Bishop came up with the idea in April/May and asked the ladies of the Parish to make poppies and so we did. From all over the Parish poppies were made. Some of them were knitted, some crocheted, some were made from felt, and the sizes varied. Quite a lot of the poppy making was done during the meetings of the craft group (they meet on a Friday afternoon in the Parish Hall). I have to say that I truly admire the tenacity of Annette. A lot of thanks must go to the ladies who made the other items, including the soldier at the bottom right and the words "Lest we forget". Also, a massive thank you to the chaps who hung and secured it. All, in all it is a brilliant achievement.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We would like to wish all our, lovely, friends and neighbours a wonderful Christmas and a healthy New Year.
Instead of giving cards we shall be making a donation to
St. Peter's Hospice.
David and Pamela McCoy

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WINTER BIRD NEWS

I am getting a feeling of a “deja vu”! Here I am in early October packing summer clothes for a half term break with the family for temperatures in the 30’s and thinking about what will be current in the birding world in December when this issue comes out. Will it be freezing, wet, foggy, or frosty weather, what winter visitors will we have to our gardens and local fields? Up to now the autumn weather has been very mild if a little damp. The leaves are still on the trees and the grass hasn’t stopped growing. There is a distinct lack of winter migrants with not a single Redwing or Fieldfare to be seen and no flocks of finches in the fields.

There have been some advantages to this warmer weather in that our summer residents and those from farther north have been slow to leave for their migrations and, those that have, are stopping longer in their stop-over feeding stations. Only last weekend I was at Court Lake, Frampton on Severn watching a feeding Osprey which has been present since the end of September. If you haven’t been to Court Lake I suggest a visit, at any time, but especially in May, for a walk around the lake which has easy level access and where you are likely to see or hear many warblers including Willow, Cetti’s and Reed along with Blackcap, Whitethroat and Chiffchaff’s and, if dragonflies are around, you should see Hobbies. The sailing lake often has a variety of Gulls and ducks and migrating Black Terns are a regular.

You may have noticed your bird feeders are not being eaten so quickly. This isn’t because of a lack of finches The warmer weather and later harvest has meant that the birds are still foraging in the field and hedgerow. There are plenty of thistles and teasels. Once the weather turns, you’ll see them return to your feeders. So remember to keep both these and your water stations topped up. In the fields to the south of the village the local farmers have planted a mix of various seeds including millet and these should hold an abundance of finches later in the year and we may even get the thousands of Linnets as we have seen in the last two winters. Looking at the hedgerows, there is also an abundance of berries, including Hawthorn. If the old sayings are anything to go by, we are in for a hard winter and we may then have invasions of Redwing and Fieldfare in their hundreds and even the possibility of irruptions of Waxwings. Every few years they come in their thousands across the North Sea, after good breeding seasons in Scandinavia and Russia and a shortage of food locally.

With any “invasion” of thrushes and finches there will be easy pickings for the local Sparrowhawks. This year if you walked on the footpath from the church, under the “haw-haw” and passed the small wood on the right you may have heard the begging call of young Sparrowhawks whose parents nested on an old squirrel dray. I know some of you don’t like to see hawks visiting your bird feeders hoping to catch a sparrow, finch or blackbird but it shows we have a healthy bird population in general.

The winter is a good time to brush up on your bird identification and a particularly pleasant way is to visit a reserve or venue, such as Slimbridge, where there are plenty of hides. There are usually a number of birdwatchers only too willing to let you look through their telescopes, point out the various birds present and share their knowledge. As the afternoon starts to fade head to the Rushy Pen which has warm radiators and a large window to view the wintering ducks and swans and listen to commentary from the reserve manager who will explain where all the wildfowl come from. He will tell you the family history of many of the Berwick Swans, including their ages, how many young they have reared in their life and why he never leaves the wheelbarrow when feeding!

If any of you have any questions or want to give any feedback then pop an email over and I’ll do my best to answer – boycey@west-tec.co.uk

Actonion news

Website: www.actonians.co.uk

As I write, we are well into rehearsals for our Autumn production of Bleak Expectations – hot foot from the West End stage to Iron Acton!

Bleak Expectations was originally an award-winning comedy radio series on Radio 4. It was written by Mark Evans and he played some of the minor parts in each episode. It was then made into a stage play and recently performed in the West End with a series of different comedians each week, including Stephen Fry, Sally Phillips, Jo Brand and Julian Clary to name but a few, taking the role of the Narrator, Sir Philip Bin.



It is a pastiche of the works of Charles Dickens, such as Great Expectations and Bleak House, hence the name of the play! It is an hilarious, chaotic caper, featuring dastardly villains, preposterous names, pulse-quickening romances, heart-rending death scenes and, of course, a happy ending.

We are all having a lot of fun with the well written comic script, the quick-fire dialogue, the bizarre props and the eccentric plot. It's not often that the props team have been asked to provide an anvil, toenail clippings belonging to the Duke of Wellington, a kitten ink well and laudanum shortbread!

We hope that we can bring out all the comedy and give our audiences an enjoyable experience and an opportunity to laugh out loud!

If you like the thought of joining the Actonians then please contact us through our webpage or email us on actonians@outlook.com. There are a whole variety of different roles that may interest you.

We also have a thriving Junior group that meet on Wednesday evenings.

Follow us on: <https://facebook.com/Actonians> to find out about our next production.

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Iron Acton Primary School News



The second term of the current school year has just begun and the year continues to move forwards at a rapid pace. At the start of the year, we welcomed 16 new children to our Reception Class (which is also known as Barn Owls), all of whom have quickly settled into school life. We now have a total of 100 children at our school and we are very nearly full. Over the coming weeks, there will be the inevitable exciting build up to Christmas with Nativity plays, pantomimes, parties, dinner and much more – we are very much looking forward to it!

One of the highlights of the first term was our annual Harvest service. This is always such a special event – the church was filled with children and their families and each class spent time sharing something they had prepared on the Harvest theme including songs, poetry and prayers. The children brought along a range of items which were donated to the Yate and Chipping Sodbury foodbank – they had been visited earlier in the week by two representatives from the foodbank who explained why they are needed and how we can all help.

As part of our ongoing self-improvement strategy as a school, we have decided to focus on the following priorities for development over the coming year:

1. To further develop a highly ambitious curriculum for all which focuses specifically on the development of art skills.
2. To further refine our assessment systems due to Key Stage 1 SATs now being abolished.
3. To promote and sustain highly positive attitudes towards reading.
4. To promote high standards of behaviour and introduce a system called zones of regulation (this is about children understanding their emotions and using strategies to respond appropriately).

These areas have been identified by us as a school to continue working on in light of our own self-evaluation and feedback from last year's OFSTED inspection.

Over the next few weeks the children will recognise anti-bullying week. This is an important opportunity for children to understand what bullying is and how it impacts on people. Our fantastic PTA – the Friends of Iron Acton School – has agreed to fund anti-bullying workshops with a visiting drama organisation – Unique Voice, which will help them to explore this matter fully.

Parent show rounds for the next academic year are currently taking place. Any families wishing to take a look at our school are encouraged to contact the school office to book an appointment – we would be very happy to give you a tour and help you to experience what it is like to be a member of the school.

Mike Riches, Headteacher

enquiries@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk

01454 228322

IRON ACTON'S AUTOBiography – VEHICLES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR LIVES



I was having a quiet pint in 'The Lamb' recently, sitting on my own reading back copies of 'What Car?' magazine from the mid-1990s when a fellow drinker approached and challenged me on the choice of vehicles selected so far for the AUTOBiography. "How can you claim to be featuring cars that have shaped the lives of people across our parish when you haven't mentioned at least one two-seater, open-topped sports car?" she asked, not entirely unfairly. Her view was that there are many people in the parish for whom their fiftieth birthday is more a memory than an anticipation and that therefore most of us who live within the sound of the bells of St. James the Less will have had, or known someone who has had, such a car.

The logic was sound. The era in which the two-seater convertible sports car was the young person's wheels of choice was probably at its height between the 1960s and late 1980s, before being rekindled towards the end of the century. Young people whose licences were fresh in their pockets, older people seeking to relive the sensations of youth and many in the stages in between will have looked to these simple conveyances to provide their daily transport and weekend thrills. Until hot hatches muscled their way in, a sports car was the most accessible way to enjoy great handling, the sensation of speed and reasonable running costs.

That agreed, the next question was which example of the two-seater sports car to focus upon. A quick straw poll around the bar revealed two schools of thought. The first firmly believed that the prime example of the genre was the classic MGB, made between 1962 and 1980. A good call as it was affordable, easy to drive and exciting on the road. It was also fairly unreliable, a factor seized upon by the second set of opinion which felt that the honour should fall to the Mazda MX-5, manufactured in various forms from 1989 until the present day. This captured all that was good about the quintessential British sports car, but made it modern, reliable and always fun to drive.

Neither felt exactly right to have as the poster-car of the two-seater sports car. The MGB seemed too archaic and redolent of a mythical golden era, while the MX-5 felt just too clinical and perfect. There had to be a compromise model that we could feature. After some fruitless thought, a casual look back at my 1995 edition of "What Car?" yielded the perfect solution – the MGF, a model manufactured between that year and ultimately 2011. It brought the seat of your pants simplicity of the MGB together with the modernness and ongoing reliability (sort of) of the MX-5.

So the MGF – also known as the MG TF after 2002 – is my next suggestion for our virtual garage, rubbing bumpers and sharing fumes with the Beta, the Transit and Transporter, the

Mini and MINI, the XR3i, the 280E and the 504 Familiare, and in particular a 1999 model in British Racing Green.

The MGF was launched to a great reception. It was modern, comfortable, well-priced and relatively cheap to run, as well as handling like a mini Ferrari with its mid-engine set up and great balance. The only downsides were the slightly temperamental K series engines; the head gaskets of which were liable to blow, the questionable Hydragas suspension and in some cases, good old British dodgy build quality. Nonetheless, the car survived the selling of Rover by BMW and was a star player in the ensuing MG Rover team and even outlived that ill-fated organisation to be sold by Chinese manufacturers SAIC from 2007 to 2011, by which time it had finally run out of road.

Overall though, the MGF is a car for everyone who remembers the glory of driving for its own sake, of taking the long route to the destination because it was more fun and of not being able to take passengers or luggage because of lack of space. The EV era will bring its own excitement and icons but the MGF stands out as a slightly battle-hardened hero of the recent past.

The virtual garage of cars which mean something to Iron Acton parishioners continues to grow. As always, please submit your ideas on further vehicles to include.
Austin Tesla

IRON ACTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

I am happy to report that the Choir is preparing for singing at Christmas in the church and also for our now traditional Winter concert in January. Since our joyful return to singing at the Proms in The Meadow in July where we thoroughly enjoyed singing alongside Russell Watson - a real coup for both the village and the choir - we have been rehearsing since September for these next 2 events.

The various dates for your diary are:

Christmas Carol Service - Sunday 17th December '23 (time TBC)

Carol Singing around the village - Tuesday 19th December '23 @7.p.m.

Winter Concert – Friday 12th January '24 @ 7.30 p.m. in the Church

The energy and enthusiasm members have been bringing to rehearsals over the last few months has certainly enhanced our singing together again. We have had quite a few new members join in the last 12 months and for that we are very grateful. Community singing remains a powerful force for good and the Iron Acton Community Choir is a real proof of that. It is a privilege to work with all the singers and we manage that fantastic balance between working very hard and having a lot of fun too. We now number about 40 members in total. We will continue to meet on a Tuesday evening in the Village Hall at 20.00 hrs. We normally pay an annual membership fee (£30) to support the running of the choir in terms of hiring of the rehearsal space and the purchase of music. Any money raised from our singing (and this does happen!!) always goes to chosen charities.

We currently have spaces within the choir in all voice parts, but particularly we would like to recruit more Altos, Tenors and Basses. You just need to be keen and enthusiastic; no prior experience nor musical knowledge required and there is no audition. If you are interested then just let me know (robpardoe@gmail.com) and we'll take it from there...or pop in to one of our Tuesday evening rehearsals in The Hall and see what you think.



Community Carol Singing

around

Iron Acton Village

Calling everyone!

Start your Christmas festivities with your family, friends and neighbours!

When: 18.30 on 19th December, 2023

Where: Meet at the Maypole on the Village Green

to start with...then just follow the music,
finishing at The Lamb for festive refreshments.

Please bring a torch!

Any money raised will go towards good causes



Iron Acton Community Choir

would like to welcome you to their **Winter Concert**. Music both sacred and secular...Disney, Vivaldi, Lou Reed and Les Mis amongst others... along with favourite readings and poetry.

Friday 12th January, 2024 @ 19.30

St James the Less Church, Iron Acton

Tickets are not required for the event but we will be raising money for good causes including for the Church itself.

Andrew Tillotson

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IRON ACTON WI

In July we met in the White Hart carpark where a coach was waiting to take us on a trip to Salisbury Cathedral and although a few clouds loomed, it stayed dry and warm all day. We were able to enjoy a guided tour of the cathedral, including seeing the best preserved of 4 original copies of the Magna Carta, housed in the Chapter House. Two intrepid members took the 332 steps up the tower and were rewarded by marvellous views of the surrounding countryside. Lunch was enjoyed before returning home after a wonderful day out.

On a gloriously sunny afternoon in August, we held afternoon tea at the parish hall in aid of the charity Breast Cancer Now. The selection of cakes and scones, home baked by members and friends, was a sight to behold. Endless cups of tea and coffee were served to the dozens of people who attended. Some sat outside in the shade of the trees whilst others filled the hall. The magnificent sum of £719.46 was raised, including a raffle and 'guess the weight of the cake' competition. It was so enjoyable it may well become a regular fund raiser, with different charities to benefit from the proceeds.

In September our speaker was Heather Thompson of the Medical Detection Dogs charity. It was founded in 2008 with a dog able to detect a deep-seated breast cancer. Since then other medical conditions are able to be identified by the dogs through the odour emitted in breath or urine. Each disease has a signature odour and at present Parkinson's disease is a focus with over 3,750 people providing samples of which the disease was identified with 94% accuracy. With short films being shown, Heather also demonstrated the assistance dogs who are able to detect when their owner may be about to suffer a fit or be in need of help for severe allergies. Both specially bred and rescue dogs are trained and they live at home with their owners or foster families. Each dog takes about 18 months to 2 years to train at a cost of £29,000.

We held our AGM in October and were pleased that our officers were happy to serve for another year so thanks to Secretary Bridget, Treasurer Jane and President Rona, we can look forward to another successful year. After business was concluded we had a pudding tasting session to accompany our tea and coffee. Several members had supplied some unusual, mouthwatering desserts and everyone had the opportunity to take some home if they wanted to sample any they couldn't manage on the night.

We look forward to our birthday meal at The Lamb in November and Christmas party in December. We meet on the second Monday of the month in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm and new members are always welcome. Our Secretary, Bridget, is happy to give details of future speakers and events and is available on 321741.

Sylvie Powell

CHRISTMAS DAY NUMBER ONE HITS – MISSING VOWELS QUIZ

These are all UK Christmas Day number ones with the vowels removed.

Can you identify the hits?

	NUMBER ONE HIT	ANSWER	
1	LLYTHPNK (1968)		
2	NLYY (1983)		
3	CNWFXT (2000)		
4	RCKBY (2016)		
5	SVYRLV (1982)		
6	LNLYTHSCHRTMS (1974)		
7	FLFN (1964)		
8	RTHSNG (1995)		
9	MRBLBBY (1993)		
10	HLLLJH (2008)		
11	LVY (1960)		
12	WHNWCLLD (2010)		
13	NSWRM (1953)		
14	HRYKNCKNG (1970)		
15	MDWRLD (2003)		
16	PRFCT (2017)		
17	RTPTT (1986)		
18	GDBY (1998)		
19	SMTHNGND (2014)		
20	SVRSYD (1990)		
21	HRNMYHRT (1952)		
22	THTSMYGL (2005)		
23	LWYSNMYMND (1987)		
24	MNRVR (1961)		
25	TMCH (1997)		

Answers to the quiz can be found on page 31

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LAVAZZA

TORINO, ITALIA. 1895

CHRISTMAS LETTER

Dear residents, neighbours, and friends,

It feels like a dubious thing, to write a Christmas letter to the parish on behalf of the 'church'. You are all probably very familiar with the annual platitudes that Christianity, along with Hallmark Cards and Hollywood schmaltz, attempts to drive home every year.

"Christmas is a time for caring and sharing."

"Giving is better than receiving".

"_____ is the true meaning of Christmas/reason for the season".

These are the phrases which traditionally shape a newsletter piece from a minister in December, and indeed most of our sermons, knowing this is our principal opportunity in the twelve-month cycle in which most people (non-church attenders and regulars) are happy to listen to (or tolerate hearing) the advocacy of Christian ethics and religion. The problem for us is that they have become so overused at this point that they have begun to feel meaningless, never more so than when contrasted with the international news bulletins of recent years.

In some ways, the Christian Church has allowed these phrases to become hollowed out by its own concessions to the prevailing culture by focussing on the warm, cosy, elements of the Christian narrative of Christmas. Advent has become a 'countdown' season rather than a season to confront the darkness of this world. St Nicholas' care for the starving and impoverished is reduced to a myth of a man who gives away toys. On the 26th of December, many Christians won't spare a thought of the first Christian martyr on his feast day. On the 27th the same will likely happen again when the church should be remembering and grieving for the multiple innocent small children and babies whom Herod had killed in his anxiety that the Baby Jesus would usurp his meaningless plastic throne.

To really understand why Christmas is so important to believers and non-believers around the world, we must be willing to recognise that its significance lies in its contrast to the realities of poverty, starvation, disease, relationship breakdown, war, and injustice. It moves us to oppose these things, and we are more willing to be generous; when we worry for those who are sitting alone; when extended family life takes priority over work (unless you're a priest, and you have to organise a delayed 'family Christmas day').

Likewise, for Christian believers, the idea that God might make the reality of God real within the world as a Human subject to all our shared sufferings and limitations including gestation, birth, and infancy, only makes sense in contrast to the realities I mention above. God becomes present amongst us to learn first-hand our sufferings and struggles and to do something about it. Christians are then, likewise, called to make God real to those around them by doing good and alleviating suffering.

In addition to its people of faith, Iron Acton has many 'anonymous Christians': people who wouldn't describe themselves as people of faith but who, through their actions and generosity, make God real to those around them. In a world full of "bad news", these people regularly are living embodiments of "good news" to others in the parish and further afield. (I like to think God has a little chuckle to himself when these people say they're not religious when they're

regularly showing God to other people but they can't see it themselves, like a mystical game of peek-a-boo.)

This Christmas I hope that, amongst the warmth and the celebration, we won't forget the darkness it contrasts. In fact, I hope we each are given the courage to stare deeply into the darkness and be so moved by it that we are moved to live with the so-called 'spirit of Christmas' all year around. Whilst my perfect Christmas present would be a full church all year around, I hope at least that our awareness of the challenges many of us face will stir the hearts of all of us that we live in a village where nobody can move for anonymous Christians.

In the meantime, please know that each and every one of you is loved, and that I am praying for you and the whole parish this Christmas time.

Fr Ben

ST JAMES THE LESS

Services for December

Dec 10th 4pm Christingle

Dec 17th 6pm Candlelit Carols

Dec 24th 4pm Crib Service

Dec 24th 10pm Candlelit Communion

Dec 25th 9.30am Holy Communion

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Horticultural Show Saturday 9th September 2023

The annual show took place in the middle of the autumnal heatwave when the beach might have attracted many, so it was great to still see so much prize produce and their exhibitors in attendance. There were fabulous displays of flowers, vegetables and cakes and the children's section was brimming with colour. Windchimes hung from every part of the ceiling and there were many new crowns for King Charles.

The opening of the show in the afternoon brought many visitors keen to see the displays and find out who were the winners and everyone enjoyed tea, cakes and a wander.

The Auction afterwards in the heat was hot work for Auctioneer David Hatherall, for who we offer our grateful thanks for his energy and humour. (Hopefully next year the Beer Festival will return; good for quenching an auctioneer's thirst!) Everyone went home with armfuls of wonderful produce, cakes and homemade jams and alcohol and we raised enough to make a £500 donation to the Trussell Trust, supporting local food banks.

Congratulations to all contributors and the Prize Winners listed below. However you do not have to win to enjoy the event and we would encourage anyone to give it a go because it is great fun taking part.

Sonya Grubb (on behalf of the Horticultural Show Committee)

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2023

	TROPHIES	WINNERS
Allotment Class	Allotment Trophy <u>General Section</u>	Bruce Pearce
Highest points	Hall Comm. Rose Bowl	Bruce Pearce
Second Highest Points	Gordon Powell Cup	Sonya Grubb
Best exhibit in General Section	Red Ribbon Cup	Bruce Pearce
	<u>Flower arranging</u>	
Highest points	Flower Arranging Rose Bowl <u>Homecraft</u>	Linda Boyce
Highest points	Acton Aid Cup <u>Photography</u>	Maria Pearce
Highest points	Photography Cup.	Joseph Hatherell
	<u>Children's Section</u>	
Pre-School: highest points	Pre-school Cup	Josephine DuBock
5,6,7Age Group: highest points	Junior Cup	Mel Gregory
8,9,10,11 Age Group: highest points	Parker Shield	Florence Gazzard
12 – 17 Age Group: highest points	Rudman Cup.	Abigail Hatherel
Nigel Davis Memorial Cup	Photography Class	Rosie Wright
	<u>Overall</u>	
Highest Points all sections by an Iron Acton Resident	St James the Less Cup	
Bruce Pearce		
Family who have contributed the most entries: -	Jubilee Cup	The
Rossiter Family		
Junior Highest Points in all sections	Dave Taylor Trophy.	
Florence Gazzard		

Iron Acton Horticultural Show 2023 Children's Class Winners

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Class 62	1 st Rosie Wright	Rosie Wright	Rosie Wright
Class 63	1 st Josephine DuBock		
Class 64	1 st Josephine DuBock		
Class 65	1 st Josephine DuBock		
Class 66	1 st Mel G	2 nd Henry D	
Class 67	1 st Bethany H		
Class 68	1 st Mel G	2 nd Sonny	3 rd Alfieri
Class 69	1 st Evie	2 nd Harper	3 rd Reeva
Class 70	1 st Maya	2 nd Claudia	
Class 71	1 st Connor	2 nd Mya	3 rd Henry S
Class 72	1 st Florence G	2 nd Ella S	3 rd Sophie T
Class 73	1 st Florence G	2 nd Milla Polonowski	3 rd Nora F
Class 74	1 st Rosie Wright	2 nd Abigail Hatherall	3 rd Lois Rossiter
Class 75	1 st Miles Boyce	2 nd Abigail Hatherall	3 rd Miles Boyce
Class 76	1 st Abigail Hatherall		
Class 77	1 st Vincent Gazzard	2 nd Vincent Gazzard	3 rd Hugo Boyce



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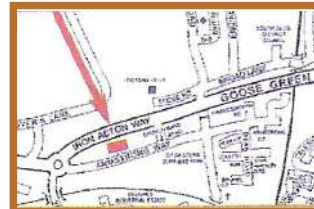
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IRON ACTON MEMORIES PROJECT

The project has been busy doing more interviews with village residents past and present and people have been very kind in donating photos and documents. But we want more! We have stories of civil defence and secret food stores in World War Two, greyhound racing on the football pitch and the 'Donkey Man' who ran children's shows on the green at Chilwood. Can you add to these? Do you have any old photos, parish magazines or documents you would like to share? If so, contact the project or come along to the village hall on 1st March 2024 (7-9pm) to see a display of photographs, maps, documents and stories from the project.

1949 Carnival



Iron Acton Ladies Football Team 1952 or 53



Back Row: Barbara Davies, Betty Rowlands, Marilyn Jones, Freda Winters, Peggy Thomas, Barbara Thomas, Jean Dando

Front Row: Audrey Rowlands, Valerie Gregory, Mavis Gregory, Shirley Thomas

[Christmas Party c.1950 in the New Hall](#)



[North Road Youth Club](#)



North Road School Football Team 1971-2



Iron Acton Youth Club in the old village hall



Whippet racing



Winning Darts Team at The Rose and Crown



Back row (l – r): Stan Parker, Ray Gifford, Keith Mainstone, Colin Groves, ?, Barry McIver,
David Weaver, Ray Ricketts.

Front row (l – r) :Alan Didcott, William Weaver, Mervyn Ricketts, Colin Flint

If you have any photographs or documents for the project or know someone who would like to record their memories please get in touch:

ironactonmemories@gmail.com or ring Tim on 07786 067336

Tim Grubb October 2023



IRON ACTON K9 CLUB




In September we held an awards night when the club's trainers were able to recognise the progress some of our dogs and handlers. Pictured above are Pedro, Dennis and Stan with their awards. Clare Hickson, a qualified Behaviourist and Trainer (Talk to the Paw), was able to join us to talk about the most common behavioural issues she is asked to help with. The session was very informative and was much appreciated by all who attended.

Our pet dog training classes following the Good Citizens Scheme continue to have successes at Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

Some of our more experienced members (gold plus) have recently been able to try out an introductory session to Hoopers, which is a fast, fun, low impact agility type of sport involving hoops, tunnels and barrels. Many thanks to Emma, Halcyon Hounds, for leading the sessions.

Our next social event will be our doggy Xmas party, always a fun event with dogs and handlers wearing their best Xmas outfits and our Xmas meal at the Lamb on 22nd December.

For more information about our club and activities activities, please take a look at our *facebook* page, website www.ironactonk9club.co.uk, or ring Sue on 01454 228803 / Karen on 01454 228891.

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CHRISTMAS DAY NUMBER ONE HITS – ANSWERS

How did you do?

	NUMBER ONE HIT	ANSWER	
1	LLYTH PNK	Lily the Pink (1968)	
2	NLYY	Only You (1983)	
3	CNWFXT	Can We Fix It? (2000)	
4	RCKBY	Rockabye (2016)	
5	SVYRLV	Save Your Love (1982)	
6	LNLYTHSCHRTMS	Lonely This Christmas (1974)	
7	FLFN	I Feel Fine (1964)	
8	RTHSNG	Earth Song (1995)	
9	MRBLBBY	Mr Blobby (1993)	
10	HLLLJH	Hallelujah (2008)	
11	LVY	I Love You (1960)	
12	WHNWCLLD	When We Collide (2010)	
13	NSWRM	Answer Me (1953)	
14	HRYKNCKNG	I Hear You Knocking (1970)	
15	MDWRLD	Mad World (2003)	
16	PRFCT	Perfect (2017)	
17	RTPTT	Reet Petite (1986)	
18	GDBY	Goodbye (1998)	
19	SMTHNGND	Something I Need (2014)	
20	SVRSYD	Saviour's Day (1990)	
21	HRNMYHRT	Here in my Heart (1952)	
22	THTSMYGL	Thats My Goal (2005)	
23	LWYSNMYMND	Always on my Mind (1987)	
24	MNRVR	Moon River (1961)	
25	TMCH	Too Much (1997)	

IRON ACTON FILM CLUB

The 2023/24 season of Film club has begun. Unfortunately, we were unable to run the October film as planned because we didn't have enough committee members available. This is going to be an ongoing issue, so if anyone is interested in becoming involved in the running of Film Club please contact either myself or Simon.

Forthcoming dates are listed below. All films will be shown in the Parish Hall on our big screen. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start and there is a bar for refreshments before the film and during the interval.

New and existing members can sign up on the door for the season or as temporary members for the night.

Saturday 9 December 2023
Saturday 3 February 2024

Saturday 6 January 2024
Saturday 2 March 2024

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to keep in touch with the Film Club please contact myself caroline.haselhan@btinternet.com or phone either of the numbers

Simon Cross 01454 228291

Caroline Haselhan 01454 228791





Public Consultation

In 2018/19 it was announced to the village that the Church intends to undergo a modest re-ordering inside, maintaining the historic character of the building whilst providing toilet and serving facilities along with flexible space for community use. Over the course of the last four years, this scheme has had to expand in order to take into account the running repairs of the church building, which fell behind during the pandemic. These include loose masonry on the tower and, in addition, the Church of England's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 90% before 2030. Consequently, this means that the scheme now incorporates internal refurbishments, electrical wiring upgrades, a new heating system, and external masonry work.

At this stage, we don't have complete costings but estimate that, including the increases in the cost of materials, the scheme's costs have risen from c. £350,000 to between £750,000 and £1,000,000. It has become clear, therefore, that to safeguard the future of the historic church building we need to look beyond the finances and fundraising we had initially expected.

The church redevelopment group (a group empowered by the church PCC), after much thought, have come to the conclusion that the only realistic prospect moving forward is to explore selling the Marshall Rooms with planning permission for a modest property within the confines of the existing building (i.e. no extensions either outwards or upwards). This would also be a prudent decision for St James-the-Less as the Marshall Rooms are currently a significant loss-making asset. However, this is a slightly legally complex matter, as the Marshall Rooms are the property of the Marshall Trust, which is made up of church PCC, as a single managing trustee, and the Diocese of Bristol Board of Finance, which is a single custodian trustee. However, following exploratory conversations, the Diocesan representatives I have spoken to assure me that if all the legal affairs relating to the charity commission and planning permission are in order, they will support the sale of the building and not seek to retain any of the income from themselves. This means that the income from the sale would be being invested directly into the parish church for the benefit of the village.

I know there is a strong emotional attachment to the Marshall Rooms for many in Iron Acton. It was built by residents, and many of the children who have grown up in the village over the last twenty years or so have been part of toddler groups in the hall. This is a proposal we are not making lightly, but in the firm belief that it will both secure the future of St James's church and make it a far more beneficial community asset than the Church and the Marshall Rooms combined currently are.

The outcome of this proposed way forward is far from assured, and whilst we have engaged surveyors and architects to explore what might be possible, we want to ensure that when we come to a final decision, we have the support of our friends and neighbours in the village. To that end, a consultation period will be running from November 1st, 2023 – December 17th.

Anyone who wishes to express support for the project or raise any concerns they might have should submit them to:

Consultation or consultation@fromsidechurches.org.uk,
Fromside Benefice of Churches
70 The High Street, Winterbourne, BS38 1JQ

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IRON ACTON**



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