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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 Olet

THIS EDITION: -

- 1. CENTRE SPREAD:** - This is a collage of photos taken at the, wonderful, afternoon tea party held on the Saturday to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. I hope I have captured the atmosphere of that afternoon, as I know that many of our readers attended the event and, I think, it was an enormous success. On page 19 is a write-up of the event, by Judith Mee. All the photos were taken by Sally Aries.
- 2. ARTICLES:** - SUPPORTING UKRAINE – In the Summer edition we had a fascinating article, from Angie Hill, about the journey to Ukraine with various supplies for the people who are displaced. The journey was undertaken by Steve Hill, who was extremely motivated, and experienced many problems along the journey. On pages 32/33 there is an account of the second trip to Ukraine by Steve Hill. In the next edition I will be including journeys 3 and 4. I feel sure that all of you will join with me in congratulating Steve and Angie for what they have done. **WELL DONE STEVE & ANGIE.**
- 3. QUIZ/CHALLENGE:** - Pages 36/37 have the challenge/quiz for this quarter. It is for people of all ages so please have a go. I have tried it and have, for the time being, given up!!

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 winter edition is 15th OCTOBER 2022. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.

FRONT PAGE: - The front page is a collage of photos, taken by Sally Aries, showing how we all decorated our houses with flags, for the Jubilee. Included, is a lovely image of children, with painted faces, enjoying the party held on Chilwood Green, (I have had permission, from the parents/grandparents, to publish these images). The bottom right has an image of a red, white and blue floral creation by Bruce Pearce, and is on the allotment off Nibley Lane.

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SUMMER BIRD WATCH

I laugh aloud as I read a letter in our Saturday magazine from a woman to a well-known agony columnist. She has a husband with, 'a wandering eye'. 'So do I,' I utter, "a definite wandering eye for the birds!" During the spring and summer months you can guarantee that, in any conversations between Chris and myself, Chris' eyes are focused on the skies, the undergrowth, the feeders and the water baths dotted around the garden whilst we (I) talk. So, sitting outside these hot days and warm still evenings is a pleasure and can be frustrating when a few days later Chris cannot recall a conversation. But his knowledge of our birdlife and behaviour seems limitless so over to him for his most recent local observations.

The breeding season is all but over for most birds, there will however be some that are still feeding and rearing 2nd or even 3rd broods, such as Swallows and House Martins. There may also be late broods of Blackbirds and Robin as well as the ever-lasting breeding season of the Wood Pigeon and Collared Doves who have been known to breed all year round.

For others it is the time to refresh plumage and moult a new set of feathers ready for the winter and to build up fat deposits to see them over the leaner winter months or to sustain them on their long migratory journeys.

Swifts will have left our shores, along with this year's youngsters, by the end of July and be over Africa by the time you read this article. Likewise, Cuckoos will also leave in July but without this year's youngsters who will still be with their foster parents – Meadow Pipit, Reed Warbler or one of the many other host birds. They will not leave until September and somehow their instinct/DNA will take them to the same area of tropical rain forest in Democratic Republic of Congo as their 'parents.'

By the end of June we were already seeing high Arctic breeding birds returning on their southern migration, including Green Sandpiper, Ruff and Spotted Redshank having bred and raised a brood of youngsters, thanks to the 24 hour daylight where they can feed constantly, their breeding season is a short but intensive 2 months – arriving as the snow melts and departing before the frosts return.

Back in Iron Acton "my" birds have had reasonable success – Starling laying 2 eggs and rearing both, Great Tit 5 eggs and fledging 3, both unusually low numbers as the Starling usually has 5 eggs and the Great Tit 8+ but perhaps they instinctively knew the insects on which they raise their young were in short supply and they reduced their clutch accordingly.

The Jackdaws in the nest boxes fledged 3, 2 & 1 chick respectively – perhaps 3, 2 & 1 too many for some local residents! As usually happens at this time of year there is always one inquisitive Jackdaw that wants to investigate my chimneys and when I hear scratching or fluttering in the fireplace I put the same tried and tested plan into place – put the spark guard at 45 degrees to the hearth pointing to the French doors, open doors, undo the bolts holding the damper plate in place and remove it and stand back – out pops the offending sooty Jackdaw onto the hearth and hopefully, out through the French doors and away without any soot and ashes coming into the room.

As I have mentioned before, it is important to provide water for drinking and bathing all year round. I use the trays that usually sit under large flowerpots as a bath and I have several scattered around the garden where I can sit and watch the birds. During the hot weather of Wimbledon fortnight, I was filling the baths up twice a day as the birds were splashing so much that they would nearly empty them. At one time I had an adult Great Tit with 4 of her young all

bathing at the same time in one tray, in another 2 young Blackcaps and a Blue Tit, and in another a young Blackbird dominated proceedings whilst its 3 siblings waited their turn, all lined up like jets waiting to land at Heathrow. Other visitors have included both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, the latter with one of its youngsters.

Slightly farther afield in the woods Lower Woods near Wickwar I have been watching the progress of a very secretive bird of prey, the ultimate avian predator, the Goshawk. This is a rare bird and likely to be the only one nesting in this area. It has a very piercing eye and even from 50 metres through a telescope she seems to be staring right into my brain, quite unnerving! She raised 2 chicks in an old Buzzards nest commandeered from the still present Buzzards who, through fear of being killed, moved to another nest site. The young are good at keeping a clean nest. They squirt their white liquid pooh over the nest edge, a bit like the squirt kids get when they use a washing up liquid bottle as a water pistol, short burst of a fat line of water only white like thinned down paint. It surrounds the undergrowth below the nest in a circle about 10 metres around, so you can easily see the splatters of white dots. At around 6 weeks the chicks move away from the nest into nearby branches, probably because the nest is a bit smelly, due to the remains of animal and birds that the female has brought in to feed the chicks. This behaviour is called branching and could well be the origin of "branching out" just like when the kids leave home to make their own way in life – I may have made that up but sounds believable.

Finally it is important to be aware of nesting birds in and around your house and garden, particularly in Spring and Summer when birds are looking for suitable nesting sites, before any work to your property try and think how it might impact or disturb birds and other animals – cutting hedges, putting up scaffold for painting or roof repairs, and this year especially putting up flags and bunting near nest holes or under fascias, may affect nesting birds, causing chicks to chill or starve if the adults are put off by anything different to their surroundings. Try and organize any works outside the breeding season and if possible incorporate nest boxes, nest ledges or holes into any new building works and, if in doubt, get some advice from a professional when considering re-felting tiled or slate roofs.

Chris Boyce



Autumn Issue 2022
THE ACTONIANS News

email: actonians@outlook.com **Website:** www.actonians.co.uk

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

Our next production, **Oliver Twist**, has now been cast with work having started on set and costumes design. This ambitious play finds us once again working with the Junior Actonians who will be playing the pickpockets inhabiting Fagin's Den. The play is an interesting interpretation of the Dicken's classic Tale, originally written by Anya Reiss to be performed outdoors - you will be pleased to know that we will be staging this play in November in the warmth and comfort of Iron Acton Parish Hall!

The play is running from Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th November, with a 6pm early evening performance on the Saturday. We look forward to seeing you there but please be warned there will be pickpockets about so please keep an eye on your wallets!



Following this production we have selected **London Suite** by the well-known American comic playwright Neil Simon. This play consists of four one-act plays and the action takes place in a London hotel overlooking Hyde Park. The plots are largely comedic; something to look forward to in May 2023.

As we head into the Summer months we are looking forward to a programme of Summer Socials, ranging from play readings to shared suppers in the garden.

Well done to the Junior Actonians for their last production, **Oh Mr Shakespeare**, performed to an audience of Actonians, friends and families. It was enlightening to find that Shakespeare relied so heavily on his wife to write all his plays!!!

We have been delighted to welcome three new members to the Actonians. We are always pleased to get more members who are interested to work both on-stage and back-stage. Please contact us through our website.

IRON ACTON WOMENS INSTITUTE

May Day proved a successful day for all involved. The weather held out and there was huge attendance all day. Our cakes very quickly sold out and we sold a lot of unwanted gift items. A small team of ladies positioned themselves at the edges of The Green and managed to sell every programme, taking £576.09. They did a magnificent job and said that people were very generous with their donations, particularly as profits this year were being shared between St Peter's Hospice and a Ukraine charity.

We had a demonstration from Annette Baber at our May meeting on planting up hanging baskets and containers. Not only was there some excellent advice but she brought along a huge number of bedding plants, including some more unusual coloured varieties and we took the opportunity to buy as many as we could carry home!

In June, Daphne Atkinson talked to us about the Queen's hats, very appropriate as we had just celebrated the Platinum Jubilee. She had compiled slides of hats worn by Her Majesty since she was a young woman up to her appearances at the Jubilee. There were some beautiful and imaginative examples, created for her many official visits at home and abroad so it was no surprise to learn that there are around 5,000 hats in HM's collection.

We enjoyed two trips in June and July and were blessed on both occasions with marvellous weather. We made a return trip to Katherine's Farm in Swinhay, Wotton-under-Edge, home of the Cock-a-Doodle-Do Trust, on a beautiful June evening. After Katherine Meyer died of cancer, her father opened up his gardens in aid of St Peter's Hospice. It is a wonderfully wild and natural garden and includes a replica of a hen house that Prince Charles generously allowed the family to replicate in Katherine's memory as she loved rare breed chickens. After a leisurely stroll around the property, we sat under an old open barn structure for tea and delicious cakes, provided by Richard Meyer's partner. Such a peaceful setting was perfect on a summer's evening.

On a very warm July morning a group left by coach and travelled to St Fagan's National Museum of History near Cardiff. There were lovely gardens and a castle to walk around and a vast area containing over forty original buildings from various historical periods which have been re-erected in the grounds. As well as workers' cottages, there is a chapel, a school and a parade of old shops, invoking much nostalgia. There were so many opportunities to learn about Welsh heritage in various forms, that there weren't enough hours in the day to see everything. Well worth another visit and the biggest bonus is that entry is free which is quite extraordinary when usually visiting places of interest, especially as a family, can be very expensive. (You can even take your own picnic).

We will recommence meetings again in September, when our talk will be on herbal remedies from the garden. 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 is available on 321741.

Sylvie Powell



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TIME FOR CHANGE

Many people are a bit anxious when things change. It is a perfectly natural response. For me and my family this is a time of considerable change. Josh has taken his A levels and is due to start Uni in September, Hayden has taken GCSE's and is due to start at the Sixth form. As a family we have moved vicarages from Bradley Stoke to Coalpit Heath. Beth is starting her final year in primary at a new school. Dylan will be with new children on a new bus to his school in Yate. I start my new role, no longer as 'assistant curate' in the Fromeside Benefice with pastoral and missional responsibility for the parish of St. James the Less but in a newly created role of Associate minister in the Fromeside Benefice and Yate parish with responsibility for the parish of St. Saviour's, Coalpit Heath and as discipleship missionary for the Yate and Fromeside mission area. We all face new challenges and we all have different responsibilities and expectations.

I would like to say thank you to those who over my time at Iron Acton have been hugely welcoming, encouraging and forgiving.

I have never been a fan of goodbyes so I am thankful that I will still have ample opportunity to work with St. James the Less. Fr. Ben, under Fr. Malcolm's leadership, will be taking up the mantle of minister with responsibility but, particularly in his diaconal year, I will still be preaching and presiding regularly on Wednesday's and Sunday's. I may even try to be at the excellent village events, I think Fr. Ben will be handing out the prizes at the horticultural show.

I will also have the additional responsibility of encouraging you all to deepen your faith in Christ Jesus by joining in with an existing or a future house group, joining an alpha course or a big questions group. Change can be a bit daunting but Christ calls us to change and the change he calls us to is being more Christlike.

Romans 12:2 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Blessings Fr David



Andrew Tillotson

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Following the fallow years under the constraints imposed during the COVID Pandemic, Acton Aid is now returning to some degree of normality and putting on our traditional events again. Early July saw the return of the Mash In The Meadow and Proms In The Meadow; the events proved extremely popular and whilst attendance numbers were down somewhat on Pre-COVID numbers, they were still high, and the events thoroughly enjoyed! We will be reviewing feedback and planning for next year's events will start soon.

Upcoming events for your diaries:

Saturday 10 September – Beer Festival in the Parish Hall grounds

Saturday 05 November – Bonfire/Fireworks Night in the Meadow

Information about Acton Aid, our events and what we do can be found at our website at:

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 or chairman@actonaid.org.uk or through the website.

After seeing the horrific scenes of refugees trying to escape the fighting in Ukraine, this year we are supporting the local 'From Bristol with Love for Ukraine' Charity, which is collecting necessary supplies and transporting these out to support refugees escaping from Ukraine to Romania. For full details, please see the charity website at www.bristollovetrust.uk First steps were bucket collections at the Mash and Proms, when over £4,000 was collected – thank you very much to all those who donated so generously.

James Rickard
2022 Chairman of Acton Aid



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WINNIE TRIALS

The morning ritual sees our newest family member, Winnie the 8-month-old Labrador, greeting us each day with the same adoration usually reserved for the arrivals lounge at Heathrow! Every time we return home, or she wakes from a nap; her ecstasy knows no bounds. She hurls at us, like long-lost friends found, and writhes blissfully against our legs, oblivious that now long legged and at nearly 20 kgs, she is quite a force. It would be churlish not to respond, but sometimes it's hard to stand upright on our feet! The love she exudes is so infectious, it repairs her frequent misdemeanours that pepper our days.

We are very proud to have passed Puppy training and have progressed to bronze class. She excels at her stays and recall, foolishly I was beginning to feel rather smug! I was an impeccably behaved child at school, the shame of any punishment controlled me into natural submission. I had never been sent out of a classroom, until now in my 50's. I was told to ignore, Winnie's rude objections to a German Shepherd. But as her barking reached new decibels, I was sent to stand in an ante room, until she fell quiet. I felt hot, shame prickling at the back of my neck, the temperature inside me rising as we made our 6th visit to the cupboard room of shame, in the very same session!!!

Really, we are making some headway but just as we compliment ourselves on achieving one goal, Winnie changes the rules. I never knew that the sight of a ball (or anything resembling a ball; even a bobble on a woolly hat) would make me start sweating with anxiety, as I try and rugby- tackle Winnie's lead back on, before she spots it. Oh, that we had never started throwing those wretched balls in what we considered a normal, fun activity for dogs. Her recall, off lead, had been impeccable, before ball gate. Like a crazed woman, I plead 'NOOOOOOO', with friends and total strangers, as they get ready to lob their ball. Their looks say it all; 'Clearly this woman has no control whatsoever'. 'I think there is more shame attached to poor dog parenting than of children! Of course, it is usually the fault of the owner, who forgets that a dog untrained and under one, is to be no more trusted than a toddler, let loose in a sweet shop. Trust must be built and rebuilt repeatedly.

Winnie's self-appointment to head gardener, and the resultant carnage that can follow, is entirely our fault. With more vigilance our beautiful climbing rose and carefully trained, espalier apple tree, would not have had their branches savaged and ripped from their base. Silence is always suspicious! Letting her 'play' unsupervised in the garden to alleviate my rising stress levels, is always a recipe for disaster. My newly planted succulent wall, with horticultural gravel making it look like a work fit for Chelsea, now mocks me. A gaping hole of shredded plants and soil and gravel lie tossed and discarded beside. No one to blame but myself! You can imagine my horrified mortification when my lovely neighbour, slipped out that they were a bit worried about Winnie's safety because, 'Did I know she could get into their garden?' Ground swallowing moment! Needless to state my dearly beloved, spends most of his weekends erecting unsightly 'Winnie barriers'. He loathes buying anything new, delighting in being able to recycle the rubbish piled high in his plethora of sheds. So, an unwieldy selection of old chicken and guinea pig runs have been reassembled and now my treasured outdoors is more Alcatraz, than cottage garden.

But progress is being made; one step forwards and five back! A very necessary training session to the Lamb, had us sipping our drinks in superior calmness. We had this; the moment was serene as Winnie lay down, a model dog, silent under the bench seat. Dog Lead number six now hangs on a single, savaged thread, we barely made it home! More training necessary! Miraculously she appears to have stopped chewing in the house (apart from my kitchen wall!). Her continued desire to secure a trophy from upstairs has become a new normal. Instead of mass panic, we are now all head straight to Winnie's basket when anything goes missing, the household UPS collection point. There we will find the brand-new trainer, various old, beloved cuddly toys, underwear and so on; all luckily now unchewed.

Most triumphantly, and finally, the house-training 'box' has been ticked. Unfortunately, having two big dogs has quite large 'consequences'. I urge you not to read on if you are eating, please prepare...! I felt very clever to have solved the disposal problem. I have my own lined doggie bin so that I can collect any offending items, keeping our garden scrupulously clean. I am, quite rightly, obsessive about this and want to scoop them up, immediately.

Easter weekend saw our house joyfully filled, with all the family returned. The celebratory fizz had been opened too early and I was treasuring time with my grown-up children, and was touring the garden with one. I had reneged on an agreement to cook supper together with David and had rudely left him to it but just as he called to say it was ready I spotted an offending Winnie deposit. Supper was ready, and we should hurry inside. But my desire to have a pristine lawn was overpowering. Speed was of the essence. Instead of fetching the doggie bin, I opted for a shovel and a quick flick under the hedge. I felt something land. IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE, COULD IT? I urged my daughter to sniff my hair, at which point she recoiled in horror! Yes, there it was in my hair. She begged me to smell her nose as she had got in rather too close. We were stalled in our tracks, horror dilating our pupils wide. The calls from the house grew more impatient. I knew I was spoiling supper but could feel the germs breeding in my hair. I had to act now. Unfortunately, the by-product of covid isolation, exacerbated a condition in one of our lovely children. Although much progress has been made, they are still struggling with quite a severe form of OCD which centres on an extreme fear of contamination by any perceived germs, real or imagined. I could not reveal what was festering in my hair, I had to deal with this urgently and in secret.

The nose sniffer was to be the decoy, whilst I sped with terror into the bathroom and began the horrific decontamination process. David now bemused at my refusal to appear, whilst his meal chilled and congealed in the pan, stuck his face around the bathroom door. His look said it all; was I crazed? why the hell was I washing my hair? As desperation mounted, I rose from the sink, like a Kraken from his bog, and through gritted teeth snarled and spat out my explanation, using language that is only permissible in such extreme conditions; 'David I've got S*** in my hair, cause a diversion, you can't let anyone know!'

A little voice piped up in the kitchen, from the one I was trying to protect; 'Mum I just heard all of that' Supper was a surreal feast that night, as I tried forgetting the vile incident. Would those six, hair washes be enough? I could barely taste the food and concentrated on more fizz. The upside was that our dear, troubled child sat with us, surprisingly upbeat and roared with laughter that mother had had '***in her hair'. Another step towards recovery made!

The healing power that only an innocent dog can bring, is helping in ways you would never guess!!

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The healing power that only an innocent dog can bring, is helping in ways you would never guess!!

Lisa Hatherell



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PLATINUM JUBILEE IN IRON ACTON

How could we mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Iron Acton?

Several conversations and many WhatsApp messages later a plan to host an Afternoon Tea Party for senior residents was hatched. Acton Aid offered to help on the day and to cover financial expenses, and we quickly secured many offers from volunteer cake bakers and sandwich makers. The organising committee planned from the outset to make the afternoon as special as possible and we were generously supported by Organic Blooms, the loan of vintage crockery from The Lamb and superb art work from our two primary schools.

Eighty guests were treated to delicious sandwiches and a stunning array of cakes arranged on tiered cake stands. Of course, no afternoon tea would be complete without scones with jam and cream and copious amounts of tea. This was no different! Over forty volunteers (aged from 12 to 80+) ensured everything ran smoothly by providing a warm welcome, table service, and the essential setting up and washing up.

The Committee Room was transformed by interesting displays of Iron Acton through the years, Coronation and Jubilee Memorabilia and a time line of key national and local events over the last 70 years. The buzz of lively conversation showed just how much that was appreciated.

Excellent entertainment was provided by the Iron Acton Hand Bell Ringers and the Iron Acton Community Choir. Thalia Marriage's singing blew the audience away. Robert Pardoe proposed a toast to Her Majesty and we all sang the National Anthem, a very poignant moment.

What a wonderful community we live in! It was special that guests came from all around the parish, making so many memories together, all the more precious after COVID restrictions. Thank you to Sally Aries for capturing the essence of the afternoon for posterity with fantastic photographs..... SEE THE CENTRE SPREAD to view some images

Judith Mee

IRON ACTON FILM CLUB

I'm happy to announce dates for the forthcoming 2022/23 Film Club season. All films will be shown in the Parish Hall on our big screen. We are hoping to have a new amplifier for the start of the season which will enable to use the hall's hearing loop. This season we also intend to re-introduce the bar for refreshments before the film and during the interval. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

Saturday 1 October 2022
Saturday 12 November 2022
Saturday 10 December 2022

Saturday 7 January 2023
Saturday 4 February 2023
Saturday 4 March 2023

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

Simon Cross
01454 228291

Caroline Haselhan
01454 228791







IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



We have successfully made it through to the end of another school year. We say goodbye and good luck to 17 wonderful Year 6 children who will be heading off to a range of local secondary schools. Several other children in other year groups will be moving out of the area and so we say goodbye to them too. Sadly, we will also be losing 4 members of staff this year – Mrs Detzler, Mrs Shaw, Mr Brown and Miss Holmes. We are grateful to each of them for their hard work and dedication over their time at our school.

We were thrilled with this year's excellent SATs results which we will publish in September. They show just how hard the children and their teachers have worked. Several children have written some of their thoughts which I will now share with you:

Key Stage 2 Performance

Pirates of the Curry Bean was the 2022 play. With only three weeks to prepare, the children performed exceptionally with the whole school joining in and learning the songs. The teachers were also a big help!

By Chloe, Year 6

I liked making props with Mrs Pilgrim and practising the dance and my lines. I liked performing it because it brought out my confidence because I don't like public speaking and I can't wait for next year now.

By Sienna, Year 5

Morfa Bay residential

We did a mud assault course, abseiling, caving, zip wire and climbing. I got a bit scared when we have to lean back on the abseiling tower. The mud on the assault course smelt disgusting! My favourite were the sea activities.

By Sophie, Year 5

At Morfa Bay, we did loads of fun stuff. I really like caving and abseiling because not only did I overcome my fear of heights and claustrophobia but I enjoyed it! It was fun crawling through the small spaces and finding cool stuff. I cried when I got to the top of the abseiling tower but I even had a second go!

By Isla, Year 5

Preparing to move on

All of the Year 6s are getting ready to move school and most of us have had our induction days so we can learn what the school looks like and how to get around!

By Vincent, Year 6

Thank you all for your support of the school.

Mike Riches, Headteacher

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Iron Acton Parish Council currently has two vacancies to join our Parish Council. We are looking for dynamic individuals that can bring their skills to the table and contribute to serving the residents of our Parish. Details of the vacancy are available on the website www.ironactonparishcouncil.co.uk

Over the last few months the Parish Council has been working hard on your behalf and we have managed to secure funding for a defibrillator which will be installed at the Codrington arms in North Road in due course.

Efforts are being made to enhance the current bus service for Iron Acton. A letter has now been received from The WECA Mayor Dan Norris who has confirmed - As the 626 service operated by Eurotaxi is a service supported by the Combined Authority, I will instruct my officers to speak to Eurotaxi to ask for a change of route to serve the White Hart bus stop in Iron Acton. If the operator has enough time on the route to allow the journey to divert into the village then Eurotaxi will submit a new registration for a change of route.

Some parishioners may be aware of the concerns raised by residents of Nibley Lane recently relating to the speed at which vehicles travel through on a daily basis. Iron Acton Parish Council have heard many of the concerns voiced in the public participation section of its meeting & via the parish facebook page. These have been relayed to the South Gloucestershire Councillors who in turn have been campaigning for changes to the speed & other safety measures to be implemented. Closure to through traffic was one option put forward but South Gloucestershire Council have indicated that this action would require wider consultation. The Parish Council are currently trying to organise a meeting in which all interested parties could meet & formulate a way forward on this issue. Further updates will be available via the parish council website as they become available.

A new Ecology survey has been carried out on Dyers Coach Pool and the stream running through the Parish Meadows. A maintenance plan has been provided to enable the Parish Council to continue with maintaining these areas.

New picnic tables have been ordered for the Parish Meadows and will hopefully arrive in time for the start of the school holidays for families to enjoy.

A working party was formed in response to requests for improvements to the sports facilities in the meadows. The outline plans will soon be made available to parishioners as part of the consultation process & subject to planning provision & securing of funds the new sports facility could be delivered by the end of the year for the whole community to enjoy. It is hoped that this will enable the local schools to offer their pupils a wider choice of sporting opportunities as well as providing a greater number leisure activities for a wide age range of parishioners.

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CHRISTMAS WINDOWS 2022



Hi Everybody,
My name is Alabaster Snowball and I'm here to remind you that soon it will be Christmas and all the lovely things that go with it - like Christmas Windows and Decorations and Trees and maybe a few Chocolates if we're good!!

The village was like Wonderland last year and me and the other elves want everybody to join in again.

The Windows Trail will be from Sun 11th- Sun 18th Dec.

Our Theme this year is - "Your Choice" of either Christmas Films, Pantos or Music. So - watch out for more info in our leaflet in October and put your thinking caps on.

Good thinking from Alabaster and you know who!!





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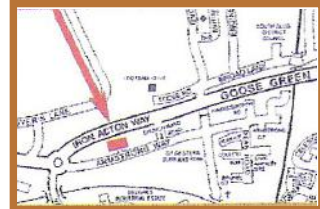
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IRON ACTON K9 CLUB

CLUB CLASS RELAXING



Our dogs and handlers continue to work towards passing their Kennel Club Assessments. Many of our lock down puppies have now passed their bronze, silver & gold awards and are enjoying learning new skills in the Club Classes. Recent bronze successes are Louise & Oti, Lisa & Winnie, Kerry & Teddy, Louise & Dilys, Lin & Bodhi, Bev & Aggie, Sophie & Lillie, Gemma & Lola, Sophie & Albie, Glynda & Lizzie, Debs & Basil. Silver passes are Ken & Ludo, Louise & Dilys, Christine & ShayShay, Suriya & Oscar and Cath & Tilley. Gold passes - Julia & Hettie, Lorraine & Darcy, Claire & Ozzy, Joyce & Finley, Sally & Harry and Karen & Cooper. Well done everyone.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of puppies onto our next 6-week course based on the Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Scheme.

The club recently organised a Dog First Aid Course with vet Sophie Bell of Animal Love. Sophie is enthusiastic and passionate about her work and we are hoping to run a further course in the near future.

We will be organising an Activities and Novelty Show in the coming months so look out for dates and more information on our *facebook* page, or website www.ironactonk9club.co.uk or ring Sue on 01454 228803 / Karen on 01454 228891.

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IRON ACTON'S AUTOBiography – *vehicles* that have shaped our lives



At the end of the last AUTOBiography, I parked the 1974 Lancia Beta in our virtual garage and asked Local Poyntz readers to suggest others cars to join it. The aim is to build a collection of machines from across the decades that mean something special to people in the parish. It wasn't long before I was told that 'cars' is too restrictive a term as many people have strong bonds with other types of wheeled transport such as lorries, buses, vans and tractors. So in the interests of true diversity and full representation, we have changed the title of this section and put the spotlight this time on the van.

It's fair to say that the UK economy is built on the van, or light commercial vehicle. It moves things around, delivers them to our houses and enables professionals to carry the tools and materials they need to work. Many of us will have owned or hired a van at some point to complete a job beyond the capacity of a mere car.

So, how did we get here? The word van is believed to have been coined in the nineteenth century and derived from 'caravan,' which meant any covered form of transport – not just the traffic-slowing mobile homes we know today. The first commercial van was launched by Daimler in 1896 and had a top speed of 7mph. Production of panel sided vehicles didn't really take off, though, until the 1950s and 1960s, as growing affluence caused more goods to be carried and consumed. Van aficionados hold 1965 as a sacred year in its evolution as this saw the introduction of the Ford Transit – the self-styled 'back bone of Britain'. This was a major watershed as the 'Trannie' was car-like to drive and a huge step forward from previous models which had mostly been slow, ponderous and little more than scaled down lorries. Greengrocers, plumbers, school minibus drivers, and delivery people could go about their business but feel as if they were powering around in a Granada or Capri just like in The Sweeney or The Professionals (apologies to anyone reading under the age of 50 for such dated references). It became part of our national culture. Indeed, many bands launched their careers by touring in a Transit – Led Zeppelin, Wings, Black Sabbath and the Small Faces (same apologies to the under 50s) were among the wide variety of performers who had a blue oval dangling from their key ring.

What is the connection with Iron Acton? Well, we have many proud 'vanners' in our midst. I consulted with several van owners in the parish and it's clear that they all have a special bond with their machines. They talked about their vans meaning three key things. Firstly it was livelihood – without the carrying capacity and flexibility they offer, they simply couldn't do their jobs. The second was freedom – for many getting the van was their first step in self-employment, casting off the shackles of 'the man' and taking control of their lives. The third, and perhaps the most surprising and most powerful was home – the van is an

extension of their houses. It's somewhere to sit and work, to shelter from the rain, to drink and eat, to relax and on occasions, even to sleep. The van is a loyal companion and something with which to share life's triumphs and disasters – or at least that is what I think one contributor meant when he said that living with a van which has a loading platform was a series of ups and downs.

So which to include? An obvious choice would be Steve and Angie Hill's Mercedes Sprinter as featured in the previous edition, but that is needed to continue their humanitarian trips for Ukraine. The two most popular vans ever are the aforementioned Transit which has sold over 8.4 million vehicles and the VW transporter on 12.4 million units and counting, so let's chose those to join the Lancia and take their place in the collection. The fleet is building, so please let's have your contributions. Drop a note to Pam suggesting a vehicle and why it's important to you and it could soon be rubbing bumpers and sharing fumes with the others in the virtual garage.

Austin Tesla

UKRAINE - TRIP 2

For the second trip Rob Taylor gave us the details of the Romanian Consul for the Southwest who had already established a network for collections into their warehouse in Bristol. What they were lacking was a means of transport to their contacts in Romania. They were reliant on volunteer transport so we made contact with Dr Razvan and linked up with 'From Bristol with Love'.

We agreed to meet with Dr Razvan and his team to load the van and planned our route to Romania. The destination was given as a hotel carpark in Galati near the Black Sea where we would be met by his contact, Dr Serghey, and representatives of the Ukrainian army who would take us to their warehouse. The cargo would then be un-loaded for onward transit to Odessa.

Our routing was a channel tunnel crossing, using an un-used ticket that we have carried over from a cancelled Covid holiday, followed by transiting France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Romania. It was easy cruising until Germany where the no. 3 autobahn had, what seemed like, hundreds of miles of road works, contraflows and queues of lorries. The mainly flat roads became gently undulating then progressively hillier. Driving was constantly up and down the gears and was putting increasing strain on the loaded van. Eventually, a distinctive whining sound indicated an over-heating differential. This was quickly resolved by topping up with EP90 oil. However, shortly after, in the mountains of Austria, there was a muffled bang and the engine lost power over 2000rpm. We had a good look at the engine but could not identify any specific fault but it was obviously turbo related.

Fortunately crossing Hungary was mostly flat with good roads but Romania meant crossing the Transylvanian Alps without a Turbo! This was tedious, and a little embarrassing, being passed by everything including 40t trucks. There were also extreme pot holes on the level crossing, slow farm tractors and horse and carts to contend with as the 'main roads' became extremely busy single carriage ways.



Apart from Dr Serghey being ½ hour late (what is it with Doctors and time keeping?) the off load was exactly as described. We could not face the whole return journey with a sluggish engine and a maximum speed of 50mph so resolved to fix the engine problem. A few phone calls to Graham and some fault finding with a OBD reader narrowed the fault to one of three sensors or an air leak between the air box and the turbo. We removed, checked and cleaned all the sensors then noticed that a pipe leading to the intercooler had a large split. We knew instantly that this was the culprit. This was repaired with copious amounts of Gaffa tape and the repair helped until our return, just in time for us to attend the Mayday celebrations in Iron Acton. The van attracted much attention and raised around £400 towards the next trip. Special thanks to the Pigsty Morris dancers who donated their fee to us.

The whole trip was 3700 miles across 7 countries

ALGARS MANOR: OATS AND MORE UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR

On his tombstone in St James the Less Church William Veale, who died in 1595, is remembered as a 'Gentleman of Chillwood'. Chillwood or Chillwood Farm is how Algars Manor was known long before John Crowther Gwynn bought the house around 1900 and decided it needed renaming. For well over 100 years the farm and mill had been run by the Shepherd family and they still have mill records dating back to 1769. The house was probably a farm, not a manor, for a long time before this yet, it was a surprise to find a large amount of what looked like wheat, chaff or straw (see left) beneath the upstairs floorboards when we renovated the house.



An environmental archaeologist at Worcestershire Archaeology examined the sample under a low-power microscope and the nature of the sample became clearer.

It was mostly made up of cultivated oat with some wild oat, fragments of ears from two different types of wheat, apple pips and pieces of what appear to be dried and leathery apple fruit or flesh (one pip is embedded within this material). There were also small shattered peas, sedge chaff and fibres which were likely to be flax or hemp. Seeds such as black medick, black bindweed and buttercup were probably weeds growing with an oat crop.

Of the two types of wheat, one was particularly characteristic of the period when Algars was built. Ears of a type of wheat most likely to be *rivet wheat* were found in this sample (right). It is no longer grown in this country today, but in medieval times (and into the 17th and 18th centuries) it was one of the crops adding essential variety to the staple bread wheat grown at the time.



Other fragments of ears from the more common bread wheat would have come from a *long-straw wheat* standing shoulder height to someone of average height - quite different to the short wheat grown today which barely grows above 2 feet high.

Oddly the oat chaff, or florets, despite being tightly closed were entirely devoid of any grains, presumably because, for some reason, the grains have perished, leaving just the hardier chaff behind. One reason for this may have been an infestation by the granary weevil, the female of

which lays a single egg in the grain, then plugs up the hole leaving the larva to feed on the grain before hatching as an adult weevil.

No granary weevil remains were found, but a few spider beetles (right) were found. This is a common inhabitant of dry materials, 'dust bunnies' and old food in 'mature housing', and it is quite common in roofing thatch as well.



So why would this material be found underneath the floorboards on the first floor? It could be that an oat crop (with other contaminants) was stored on the first floor in what is the oldest part of the house and found its way through the cracks in the floorboards and into the cavity below. Valuable crops were commonly stored upstairs in medieval houses, out of the way of rodents, but perhaps not out of the way of all pests.

Two other less plausible explanations are that, as animal droppings were found amongst the material, it could have been the remains of an animal nest or it could have been extracted from thatch by animals. The amount of material makes the former unlikely and stone tiles, rather than thatch, are the norm in this part of the country.



Finally, while the rivet wheat rules out modern debris, more conclusive is a tiny fragment of green glazed pot (left) which is most likely to be from a Tudor Green ware vessel in use during the 15th and 16th centuries. This date ties in nicely with the date of 1552 for the beams below.

Tim Grubb

STREET SEARCH

Here is a list of streets in Iron Acton Parish. Assuming the online list is up-to-date, your street should be listed below. Try to spot the street names in the grid.

Remember, words can be written

vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. No apostrophes have been included.

Have fun! 😊

Algars Drive

Bridge Road

Broad Lane

Chaingate Lane

Chilwood Close

Collett Way

Dyers Lane

Folly Road

Goose Green Way

High Street

Hoovers Lane

Iron Acton Way

Latteridge Lane

Lavenham Road

Lodge Road

Mission Road

North Road

Station Road

The Green

Waverley Road

Yate Road

Armstrong Way

Bristol Road

Brunel Court

Chestnut Springs

Churchward Road

Dean Road

Engine Common Lane

Frampton End Road

Hawkesworth Road

Holly Hill

Hope Road

Larks Lane

Latteridge Road

Lawrence Drive

Manor Road

Nibley Lane

Park Street

Tanhouse Lane

Wade Road

Wotton Road

C	H	A	I	N	G	A	T	E	L	A	N	E	P	H	I	J	D	F	L	T
H	H	E	Q	U	M	D	A	O	R	L	O	T	S	I	R	B	A	R	A	E
E	O	I	Z	Y	L	G	C	B	N	P	D	W	K	G	O	C	O	A	W	E
S	O	T	L	A	N	E	E	R	G	E	H	T	G	H	N	Y	R	M	R	R
T	V	E	A	W	I	D	B	U	D	S	C	T	H	S	A	A	H	P	E	T
N	E	V	V	G	O	A	A	N	Q	R	U	P	K	T	C	W	T	T	N	S
U	R	I	E	N	H	O	P	E	R	O	A	D	Y	R	T	N	R	O	C	K
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S	L	D	H	R	L	E	B	C	V	G	T	R	W	E	N	E	W	E	D	A
P	A	S	A	T	L	G	E	O	L	D	C	X	T	T	W	R	S	N	R	P
R	N	R	M	S	Y	D	S	U	E	O	W	A	T	Z	A	G	E	D	I	P
I	E	A	R	M	H	I	O	R	I	U	S	Y	E	T	Y	E	K	R	V	R
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S	W	A	D	T	L	R	E	N	A	L	D	A	O	R	B	O	H	D	D	A
D	A	O	R	D	R	A	W	H	C	R	U	H	C	E	W	G	Y	Q	A	L
M	D	N	B	A	N	O	R	T	H	R	O	A	D	V	C	E	D	X	O	N
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C	V	E	B	D	N	M	L	K	J	E	H	G	E	F	D	L	D	O	E	E
L	A	T	T	E	R	I	D	G	E	R	O	A	D	A	S	S	O	N	V	N
E	N	A	L	E	G	D	I	R	E	T	T	A	L	Q	W	K	L	A	A	I
T	R	Y	E	N	A	L	E	S	U	O	H	N	A	T	E	R	I	M	W	G
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