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AUTUMN 2019

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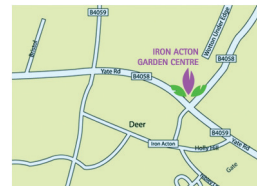


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

LOCAL POYNTZ TEAM: - Jon Aries, Caroline Haselhan, Sarah Ridler, Amanda Scott, Jane Spare, John Wright, Marilyn Wright and myself, Pamela McCoy.

LOCAL POYNTZ PHOTOGRAPHERS: - Sally Aries, Gillian Otlet

DISTRIBUTION. - As always our thanks go to all the, volunteer, distributors

WEBSITE: - If you would like to add any images or write something on the website, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Jon Aries at localpoyntz@gmail.com.

THIS EDITION: - The centre spread has another fascinating map of Iron Acton from 1900. Tim Grubb has once again, produced this map and the preceding page has his article. I hope you agree with me that the stuff Tim comes up with is rather excellent and it is interesting to see the changes over the decades. I am pleased to say that many people have made positive comments to me.

NEWSPAPERS – It is sad to learn that we are going to loose the newspaper delivery service. We send Dave and Pat Taylor our very best wishes.

ADVERTISEMENTS: - If anyone would like to place an advert in these magazines please contact me, at the email address below, and we can discuss it

LETTER FROM A GRATEFULTRAVELLER – “I was informed while travelling home from Bristol on the 25th July that the Y3 bus would not be stopping at Iron Acton from 9am that day until the roadworks had finished. My husband had an urgent appointment at the Eye Hospital that day. No bus turned up at 14.25, and there were 4 people waiting for the bus. If it weren't for an extremely kind couple of Iron Acton residents who booked a taxi for the 4 of us to share we wouldn't have made the appointment.”

The deadline for the winter edition is 4th NOVEMBER 2019. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.

FRONT PAGE: - The beautiful, autumnal, image is courtesy of Sally Aries

ARTICLES: - If any of you, lovely, people would like to write something, whether you think it is good, bad or indifferent, please don't hesitate, GET IN TOUCH. I want to hear from you.

EDITOR- Pamela McCoy 01454 228874
Email pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com.

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THE ACTONIANS NEWS

Email: actonians@outlook.com

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During the Summer months Actonians take a well earned break between productions and enjoy a range of weekly social events. However, work has been going on behind the scenes on our next production of **Wind in the Willows**. We have a great cast including some of our Junior members. The cast are rehearsing hard, costumes and set are being designed and made, props are being gathered and lighting and special effects are being planned. A production like this needs a good team of people working together behind the scenes and the Club always welcomes new members even if you prefer not to act. Experience is not necessary and new members are very welcome.

Wind in the Willows runs from **Wednesday 27th – Saturday 30th November 2019**. Evening performances start at 7:30pm and the performance on Saturday 30th November starts at 6:00pm.



The play has been adapted for stage by Alan Bennett who says that he has tried to stay faithful to the original well-known story that was written by Kenneth Grahame. So come and join all your favourite characters for a delightful jaunt along the riverbank. Enlivened by Alan Bennett's trademark warmth and humour, **Wind in the Willows** promises to be the perfect way to spend a winter's evening. **Poop-poop!**

This production is suitable for all the family but recommended for children over the age of 7 years. **Tickets are on sale NOW!**

“There's cold chicken . . .
coldtonguecoldhamcoldbeefpickledgherkinssaladfrenchrollscress
sandwidgespottedmeatgingerbeerlemonadesodawater—”
Arthur Rackham's 1939 view of the iconic picnic.

Our Spring production is **Tartuffe** (the imposter, the hypocrite), one of the most famous theatrical comedies by Molière. This version has been written by one of our members, Pat Stimson. More details will follow.

The Club will also be working on a One Act Play, which will be entered in the Avon Association of Drama One Act Festival in March in Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, March 7th - 9th.

JUNIOR ACTONIANS: The Junior Actonians meet up every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30pm where they have lively sessions playing drama games and learning the rudiments of drama. This year the juniors are involved in the main production of **Wind in the Willows**. It is always good to welcome new members (Year 6 – 18 years).

For more information contact:

Di Pardoe dipardoe.tandc@gmail.com or Sarah Godsell [gosaz@btinternet.com](mailto:gosz@btinternet.com)

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IRON ACTON FILM CLUB

The Iron Acton Film Club 2019-2020 season will be starting again in October. We are still keen to recruit new volunteers to help us run the Film Club – especially for the afternoon children's film. A couple of parent volunteers to help sell refreshments before the children's film and during the interval would ease our burden considerably. If you feel you may be able to help please contact either Simon or myself. We would be very grateful to hear from you.

Over the summer we have contacted our current membership (and anyone who has previously expressed an interest in the Film Club) with details about renewing their membership. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive details please contact us with your email address.

2019-2020 season dates:

5 October 2019

4 January 2020

9 November 2019

1 February 2020

14 December 2019

7 March 2020

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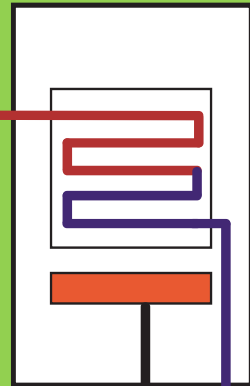
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IRON ACTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our last speaker in the hall before the summer outings began was our old friend Reginald King, who had a year previously spoken on the history of rolling pins. This time his quirky theme was the history of keeping warm in bed. Aided by a slideshow and some of his collection of warming pans and hot water bottles, he documented how humans had kept warm through the ages. Sometimes it was as simple as wearing plenty of thick nightwear or snuggling up with animals. Reminding us of some of the last very cold winters he could remember (apparently minus 21 degrees centigrade in 1947), Reg again entertained us with his infectious enthusiasm for his topic.

Although May Day wasn't as hot as last year, our bric-a-brac stall was twice as profitable. As well as the ladies who ably looked after the stall, thanks to another small band of enthusiastic (**never** pushy) members, over £500 was collected from the sale of programmes.

In June a coach collected us from outside The White Hart and took us on a trip to Rosemoor Gardens in Great Torrington, Devon. We set off in brilliant sunshine, expecting some heavy showers later in the day. However, not only did we enjoy this beautiful RHS garden with its acres of woodland and many different types of garden (hot, cool, rose etc), the weather remained beautiful all day and we only ran into rain on the journey home. Many members took advantage of the plant and gift shops to take away reminders of this memorable day.

In July, on a sunny evening, a number of members and some family and friends made their way to Katherine's Farm in Swinhay, Wotton-under-Edge. These gardens are open in memory of Katherine Meyer who died in 2012 at the age of 41. Her father set up a charity in her name called the Cock-A-Doodle-Do Trust and money made from welcoming visitors to his large garden goes to St Peter's Hospice and Cotswold Care Hospice. Just before Katherine died, Prince Charles wrote a letter to Mr. Meyer giving permission for him to copy the plans of his bespoke henhouse at Highgrove. Although Katherine died shortly afterwards, this project was continued and the results can now be seen in the garden housing rare breeds of poultry. It is a wonderfully reflective garden and as well as the beautiful flower beds, there is a winding path through woodland, including a pond and stumpery. The evening was rounded off with tea, coffee and delicious cakes served under an open-sided canopy with its own vine. We would recommend looking out for the open days (usually June/July), to enjoy a beautiful garden in the knowledge that the £5 entry fee will be used for very worthwhile causes.

When we return to meetings in September the topic will be jewellery making. Discussions have been continuing and decisions made about how we would like to mark our 100-year anniversary. A party is due to be held in the Parish Hall at the end of October.

Anyone wishing to join our group would be very welcome and can contact our Secretary, Bridget, on 321741 for more details. We meet in the Parish Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Sylvie Powell



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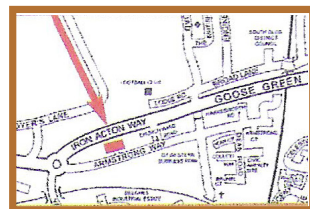
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Spring Again!

Autumn is possibly my favourite season. It makes a perfect hiatus between the wasp-tense, sun-cream frenzied days of summer fun and the frenetic madness of the festive season. As colour-lit leaves hang suspended for a few precious weeks I feel with them a moment's pause, the chance to be still and breathe.

But then in the calm..... looms the Horticultural Show which jars my mind with inevitable stress and which I have grown to love and hate in equal measures! The enthusiasm of my eldest three children, keen to enter a few of their homespun treasures, was a pleasurable thing. I was too preoccupied with the business of caring for 3 youngsters to worry about entering myself and so happily guided them through the delights of quirky, miniature gardens, painted egg-shells, lopsided fairy cakes and such like. The mess thereafter was pretty terrifying and, back then, the stress levels made me snappy when I saw the clearing up task ahead, which seemed insurmountable.

The Horticultural Show might now be a calmer, more studied, adult affair (the 3 older children now being almost all grown up) but I am being swept away by the unbridled enthusiasm of a 10-year old's joy in everything. It is like a 2nd run at parenting and the roller coaster is very different this time with 'Thing 4' as she is affectionally known! Her desire to enter every category in the show begins with serious planning as soon as summer holidays start. Manic crafting seeps through the house leaving its unruly trail throughout each room, it's no surprise to find a glue pot tipped over in the bathroom or paper cuttings strewn over my bed!

This would be fine but then... Thing 4 starts planning for me! The thought of potential bread making at 6am and my sunken cakes fills me with dread; but how can I let her down? Tired and extremely worn I wrestle with tasks beyond my skills; sweating over steaming pans of liquid jam, praying it will show some sign of setting before Christmas! Then, needs must, I rise on the day itself at a thoroughly indecent hour in order to scramble through jaded flower beds and tease together a few drooping blooms into a posy or bunch together wilted herbs, knowing full well they will sit shamefully alongside other glories. She never minds me not winning but loves me to be fully engaged like herself and 'put on a good show'. The day inevitably leaves me shattered and the house is on its knees too, as vegetable creatures are bundled together, and iced cakes leave sticky trickles oozing from the table down to the floor. I give in – I'm done.

But then, the judging complete, we spy a coveted 2nd! Despite there only being 4 entries, this is a prize beyond belief and together we share the thrill of success!! Priceless!

When I get home and see the mess, which, like in the 'Cat in the Hat', is 'so big and so deep and so tall', do I feel the rising dread I would have felt in the first throws of parenting? No! I am on a euphoric high; like the 'Cat' I can take it in my stride and celebrate all that was good about the day and am more than ready for a glass of fizz at the beer festival!

So, it was with a blast of sadness that I noted on the calendar my enforced absence this year from the show; a university visit with Thing 3 calls. A show missed, the clock is ticking. I know that I will not be caught up for long in this whirlpool of childhood delirium, mind -boggling as it is, I am enchanted by how the clock has wound back and I am reliving and re-experiencing life through the eyes of a child once more. Even as I write this in a stolen moment of luxurious silence, I have had to break off and sit through an impromptu puppet show introducing 'Alice' the newly created sock monster!!

I cried to my father (a GP) with fear when I found out that number four was on its way. It was a discovery made many weeks later than the other three after a very grumpy Devon holiday during which I insisted David bought copious amounts of meat from the local butcher which, once cooked, I couldn't face eating! I was convinced that I was far too old to have a baby as I

told him our news. As usual Dad released the pressure valve with a simple wise retort: 'Well clearly you are not!'

And so, when the delight of a fabulous bundle arrived in our lives a decade ago, I determined to fight for my youth to give her the same childhood as her older siblings and defy those gathering wrinkles.

So what if I now have to balance glasses on my nose in order to read Malory Towers to its third set of ears. Luckily Darrell Rivers, the book's heroine, is far more exciting this time round thanks to the eagerness of my listener, who anticipates Darrel and co's every move. Just as when I read the books as a child I too am, once again, wishing for days in the perpetual sun playing lacrosse with the winning team!

Everything is a whirl with an Abigail in your life; we vowed from the outset that as slightly aged parents that this time we would go with the flow. If she slept in our bed most nights, it mattered not. Now of course the deepest of sleepers on school days rudely awakens us at the crack of dawn each weekend leaping with delight into our dreams of a lie in. 'What are we doing today?' heralds our 6.30 am alarm call! Our bleary-eyed awakening is worth every moment for these precious days of her warm limbs snuggled up to ours before she inevitably demands her right to teenager lie ins!

The drudge of routine tasks has been lifted by her whirlwind approach to life; who knew shopping in Tesco could be such an adventure? The advent of self-scanners creates turmoil hitherto unknown. Supermarket toddler tantrums are nothing compared to the chaos these devices cause as the battle for supremacy is invariably won by my daughter's desperate pleadings. Bemused and nervous I feel dread as we approach the till. We are selected for a service check. The horror rises in me; the chances of everything having been scanned is minimal; I can feel the heat rising. But we do it; YES!! It feels like winning the lottery and so in utter relief I ignore the fact she has headed off to select the charity of choice with not one but at least ten tokens so that they all get their chance!! The traveller, which ever so slightly scares me (I know it's not an escalator, but it is in the same family!) is ridden by her like a fairground attraction. The fun never stops!

The daily dog-walk, as with all the other children, is greeted with moans but unlike them she fixes the boredom herself. I am led to woodland swings and although I refuse her entreaties to partake of the delight of swooping through the air (safety of weight limits restrict my participation) I am sorely tempted to throw caution to the wind! Where moans would have prevailed, I am now commanded to play 'Follow My Leader'. So, forgive me if you see me leaping like a mad thing, weaving in and out of nettles and clapping in response to her commands; I'm loving every minute even if I am if I am getting some odd stares!

The gentler moments in our co-existence are life-affirming. She loves all living creatures and entreats me to do the same. She talks with love even to wasps as if they are her pets- WASPS, I ask you?

Her actual pets, two guinea pigs, are examined each morning and, although I was a bit perturbed to hear she had decided to remove their alleged earwax with a piece of straw, to see her plant a kiss on each of them or sing a lullaby has made me just as soppy about our two smallest family members!

I have been taken on flights of fancy through every current craze; the latest mermaid obsession is infectious. Even the men of the house seem chipper about the Netflix series she watches on a seemingly endless loop; bikini-clad, scaly girls swoop with glistening tails through the waves!!

I'm secretly hoping we might both grow a tail. It would be entirely helpful for our annual break by the sea. She is the water- baby of the family, never tiring of the sea and I am forced to go wrinkly and blue as I swim alongside.

And swim I will, wrinkles and all, knowing that for now she has brought spring back into my life.

Lisa Hatherell

IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have come to the end of another fantastic year at Iron Acton Primary School and we have much to celebrate. We have recently said goodbye and good luck to a wonderful group of 11 Year 6 children as they prepare to move on to secondary school. We have also been through the process of welcoming 15 new children to our Reception class in September. This will take our total number of children to 98 which is the largest the school has ever been.

All children have done exceptionally well in their end of year tests and I am so pleased with the effort from all children and of course the amazing group of staff who all work together to make an excellent team.

Over the summer we are having a lot of work done to improve the school and keep things moving forward. A new temporary classroom is being installed on the field until Christmas, which will enable us to remove the very old classroom we have at the back of the school and make space for a new double classroom in its place. This is such an exciting opportunity for us as a school; it will enable us to provide adequate space for all 4 classes as we continue to expand to a maximum of 105 children.

Our partnership with Hawkesbury has been a huge success. The staff, governors and children have worked well together and this has enhanced what we are able to do as a school. The school has saved a lot of money which has been reinvested in other ways and the children have taken part in a range of activities they might not have been able to do otherwise. We look forward to a second year and we are excited by what new challenges and adventures this will bring!

The deadline for applications for Reception children who will join us in September 2020 will soon come around. We will be welcoming families to our open days on **2nd October, 1.30pm** and **13th November, 1.30pm**. Please do contact the school office if you have a child who is due to start school and you would like to take a look around. We would be very pleased to meet you.

Thank you all for your support of the school.

Mike Riches Headteacher

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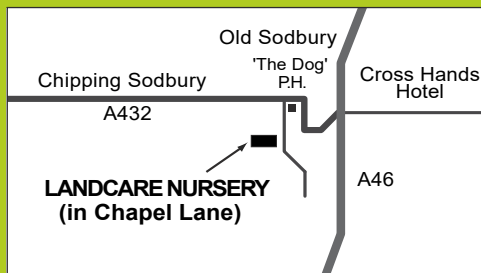
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IRON ACTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

We had a very successful prom concert in The Meadows on 6th July. Singing a range of music from The Beatles, Elton John and The Proclaimers, and we kept an enthusiastic and generous audience entertained and thoroughly enjoyed singing "The Hebrew Chorus" and "Hallelujah Chorus" with the BMO as usual. Thank you to all who came and supported The Proms... we thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to sing for Acton Aid's fantastic event and it is a delight to share our work with friends and family and the wider community from near and further afield.

We are also singing at a village family wedding in August in the church, which is great fun and extends our experience and skills. We might be ready for more, given enough rehearsal time and space!

We are now about to start our preparations for the Carol Service in the church in December and our Winter Concert in early January (2019) and have begun to think about how we can best add to the joy and delight of those events! Rehearsals start on September 3rd for this new season of music.

The energy and enthusiasm members bring to rehearsals in the Village Hall remains fantastic and it is a really positive and joyous experience to work with them, to learn new music and develop our skills and abilities to sing in harmony with each other. Community singing is a powerful force for good and the Iron Acton Community Choir is 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 35-40 members in total.

We meet on a Tuesday evening in the Village Hall normally at 20.30 hrs and we now 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 Sopranos, Tenors and Basses. You just need to be keen and enthusiastic, no prior experience or 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 and see what you think.

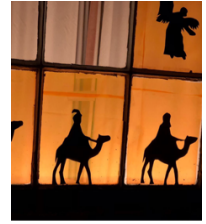
Rob Pardoe



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS 2019.— A Plea.

As I write this, sifting in the sun in July, I note there are only 175 sleeps until Christmas!

That means even less until Christmas Windows.



Several people have asked if this event could involve the whole village and if it could run for a week. The suggestion is that it starts after the Christingle Service and goes on until the following Sunday (Carol Service). This would be 8th to 15th December.

If this is to happen I need HELPERS!



Acton Aid have donated money to cover printing and small prizes, I am happy to organise but need people who live in other parts of the village to help with leaflets and responses. It is not necessary for people to have attended the Christingle Service to become involved. Answer Sheets will be available at other places.

One of the reasons for asking that the windows remain decorated for a week is to give more children the chance to see them, I'm sure the majority of people will still roam the street, mulled wine in hand, on the Sunday, but if the weather is inclement then there will be further opportunities later in the week.



Although I talk of "Windows" we have seen gates, gardens and the back window of a car decorated. No one has an excuse for not joining in!

The theme this year will be 'Songs/Carols connected with Christmas'

If you think you can help in any way, especially in delivering flyers and coordinating windows in other streets, then please contact me.

Rose White, Frome House, High Street. davandro@hotmail.co.uk.

THE 2nd EDITION OS MAP: THE VILLAGE c.1900

The map in the centre spread is an extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map for Iron Acton drawn in the early 20th century. This map follows on from the 1st Edition map shown in the previous edition of Local Poyntz and represents what is known as the "first revision" of the County Series map. The idea was that the County Series were to be revised every twenty years and this plan was largely followed until the First World War.

In Iron Acton the 2nd Edition does not show the striking changes seen between the tithe map and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map but there are, nonetheless, some interesting things to note. Changes to some of the buildings include alterations to Church House where it joins the churchyard and the loss of some outbuildings at various places throughout the village - for example from around The Lamb. Three large ponds to the north west of the village green (now under the bypass), south of Hill House and behind the village hall (now under houses) have now gone. Surprisingly, the village also seems to have lost a number of houses. The cottage in the centre of the Green has been demolished and also gone are three cottages on Park Street to the south of the Wesleyan chapel and four cottages on the other side of the Park Street south of The Gables. After nearly a thousand years of burying people in the churchyard, a new cemetery extension has also been created to accommodate new burials.

Interestingly, for the first time, the village police station is shown at Hillside on Holly Hill. This is one of three different police stations in Iron Acton - the others being at The Homestead on the High Street and opposite the school on Wotton Road - although this is the first time any of them are shown on a map. There was a police station in the village from at least 1876 when the Morris & Co. Commercial Directory and Gazetteer records John Davis as the constable-in-charge. The Gloucester Citizen reported in 1902 that Inspector Thomas Griffin of Lydney, then Superintendent of the Forest of Dean Division, was the constable-in-charge at Iron Acton between 1885 and 1891. The Cheltenham Chronicle recorded PC Joseph Bateman's retirement in 1919 aged 53 after 32 years service, some of which was in Iron Acton. William Tayler and John Edgington were constables in 1897 when the entire Gloucestershire police force consisted of only 55 sergeants and 324 constables.

Tim Grubb.







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SECONDS, MINUTES, HOURS AND DAYS

In the early 1600's, when Queen Elizabeth I ruled England under a protestant fist, the previously holy men of England were forced to go into hiding, either covering their beliefs or risking their lives if the authorities ever found them. With Catholic believers disappearing in the middle of the night, abandoning their homes and villages never to be seen again, the few who remained went deep into hiding, finding the safest places that would never be discovered by the Queen's forces as to protect themselves. During these turbulent times, they banded together to keep their fellow believers safe from discovery all while living closely so they could pray as they wished.

An example of these such people were a group of 24 Catholic priests, previously respected and considered to be God's spokesmen before the banning of Catholicism. The men lived in a large house, buried deep within the hills of the countryside and surrounded by fields that distracted any passers by from thinking that anything was out of the ordinary. One night in late October, they were eventually found. Well, all but one.

"They're here! Everybody hide!"

The scrambling of feet and hissed prayers filled the halls of the house as the men all got to their feet before disappearing into the gaps in the walls, into trapdoors and cellars and under tables. One man began to run, streaking up the stairs and into the large, empty bedroom on the first floor. He pushed back the curtain that covered his designated spot, unveiling another young priest hidden behind a cabinet. With shaking hands and a thundering heart, he unlocked the cupboard that was built into the walls, swiftly clambering inside before muttering at the man to lock it. A click echoed through empty space, indicating he was safe.

Now they would wait.

After what seemed like hours of sitting inside the musty darkness of the cupboard, a noise from the outside room had him sitting up quickly, ears adjusting to the sounds. First, a shout. It was followed by a scream of pain and the rough voices of men who he didn't recognise. Someone had been caught.

This was the end, he knew it. Judging by the closeness of the sound, he guessed that at best he had minutes left to live. At worst-

No, he wouldn't think about that. God would save him, would show him mercy in the end. Minutes passed.

Then again, another chilling scream. The voices of those other men only followed in harsh succession.

They had found the man outside the door to his cupboard.

So that was to be it, the end would come in only seconds.

Seconds passed.

Then minutes.

Hours.

Only the sounds of more shouts and cries of his fellow priests pierced the cloying, suffocating silence, each one worse than the last. The entire time, he counted down on shaking fingers the amount he heard.

He counted 23.

And now, locked there in that cupboard with his only way out taken hostage or killed, the 24th man began to cry out in earnest, knowing that either way he was dead, fate sealed in the twist of a key and the click of a lock.

Days passed.

He heard nothing.

After seven days with no food or water, no sunlight and nothing but hope that God would save him in the end, the man finally passed, drifting away from the weight of his body.

But he remained there in soul, still waiting for his lost brothers and holding out desperate hope that despite everything God would prevail, as he always had. And even now, centuries later, it is rumoured that on a night in late October the inhabitants of the house at the time would always find that particular cupboard locked and hear the cries of a man locked alone in the darkness. Still waiting, always waiting.

Alice Grubb

FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

We had a good summer term and even though rain stopped play with our first planned Sports Day and Actonbury event we were able to reschedule for 12th July, which proved thankfully dry. The Church kindly provided tea and cakes during Sports Day and after we had a great mix of games, BBQ and refreshments. The highlight of the afternoon was Karen Parker's Recycling It's a Knock Out Tournament. A fantastic set of challenges involving our household recycling, much water being splashed on contestants and seeing willing team leaders dressed in scarecrow clothes, lipstick and shaving foam hats. The teachers all threw themselves into it with great enthusiasm and also recently left pupils had great fun joining in. The same weekend there was a new venture: family church service followed by BBQ on the school playing fields. The weather obliged kindly once again!

Friends are there to raise money for the school so we enjoy spending on big projects such as the upcoming Outdoor Classroom but also for regular events like subsidising the Year 5 and 6 Residential, this year to Morfa Bay in Wales, and paying for Year 6 Hoodies and books from the school. Friday 19th July saw an emotional leavers church service followed by the school Prom in the evening at the Parish Hall. We bid fond farewells to 11 pupils as they move on in September to Secondary schools in the area. Sadly too it means we lose parents of Year 6's too. Heather Tillotson will be much missed; always a great source of ideas, drive and humour to make Friends a happy and successful group.

Friends is open to any parent of the School and always welcomes new members and new ideas. Amy Hampson is our Chair and we are very grateful for her excellent leadership and enthusiasm. We look forward to welcoming new parents of the new Reception class with "Tea and Tears" (and plenty of cake!) at the Lamb directly after school drop off on their first day.

Sonya Grubb

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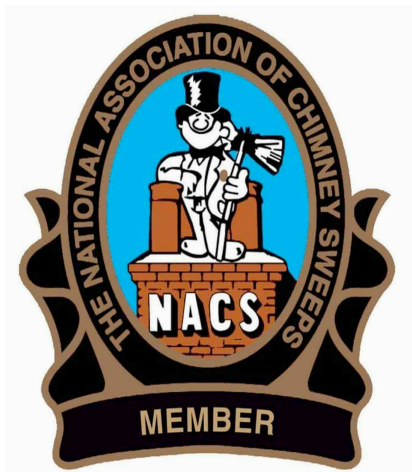
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IRON ACTON HANDBELLS

We have now been in existence for 2 years!

Thanks to all your support and successful grant applications we have purchased more handbells and now have a full 2 octave chromatic set. If anyone would like to try to arrange music for us I would be delighted.

May Day saw us joyfully ringing and many people tried their hand, all with great success. We also played at the North Road school fete where we were told we added tranquillity to the day.

Our next performance will be at the Concert on November 8th in the church, in aid of the work that is being planned to improve the amenities. This should be a splendid evening of musical entertainment, by local people. There is an amazing amount of talent in the parish.

Starting in September we will be running an after school club at Iron Acton VC school to introduce children to the art of handbell ringing. Details of this will be sent out from the School.

If any adults are keen to join our team then please contact me. We meet on Thursday's from 19.00 to 20.00.

Rose White. Frome House, High Street. Davandro@hotmail.co.uk



Share and Prayer

Join in with local friends at coffee time

Saturday 21st Sept 2019, 9.30-10.30am

@ Fairview Cottage, 1 Fairview Terrace, Iron Acton

If you would like us to pray for you or you would like more details
please contact Pete and Chris Bellis 01454 228065

IRON ACTON MEMORIES PROJECT

A new oral history project, supported by Acton Aid, is being launched in the village later this year to undertake recorded interviews with current and past village residents.

The main aim of the 'Iron Acton Memories' project will be to capture and record personal memories of village life, gather old pictures and research archived documents to illustrate how village life has changed.

At the heart of the project will be interviews recorded by volunteers from the village. These will be complemented by events, organised by the project volunteers in the village hall, where people can bring along documents and photographs to be scanned to the village archive and discuss their memories in a less formal way.

All of the information will be made readily available to the local community and a wider audience online and will be curated within the village as a living resource for the community to use and develop.

We are looking for interviewees and interviewers as well as anyone else who would like to be involved in the project, for example interviews will need to be transcribed so anyone with typing skills would be very helpful. If you are interested please contact Tim Grubb at ironactonmemories@gmail.com or on 07786 067336 and look out for adverts for project events.

FRIENDS OF NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Saturday 28th Sept: 2pm Pig Racing Afternoon.

This is a chance to have friendly bets on wind up pigs with prizes for winners. Fun for all the family. Refreshments will be available.

Foreign/Old Coin Collection.

If you have any unwanted foreign or old coins (or notes) please bring them into the school. All coins/notes that we receive will be converted into money for the children.

Monday 11th November: Bags 2 School Collection.

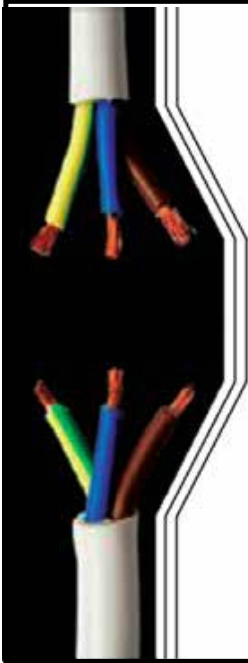
Please bag up any unwanted clothing, shoes and soft toys you may have and bring them to school before 9am. (please feel free to pop them over the school gate). The more weight we receive to more money will be given.

Friday 29th November 2-4pm: Christmas Fayre

This is a chance to look around stalls, enjoy a drink and cake and see Father Christmas. If anyone would be interested in having a stall please contact Katharine on 07789763790.

For more details on any of the above, please contact Katharine on 07789763790.

Katharine



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CYCLING FROM LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS FOR CHARITY

So after all the build up; 6 months of training and bleating on about doing it, the day finally came! During the 11 days between Friday 7th and Monday 17th June, I rode a total of 1,063 miles and climbed 14,736m! All on my own and entirely unsupported; & best of all, a day quicker than planned

As no doubt you'll have noticed the weather in June hasn't been the kindest. I started on the day that 'Storm Miguel' decided to visit the UK and I rode my initial 70-mile leg in torrential rain along the A30, which in hindsight was bit daft. I thought whilst drying everything I had with me in the B&B 'that'll be the bad weather out the way'...How wrong I was!!

The next day over Dartmoor only contained showers thankfully and I stayed relatively dry for my return home from Tiverton on my 3rd Day. Sadly, the next 3 days are bit of a blur as north of Leominster until Carlisle, some 290 miles, I was subjected to constant heavy rain whilst in the saddle, as the rain seem to follow me northward. I had a sense of humour failure around Wigan after having 3 punctures in a single afternoon and stopped 17 miles short of my B&B for the night in Preston. I was in a huge grump and got a taxi up to Preston.

I had (a pint and) a word with myself and found a late-night bike shop in Preston. The guys there were great and found the sliver of glass in my tyre (with tweezers and magnifying glass, I might add), which I couldn't spot or feel. So, the next day I taxied back to the point I'd given up the previous day and continued my ride (still in the rain); to have a gap of 17 miles would have always stuck with me....

Once I hit the Lakes midway into Day 6, although raining with a brutal headwind, I enjoyed the 9-mile climb up to Shap from Kendal; as essentially for the first time I could look away from the tarmac and puddles and see some fantastic vistas.

The following day, the rained finally cleared after almost 530 miles of riding, as I approached the Scottish Border. I then found myself cycling in the wilderness through some fabulous countryside adjacent the western Loch's. For the Python fans out there; I even inadvertently found the Castle from 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'!

Day 10 saw me start from Fort Augustus and ride along the southern side of Loch Ness (Sadly, no Nessie folks) and winding my way up Helmsdale on the northeastern coast. It was Father's Day and I was delighted to find two hand drawn cards from my children waiting for me after not seeing them for the longest time since they've been about..... & yes, I cried.

The last day came; it was one final push to finish the adventure. I was excited to be finishing but it was also tinged with sadness that it was all coming to an end. Liking to set myself challenges I gave myself 160 miles to complete in that day. The weather held out for around 5 hours and 70 miles in the rain came again but this time with its friends Thunder & Lightning!

I was battle hardened by this point and wasn't going to let the storms (whilst riding a carbon bike) stop me from my goal. I made it to John o Groats just before 6pm and finished the ride just as I started it; soaked through. After the elation subsided and seeing that in the day I'd burnt 10,500 calories! I still had a 20-mile ride back to Thurso for huge dinner and my bed for the night. It felt quick but it probably wasn't!

Thank you so much to all in the village and surrounding areas that have contributed to my justgiving page; I've exceeded my target and the total currently stands at £2,800. I'm sure the Great Western Air Ambulance will be most grateful for your contributions and having found someone so resilient, stubborn or perhaps silly to have embarked on the ride considering the weather forecast!

Dan Coles



ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

August is just beginning, the wheat is standing golden in the fields and lots of folk are enjoying holidays with families – but Autumn and Winter will come racing along so I thought it may be useful to have dates you may like to note in your diaries – tickets where appropriate will be available soon as will details and further information. I know the Iron Acton social diary is busy and varied for residents and visitors but St James church services are regular every Wednesday at 10.30am in The Marshal Room and Sunday 9.15 (except 2nd Sunday, 9.30am) and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Please check the church notice board for additional information.

Sat 12 th Oct	7.30pm - Harvest quiz and supper in Parish Hall
Sun 13 th Oct Yate Food Bank)	9.30am - All Age Harvest Service and Auction of produce (supporting
Fri 8 th Nov	7.30pm - Musical Concert in St James (local talent at its best!!)
Sun 10 th Nov	All Age service followed by act of Remembrance (time to be confirmed)
Frid 6 th Dec	9.15am - Christingle making and service in IA school
Sat 7 th Dec	2pm - Christmas Sale in Parish Hall (St James and Friends of IA School)
Sun 8 th Dec	4pm - All Age Christingle Service
Sun 15 th Dec	9.15am - Communion Service 6.30pm - Carols and Readings by candlelight
Sun 22 nd Dec	9.15am - Communion Service
Tues 24 th Dec	4pm - Crib Service 10.30pm - Christmas Communion
Wed 25 th Dec -	9.15am - Christmas Day Communion

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

& FRIENDS OF IA SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS SALE – PARISH HALL

Saturday 7th December 2pm – 4pm

Tea and cake

Craft stalls and games

Christmas gifts

Father Christmas

Tombola

raffle

IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

West of England Combined Authorities Joint Spatial Plan

You may have heard elsewhere that the Planning Inspectors have announced that they have grave doubts about the way the development sites were chosen, and that no consideration was given to alternatives. Consequently, the inspectors have cancelled further consideration due later this year. They strongly suggest that rather than try to justify the site choices in retrospect, the plan should be withdrawn and started again. My view is that it does not mean the suggestion of developing large areas of Iron Acton Parish is dead. It might be again chosen. However, it does mean the Combined Authorities will have to look at alternatives and must fully explain why they choose any particular site. Presumably this means people will have to be consulted again and maybe alternative plans put forward.

Chill Wood

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I was contacted by a resident pointing out that some young people were using the wood and causing a lot of rubbish there and around the weir at Tubbs Bottom. Two days later I had a look, with a bag and an idea to pick some of it up. But the Wood was spotless. Not a bit of litter anywhere! Either the youngsters took their rubbish home with them, or someone had cleared up behind them. Whoever it was, I would like to say on behalf of the Parish Council, thank you very much.

We are looking at ways to restrict access to the Wood apart from pedestrians/dog walkers. We don't want motorcycles scrambling through it. This though begs the question, what is the wood for. Is it just for walking through, or is it for more general recreation, possibly even by young people?

Bob Lomas Chairman

THREE ARTISTS OF IRON ACTON: AN EXHIBITION

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IRON ACTON MUSIC IN THE MEADOWS – A HUGE SUCCESS

Acton Aid who raise money for charities and local good causes, report that the Mashand Proms held at the beginning of July was the biggest and most successful event to date.

Spokesman, Richard Hunter said

“ The 7th Mash sold out two weeks in advance and I am not surprised in view of the fantastic like up. Local band, Lewis Creaven opened the Mash with a selection of creative cover songs.

Next followed two 90 minute shows by two of the UK’s top tribute bands.

ARRIVAL wowed the 1500 strong audience with the songs of ABBA. They looked and sounded just like the real thing and had half of the audience dancing with their first song. ARRIVAL have previously played in sell out stadia and music venues around the world and now hit their pinnacle by playing in Iron Acton!

The final act was FLASH, who were back by popular demand, playing the songs made famous by Queen. This was one of their 136 gigs this year and they use identical instruments and again look and sound just like their heroes.

On Saturday, the audience were treated to popular classical music played by the 60 piece Bristol Millennium Orchestra and finished with “last night at the Proms” with a spectacular firework display. Other performers included the Iron Acton community choir, Junior Fascinating Rhythm, Kathryn Hurley dancers and tenors and sopranos from Opera in the Box.

The team from Acton Aid worked incredibly hard to deliver the event with several days of preparing, officiating at the events and then clearing up. All helpers even pay for their own tickets to maximise the funds raised for good causes.

A bucket collection in aid of the South West ambulance service raised over £2500 and the two events raised well in excess of £10,000 for local good causes.

The next Mash and Proms will be held on 3rd and 4th July 2020 and we suggest that people buy their tickets well in advance to avoid disappointment.”

For further details, contact Richard Hunter on [richardcharleshunter @gmail .com](mailto:richardcharleshunter@gmail.com).

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EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN (JSP)

Stop Press - the inspectors have just written a letter to all concerned in the JSP process to cancel the planned meetings for September and October and have told the West of England Authority and the Councils that the plan is considered to be flawed and unsound and that they need a serious re-think and greater public consultations. This could easily delay the process by over 12 months and change the proposed strategic development locations (SDLs)"

The following is a report compiled by Brian Hackland before this news broke:

The first two weeks of the hearings on the Joint Spatial Plan, are now complete Brian Hackland attended all of the relevant hearings on behalf of Iron Acton Parish Council, accompanied by Iron Acton Councillors. The Unitary Authorities' (UAs) team was led by a QC, with Patrick Conroy, Director of Planning, leading for South Gloucestershire. Participants included house builders, transport operators, town and parish councils, campaign groups and individuals.

The hearings are held to help the Inspectors reach a view on the JSP's compliance with legal requirements and national planning policy, and its deliverability (soundness). The Inspectors led the questioning and directed the discussions towards issues they saw as significant.

On the issues of concern to Iron Acton, the main focus of discussion was as follows:

- *Compliance with Statements of Community Involvement* – many parish councils shared our unhappiness about the inadequacies of consultation. However, the Inspectors seemed to feel that as long as the UAs ticked the boxes they had met their obligations!
- *The spatial strategy underlying the JSP* – the Inspectors pressed hard on what constituted the spatial strategy. The UAs admitted they simply had added up: existing permissions; urban intensification; non-strategic (windfall) development; and the 12 SDLs (Strategic Development Locations). The Inspectors asked how, without a separate strategy, the UAs would make up the shortfall if a SDL fell.
- *Testing of alternatives to the JSP strategy* – much time was spent in argument that the Unitary Authorities had failed adequately to explore alternatives to the strategy.
- *Regulation 22 requirement for a "Policies Map" to be submitted* – policies maps set out exactly where and what type of development is specified by the plan. The authorities have undertaken to explain to the Inspectors why no map was submitted.
- *Relationship between JSP and LPs; SDLs in the Green Belt* – there was a long and strenuous discussion. The Unitary Authorities argued that the JSP is an 'upper tier' plan in a two-tier approach, the Local Plans (LPs) forming the lower tier.
- *North West and West Yate SDL* – IAPC challenged the inaccuracies and inconsistencies. The UAs stated that the SDL 'Concept Diagrams' or 'Dashboards' were 'indicative' only. When challenged on how 'generic' exceptional circumstances (referring to housing need) could justify the West Yate employment site they could not answer.
- *Is the Spatial Strategy robustly evidenced, justified and effective* – there was much discussion about whether the JSP could be separated from transport proposals in separate plans (e.g. Winterbourne/Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath/Westerleigh bypasses and M4 Junction 18A). On 16 July the UAs published a new document on this.
- *Nature of housing need being met by SDLs* - IAPC asked whether the Yate SDL was intended to meet demand from Yate/Chipping Sodbury or Bristol. The latter would markedly increase non-sustainable commuting. The UAs said they had no breakdown.

To find out more details about the Examination and keep up to date with the proceedings check the website at www.hwa.uk.com/projects/west-of-england-joint-spatial-plan/ .

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