



Local Poyntz

www.ironacton.info

SPRING 2022

A great place to browse,
shop and socialise ...

Your Local, Friendly, Garden Centre.



DON'T MISS OUR
**MONTHLY
OFFERS**



IronActon
Garden Centre

Wotton Road, Iron Acton, South Glos. BS37 9XA

TEL: 01454 228764

www.ironactongardencentre.co.uk



OPENING HOURS:

MON-FRI 9am-6pm

SAT 9am-5.30pm

SUN 10.30am-4.30pm

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

LOCAL POYNTZ PHOTOGRAPHERS: - Sally Aries, Gillian Otlet

THIS EDITION: - There are only 36 pages in our spring magazine. Some of our regular contributors have not sent anything, this time, and we have lost some of the adverts. We do have a long article from George Ellis. If I had included the entire article it would have made 38 pages which is very tricky. The magazine must have 36, 40 or 44 pages; 38 pages would mean 2 blank pages!! Not good. George's article is, therefore, serialised and the remaining 2 pages will be in the summer edition. Page 9 has 2 images which were taken by Sally Aries.

FEEDBACK: - I am very interested to get some feedback from the people who receive a copy of this magazine. Do you read it or throw it into the recycling bag? Do you enjoy the articles? Is there anything you would like changed? Is there anything you would like added? I do not mind criticism. I welcome any comments. Please contact me by email (address below).

The deadline for the summer edition is 1st May 2022. We really need to have all articles by that date, PLEASE.

FRONT PAGE: - The front-page image was taken by Sally Aries; typical April shower with rainbow.

ADVERTISEMENTS: - Having lost some of our advertisers, we are looking for new sponsors. If you have or know of anyone who has a business which needs some publicity, please contact me and we can discuss it.

EDITOR- Pamela McCoy 01454 228874, 07766074252
Email pam.localpoyntz@gmail.com.

Printed by Jamprint Design & Printing Ltd. 01249 823950

Green Community Travel

Need help with
Transport?

**Let us
help
you!**

Do you struggle with public buses
and are other modes of transport
too expensive?

We are Community Transport and
we can help with GP appointments,
shopping, hospital appointments as
well as much more!

Give us a call and have a chat to us
to see how we can help you.

01454 228706

Covering, Yate, Chipping Sodbury, Frampton
Cotterell, Coalpit Heath, Emersons Green,
Winterbourne, Cromhall, Charfield, Tormarton,
Wickwar and much more across South
Gloucestershire!



WINTER WATCH

The shortest day is behind us and the evenings will be getting lighter. So far, because of the mild weather, many of our winter migrants have been late to arrive and it was only in late December that we had any Redwings or Fieldfares around the garden. They were in the fields where they are more at home, eating their way through the various berries in the hedgerows.

Birds spend a large part of the day foraging on the meagre offerings the countryside has to offer at this time of year. We can all help by providing extra food on our feeders and tables and at the same time getting to see and identify unfamiliar birds.

I prefer sunflower hearts in the feeders and a sprinkling of a seed mixture on the ground or bird table. A few species such as Chaffinch, Dunnock and Robin are reluctant to perch on feeders and prefer to peck about on the ground. When weather is really severe I provide softer food and fruits for the thrushes and Blackbirds with windfalls and I add a few raisins, grated carrot, cheese and a few assorted seeds and unsalted peanuts. Fresh water for both drinking and bathing is the most important thing we can provide for birds as they bathe, even in the harshest of weather, to keep their plumage in top condition to retain their body heat and to get ready for the breeding season or for migration back to their summer haunts in the north.

It is important to make sure feeders and bird tables are regularly cleaned with disinfectant to prevent disease from droppings.

As a challenge spend a couple of hours or, whatever spare time you have, trying to identify all the birds that visit your garden. Take pictures of any you are not sure of or are unusual and send them to me at boycey@west-tec.co.uk and I will try to identify the birds and answer any queries. 5kg of sunflower hearts for the most unusual picture sent to me before the end of April.

As well as watching from home, get out and about through Chilwood and by the river. Check the pylons for Raven, Peregrine Falcon or Buzzard, the hedges for mixed flocks of tits and finches with maybe the odd Goldcrest and listen out for twittering families of Long Tailed Tits. Check the mixed seed and brassica fields for the thousands of Linnets seen last year around the chicken barn off Mays Hill.

Along the river there is always the chance to see the flash of blue of a Kingfisher between the dam and the mill pond by Algars Mill, you may hear the sound of the high pitched piping which the Kingfisher uses to communicate over the noise of the streaming water. A good place to see the Kingfisher feeding is further up stream on the footpath between Carpet Giant and Dynamic Storage. From the road bridge follow the path upstream towards the railway line and eventually the path comes out by The Fox and why not pop in for some refreshment before returning home along the cycleway! Good Luck.

Chris Boyce

CHAOS RESUMED!

'Why ...???' was the irritating expletive my old nursing friend repeated with infuriating force as I shared the 'good' news of our newest family member. I found myself blustering and searching for an answer. Little did she know how she had hit a sore spot. In days gone, people blanched at yet another new baby announcement. But positive affirmations would quickly follow! My friend's negativity was resolute. Surely everyone melts at the news of a new puppy, a beautiful, 2nd black Labrador. Her response pulled the rug from under my feet, as I faced my internal fear; 'WHY INDEED??'

We had prepared for this new arrival with much soul searching, reading and experienced advice. The puppy's Great Aunt, our beloved, easy-going Tally was an intrinsic part of our family and we always wanted to ensure her successor.

How wise that old advertising campaign is; 'A Dog is not just for Christmas'. If you were inclined to make such a gift, you would destroy the recipient's festivities. Sleep-deprived, they would blot out the howling with heated arguments in furtive, angry whispers; "It's a baby. We need to go to it" "NO, the book says leave it". They would find themselves skidding through puddles, and more, despite hours in the frozen outdoors coaxing, "Be a good girl", through gritted teeth. Their older dog would slink off in depression after the repeated, ambushes from a new, hideous assailant. Their furniture and Christmas decorations would be ground or ripped to shreds. Your gift would happily be 'returned to sender'.

We weren't silly enough to get a puppy at Christmas. Ours aptly arrived at Halloween. Her name was picked by two daughters before she was even born; 'Winnie the Witch', a character from a favourite child's book, was perfectly picked and so the nightmare began! Our glorious, elder dog was water-tight within a fortnight, rarely chewed, and certainly never launched unprovoked, vicious play-bite attacks, which now had our youngest daughter in tears. The endless trips 'on the grass', were so frequent, I actually lost weight! Weeks on, they didn't work. Ever enlarging trickles would meander down the grouting of our kitchen tiles, creating impossible sized lakes. I am continually mopping.

The chewing is extraordinary. The spindles on our kitchen chairs have worn down to dangerous levels. The suggestions of smearing garlic, lemon and then an expensive anti-chew spray, are joyfully lapped up by Winnie. Like a streak of lightning, she hurtles past our legs, seizing anything remotely inappropriate to devour; batteries, paracetamol, chocolate, scissors have had to be coaxed from her, with my unending supply of cocktail sausage bribes. The licking is worse; my dressing gown is her obsession. One book suggested a sprinkling of chilli powder. In desperation, I cruelly tried it but luckily, a sniff was all it took. I met my nemesis when I popped to the loo, having forgotten what happens when you accidentally have chilli on your hands, YIKES!!... No more chilli! We are still working on her need to whip anything off the table, including my toast as I was spreading it! Naughty.

Dog training is essential. These incredible founts of wisdom have been my personal counsellors and they, along with the puppy 'baby group', and Nikki the dog whisperer, have helped stave off post-natal, dog depression. Classes are exhausting. My mind is a muddle as I try and master clickers and treats at the right time. My arms flail about, chicken and sausages fly out at the wrong time, and I click when it is all too late! I was so proud to attend the first session after Christmas, with my new training bag. My resolution was to get this right; Winnie and I were going to take this training seriously. I was surprised to be first, generally I am late. Resolutions are marvellous things. As I entered, the three dog trainers looked at me curiously, as I glowed with pride at my time keeping. I was an hour too late; the class had all left! Meanwhile Winnie had chewed right through her lead and to my horror, leapt wildly at one of the trainers. Oh, the shame!

Back at home I have cried at the unrest we have caused poor Tally. The puppy group's photos of old and young snuggled together taunt us. To avoid the constant barrage of attacks; Tally has moved

upstairs to her '2nd floor flat'. At first, it felt like we had taken in some-one else's, crazed toddler and we desperately waited for the rightful parent to take back ownership. We had duty, but affection was forced. Tally fixed us with her deepest gaze, pleading, "When is it going home?"

Slowly things are calming down (just a bit!!). Today I had an epiphany. I had left Winnie for a few minutes, as I went for a shower. The kitchen was bomb proof. A crash and her screams told another story, as I flew out in my towel. One of the chairs, upturned on the table (ready for more mopping), had been pulled down by her. She ran with terror and cowered in her crate. I sat on the floor and coaxed her out. She flung her ungainly body on my lap and held on for dear life, head buried in my arm. The bonds of love flooded through me, and I knew right then, that this ridiculous bundle was certainly one of us. How I grinned as she bounced back and shot victoriously, in and out of the bathroom, with her latest trophy, my underwear!

Later that day, I returned home. The raw, January day had let its greyness seep into my soul, disconnecting me from the world. I put loud music on to break the gloom and saw Winnie wiggling her back, in time! We danced around the kitchen and even Tally looked on with seeming approval. Later, roaring like lions, they played a monstrous game of tug of war, knocking everything in their way. Instead of intense irritation, I laughed at the chaos around me. David and I agree that, for us, chaos is best. Like moths we are attracted to its light. If the quiet is allowed to descend, I start to delve into the blackness of chaos within. Madness secures our sanity. If darkness does pull, there is nothing quite like the penetrating, kindness and empathy that streams from a dog's eyes to rescue you. I have seen our older kids grappling with teenage angst, melt in the arms of a beast, which knows no judgement, that gives of itself humbly and freely. Winnie will provide the same for our youngest, and all of us, I'm sure.

That my dear friend, is 'WHY'. As I hear your pain and solitude, when your devotion to the patients in your care makes losing them so very hard, I wish I could send you Winnie. You could stomp those Devon paths, the wind whipping through both sets of ears. Dog and human in unspoken, synchronised compassion. And together, you would see the darkness cower at the shafts of light, emanating from the newly, rising sun.

Lisa Hatherell



“SHORT, BARK 'N' SIDES”

Dog Grooming Service

Nicola Johnson
07974 687020

nikkishortbarknsides@gmail.com



Independent Insurance Brokers

Nicola Webber
07818 047642

nicola.webber@alliedwessex.co.uk

**Contact me today for a competitive Insurance Quotation
for your Home, Car, Business or Rented Property
Allied Wessex Ltd is authorised and
regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority**



This image is self explanatory.
I have included it because, I think, it is simple, peaceful and beautiful.



I cross the railway track most mornings, whilst walking with my dog, and have never seen a train. We know that the line is active and hear the trains from time to time but they are few and far between. So, well done Sally for capturing this one with your camera.
A great picture!

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

St James the Less Church where you are assured of a warm welcome

Snowdrops crocus and hellebores making a great show in my garden and nights are drawing out nicely when the weather is good! I always think that February is a very hopeful month as well as being short. Signs of growth and regeneration all around and this year we now seem to be coming out the other side of the covid pandemic at last.

We have more choice now for wearing masks and seeing more friends and family and we can now sing in church without masks. Not always a great bonus when we do not know the hymn but we do our best!

The great news is that we welcome Lydia Chancellor as the new Youth and Children's Minister for Yate and Fromeside. Lydia and her family are moving to Yate from London and we look forward to her contribution to our Benefice and Mission area with excitement as a new post especially to bring young people into God's kingdom.

I would like to thank Linda Boyce for her sterling efforts with the flowers in church. We are very lucky to have beautiful arrangements to admire and to brighten up the church. If anyone else would like to do flowers you would be most welcome.

The Memorial pages have now been updated to include all the names from funerals, internments and scattering of ashes. If there are any mistakes or omissions please let me know and the page can be amended.

We are now looking forward in hope towards Easter this year and a busy time leading up to this important time in the church year. All the services will be displayed in church, on the notice board, Facebook page and Benefice website in due course

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

Kathryn Nichols (Administrator)
www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

Tel. 01454 776518

Churchwardens:
Carol Groom 01454 228712
Annette Bishop 07516722507

carolgroom@hotmail.com
denisannette2020@outlook.com

St James the Less – Fromside Benefice



EASTER SERVICES

10th April – Palm Sunday

10am All Age Service – St James

6pm Celtic Service – St Peters

13th April

10am – Holy Week Communion – St James

14th April – Maundy Thursday

8pm - Benefice Communion

& Watch until midnight – St Peters

15th April - Good Friday

10.30am Stations of the Cross – St James

2pm Benefice Cross of Christ – St Saviours

16th April – Easter Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil – St Michaels

17th April – Easter Day

9.15am Parish Communion – St James

6pm Easter Praise – St Saviours

The Church of St James the Less Iron Acton

Part One: The Church, Cross and
Gateway of Robert Poyntz

Part Two: The Church Inscriptions:
Plaques, Monuments, Tombstones and Gravestones



Written and illustrated by Patricia Sherborne, formerly Thomas of Acton Lodge

Copies of the 2 part set available to purchase from Di Heal (di@healfamily.me.uk) on behalf of the author who is donating all proceeds to the church fabric fund – price a minimum £10 per set. It would be, very much, appreciated if you could give a little more



Purple Blossom
NAIL ARTISTRY

New home based nail salon located
in Iron Acton

Offering acrylic extensions and gel polish manicures



E: michelle@purpleblossomnails.co.uk
W: www.purpleblossomnails.co.uk
07786 150397

Spring Issue 2022

THE ACTONIANS News

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

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

The two short plays in November seemed to go down well with the audience who enjoyed watching the **Audience** on stage watching them and laughed at the adults being



treated like children in **Mother Figure!** It was just what was needed to cheer up a dismal November and it was great to perform again after such a long break and was lovely to welcome back such large audiences.



These plays were followed by a fantastic production of **Alice in Wonderland** performed to friends and family by the Junior Actonians. They also raised £200 for Make a Wish Foundation through an appreciative audience collection.



Our Next Production is

..... Still to be confirmed!

We shall be performing from **19th – 21st May 2022** at Iron Acton Parish Hall. More information, when available, will be advertised on our website www.actonians.co.uk

We are still looking for New Members!



If you are looking for a new challenge, on stage or behind the scenes, we would be delighted to welcome you. Just contact us through email, Facebook or our Website – details above.

Sue Anstey - Publicity



Andrew Tillotson

**Oil Boiler, Aga and Rayburn,
Servicing and Repairs**

covering South Gloucestershire and West Wiltshire

m: 07830 211400 e: andytillo@hotmail.com

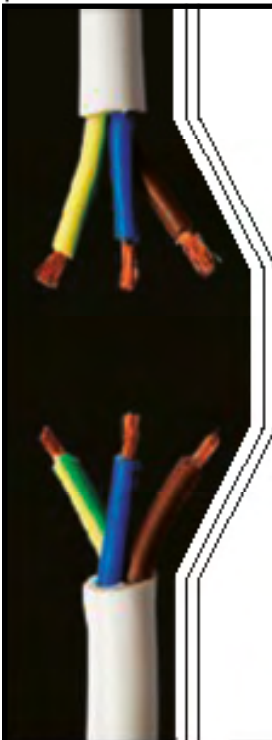


Jinx Johnson

Electrician

07967 011165

EMAIL: jinxjelec@gmail.com



IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The school year continues to hurry along and we are now half way through! Over recent weeks we have been settling the children back into routines after the Christmas and New Year period, which is always such a special time in the school calendar. Our youngest children shared their Nativity in front of a live audience and our oldest children had a carol service to which their families were invited. We also celebrated with our annual Christingle service led by Father Dave – children used oranges, candles and sweets to remind themselves of the true meaning of Christmas.

Our school is now full with just over 100 children on roll. We are pleased that Iron Acton Primary School is a place which people both from the village and surrounding areas want to be a part of. This means the school is currently as sustainable as it can be in an ever changing educational landscape, one which constantly seeks more from its schools with ever decreasing funding. This makes the support we receive from those around us – in the form of our willing volunteers and also in financial terms from our hard working 'Friends of Iron Acton School' and from organisations such as Acton Aid.

Our good mutually supportive work with St James the Less Church has been recognised as both organisations have been awarded the Church-School Partnership award after an application was submitted to the diocese and a follow up meeting took place. We were thrilled to have this excellent work recognised for both important places in the community and we are extremely grateful to all those at St James' for all they do to support the school – it makes a huge difference to our staff and children.

As part of our commitment to promoting and celebrating equalities, diversity and inclusion, one of our staff members has been delivering a programme called 'No Outsiders'. The aim is to recognise and celebrate the diversity that exists in our local area and beyond, helping children to understand from an early stage of their education that everyone is different and everyone is welcome. This is an essential project which supports children in becoming increasingly prepared for life in modern Britain. Please do take a look at the No Outsiders website for more information: <https://no-outsiders.com/>

You may have noticed that we are encouraging families and visitors to the school to begin and end the school day as actively as possible. The Local Authority has placed signs at the front of the school to encourage all to walk, cycle or scoot each day so that they can take part in some physical activity, so we can protect the environment and so we can keep the roads outside of school as safe as possible.

Thank you all for your support of the school.

Mike Riches

Headteacher

Phone: 01454 228322

Email: enquiries@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk



NORTH ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Autumn Term was a busy one at North Road Community Primary School. The end of term culminated with The Early Years and Key Stage One Nativity Production, Christmas dinner, Christmas parties, The Friends of North Road Christmas Craft Market, a visit from Father Christmas and an end of term Celebration Assembly. Despite Covid safety procedures in place, we were able to be creative in ensuring the special events could all go ahead. Parents were able to come into school to watch the Nativity, although numbers were limited with negative test results and face coverings required. Christmas dinner took place in classrooms and the hall to reduce numbers and limit the mixing of children. The Friends of North Road Christmas Market took place on the playground with Father Christmas residing in a specially constructed outdoor grotto. The Celebration Assembly, to recognise the amazing achievements of our pupils during the first two terms, took place virtually. We were still very much able to celebrate together and keep our school family connected.

The Spring term is now in full flow with all children exploring learning questions under the whole school focus of 'Fantastic Journeys'. Classes are learning about our local area, space travel, the Stone Age and the Greeks. Learning questions were launched with WOW events, which included a Welly Walk around the local area, rocket making, cave painting and creating Greek pots from clay.

The term also started with our annual 'January Fitness Month' during which children took part in additional sporting activities each week including whole school exercise sessions on the playground, fencing workshops and yoga lessons.

There are lots of exciting learning events planned for the term including workshops delivered by Renishaw on computer coding and 3D printing. We will also be taking part in National Internet Safety Day with a day of events focusing on this year's theme, showing kindness to others when online.

The staff and governors continue to be very proud of our pupils, their achievements and their attitude towards their learning despite the challenges that have been faced over the past two years.

We would like to share with you some of the writing from our Year 6 pupil, Maisie, who recently received our special WOW Writer Award.

Writing as a child living through World War Two.

These unassuming, miniature stars were mustard yellow and, despite their size, told the most tragic, abysmal, appalling tales. The War has taught me to see people differently: everyone fears, everyone bleeds, everyone dreams.



Writing about Greek mythology.

During the age of heroes, when powerful titans ruled the earth, sea, skies and everything in between, Gods drove a wedge between two kings. King Aegeus, who ruled Athens, was kind and caring with no want or need for war and conflict whereas King Minos (King of Crete) was greedy, grumpy and grouchy and controlled Crete with a firm, vengeful hand. Sadly, the son of King Minos was slain by King Aegeus during a battle between Athens and Crete.



Sarah Stillie, Headteacher, North Road Community Primary School

IRON ACTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2022

The snowdrops and hellebores are popping up in many of our gardens and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and our village's

Horticultural Show Saturday Sept 10th 2022

The committee have had their initial planning meeting, sitting well wrapped up, with windows open and masks on, but looking forward to better days, checking what classes were popular, or not, and trying to add a few variations on a well-loved, traditional event.

This year the schedule will be appearing soon on Iron Acton Parish Hall's web site www.ironactonparishhall.com and the Local Poyntz website www.ironacton.info/horticultural-show as well as our Horticultural Show facebook page.

We hope many of you will look at this and plan ahead for September - not always possible in our variable weather but always possible in home craft and photography sections.

To back up this early information, printed copies will be distributed nearer the date which can be picked up at both The Lamb Inn and The White Hart, The Garden Centre, the Swap Box, Church porch and Parish hall. They will also pop through village doors and into the school bags of our two schools.

Talking of popping up, scarecrows will hopefully be doing this in front gardens and sites such as village hall and pub gardens - so watch out for information on how to get involved!

If any reader has a question or needs advice, contact either

Meryl Cook
01454 228405

or

Jenny Millward
01454 228704

Email enquiries ironactonparishhall@hotmail.com

THE NOOK INTERIORS

COURTYARD FLOWERS

Nook & Cranny

*Unique vintage finds & home accessories, bespoke floristry,
plants & pots, cards, gifts & creative workshops*



Visit our shop at

145 CHURCH ROAD
FRAMPTON COTTERELL
BS36 2JX



deb@courtyardflowersframpton.co.uk
lou@thenookframpton.co.uk



07795 848988
07816 107971



@nookandcranny145



**SODBURY
LANDSCAPING
& BUILDING
SERVICES**

HOME EXTENSIONS AND
COMPLETE GARDEN RENOVATIONS

RENOVATION WORKS

STONE & BRICKWORK

DRIVEWAYS & PATIOS • FENCING & DECKING

LAWNS & ARTIFICIAL GRASS

MOBILE: 07715328745

ENQUIRIES@SODBURYLANDSCAPING.CO.UK

WWW.SODBURYLANDSCAPING.CO.UK



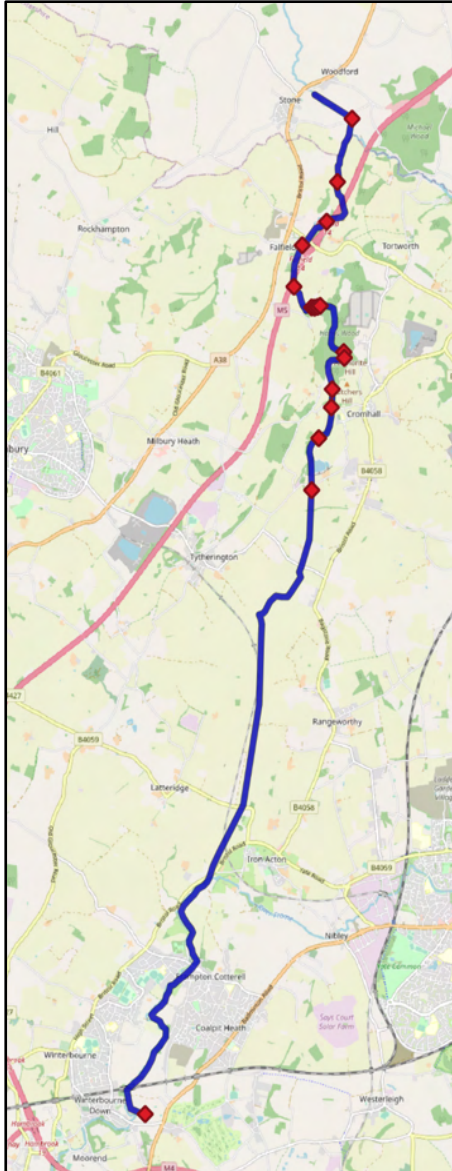
THROUGH IRON ACTON BY CANAL

A period known as 'canal mania' saw intense canal building in England and Wales between the 1790s and 1810s, and a speculative frenzy that accompanied it in the early 1790s. Had things been different, Iron Acton would have been part of this mania.

Bristol to Gloucester Canal:

On Boxing Day 1792, the Hereford Journal reported that on 20th November the Right

Worshipful Henry Bengough Esquire, Mayor of Bristol, chaired a meeting to discuss the 'propriety of making a navigable canal from Bristol to the River Severn at Gloucester or some other more convenient place'. Already, four years earlier, surveyors had walked two possible routes south from the Thames and Severn Canal at Whitminster with the aim of creating a canal that would allow 60 tonne vessels to bypass the most dangerous stretch of the River Severn navigation and reach Gloucester.



One route kept to the low ground via Berkeley but the route we are concerned with diverged at Stone mill and went, via Middle Mill, a lock and bridge, to farmer Daniel's land at Tortworth. This would have taken the canal south along the modern route of the M5 until it crossed the road from Falfield to Tortworth below Leyhill Prison. Here there was a lock before it entered Lord Ducie's park and joined the great pond in Tortworth Park. The route followed the stream feeding this pond, into land owned by Mr Stinchcombe, whose mill would have to be purchased, and then south past St Andrews Church in Cromhall before crossing Cromhall Common. The canal would have reached its highest point at 'Ashery' (probably the Ashworthy Farm in Bagstone) before continuing across Summers Bridge and following the Laddenbrook south.

Richard Hall 'Surveyor and Engineer' describes the route he surveyed in 1788 from Summers Bridge:

"... here is water to be taken in and a reservoir may be made on Cromhall Common. When the line first enters the common is Lord Ducies Coal Works and fire engine not a quarter of a mile distant in the water from the engine may be taken. It goes on the common near a mile still the same level and enters the enclosed lands leaving Rangeworthy on the left and Mr King's also on the left crosses a road [Latteridge Road] and the Bristol Road and leaves from Iron Acton Church on the left half a mile crosses small stream of water that comes from Sodbury [the River Frome] and joins another water [the Ladenbrook] at Cockmill Mill [Cogmill Mill] which water may be taken in or not as thought proper. Goes on the same level crosses a small ril of water that may be taken in. Goes on and crosses a small valley in which is some water that may be pounded up to Reservoir and leaves Frampton Cotterell Church about a (...) [furlong] on the right and one of the fire engines on Coalpit Heath half a mile on the left"

The route was to go on by Kendleshire, a Quakers burial ground, round a gentleman's house, 'close against the river leaving the French Prison (Blackberry Hill Hospital) on the left' through Stapleton 'about halfway between the Hat and Feathers and Stapleton Bridge' and finish in a new basin on Milk Street (now covered by Broadmead). In total the canal would have been about 27 miles long with 13 locks to raise it from Middle Mill to the summit near Bagstone and a further 16 to take it down from Kendleshire into Bristol.

By 1810, there was seemingly still support for the canal despite construction having yet to begin. The Gloucester Journal reported in June that due to the length of time that had elapsed since the original surveys "it has become necessary that a new line should be explored, and a new estimate be obtained." However, there is no evidence that this revival of the scheme ever happened and in 1814 the secretary of the committee appointed to oversee the construction requested that any person with a claim on the committee should send an account for settlement before 3rd March 1815.

Bristol to Cirencester Canal

At the same time as the committee above was planning the canal to Gloucester, Robert Milne and the same Richard Hall who surveyed the Gloucester route were proposing a canal from Bristol to Cirencester. The Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette (Thursday 03 October 1793) reports that an application for an Act of Parliament to make a navigable canal to Cirencester was planned and a meeting was to be held at the White Hart Inn, Tetbury, to discuss how the owners of the land along the route will be affected. From the list of parishes and townships in the news report it is possible to trace the proposed route through Dyrham, Hinton, Tormarton, Dodington, Old Sodbury, Chipping Sodbury, Yate, Nibley, Mayshill, Iron Acton, Acton Ilger and on to Winterbourne and eventually Bristol. The fact that it includes Nibley, Mayshill and Acton Ilger indicates that it would probably have been built along what

is now the Frome Valley Walkway before following a similar route from Cogmill, via Kendleshire, into Bristol.

Like the Gloucester canal, nothing came of this proposal or, indeed, another one proposed in 1793 by Robert Whitworth for a Bristol to Thames Head Canal that supposedly had a better water supply than the Bristol to Cirencester Canal project. Iron Acton might have been a very different place with one or even two canals running through the village but, in both cases, better routes were found or received more support. For the Gloucester route the construction of the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal (1817 - 1827) effectively bypassed the dangerous part of the Severn and it is probable that the construction of the Kennet and Avon Canal (1794 – 1810) connecting Bristol to London via Bath effectively removed the need for the Cirencester or Thames Head route.

Military & Family History Research	Would you like to expand your family tree or explore your relative's military service?
	<p data-bbox="613 699 870 722">Contact Chillwood Research</p> <p data-bbox="506 748 973 770">Experienced family history researcher and historian</p> <p data-bbox="924 796 1027 819">Tim Grubb</p> <p data-bbox="802 821 1027 843">Telephone: 07786 067336</p> <p data-bbox="681 845 1027 868">Email: chillwood.research@gmail.com</p>


Share and Prayer-
Join local friends to pray for + bless your local community
Sat 12th March, 9.30-10.30am
If you would like us to pray for you or you would like more details
please contact Pete and Chris Bellis
@ Fairview Cottage, 1 Fairview Terrace, Iron Acton 01454 228065



07973 759239



Iron Acton based mobile towbar fitter & auto electrical specialist

- Mobile service – we come to you!
- Competitive prices
- Friendly, helpful and highly qualified
- Established 25 years
- Quality, caring workmanship



WE ALSO RE-GAS AIR CONDITIONING – CALL US NOW - WE COME TO YOU

We supply and fit an extensive range of brand name towbars including Witter, TowTrust and Westfalia.

There are different types of electrical sockets and different tow balls depending on your towing needs, including bike racks. We can give you all the help and advice you need in choosing the towbar that is right for you – with convenient mobile fitting and at a great price. So give us a call today!



MURRAY HIRE



FAMILY RUN BUSINESS DIY & TRADE WELCOME

- Small Tool Hire & Sales • Safety Wear & Equipment • Skip Loaders • Floor & Edging Sanders
- Horticultural Equipment • Chainsaws, Hedge Trimmers & Brush Cutters
- Mowers, Shredders, Blowers, Pressure Washers • Micro Diggers Etc • Ladders, Towers
- Material Handling Lifts • Scissor & Telescopic Lifts • Mixers & Breakers • Carpet Cleaners
- Christmas Decoration Sales From November • Catalogue Available

STIHL®

**Main Agents, Sales
Spares & Repairs**

**Thwaites 1 tonne Dumper • Reach New Heights With Our Nifty Lift 170 • Tracked Nifty Lift
Jensen Towable 7 1/2" Woodchipper • Bobcat Skidsteer S70**

**1ST CLASS DELIVERY & COLLECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE
OPEN MON-FRI 7.30AM TO 5.30PM SAT 8.00AM TO 1.00PM**

**SHOP LOCALLY
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1982**

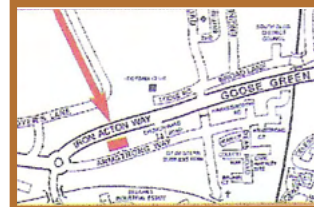
**If You Need It We've Probably Got It Happy
To Be Of Good Service To You**

01454 310606

Email: murrayhire@btconnect.com

Armstrong Way, Great Western Business Park, Yate BS37 7NG

www.murrayhirecentres.com



Yate Supplies

Tableware

Cookware

Hygiene

Janitorial

Barware

Disposables

Supporting Local Poyntz
and the community



www.yatesupplies.com

www.bioclarity.co.uk



IRON ACTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It was exciting to be able to get back to our regular meeting in September and after an uplifting start with Geoff Woodland, the music man and raconteur, we held our AGM in October during which Jane stepped up to become our new Treasurer, for which we are very grateful, taking over from Elizabeth after some 30 years or so in the position.

In November our birthday party meal was held at The Lamb, which was lovely and we were well looked after. In early December a group of us boarded two Green Travel buses and headed for the American Museum in Bath. Some of the group elected for a guided tour of the period rooms that have been lovingly recreated with furniture and textiles shipped over from the United States, whilst others attended a craft workshop. It was a beautiful, if very cold day but everyone agreed it was a lovely trip. A couple of weeks later we were back at the hall for our Christmas party. There was a buffet, mulled wine and a Secret Santa and Elizabeth was presented with a German Shepherd dog ornament and gift card as thanks for her many years as our Treasurer.

The first speaker of 2022 was Steve Green (of this parish) and he did not disappoint. His subject was of his many years in the Home Office Forensic Labs in Chepstow, attending crime scenes and in particular using his expertise to analyse blood patterns. He did have to shatter our illusion about Silent Witness, explaining that whilst for artistic reasons the programme focused on just one crime at a time, in reality some 25 cases could be worked on simultaneously. Apart from the darker tales, Steve was also able to evoke laughter with some of his stories including his time undercover at Crufts to help the Kennel Club wheedle out the cheaters! Needless to say, the process was complicated and time consuming and was eventually discontinued. Steve was thanked for his very entertaining talk and he kindly donated his fee to the Gloucester Oncology Centre.

We continue to support Yate Food Bank and have been thanked by the Manager for supplying over 300 kilos of produce.

Some of the subjects we look forward to hearing about this year are the storyteller of the year, the Queen's hats, herbal remedies, modern day slavery and Queen Victoria. An outing is planned for July.

We meet on the second Monday of the month in the Parish Hall at 7:30pm and everyone who is interested in joining us would be very welcome. Our secretary Bridget is always happy to give details and is available on 321741.

Sylvie Powell

A beautiful home begins with a
beautiful
floor



Family run Business for over 30 years



Expert fitting

No obligation
Estimates &
Quotes

Carpets, Vinyls
LVT's including
Karndean, Amtico
Camaro, Colonia

Ranges to suit
all budgets

Stock rolls to
Bespoke ranges

All leading
Manufacturers

Domestic &
Commercial

Free Parking



Jon Gilbert
Carpet & Flooring

Visit our large Showroom at:

12 Lower Stone Close, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol. BS36 2LE

Telephone: 01454 774759

www.jongilbertflooringltd.co.uk

Opening Hours
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-1pm

IRON ACTON FILM CLUB

The Film Club has resumed and it is wonderful to be able to spend time watching films again in the company of friends and neighbours, rather than locked down in our homes. We have changed our layout in order to be more COVID secure and now set out tables and chairs rather than setting up the tiered seating. We also serve drinks to the tables and we have had a very favourable response to these changes.

We have two more Film nights left this season at the Parish Hall (5th Feb and 5th March). If you are interested in joining us the doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. After the March film we will be taking a break until the autumn. Watch this space later in the year for news on next season's dates and membership details.

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 CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

Iron Acton has had another really successful Christmas Windows week, with an incredible 76 windows in all and even a very short piece on Points West, blink and you would have missed it.

The windows looked amazing, all lit up and everyone making a great effort, the Village looked magical (the cameraman from Points West couldn't believe his eyes), everyone went to huge efforts to the delight of everybody walking round. I even got some right this year!!

If you would like to see the winners and the great photos taken by Sally Aries for this year, please go to the website:- www.ironacton.info , click on "Magazine", scroll down to "Christmas Windows" where there is a link to everything.

We would like to say a big thank you to The White Hart and The Lamb for contributing their meal vouchers, Sally for taking all the photos and a very big thank you to Acton Aid without whose support and funding this wouldn't be possible.

We would also like to add a very big thank you to Rose White for all her hard work over the years in getting the Christmas Windows to 76, which is an incredible feat. Rose is stepping down for a well-earned rest.

Christmas Windows Committee



SCREW & GLUE

30+ Years in the Aerospace Engineering Industry and even more time spent as an avid craftsman, has developed me into a 'one-man-army' for all things renovation and development!

We all know how difficult it can be to sort through various tradesmen, to find one you can trust.

I can offer, Plumbing, Painting & Decorating, Bespoke Furniture Creation, Carpentry, Tiling, Gardening, Kitchen & Bathroom Installations and much much more!

If your interested get in touch:

screwandglue@outlook.com

07760472984

West-tec Construction

west-tec.co.uk

WE'RE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN ...
MONDAY 2nd MAY 2022, 10.30am-4pm
'MAY DAY ON IRON ACTON GREEN'



COME AND SEE THE EVENTS IN THE SHOW RING
INCLUDING TRADITIONAL MAYPOLE DANCING.

SAMPLE THE VARIOUS LOCAL FOODS AND PRODUCE.

PERUSE THE STALLS AND JOIN IN WITH ALL THE ACTIVITIES.

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

find us on [facebook](#)

Let's go on a village pub crawl!

A glimpse of Iron Acton village life in the post WW2 era

In the last two Village magazine articles we visited the Yate to Thornbury railway and touched on history of its lifespan up to the early 1960's. But, since leaving the parish (I did visit at least once or twice a year, for many years!) in order to study, then taking up residence in the USA after being graduated from university in Florida, it has dawned on me that the majority of children I grew up with are also probably long gone from the village seeking their own fortunes. Hopefully some have stayed close by but newcomers have arrived. New to the area families have bought into the premise of village life in Iron Acton away from city bustle. But what was village life really like in the early 1950's to the late '60s in this place, once called home?

In a nutshell, a few impressions stayed fixed with me from a toddler through my late teens; it was the people who stuck together regardless of their age; It was the cold, rainy, harsh weather and let's not forget the never-ending hardships the people of Iron Acton endured regardless of economic standing in the decade after the war. In short, these years of rationing were very difficult, even painful times, yet, these post-war years were very formative and some of the best years of my life.

An early recollection was going on most Saturday afternoons with other children to watch Iron Acton FC play local rivals on the pitch behind the High street's Rose & Crown. There you'd see some pretty decent football, as well as villagers gathered around the field dishing out some well-intended, but often, stinging advice to the players. But the main thing was that an Iron Acton football game was a village focal point. People that worked in the local factories such as Parnall's or Newman's in Yate, or worked on farms could let off some steam, by either simply urging the players or admonishing them. They got to yell at someone else and it must have been therapeutic. The lesson here, of course, is that supporters of the local football team were also, maybe, without knowing it, supporting their village.

Later, at an age of maybe nine or ten, one Saturday afternoon after a game, stopping in the churchyard by the preaching cross and sitting on the wall facing the High Street a couple of friends and I were just quietly thinking and chatting as boys do. Then it dawned on me that there must be more to life as the village we were living in was akin to an island within an island. At that contemplative moment a dark blue Aston Martin drove slowly past the church towards the junction where one had to either turn left for Gloucester past the school or head straight up the hill past Sandy's farm towards Yate, then onto the London Road. No bypass existed then and the signs were vague. Driving this Aston was a familiar figure, who I'd seen from the film 'Sink the Bismarck,' actor Kenneth More, looking quite smart and very lost. We all looked at each other, wondering how does one get lost in Iron Acton? After a few moments, More, just like a proper naval officer would, checked his charts, looked up at us gawking down from the wall, smiled and drove off straight up the hill towards Yate with a soft burble from the Aston's six cylinders, I'll always remember that surreal, motivating moment in time. Years later, Aston ownership came into my life as well, and I'd like to think it was all partly thanks to being inspired by one of my favourite actors.

Another, not quite as rare event was held in Iron Acton on the football ground for a few summers in the '60's was greyhound racing. An oval 'track' was set up all the way around the football field and a 'hare' consisting of what looked like a grubby white cotton vest was tied to a piece of stout cord. On the other far end, some three hundred feet away the cord was wrapped around

a tyre-less rear wheel on an old car jacked up so the back wheel would turn, thus pulling the cord around it. The dogs were held back by the owners behind a wooden gate, just in front of the hidden hare; the car's engine was revved up, the rope tightened and as the hare bounced and dragged past the dogs, the holding gate went up, and we were off to the races around this stretched out, horseshoe shaped track. The hare and the rope bounced off steel stakes in the ground as it took the long curve in the corners, going past the far goal posts and then it barreled down the back straight towards the Crown with the seven or so howling greyhounds in hot pursuit to the finish line, where the hare promptly disappeared, only to surface to annoy more dogs several minutes later. The several bookmakers were lined up just inside the field entrance, behind the pub with their vans lined with easels showing the race odds. The bookies were parading around taking bets and their barkers yelling out the odds to the queues of people waving their hard-earned ten shilling or pound notes. After the evening's dozen or so races, a few losers went back to the Crown to drown their sorrows and losses, the few high rollers drowned their winnings. The 'bookies' such as 'Honest Harry' or 'Gentleman Jim' drove back to their own locals in their camper vans, converted ice cream vans or old Bentley's to celebrate their much larger winnings. For the first time in my life, I was caught up in all this canine excitement, even though under-age, I bet the only half a crown I had in my pocket on a particularly nervous looking black greyhound, and it won! So, I got back someone else's pound note at 8-1 odds. I've since been to casinos in France, the Caribbean, Reno and Las Vegas, and the same lesson I took from Iron Acton dog races repeats itself; that many other people have to lose, so one person can win. Oh! But it's fun of course to have a flutter once in a while.

Getting back to pubs, Iron Acton had its own better odds with its public houses. There were three village pubs open at that time in the 1950's; no, actually make that four. To have this number in operation for a village the size of Iron Acton was quite the thirst-quenching achievement and shows the prowess of the Iron Acton drinkers. The White Hart was an easy walk for the village green residents and was also the first pub that a driver would see coming in from Bristol. As the By-pass was not built then; one would drive over the railway bridge, and see the White Hart lit up in welcoming bright lights across the fields. This pub was a delightful place and had a good mix of 'out of village' visitors with a fair percentage going in as locals. A well-run place indeed, by a stocky, well-built, Jack Stone. He was a firm man with the customers, yet welcomed all with a wry sense of humour. Some old timer villagers may recall the discreet sign behind the bar informing the clientele, way ahead of creative government regulators thinking up such declarations, that 'the water used in this public house has been duly approved and passed by the owner.' My sister, Denise reminded me of another of Jack's pub sign creations, bolted over the entrance door that went along these lines:

*"Jack Stone liveth here,
I sell Rum, Brandy and good Beer,
I made this sign a little wider,
to let thee know I sell good Cider."*

Jack was one of the very early adopters within the Inn business to bring in 'pub meals' to match meals found in a decent Bristol restaurant. I can remember steak and kidney pies and beef curry dishes done to perfection from the White Hart's kitchen. Jack kept the menu simple, as in what would fit on a two feet square blackboard yet kept it varied. A wonderful place also for a young lad like myself to see Healey 3000's, MG's and E types gathering on a warm summer's weekend night in the car park when the Bristol Beaus brought their girlfriends for a glass or two in the country.

Going up the High Street was the Rose & Crown, run by a friendly Bill Allen. His wife Pru always had a smile, was fashionably dressed in 60's chic and she was usually serving behind the bar. I cannot remember a time when Bill did not have on a smart suit or a summer jacket and tie. The Crown had a lovely, warm feel to it, being the smaller of the village pubs, and Bill used to let the football club use the back rooms for meetings. The field behind the pub was the village team's pitch, yet had a public footpath running across the centre line. It may have been that the brewery owned the land in conjunction with the pub and I understand that Alan Didcot later ran the Crown. Alan lived at the end of Algar's drive close to me in Chilwood Close as a lad, he was also a fine footballer.

Moving on from the Rose & Crown, passing Fursman's shop and up past Rudman's house on the left where, for a while, my uncle, Michael Hull, lived with his French born wife (also my mother's first cousin), Christiane. Later her lovely younger sister Monique came over from France to stay with them. On past the church we go left to the Lamb, again where we have another delightful pub. Being close to the church of St. James the Less, the Lamb was named quite appropriately. (Yes, that concept did just dawn on me). At the time my father would occasionally send me down to buy a bottle of Guinness to wash down his Sunday dinner. Claude Gowen, 'Owner & Proprietor' was running the place. I have to confess, later on, reaching the legal drinking age, the Lamb was where most of us village lads met for a pint or two as it was the closest to home. It could have had something possibly to do also with Claude's delightful daughters. The Lamb is a pub where one can still look around and wonder that if these walls could only just talk, what would they say? Claude was a good, even-tempered chap, and a jovial friend of my father. He helped crew my dad's Mercury class sailboat when it was trailered off to Lyme Regis or when catching a breeze on a local lake during the summers. There was a photograph on the pub wall with Claude and my father in the boat, taken when the road in front of the Lamb flooded for days on end in the late '50's or so. I wonder if that sixty-year-old black and white photograph is still there?

When one looked at the front of the Lamb, there were outbuildings separated off from the pub, several yards to the north, where, as a small child one day I could smell a strange, acrid smell with dense smoke coming from an outbuilding. My father took me into this building, probably because I kept pestering him with, 'what is that? Why is something burning?' We were on our way, regardless, to get his old '34 Riley Lynx out from the adjacent garage that he rented from the pub and I soon found out the reason. Going in through a wobbly wooden back door, fresh hay was strewn all over the dirt floor, blue-grey smoke started to bellow out, smoke from a log fire at the end of the small room making the interior dark and foreboding. For an obvious reason, the windows always seemed fogged up or painted black from the outside. Looking up through this eye stinging smoke an apparition slowly came into view in the gloom; hanging from massive ropes tied to the rafters and pierced with steel hooks were three huge, darkened pig carcasses, heads down, slowly rotating and seemingly floating just inches above my head. I always thought bacon came from Huggin's the butcher or Fursman's shop out of a 'fridge. From smokehouses such as this during food rations, villagers could bring home the bacon and villages were where much of the smoked meats in those post-war days really came from. To this day, even though I'm starting to accept that I had a strange childhood, I survived just fine, especially if there's some bacon sizzling away close by to bring me back to my senses. But one can appreciate why some people prefer to stick to a meatless diet if they saw such a sight. That must be why there are hunters, and there are the gatherers that evidently were not destined to be great marksmen or meat smokers. As a four-year-old it was probably the first time I'd seen a dead animal up close, let alone several large animals being smoked. I was rooted to the spot in



IRON ACTON K9 CLUB

Throughout the pandemic many people have taken on new puppies or rescue dogs which has meant an increase in owners looking for help with training. Our classes have been very busy with many passes at Puppy Foundation level who have then gone on to Bronze and Silver Kennel Club classes.

Becky & Flo, Cheryl & Poppy, Ros & Alfie, Ruth & Poppy, Janet & Teddy, Chris & Mabel, Gaynor & Archie Sue & Flo, Jan & Pedro, Karen & Casey, Sara & Obi, Alison & Poppy have all gone on to pass the Gold Kennel club assessment. Some of these started training for Gold before lockdown and this was their first chance to undergo an assessment. Many thanks to Angela Smith for all her hard work and perseverance as class trainer and thanks also to Kaye Littlehales for conducting the assessments. Well done everyone, great work.

KCGC Dog Scheme Gold Passes



We held our Club Activities Show in October when everyone had a chance to take part in various events. The weather was very kind to us and we all had a busy but fun afternoon. Many thanks to Tori Brand for setting and judging our agility and steeplechase courses and Gill Chapman for judging the gun dog retrieve. Overall Activity Champions were Micky & Dennis, Reserves Jenny & Lily.

Our doggy Christmas parties were much enjoyed even with Covid restrictions and we raised a fabulous £150 which has been donated to Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary.

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

VICTORIA **RECOVERY**
24hr

***FOR ALL YOUR
VEHICLE NEEDS***

***MOTs & Servicing
Mechanical Repairs
Diagnostics
Bodywork Repairs
Recovery***

01454 326 999

www.victoriarecovery.co.uk

90 North Road, Yate, Bristol, BS37 7PR

PINKERS COUNTRYSTORE

**Come on over
and check out
all our**



**Equestrian Supplies
Pet & Poultry Feed & Equipment
Footwear, Clothing, Gifts**

**Our staff are qualified in
Hat & Body Protector Fitting**

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Game Farm Latteridge BS37 9TY

Tel: 01454 228109

The Lamb Inn



*Family Run Pub!
Large Beer Garden!
Great Value Food!*

01454 228265

Featured in Camra's Good Beer Guide!

