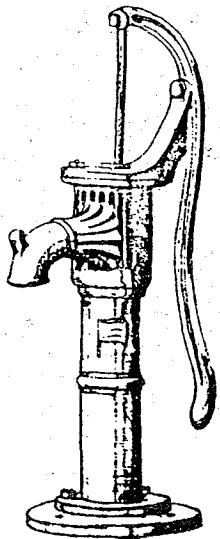


PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

September 1990



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept 9th W.I. Garden Party

Sept 10th Keep Fit

POT POURRI

Keep Fit 1990

Keep fit continues to run in the village hall on Monday's 7-8pm

Fay runs a friendly fun type of class, with no jogging in the current programme!! If you haven't tried it out, or are new to the village, come along and join us, it is an excellent way to meet people and exercise at the same time. The programme is changed every couple of months, and anyone is welcome along at any time. We cater for all ages and abilities.

The keep fit classes run almost continuously throughout the year, stopping only for bank holidays and for a break in the summer. This year, the last session was 9th July and we start again 10th September - hope to see you all in September. It is not necessary to sign up or join for a complete term, you can come along whenever you have the time, and pay each week (it will set you back £1. per session)

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Fay Leonard



Art Class

The enthusiasm is still as keen as ever at the art class each Thursday evening in the Village Hall. A few original members remain, alas some have left, but new ones have joined. All have different 'talents' (tongue in cheek) that Derek Menary seems to be able to encourage and exploit. Its two hours of blissful relaxation - highly recommended by the local Doc as an alternative to valium!

Mothers and Toddlers Group

The group remains constant, the attendance is very good, the numbers have grown with the addition of Laura Rogers of Woodbine Cottage, born in February, sister to Emma, and Rebecca Mary Phippen of Watsons Farm, born in July, sister to James. She has made her "attendance" and received the general cuddle!! There is still room for more members?

Trips have included a wonderful visit on a nice Spring day to New Road Farm, Highbridge. Well worth a visit, in spite of our own 'farming' children we all enjoyed all those pet animals to be touched and talked to. We had a picnic on the lawn (restaurant, teas and drinks on site) and some visited the plant houses and made excellent purchases.

A repeat visit to St Marys' church hall as guests of the Mothers Union. We joined other groups from St Mary's, All Saints Clevedon in a very good childrens meal which all ages enjoyed. There was plenty of room and play equipment afterwards. This generous gesture is much appreciated.

Because of the beautiful summer weather, several meetings have been held in parents gardens. This group will certainly know each other well long before they set off to Nursery/School.



NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

Our Spring and Summer diary has been busy and most enjoyable with a lot more to come this Autumn and Winter. We've had slide shows and Birthday cake, outings and gardening - the village green specifically, our little bit to help with the best kept village - cake stalls and cafes. We have also purchased two new folding tables for use in the village hall.

One of the first events after our summer break will be a Family Garden Party at lunch time on Sunday the 9th September to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the W.I. in Great Britain. It is to be a fund-raising event nationwide for childrens charities, but we at Nightingale Valley thought it would be much better to put our efforts into something much nearer home. Emma and Laura Rogers little cousin, Nikita, was born with a massive port-wine mark across her face. To lessen the trauma when she starts school her parents decided they should do something before that time. The only treatment is by laser, and only in Switzerland. It will take years to remove the mark completely, but Liz and Paul Rogers work and save all the time to take her every 6 weeks. Whatever we can raise on that Sunday will go to them.

Later in September our usual monthly meeting will be on a Thursday, the 20th, when the A.S.M. from the Theatre Royal in Bath will be giving a talk and film on 'A History of Pantomime'. It will be an open meeting - men as well if they care to join us - just ask a member closer the time.

On October 17th we have Roger Mallison talking on 'Wild-life', and November 21st Mr D. Rees is our guest. His talk entitled 'Running a marathon when old enough to know better' sounds like a laughter packed evening.

In December we try to avoid the business side of W.I. and make it more of a party. This year on the 12th December we will be entertained by Mrs Pam Bluer demonstrating 'Christmas Flowers'.

Gwyneth Challenor.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The first half of this year has had its ups and downs from the social point of view, with our "Red Dance" having to be cancelled through lack of support, causing us to lose money on the booked disco, and also on the licence.

The Beetle & Bingo night was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended and it made a really pleasant change to do something different, but yet again we would have welcomed more support.



As for the annual B-B-Q, yes it did happen in spite of the appalling weather on the day. And weren't we glad that it did. It was an excellent evening due to the immense generosity of Chris and Dave Lewis who so kindly took all and sundry into their home and in no time at all, we had converted kitchen into bar room, dining room into canteen and living room into club/dance floor. Our sincere thanks must go to all who helped, cooks, bar men, entertainers and general odd-jobbers, but also to all those who still turned up in spite of the weather, we were, and I'm sure you were glad you came.

We had an organised trip to the Bristol Hippodrome and filled a coach to see the stage musical "Chess". Hopefully, we will do this again in the Autumn.

We have yet to get ourselves together after the Summer holidays, but hopefully coming up will be a Barn Dance, haven't had one for a while, and some sort of games evening again or quiz.

There is also the Panto:-

It's a light-hearted mixture of romance and joy
With a Principal Girl and Principal Boy
A comical Dame who is seldom out-classed
And additional characters make up the cast.
Pantomime! Pantomime!

It is fun! It's a frolic! It's called Pantomime!

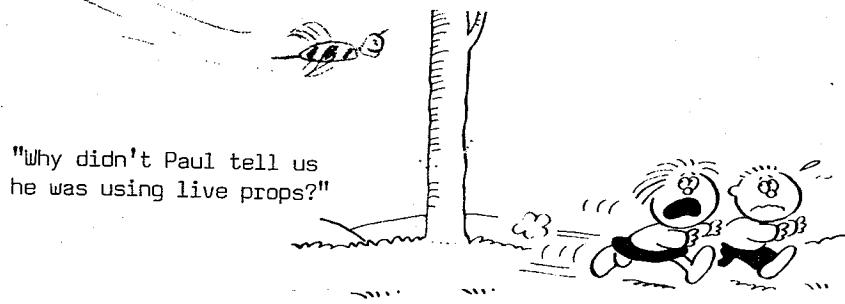
The plot's never based on contemp'ry affairs
The story is far-fetched, fantastic.. who cares?
As it unfolds before you in scene after scene
It keeps up with tradition, a well-worn routine!
Pantomime! Pantomime!

It is fun! It's a frolic! It's called Pantomime!

....and our next one will be "Babes in the Wood"... we have
the script.... we've already had some volunteers.... we need
some youngsters.... and a few more gentlemen.
Watch out for further announcements!

I know it's a little premature to be talking about the A.G.M
in October/November, but it has been known to us that some
of this year's committee will be standing down to leave way
for some new blood on the Committee, so will you please
think about this and offer your services, otherwise there is
a serious risk that next year there won't be a Social Commi-
ttee at all.

Angela Borland



ST. PETER & ST PAUL

In May we had "nibbles at Sybils," at Samedi, the house of Mr and Mrs Hawken. Over 60 people came and enjoyed the home made wine (with amazing names!) and nibbled on equally amazing variety of dishes, which thanks to the many helpers, the amount raised was £165.

During this period there was the re-election of the P.C.C. Miss Atherton now aged 92 was elected Church Warden Emeritus with Mrs Margaret Jacobs and Mr Norman Hawken re-elected Church Wardens. Mrs Gail Williams who had served as our Treasurer was thanked for her hard work in this role and Mrs Janet Bull welcomed as a new member.

Some members of the Parish have joined a newly founded Liturgical dance group. Very gentle and relaxing. Interested people are invited to join. A Memorial Service was held for the late Dr John Matthews. Many people from the village joined the congregation.

Damage to the Church through traffic and storms has been attended to. There is a constant need for careful and expensive maintenance, if we hope to preserve this lovely little Church.

Mr and Mrs Giles very kindly donated beautiful velvet curtains to hang in the entrance to the vestry. They do greatly enrich the whole Church.

Have you heard the bells? The tower has been repaired and they can now be safely rung.

The annual fund-raising (£30) coffee morning was held at The Forge by Mrs Ward leading to our latest "Event", The Church Summer fete which was held in the garden of Mr & Mrs Carrad, Mr & Mrs Pearce and this year Mr & Mrs Lewis very kindly offered us much needed parking space. It was a lovely afternoon (but very hot). Thank you to so many helpers, the amount raised was £1,097.

We extend our sympathy to Father Smart whose father Canon Smart died recently. He regularly visited our Church and was well known locally. The Smart family have nursed him well over the past years and will much miss him.

Gwen Griese

COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

We are reaching the end of yet another dry summer which although it may not suit the farmers is certainly a bonus for butterflies, grasshoppers, reptiles and hirudinids (swallows, swifts and martins).

The result of this is the large numbers of swallows and house martins that we are seeing in the valley at present (the swifts have already gone.) In particular the house martins were very depleted in the valley this spring obviously having suffered during their winter in Africa, but have built their numbers up well with 3 or 4 broods at 4 or 5 young at a time.

We are also seeing the fruits of the summer with large numbers of butterflies this year. At present there are large numbers of common blues, small coppers and brown argus invading new habitats in the valley. We should soon be seeing the sulphur yellow brimstone butterfly which overwinters by hibernating under ivy leaves (note the female brimstone is much paler, rather like a large white with pointed wings and a single red spot on each wing). Another yellow butterfly we may get soon is the migrant clouded yellow. They have been recorded in East England in the last few weeks but I haven't heard of any locally yet.

Grasshoppers are abundant at present - there are several species of ground ones all with different calls (stridulations). One you may find on foliage is the bright-green bush cricket with long antennae and a reluctance to jump.

In Weston Moor Nature reserve at the moment, is a very interesting flower growing in a pond not far from the wind-pump. It is the bladderwort and has bright yellow flowers from a rootstock in the water.

Bill Dixon



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting

This was held on 25 April 1990 and was very well attended. We were pleased to welcome Cllr John Daws - Woodspring District Councils Chairman who gave an interesting address. Philip Tollerton (Avon Wildlife) gave a talk on the landscape and wildlife of the Gordano Valley, well illustrated by slides showing why the valley is unique and deserves preservation. This was also well received by all.

The Parish Council Chairman gave a report summarising the main matters dealt with by the Council in the past year.

The following matters were raised by those present :-

- 1) Car Parking Obstruction in Hill Lane.
- 2) A new pavement in the East of the village to match the proposed new one in the West.
- 3) Deposition to form 'Farm Tracks'.

The meeting then heard two Action Group spokesmen from Clevedon present the case for preventing the reopening of Conygar Quarry. This received the support of all present.

Cllr David Lewis described the work done by the Middle Hill Management Committee and was thanked for the good work they have carried out.

Composition of Parish Council

In May, Bill Williams was re-elected as Chairman and David Lewis as Vice-Chairman. Mrs Fletcher and Mr Stringer were re-elected as Council Committee Members.

It was agreed that seven members would form a much better basis for the Parish Council and so in May 1991 the electorate will vote for 7 Parish councillors - interested villagers please note.

"Farm Tracks" in Weston-in-Gordano.

At our request, Woodspring D.C. have ruled that deposition of waste on sites in the village is unauthorised and planning permission must be given before this can be done. An enforcement notice on a site below Chapel Lane was appealed against by Mr Tyler and this appeal was heard at Weston-Super-Mare on 25, 26 and 27 July 1990. The result will be given in some months. Deposition has also ceased on the other sites in question, but villagers are asked to bring to the notice of Councillors any future depositions that are observed.

Fowlers Tip and Old County Council Tip

A meeting between the Parish Council, Officers of Avon County Council and County Cllr Brown has been finally held. Our grievances over the operation of the licensed tipping operation and the "return to agricultural use" of the old Avon C.C. tip were discussed. Avon C.C. are to report back on actions they will take over these grievances.

Article 4 Direction

Sadly this direction to cover the Gordano Valley is still awaiting approval from the D.O.E

Best Kept Village Competition

The Village Social Committee have volunteered to organize our efforts and are to be congratulated on their work. Unfortunately, we are without a village orderly (any volunteers!) so any efforts made by villagers to clean outside their boundaries would be greatly appreciated.



Churchyard Wall Renovation

Efforts to finance the final stage are being made. Despite the generous grant, Woodspring D.C. have offered a large sum of money has to be found. The Parish and Church councils are examining this.

Telephone Kiosk.

British Telecom have stated that our "old red box" is safe for another 5 years unless vandalised or seriously breaks down. We hope all will try to ensure these don't happen.

Undergrounding of Cables.

Woodspring D.C. and SWEB have agreed to finance undergrounding of electricity cables when the road improvement scheme takes place.

However, British Telecom do not seem so optimistic at present.

Hill Lane Parking Obstruction

Vehicles are parking on both sides of Hill Lane and so emergency vehicles (ambulances, fire engines etc) could be prevented from moving up Hill Lane. Our Community Policeman has placed "no parking cones" on one side of the Lane and is to monitor the position. However villagers are asked to cooperate in preventing any obstruction.

Dog Nuisance

Woodspring D.C. have given much publicity to this. Although some fouling takes place in the village, it is not considered serious enough to merit the introduction of restrictive bye-laws. With the cooperation of dog owners, we hope this will not become necessary.

New Pavement

Avon C.C. have been requested to provide a new pavement in the East side of the village to match the proposed one in the West.

Bill Williams