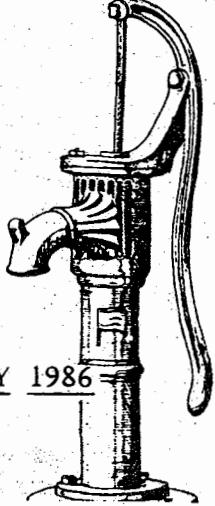


PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1986



CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

We have been delighted with the response to our new monthly Parish Magazine. The Valley Churches edition had one section especially for the Parish of Weston-in-Gordano and the remainder refers to general news and items concerning the other Churches in our united Group of Parishes. If you don't see a copy yet and would like to, please contact Gwen Griese, Silver Street, and if you have some items, details of forthcoming village events, that you would like included in the Parish Magazine please contact our Parish Correspondent, Denise Instone, Hill Lane. It is not intended that it should be restricted solely to Church news.

It was good to see so many of you at our Christmas Services. Thank you to those who helped in any particular way. The Christingle Service was a popular new idea, and following this the Church Council have sent a donation of £25 to the work of the Church of England Children's Society.

As from February 12th (Ash Wednesday), there will be a Communion Service at St. Peter and St. Paul every Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. Also during Lent there is a House Discussion Group on Mondays at 8 p.m. at Denise Instone's. She will be pleased to supply further details.

There are several very important forthcoming events that we would like to encourage you to attend. On Sunday 23rd February at the 6.30 p.m. Evening Service a new Processional Cross will be dedicated in memory of the late Sam Sprigg. It will be a most suitable memorial to this loved and respected villager.

On Sunday 9th March (Mothering Sunday) we shall be delighted to have as our Preacher at the Family Service the Archdeacon of Bath, Ven. John Burgess. There will be

refreshments afterwards.

On the Sunday after Easter (April 6th) there will be a service of Easter Praise with the St. Conygar Singers and Mike and Fiona. Full details of these and other Easter Services will be in the Parish Magazine.

The Church Annual Meeting, to which Parishioners are invited, will be on Thursday March 20th at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

John Smart (Rector)

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

The Christmas Party held at the Village Hall in December was a great success. A traditional Christmas Dinner was served followed by Christmas Pudding or trifle. It was the first time we had tried a cooked meal and judging from the reports we received from everyone that came, it seemed to be enjoyed by all. The party games went off very well and the Carols at the end of the evening put us all in the Christmas spirit.

The next meeting of the W.I. will be held in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday in February - 19th - at 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Mrs Noble on health and fitness.

If you would like to come along and join us we would be very glad to see you.

AMENITY GROUP

At our last meeting of the Group it was decided that further meetings would be held when some specific subject(s) were to be considered.

Items, it was expected, would arise from the General Membership.

Most of our agenda has been dealt with as far as possible; however, a committee meeting will be held very soon, and a further meeting of the group, if sufficient business is on hand, will then be arranged.

Details of anything you, or members, feel could be effectively dealt with by the Group, should be forwarded to our Secretary Mr. Roger Ettery.

KEEP FIT

1986 started off with four new members. So if anyone out there wishes to fit into their bikini instead of squeezing into it, come and join us at only 50p a session Monday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. A special thank you to Fay Leonard who kindly takes us and keeps us looking trim.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Councillors have been disturbed to note the length of time taken to acquire the necessary land for the improvements to the B3124 at the west end of the village. Reports from the owners of the plots involved suggest that Avon County Council have been dragging their heels in this matter. Representations have been made on the subject, but at present the scheme remains in the budget for 1988/89. The Council are co-operating fully with the Weston-in-Gordano Road Action Group in trying to expedite the improvement scheme.

The Old School has again been the subject of concern, since there has been considerable deterioration of late, especially in the roof. As there is thought to be serious risk of tiles falling on people visiting the Village Hall, the District Council are being approached in an attempt to have the building made secure.

The Parish Council have supported moves to establish a Local Plan for the Gordano Valley area, in the hope of strengthening the arm of the planning committees in opposing undesirable development in the valley.

Various matters in Cadbury Lane have been occupying Councillors' time of late. It is proving difficult to pin down responsibility for the uneven road surface, between the different contractors who have dug trenches. However, the new street light is currently being installed and should soon be in use.

The community policeman, P.C. Mackie, has been unable to solve the Riddle of the Stolen Conifers. The trees in question, which were recently planted in front of the electricity sub-station in Cadbury Lane, disappeared on or about November 5th or 6th. Inquiries show that they did not form part of the village bonfire!

Future dates for Parish Council meetings:

Tuesday February 11th

Tuesday March 11th -

Tuesday April 8th

Tuesday April 22nd - Annual Parish Meeting

Parishioners are invited to attend all Council meetings, and time is set aside at the beginning of the evening (7.30 p.m.) for questions from the public. The meeting on April 22nd is an Open Meeting at which it is hoped that as many villagers as possible will attend to air their views on local topics.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The biggest event was surely the Pantomime Aladdin, produced by Mrs Connie Williams. For several weeks there were individual and small group rehearsals in private houses then suddenly it all began to happen. Materials, dresses and how many kimonos were arriving at Stoneycroft, Hill Lane; rehearsals taking place in the Hall (which was being miraculously transformed under the direction of Mr. Geoff Williams;) the handi-work of Messrs Redway, Biddle, Alexander, Instone and Streames produced stage curtains, lights, backdrops, props, sound equipment etc. - it was all there. Special thanks are due to Mr. Jim Sulley for loan of pallets and Mr. Wilson Bray for donating sheets of hardboard.

Having announced the date of the Pantomime (Saturday 18th January) the tickets were so quickly sold that it was obvious there must be another performance on the Friday. There were 'House Full' notices on both nights and it is suggested the Hall could have been filled for a third. For a population of approximately 260 this is an excellent response - but it was an excellent performance representing hard work, enthusiastic effort and fun by all concerned.

The script in verse written by Mr. Paul Alexander (with additions by Mr. David Lewis) was magnificently interpreted by a cast of all ages. This effort involved whole families and most of the village youngsters including pianist and "lights". This in itself made the event a worthwhile exercise.

It is hoped that similar happenings might take place as an interest has been expressed by would-be participants - more news in this direction later.

Future Events

February 9th - Sunday - The Annual Pancake race to take place in the White Hart car park at 11 a.m. Bring your own pan and pancake.

February 12th - Wednesday - Annual General Meeting Social Committee in the Village Hall 7.30 p.m. All villagers invited. Barn Dance - Date and details will be displayed in the village in the near future.

N.B. A reminder that the Social Committee has for hire the following:-

Hostess Trolley - £2 per night
Cassette Player - £2 per night

Apply to the Secretary - Mr. Redway.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Wine and Cheese Evening was very well attended and again the tables were laden with sumptuous delicacies. With plentiful wine and pleasant conversation the evening passed all too quickly and extremely enjoyably.

It is with regret that the Committee has had resignations from Mrs G. Williams, Mr K. Williams, Mr A. Vincent and Mr C. Bessant. We were very sorry to see so much movement in such a short space of time but our thanks to each one for their support and efforts in maintaining the Hall. Particular thanks must go to Chris Bessant without whom the fortnightly whist drives would not have been so successful for so long. Our thanks to Mr Paul Jacobs and Mr Geoff Williams for filling the Committee vacancies.

We are endeavouring to continue the whist drives, on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. from 4th February. It would be nice to see a few more locals so why not come along for a friendly evening of cards and refreshments.