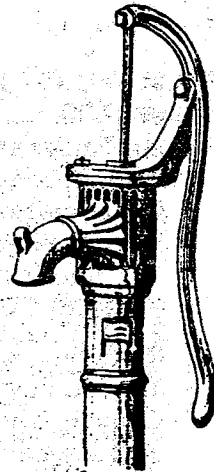


PARISH PUMP



WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER APRIL 1986

CHURCH of St. PETER & St. PAUL

One of the most interesting and comparatively rare features of our Parish Church is the Palm Sunday Gallery in the Porch. It was, therefore, a memorable and historic occasion when, on Palm Sunday, we revived the custom of using this ancient Gallery for the Palm Sunday Gospel Reading, and the Blessing of the Palm Crosses. This was preceded by a Procession around the outside of the Church. It was a most enjoyable occasion and one which we hope will now become a regular feature in our Church Calendar. Thank you to everyone who took part, not least the St. Conygar Singers who led our singing, and to those parishioners who made the Palm Crosses. In fact we have had quite a feast of singing recently. The St. Conygar Singers were with us again for our Service of Easter Praise, and on Easter Sunday Evening we were pleased to welcome the Choir of All Saints, East Clevedon.

Another outstanding event was the Church Spring Clean, and there was an excellent response to the appeal for volunteers, and adults and young people worked equally hard, fortified, in some cases, by a welcome lunch time break at The White Hart! This extra cleaning, together with the lovely flower arrangements meant that our Church looked particularly beautiful at Easter, and for the first time we had a small decorated model of the Easter Garden. Amongst all this, a dozen of the tiles were blown off the roof during last month's severe gales! We were thankful the damage was not worse and they have now been replaced.

We continue with our regular pattern of Services on Sundays at 6.30 p.m. (full details are in the Parish Magazine), and also on Sunday, 4th May, there is an invitation to attend the Rogation Sunday Service and Procession at Walton-in-Gordano

at 3 p.m. There is also a Communion Service every Wednesday at 9.30 a.m., except the first week of May when it will be on Thursday 8th May, which is Ascension Day.

The Rector is now starting Preparation Classes for Confirmation. Anyone, adults or young people, who is interested please contact him (Tel 873257).

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Road Improvement Scheme

The Council have made further representations to Avon County Council over the delayed implementation of the B3124 improvement scheme. It appears that the necessary Compulsory Purchase formalities involve the participation of the Department of the Environment, and that it is unlikely that the scheme can be hastened.

A suggestion was put to Avon that temporary pavements might be provided in the interim, but this was rejected as impractical.

Tipping

Councillors have been concerned once again at various aspects of tipping operations in the Gordano Valley. Complaints have been made of the continued use of the tip on Saturdays, in contravention of the licence conditions, and of the untidiness and poor management of the tip. In addition, it has been alleged that active tipping is being carried out on the old Local Authority site which is not currently licensed and where only topsoiling is authorised.

Photographs have been obtained illustrating both these areas of dissatisfaction, and lists of out-of-hours lorry movements have been kept. The County Trading Standards Officer has been requested to attend a site meeting to discuss these matters.

Individual councillors were also in urgent contact with officers of Avon County Council over the legality of the tipping operation which was briefly carried out on Mr. Tyler's land, and which received coverage from the local news media. The Parish Council were shocked at this development in the immediate vicinity of a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and although tipping has now ceased, Avon have been asked to comment on its legality and the possibility of having the offending matter removed.

The Old School

The Old Village School remains an area of concern, and a suggestion was made by the Woodspring Conservation Officer

that the building might be acquired by the Parish Council as a replacement for the existing Village Hall. This scheme envisaged the demolition of the existing hall to provide a much needed car park. In discussion, it was pointed out that the Old School was appreciably smaller than the present hall, and that its more substantial structure would make any further extension more difficult and costly. The terms of the deeds of the existing hall provide for the return of the land to its original owners should the hall fall into disuse. Furthermore, the Village Hall Committee were not in favour of the scheme, and the proposal has not been pursued. It is understood that Woodspring are now considering the acquisition of this building, which is listed as of Local Importance and is within the Conservation Area.

Planning

The Council have given consideration to the proposals in the draft First Alteration of the County Structure Plan, and to the draft Green Belt Local Plan. These documents set out policies for planning in the County, and although the changes proposed do not appear to affect Weston-in-Gordano Parish directly, the possibility of large housing developments in the Portishead/ Royal Portbury Dock area, and more particularly on Portishead Down, has implications for the village, for example, in terms of traffic flow.

Councillors have been disturbed by various aspects of the First Alteration to the Structure Plan. The time permitted for representations on the proposals was felt to be too short, and the share of new housing to be allocated to Woodspring was disproportionately large compared to the other Districts. To illustrate this last point, of the 10,000 new building plots to be found in Avon by 1996, it is proposed that almost half will be sited in Woodspring, the remaining half to be spread between Bath, Bristol, Kingswood, Northavon and Wansdyke.

It was also felt that the discussion documents provided by the County Council gave no details as to where, within the Woodspring District, these new developments were to take place, and that Parish Councillors could not give opinions on the proposals without this information.

These points have been made to Avon. Consideration of the Local Plan proposals has been postponed to the April Parish Council meeting, by which time it is hoped the Councillors will have seen the detailed plans which are available in Public Libraries.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday May 6th. Members of the public are invited to attend

meetings and time is set aside at 7.30 p.m. for questions. The Annual Parish Meeting, which is held specifically so that parishioners may air their views, will take place on Tuesday April 22nd.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The highlight of the last quarter at the Hall was "The Great Freeze" Usually, the water system is kept off and drained in cold weather but the best laid plans go wrong sometimes and this resulted in solid blocks of ice in the toilet cisterns and frozen pipes which inevitably cracked. Our grateful thanks to Mr. Jacobs for his plumbing skills.

The Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Wednesday 30th April at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Any nominations to join the Committee (apart from existing committee members) should be given to The Secretary, Mr. S. Redway, 6 The Close, in writing by 28th April. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

As usual there have been a variety of speakers at the monthly meetings, including Mrs McEwan Smith who entertained us with her tales of "eccentric relatives" and Mr Dawe who told us about the problems of producing amateur operatics. Attendance has been very poor recently due to the cold winter and not to a lack of interest.

There will be a warm welcome for anyone interested if you would like to come along and join us. The meetings are always held the third Wednesday of every month. Trips have been arranged to Laycock and Bickton Gardens and to a performance of Strauss Waltzes at the Victoria Rooms.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On February 9th the Pancake Race was held at the White Hart car park. (This now looks like an annual event.) There were races for all ages, 'tossing' with enthusiasm and a few falls. The contestants of a "special" event Phil Hodgkinson and John Lorimer had to make and cook a pancake (facilities on the spot provided by Phil and Carol of the White Hart), run an obstacle race, over tables, tossing pancakes etc. The winner was Mr. Hodgkinson. A serious side to the morning was a collection for Ben Snook, a severely handicapped little boy from Clevedon. £69 was collected then a donor who wishes to

remain anonymous doubled the amount to £138 and an eventual presentation to Ben's mother was £140.

The AGM was on February 12th. The good attendance was swollen by a delegation of the village youth. Speaking for them Christopher Ettery asked if it was possible to acquire a field where they might meet. Their social activities are at present hindered by having nowhere safe to meet. These young people worked together in the village pantomime and wanted this association to continue. The Committee recognised this as a valid point and after discussion it was agreed that an evening for 'Family Activities' should be organised. We have experienced volunteers who can instruct in a variety of pursuits - orienteering, map reading, canoeing, drama. These activities are for parents as well and it is very possible that other skills will be offered. There is to be a meeting in the Village Hall on Friday April 25th at 7 p.m. where selection of activities and dates will be arranged. Please come and tell us what you want or what you can offer.

Look forward to a Barbecue and later in the year a 'Games Day' with picnic.

AMENITY GROUP

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.45 p.m. and there will be a fuller report of our activities in the next Parish Pump.

ROAD ACTION GROUP

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Attendance was good although down on last year. Ongoing correspondence between the Parish Council and various departments of the County Council were discussed and the Chairman reported that the Group itself had been in correspondence with both the County Council and our M.P., Sir Paul Dean

The general consensus of the meeting was that no good would be served by further direct action whilst still awaiting the Compulsory Purchase Orders and it was agreed to keep a watching brief in the meantime.

A new Steering Committee of six persons was elected of which Mr. G. Kelsey was again unanimously elected Chairman and Mrs G. Williams Secretary/Treasurer.