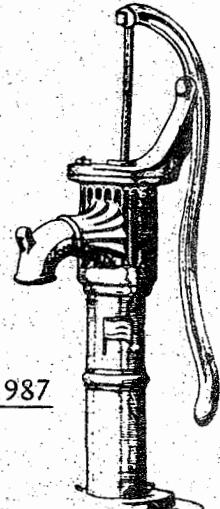


PARISH PUMP



WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1987

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

Well here we are, a new year beginning 1987, let's hope it is a good one with lots of new members. We are looking forward to lots of activities and some very interesting trips. Just looking back to 1986, we went to York, Bicton Gardens and Lacock - all very enjoyable days out. The speakers included talks on cake icing, fire prevention and quilting, all very interesting. We had a very good Group Meeting and once again won the Rose Bowl with a very good model of Guy Fawkes made by Connie Williams. The year was brought to an end with our Christmas Party. As usual this was a great success and everyone enjoyed a very good Christmas Dinner. The evening concluded with party games.

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

There were good congregations at the Christmas Services. One of the highlights during the Carol Service was the playing of a selection of Carol tunes on our village Hand-bells by the Nailsea Hand-Bell Ringers. Subsequently several people have enquired about taking up Hand-Bell Ringing. There has been an offer of help with instruction, and so if you are interested please contact the Rector or Marilyn Ettery. Eventually the Hand Bells will need some renovation but in the meantime there is no reason why they should not be used on suitable occasions.

The new Hymn Books are now in use. There was an excellent response to our invitation to donate books. Thank you, too, for the donations that have been made for the new Clock-face.

Sunday March 1st will be a very special day for our Parish. The Bishop of Taunton will be coming to preside at the Holy Communion and Confirm three young people, two from this village and one from Walton-in-Gordano. It is a very long time since we have had a Confirmation Service in our Parish Church and we are delighted that Bishop Nigel has been able to find time for this in his very busy diary. The service will begin at 6.00 p.m. (not 6.30 p.m.) and everyone is of course most welcome to attend.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 4th. Each Wednesday during Lent there will be a Communion Service with a hymn. March 29th is Mothering Sunday. There will be a Family Communion Service at 6.30 p.m. and gifts for the children to give to their mothers. On April 12th, which is Palm Sunday, we shall again be using our unique Palm Sunday Gallery in the Porch at the beginning of the Service.

On Friday February 12th the five churches in our Group of Parishes are holding a Dance/Social in St. Mary's Hall, Walton from 8 - 12. Tickets price £2.50 are on sale from Sybil and Norman Hawken.

THE VILLAGE HALL

This continues to be a well-used facility, not only for formal meetings of various groups, but also for more social events like Whist Drives, the Village Pantomime, Flower Show, Fayres - not forgetting the Friday evenings run by the Amenities Group for our younger villagers.

It was also used as a residential base for several weeks by a group working on the Nature Reserve in the Valley.

During this past year the Village Hall Committee has met in January, April, July and October looking after general matters, and also arranged a successful "Get-together Cheese and Wine" evening on December 6th.

Every opportunity - finance allowing! - is taken to improve conditions in the Hall, and plumbing work has been carried out in the kitchen. Thanks to the generosity of Norman Hawken, a Safety Light with a timing-switch was installed over the entrance to light up the approach steps.

At the time of writing, negotiations are in hand to seek registration as a recognised Charity, as is the case with most village halls.

We have had helpful visits from a Fire Prevention Officer and an Environmental Health Officer. The Fire Extinguishers have been checked and overhauled and approved EXIT signs located

as required, to comply with regulations regarding the granting of an Entertainment Licence.

The Environmental Health Officer was concerned mainly with the cleanliness of the kitchen area, finding the premises to be in a clean and tidy condition. He was interested to learn of the popularity and usage of the Hall and concluded his subsequent letter with the words "... keep up the good work!". We'll certainly do our best!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Planning Matters

The Council have made written representations on the subject of the First Alteration to the County Structure Plan. The main objection has centred on the unequal distribution of proposed new housing, most of which has been allocated to Woodspring. As a result the Council have been asked to attend the Examination in Public in March.

It has been decided to arrange further meetings of the Parish Council so as to tie in more suitably with the meetings of the Planning Committee of Woodspring District Council. Recently it has been necessary to consider planning applications at specially arranged meetings in order to submit observations to the Planning Committee in time for their meetings. This has meant that members of the public have not been able to attend to hear for themselves what Parish Councillors recommend, and this is clearly undesirable.

Bus Services

The new bus timetables, following deregulation of public transport in October, have met with a mixed reception. The Council have in mind the further relaxation of restrictions which is to take place in the next few weeks, and will keep in touch with developments as they affect the village. In this connection, parishioners are urged to let Councillors know of any problems they encounter, so that their needs can be pursued.

Tipping

Interest is being maintained in the operation of the tip, and both Woodspring and Avon Councils are also monitoring the situation.

Elections

Parish Council elections are due in May, and all five places on the Council will be offered for re-election. Parishioners are invited to consider nominations for office.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We again have to report an active few months, and most enjoyable too. With great enthusiasm and artistic talent the hall was transformed into a wicked den for the halloween party for all the village children who thoroughly enjoyed the duckings and dunkings offered to them - as did some of the Mums and Dads too!

With great nerve and naivete we entered the Avon Community Council Village Venture Competition, sponsored by Shell U.K. Ltd., and were thrilled to learn after our first interview that we had been short-listed to the final six entrants. This was followed by more interviews by a panel of twelve judges and then a long wait for the results. We were called to attend the prize giving and were very proud to receive the joint third prize of £75. Our many thanks and congratulations must go to all the committee members, well done.

Other activities have included another visit to the swimming pool with expert diving tuition given by Peggy Alexander, thanks Peggy. We also had our first attempt at clay modelling, the clay very generously being donated free of charge by the Clevedon Craft Centre. Gwen Griese encouraged and supervised the process with some excellent first try results. We also had an evening of making a variety of sweets and Christmas decorations to be sold at the church fair which was a great success. Christmas week saw us congregating for our carol singing venture which took us to just about every home in the village - sorry if we missed you, we'll get you the next time! This was a most successful evening, with a few musical ups and downs to begin with, but with a total of £52 being collected which has been donated to the Blue Peter Sight Saver Appeal, so many thanks everybody for your kind generosity.

The 7th January was 'Disco Night' for the Group, a New Year evening for the young of the village, Brian Tucker leading a thoroughly enjoyable evening. And then that takes us refreshed and raring to go into 1987, hopefully starting with our series of talks and lessons in self-defence - please keep a look-out for further information posters on this at Bill's shop. We hope 1987 will be an active and enjoyable year for the village, and look forward to many varied activities taking place. Any new suggestions for the Group would be welcome, as, of course, would new members, so we look forward too to seeing you.