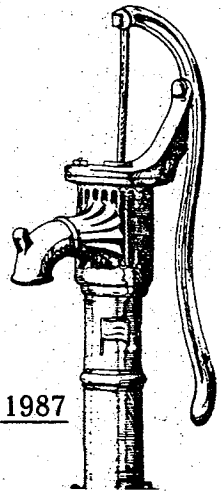


PARISH PUMP



WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1987

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the inaugural meeting of the new Council, Councillor Bill Williams was elected Chairman, and Councillor Jim Sulley Vice-Chairman.

B3124 Road Improvement Scheme

News has been received that the Departments of the Environment and Transport have requested additional Compulsory Purchase proceedings to acquire an extra area of land for the Road Improvement Scheme. The Council are awaiting enlightenment from Avon County Council as to which piece of land is involved but it seems likely that, at best, further delay may ensue.

Tipping in the Gordano Valley

A meeting has been held with senior officers of the Planning, Waste Disposal and Trading Standards departments of Avon County. The topic of tipping in the Valley was discussed in all its aspects, but Councillors were left with little optimism for an early end to tipping.

The Chief Executives of Avon and Woodspring Councils are currently in communication in an attempt to alleviate conditions in the Valley, and the Parish Council are continuing to monitor events and to take prompt action in respect of any alleged breaches of licence conditions.

Parishioners sometimes write to the senior Councils direct with their complaints about the tips, and this is of course quite proper. It is helpful if the Parish Council could be provided with copies of such complaints, as these can be added to the body of evidence about tipping conditions which the Council has at its disposal. The archive is now quite large!

Best Kept Village Competition

Weston-in-Gordano has reached the final of this competition, and judging is in progress at the time of writing.

Old Village School

The Planning and Conservation Department of Woodspring Council have agreed to the proposal to acquire this property by Compulsory Purchase, in order to prevent further deterioration.

Notice Board

A new enlarged parish notice board has been provided outside the White Hart. The board was made by a parishioner, and half the cost is to be met by a grant from Woodspring.

Councillor J. Sulley

Parishioners will probably know that our Vice-Chairman has met with a serious motor accident and is in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery and an early return to Council duties.

Councillors' telephone numbers are as follows:

W. Williams (chairman)	849814
C. Biddle	849766
D. Lewis	849214
J. Sulley	848857
B. Tyler	Flax Bourton 2203

Future meetings will be held in the village hall on August 19th, September 16th and October 14th.

All meetings start at 7.30 p.m. when time is set aside for parishioners to ask questions or to raise matters of concern.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - ACTIVITY GROUP

At the risk of repeating myself, yet again, I am pleased to report that our Activity Group has continued to be well occupied over the last few months. In conjunction with the Church Flower Festival we managed to submit a small display in the exhibition held in the village hall with some examples of our recent activities. These included pottery and collage work. On other Group nights, by kind permission of the Lewis household, we have spent some good evenings playing volley ball in the paddock with ingenious improvisation using jump supports and good encouragement from a fascinated four-legged friend!

The highlight of it all was a marvellous weekend 'camp' in which thirty adults and children indulged in a great variety of activities. Many of these activities had not been attempted before, and possibly in some adults' views, not to be ever attempted again. This all took place at Mill Farm near Bridgwater, where we rented dormitory accommodation for the duration. We descended upon it on Friday evening. Supper was served, what an error - pasties and BAKED BEANS - luckily it was a mild night and the ventilation could be used to its fullest capacity! Males were separated from females in the sleeping department and the female 'dorm' was strongly accused of keeping the male 'dorm' awake until all hours - now would we, I ask you? Saturday saw nearly all the party on horseback at some stage, which produced rare sights indeed, but a great time was had by all. We were also able to use the dinghies and the canoes throughout our time there which kept us all amused for hours on end. Other activities included volley ball, rounders, table-tennis, badminton and trivial pursuit, interspersed by the provision of food, including a fantastic barbecue, by our very able committee and helpers, many, many thanks to them all.

The weekend was rounded off with a picnic en masse prior to our journey home to the longed for, and much needed, Radox baths. We are delighted that the younger, and younger at heart, members have requested a repeat performance next year. This is as good a vote of approval as we could wish for.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

With our four new Trustees now appointed and the revised Trust Deed soon to be finalised, it should not be too long before application can be made to the Charity Commissioners for recognition as a registered Charity, and so come into line with the majority of Village Halls.

Usage of the Village Hall continues to increase with a wider variety of activities being held there. On some occasions - such as a Barn Dance, it is obvious that space is extremely restricted, even though the capacity under the Licensing Regulations is never exceeded.

The Committee is looking to the future, considering possible improvements and even extension, though these are early days. If this were a sort of Mills & Boon romance, some wealthy, generous ... and needless to say good-looking benefactor would come to live in the village and ere long, a spacious, well-equipped Village Hall would result! However in real-life

terms the Committee has to rely on a limited, a very limited income which derives almost entirely from hiring fees, and consequently those plans and expectations must remain in the abstract rather than ... to coin a phrase ... in the concrete' But there is no harm in looking ahead .. is there?

ALL OUR OWN WORK

The display of villagers' Art, Craft and Hobbies work which was mounted in the Village Hall during the three days of the recent Church Flower Festival proved to be a great success, and thanks are due to all those who allowed their work to be included.

The rear wall of the Hall - for pictures and the like - plus two trestle tables were allocated initially, but these areas soon proved to be far too small to cope with the number of exhibits. Three more tables and parts of the side walls were needed in addition. Something like 17 different areas of Art/Craft work were represented and greatly admired by visitors who made very favourable comments about "this talented village".

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

On Friday 5th June the Treasure Hunt organised by Mr. and Mrs Instone took place - midst a deluge of rain and strong winds and glowering skies!! In spite of this 17 cars took part and "eventually" the first bedraggled car load returned from a trip via Portishead, Clapton-in-Gordano and Nailsea etc. Mr. & Mrs Simons and family followed by the Redway family were the winners, all clutching the necessary bags of lolly sticks, dandelion clocks etc. An excellent BBQ was produced from under a dripping tarpaulin by Mr. Instone, assistants and the usual W-i-G catering team. An amazingly successful evening which made £65 for the Church.

On Friday 12th June Mr. and Mrs Hawken gave a Wine & Nibbles party at White House Farm. Mrs Hawken's family have lived at this old farmhouse for 400 years. The wine (made by Sybil's father, the late Sam Spriggs) was an experience and the nibbles were something special too. This was an enjoyable evening and £90 was raised towards the Church Summer Fete Draw.

The Church Flower Festival took place on Sat/Sunday w/e 27th June. "All Glory Laud and Honour" was the theme. Mr. Jeremy Carrad opened the Festival with an amusing summary

of Church Fete 'Openings' and expressed his especial pleasure at this occasion. Many many people visited the Church, some more than once, bringing friends and visitors. There are some excellent photographs around in the village to reveal how really beautiful and appropriate the arrangements were. There are too many contributors to name but great credit is due to our adviser Mrs Fowles who encouraged and inspired all to produce such a special result. Also popular was the catering by Mrs Jacobs and her team; again second and even third visits for meals and strawberry cream teas. These were all enjoyed in the Village Hall where there was an Arts and Crafts Exhibition, organised by Mr. Alexander, assisted by Mr. Redway.

On the Saturday evening there was a Concert in the Church. Mr. Carrad and Mrs Staley gave Readings, Mrs Carrad a piano forte recital and Iris and Simon Haigh entertained us with some folk songs. Mrs Carrad also accompanied Judith Wilson, an accomplished young flautist. All these performers live in the village. Visiting performers were Nailsea Handbell Ringers and Judith Bright and Friends representing Clevedon Light Opera Company. In the interval many enjoyed a buffet and wine (especially nice in the Churchyard overlooking the Valley) This excellent extra was provided by Mrs Ettery, Mrs Gamlin and Mrs Williams who were also members of the Concert Committee.

So many people helped this venture: the W.'liams' printing and publishing, Mr. Alexander advertising, Mr Lewis piano and parking'', chair and table carriers, car park attendants, waitresses etc etc. The final statement - £850 profit for the Church and for Christian Aid.

The Patronal Festival on Monday saw a full Church in the evening where the Guest Preacher expressed his amazement and delight at the beauty of the Church that night.

The Garden Fete held on the 25th July, was a delightfully happy and enjoyable occasion, resulting in the record total of £930 towards the Church Fabric Fund.

Our most grateful thanks to everyone who helped in every possible way, especially Mr and Mrs. Jeremy Carrad who kindly allowed us to invade their garden again, and Mr. and Mrs. Pearce for providing access through their garden to the Village Hall for Tea.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On Saturday 12th July the village was invited to enter a men's and ladies team for a tug-of-war at Walton-in-Gordano Village Festival. Our two teams fought bravely, having had some practice in Gail and Keith's garden by trying to pull down a tree! After the first heats each team was drawing one pull each. It was decided the slope in the field provided an advantage so our Coach Geoff Williams goaded the Walton crowd into changing the pitch for a more level site. But to no avail - both ladies and men lost the final pull but not until some hefty pulling had been done. Great fun was had by all and aching limbs for several days after. Roll-on the return match - we'll 'ave 'em!

On the same evening was the BBQ at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams in Hill Lane. It was a fine evening if a little chilly, and many people came to enjoy the lovely garden and surroundings. We were happy to welcome the very latest residents in the village and to see 'regulars', visitors, young and senior neighbours. Simon and Iris sang, we are lucky to have them with us - the BBQ's controlled by Brian, Geoff, Ian and Stuart. The food was excellent and varied (Team work). In spite of a chill breeze the dancing, chatting went on well into the night ... a lovely full moon. Thank you Connie and Geoff - where next??

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

The W.I. Show is on August 22nd, so come on folks, let's have a record entry. Every home in the village should by now have had a schedule, so no excuses - get that jam made. There will also be a display of Handicrafts - no entry fee or judging - all purely for pleasure.

The June Boat Trip was enjoyed by all, the food was good and the weather was good to us.

Our membership is now thirty but we would still like more members so if you are not one of us, why not come and join us, we meet the third week in every month.

BEST-KEPT VILLAGERS COMPETITION!!!

Keep-Fit clases start again on Monday September 14th 7.00 - 8.0 p.m. New members are always very welcome.

Also starting on that date, at 8.00 p.m. will be a sponsored Slim-In. The sponsor forms will not be individual, but on a

total weight loss basis and the session will be for six weeks only. Follow your own pet diet if you wish and just come along once a week to be weighed. Gentlemen will be welcome in fact some have already been volunteered by their wives! Further details if required from Ann (847716)

Proceeds to a charity; which one is to be decided later.

HOPE ON A ROPE'

This Special Report's been received on
A Tug-of-War Contest near Clevedon
In the Valley Gordano, where with might and main, oh
Those village teams heaved on and heaved on'

Each team by its coach was exhorted
To ensure that its rivals were thwarted
All to-ing and fro-ing and puffing and blowing
With many a face there contorted'

It was noticed the pitch with the rope in it
Had a modest ... but definite slope in it
Gravitational aid ... so a protest was made
For the final to have far more hope in it'

Any terrain with even a slight mound
For a tug-of-war isn't the right ground
All was quickly arranged, with the pitch slightly changed
And a flatter, alternative site found.

In the final all teams were receiving
Support from the crowd on their heaving
As they tugged and they strained till advantage was gained
And victory they were achieving.

Our Weston teams - each looked a neat 'un -
On the ground firmly planted their feet on
A magnificent sight, they put up a good fight
But ... alas to relate ... both were beaten'

Amidst neighbourly smiles and hand-shaking
Competitors - their thirsts were slaking
All in excellent humour ... but now there's a rumour
A return-match might be in the making!