

# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO  
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

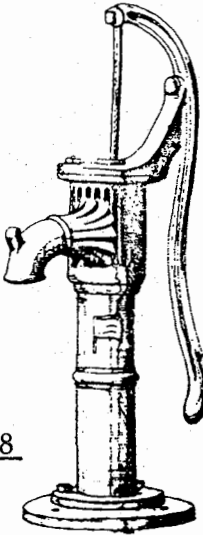
APRIL, 1988

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 27th	Palm Sunday Service
April 1st	Good Friday Devotional Service
April 3rd	Easter Day Communion
April 11th	Sponsored Slim
April 16th	Barn Dance
April 20th	W.I. makeup demonstration
April 27th	Annual Parish Assembly
April 28th	Village Hall A.G.M.
May 24th	W.I. Coldharbour Mill trip
June 17/18th	Mill Farm weekend
July 2nd	Bar-B-Que
July 9th	W.I. Summer show

## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK - (Dining table actually')

Very occasionally someone comments that they have not received their 'Pump'. This can happen for a variety of reasons but we think we have overcome the problem. As from this issue we have arranged for Bill to put one on display in the shop immediately after general distribution and to keep a few 'under the counter'. So don't get withdrawal symptoms, just see Bill'.



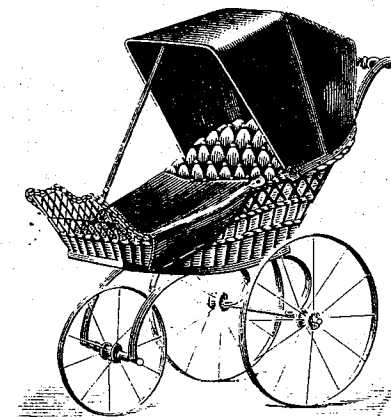
The Editors attended a one-day newsletter course on 12th March run jointly by Avon Community Council and Wiltshire Community Council. We sincerely thank the Parish Council for subsidising the day which was very enjoyable and thoroughly enlightening on all aspects of newsletter production but the main worth of the day was sharing newsletter production with others from different villages - we soon learnt that Parish Pump has the smallest circulation and although some of our contemporaries have great ideas, theirs are not always the most successful. Anyway we are willing to try some new ideas and those will be evident over the next few issues. However, if anyone would like to make any suggestions we are always open for consideration - please make your views known to Gail Williams or Stuart Redway. We would be particularly pleased to print any village reminiscences.

Don't forget the Parish meeting, it's your opportunity to voice your thoughts, doubts and fears about your village. Put 8 p.m. 27th April in your diary now.

In January the Editors had the pleasure of attending the launch of Avon Community Council's new Mobile Information Services bus. Over wine and sandwiches we were able to meet and talk with a wide range of people concerned with village life and, of course, we had a good look over the bus. This is actually a converted West Glam ambulance and many hours of painstaking work have been spent on it. One of us was under the impression that the service provided information only on County Council and Government services. She was quite wrong! Forthcoming events, theatre information, places of interest to visit - you name it. So why not go along and pay it a visit when it is in the village - alternate Mondays 9.30 - 10 a.m. - It will certainly be worth your while. Whilst on the subject of mobiles, don't forget that the mobile library also pays us a visit every Monday.

### GALLIMAUFRY

Comings and Goings - Congratulations to the proud parents on the following new additions to the village:-

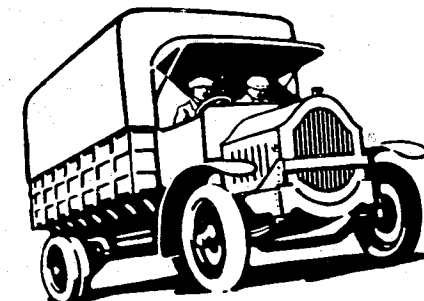


James Lewis, born January 12th 1988, a son for Sharon and Nick Phippen.

Elizabeth, born February 16th, 1988, 7lb 12oz, a daughter for Linda and Donald Pearce.

Elizabeth Anne, (Beth), born February 19th 1988, 7lb 13oz, a daughter for Jackie and Jim Dawson.

We are sorry to hear that we must say 'Au revoir' to Mary and Roy Streames. Over the 14 years they have been in the village both Mary and Roy have contributed a very great deal to the community. We wish them every happiness in the future.



Keep Fit - Is still going strong but have some room if you feel you would like to join us. Every Monday night, 7-8 p.m. and will only cost you 50p a session. Many thanks to Fay for her time and efforts in keeping us in trim.

Sponsored Slim - As promised we are going to have another slim which will start the Monday after Easter, 11th April - so come along and join us and we can all be lovely and slim for the Summer, and be able to fit nicely into our bikinis and swimming trunks without squeezing! it all in. So come along at 8.p.m. and bring your 50p registration fee. The proceeds this time are going to help children through the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal. Come along all you fatties!!

Ann Redway

Olga and Ghengis - a.k.a. Reg and Sue Winkworth collected £56.20 for Comic Relief which was duly paid into the Giro Bank Account No. for Comic Relief in Bill's Post Office. Many thanks to all who gave so generously.

The Bells, The Bells - The bellframe of the church having recently been revealed to be in a parlous state, some experts were called in to examine it. They very kindly provided a list of the inscriptions on the bells:-

Treble	TAYLOR LOUGHBORO 1945	
	IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD	
	FOR THE VICTORY VOUCHSAFED TO US	
	IN THE WAR 1939-1945	
	FREDERICK WATTS	) CHURCHWARDENS
	ALFRED EDWARD GREY	) 1945

2nd WPRP IOHN WILMOTT IOHN HARRIS CW 1634

3rd WILLIAM BATTMAN CHURCHWARDEN 1775  
WILLIAM BILBIE CHEWSTOKE FECIT

4th IOHN WILMOTT IOHN HARRIS  
CHURCHWARDENS 1654 WP

5th IOHN WILMOTT IOHN HARRIS  
CHURCHWARDENS 1654 WP

Tenor THOMAS PARSIVALL ESQUIRE 1654  
IOHN WILMOTT IOHN HARRIS W PRP

By Royal Command - Sister Carol of the Convent of the Holy Name who gives her "home" address as Silver Street, Weston-in-Gordano, was a guest of H.M. the Queen at an informal lunch at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday March 2nd. The other guests were as announced in the Court Circular.

THE INDEPENDENT

MARCH 3rd 1988

## COURT CIRCULAR

Luncheon Party at Buckingham Palace, at which the following guests were present:

Sister Carol (Convent of the Holy Name, Malvern Link); Mrs Lorraine Cole (Lately Headmistress, Queensmill Primary School, Richmond); Professor Sir Donald Acheson (Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security); Mr Harold Cudmore (Treasurer); Mr Trevor Hall (Race Relations Adviser, Home Office); Mr Getvare Jackson (Slops Architectural Adviser, National Trust); Professor John M. Thomas (Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain); Mr Ian Worsam (Solicitor).

After the line-up when the guests were presented to H.M., Sister Carol's deep curtsey almost upset the sidetable whereon they had deposited their drinks. Her chat with the Queen was mainly about Theatre (where they have a common interest) - about Edward and his new role. Then about Charles at Trinity, Cambridge where Carol had just ended a week's mission. The corgis were hovering at their feet. Following was a 5-course meal (wine with each course, offered but not all taken just in case!) Main Course venison croquettes - Carol taking only one heard a whisper from the footman, "you can take another, there is plenty!" After lunch she was introduced to The Duke of Edinburgh and discussed ecology, St. Francis and the Poll Tax!"

When the party was breaking up it was noticed that Carol was slightly edgy with the corgis. She explained that dogs

sometimes reacted to nuns as they do to Postmen - said the Queen, "But you are nothing like a postman!" Carol was later taken to see the Private Chapel (a quick trip through the glories of the palace). Last to leave, she was seen off by members of the Palace staff, who were extremely kind and friendly during the long walk across the Palace Courtyard to Buck House gates - 3 hours visit and what a 3 hours!

A Policeman's Lot - I hear that I was mentioned in your Village Quiz a few weeks ago, my size 8 feet as well. Perhaps you will now let me introduce myself properly, in the Parish Pump.

P.C. 2949 'Charlie' BURT has now taken over, on his 3-speed 'Raleigh', as the village Bobby for the Gordano Valley area. Some of you already know me, but for those who don't, just a short resumé - I have been a Cop for over 13 years, 10 of those in Portishead, so I know the area pretty well, together with its problems.

If you do have any non-urgent problems, or you want some advice on crime prevention/home security, then phone the local 'nick' on 843139. Should I not be on duty at the time, leave your name and address and I will call later to try and help you out. Don't forget, if it is URGENT, then '999' is the number to dial. I hope I shall be able to patrol the village and look after you, as well as my predecessor John MACKIE.

One last thing, we have quite an active little Social Section, so if anyone wants a 'friendly' game of skittles, darts, cards or anything else that takes your fancy, it can easily be arranged.

P.C. Charlie Burt

#### PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

B3124 Road Improvement Scheme. Parishioners will have seen the legal notices which have recently been published in local newspapers in pursuit of the necessary land acquis-

ition procedures. The Parish Council are not happy about the length of time which the County Council are taking to process the Compulsory Purchase Orders, and are pressing for a more satisfactory rate of progress.

Black Rock Quarry. Councillors are concerned at the lack of consultation over the proposal to move the Albert Road "skips" to the quarry site in Valley Road. The plan was published in the newspapers before the Parish Council had even heard of it.

The Parish Council are opposed to the scheme, mainly because there is already a fly-tipping problem in Valley Road, and this is bound to be much worse if people bring rubbish to the site at times when it is closed. This view has been strongly represented to both the District Council and the Public Protection Committee of Avon.

Common Land Management. A meeting has been held at which the management of Weston Common (Middle Hill) was discussed between councillors, the owner Mr. Lawes, and the Gordano Valley Project Officer of the Avon Wildlife Trust, Mr. Simon Barker. The provision of management plans for common land is the subject of a forthcoming Act of Parliament, and concern has been expressed at the overgrown state of the common, a valuable limestone grassland habitat.

It was agreed that Mr. Barker should be invited to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly in April, after which the Parish Council would establish a committee to consist of representatives from the council, the owner, Avon Wildlife Trust and interested parishioners.

Best Kept Village Competition. This event will again be judged in June and July. Last year the village as a whole gained second place, and Sarah Borland was highly commended for her poster design.

The village orderly, John Curtis, has made great inroads into the debris of the winter. Now is the time for the rest of us to start making sure that in 1988 we do even better.

Future Meetings. Parish Council meetings will be held on:

30th March 25th May 22nd June 3rd August

All these meetings are open to the public, and as usual time will be set aside at the start for parishioners to raise matters of concern.

David Lewis

### ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday 27th April there will be a Parish Council meeting at the unusual time of 7.00 p.m. This will be followed at 8.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish Assembly, which is the opportunity for villagers to make their views known to the Council. The agenda will be as follows:-

1. Chairman's Report
2. Parishioners' comments thereon.
3. Commons Management - Mr. Simon Barker, Gordano Valley Project Officer of Avon Wildlife Trust
4. Question time
5. Chairman's closing remarks.

Items 2 and 4 should give opportunities for almost any subject to be raised, and parishioners are urged to attend to make this a worthwhile meeting.

### Councillors Telephone Numbers:

W. Williams (Chairman)	849814
C. Biddle	849766
D. Lewis	849214
J. Sulley	848857
B. Tyler	Flax Bourton 2203
Mrs M Hunt (Clerk)	847145

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

1988 has begun as we would wish the year to continue, with some really well attended and most enjoyable functions. The first of these was the "Wild West Night" held in January which really was a great success. Tickets were sold out well in advance of the date and I'm afraid some late comers had to be disappointed. A lot of work was put in by the Committee and their families into decorating the hall, what a transformation, it looked magnificent, thank you all very much. As for the night itself I don't know where to start but to say that everybody who came made the evening what it was. We thank each and every one of you for making the effort to dress in 'style' and participate as you did. There are just too many individuals to name but I think all "performers" should be especially thanked. What a wonderful evening of entertainment they gave us - so much work was put into it. Our village really does seem to be blessed with a wealth of talent.



The next function was the Quiz Night at the end of February. It was held in the Village Hall and was very well attended, in fact bulging with would-be Masterminds. A most enjoyable evening was spent racking our brains for dates, names, titles, etc. The worthy winners turned out to be the Imperial Tobacco team followed closely by the church "Smart Set", with joint third place holders "Plum Tree Cottage" and "The Barred". Our grateful thanks go to the organisers Gail Williams, David Lewis, Gwen Griesse and Roger Ettery for such a slick and well run evening. Thanks also to Marilyn Ettery and her band of runners and waitresses for the very welcome refreshments - some of us needed them more than others. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. The evening raised £33 which has been donated to St. Peter's Hospice.

We have decided that we would like to have a trip to the ice skating rink one Sunday morning soon. Anyone who would like to join us please let us know so that we can make definite arrangements.

I'm afraid our plans for a trip to the Cardiff Tattoo this year have to be shelved - there isn't one. We now discover that it is only a bi-annual event. Instead we have had a suggestion of a trip to visit the Blackpool Lights. This would take place in October. Again please let us know those of you who are interested, we can't do anything until we know if anyone wants to join us.

There are still some places left for the weekend camp at Mill Farm on 17/18th June, so just contact any Committee member if you are interested.

Barn Dance tickets are now available at the usual price of £2.50 each for 16th April event. All Committee members have tickets available. Numbers are limited so first come first served must apply and also tickets must be paid for on receipt please, finances do dictate this policy I'm afraid.

Last year some of our youngsters did posters to advertise the Best Kept Village Competition. These were all entered into the County Competition for judging at the end of the year. We were all very pleased to hear that Sarah Borland of "Two Elms" had won a "Highly Commended" award for her poster. Unfortunately she was unable to

attend the presentation in Bath recently but we all congratulate her, and also thank the other children in the village for their efforts.

We would ask again for any suggestions for trips or activities for the village. Please let us know, we are here to organise these things and are always willing to discuss new ideas. Contact numbers are:

Cliff Biddle	849766
Gwen Griesse	844605
Connie Williams	844662
Angela Borland	848781
Ann Redway	847716
Iris Haigh	849019
Alan Leonard	842647

We look forward to hearing from you.

Angela Borland, Secretary

#### ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

A unique feature of our Parish Church is the Medieval Palm Gallery in the porch. This will be used at our special Palm Sunday Service on March 27th at 6.30 p.m. On Good Friday there will be a Devotional Service at 12 noon and on Easter Day the Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. and a Festival Evensong at 6.30 p.m. Sister Lydia, of the Community of the Sisters of the Church has been licensed by the Bishop as a Lay Minister within our United Benefice. She is based at St. Gabriels Dial Hill Road Clevedon and will be helping sometimes at St. Peter & St. Paul.

By the time you receive this we shall have held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The Church Wardens and P.C.C. Members are elected at this. At its last meeting the P.C.C. approved our Church budget for 1988. A large increase in our Diocesan Quota (to off-set an under-assessment in the last two years) means that our church will require an average income of £54 per week - an increase

of £18. This includes almost £10 per week on churchyard upkeep. We much appreciate the grant received towards this from the Parish Council of Weston-in-Gordano and North Weston.

A review has been taking place of the Parishes churches within our Deanery. The provisional conclusion in the case of St. Peter and St. Paul was that the church building was 'suitable but not essential'. This view takes into account the cost of maintenance and insurance, the attendance and the proximity of other churches. The P.C.C. were unanimous in asking that this assessment should be reconsidered, bearing in mind the increased attendance and the more active involvement of parishioners in the life of the church. This does mean, however, that the continued existence of our Parish Church cannot necessarily be taken for granted.

Looking ahead on Sunday, May 8th we are invited to the Annual Rogation Service and Procession followed by tea in the Village Hall. There will be no service at St. Peter and St. Paul on that day. From May 14th to 15th we are having a World Wide Church weekend with two visitors from Tanzania. One of them will be preaching at St. Peter and St. Paul on May 15th at 6.30 p.m., and on the previous evening there will be a Tanzanian Evening, including supper in St. Mary's Hall, Clevedon. Tickets will be on sale £2 adults, £1 young people. Finally all our parishes are combining for a visit to Wells Cathedral on Saturday June 4th. This is suitable for all ages, the coach will pick up in the villages at 9.40 a.m.

John Smart. Rector

#### NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

At the January meeting the Institute decided to submit an entry to this years' Bath and West show.

A number of members are going to the Victorian Rooms in Bristol on Thursday, 28th April to see a performance of the Desert Song by the Western Opera Players.

Two teams were 'volunteered' to take part in the Quiz held in the Village Hall.

The speakers for this evening were Sgt. Davis and W.P.C. Young of Avon and Somerset Constabulary. They discussed various aspects of their work and the evening was enjoyable and thought provoking.

February meeting four new members joined, Mrs. Gamlin, Barry, Appleton and Hillier. The Institute decided to entertain a group of elderly people for afternoon tea on 27th July in response to a request from The Link Society Services Dept, County of Avon.

It was decided that the Institute's Summer Show be held on 9th July.

The possibility of a full day and evening trip in the Summer was discussed. Details will be given at a later date.

The speaker was Mr. Best the well-known local vet who told of his experiences working in Africa. This meeting had been open to the village generally and there were several visitors. Our correspondent was unfortunately unable to be there but heard from several of the evenings' audience that it was an exceptionally interesting evening.

#### W.I. Dates:

April 20th - Avon Cosmetics make-up demonstration. Would any mums with teenage daughters like to come?

The demonstration will be at 7.45, the business part of the meeting after the tea/coffee.

May 24th - Birthday outing to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Devon, Working Wool Museum, chance to buy knitting yarn and cloth, conducted tour round the mill, and a meal. Coach from the White Hart at 6 p.m., returning about 11 p.m. Cost no more than £4 (might be less if we fill the coach) plus the price of the meal. Details from Marilyn Ettery or Gwyneth Challenor. Meals - £3.50 and £4 for dinner, pudding tea or coffee. Seats available to non members.

June 15th - Mrs. Peggy Alexander, 'Natural Colages' and slides.

We are planning a day trip by coach to Cricket St. Thomas one day in August. Details in next newsletter.  
W.I. Summer Show will be July 9th - schedules available in June.

Gwen Griesse

### VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

As well as looking after the general administration of the Hall, the Committee has responsibilities for maintenance and general development of the Hall as a Village Amenity. Recently short-, medium- and long-term projects have been under discussion. Within the very near future, to comply with new Safety Regulations, circuit-breaking devices will be installed in the power circuits, and interior decoration work started.

In the medium-term, it will be necessary to improve the toilet/entrance part of the Hall, when it should be possible with an extension to incorporate the kitchen in this same area, so giving a slight increase to the existing main hall floor space. Looking even further ahead in the long-term, ultimately it is hoped to be able to extend the far end of the hall to provide even more floor space and possibly a stage/storage area.

The coming A.G.M. is scheduled for April 28th, when following the Constitution, the whole of the Committee leaves office and a new committee has to be elected by all those present. This is also an opportunity for villagers to ask questions and make suggestions or criticism, all of which are valued by the Committee who are always anxious to ensure that the Hall is being run and used as the village in general wants it to be.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Paul Alexander

### HISTORY LESSON

Did you ever hear the story of the political donkey?

It seems a few years ago (not so many that people can't remember), there was a licensee who was a passionate supporter of a political party. Which party is not terribly important, and will become clear as the story unfolds.

It's enough to say that his enthusiasm for his principles was frequently voiced across the bar, so much so that his regulars (not all of whom agreed with his sympathies) grew heartily sick of listening to them. The volume of the propaganda (and the answering arguments) increased greatly as polling day approached for a General Election, and in the corner of the snug a plot was hatched.

The day dawned, and very soon after dawn the landlord was awoken by a fearsome banging on the door of the pub. In his night attire he struggled down the stairs and opened the main door. The sight that faced him was accompanied, possibly, by a faint snigger from behind a garden wall. What he saw was a donkey, a fine specimen, unusual in being normally pure white, but on this occasion dyed an eloquent shade of blue! Its halter was tied to the doorknocker, and the whole device was animated by the careful placement of a bale of hay - just out of the animals reach. And as it reached, it knocked, and knocked

.....  
I'm assured it's a true story, happening in living memory - and most importantly, in this village. And it made me wonder just how many more stories there are waiting to be told, and written down before they are forgotten. Sam Sprigg has gone, as has Joe Oldfield and Fred Symes, and how much they must have taken with them which can never be recalled.

Let's not lose all our history. Let's get it written down. Here in Parish Pump if nowhere else. But I don't know all the stories. So over to those of you who do. Please.



WESTON GOES WILD ! (with poetic licence)

Main Street was quiet that Saturday night  
 Hardly a Colt or a Mustang in sight  
 Away in the distance there I clapped my eyes on  
 A line of Sierras that formed the Horizon  
 A Nova-all light being cast by the moon  
 Not Datsun blazing down, like it did in 'High Noon'  
 But under the Astra (that's Latin for "stars")  
 I heard singing and music played on two guitars  
 Country and Western, a Range Rover tune  
 That's how I discovered the Weston Saloon!

Cowboys and cowgirls all let down their hair  
 An Indian brave and his squaw, also there  
 Bar-tenders in braces were doling out liquor  
 The service they offered could not have been slicker  
 Cow-hands and others, some wearing blue jeans  
 Tucked into their chuck, more than just a few beans  
 At tables which all round the room were bestrewn  
 That evening to furnish the Weston Saloon!

Up there on a platform, performers appeared  
 With "Yippees" and "Yahoos" all of them were cheered  
 They played and they sang; how that audience applauded  
 Some fantastic fiddling was likewise rewarded  
 Ev'ry act well received with lots of big-handing  
 The "Three Dollies" blouses.... were truly outstanding!  
 And "last orders, please" seemed to come all too soon  
 That evening to finish the Weston Saloon  
     The hootin', the rootin', the tootin', the shootin'  
     Grand highfalutin' Great Weston Saloon!

Contributors please note:- DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE  
 IS SUNDAY 26th JUNE

Editors: G.Williams & S.Redway

Contact Address: Old Post Office, Weston-In-Gordano