

# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

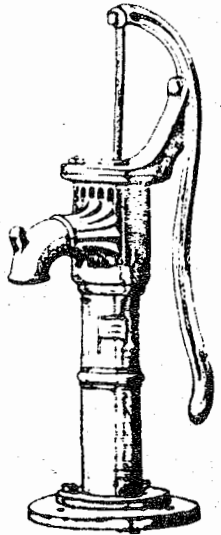
Editors: G. Williams & S. Redway

Contact Address: Old Post Office, JULY 1988  
Weston-In-Gordano

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 1st - 14th  
July 6th  
July 7th  
July 9th  
July 23rd  
August 7th  
August 14th  
September 4th  
September 18th

Best Kept Village Judging  
Public Meeting (Parish Council)  
Weston Moor Walk  
W.I. Summer Show  
Church Fete  
Middle Hill Working Party  
Middle Hill Working Party  
1st Morning Family Communion  
Harvest Festival



## EDITORIAL

Phew! Bigger than ever this quarter - where will it all end we ask ourselves. On a more serious note, we would like to say a big thankyou to all the village organisations for their donations this year, especially the Parish Council and the Social Committee.

Two regular contributions start with this issue - welcome to Bill Dixon who will be telling us what flora and fauna we can be looking for in the area and to the new Middle Hill Common Management Committee.

## POT POURRI

### Comings and Goings



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

Rachel Louise, 6lbs 12oz, born 23rd May, 1988, a daughter for Joy and Pete Kelly.

Emma Claire, 8lb 13oz, born 30th May, 1988, a daughter for Penny and Steve Rogers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Welcome to Rosemary and Derek Menary who have moved into No.1, The Close, and welcome back to Sybil and Norman Hawken after some months' absence.

Pumpkin Contest - Some plants are still available from Cliff Biddle or David Lewis.

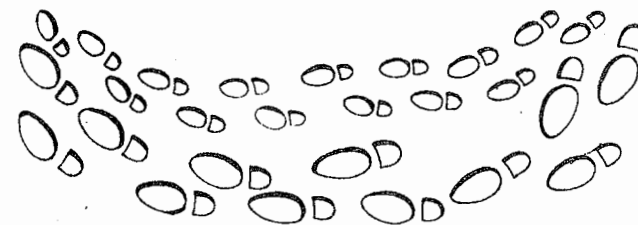
Tug-of-War - Once again two teams sallied forth to do battle at Walton Fete on June 18th. The Ladies, alias The Jolly Green Giants, achieved a resounding victory - well done girls.

The Men did their darnedest but only managed a placing - better luck next year boys. Thanks to Geoff for his training and encouragement and we would like to remind everyone that training for next year's match starts on January 1st!! P.S. The Ladies have been invited to demonstrate their skills at Clevedon Comprehensive School Fete on July 16th - cheerleaders welcome'

Art Class - Derek Menary would like to set up an Art Class in the Village. We know there are several 'artists' out there but are sure there are others hiding their 'lights'.

A list is on each of the public notice boards so if you are interested please add your name by 15th July.

### YOUNG PEOPLE



Calling all budding artists, scientists, photographers etc. .... the new Middle Hill Common Management Committee needs help. Before we embark of the physical management of the Common we would like to record it in its present state and we are asking YOUNG people to help us during the summer holiday. We have some super fantastic prizes for the best efforts, which can take any form you like - a drawing, a painting, a map, a photographic collection or if you are feeling really ambitious, a full geological or natural history survey. You have plenty of time - entries to be with Mrs Hunt or Mrs Williams by September 2nd please. We would ask you not to submit dried flowers or preserved insects as many of the species up there are already severely threatened.

### Sponsored Slim -

Many thanks to all those who took part in our second Sponsored Slim; it wasn't such a good turnout as the previous one but obviously everyone lost so much weight the first time round they didn't need to bother!!

Simon Haigh won the bottle of wine for losing the most weight - 1st 8lbs - well done Simon, and Robin Mabbs won the Chocolate Orange for the most sponsor money which totalled £57.00 - well done also to Robin

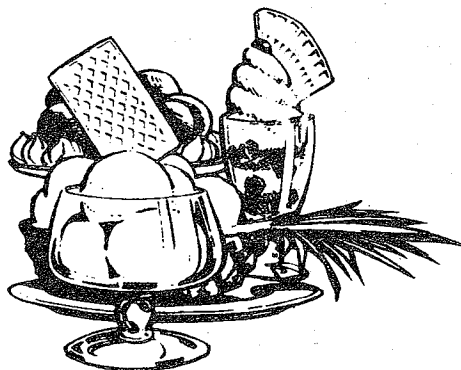
Well done everyone else that took part and especially the ones who had been on holiday and had to pay a forfeit for putting on weight!!

It was all for a splendid cause and a total of £146.50 is now on its way to the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal. Many thanks to Keith and Gail for printing the forms and the use of their talking scales!! A big thankyou to all who took part and will keep you posted for when the next one is going to start.

Ann Redway

Keep Fit - As most of the regulars know, Keep Fit will only run to when the children break up, so we have a few more weeks left - fortunately! (I was only joking Fay). So anyone out there who would like to join us, don't be shy - start with us in September (date to be confirmed with Fay Leonard, our teacher and will be posted on Notice Boards). So keep your eyes peeled and come along to get fit and healthy with the rest of us - ugh!! Joking apart, many thanks to Fay for taking us because we are all a lot fitter and healthier thanks to her.

Ann Redway



Sponsored Swim - On 23rd April, two teams represented our village in a sponsored swim, organised by the Rotary Clubs of Portishead and Clevedon. The event took place at the Strode Centre in Clevedon. All money raised was in aid of 'Polio Plus' - a scheme designed to rid the world of polio, and provide vaccination against other diseases in the Third World.

Six younger members of the village made up the 'Young Wigs' team - Sarah and Elizabeth Borland, Peter and Christopher Leonard, Lucy Williams and Ian Simons. They completed a magnificent 115 lengths in the allotted 55 mins, taking it in turns to swim lengths.

The 'Big Wigs', comprising Robin and Lynette Mabbs, Alan and Fay Leonard, Ian Borland and Simon Haigh then had to take to the water. Having cheered the 'Young Wigs' in their efforts, they showed their competitive spirit and managed to swim 129 lengths.

Sponsors were very generous and a total of £300 was raised by the village.

The event was enjoyed by all, particularly as it was so well organised and for such a worthy cause.

Fay Leonard

Best Kept Village - In case you haven't seen the Notice Boards recently, you will be pleased to know that we are through to the second round of the Best Kept Village Competition. 2nd judging will take place 1st - 14th July. Nice to see so many entries in the painting competition and what a super job John Curtis is doing.

### VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Favourable comments have been made about the new look in the Hall after its re-decoration and thanks are due to the small but enthusiastic group of volunteers for their efforts with paint brushes and rollers. In a matter of only a few hours the work was completed.

The Committee received a generous offer from the Social Committee of a complete set of new curtains to match in

with the new colour scheme: an offer accepted with grateful thanks by the Committee, on behalf of all users of the Hall. Unfortunately the date set aside for the A.G.M. eventually clashed with that for another function, so there were very few attending the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee. Under the terms of the Constitution all members of the Committee resign after serving for the year, with a fresh set of Officers and Members being elected by those present at the meeting. The new Committee are:-

Chairman:	Mr P. Jacobs
Hon. Secretary:	Mr S. Redway
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs D. Nethercott
Bookings Sec.	Mrs A. Redway
and members	Mrs G. Ward
	Mr P. Alexander
	Mr G. Williams
	Mr I. Borland

There is still one vacant place for another committee member. Contact the Hon. Sec. anyone interested' Date of the next Committee meeting: July 6th: 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Paul Alexander

#### NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

Another very active period as follows:

April 20th there was an Avon Cosmetics demonstration. Mrs Bull's daughter Louise, who was visiting Mum came and volunteered to be a model. As she was one of the youngest women there, the final result sent the older members rushing to the display of materials etc. with enthusiasm ....

May 18th Mrs J. South V.C.O. came to discuss the Resolutions submitted to the A.G.M. in London on 2nd June. Mrs S. Derrick was our representative. We also celebrated our Twentieth Birthday at this meeting. Our President provided a beautifully decorated cake and the Committee provided the supper. It was an instructive and enjoyable evening enhanced by a glass of wine.

May 24th a coach was hired to take us to the Coldharbour

Woollen Mill at Uffculm in Devon. This is a working mill, although the output is no longer for general marketing but limited to specific orders. We were lucky with the weather, the mill is in a pleasant setting and we went straight to a meal which we had ordered in advance. We were efficiently served and having enjoyed our meal, we were directed to the sheds where the whole processes of spinning and weaving were demonstrated to us. It was most interesting and very well explained. We then went to the shop - it is expected that the new wool skirts and jumpers, made from materials purchased there will be on show in the Autumn

June 15th Mrs Peggy Alexander, one of our members, brought for display several of her pictures made from natural material - seeds, grasses etc. gathered by herself. She was assisted by her husband Paul who showed us relevant slides as Peggy explained the processes of gathering, preparing and creating the finished pictures. This really was an interesting and inspiring evening.

#### Future Dates



#### July 9th - The Summer Show

Schedules have been distributed to all in the village. We hope people will enter, visit and enjoy exhibits and cream teas.

July 20th - Members' Night - Denise Instone and Sheilagh Williams have volunteered (??). We await with anticipation their 'happening'.

August - No meeting

September 21st - Mr G. Cullen of OXFAM.

Gwen Griesse

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr. Bill Williams was re-elected Chairman and Cllr. David Lewis vice-chairman, for the forthcoming year.

### B3124 Road Improvement Scheme

The compulsory purchase procedure pursues its ponderous way forward, and it is hoped that a date will soon be set for the inevitable Public Local Enquiry.

### Tipping

Your council continues to suffer from a lack of cooperation from the District and County Councils in the matter of the tip. It had been hoped that Woodspring might take up the cudgels on behalf of the village and take enforcement action against the artificial prolongation of the life of the tip by the removal of peat to cover the adjoining Local Authority site. It now appears that the District, like Avon, have no stomach for the fight.<sup>3</sup> fight.

Meanwhile representations continue to be made in respect of apparent breaches of licence conditions such as the mud carried onto the main road during the spring.

### Footpath across Weston Moor

The final pieces of evidence in support of the existence of a footpath from Weston Drove along the Valley to link with the path from Toggart Stile have now been collected, and legal notices will soon be served on the relevant landowners.

### Size of the Council

Councillors have been concerned lately that, on a council of five members, one of whom has suffered a long illness, and another who is occasionally away from the village, meetings have been held with the bare quorum of three present. This means that, in a vote, the opinion of a mere two councillors could prevail, which is clearly undesirable. Decisions have, in fact, been postponed until a later meeting when attendance might be better.

Preliminary discussions are being held with Woodspring D.C. with a view to increasing the size of the council to seven. Should this prove to be impossible, another proposal is to

form a General Purposes Committee to conduct much of the business of the Council. This committee would include all five council members, and two co-opted members.

### Middle Hill Common Management Committee

The first meeting of the newly formed Common Management Committee took place in May, and a report appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Best Kept Village Competition

This event is upon us once again, and it is hoped that villagers will feel spurred on by last year's relative success (we were second in our class) to aim for even better things this year. The Parish Council is doing its part by organising the efforts of the village orderly, John Curtis, who has done a first class job in tidying up many of the public parts of the village. Now it is up to the rest of us to make sure that our own small corners are presentable. Quite apart from the competition, it will make the village an even more pleasant place to live through the summer.

### Future Meetings

Meetings will take place on August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd, November 30th, and if you can bear the thought, January 4th 1989.

All meetings begin at 7.30 p.m., when time is made available for members of the public to ask questions and raise matters of concern. All meetings are open to the public.

David Lewis

## MIDDLE HILL COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

What is a common? Doesn't it, sort of, belong to everyone? You can go there and have a picnic, fly your kite, take the dog for a walk, that sort of thing, can't you?

That's what I thought until I read the Open Spaces Society's publication "Our Common Right", which opened my eyes to a number of surprising facts. I don't propose to pass them all on to you - not here, anyway, because there isn't space. But the most important is that commons do belong to someone, and it isn't you and me. Moreover, some 80% of them

are not even legally accessible to the public.

My interest in the subject began when I noticed that the character of "our" common (Middle Hill - just head up Hill Lane and keep on going) had changed rather drastically even in the short time I have lived in the village (nine years come August!) What was once principally one long sprawling grassy bank, rich in wild flowers and frequented by butterflies and other insects, was beginning to look like a giant blackberry plantation.

This realisation coincided with the receipt by the Parish Council of the Open Spaces Society's document, and talk in local circles of a forthcoming change in the law. This change is good news and bad news. The good news is that the public are likely to be given a right of access to all common land - in many cases for the first time ever. The bad news is that local councils are to be charged with the responsibility of devising management plans for the commons within their areas. Cutting the story short, your council in their wisdom have entrusted me with the chairmanship of a Management Committee for Middle Hill, in an attempt to be ahead of the law for once, and to try to arrest the takeover of the common by those football hooligans of the British flora, brambles and bracken.

The other good news is that "our" common is actually owned by an enlightened and interested landowner, Mr Martin Lawes, who is a member of the Management Committee. Without his cooperation, in the present state of the law, the committee might as well pack up and tend their own gardens. We are also fortunate to have the help and support of the Avon Wildlife Trust, at present through the Gordano Valley Project Officer Simon Barker, and on his departure to the Wye Valley through local naturalist Bill Dixon.

Other committee members are John Howard, a "commoner", which means he is one of two local people who have the right to graze the common; Margaret Hunt, Gail Williams and John Curtis. At present plans for managing the common are not far advanced; we are working on recording the existing state of the area so as to provide a baseline for comparison as work proceeds. No physical work is likely before the

autumn, and even then it is not proposed to plough up the whole area and alter everything beyond recognition. The priorities are to stop the encroachment of coarse overgrowth which is blotting out the present limestone grassland vegetation, consisting of wild vetches and other small flowering species. These are valuable for their own sakes and also for the animal species which feed upon them.

In the past twenty years, one species of butterfly has disappeared completely from the Gordano Valley, (the Chalkhill Blue). Another, the Adonis Blue, has not been recorded since 1983. Two other members of the same family, (the Brown Argus and the Small Blue), live in the same limestone grassland habitat, and it is this diminishing stock of wild flora and fauna which we wish to preserve on Middle Hill.

Watch this space for further progress reports, and be ready to report for duty in the autumn when we hope to organise working parties to undertake the actual labour of pushing back the vandalising vegetation. It could even turn out to be fun.

David Lewis

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

I'm afraid we have had a quiet few months recently, but the few events that we have organised have been really most enjoyable.

We signed off last Pump's entry looking forward to another Barn Dance in April, which went with a real swing. A new band and caller introduced us to some unfamiliar dances, which took us a little time to get the hang of, and really "separated the men from the boys", but thank goodness we can all enjoy a good laugh together.

The weekend camp scheduled for June I'm afraid we had to cancel. Unfortunately, after we had paid our deposits, some people were going to be unable to attend as they had previously said they could, and as we had to have a minimum of 20 in the party, we wouldn't have been able to make these numbers.





At the beginning of June we arranged to have a casual evening walk around Weston Big Wood, guided by Bill Dixon, who is an active member of the Avon Wildlife Trust. What a really pleasant evening it turned out to be, with so much learnt by us all, thanks very much indeed Bill. Bill has offered to guide another evening walk, this time on Weston Moor, which he says is especially interesting at this time of the year, so we have arranged

this for Thurs. 7th July, 7.15p.m. at the top of Cadbury Lane. This is not a full-speed hike, but a pleasant evening stroll, so do please join us, we even had a few accompanied children and dogs last time, all are very welcome.

We're still waiting for responses to other suggested trips from the last issue, so please do let us know.

Finally, may we say a big 'Thankyou' to Gwen Griesse who has resigned from the Social Committee for personal reasons. She has offered to continue to help when and where she can, so Gwen, look out, we intend to keep you to that.

Angela Borland

### ST. PETER & ST PAUL

A recent visiting preacher was Captain Ben Hodgson, Area Representative of the Church Army. He spoke of the many social problems especially among young people, and of the social and evangelistic work of the many lay men and women officers that belong to the Church Army. Much of this work is in urban priority areas and on housing estates. In order to develop existing and new Church sponsored work in these areas the Church of England has recently launched a Church Urban Fund. It is intended that a small proportion on the

income of this fund should come from the Parishes. Our Parish Target over two years is £330 and the P.C.C. have decided that Harvest Festival would be an appropriate time to seek contributions or pledges from this parish. There will be more information nearer the time in the Parish Magazine. The Harvest Festival will be on Sunday September 18th.

The Church Fete takes place on Saturday July 23rd at 2.30 p.m. at Barn End, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Carrad. The proceeds will be for general Church Funds, including the repairs to the Bell Frame which are to be carried out later this year at a cost of £1000. We hope the Fete will be very well supported. During the afternoon the winners will be announced of the Grand Draw which has several first rate prizes. Have you had your tickets yet? It is being organised by Norman and Sybil Hawken. Mrs Gail Williams is now our Church Treasurer as replavement to Miss F. Atherton who has retired after many years of excellent service in this important post.

It will soon be possible to have a regular Sunday Morning Family Communion Service once a month. This is as a result of the assistance offered by the Revd David Bowen, who is on the staff of Gordano School. It will be at 9.30 a.m. every first Sunday in the month. This new arrangement begins on Sunday September 4th. We hope it will help more parishioners especially perhaps younger families to worship more often.

John Smart, Rector

### CAR TREASURE HUNT

Lots of our villagers took part in a Car Treasure Hunt on June 10th organised by Gail Williams and Simon Haigh on behalf of the United Benefice. Groups of happy hunters were to be seen that night in Walton St. Mary, on the seafront at Clevedon, down at St. Andrews Church in Old Clevedon (trying to find out who was "washed, sanctified & justified") and in Kingston Seymour. We all ended up at "The Ship" eating a splendid supper prepared by Vic and Debbie. A combined party of Brian & Denise Instone and Peter and

Sheilagh Williams took first prize with full marks, closely followed by the Borland family (2nd) and need we say it, the Smart family (3rd), and the Church coffers have been swelled to the tune of £39.16. Thanks go to our intrepid helpers - Iris, Gwen, Lucy and Keith.

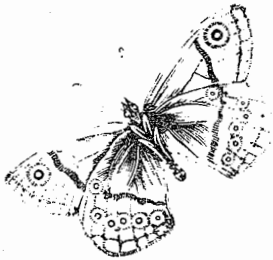
Simon Haigh

### PATRONAL FESTIVAL

It was lovely to see an almost full church for the celebration of our Patron Saints - Peter and Paul, on Wednesday 29th June. The choir of All Saints swelled our singing and the address was given by the Rev. Richard Guest of Tickenham. Most of the congregation later enjoyed tea, sandwiches and a chat in the village hall. During the evening an inscribed plate was presented to Miss F. Atherton in recognition of 34 years of sterling service as Church Treasurer.

G.W.

### COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY



#### Middle Hill Common

Middle Hill supports one of the largest local colonies of the Marbled White Butterfly and these should be appearing in July. Indeed July should be a good month for butterflies on the common. Look out for Common Blue and Brown Argus, and if you are lucky, Small Blue butterflies. The food plants of the

Common Blue (Birds Foot trefoil) and Brown Argus (yellow Rock Rose) will be in flower as will be the Ox Eye Daisy which the Marbled White butterflies like to settle on. Other interesting flowers in July will include Quaking Grass, Blue Flax, and Wild Scabious, amongst a host of species flowering at this time.

Weston Moor There should still be good numbers of Southern Marsh Orchids flowering on the top part of the A.W.T. Reserve and Twayblade Orchids in the reed bed section of the

reserve. Interesting species of birds nest in this area. In the reeds look out for Reed and Sedge Warblers (although they are difficult to see hiding in the reeds) and often sitting on the Sallow bushes you may see male Reed Buntings characterized by their black head and monotonous song. Butterflies to see here include the Small Heath and Small Copper.

Weston Bigwood - Most of the woodland flowers are over. In the Ride there are over 100 species of flowers, a mixture of wasteland colonisers and woodland plants. There are good numbers of young birds around and you may hear if not see young Green Woodpeckers and Tawny Owls.

Walton Common A lot of Rockrose should be in flower. This is a good area to see the Purple Haintreak butterfly flying around the stunted oak trees in the middle of the Common although July is getting a little late for this species.

Bill Dixon

### HISTORY LESSON

It had started snowing late on Boxing Day. Little did anyone know it at the time, but this was to turn into the worst winter since 1948. Mum and Dad could have chosen a better time, they thought, but the die was cast. They had made arrangements for their daughter to be Baptised and Baptised she would be. Overnight winds had caused the snow to drift in the narrow lane where their cottage lay and their car was totally buried so they set off to walk the mile to Weston Church. It may well have been warm enough for snow outside but inside the Church it was as cold as only a Weston congregation can know. They settled themselves, stamping their feet and rubbing their hands. The Rector arrived and having shaken the snow from galoshes and gamp, started the Service. But where was the Holy Water? .... back at the Rectory. Donning galoshes and gamp once again, he set off, leaving the congregation to their thoughts. Back he came, bearing the Holy Water in a goldfish bowl, placed the bowl in the font and proceeded to Baptise the child from it. We would dearly like to know what was happening to the goldfish in the meantime.



### STOP PRESS 1

At a very recent meeting of the 'Common Committee', it was decided that some preliminary work could profitably be carried out during August, and the 7th has been set aside as the date for our first working party which will take place in two sessions, (if fine), at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. There will be another session on 14th August if the work is not completed.

We would love to see volunteers with long-handled slashers, billhooks, rakes, dung-forks, etc. (and don't forget gloves). If anyone can provide and use a strimmer with blade please liaise with Bill Dixon (849200) before the date. Young people will be especially welcome but for safety's sake we cannot allow anyone under 16 to operate power tools.

Meet at the top of Hill Lane by the footpath sign.

### STOP PRESS 2

Well we must have been good somewhere along the way, because for the Bar-B-Que last Saturday evening the rain held off for us throughout the evening. After a day of torrential showers which were sent to tear at our nerve endings and torture us to the bitter end (6.15p.m. in fact), the weather cleared, though became rather cold unfortunately. BUT though the grass was wet, it couldn't attempt to dampen the enjoyment we all had or the pleasure that was given to us by the excellent entertainment during the evening. Our very sincere thanks go to Simon and Iris, Robin, Sam and the Barbershop Boys, Geoff, Roger, Ian and Simon. On the sustenance side a fantastic job was performed by Brian, Pete, Ian and Geoff, not forgetting, of course, the girls of the Social Committee for the 'cold' part of the meal. Very many thanks to you all. And then there was the liquid refreshment that kept many a vocal chord well-oiled, once again our Bar Boys did us proud, thanks Keith and Cliff, we'd be lost without you. But the biggest thanks of all must go to Connie and Geoff Williams for letting us use their lovely garden and for all the work put into setting the scene for us, we really do appreciate it.

Contributors please note:- \* \* \* \* \*  
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE  
IS SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER.