

PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1989

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 27th	Burns Night
February 6th	Sponsored Slim
March 5th	Mothering Sunday
March 19th	Palm Sunday
March 24th-26th	Easter
May	Pumpkin plants ready
June 10th	Church Hoe-down (provisional date)

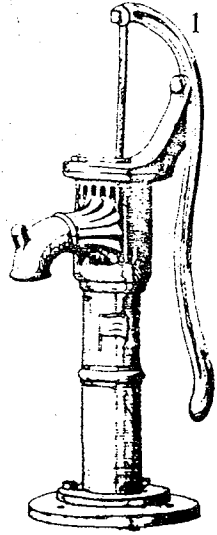
EDITORIAL

There is now a full set of Parish Pumps in a folder in the Village Hall -thanks Gwen.

We forgot to let Bill have spare copies last time round. The omission will be rectified this quarter.

Avon Community Council's Rural Officer, Alison Martin, has left to have a baby. Alison has been both friendly and very helpful to the editors and we would like to take this opportunity to wish her well.

Whilst on the subject of congratulations, we wish a belated Happy 70th to Chris Bessant.



BITS AND BOBS

Mother and Toddler Group

On Thursday, December 11th, Father Christmas visited the Mother and Toddler Group in the Village Hall. Food, sweets, presents, all the party ingredients. It really was most enjoyable and only one baby cried when kindly Father Christmas Hawken looked at her. There is an amazing photograph of Father Christmas trudging down Silver Street.



Gwen Griese

Battle of the Bulge

By popular demand from both sexes - this year's sponsored slim commences on Monday, February 6th, 8.00pm. in the Village Hall. This time we shall be supporting the Bristol branch of CLIC - the cancer and leukaemia in childhood trust. This is a really worthwhile charity which initiates research projects, purchases vital equipment and provides accomodation for parents whose children are undergoing treatment.

This is a total-loss slim so you can join even if you are only a little over-weight. Follow your own regime or advice available and we are VERY DISCREET. Let's see if we can beat last years total of £146.50.

CLIC

Remember, Remember

The Bonfire Party proved to be as popular as ever last year and we were much happier to be on a safer site. The bonfire itself looked to be the biggest ever and there were plenty of fireworks, (too many possibly and we are hoping to order some set pieces for this year). Many thanks to everyone - for the generous donation from the Social Committee, the use of the super site and provision of lighting and, of course, where would we have been without the Guys - one from Chris, Simon Ben, Nigel and Sue and the other from Jon-Paul. Thanks also to Joan and Sue.

Keith Williams

Art Class

A series of eight art classes were held in the Village Hall with Mr. Derek Menary as advisor and patient encourager. We are fortunate to have Derek here in the village willing to give us the benefit of his experience. Trained at Dartington and Exeter University, he has worked professionally in theatre and B.B.C. T.V. He has exhibited widely with one-man and group exhibitions in London, Belfast, St. Ives and various other places, most recently in the Eye Gallery in Bristol where some of us were able to see his work.

Derek has agreed to continue to hold classes on a Thursday evening 7.30 - 9.30pm. Several of us wish to continue but welcome others to join us. Previous experience or expertise is not necessary. At the last sessions some of us were first-time painters, the remainder at every stage of development with oils, water colour, pastels, etc. Anyone wishing to come please contact Gwen Griese (844605) or Marilyn Ettery (843802). Starting dates will be detailed later.

Gwen Griese

Pumpkin Contest 1988

As you may all know, this was held in the White Hart on October 6th last year, and a good evening was had by all. Compared with other years there were very few pumpkins brought along - one good reason being, of course, the very bad season for growing - it's called summer or something. The other reason was that not so many villagers were willing to try their skills at growing them. Well, we had five entries; Mr. Ross Merryfield took first prize with an 88 pounder. Second was Mr. Cliffe Biddle Junior with one at 46 pounds, and Mr. Bill Williams was third at 32 pounds, followed by Mr. Norman Hawken with one of 23 pounds. Mr. Geoff Mitchell quite easily won both the Wooden Spoon with a 14 pounder and also a bottle of wine for the best looking pumpkin.

After all things were paid for it was possible to send £26 to Petersfield Home for the Elderly, for which we have received a letter of thanks.

So come on all you Weston-In-Gordains - have a go and join in the fun - plants will be ready about the last week in May 1989. Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr. David Lewis for helping me to produce the plants, and to Mr. Phil Hodgkinson of our local for all of his help together with his wife Carol. So - Don't Forget May.



C. J. Biddle

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

The past year has been extremely successful for our Institute, and we were pleased to welcome six new members.



We finished the year with an Xmas cake icing demonstration by Mrs. Challenor, a mince pie and wine added to the festive cheer.

Craft afternoons by Mrs. Staley and Mrs. Alexander, making your own Christmas cards and natural collage respectively were also arranged.

"The W.I. Group Christmas Carol Service" attended by several members of the institute was held at St. Nicholas, Portishead, (ex Nautical School church). Gwen Griesse gave the reading for our institute and it was an excellent event with plenty of opportunity for us all to sing our favourite carols.

Our programme for the next 3 months is as follows:

January our speaker is Derek Menary, February we have a Tupperware demonstration presented by Mrs. Mallon, and March Mrs. Rigg is to talk to the Institute on Voices around Great Britain.

We are also the Host Institute for the Spring Group Rally to be held at the Folk Hall, Portishead, on 7th March, 1989 so plenty of volunteers will be required please. The speaker will talk on 'Salmon In The Severn', to be followed by a demonstration of cooking salmon.

Our 'Christmas Treat' for 1988 is to be held on Wednesday 11th January, when a coach will leave the White Hart to take most of our members for an outing to the Theatre Royal, Bath for a guided tour around the theatre followed by lunch and seats for the matinee performance of Robinson Crusoe.

Marilyn Ettery

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Another very successful Wine and Cheese Evening was held on December 10th. The wine flowed, the food disappeared, and the background music was engulfed by glorious chatter.



Paul's raffle was very well received and, thanks to the keenness of all those present, Paul's job was soon complete. Many thanks to the ladies associated with the Committee for the feast, to all the Committee for their hard work, but mostly to all the villagers who came along, not only for enjoyment - but also most importantly to help the Hall funds - thank you all.

The New Year has already begun very mildly - let us hope the frosts do not catch us unawares. Could we ask everyone using the Hall to please ensure that someone turns off the water stop tap by the cooker, flushes the toilets, then opens the sink taps before locking up. A very Happy New Year to you all.

Stuart Redway

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

It is with great regret that we report the death of the wife of Rev. C. P. James, an invalid for some considerable time. Iris died on Saturday, 3rd December, at the Cottage Hospital, Clevedon. We offer our sympathy to the James family. "Father Ted" is a popular preacher in the village church.

On Sunday 18th we celebrated with a Christingle Service. A full church but not as many children as we would have liked. Those attending were very welcome, they joined in answering questions and collecting the decorated oranges, candles alight. The Christmas morning service preached by the Rev. Roland Clark was extremely good and was very well attended.

There was a service of carols and readings on January 1st, together with St. Conygar Singers and a very full congregation. After the service we all enjoyed a glass of sherry and mince pies to celebrate the New Year. As one visitor was heard to say as she left "and good pastry makers too".

The church looked really beautiful again this year with a lighted Crib and Christmas Tree together with the excellent flower decorations. It would have been worth anyone visiting (churchgoers or not). Our church responds well to such attention and it is very rewarding to the 'decorators'.

The Church has given to the following Appeals and Charities this year:- Sudan Appeal, Armenian Disaster, Royal British Legion, Childrens Society and the Church Army.

Future Events

United Benefice Dance - 27th January

Mothering Sunday Services - 5th March

Family Communion - 9.30 a.m.

Family Service - 6.30 p.m.

Palm Sunday - 19th March

A special service at 6.30 p.m. with the traditional procession to our historic Palm Gallery.

Good Friday Service -

12 noon 24th March

Easter Sunday celebrations -

Holy Communion - 9.30 a.m.

Evensong - 6.30 p.m.



Gwen Griesse

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

May we first start by wishing everybody a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and thank everybody for giving us the support we needed for our various activities during 1988

At the A.G.M. held in October, the previous committee was re-elected for another year of duty. and just as a reminder to you, they are as follows:

Mr. Cliff Biddle	Chairman	849766
Mrs. Connie Williams	Treasurer	844662
Mrs. Angela Borland	Secretary	848781

Mrs. Ann Redway
Mrs. Iris Haigh
Mr. Alan Leonard

847716*
849019
842647

Last November we held another Barn Dance in the village Hall with a good turn-out and plenty of good dancing and entertainment, the band was really excellent and they made the evening a great success for us.



The week before Christmas we gathered again on a beautiful evening with our song sheets and lanterns and toured the village, (or should that be tortured the village), singing Christmas Carols at pertinent spots along the way. We all had a most enjoyable evening as I hope those of you who heard us. May I thank all of you who helped us raise the volume of our choral attainments. I would also like to thank those wonderful villagers who gave a little sustenance and liquid refreshment to us along the way; it certainly helps a great deal and makes the evening a really good social occasion. But most important of all we are thrilled to be able to tell you that we collected £80.00 on our travels which has been sent to the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal. We thank you all for your wonderful generosity.

The next event to look forward to and write up in your diaries is the "Burns Night" celebration we are holding in the Village Hall on January 27th at 7.30 p.m. This will be a light-hearted social evening with bits and pieces of Scottish 'entertainment' thrown in here and there

and a supper served to suit the occasion - there will be an alternative to Haggis if it doesn't suit your palate! Tickets are now on sale from any member of the Social Committee but these are restricted in number so make sure you don't miss out this year and get your tickets early! Also please don't forget that we would love you to do your special 'party piece' on the night. so please let us know if you can and we'll let you have more details.

Angela Borland



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

New Councillor

In the recent bye-election caused by the resignation of Councillor J. Sulley, Mr. Ian Borland was elected and joined the Council at the December meeting.

Parish Council Committee

This was formed at the December meeting by the cooption of Mrs.M.Fletcher and Mr.S.Haigh, to join the 5 elected Councillors. This Committee will discuss most matters arising in the Council, with the main exceptions of financial matters and adoption of Standing Orders. The composition of this Committee will be reviewed annually by the Council.

Council Standing Orders

The Council has basically agreed a set of Standing Orders, to be observed by the Council and any committees formed by it.

Black Rock Quarry

Avon County Council have not yet given approval for tipping in the Quarry. Before any decision can be made, hydro geological studies must be completed showing to where the quarry water drains.

Road Improvement Scheme.

No decision has been received to date from the Department of the Environment, regarding the appeal held in November against compulsory land purchase orders.

Bungalow at Meadow View Farm.

The Inspector from the Department of the Environment has upheld the appeal against Woodspring District Council's decision to refuse planning application for a bungalow, to be built on land at Meadow View Farm.

Best Kept Village Competition-1989

The Council have agreed that we should again enter this competition, and are considering ways of organising our effort.

Bill Williams

SYBIL'S NIBBLES

Once again, a great success. The food was tremendous and the liquid refreshment must also have been because we hear certain folk (who will remain nameless as we don't want to be sued), cannot remember getting home' £126.70 was raised for the Garden Fete Raffle and we hear on the grapevine that there are still a few gallons stashed away - roll on the next one'

THE WHITE HART

The change in hours to all day opening became a 'non event' late in August, however, it will be interesting to see how things develop during 1989.

Donations to charity from the 'pub' in the last few months totalled £348.00.

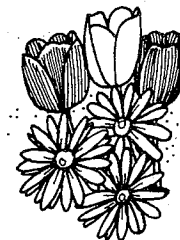
£171 went to St. Peter's Hospice from the collecting box, sale of calendars and Christmas carol service held on the 19th December.

Children in Need benefitted by £135 collected by Donna Clark and Diane during the Friday evening.

Petersfield O.P.H. received £26 from the proceeds of our Pumpkin Competition which was won by Ross Merryfield. The competitors were down this year due to the bad weather and the pumpkins which survived were few and far between

The Poppy Appeal raised £16.

Many thanks to everyone for their help and generosity during 1988 and we hope to achieve even more Charity events during 1989.



The Village Pub at last won the coveted 1st prize for the outside flowers in the Courage/Courvoisier competition. Many thanks to Cliff Biddle and Frank Howell for their help and advice.

1988 certainly went out in style at the 'Hart' thanks to our amazingly talented villagers' We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Phil Hodgkinson

ROAD ACTION GROUP

A Local Public Enquiry into the improvement of the B3124 was held on 10th November 1988 at the Somerset Hall.

This came about as a result of the objection to the proposed scheme by Mr. B. Tyler.

Official evidence was given by Avon County Council, Woodspring District Council and the County Engineer. Representations were also made by our Parish Council, the Road Action Group and by Mr. D. Lewis. Mr. Tyler represented himself.

In essence, the county plan is for the improvement of the road between Hill Lane and the Church. This would involve some widening of the highway, a traffic priority system over the pinch-point at the bottom of Silver Street and a footpath on both sides of the road. Demolition of the Carpenter's Shop and part of the Cart Shed would be entailed.

Mr. Tyler objected on the grounds that such demolition was unnecessary and submitted two alternative plans. These indicated that either or both of these buildings could be saved.

Objections to Mr. Tyler's plans were put forward on the following bases:-

- a) No. 1 Silver Street would have to be demolished.
- b) There was provision for only one footpath - on the north side - and even so, it would be impossible to achieve both a satisfactory road width and an adequate footpath opposite Gordano Cottage.
- c) The width of the road would be so reduced as to necessitate the provision of traffic lights on the highway

plus repeaters for all residents living between the main sets.

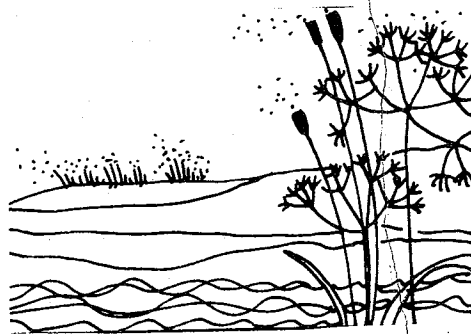
The decision of the Inspector is awaited.

Gail Williams

COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

The winter time allows us the view the countryside in a slightly different way. Most of the trees are now bare allowing us to see their branch structure and also helps us to see birds that are normally hidden from view in the summer. You can actually identify different trees at a distance by the shape and colour of their branches. For example the hybrid Black Poplars which are common in the valley have their tops splayed open rather than rounded while the Silver Birch is readily identified by its whitish bark and thin rather "weedy" branches.

This winter has been exceptionally mild so far and a number of plants are in flower at the moment. I have seen Scarlet Pimpernel, Red and White Dead Netles, Dandelion and Cow Parsnip along the side of the road this year already.



If the weather turns cold some more winter visiting birds should turn up in the valley. Look out for Snipe on Weston Moor and Redpoll and Siskin in the Alder trees at the edges of the moor. One interesting bird to look out for at the moment is the Blackcap Warbler, a summer visitor which has started to overwinter with us in recent years. It is the size of a robin, greyish brown on the back with a white chest and characterized by a cap over the eye, black in the male and brown in the female. Its favourite food in the winter appears to be the berries of the Fire-thorn bush (Pyracantha) and one turned up in my garden recently.

You may have seen the odd moth or so in your headlights recently. If you this would almost certainly be the 'Winter

Moth' which flies throughout the winter months. You would only have seen males as the female of this species is wingless.

Bill Dixon

HISTORY LESSON

Extracts from 'The Times', April 1981

Only one British prime minister has died in office at a murderer's hands.

Spencer Perceval, about whom even less would be known had he died in his bed, met his fate within the Palace of Westminster on May 11, 1812. Then, 'The Times' gave the event maximum coverage, although the single-column headline, "Parliamentary Intelligence", did not immediately convey the gravity of the occurrence.

"About a quarter past five", we reported, "Mr Perceval was entering the lobby of the House of Commons, where a number of persons were standing, when a man who had a short time previously placed himself in the recess of the doorway within the lobby, drew out a small pistol and shot Mr Perceval in the lower part of the left breast.

.... The man, John Bellingham was immediately overpowered by bystanders and asked if he had done the deed. "he replied: 'I am the unhappy man', but appeared quite undisturbed. They took him away to a waiting coach in Lower Palace Yard, "but the crowd, which was at first composed of decent people, had been gradually swelled by a concourse of pick-pockets and the lower orders", some of whom cheered, and tried to let him out of the coach.

After a one-day trial at the Old Bailey, "He was hanged at Newgate on a wet Monday morning, and his body delivered to the surgeons for dissection. Because of the weather, there was a thin turn-out of spectators".

Remember, remember, the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
Bad old Guy Fawkes being burned twice tonight,
Not at Tyburn, but on a farm lot.

Potatoes, potatoes, in jackets kept warm,
Sandwiches, wine, squash and pies.
Traditional toffee to stick to your teeth,
And sausages up to your eyes.

The fireworks, the fireworks, we've got such a lot
Of fountains and bangers it seems,
Of catherine wheels, rockets that head for the skies
And sparklers for under 15's.

The bonfire, the bonfire, the biggest one ever,
Setting the whole sky alight
Giving spectators such warm happy faces
And now that it's over - Goodnight!

(Anon for obvious reasons)

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for next issue
is 25th March

(Editors: G. Williams and S. Redway. Contact address:
The Old Post Office)