

PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JULY 1989

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 8th	W.I. Summer Show
July 15th	Village Barbecue
July 22nd	Church Fete
September 1st	Concert and Art Exhibition
September 17th	Harvest Festival

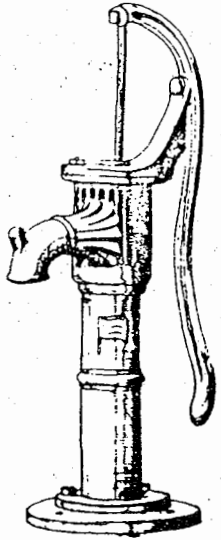
Editorial

1988 Accounts

Income		£ 67.00
Expenditure		
	Artwork book	5.50
	Printing (notional)	113.78
		£119.28
Shortfall		£ 52.28

Thanks are expressed to the village organisations who donated so generously in 1988. I'm running a bit late with my 1989 'begging letters'.

Ed



Charity Quiz Night

A quiz in aid of both the Church Fabric Fund and the Oban Rainforest Appeal, held in the Village Hall on 19th May, was extremely well supported with a full complement of teams being entered. There was a varied menu of categories and questions on offer, with a supper in the half-time interval. Judging by the comments we have received, we are delighted that everyone appears to have had an enjoyable time (which was after all the main purpose of the evening) and we should like to express our thanks for the support given to the two 'charities' - £48 being raised for each, plus a further £22 for the separate W.I.-sponsored Oban raffle. Of almost incidental interest was the fact that the quiz was won by the aptly named "Portishead Pirates" team, just one point ahead of the village's own "Ends" team of Simon and Iris Haigh and Ian and Angela Borland.

Roger Ettery

Mother & Toddler Group



Thursday 15th - a very hot day - at 11 o'clock a procession of pushchairs (that dates me) converged on the entrance to Bristol Zoo. Elizabeth, Emma, Ben, Sam, Laura, George, James, Oliver, Christopher and Elizabeth (2) plus siblings Catherine, Alena, Matthew and Helen, plus Grandma, Grandpa, Auntie (even Sister Carol) - oh yes, and the Mums, all joined the noisy throng "oh-ing and ah-ing", laughing and ever so little crying. Needless to say, we all felt hungry as soon as we got there but managed to survive on drinks, crisps and ice cream until a 12 o'clock picnic on the lawns. It was a really lovely party and I am sure we all enjoyed ourselves - even the children!! but the adults looked decidedly jaded as, overcome by heat and excitement, we crept to the exit - the children looked fine. Thank you Jackie and arrangers.

Yet another picnic locally is being planned. Look out for us, or "you have been warned!"

Gwen

Sponsored Slim

Nineteen people took part in this year's slim and with one

intractable exception (me), everyone managed to lose some weight - a total of 142lbs being lost! Simon Haigh once again carried off the "Slimmer of the Year" trophy and Robin Mabb was our biggest fund-raiser. Any contenders for next year? A cheque for £170 has been sent to the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust.

In the Swim



On Saturday 17th June two teams from the village entered the Sponsored Swimarathon held at Clevedon Pool and organised by the Portishead Rotary Club in aid of local charities. With much splashing, the BIGWIGS team, with Simon Haigh as front runner (or should that be 'crawler'), finished the 50 minutes allotted time by completing no less than 111 lengths - phew! But it was the LITTLE WIGS who showed us several clean heels and finished with a tremendous 123 lengths. Congratulations to all team members for a sporting effort & to their sponsors for donations. Full details and the amount raised by this fun event will be published in due course.

Peter Scrutton

House to House

There was a collection for the Blind recently in the village. The amount collected was £51.58 which is very commendable.

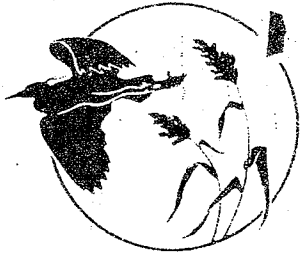
Art Class

Everything seems to happen requiring the Village Hall on a Thursday - meetings, Elections, Patronal Festivals etc. - but the Art Class refuses to be cancelled. Taking advantage of the lovely weather we met firstly in Gail Williams' garden then at Gwyneth Challenor's. It is amazing how many ways the motorway can be reproduced in paint (you would never recognise it)!

We have welcomed some new members and a few one night visitors and the enthusiasm of most of the "originals" remains undiminished ("we'll crack it one day" we say). Beginners are most welcome - 7.30 on a Thursday in the Hall.

Gwen

Avon Wildlife Trust Bulletin



At the beginning of April Avon Wildlife Trust appointed a Countryside Officer, Philip Tolerton, for the "Greater Gordano area" which includes the parishes of Clevedon, Clapton-in-Gordano, Easton-in-Gordano, Nailsea, North Weston, Portbury, Portishead, Tickenham, Walton-in-Gordano, Weston-in-Gordano and

Wraxall. Indeed many parishes are contributing to the operational budget of the post, including Weston-in-Gordano; the main funding coming from the Countryside Commission, Avon County Council, Woodspring District Council and Bristol City Council.

You may know of the excellent report produced by Philip's predecessor Simon Barker "The Gordano Valley - The Future for Wildlife". This report was the culmination of a wide-ranging programme of research and acts as an advisory development strategy for Gordano to supplement the statutory planning system, based on the need to conserve the rich mosaic of wildlife habitats whilst taking account of and accommodating where appropriate the pressures for development and change.

One of the recommendations of the report was to appoint a Countryside Officer to implement a conservation and countryside management strategy for the area, hence Philip's appointment. Whilst part of the job will involve responding to inappropriate development pressures where wildlife suffers, Avon Wildlife Trust are determined to achieve a more positive, prescriptive role. This may involve practical conservation with local people; the opportunity for informal and appropriate countryside recreation such as linking footpaths for circular walks; producing educational and interpretive material on wild life, landscape and land use etc....

Obviously there is already an excellent example in Weston-in-Gordano parish where local people with the agreement of the landowner, are working on Middle Hill Common for the benefit of wildlife and people's enjoyment. Similar opportunities will be identified in other places.

Much emphasis will be placed on local initiatives. Success will depend on the goodwill and voluntary co-operation of land

owners and local people, statutory and voluntary organisations and the wider general public.

Middle Hill Common

The Management Committee held a Strategy for 1989 meeting in May and this was followed by a Sunday morning working party on the Hill where particular attention was paid to the two previously cleared bracken areas. The top site need re-slashing whilst the lower area responded well to (gloved) hand pulling of the young fronds. It was very gratifying to see new growth of other species in these areas, though no doubt we shall now see an outbreak on the ubiquitous Rose-Bay Willow Herb. Interestingly, we found three or four plants of a species we couldn't identify, and botanists being as bad as economists, we are still arguing.

Gail

A Walk on the Wild Side

Approximately 40 people met down Moor Lane, Walton-in-Gordano, on 20th June at 7p.m. for a splendid couple of hours walk around The Gordano Valley National Nature Reserve. We were hosted by our local Nature Conservancy Council Warden, Tony Robinson, who had gathered several experts to make the walk all the more interesting with spontaneous titbits of information such as:- on the ditches and rhynes by one knowledgeable lady; or on the number of pairs of buzzards (14, I seem to remember, between Walton and Weston) or increasing numbers of species of owls made so much more exciting by Chris Sperring; and Bill Dixon found us a male Ghost Moth to wonder at.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening, not only because of the amazing weather of late, but for the opportunity to walk areas which we feel we know, but are not actually familiar with - did you know there are wild deer below Walton-in-Gordano?

Thankyou Tony and friends for your obvious enthusiasm and for sharing the enjoyment - when/where is the next walk?

Stuart



NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

Apart from the usual monthly meetings, with visiting speakers dealing with topics involving "Collecting for Profit and Pleasure", "Lace-making" and "The Kiss of Life", there was the annual birthday trip.

Members and friends enjoyed an interesting evening at Penhow Castle near Chepstow. Instead of the more usual guided tour, every visitor is provided with a form of 'walkman' which gives a running-commentary guide round the Castle, so the tour can be taken in the Visitor's own time. If one wishes to linger and contemplate a particular room artifact or view, the recording can be controlled to suit, as full instructions are given on the cassette.

The evening weather for such a trip was ideal, and after the tour, the party went to a local inn for a meal and other refreshments before returning to the coach for the return home. Everyone agreed this was an enjoyable birthday celebration, with thanks to all those involved in the arrangements.



Don't forget your entries for the Summer Show on 8th July - and don't forget to come and see all the entries - doors open at 2.30. Members' Night is on 19th July when there will be a Quiz.

HELP! - We are running the Cake Stall as well as

Teas in the Hall at the Church Fete on 22nd July. Donations of cakes for the stall would be most welcome.

There will be no meeting in August

Peggy Alexander

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall was held on 12th April attended by 10 villagers.

The Officers and Committee elected at that meeting to serve for the next twelve months were:-

Chairman:	Geoff Williams	Tel. 844662
Secretary:	Peter Scrutton	Tel. 842085
Treasurer:	Dinah Nethercot	Tel. 845037

Booking Clerk:	Ann Redway	Tel. 847716
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Committee Members: Grace Ward, Fay Leonard and Trevor Broadbent.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the retiring Officers - Paul Jacobs and Stuart Redway, and committee member Paul Alexander, all of whom have rendered sterling work in the running of this important village amenity.

The new committee has now met under the enthusiastic chairmanship of Geoff Williams, and we shall be examining ways of improving the hall for the benefit of the village - as funds permit of course. Meanwhile all bookings for the hall to Ann Redway as above.

Peter Scrutton

CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

We have celebrated another two weddings this quarter. Congratulations to Louise Bull and Simon Hamer who were married on 29th April. It was nice to hear of the revival of the old local custom of "Tying the Gates" after the ceremony. Congratulations also to Helen Tyler and Jerry Edwards who were married on May 7th. and afterwards driven through the village in a horse-drawn carriage.

Fuller reports are in the current Parish Magazine.

The weather stayed fine for our Hoe-Down and Hog Roast on June 10th which was attended by over 200 people. Thanks have been expressed to all those who helped to make this event a success and the proceeds of £609 will help us marshall our funds towards the repair of the bell tower.

Forthcoming Events

22nd July sees our Summer Fete, once again being held in the grounds of Barn End at 2.30 p.m. Sideshows and raffle stall will be operating from 2.00 p.m. The Rector will be opening the Fete; we hope to have the popular Pony Rides again - and - new for this year - a Skittle Alley. The exhibition in the Hall this year will be 'A Year in the Life of ...' mounted by Marilyn and Gwyneth.

The annual United Benefice Songs of Praise and Picnic will be held at St. Michael, Clapton on 16th July at 3.30 p.m. No service in Weston on this day.

There will also be a U.B outing to Berrow Church on July 30th where there will be a Service and Picnic. Again, no service at our Church on that day.

On September 1st there will be a concert in the Church at 7.30 p.m. - all local talent so it promises to be a good evening. Concurrently we shall be mounting an exhibition of paintings, graphics and sculpture by five local professional artists. This exhibition will be open to the public all day on both Friday and Saturday. Tickets for the Concert will be available from the PCC nearer the date.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be held on 17th September and as usual children will be welcome to offer up their gifts. There will be a Faith Supper in the Hall afterwards so don't forget to bring a plate of goodies!

The next Healing Eucharist will be held at All Saints on 4th October. Everyone welcome.

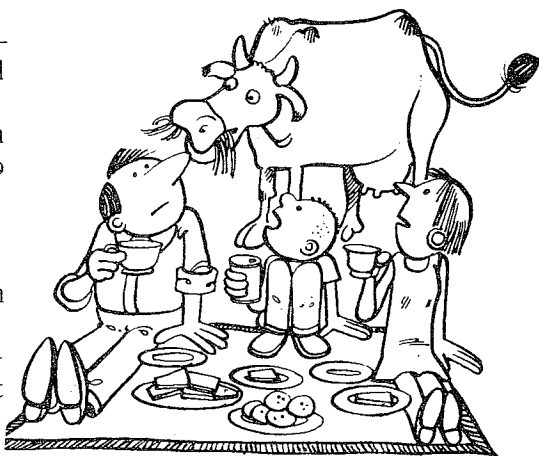
Gwen & Gail

On the 20th June a Healing Service was held in our village church for the first time for many years. The Service was well attended and we were pleased to welcome visitors from the other four parishes in the benefice.

The Revd. John Smart led the congregation, assisted by Sister Lydia and Sister Carol. Sister Carol, who was 'officially on holiday', visiting her mother, Gwen Griesse, added a very special meaning to the service, especially to the members of the congregation who know her and we were grateful for her presence.

At these services many people, whether ill or not, can find comfort peace and consolation, and we felt that the service held in our village was no exception.

Marilyn



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

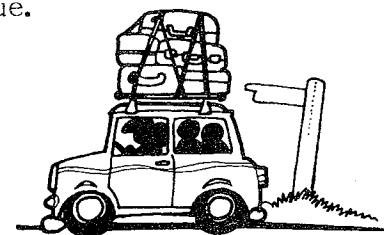
We seem to have had a very quiet few months since we last reported to you, with many activities going on around us but not being organised by us, which I must admit has been most enjoyable for us as a Committee. We did do our bit with the Village Dance in May, which wasn't quite as well attended as we had hoped it would be, but left the space for those of us who were there to have a really good twirl around the floor. Brian Tucker did us proud again with a great evening of entertainment, and we thank him for that, and thanks to those who supported the evening.

Our next function is the annual Village Bar-Be-Cue which will take place in the garden of Connie and Geoff Williams on 15th July at 7.30pm. Yet again we hope to see a very large gathering for this occasion, which judging from past experience, is an excellent evening of food, fun and sociability. Tickets are now on sale from all members of the Committee, at the very reasonable price of £2.50, including supper. Please contact us by 'phone or in person to order tickets early, so that we can get our catering figures sorted in good time.



Provisional plans are in hand for a village car treasure hunt. We would like to know what the interest would be like for this event, so could you please let us know your feelings, maybe when you see us at the Bar-be-cue.

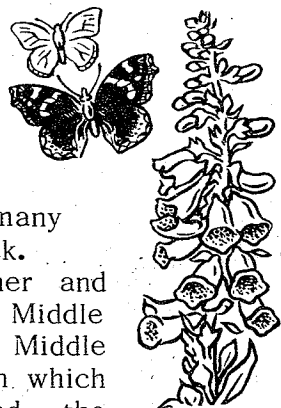
Angela Borland



COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

It has been a very hot and dry last two months and this has had quite an effect on wildlife. The abundance of Spring flowers was followed by many Summer flowers being smaller than normal. In dry places such as Middle Hill plants are already wilting and dying back and many grasses have already flowered and died back.

Butterflies have enjoyed the good weather and at present you can find Marbled Whites on Middle Hill as well as Large Skippers. Also on Middle Hill you may find the 5 Spot Burnet moth which flies during the day. Both the Burnet and the Marbled White is fond of the purple Greater Scabious which can be found on the Hill.



Reptiles too have enjoyed the weather. I have seen Slow-worms on Middle Hill and there have been reports of Grass Snakes coming into gardens attracted to ponds. The Grass Snake is actually very much attracted to water, being an excellent swimmer and feeding mainly on amphibians.

An interesting walk to take at this time of year is along the public footpath 'between' Weston and Walton Moors, which starts from the Main Road about ½ mile out of Weston. Part of this takes you alongside one of the rhynes, cutting across the Moors. This area is very rich in wildlife, (INCLUDING HORSE FLIES!). Flowers to look out for are Yellow Flag, R Ragged Robin, Purple Loosestrife, Pink Water Speedwell, Brooklime, and many other water-loving plants. There are also lots of Damsel and Dragonflies. The Damsels have very thin bodies while Dragonflies have much fatter bodies and are generally larger. You should see the Small Red Damsel (all red body), and some blue ones, (there are three species of these), and if you are lucky you may see the Emperor Dragonfly - a long one with blue and green markings.

If the good weather continues we may get some interesting migrant butterflies, (I have already seen Red Admirals). One to look out for is the Clouded Yellow, a fast flying butterfly that lives on the Continent and crosses the Channel in good years.

Bill Dixon

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Composition of Council and Council Committee. At the May meeting, Bill Williams was re-elected as Chairman and David Lewis as Vice-Chairman.

Only one application was received for the two vacancies on the Parish Council Committee and Maureen Fletcher was duly elected. In June a further application resulted in Chris Stringer joining the Committee.

Annual Parish Meeting - This was very well attended and we thank villagers for their continued interest.

Black Rock Quarry - We have been informed that Avon County Council have recommended that tipping be allowed here, provided that only non-toxic waste is tipped, the life of the tip be limited to 10 years and that it should revert to woodland on completion.

The Council have made strong representation to Avon C.C. again, that no facilities have been provided to monitor what is to be tipped and that an "accidental" tipping of toxic waste could result in a catastrophe in the Gordano Valley.

Village Pavements - Avon County Council have finally put the majority of pavements in the village into good condition.

Footpath from Weston Drove to Weston Moor - Avon County Council have reported that there is insufficient evidence to have this officially adopted as a footpath. The Council have objected to this, but we ask any villagers who have used this footpath (but have not submitted forms to show this) to ask our Clerk Mrs Hunt (847145) for forms to complete. To have this footpath adopted please act now.

Agricultural Holdings - Development

1. As reported in the last issue, ALCA have requested the Secretary of State to rule that agricultural holdings should seek planning permission for development in the same way as other householders. However, we have received no feed-back to date.

2. The D.O.E. have now proposed that agricultural holdings be allowed certain "new" developments without planning permission. These are to encourage new uses for land and existing

buildings and could include such things as caravan and camping sites, farm shops, stables etc. The Council has informed the D.O.E. that it strongly considers that planning permission should be sought for any development. This matter was raised at ALCA, who wholly supported us, and are to write to the DOE in similar fashion.

Common Management - This committee is headed by David Lewis and has done excellent work in bringing our Common back to a good condition, so that it can again be enjoyed by villagers. Please support any appeal to help in this work.

Best Kept Village Competition - Judging is now in progress, and we ask all villagers to assist in keeping our village clean and tidy, so that we emerge with some credit. Congratulations to all entrants to the Poster Competition (displayed opposite the White Hart) for which prizes will be presented at the W.I. Summer Show in the Village Hall on Saturday 8th July 1989.

Parish Council Meetings - Questions - We again draw villagers attention to the fact that they can attend any meeting. They can also question on any matter before the meeting officially begins, and also during the meeting - at the Chairman's discretion.

Bill Williams

TAILPIECE

Seen by your correspondent (not the Ed!) at a well known d-i-y store near Weston-super-Mare - our local Rector in full clerical garb - closely examining a garden spade. "I'm on my way to a funeral", says he, in response to my greeting. His critical appraisal complete, Revd. Smart announced his satisfaction with his choice of digging tool, and proceeded to the check-out.

"Well", says your correspondent, "it's come to something when you have to resort to digging the grave as well as conducting the funeral". "Ah yes", was the light-hearted reply - "it's been done before and probably will again".

Not content with that - - Heard after our recent Healing Service - "If I don't feel better I want my collection back"!!!