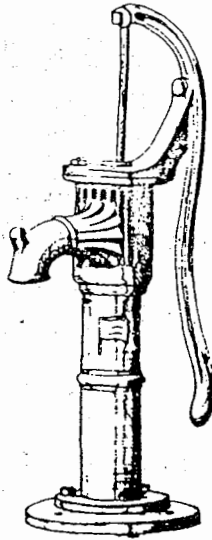


# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO  
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 1989

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 10th	Pantomime Meeting 7.30 p.m. at Paul Alexander's
October 15th	Car Treasure Hunt
October 21st	Barn Dance
October 31st	Slim For Christmas
October	Pumpkin Competition
November 4th	Bonfire Night
November 18th	Church Christmas Fayre
December 20th	W.I. Christmas Party
December 17th	Christingle Service
December 25th	Family Communion with Carols
December 31st	Parish Carol Service

## BITS & PIECES

Bonfire Night - This will be held on Saturday 4th November at 7.30 p.m. in the field behind the Tynings. As usual there will be an American Supper - bring a plate and share. Liquid refreshments will be provided. Tickets are available now from Keith, Cliff or the shop. Could we ask please that the Family Tickets be used only by families and their bona fide visitors.



Keith Williams

Rose Cottage Stores - We have been asked to clarify the position with regard to the shop and post office. Although Bill has obtained planning consent, he has no intention of closing down either the shop or the post office in the foreseeable future.

The casualty rate of village stores is horrendous. It is very difficult to make a living out of this type of business, let alone a profit. So please, if you want to **KEEP YOUR SHOP, USE YOUR SHOP.**

Slim for Christmas - We have been nagged into running another Slim this year - starting on Monday 31st October at 8.00 p.m. No sponsors to get this time, just 50p to join and a small fine if you put any on! Both sexes welcome - can we knock the King of Slim off his throne this time?

Pumpkin Contest - will be held sometime this month. Watch the Notice Boards for the date.



Cliff Biddle

## Mother & Toddler Anniversary Party

On September 7th, the Mother and Toddler Group celebrated their first Anniversary party by holding a lunch-time party.

The weather was beautiful and so a 'pre-lunchtime play' was held in a nearby garden, where we mums enjoyed a well earned cup of coffee and a sit-down, whilst the children played on bikes, toy tractors etc.

Every mum provided some goodies, so there was a delicious spread of rolls, sandwiches, sausage rolls, pizza, fresh fruit, crisps and cakes

etc. - something to tempt all tastes. Jackie had kindly made the Birthday Cake and after a chorus of 'Happy Birthday', the one candle was blown out by Oliver and Sam - the eldest members of the Group - aged nearly 3!

A pleasant time was had by all and after another play, we left for home hoping for a peaceful couple of hours, whilst our offsprings rested after their exertions.

Art Class - The art class continues to grow. We now have three members who are still at school (and they come regularly) - this is very encouraging. Two new members "have never painted before" (you'd never guess). What a challenge we must all be to Derek Menary. We all hope to go to see his forthcoming exhibition at the Eye Gallery in Bristol.

Gwen Griese

Avon Wildlife Trust Bulletin - AWT has recently launched Kingfisher Call. If you ring them on 251540 they will send you a Kingfisher Pack which contains information about these beautiful birds, a poster and car sticker and survey cards to fill in. You can help with the survey even if you don't see any kingfishers, by supplying information on the state of the local water courses and helping to identify suitable habitats - areas that could be improved.

## NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

After the Summer break the series of meetings continues. In September, Mr. Macdonnell gave an informative talk about "The Role of the Independent Broadcasting Authority" including a look ahead at the proposed new legislation. The speaker booked for October is Mrs. Ludlow-Hewitt who will be looking back at "Recollections of my Childhood in various Country Rectories", while in November Mrs. Hardingham will be talking on how to trace a Family Tree.

At the coming Church Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall, the group has agreed to provide a stall, as last year, selling home-made mincemeat and cakes.

On December 20th there will be the group's Christmas Party

Peggy Alexander

## VILLAGE HALL NOTES

The Committee now meet every two months and is currently considering how the facilities and fabric of the Hall can be improved for the benefit of the villagers.

Meanwhile bookings are holding up well, and I take the opportunity of reminding all villagers that bookings should be made with Ann Redway on 847716.

For your diaries the annual Wine and Cheese Party (probably more than just cheese if previous events are any guide) will be held on Saturday 9th December. Full details and tickets will be available in due course, and the committee naturally hope for a sell out on this festive occasion.

Peter Scrutton



## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

### Village Fence

Woodspring D.C. wish to reintroduce the village fence concept - thus allowing infilling development. To establish the stand the Council should adopt, villagers have recently been "polled" on the subject. Many thanks to all who responded. The findings will be reported after they have been studied.

### Footpath between Weston-in-Gordano and North Weston

The Council have asked Avon C.C. to provide a safe footpath on the side of the road between us and North Weston. Avon C.C. have replied stating that they are examining the matter.

### Best Kept Village Competition

Unfortunately our village was unplaced in this competition in spite of the efforts made by villagers and the village orderly.

### Footpath from Weston Drove to Weston Moor

The Council is still pressuring Avon C.C. to have this officially adopted. The Council also wishes to thank the villagers who completed forms to prove that they have used this footpath. Further completed forms are most welcome.

### Village Post Office and Shop

Woodspring D.C. have granted Planning Permission to replace the present Post Office/Shop by a dwelling house. When this is implemented the village will require alternative facilities.

Bill Williams

## CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

This has been a summer of weddings

David Jacobs to Teresa Gibbs

Louise Bull to Simon Hamer

Helen Tyler to Jeremy Edwards

Laura Jacobs to Peter Sowden

Sharon Smith to Richard Nelson

On each occasion a very full Church and 'spectators' from the village. The church and churchyard have been the background to hundreds of pictures this year.



The Harvest Festival took place on Sunday 17th September. The Church (is it possible?) looked even more beautiful this year. The children (several) brought their gifts - these afterwards distributed to Mowbray, the Salvation Army Home, where they were much appreciated. There was a very good congregation (including Emma who toddled to the pulpit steps with a serious eye on the goodies). Conducted by Rev. Smart, the service was followed by harvest nibbles..

A week later, when the Church was still Harvest decked there was a very important visit by members of the Diocesan Committee, including the Archdeacons of both Bath & Wells and Taunton. Some thirty visitors, church architects and historians among them, great interest was shown particularly in the Pal Palm Gallery. We have learned that at one time a 'marriage' would have taken place from this porch, the couple and congregation then entering the main body of the Church for the Blessing. The stone pulpit also aroused great interest, likewise the medieval window glass and misericord seats. The comments recognised our surprising "gem" of a simple village church, rich in historical detail and worthy of a further more comprehensive visit.

We are lucky to have this little Church in our village, unchanged and as yet unspoiled.

The visitors book has recently recorded names from various parts of the world - it should certainly be visited by all who live here or who visit the village. A very recent visitor was a descendant of the Percivals whose family church this was - hence the Percival Window.

Now a Grade One listed building, the architect, Mr. Palmer carried out a recent inspection. His verdict is that it is in good structural order but does need some attention. Some form of heating is a priority. All avenues are now being explored for some financial assistance to enable us to continue to preserve this little "gem".

Gwen Griesse

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It seems long gone in the distant past but I must report to you on our very successful B-B-Q this year, held again in Connie and Geoff Williams' garden. How lucky we were with a beautiful evening and a well packed garden, it was great to have so many join us. A great big thank you must go again to Simon and Iris and to Robin who entertained us throughout the evening to such a high standard, and also to all the helpers on the bar and on the food. The evening was made special by the giving of a token gift to Connie and Geoff on behalf of the whole village to thank them for all that they have done for the village over the years. We shall miss them dearly when they leave us in the future. Out of the profits made on the night we have been able to put a further £110 into our Village Hall improvement fund, which is always a good cause.

The Car Treasure Hunt is well on the road to being ready for Sunday 15th October. It is to start at 10.00 a.m. in the car park of the White Hart, and as the number of cars which can participate has to be limited, only those with Registration Cards will be able to enter. So please contact Iris on 849019 or Angela on 848781 for your Registration Form. The morning will finish up in the Village Hall with hot soup and a roll to revive you, and hopefully a prize to present to you. Entry is free, the morning being paid for from the Social Committee funds.



Also booked for the future is a Barn Dance to take place on October 21st at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Tickets are £2.50 each, which includes a ploughman's supper, and are now

available from all committee members  
 Hope you join us for these activities, all are very welcome.

Angela Borland

### COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

As Summer draws to a close there is much activity amongst the migratory species of birds. As I write this article already the Swallows have departed, although the House Martins which usually leave a couple of weeks later than the Swallows are still here. Most of the summer visitors have left their nesting sites in the Gordano Valley, however a steady stream of them pass through the valley on their way south. This provides an opportunity to see some of the species that do not nest (yet) in the valley. Species that turn up regularly include the Pied Flycatcher, about the size of a Robin, the male of which is strikingly black and white; the Wood Warbler with bright yellow underparts; and the Redstart, again Robin size, mainly brown with reddish in the tail area.

Late summer provides some surprises in the insect kingdom. Have you noticed the large numbers of dragonflies in the last few weeks? A lot of them are about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long with the body either pale brownish or bright red. This is the Common Sympetrum or possibly the Autumn Sympetrum which is very similar. There are also good numbers of much larger dragonflies particularly the greenish and bluish Emperor dragonfly. Notice how you often see them long distances away from water and also quite high up in trees.

Butterflies have been abundant in the late Summer, particularly Speckled Woods, Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells, and small Coppers. Contrastingly Peacocks have been scarce and I have not seen any of the sulphur yellow Brimstone butterfly.

Finally as we go into Autumn it is the season for fungi, of which the Gordano Valley is very rich. In my next article I will describe some of the ones I find this Autumn.

Bill Dixon

