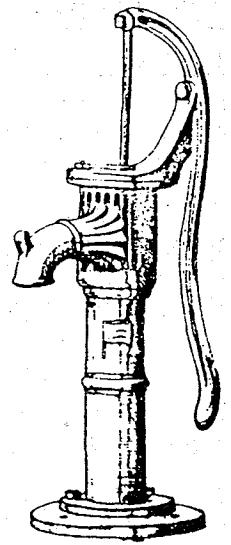


PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



APRIL 1990

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 11	Village Hall A.G.M.
April 23	Sponsored Slim
April 25	Annual Parish Meeting
April 28	Red Dance
April 28	Rotary Swimarathon
May 20	Middle Hill Open Morning
June 1	Beetle & Bingo Night
July 7	Village Barbecue

EDITORIAL

Lots of catching up to do in this issue, having missed the January edition. Particularly important is to thank the village organisations for their help with the 1989 production costs. Thanks go to the Parish Council, Social Committee, Village Hall Committee, Church, W.I. and the White Hart.

Mother & Toddler Group

There are now nine mums and thirteen children (2 and 3 from Portishead) and a very new baby Laura sister to Emma. Yet another 'anticipated', Laura will be happy about this as she is at the moment passed from lap to lap each Thursday morning - not to mention the attention given her by inquisitive 2-year olds.

There were Christmas parties and a train trip from Bristol to "somewhere near Bath" where Father Christmas was aboard giving out very acceptable presents. (There were everyday fathers there too.) There are always Birthday parties, the "terrible twos" are a majority.

Gwen Griese

Press Release from Avon Community Council

The 'P.M.' is coming'

Yes, the 'P.M.' Parish Map is coming to Avon this Spring to celebrate National Environment Week.

What are Parish Maps? They are an exciting and original way for people to record the things that they enjoy and are concerned about in their neighbourhood. They can be a record of the past and present and a vision of the future.

A Parish Map is not restricted to a parish boundary and does not have to be a map in the conventional way. Any material, any scale, any size, anyone, is the general maxim for a Parish Map.

Parish Maps help people to share knowledge of the places where they live whether it be a street, village, town or city.

This knowledge, recorded on a map, can be a blue print for a positive and beneficial future for any area.

To date, over thirty maps throughout the County have been completed, or are in the making. Many of these will be displayed at an exciting Exhibition to be held at Ashton Court Mansion during Environment Week. The aims of the exhibition are to demonstrate the considerable diversity of Parish Maps and to inspire and stimulate people to create their own maps.

The exhibition which is the first of its kind to be held in the U.K. will be open to the public from 27th April 1990 until 3rd May 1990 inclusive from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry free.

MIDDLE HILL COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Open Spaces Society is pressing for legislation on common land and village greens to be passed before the end of the present government's term of office. The main objectives are to allow greater public access and to stop degradations by de-registration etc.

The Society has asked all organisations concerned with the overseeing or management of these open spaces to join in the publicity of this campaign.

So - we shall be holding an Open Morning on Middle Hill on Rogation Sunday (May 20th) which is the traditional day for Beating the Bounds. Guides will be on hand to point out the work done since August 1988, to explain the importance of the area and (hopefully) to identify some of the flora and fauna. Light refreshments will be available. Bring the children along and have an enjoyable family outing. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Next working party - Sunday 17th June at 10.00 a.m.

Gail Williams



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The annual Wine & Cheese Party was held on December 9th 1989 and was very well attended in spite of the flu bug which prevented many villagers from coming. The event was as ever a great success, and together with the draw produced a satisfactory profit for Village Hall improvement funds.

During the year various small works have been undertaken, and villagers will have noticed the improvement to the boundary wall with the old school, where a new fence has been incorporated into the rebuilt wall.

The Committee have met bi-monthly during the year, and the AGM is again upon us as these notes go to press. There are vacancies for additional members on the committee and we invite all villagers to come to the AGM in the Hall on Weds 11th April at 7.30 p.m. and contribute towards the development of this important village asset.

Peter Scruton, Secretary

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

Sadly we start this report with the notice of the death of Mr. Rodney Hillier. The church was full on October 16th at his funeral and interment of his ashes. Mr. Hillier was a very generous parishioner and with a donation from Mrs Hillier an excellent new notice board has been erected in the Church porch in his memory.

A gift was also donated in memory of Mr. Philip Willey of Redcliffe Bay.

The handbells are again in use and an enjoyable performance was given at Christmas.

16th November the Church Fayre held in the Village Hall raised £255.

Mrs Pat Giles colected £24.07 for the Childrens Society. Thank you to Bill Adolpho for collecting at Rose Cottage Stores for the same fund.

The Christmas Services were well attended considering the flu epidemic at that time. The Church was beautifully decorated, the Christmas Tree and Crib a delight to the children who came to the Christingle Service.

February 9th was Quiz Night. An excellent evening arranged and presented by Roger Ettery. 18 teams attended and those who knew most answers to the fair but challenging questions were 1) Ave Nots, 2) Plum Trees, 3) Tyning Tenors. Marilyn and helpers presented a good supper. £100 was raised.

A picture in tapestry was given by Mrs Woolway, aunt of Mrs Hawken.

Mr. and Mrs John Howard were presented with a beautifully engraved glass biscuit container and flowers in recognition of John's wardenship for 35 years.

There has been a series of Lent Meetings at Margaret Jacobs' with an average attendance of six.

There was a big "Dust Up" on March 24th when the annual Church Spring Clean took place - a busy day for 8 people.

The Mothering Sunday Service was very well attended, flowers for all ladies presented by Alayna and Matthew Harris assisted by - 2 year old Emma Rogers.

The Church wall has been well repaired, the Stile is now very firm and the tiles displaced by the gale now replaced.

Gwen Griese

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY W.I.

1990 is the 75th Anniversary of the W.I. in Great Britain. With this in mind our birthday outing this May (our 22nd) is a trip down Memory Lane to the Robery Opie Collection at the Museum of Advertising and Packaging on the Gloucester Docks. The coach will leave the White Hart at 6 p.m., and after a tour of the Museum there will be a buffet supper and glass of wine before returning home. The cost is £5.95 plus coach fare. All are welcome.

Our diary for the next few months is as follows:

18th April - our April speaker is Maggie Merrifield on her "Visit to Japan" ... super slide show.

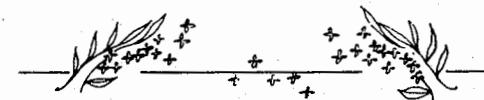
10th May - Birthday Outing to Gloucester.

16th May - Mrs Evans, discussing the resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall. Birthday Cake for supper.

20th June - we have "Alan" the Pest Man. Do you know what to do about a wasps nest? Come and find out.

18th July - Mrs. Rigg ... "Voices Around Britain".

Gwynneth Challenor



COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

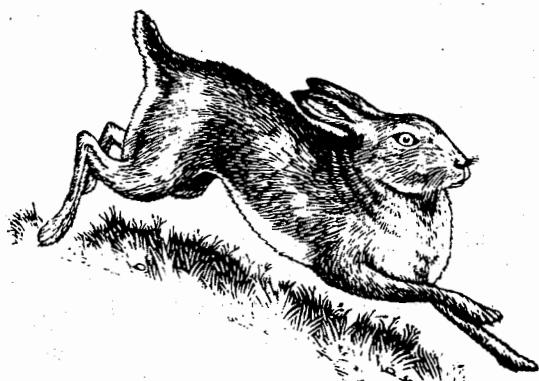
This decade certainly has started in dramatic fashion, with very mild weather, extremely violent gales, and much flooding and damage to sea defences. Past history indicates that the 90's have had violent weather conditions so this may be the trend for a while.

The winds have had the most impact in the valley with about 500 trees blown down in Clevedon Court Wood and nearly 600 in Weston Bigwood alone. This will inevitably change the structure of these 2 woods with many more woodland flowers and insects appearing in the open areas. Already this year I have seen Brimstone, Small tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma butterflies in the areas of Weston Bigwood left open by tree damage.

Another interesting aspect to wildlife in the valley is the number of birds of prey that are about. You may have noticed good numbers of Buzzards, Kestrels and Sparrow Hawks over the last year or so. They are most in evidence in early Spring as they re-establish territories or form new ones. One of the major aspects of any ecological assessment of an area is the number of birds of prey present. As they are top of the food chain, good numbers of these predators means a healthy ecosystem which we obviously have in the valley. I hope we can keep it this way as there seem to be fresh pressures on the valley at present!"

Things to look out for now, are Swallows which should be arriving any time now. Wood anemones are in full flower and bluebells are just starting to flower in the woods. Also in Weston Bigwood at the moment are two scarcer species, the toothwort which is a completely white to yellowish-white plant with no leaves, growing around the roots of trees as a parasite and moschatel or town hall clock which is a small plant with leaves rather like the wood anemone and small green flowers. It is easily overlooked if you are not aware of what it looks like. On the valley floor look out for the pale pink flowers of Ladys Smock. Hares also should be in evidence in the valley fields, easily identified by their large size and black tips to their ears. Of particular interest to birdwatchers is the regular occurrence of Ravens, our largest crow with a very deep croak and during the week ending 24th March a Red Kite turned up.

Bill Dixon



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Yes, our village does still have a Social Committee, even though nobody at all turned up to the AGM in November to give us any support, complaint, or acknowledgement that we exist - not a lot of encouragement to those few who have worked hard for the last year to keep the social functions of the village going is it?

It was reported at the AGM that 88/89 had been a good year making a modest profit and acquiring items for the general use of the village. Please note that the Social Committee does do what it can for the whole village and outside causes and this year has set up a separate fund for the refurbishment and improvement of the Village Hall. During the year 88/89 the following donations were made:-

Village Bonfires	100.00
Childrens Hospital Party	20.00
Easter Eggs/prizes	16.58
Sponsored Swim	20.00
Church Fayre	15.00
Parish Pump	25.00
Village Hall Fund	605.61

Functions not reported on since the last Pump was published include the Car Treasure Hunt, which was a great success for most cars - with a few notable losses on the way" - and was won by the Simons family who excell in these joints. We also had a Barn Dance in October which was as enjoyable as ever. The Social Committee and friends again toured the village at Christmas time singing carols and collecting for Petersfield Old Peoples Home. It was a great evening with some welcome refreshments supplied by Keith, Lucy and Gail Williams and Connie and Geoff Williams. Thanks to everybody for their kind donations, and Petersfield were most grateful for our £56 gift to them.





January brought our Pantomime, performed to full houses for three nights. What a lot of fun we all had throughout rehearsals from October onwards, and from the many reports we had the audiences enjoyed it as much as us too. Hope you all liked the new seating format, it made the evening far less formal, though lessened the total capacity.

Thanks to all who helped and performed, and thanks to Paul and Peggy Alexander for making it happen.

So 1990 is well on its way and our diary is filling up again. We have a Dance organised for April 28th with a 'Red' theme which means whatever you like it to mean - you can wear all red, an article of red clothing, drink red wine, even dye your hair red if you wish - whichever, it's all for fun, so please come and join and join us.

On 1st June we are holding a "Beetle & Bingo Night" in the Village Hall, tables of four, £1.00 per person and supper included. Seating will be restricted, so look out on the notice boards for when tickets will be for sale - first come, first served, and bring your own booze, we'll supply the glasses.

The Annual Village B-B-Q has been planned for 7th July this year and Chris and David Lewis have very generously offered the use of their garden, which will be a lovely setting for a good evening out. Iris and Simon have again offered to provide some live entertainment for us, which is always a bonus, so keep that date free.

We're also hoping to arrange some theatre/show etc. trips this summer any suggestions will be welcome, and if we can fill a coach, the Social Committee will pay for it, so watch for our notices.

Any other events will be notified via the two notice boards, so please keep an eye on them, it would be a shame to miss out.

Angela Borland

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Annual Assembly Meeting of the Parish

This will take place in the Village Hall on 25th April 1990 and all villagers are invited to attend and raise any matters that they think are relevant. Coffee and biscuits will be provided during the interval.

Village Fence

In a poll carried out from villagers it was agreed by a very large majority, that all the village be included in the green belt. However, Woodspring D.C. decided that the return of the Village Fence offered more control over Planning Applications made in the village.

Farm Tracks in Weston-in-Gordano

The Council has persistently pressed Avon C.C. and Woodspring D.C. to have the tipping of waste material for 'farm tracks' stopped. Woodspring D.C. have agreed with our views and have stated that legal steps are now in hand to permanently stop this practice and to have the tipped waste material removed.

Fowlers Tip

Avon C.C. finally agreed to meet with our Council to discuss our numerous complaints regarding this operation, but after months they have still not set a date for this meeting.

Precept

The Precept for 1990-91 has been set at £1550 - 3.3% above the previous year. Woodspring D.C.'s recommended increase was 3.8%.

Article 4 Direction

This direction has been requested by Woodspring D.C. to cover the Gordano Valley. This would prevent development of any kind (agriculture or any other) without Planning Approval. This has been requested to preserve our Gordano Valley, but unfortunately the documents are still with the D.O.E. awaiting formal approval.

Village Post Office

The village shop is now for sale and if it does not continue as a Post Office arrangements have been made for facilities to be provided on a part time basis, probably in the White Hart.

Footpath from Weston Drove to Weston Moor

Avon C.C. have finally agreed that this be officially adopted as a footpath. However, some landowners are opposing this and the matter will probably result in an appeal against Avon C.C.'s decision.

Best Kept Village Competition

The Council urges all villagers to make an effort in the coming competition, as we have done well in previous years. As usual, judging will take place in June, July and August.

Churchyard Wall Renovation

The first part of this renovation was estimated at £700. Wood-spring D.C. donated £450 towards this and your council £225.

Telephone Kiosk

Efforts to have a Red Telephone Kiosk designated a "listed building" came to nothing. However, British Telecom have stated that they have no plans for replacing this at present.

Motorcycles on "Withers" Old Tip

Because of complaints received about excessive noise and uncovering of tipped material, your council have requested WDC to monitor the situation.

Future Parish Council Meetings

2nd May, 30th May, 27th June, 25th July, 5th September.
Any members of the public can attend these meetings and raise any points, prior to the commencement of the Official Meeting.

Bill Williams

CADBURY LANE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

As most residents of this aware, yet another threat is being made to the Gordano Valley - this time at Conygar Quarry on the outskirts of Clevedon.

"What difference would this make to us?" you may ask. The first stage, it is believed, will involve quarrying operations i.e. lorries, dust and noise, not only around Conygar Quarry but through this village, which already has far more than its fair share of these sort of problems. Stage two will involve the gigantic hole being filled with rubbish entailing more lorries, more noise etc. etc.

We in Weston-in-Gordano know about tips. For years now the village has been blighted by licensed, and now unlicensed tipping in the form of "tracks" being formed on farmland here and near Conygar Quarry.

The Conygar Quarry Action Group fear that a new road through the Valley to serve the Quarry will be pressed for. No doubt the reasons given for this would be "To speed up tipping - it will all be over sooner" and "It will lessen the danger on the roads". It would also link up all the existing tips and open the way for even more of these, not to mention enormous housing estates.

If you feel strongly about this, as we do, support the Action Group in any way you are able. We are liaising with them and a Public Meeting is planned so that these issues can be discussed. Please watch the notice-boards for details.

Gill Stringer