

# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1991.



## EDITORIAL

### The PUMP Is Back!

After a few months lapse the production of the Parish Pump has been taken on by Richard Nelson and Stuart Redway.

We would like to acknowledge grateful thanks on behalf of the Village to Gail Williams for initiating and keeping the newsletter going since it's introduction in January, 1984.

We are intending to publish the newsletter quarterly(ish) and since this is your newsletter we would encourage editorial contributions from both the Village Groups and from individual Villagers. We would like to run a general letter page on any subject that you feel ought to be raised, or shared. However the Editors must reserve the right to apply normal editorial restraints and may not necessarily agree with the views expressed.

So the next edition hopefully will be in February 1992 - please get writing - mark your contribution with the heading "editorial", "letter box" or "general contributions" and deliver to 4 Silver Street or 6 The Close by 15th January, 1992.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

### COVER PICTURE

We understand the lady at the Village Green pump is Nellie Cooling (sister of Bill Cooling) and the photo was believed to be taken in the early 1930's.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee have been very pleased with the year's events and, on reflection, started off with Babes In The Wood - performed by The Weston-in-Gordano Players - and everybody enjoyed the production.

This was followed by the 60s/70s Dance where those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves dressing in their 'old gear' and bopping away to Simon and Iris, Robin, and Ian.

We had a trip to the Hippodrome to see the Gondoliers which was an enjoyable evening with a coach each way so that everybody could relax and enjoy themselves.

The Bar-B-Que was the next event which was well supported. Grateful thanks again to Simon and Iris Haigh and Robin Mabb who entertained us all evening despite the chill in the air. Many thanks to Elaine and Paul Simons for the use of their garden.

In August when the road was closed we had a super Street Party - the weather turned out superb. Remember - the pet show with Mrs. Best judging the varied assortment of animals; then - everyone having tea and ice-creams (some taking advantage of the White Hart staying open!); - fancy dress from many of the children and the adults judged by Phil Hodgkinson; - the Bar-B-Qued hot dogs thanks to John Broadway; - the children reciting their favourite nursery rhyme (which I recall was several renditions of Humpty Dumpty!); - Robin again played for our enjoyment on the Village Green whilst a number of people danced the night away; - and last, but not least, the Karaoke .... Yes alright "Well done, Lads for the very recognisable "Wild Thing"! What a fantastic day to remember!

How could we follow that but with a traditional Barn Dance in October which always goes down well.

We would like to say a few "Thank yous": firstly to

the villagers who support our events; to Carol and Phil Hodgkinson for their help in supplying the bars and catering; to our resident musicians for the delight they give us all; to all our helpers who turn up to help build and demolish; and to Richard for running the raffles by which he has made more profit to the Village funds. I am sure you will all be pleased to know that the Village Hall Refurbishment Fund run by the Social Committee stands at nearly £1300. Well done everybody!

We have just had the Annual General Meeting and are pleased to inform you all that we have a few new faces on the Committee for the coming year: Sue Broadway, Maggie Merryfield and Chris Hodgkinson to join some of our older faces: Elaine Simons, Alma Youde, Gill Stringer, Richard Nelson and Ann Redway.

Of course, grateful thanks must be given for all their hard work and commitment to Angela Borland and Iris Haigh who have stepped down from the Committee.

So come on now if you have any ideas let the Committee know.

Don't forget we have for hire: Hostess Trolley; 1/2 pint glasses, 1 pint glasses, wine glasses and a Music Centre. Just contact one of the committee members.

Many thanks to everyone for all the support over the past year ..... and keep it up!

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#### PUMPKIN COMPETITION

The annual Pumpkin Contest was held in the White Hart in the Autumn. As usual all shapes and sizes were displayed and a fair number were in evidence.

The winner by far was Bill Williams at 84lbs  
Second Cliff Biddle at 42lbs  
Third Edna Wyatt at 31lbs

Prettiest pumpkin Martin Lawes

Wooden Spoon Carol Hodgkinson

The raffle raised £40 for Petersfield in Portishead.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Phil & Carol and the two Cliffs for another entertaining evening.

#### ART CLASS

A small group (average 8 and to be joined by one other from Portishead) meets in the Village Hall each Thursday from 7pm to 9pm to "paint". Experience/skills (or lack of) cover the whole range. A variety of media and techniques are used, but enthusiasm is paramount. Quiet, relaxation, absorption - one thing is certain - two hours of complete change pass all too quickly. Cup of coffee/tea is welcomed but taken without a break. Guided by Derek Menary, a professional artist living in the Village, we are very lucky to have his guidance and such opportunity on our doorstep. Why not visit us one Thursday? You could get "hooked"!

#### MUM AND TODDLERS

How well this little Group has succeeded. Children have got to know each other so well. Apart from weekly meetings there have been trips (to Pubs with children's play facilities), walks, etc.

The Group is not now meeting in the Village Hall as the number have been so reduced. Oliver Dawson and Sam Dyer are the latest to leave for school, others to playgroups, nursery, etc.

We were joined by Sue Holden with Jack and Joshua but they have likewise left. We did have brand new Simon Kelly and an "expected" from Vickie Sopp. Meanwhile the few who remain meet at alternate homes.

There is only one way for it to keep going?!

GG

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Composition of the Parish Council

The Parish Council received approval for the election of 7 councillors in the 1991 elections.

In the elections Ian Borland, David Lewis and Bill Williams were re-elected and joined on the council by 4 new members - Margaret Hunt, Elaine Simons, Judith Stone and Chris Stringer. Mrs. M. Hunt had retired as Clerk to the Council prior to the election to enable her to stand as a councillor. Her place as Clerk was taken over by Robert Hunt. Bill Williams was elected as Chairman in May 1991 with Davis Lewis as Vice Chairman.

At the September meeting of the Parish Council, Bill

Williams resigned as Chairman because of his pending move from the area and in October, David Lewis was elected as Chairman with Ian Borland as Vice Chairman.

In May, 1991 Cliff Biddle retired after an 8 year spell as Parish Councillor much to everyone's regret. At the Village Annual Assembly in May 1991 Cliff was presented with a tankard to show appreciation of his work to the Council and the Village.

In May 1991 Mrs. Mary McEwan Smith also retired as Woodspring District Councillor for the Gordano Valley, and was presented with paintings, specially prepared by our Village Art Group, at the Annual Assembly. Her support of the Parish Council will be greatly missed.

Maureen Fletcher and Basil Tyler did not stand in May, 1991 but their previous service on the Council will be remembered.

### Rates

The Village precept for 1991/92 was set at £1200 - a reduction of 19.35%. This means that the Parish contribution to the Poll Tax was reduced from £6.01 to £4.56.

### Farm Tracks in Weston-in-Gordano

Mr. Tyler's appeal against the enforcement notice on the site below Chapel Lane was not upheld at the hearing and the Inspector ruled that the site be cleared of tipped material by March, 1991.

Mr. Tyler's appeal against enforcement notices on 3 other sites in Weston-in-Gordano, one at the end of Weston Drove and one near Conygar Quarry has been partially processes but was postponed due to illness of the Inspector. The hearing is now due on 12 November, 1991 at Weston-Super-Mare Town Hall at 10.00am.

### Fowlers Tip and Old Avon C.C. Tip

After pressure from the Parish Council, Avon C.C. finally took measurements of the tipping which had been carried out on the old Council site. These established that the permitted levels on the site had been exceeded. However, Avon C.C. have still not satisfied the Parish Council with any suitable proposed action to remedy the situation.

### Article 4 Direction

The Department of the Environment eventually gave approval to an Article 4 Direction to cover the Gordano Valley. This should ensure no works can be carried out without prior proper planning approval.

### B3124 Road Improvement

The proposed scheme has now been completed and has resulted in a much improved appearance to the Village and safer walkways for Villagers.

The Council appreciate the funding by Woodspring D.C. and SWEB for undergrounding of cables to improve the environment.

The Council have requested an extension to the pavement on the West side of the Village and a new pavement on the East side of the Village to match the new ones recently provided. Avon C.C. will consider this and add them to their list of future

capital works. However, early provision is not expected.

#### Middle Hill Common Management

This continues to be managed by Cllr. David Lewis and the Committee deserve great credit for the improvement made to the Common. They were awarded a Certificate for 3rd prize in the 1990 Village Ventures Competition for this achievement.

#### Planning Applications

Weston Lodge - Conversion of 3 barns to dwellings was approved by the Parish Council and Woodspring D.C.

Weston Lodge Farm - Caravan storage was approved by the Parish Council (majority vote) and after initial rejection by Woodspring D.C. permission was granted for 2 more years.

Squires Cottage, Walton Down - Extension rejected by Woodspring D.C. but granted on appeal.

Moorfarm - A bedroom and bathroom extension was approved by the Parish Council and Woodspring D.C.

Land rear of Court Farm - Conversion of stable to cottage. This was not agreed because inadequate details of the conversion were provided.

Public Right of Way - Weston Drove to Weston Moor Avon C.C. made a Modification Order No 5, 1991 for adding to the Definitive map and Statement this path extending from footpath LA5/19 to LA14/23. This footpath will be known hereafter as LA18/8.

To have this footpath adopted required much effort by the Parish Council and villagers.

#### Footpath - Weston-in-Gordano to North Weston

At the Parish Council's request Avon C.C. stated that they will consider inclusion of a new footpath in their capital programme works. Again, early completion is not expected as there are some 850 works on this programme.

#### Green Belt Policy

At a well attended Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting in May, 1991 it was agreed without dissent that the Green Belt Policy should be sacrosanct and no development should be allowed under any circumstances.

#### Parish Pump Magazine

The Council are delighted that publication will continue.

#### Information Service

Now this service has been discontinued the Council agreed that Villagers requiring specific information should contact any Parish Councillor who should advise on how this can be obtained.

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A centurion slender and tall  
Said "I wish to be sent back to Gaul.  
I don't like it in Britain.  
Have you seen what they've written  
About Romans, on Hadrian's Wall?"

PA

## STREET PARTY

August 24th 1991 will be remembered for mainly two reasons in the Village - the best weather of the Summer and the Weston-in-Gordano street party! After miserable weather in the week, Saturday was brilliant, villagers were at it from early in the morning, hanging bunting, streamers, balloons, etc. After building make-shift road blocks (so called because we made em - motorists shifted em!).

### PICKLED SNAKE

The party got under way at approx. 2.30pm. David & Chris Lewis's paddock made the ideal setting for the pet show and what a fantastic turn out - dogs, cats, rabbits, etc, also a pony, pickled snake, tortoise and a dead scorpion! and who better to judge than local vet Mrs. Rosie Best B'S V.Sc.M'S R.C.V.S.

After the judging there were games for the dogs and owners, which we all enjoyed (the dogs thought it was fun too!).

### CRIMINALS

At approx. 4.00pm, the party was in full swing. Tables and chairs were set out in the middle of the road, between the Church and Joe's Cottage, where tea was taken, to which everybody contributed. The fun continued in the evening on the Village Green where fancy dressers paraded for our entertainment - costumes included batwoman, a bride, schoolkids, a bunny girl, an African chief, a Chinese woman, an Indian woman, a Chippendale reject and many more. Proceedings were held up though when our local "criminals" turned up for a hot dog. Phil Hodgkinson adjudicated (and incidentally kept the pub open all day - Cheers Phil!) and it was agreed that all the participants looked Magic!

### WILD THING

Local hero Simon Haigh then kept the momentum going by heading the children of Weston-in-Gordano "on stage" and forcing them to recite nursery rhymes and favourite songs - what a nice man! Robin Mabb provided excellent live music for dancing with karaoke mixed in, when we witnessed a rendition of "Wild Thing" the like of which you will never hear again, ever!

In fact the whole day was a never-to-be-repeated howling success. Well done and thanks to everyone.



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This has been a year of Village weddings and full accounts have been given in the Church magazine. Reverend Smart officiated at most:

Sarah Giles to Rob Murray  
Alexander Gabins to Peter Giles  
Lucy Wells to Ian Stadden  
Maria Jacobs to Ian Cooke

Christening - Daniel Thomas son of Diane & Kim, grandson of Carol & Phil Hodgkinson (White Hart). Congratulations to all.

#### Series of Events through 1991

Quiz (Roger & Marilyn Ettery)

Sherry Party (Margaret Jacobs)

Gentlemen Songsters (Norman Hawken)

Garden Fete (Barn End & Barn Close).

The latter was very successful with new activities such as bouncy castle, stocks, bran tub as well as the usual popular events such as pony rides, cream teas, etc., etc. Look forward to even more next year. The Social Committee this year ran the Draw with excellent results.

Various Celebrations with special invitations to families:

Christingle

Mothering Sunday

Palm Sunday

Harvest Festival

Now once a month at 11am on each 3rd Sunday, a Chidrens Service is being held. The first in October was very successful with good attendance. The children having sang solos, read Lesson, played instruments, coloured pictures requested "more please"!

This year the Reverend Mary Richards was received as Assistant Curate in April. She is already known to many of us and is seen and welcomed to many Village events.

Mr. Howard is sadly missed from our congregation. He died in June after a long illness following a heart attack. His funeral was attended by many in this Village and the other Valley Churches where he was well known. As a Church Warden for 32 years he did much to keep a good standard of maintainence of this Church.

The Church suffered quite a lot of damage in the storms of the year. Bills are not welcomed..... donations are. Thank you to all those who contributed so generously to the Churchyard Fund.

#### Forthcoming events

Visit to Portishead Methodist Church 10.30am on 24th November (a return visit).

Christmas Fayre at 2pm on 30th November in Village Hall.

Look out for notices of Christmas Services.

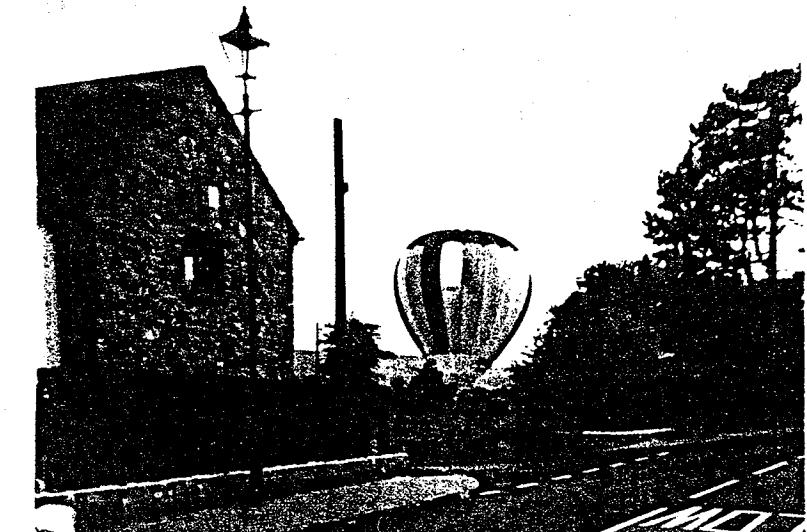


A comment heard in the White Hart last August:  
"Have you noticed how rare balloons are over the Gordano Valley?"

"One reason is the wind direction; the other is that pilots avoid the area like the plague for fear of being charged landing fees, or worse, confiscation of their craft in the event of unscheduled or forced landings."

"That's why we never see balloons"

Then the very next day.....



A balloon seen somewhere in the Gordano Area, Location unknown!

## BARN DANCE

The annual Barn Dance was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th October and, as usual, 'Forest Brown' led by caller Dave Blick were excellent. This year a 'guest fiddler' was added to the Band making a five piece. The Hall was filled to capacity with well over 50 people attending and a good time was had by all.

## SCOTLAND 6 ENGLAND 9

Just to show how versatile and topical they were the Band performed 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' to mark the success of the England rugby team at Murrayfield after winning a place in the World Cup Final.

After a short break for hot dogs the dancing continued....



Barn Dancers Swinging One's Partners

## AN EXCLUSIVE FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

### Strange Happenings In The Village

We know strange things happen here in the Village of Weston-in-Gordano, from time to time, but these pale into insignificance when one considers what happens in the little village of Much Muddling. You mean... you've never heard of Much Muddling?.....it is in the Country of Terrania....you never heard of that either?..you can't find it on the map?

### HARD UP

Terrania is famous! Famous for a very special breed of cattle. To be precise one particular cow, by name of Buttercup. She is owned by the White family: Lily White, the village laundress and her two sons, Jack and Billy. Nice people, but rather hard up, and in trouble with their landlord, the local Squire, about a little matter of unpaid rent on their cottage.

### ROYAL

Terrania is ruled by a troubled King Rex and Queen Roxana...very upset Royal parents they are too....and no wonder...their daughter the Princess Mirabel has been kidnapped.

### VISITS

So as you can imagine..there's quite a lot happening there....well worth investigating, so the Social Committee have arranged a series of visits in February next year, on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th.

### VISA

You won't require Passports or Visas, but to make sure of a place in any of those visiting groups, keep an eye open (better still, both eyes open) for further information....and book your ticket as soon as you can. Don't leave it too late or you'll be disappointed! Be one of those who'll be able to say "I went to Terrania!"

PA

## MIDDLE HILL COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This has been another busy year on the Common, with Nature doing her best to turn the whole area into an extension of the adjoining woodland, and our gallant band of workers struggling to maintain the status quo.

The battle against the bracken is largely being won, at least on the lower slopes. For three years we have consistently pulled out the fronds as soon as they reach maturity. As predicted, this has depleted the food supplies stored in the root to the point where this normally invasive plant cannot recover. More work needs to be done on the bracken areas higher up, but at least we now know that our labour is not in vain.

More difficult are the ash saplings, which spring up in huge numbers each year and take a lot of digging out. If they are allowed to remain, their shade will kill the delicate wild flowers which make the Common so special.

Our Sunday morning work parties are educational as well as productive, giving a greater understanding and appreciation of the environmental wonders which previously we had missed or taken for granted. We always have expert help on hand, and the work is not too arduous.

Our dates for the next year are as follows:

February 2nd 1992 Scrub, saplings and bramble

April 5th 1992 Erection of seat and signs

June 14th 1992 Bracken

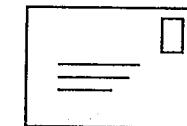
July 26th 1992 Bracken

September 6th 1992 (Committee) Meet on Common initially

September 13th 1992 Cut rank grass and overgrowth  
The seat we are planning to erect in April is in memory of John Howard, who was a Commoner and an active member of our committee.

We meet at 10.00am at the foot of the Common, and work through to lunchtime. Tools are provided, and no special knowledge is required.

Come and join us!



# L • E • T • E • R • S

[DISCLAIMER: Letters printed are not necessarily the views of the Editors]

Many of you will know of the High Court action which followed the Parish Council election in May. In the election, you, the people of this Village, chose seven councillors to represent you.

Shortly afterwards, the unsuccessful candidate issued writs against four of the new councillors alleging impropriety over the publication of a joint electoral pamphlet. In due course the action was withdrawn, but a hearing in London had to take place and very substantial and unavoidable legal costs were incurred by the four.

It is not appropriate for me to comment on the merits of the lawsuit, or on the reasons why it was brought, except to say that I am quite sure that the four people accused acted in good faith throughout.

There is no glamour attached to the office of Parish Councillor. The parish hall is cold and the seats are hard, and it is easier to lose friends than to gain them, especially when planning matters are under discussion. The Village is fortunate that seven people are prepared to give up their time for the benefit of all.

That the willingness of these four to serve should be rewarded by a financial penalty (and a large one at that) is grossly unfair. Accordingly, I invite all residents of Weston-in-Gordano to donate to a fund to help meet the High Court costs.

The final amount is not yet known, but it is likely to be several thousands of pounds. As a guide, I suggest that £15 from each of the 260-odd electors would be a suitable donation. For some residents this will be too much, and it is to be hoped that some others will be able to give more. Please make cheques payable to "WIG Legal Fund", and send them to me at Old Pound House.

Finally let me stress that this is a personal appeal, which is being launched without the prior knowledge of the four councillors concerned, and that the matter has not been discussed by the Parish Council.

David Lewis

## THE DAFFODILS (with apologies to W. Wordsworth)

"I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
Planting a host of daffodils."

November 10th was Daffodil Dig Day and David Lewis and his small band of volunteers were to be seen at either end of the Village planting bulbs in the grass verges.

Won't we all be grateful and glad in Springtime to see the results "fluttering and dancing in the breeze".



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

30th November, 1991	Christmas Fayre
15th January, 1992	Last day for contribution to Parish Pump
2nd February, 1992	Middle Hill Workparty
5th, 6th, 7th & 8th February, 1992	Village Pantomime
3rd Sunday of each month	Children's Service
Each Thursday	Art Class

*Watch out for notices:*

*Carol Singing*

*Village Hall Wine and Cheese Party*