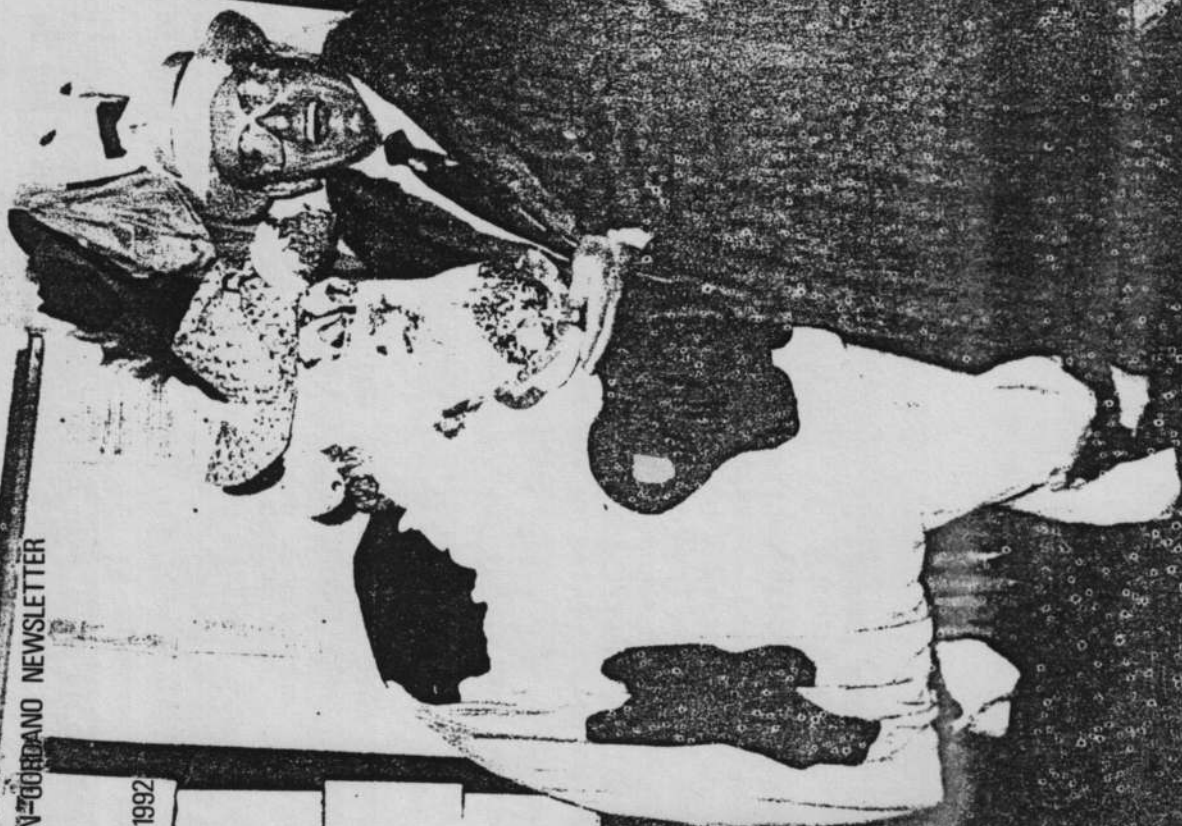


PARISH PUMP

20P

WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1992



EDITORIAL

We had some very favourable comments on the return of the Parish Pump newsletter and both of us would like to thank you for your support.

We must sincerely thank both the Parish Council and the Social Committee who have proposed donations to the Parish Pump to enable us to continue and improve our production throughout the coming year.

The request for letters has prompted some response as you will see on the "Letter Box" page. Please keep them coming on any suitable subject so we can share our views or just "let off steam".

Anyone wishing to advertise anything is most welcome to use the newsletter for a small fee negotiable with the Editors.

We are hoping to produce the next edition in May and therefore any content you wish to have included should be submitted to either of us by 16th April deadline.

Editors
Richard Nelson
Stuart Redway

A CONVIVIAL EVENING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

"Cheese and Wine Party" proved to be a rather inadequate description. A party it certainly was, being a cheerful gathering with plenty of lively and genial conversation which was all very much in the party spirit. Cheese and wine were both there, but far more. The attractively-draped, candle-lit tables were spread with a wide variety of buffet food, while from the bar there was a good selection of liquid refreshment to suit all tastes.

There was little left at the close, not through any fault in initial planning by under-estimation in the catering, but as a result of the enthusiasm of the partakers, enthusiasm not only in the eating and drinking but in the purchase of raffle tickets.

It seemed there was a general agreement that the idea of holding the Village Hall Annual Party in the New Year - instead of just before Christmas as has been the case in previous years - was popular.

The Village Hall Management Committee thanks all those who participated in any way - helping with the organisation, the catering, and being there. The result of this generous support resulted in a record welcome income of £195 to the Village Hall funds, which will go towards the money already being set aside for general refurbishment and the eventual extension to improve facilities.

PA

An eventful period - starting with a very full Church for Harvest Festival - the decorations beautiful as usual. There were several children present too. Now there is a Children's Service conducted by Rev. Mary Richards on every 3rd Sunday at 11am. So far we have had various activities, music? - (shakers, bells, etc.), crayoning, full involvement by the children - most children come regularly - George from Redcliffe Bay, willing to comment and very enthusiastic. The adult escorts are the only members not to go walkabout and change seats. These children were also welcome at the Christingle Service when £50 was collected and sent to the Church Army as Thanksgiving for the return of Terry Waite.

Then all the Christmas celebrations, the Fayre (which raised £376 this year had an ASNU rail. Charity donations include £70.81 to the Children's Society (collecting boxes). John Howard's Memorial Fund reached £510 and so far two fine church chairs have been purchased. The Church was lovely for the Carol Service and Christmas Day with the flowers, tree and crib.

We are fortunate now to have two volunteers to tend our Church vestments, sadly in need of attention. Newer arrival to the Village, Mrs. Harris with City & Guild embroideress qualifications, together with Joan Staley (well known locally for her excellent craft work) are undertaking this task, the vestments are worthy of expert handling.

For the less skilled we are hoping to embroider some more kneelers, if anyone is interested contact any church member who will give information.

There is to be a Coffee Morning and ASNU at the Old Farmhouse on Feb. 22nd at 10.30am, all are welcome. Mrs. Jacobs or any Church member would be grateful for ASNU contributions, adult or children's garments.

GG

Cliff's Christmas Card!



We understand the cat is OK - it still has 7 lives left - unlike the fish!!!

Isn't it a pity fish haven't got 9 lives?!

ART GROUP

We have been joined by two young ladies, Tracey and Emma, pupils at Gordano School. This is encouraging for the Group as they are involved in GCSE Art. We hope the "relaxed" enthusiasm of our members will help them...and they us?

GG

Social Committee

The Social Committee would like to thank all Villagers that supported the Carol Singing - we made a grand total of £86 of which £40 went to the Day Centre at Portishead and £46 went to the Alzheimer's Disease Society newly set up in Nailsea.

The Pantomime was a great success - Jack and the Beanstalk was a sellout every night, with thanks to everybody who helped make it possible. A special big "Thankyou" to Paul and Peggy Alexander for without them there might not have been a pantomime.

Our next social gathering will be a Festival of Europe Dance; it will be held around the end of April and beginning of May (keep your eyes peeled to the notice boards to find out when it will be). Get your heads together and think of what you would like to come as?! If you would like to do some entertaining you are most welcome to let the one of the Committee know.

So - come on - get your Dutch clogs and your French maids outfits out of the wardrobe and we could all have a good time!

Anybody willing to donate their garden for the Village Bar-b-que this year? - please call one of the Committee members to let them know.

Many thanks.

AR



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Tipping

Waste disposal on one site or another has kept the Parish Council busy for many years, and never more so than at present.

The Council continue to press Avon County to take action to test the legality of tipping on the old local authority site on Cadbury Drove. Avon have also been approached about excavated material being removed from the Cadbury Drove tips and taken away in lorries.

In November, Councillors were present throughout the week-long "Farm Tracks" inquiry, in which Mr. Tyler appealed against five Enforcement Notices alleging illegal tipping on various sites in the Gordano Valley. This was the second hearing of the inquiry, the first having been abandoned in May when the Inspector was taken ill. On that occasion Councillors were also present throughout, and both hearings involved considerable preparation for those involved. A decision is still awaited from the Department of the Environment at the time of writing.

More recently an application has been made to amend the existing planning consent at Black Rock Quarry. This would allow industrial, commercial and domestic wastes to be tipped, as well as inert material presently permitted. The Council has strenuously opposed this proposal which it regards as a serious environmental threat. The application document, with its accompanying environmental assessment, eas some two inches thick and many hours were spent in preparing a response to it.

The rumour circulating about the possibility of a caravan camp at the quarry for travellers and gypsies is thought not to be a serious possibility. Nevertheless the Council has pointed out to Avon that Green Belt controls ought to apply to such a proposal just as they would to any other development.

HELP THE WESTON-IN-GORDANO FOUR!

Most of you will know by now of the plight of the four Parish Councillors involved in a High Court action after the elections in May. (Anyone who does not know the circumstances is invited to phone me on 849214)

Latest estimates of the legal costs faced by the four are in the region of £8,000. That's two thousand pounds each for the privilege of serving the community.

Some very generous donations have been made to the Fund set up to help these unfortunate villagers, but the total is nowhere near enough. The sums donated so far make a total of £565.

Cheques should be made payable to "Weston-in-Gordano Legal Fund" and sent to me at Old Pound House (next to the Church). Or you can pay directly into any branch of the Bristol & West Building Society. The account number is SD2511466N.

On behalf of the four, thank you,

David Lewis
Old Pound House.



MUMS AND TODDLERS

There was a final celebration at Christmas in the Hall when Father Christmas was extremely generous to children and helpers. Also the bouncy castle - what a success!!, the food (abundant) was eaten after the castle was collapsed - (how helpful these toddlers are at such a time???). It has been decided to re-start the meetings in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 2.15 to 4pm. There will be a great welcome for any new arrivals.

GG

MIDDLE HILL COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The next working party will be on Sunday 5th April. As usual we will meet at the top of Hill Lane at 10.00am.

Helpers are very welcome: just turn up on the day. Tools are provided, as is expert advice and information on the wildlife we encounter on the hill. This is not only an enjoyable way of spending Sunday morning in the open air, but an effective contribution to the conservation of our common. Other diary dates for working parties are: June 14th, July 26th and September 13th.

DL

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Diane and Kim Fishlock on the birth or their twins Samantha and Ryan, grandchildren for Carol and Phil Hodgkinson.

ADS

The Village Hall has an unwanted Hoover refrigerator, in working order, taking up valuable space in the kitchen of the Village Hall.

It is on offer to anyone, against a token donation to the Hall funds.

Can be seen: contact any member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Is there anyone in the Village interested in having the use of a vegetable garden (or part of) to grow your own vegetables and in return some for the owner?

If so, please do telephone 848691.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Still in existence, in copper-plate handwriting there is an Indenture, dated 7th November, 1924, between Sir Charles William Miles, Robert Fenton Miles and Sir Charles Henry Cave, with four local signatories. These were Joseph S. Mitchell, living at Court Farm; Walter Watts living at Weston Lodge, both in Weston-in-Gordano, and Harry Smith and Joseph John Atherton, living in what was then North Weston, an extended area compared with the present location.

This Trust Deed conveyed a parcel of land, together with a strip of land for access for the building of.....

"....the Weston-in-Gordano Village Hall... for public and private entertainments, lectures, social gatherings, mothers' meetings, occasional educational purposes, bazaars and sales for charitable or philanthropic purposes, meetings of recreational clubs or any or all the said purposes and otherwise for the benefits of the inhabitants of Weston-in-Gordano and North Weston....."

Management and control of the Hall was to be vested, through the Trustees, in a committee consisting of the Rector and twelve men, six from each of the two parishes.

Presumably this arrangement lasted for several years but regretfully apart from that original indenture, we have to hand little or no record of subsequent history of the Village Hall usage. However it seems fairly certain that the building itself was the work of villagers in 1926/7/ Any further background information would be welcomed.

In 1987, in keeping with other Village Halls, ours had to be registered as an official Charity with the

Charity Commission, when in trying to probe into past records, it was found that since the 1924 Indenture much had changed, including boundaries and North Weston had become a separate area with its own Village Hall. There was no Rector as such, nor a committee as defined in the original document. All the four original Trustees had died, and it was discovered that Joseph John Atherton's son, Victor, a Trustee by "inheritance" was no longer resident in the village. Enquiry through solicitors revealed that he was quite willing to relinquish his status as a Village Hall Trustee and agreed to the appointment of four new Trustees. New Legal Documents could be drafted and these were prepared.

At a general meeting on March 26th, 1987, the Trustees were appointed as signatories...

Mr. C.J. Biddle; Mr. P. Scrutton; Mr. P.R.Jacobs and Mr. T.M. Broadbent.

At the same time a new Constitution was needed, relating to the composition and the duties of a Management Committee. Like the Trustees its members had to be village residents, three Officers with up to six others, all serving on a voluntary basis, meeting at least four times a year including an Annual General Meeting. It would administer the affairs of the Village Hall in keeping with the spirit of that 1924 Indenture. A new Constitution was drafted, agreed and adopted at a meeting held on July 8th, 1987 and has continued to operate since then. The current Hall Management Committee:-

Chairman: Mr. G. Williams
Secretary: Mr. P. Scrutton
Treasurer: Mrs. D. Nethercott
with Mrs. A Redway (Bookings Secretary);
Mrs. F. Leonard, Mrs. G. Ward and Mr. P. Alexander.



PUB QUIZZES

The White Hart has been holding some very enjoyable Sunday evening quiz nights. I'm not sure if participants are there mostly for the quiz or the delicious Hot Pot (or the drink!) but whatever it is everyone seems to have a good time.

Thanks to Phil and Carol along with all the Quizmasters and assistants; well done to the winners and keep swotting to everyone else:-

November 24th 1991 - Quizmaster: Pete Church
Score: Colin Paine
1st: "Vijays" - Simon and Iris Haigh; Veronica Paine and John Broadway.
2nd: "Allsorts" - David Lewis; Donna Clarke;
plus 2 visitors from Clevedon.

December 22nd 1991 - Quizmaster (& Impressionist!):
Ian Borland
Score: Liz Borland
1st: "Family Tree" - Marilyn, Roger, Nicholas and Christopher Ettery.
2nd: "Ever Increasing Bump" - David Lewis, Donna Clarke; Diane and Kim Fishlock.

January 26th 1992 - Quizmaster: Roger Ettery
Score: Marilyn Ettery
1st: "ISIA" - Simon and Iris Haigh; Ian and Angela Borland.
2nd: "Frank Bruno's IQ" - Alma Youde; Robin Mabb; Richard Nelson and Stuart Redway.

P.A. SIMONS

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25 years ago

Extracts from
Clevedon Mercury, 30 May 1936

WESTON-IN-GORDANO Fete. On Saturday next, 6 June, the villagers of Weston-in-Gordano are holding a summer fete, the proceeds of which are to be given to the Church Tower Restoration Fund. Lucky number competitions have been arranged for an iced birthday cake, made and presented by Miss Daisy Burden: for chocolates, given by Mrs. C. Symes; and for a cockerel in its coop, given by Mr. H. Smith. Mr. C. Bessant felt the village gala would not be complete without a pig, so he provided one, to be won by the lucky individual who can correctly estimate the combined weight of the pig and a bag of stones. Many of the local folk are very good at estimating the weight of a pig, and no doubt some of them know the pig personally; and by including the bag of stones, a better chance of winning the prize will be given to less gifted visitors to the fete.

Westcote,
Cadbury Lane.

Telephone 848464

14th January, 1992

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

In a weak moment I agreed to organise this year's competition for the village. The Parish Council has approved some expenditure and I wanted to take this opportunity to publicise the event.

I would like this year's policy to include provision and preparation of equipment for future years to reduce the annual effort and make it less arduous.

I would like to involve people who are willing to help and to hear from anyone who is keen to take on responsibility for either a section of the village or a particular activity. I also want your ideas and practical help.

I propose to purchase some hanging baskets but to construct tubs for particular sites and ask individuals to be responsible for them when in place.

We need to keep expenditure down, on the other hand some wages may be necessary for verge clearance etc. Woodspring District Council does help other local communities with gardens and tubs. I want to approach the Parks Department and Environmental Health for all the help they can give.

I would like to use containers for flowers other than baskets and tubs. I know there is a milk churn in use. Any old buckets painted green, troughs, barrels and anything rustic or suitable that householders will offer or volunteer to put out in their usual fashion will contribute greatly. I can collect donated receptacles. Please ring 848464 or call at Cadbury Lane.

Can you volunteer compost, cuttings, trays of flowers, geraniums, loan of tools, a few hours of labour or can you afford more time to help with organisation?

The emphasis will be on:

- (i) A simple plan to operate each year
- (ii) Spreading the effort
- (iii) Keeping the cost down
- (iv) To keep the village attractive and tidy for as long as traffic and weather will permit.
- (v) To achieve an award

I hope to agree particular times with Woodspring when the main street will be mechanically swept and request on-street parking to be avoided on those days. It is not only the main street that will be subject to scrutiny.

I hope that the excellent standard achieved in previous years can be maintained and I look forward to your help, donations and proposals.

Geoff Mitchell

CLOTHES BANKS IN WOODSPRING

Woodspring District Council have joined forces with the Spastics Society to introduce this new recycling facility. The local bank which accepts old clothes is sited at Wyndham Way Car Park, Portishead. The sale of the old clothes will help to support the Charity.

For any information on the scheme contact the Recycling Officer on 0934 631701 Ext 634864.

FORMATION OF NORTH WOODSPRING VICTIM SUPPORT SCHEME

The first Support Scheme for Victims of Crime in this country were set up about 20 years ago - one of the first was in Bristol. A scheme has now been set up in North Woodspring and has been affiliated to the National Association of Victim Support Schemes. Volunteers for visitors of victims are needed. Any questions should be addressed to Stan Larcombe, Secretary, North Woodspring Victim Support Scheme, 26 Rodney Road, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3HR.

*"It's annoying" declared Mrs. Pepys
"How fitfully Samuel slepys.
When I'm trying to see
What he writes about me
In that secretive diary he keeps."*



L • E • T • T • E • R • S

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

I think most residents in the village are concerned about the vehicles which speed through the village disregarding the speed limit of 30mph. It is only a question of time before there is a serious accident.

With the limited police resources available, it is unrealistic to expect a regular radar check. An alternative deterrent has to be found.

I would suggest that consideration should be given to providing a series of raised strips on the road through the village - "sleeping policemen". This would slow up some of the motorists who regularly use excessive speed through the village.

K. Gaubert,
2, The Tynings.




We would like to give our sincere thanks to David Lewis for his thoughtful initiative in setting up the Legal Fund, and also to all those who have given us so much support over the past months.

The final cost of the action has yet to be resolved. We will tell you more in the next 'Parish Pump'.

With very many thanks,

M. Hunt
M.E. Simons
J.H. Stone
C. Stringer



Not just sticks and stones

Our parish church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a little gem. A grade 1 listed building it is possibly the oldest church in the Valley and has been lovingly tended over its history which exceeds 700 years.

Unfortunately the cost of looking after it increases every year and as more traffic trundles within feet of it we can expect greater deterioration as time goes by. Last year we spent nearly £3000.00 on repairing a small part of the roof. Any major problem would be too much for the resources of the PCC and could see the closure of both church and churchyard.

We are sure that whether or not you are a churchgoer you would be saddened to see the end of worship in the village especially when the links stretch back to the Norman conquest and probably before.

At church we have a scheme where the giver puts a weekly offering in an envelope whether or not they are attending church that week. This enables us to rely on a sum of money each week. We have been encouraged by several villagers who, although they do not come to the church, have said that they would be happy to make a weekly contribution to the upkeep of the village's church and graveyard. Would you?

If you feel that you would like to help with the preservation of this jewel of a building please contact any member of the PCC or congregation who would be pleased to give you more information about the envelope scheme. If only half of the people on the Electoral List gave £1.00 per week our problems could be at an end!

Thank you
David Giles
Hon. Treasurer - PCC

A black and white photograph showing a group of approximately 15-20 people, mostly children and young adults, gathered around a large, dark, ornate wooden cabinet or desk. In the foreground, several children are seated on the floor, looking towards the camera or the cabinet. Behind them, a group of adults, including men and women, are standing. The setting appears to be a formal room, possibly a library or a classroom, with bookshelves visible in the background. The image has a grainy, historical quality.

Has anyone any old photos on any Village subject with an accompanying story to tell? Please pass on to the editors. We promise to look after and return all photographs.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A further £336 was raised on Valentine's Night for the Legal Fund, with grateful thanks to all who entertained, supported, helped, donated and enjoyed the evening.

SR/RN

The Village Hall was full on all four nights for this year's Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk.

The stage was transformed magically from Village Green to Cloudland where real "clouds" wafted over the edge of the stage and, at one point, engulfed our visiting Brownies on Thursday night!

The traditional cries of "Behind you"; "Oh, yes it is"; "She's your wife"; "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label"; and "Oooh! Billy White", all enhanced the Pantomime atmosphere!

We knew the audiences had fun by the number of bottles cleared away each night and the rousing bellowing to:

"This is our dear little Buttercup,
Moo...Moo...Moo...she'll go!"

Thanks to all the Audiences for enjoying themselves so much; the Cast for enjoying themselves so much; the Production Team for keeping the cast dressed, accompanied, stage managed, propped, prompted and effected?! and still seemed to be enjoying themselves so much; and to Author and Producer Paul Alexander who, now it is over, assures us he enjoyed himself so very much!



DATES FOR YOUR 1992 DIARY

February 22nd	Coffee Morning and ASNU
March 4th	"Colour Me Beautiful" Talk
March 11th	Parish Council Meeting
April 5th	Middle Hill Workparty
April 8th	Parish Council Meeting
April 16th	Newsletter deadline date
April 28th	Annual Assembly
April/May	Festival of Europe Dance
June 14th	Middle Hill Workparty
July 26th	Middle Hill Workparty
September 13th	Middle Hill Workparty
Each Wednesday	Mothers and Toddlers
Each Thursday	Art Class
3rd Sunday of each month	Children's service