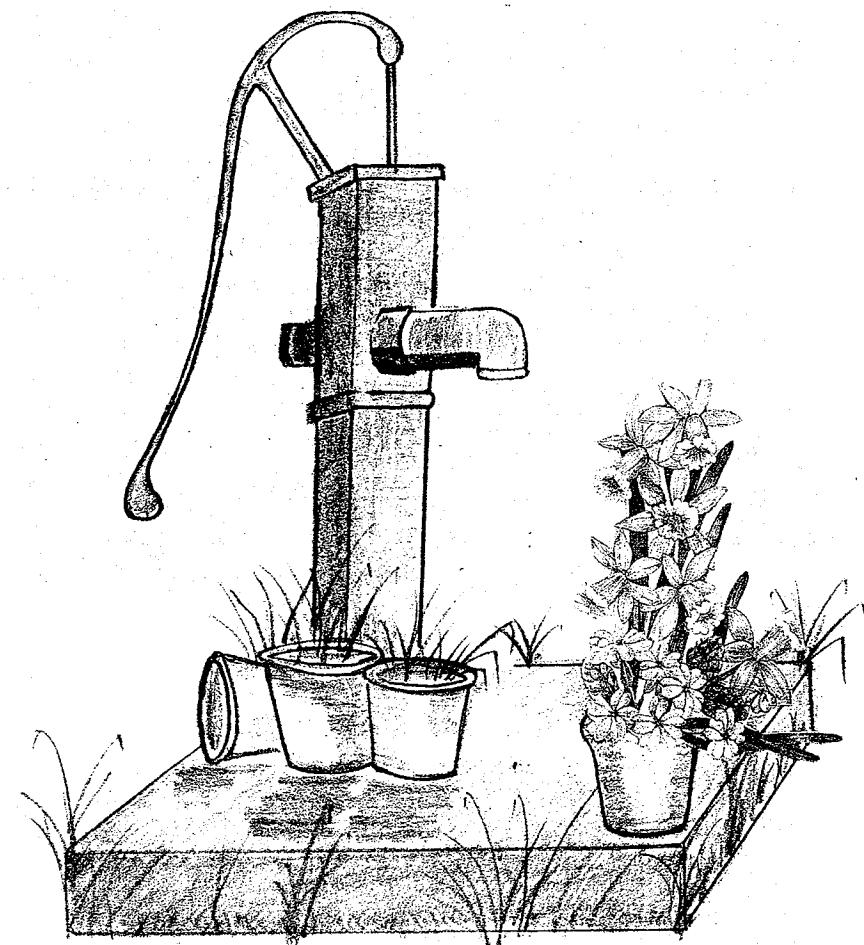


PARISH PUMP



WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER



MARCH 93

EDITORIAL

This is our second edition as joint editors of The Pump. How was the first for you!? Please write and let us know, either good or bad comments, as we would like any suggestions on how we can improve its presentation or content. As we have said before any articles on any subject - within reason of course - we are very willing to print. The more variety the better. Any contributions to any of the three of us by 11th JUNE please.

Isn't it lovely to see that Spring has well and truly arrived. The daffodils at both ends of the Village are a pleasure, well worth the efforts of last year's planting session. In fact the whole Village is looking really nice at the moment - apart from the intrusion of the ever-growing road signs - are they on fertility drugs? Any comments?

Finally, we would like to say welcome to all the newcomers to the Village since our last issue.

HAPPY EASTER

Editors:

Richard Nelson
Angela Borland
Elaine Simons

BELATED HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY, 20th MARCH

C H R I S S T R I N G E R

Love Gill, Bo and Ju

Yet another surprise!?

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP NOTES

At the first meeting of the Group it was decided to hold meetings bimonthly. About two dozen enthusiasts turned up and an enjoyable and interesting discussion ensued.

It was thought best in the early stages of the organization that we should be fairly informal and follow areas of interest in small teams.

Some urgent problems were identified, including the necessity of compiling an oral history collection as soon as possible. Suggestions were also made regarding the commencement of an archive of photographs and written information including maps, lists, newspaper cuttings, magazine articles, etc..

Peter Scrutton agreed to act as Treasurer, and Grahame Tanner as Chairman/Secretary.

The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, 31st March, at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Whatever your level of historical interests are, please come along, we need your expertise and help.

Grahame Tanner



THANKS

Arleen and Grahame Tanner of the Olde Thatch, Clevedon Road, would like to thank everyone in the village for their friendly welcome. We have been made to feel really at home. Thanks too to the Social Committee for their card of welcome to our new home.

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

The Christmas celebrations were very well attended, the Christingle being the first with a very good representation of children in good voice, very well behaved and fascinated by the candle-lit atmosphere. This symbolic Service with traditionally prepared oranges is something quite special.

The regular Christmas Services had full congregations with several visitors. Most welcome was the "Choir" arranged by the Village Social Committee. There were at this time "dedications" of kneelers by Mrs. Woolway (sister of the late Sam Spriggs) and the new white-gold super-frontal panel to the altar, product of excellent work by Elizabeth Horner and Joan Staley, both very accomplished needlewomen. The Children's Services continue on 3rd Sunday of each month and have some very loyal attenders.

The Rev. John Smart, our Rector, and his wife Rosemary are in New Zealand, an exchange visit which has introduced us to the Rev. Michael Russell, his wife Barbara and daughter Clare. We are fortunate to have seen Rev. Michael quite often, not only for Celebrations in Church but at our House Meetings and weekly Lent Meetings. We hope he will be with us over Easter and as much as possible before he returns to New Zealand. Andrew Smart has gone to join his parents for a month - those postcards were just irresistible!

The series of Lent Meetings held weekly at The Old Farmhouse under the direction of Rev. Michael and Rev. Mary have been very involving and have provoked some interesting discussion.

P.C.C. A.G.M. - Norman Hawken resigned as Church-Warden and Sybil Hawken was elected. Margaret Jacobs was re-elected.

The annual churchyard fund collection is currently taking place. Any contributions will be gratefully received by Mrs. Hawken (3 Spriggs Drive).

Charity donations have been given to the Somalia Appeal and U.S.P.G. The Village collection for the Children's Fund raised £20.

Easter Evening Service 11th April at 6.30 p.m. with some good singing - led by the "Village Choir" (followed by refreshments).

There will be a Healing Service at our Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul on Tuesday, 20th April at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is very welcome.

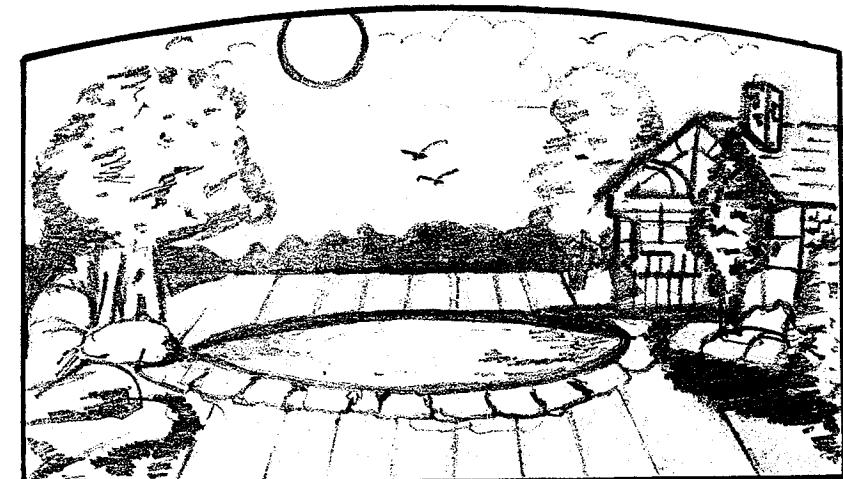
June 29th Patronal Festival Service at 6.30 p.m. followed by supper.

July 3rd Patronal Festival Concert with Miscellany Singers (of our Festival Concert last year).

July 24th The Summer Fete.

We do welcome visitors to our Events and Services. We must keep open this lovely old "gem of a Church" (as officially once described).

**ROSS MERRIFIELD
GARDEN CARE TEL: 849495**



GRASS CUTTING A SPECIALITY!!

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES

1993 started with a most interesting talk by Sandra Derrick on Aromatherapy. A lovely relaxing evening, finishing with a hand massage. £5 was donated to St. Peters Hospice.

In February Mrs. Jeanette Huntley gave a talk and slide show on her touring holiday of China. It made us appreciate all our mod-cons. - like hot and cold running water, flush loos, etc. £10 was donated to the Quilters Guild.

Mrs. Denise Instone was the speaker in March and enthralled everyone with her enthusiasm for her work of looking after the people in her care at Clevedon, imminently moving to Hambrook. She gave us an insight into the care of those with 'learning difficulties' - both the serious and humorous sides! £10 was given to her for the Home. Afterwards, Mrs. Elaine Simons, hotfoot from Buckingham Palace, gave a short talk about her mother, Mrs. Mary McEwen-Smith's, investiture of the MBE. It had been a wonderful day, she had been in the front row and could hear all the Queen had to say to each recipient. The day had ended with a visit to the Houses of Parliament where she and her sister managed to get tickets for the Strangers' Gallery to hear the Budget Debate.

£20 from the December meeting was sent to Cancer Research.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21st April : Mrs. Connie Williams has arranged an evening at Brackenwood Nurseries, Nore Road, for a demonstration of hanging baskets. Cost £1. 7.45 p.m. for 8.00 or earlier if you want to have a look around first. We may get coffee there (a new coffee shop is being built) if not, Connie has invited everyone back to her home for coffee at Stoneycroft, Hill Lane. If anyone would like a lift to Brackenwood, please contact Peggy (844905) or Gwyneth (845218).

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES (cont'd)

19th May : We are hoping to have a talk and slide show on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Village Hall, 8 p.m. cost £1. Any men who would like to come will be most welcome. Proceeds will go to the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

16th June : Mrs. Peggy Alexander has invited everyone to her home for a cheese and wine evening in aid of Avon Wildlife - 3 Meadow Drive. Everyone most welcome.

Gwyneth Challenor



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"JUNIOR KITCHEN"

EASTER BISCUITS

8oz RAIN FLOUR.

4oz BUTTER.

4oz SUGAR.

2oz CURRANTS.

1/4 TEASPOON CINNAMON.

1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER.

1 EGG.

GRATED RIND OF 1/2 LEMON.

1. ASK AN ADULT TO HELP YOU.
2. COLLECT AND PREPARE ALL THE INGREDIENTS.
3. RUB IN BUTTER AND SIFTED FLOUR AND BAKING POWDER.
4. ADD REST OF THE INGREDIENTS TO THE ABOVE MIXTURE.
5. ADD THE BEATEN EGG AND MIX IT ALL TO A STIFF DOUGH.

6. ROLL THE DOUGH OUT THINLY AND CUT IT INTO LARGE ROUNDS WITH A FLUTED CUTTER.
7. GREASE AND FLOUR A FLAT BAKING TRAY.
8. PUT BISCUITS ONTO TRAY AND BAKE IN A PRE-HEATED OVEN FOR 20 MINUTES AT 180°C (350°F).
9. ALLOW THE BISCUITS TO COOL ON A CAKE RACK BEFORE EATING!



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The year kicked off with "Puss In Boots". It may not be apparent that the pantomime season for the cast and production/backstage team lasts for approximately 4½ months, from the first reading to the final curtain call - but needless to say we enjoy every moment. This year's production was no exception and for the first time we put in a matinee performance on the Saturday. May we say a big thank-you to the ladies of the P.C.C. and their helpers for the delicious lunch provided before the matinee which sustained everyone for the rigours to come!

The Committee have now made plans for the next few months:-

"OLD TIME MUSIC HALL" - Saturday, 22nd May

Those of you who came to and/or participated in last year's Euro Night will have some idea of how this evening might go. We are again asking for "cabaret acts" from anyone interested in taking part. Is there anyone out there who can juggle or saw the lady in half?!! You don't have to sing or dance to take part, but it would be nice to see some costumes, so raid your attics and see what you can come up with. Bar and food will be provided. Contact Committee Members please.

"CAR TREASURE HUNT" - Sunday 6th June

10.00 a.m. start from White Hart car park. Presentation of prizes and refreshments in the Village Hall later. £1.00 per head entry fee.

"VILLAGE BARBECUE" - Saturday, 10th July

At Moorcroft, Clevedon Road (Ross and Maggie Merrifield's). This is another annual event when we tend to get out our thermal underwear and golf umbrellas to combat the elements - remember last year?! Maybe this year the sun will shine. We shall be asking for volunteers to provide salads, etc. and help serve the food. This event is now so popular

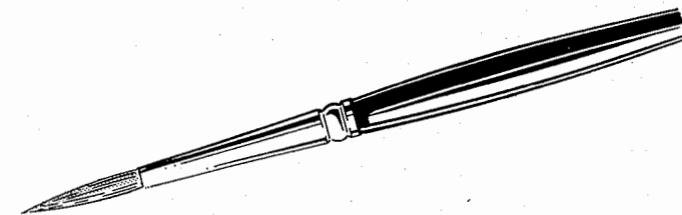
that we are looking to cater for over 100 at least. Live music will be on the menu as always.

"CATS" - BRISTOL HIPPODROME - Wednesday, 14th July

At the time of going to press there are just two tickets remaining for this trip - contact Gill.

May we remind the lucky 35 who have not already "paid up" that tickets (at £15.50) should be paid for by 19th April. Please let Gill Stringer or Elaine Simons have your payment. Cheques should be made payable to "Weston in Gordano Social Committee". The coach will be leaving White Hart at 6.30 p.m.

Committee Members:- Alma Youde (Chairman); Gill Stringer (Secretary); Elaine Simons (Treasurer); Ross and Maggie Merrifield; Richard Nelson; Sue Broadway; Peter Church.



THE ART GROUP

The Group continues with the "devotees" who were pleased to welcome John as a new member. We would be pleased to see the "visitor" who just wishes to see how we pass from 7.30 to 9.30 each Thursday evening. Previous experience unnecessary, we welcome new ideas and techniques. We await warm summer evenings for outside sessions.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Tipping The most noteworthy, and perhaps ominous, recent occurrence is that an effluent has been detected leaking from the 'old Local Authority' tip. This has been of such concern that a dam has been built to contain the fluid and tankers arrive at intervals to remove it. The Council has written to Avon County Council asking for immediate information on the matter, including how it arose and how it can be permanently solved.

B3124 Road Improvement In the last edition we mentioned that the County Highway Department had verbally agreed to modifications to the narrow section through the village. The very minor works completed so far fall very short of the earlier promises. A strong letter has been written reminding of their promises which were intended to alleviate problems caused by the partial failure of the 'priority' system.

Annual Assembly Meeting This year's Annual Meeting will be held on 28th April. For those who have not attended before, this is probably the best forum for airing your views on matters of concern to villagers. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm, and tea and biscuits will be served.

Local Inquiry A public local inquiry into the enforcement action regarding grading equipment on Fowler's Tip is to be held on May 18th under an Inspector of the Department of the Environment, who will rule on whether this activity should be allowed to continue. It had been hoped that the Inquiry would take place in the Village Hall, so that local people would be able to attend. It now appears that this is not possible, but we hope that the venue will be in Portishead, which is at least better than Weston-super-Mare. It is important that parishioners who have views on tipping in the valley should try to turn up at the Inquiry to say what they think. The Council will be giving evidence, but please don't leave it all to us; support from individual local people carries a lot of weight.

VILLAGE HALL NOTES

Our Wine and Cheese Party, held on 16th January, was once again a great success. The introduction of beer was very popular, indeed Messrs. Smiles Best Bitter appealed to the gentlemen so much that we became concerned that the barrel would not last the night. It did, just, with the help of supplementary supplies from Rose Cottage.

Many thanks to all who helped to make the evening so enjoyable, and particularly to the ladies for preparing such an extensive and tasty buffet supper.

The 'Pump' diary records the A.G.M. of the Village Hall Management Committee on TUESDAY 20th April, at 7.30pm - Note the date! This is an important event for the village, and it will be a notable meeting since the plan for the proposed extension to the hall and modifications to the toilet areas will be on display. These plans are the culmination of many months of work, and our efforts are currently being directed towards raising the necessary money to fund the work. In this matter we are being guided and assisted by the Village Hall Advisor to Avon Community Council, to which body the Village Hall is affiliated.

Finally we again appeal to the villagers to come forward and offer themselves for election to the Management Committee at the forthcoming A.G.M.. The tasks are not onerous, we meet in Committee 5/6 times per year, plus organising such events as the Wine and Cheese Party. There is always room for additional members on the Committee, and we are sure that within the village and its organisations there are residents who would wish to play a part in running the hall, and also helping to develop it in the future.

Peter Scrutten
Secretary
Tel: 842085

MIDDLE HILL COMMON

The first flush of springtime blue is on the Common as the violets and bugle come into flower. Soon, the leaves will be on the trees and all the wild flowers will be blooming, then the hard work of cutting back the bramble and bracken will be rewarded. The dog walkers in the Village know the Common well, but if you haven't been there for a few years you could well be surprised at how open it is now. Do take a stroll up there on a clear day, the seat isn't far from the end of Hill Lane and the view alone is worth the brief climb - not to mention the flower rich grass sward which makes it so valuable in conservation terms.

The management plan is to keep the grassland areas open with patches of bramble and scrub and a wooded fringe. This mosaic of habitats is ideal for wildlife.

The 'Shell Better Britain Campaign' representative came to the Village last month and was so impressed by the Common and the community's efforts in restoring it to its former glory that they have granted us £500 to buy tools for the maintenance work. Thank you Shell, it will be put to good use.

The working party planned for April 4th has been CANCELLED. This was meant to be for erection of noticeboards, but the boards will not be ready. As the nesting season will be in full swing, it would be difficult to achieve much other work at this time. It may be necessary to organise a further working party to fix the noticeboards when available, watch the Village noticeboards. The next scheduled work party is 13th June at 10 a.m. at the top of Hill Lane. The work is not too strenuous and we finish soon after twelve. You would be very welcome.

JOHN HARRISON
DAVID LEWIS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH	31st	Local History Group
APRIL	7th	Parish Council
	19th	Payment for 'CATS' deadline
	21st	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	28th	Annual Parish Assembly
	<u>20th</u>	VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.
MAY	5th	Parish Council
	18th	Public Inquiry - Tip
	19th	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	22nd	Old Time Music Hall
JUNE	6th	Car Treasure Hunt
	<u>11th</u>	PARISH PUMP DEADLINE
	<u>13th</u>	Middle Hill Common

Each Thursday

Art Group

THE WHITE HART

Next quiz: Sunday, 25th April at 7.30 p.m.
£2 per head including 'hot-pot' supper.

PLEASE NOTE SUMMER OPENING HOURS:-

Monday - Saturday: 11.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.
6.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

Sunday: 12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

