

# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO NEWSLETTER  
SEPT 93



## EDITORIAL

Our thoughts for this edition of the Pump must really go to the Villagers. It was with sadness that we heard of the death of John Staley and our sympathy, on behalf of the whole Village, goes to Joan and her family.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Phil Hodgkinson, Geoff Williams and Sue Matthews, who have all recently spent time in hospital.

We hear that the Harrison family have been adopted by a poorly stray black and white cat, does anyone know its owner? We thank them on the cat's behalf!

We welcome to the Village our new neighbours in The Forge.

Yes Graham, we all think the World War II variety night is a great idea - go for it!

The deadline for the next edition is FRIDAY, 10TH DECEMBER. Please note nothing will be accepted after this date as we really must get this edition on the streets before Christmas.

DICKIE ANGIE LANIE

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

As I write these notes we await the decision from the Planning Department of Woodspring District Council regarding our application for planning permission for the proposed extension.

At our last Management Committee meeting Mr. Paul Simons very kindly presented a list of essential maintenance works required on the structure of the hall. It was agreed that these jobs being long overdue should be put in hand immediately, to refurbish the existing building, preparatory to the construction of the proposed extension.

Paul kindly agreed to co-ordinate the work with volunteer labour from the village, and so on Sunday morning the 5th September a crowd of willing villagers assembled armed with a variety of tools and appliances. 3 hours or so later two truck loads of rubbish cleared from the side area of the hall, together with cut down overhanging tree branches were removed from the site. The morning's efforts earned the workers refreshments in the shape of beer and sandwiches!! Last Sunday, the 19th, saw a smaller turnout, but with less to do it worked well, with the ladies, Fay and Ann, digging and the men, Paul and Alan, wheeling the barrows. The other helpers who turned up did what they could, including putting on the kettle! The dates are on the Notice Boards for the next working parties, do you read them? Sundays, 3rd and 17th October, and thereafter by arrangement depending on progress.

Peter Scrutton  
042085

P.S. The Management Committee would like to thank the anonymous villager who planted the tubs at the front of the hall, they have provided an excellent display.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The last few months have been relatively quiet in Parish Council terms - no meeting was held in August. The main points of recent interest are as follows :

Road "Improvement". It is apparent to all that the 'priority' system is not working. A list of shortcomings which we sent to Avon County Council was treated, we feel, with disdain. However, Phil Hodgkinson managed to get the Council Engineer responsible for the scheme to attend a meeting on site during the evening peak traffic flow. He seemed visibly upset by the difficulties which occurred on the road at that time. He apparently accepted various suggestions for improvements which include reversal of the priority system, further narrowing of the 'narrows' so that passing cannot take place, and further measures to generally reduce traffic speed on the approaches to the priority system. We still await positive action however.

Footpath Enquiry. The Public Enquiry into a footpath along the bottom of the valley was recently held at Walton Village Hall. A number of villagers attended to give evidence on previous usage of the path. The land-owner (Mr. Fowler) appeared to have employed apparently high powered legal assistance; as a Council and Village we were not able to run to such expense. However, many thanks are due to those who attended and provided valuable evidence. The result is awaited with interest.

Tipping. Operations at Fowler's Tip are reported to have been fairly quiet over the Summer months (at least in terms of traffic movement). The large bunds which have appeared on the tip have been perplexing many of us. We have asked the tip operator, as a matter of curiosity, what their purpose is, a reply should be to hand shortly.

Ian Borland  
Chairman, Weston-In-Gordano  
Parish Council

## NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES

The Cheese & Wine Evening at Peggy Alexander's on the 16th June was a great success. After a very wet day the sun didn't exactly shine, but the rain stopped and we were able to enjoy Peggy and Paul's lovely garden with a glass or three of wine and pleasant company. Thank you to Peggy and Paul for your hospitality. The evening raised £65.50 for Avon Wild Life.

We had a break during July and August - hope you all had a good holiday.

The September meeting was very different - the Speaker paid us! Daisy D has had a knitting machine for 15 years and five years ago decided to turn her hobby into a full time business. She makes everything from childrens jumpers to beautiful silky suits fit for a wedding, all at very reasonable prices. She sold a lot of things during the evening and took orders for more - made to measure and own choice of colour. Whatever business she did on the night she is giving us 10% and we will be giving it to the Village Hall Committee for their renovation fund, final figure in next Parish Pump.

20th October is the next meeting and it will be a film by Bristol Water called 'Man Made for Nature'. It is the story of the Chew Valley Lakes and should be very interesting to both the ladies and any gentlemen who would like to come. The proceeds of the evening will be going to St. Peter's Hospice.

17th November is 'Music Hall Memories'. An illustrated talk by Malcolm Rowley, Founder and Administrator of the Avon and Somerset Music Hall Society. The gentlemen of the Village will be most welcome to join us again at this meeting.

The December meeting will be a week early on the 8th. No concrete plans yet but there will be notices posted nearer the time. Any helpful suggestions will be most welcome.

All the meetings are in the Village Hall, 7.45 p.m. for 8 p.m. with tea/coffee and biscuits, all for £1.00.

*Gwyneth Challenor*

## ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

June 29th, the Patronal Festival Celebration with Rev. Michael Peters, Chaplain of Horfield prison with a very enlightening sermon, a Reading by Rev. Peter Hatton of Portishead Methodist church, a procession of Clergy and All Saints and St. Mary's choirs (who sang an Anthem) - it was a colourful celebration finishing with refreshments.

July 3rd, The Festival Concert - an evening with the Miscellany Singers. A lively, exciting and enjoyable event with a varied presentation. Some delightful renderings by a group of even younger miscellanies. The whole of the second part of the evening a series of songs and verses based on a book of Mrs. Beaton's dictates of good manners and etiquette. All very well performed and much enjoyed. Followed then by the same quality refreshments at Gordano Lodge (Fred and Elizabeth Horner) in the garden on a lovely evening. A special Festival weekend, July 24th. A night and following morning of rain (spirits almost as damp), at 12 noon the clouds broke and by 2.00pm all was ready for the opening by the Rector, John Smart. Posies were presented to Mrs. Smart, Mrs. Carrad and Mrs. Pearce (Barn End and Barn Close being the venue). An afternoon with plenty to see. Stalls: bric-a-brac, cakes, bottle, plants, books. A demonstration of flower arranging by Mr. Parsons, dog training by Helen Ings, a lovely pets corner, horse rides, guessing games, raffles, face painting AND Mr. Carrad's amazing model railway lay-out with so many working additions. All this and a live band to jolly us up if needed. No wonder the special cream teas were so much in demand. So many THANK YOU's. The amount raised was £938.00.

Songs of Praise, August 22nd. Hymns chosen by the congregation and choir with special Readings. The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev. John Smart, who directed us from hymns to readings, and the choir, our own village choir, who sang enthusiastically and with ever more confidence, also represented with a reader, (Simon Haigh). Representing other aspects of village life

Peter Scrutton and Mike Bull also read. A most enjoyable celebration with quite a full congregation, but with your own village choir would be worthy of more visitors.

Mrs. Joy Kelly of The Close, herself a teacher with two children, has been taking a bible group on 1st and 3rd Sundays in the church at 10.30am. They have been doing some interesting things and always leave an example in church. Good to see evidence of very young at work in the church. The children appear to enjoy themselves, and welcome newcomers.

Gwen Griesse

## A CHANCE TO ENJOY A CHINESE EXPERIENCE

Look out for news round about the end of January of the opportunity to visit and wonder at Old Peking, a tour (of a kind) which takes in not only the streets, but also the Imperial Palace: meetings with many of the populace, including civic dignitaries and the dispensers of Law and Order. As an added bonus, a short course in Basic Chinese for all those who take up this offer. It is not available through any other Travel Agency!



## MIDDLE HILL COMMON

Don't be alarmed at how bald parts of the Common have suddenly become. It is the result of the labours of twelve keen volunteers who turned up for the work morning on September 19th to do some urgent management tasks, The Woodspring Task Force completing the job on the following Sunday. The aim is to do what the grazing animals would have done in days gone by, keeping the sward very short on parts of the Common. Already the wild flowers are responding, as we all could see earlier this year when it was a really attractive sight - it will be even better next year! Many thanks are due to all who have helped in this happy task and special mention must be made of Phil Tolerton of the Wildlife Trust who masterminds the project. He not only gives up his Sunday mornings but also comes all the way from Wiltshire to do so.

## PART 2 : MAPS

Tithe Maps of 1840. For properties over 150 years old these are the primary sources of information. They are

Next edition I'll deal with Taxation and Rating Records.

Grahame Tanner

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## FREE ESTIMATES

## HARVEST CONCERT AND SUPPER

*The Church, which was as always for such occasions beautifully decorated, provided an ideal setting for the Harvest Concert on Saturday, 18th September.*

*In front of a large and appreciative audience, the Village again proved what a wealth of talent it possesses. Many thanks to the participants, namely Geoff Mitchell with a selection of songs; Judith Wilson who not only demonstrated her own talents with the flute but also introduced us to two of her young pupils; Paul Alexander with a recitation from Keats; Simon and Iris Haigh with another impeccable performance of some more up-beat numbers and last (but by no means least) the "Village Singing Group" with a further selection of songs.*

*The concert was followed by a delicious hot Harvest Supper, which was served in the Village Hall. The occasion was further marked by a presentation to Joan Staley and Elizabeth Horner for their wonderful work in restoring the Church vestments, which were so badly in need of attention, and also to 'Sybil's Aunt' who has adorned our Church with so much of her tapestry work.*

*Many thanks to the Churchwardens and all their helpers who worked so hard to achieve what was undoubtedly a very enjoyable evening.*

\* \* \* \* \*



### PAINTING GROUP

Thursdays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Village Hall.

Yet another new member came from Portishead, and we have had an enquiry, again from Portishead, for the September and Winter months. This is very pleasing, each new member has new ideas and approaches, and keeps our enthusiasm keen. We have had several evenings out-of-doors, in the rare good weather, lots of garden paintings. We did not close for 'holidays' this year, there was always a group (be it small) wanting to meet.

## WILDLIFE TRUST IN THE GORDANO VALLEY

On the subject of the Wildlife Trust, a word perhaps is necessary to explain why the Trust was concerned about the Weston Drove Footpath Claim. The Trust generally has an open access policy to its reserves and indeed urges people to enjoy them and the wildlife that lives within them. At certain times of the year, though, such as when birds are nesting, it is necessary to ask people to keep off some areas to avoid disturbance. The Trust also has a responsibility to protect Avon's wildlife. The claimed footpath does not cross Weston Moor but it does go over the neighbouring National Nature Reserve and a NNR is the highest category of nationally important wildlife sites. It also crosses fields where redshank, snipe and lapwing nest - species that are declining nationally and that are very sensitive to disturbance. One person walking nearby will put up the nesting birds and sharp eyed crows are always lurking to take the eggs or young. The Trust recommended to the Inspector that if he found in favour of the claim, a permissive path should be negotiated which would route people away from the sensitive area and which could be closed during the nesting season. It would be a small price to pay to prevent the continuing and dramatic decline in these birds.

JOHN HARRISON

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### APPEAL!!

WANTED - White or grey undercoat and black gloss paint for the Village Hall. Do have a look in your shed or garage, most of us seem to hoard odd half tins of paint and this could be your chance to clear out some space and help with the maintenance of the Hall. Also paintbrushes and your help later - keep an eye on the notice board for work parties. (Any donations will be gratefully received and can be given to members of the Hall Committee or Paul Simons).



BLOOMIN' PUB!

I think a word of praise ought to be given to Phil Hodgkinson in the White Hart for the wonderful display of flowers on the pub. It's a pity that the motorists who race along Clevedon Road, as if there's no tomorrow, miss such a worthwhile and attractive presentation.

Arleen Tanner

FUND RAISING

We have received a notification from the Royal National Institute for the Blind that the sum of £73.54 was collected from this village. Thank you.

Audry Scrutton/  
Gwen Griesse

RE: MIDDLE HILL COMMON

Several mornings this Summer I have been tempted to walk up the hill to the new seat. This is a well chosen spot to sit and view the valley, surrounded now by an excellent display of flowers (even though I can't identify them all). There have been sunny times for the butterflies at last.

I would like to express my appreciation of the thoughtfulness of those who inspired the installation of this seat, for those who, having erected it, then, not to be discouraged, re-erected it. Having discovered the seat, I think the view amply repays the effort of the climb - which I intend to repeat.

Laurie Mason

Finally, rehearsals for "Aladdin" are just about to begin. No, tickets are not on sale yet, but it can be divulged that performances will be on January 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th.

Gill Stringer

# **THE FIRST VILLAGE CONKER CHAMPIONSHIP**

**TO BE HELD ON**

**WESTON IN GORDANO VILLAGE GREEN**

**SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 1993**

**FIRST MATCH TO START 11.30 A.M.**

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 3rd Village Hall Work Party  
October 16th Barn Dance  
October 17th Village Hall Work Party  
October 20th Nightingale Valley Ladies - Bristol Water

November 10th Social Committee A.G.M.  
November 17th Nightingale Valley Ladies

December 8th Nightingale Valley Ladies  
December 10th PUMP DEADLINE

JANUARY 26,27,28,29 Pantomime