

PARISH PUMP





VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The refurbishment work on the fabric of the Hall has continued since the last issue of the Pump.

Gutters and downpipes have been cleared of rubbish, the roof and walls swept down and stripped of growth preparatory to repainting in the Spring. The old chimney stack at the rear, a relic of the days of a solid fuel stove in the Hall, has also gone and not before time as our Working Party found out! The Management Committee extends grateful thanks to all those Villagers who gave up their Sunday mornings to carry out the work and particularly to Paul Simons who co-ordinated the jobs and provided the materials. Working parties will resume in the Spring when we hope to transform the appearance of the Hall with a new coat or coats of paint.

The planning permission applied for for the proposed extension has been received.

Finally, as you will see in the Diary, the Annual Wine and Cheese Party is being held on Saturday, 5th February. It was decided to hold the event after the Pantomime in order to leave the Hall clear for the stage managers to construct their sets, etc. A note will be circulated round the Village before the event to remind everyone but note the date - Saturday 5th February, 1994.

PETER SCRUTTON

PAINTING GROUP

The Group will not meet until late January. Sadly, two members have left to join an Art Class in Nailsea, we just hope our little meetings inspired this! We meet just to enjoy painting, daubing, sketching, dabbling, doing our own thing in compatible company. There is no question of beginners or experts, we are always ready to learn from a newcomer.

Thursday 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Village Hall.

EDITORIAL

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year

This year has now ended
We've done this four times
With Neighbourhood Watch here
We expect fewer crimes.

The Village has changed.
New faces appear
We walk down the road
But still tremble with fear

The P.O. and shop
No longer are seen
We're sorry to lose them
But we've revived our Village Green

And so this just leaves us
To wish you Good Cheer
And send us more items
For the 'Pump' next year!

Thanks to everybody who has contributed over the last year, we look forward to your continued support.

ANGELA

RICHARD

ELAINE

NOTE: The deadline for the next Parish Pump is Friday, 18th March, 1994.

GWEN GRIESE

MY APPRECIATION

On opening the last copy of the Parish Pump I found a very comforting message of condolence for me and my family 'on behalf of the whole village'. What a heart-warming phrase that was and it set me thinking of some of the lovely moments during our time here that could only have happened in a village.

We arrived here from a very busy city nearly 30 years ago. In the first week there was a welcoming shout across the road from the then pub landlady; "come over and have a cup of tea". We did have a giggle about that later, and a splendid cup of tea! John spent many happy evenings in the White Hart after that, but I often wondered how the landlord managed to make a living, as the interest of the local customers was in the card games and the business of seeking out the fellow who knew the chap who could get hold of the bloke who could supply you with the material for your next D.I.Y. project!

There was another welcoming gesture that first week when Phil, from along the road, came offering accommodation when she heard visitors were about to descend on us when we were still unpacking and the place looked like Steptoe's Yard!

How patient Ray and his family were when John decided that as some of his new friends were farmers this was just the time to re-live the farming experiences of his youth. John enjoyed every minute. I did wonder about the large lumps from woollen pullovers which kept disappearing. Was the machinery still working? Were the animals chewing something they shouldn't? Rays gift of a load of manure was much appreciated, though it was a bit of a shock finding it in the driveway. Luckily Alan, who lived nearby at the time, saw, or probably smelt, our dilemma and donned boots, grabbed a shovel and helped to deposit the gift where it could do most good.

John loved to sit at White House Farm and listen to Sam's yarns, but he soon came to realise that the mischevious twinkle in Sam's eye had little to do with the tale he was telling, but a lot to do with watching

the effect of his home brewed Perry!

I learned to understand the joy of a gentler sense of priority than mine when Mary, from the Post Office, arrived very late for what I had considered a very important meeting. She looked radiantly happy and contented whilst explaining "it was such a lovely day for gardening, I just forgot everything else".

Mary was one of three ladies persuaded and rehearsed by Kay, of Honeysuckle Cottage, to perform at a Village concert. They had never done this sort of thing before. The concert was in full swing, they sang their comic song and unhappily everything that could go wrong went wrong, but Kay told the audience "they can do much better than that - come on girls". A perfect rendering came over. The villagers clapped like mad and the 'girls' went off well pleased with life and ready for the next concert. Can you imagine this happening in town?

When John had an illness which made talking very difficult Fred, a nearby friend, would spend hours sitting in the garden with him in companionable silence, just enjoying the environment.

These were the early days, there have been many good happenings since.

So, thank you Village. Long may you continue to provide joy and companionship and, (despite the traffic), some precious quiet moments, so needful in this frantic world, and so difficult to experience in a busy city.

Joan Staley



THE FIRST VILLAGE GREEN CONKER CHAMPIONSHIP

From an innocent comment, in the White Hart, that it is a pity we cannot play cricket on our Village Green, the challenge was established and the seed of an idea was born. Some people thought us bonkers for wanting to play conkers, but the gods must have been smiling on us since we had chosen the one fine day, amidst a fort-night of torrential rain, for the contest.

At 11.30am prompt several interested parties arrived at the Green on Sunday 10th October, determined to recapture old conker skills or to find out whether they possessed any. Soon the Green was engulfed by what seemed like hundreds all conker away. Injuries were abundant - sore arms, bruised knuckles, numerous bruises everywhere - George the Forge soon realised the aim of the game was to hit the opponents nut!!!

There were fast games, skill games, lucky games and marathon games that lasted over an hour! All ages took part and a fair contingent from both sexes battled away many coming back to enter a second and third time.

Eventually the competitors were whittled down to the finalists and after two very exciting games the prestigious trophies were presented to :-

Ladies Champ - Penny Rogers, who played the final on behalf of her daughter Emma;

Mens Champ - Richard Phelps, a local resident of the White Hart, who lives in Portishead.

The Championship raised £17 which has been donated by the winners to CLIC and the Special Baby Care Unit in Bristol Maternity Hospital.

The event came to a close at approximately 2.30pm after 3 hours of conker, loads of fun and lots of interested spectator chatter. Thank you all for coming, entering and establishing our Village Green as one of the more notable arenas for International sport!

See you again next year for the 2nd!!!

Stuart Redway

THE WESTON IN GORDANO CHURCH CLOCK

During March this year Mr. David Seaton of Portishead and myself checked for the cause of the clock stopping. Once again the fault was found to be rusting and seizure of a small bearing in the motion wheels housing which is situated immediately behind the dial, and is not accessible until the hands are removed, the drive shaft disconnected from the clock, and the complete unit drawn back into the tower. In the past oil pipes had been fitted to the back plate of the housing, which could just be reached with a pressure oil can from inside the tower, but sufficient oil had not reached the motion wheels bearings causing the seizure.

It was decided to make a new bronze oil impregnated bearing with cover, and at the same time make a bracket with a bearing to support the universal joint at the clock end of the drive shaft. These parts were made by Mr. Seaton, and I filed slots in the housing back plate to allow the oil pipe ends to be raised slightly to allow oil to run down to the bearings. A new wire was fitted to the bell hammer, but the strike not set up until Mr. Keith Williams had time to adjust the pendulum to obtain good time keeping.

This has now been done and the clock appears to be running well, although a sudden increase in its rate a few weeks ago cannot be explained.

Finally we would like to thank Mr. Cliff Biddle and Mr. Keith Williams for their help during the repairs.

E. Haste



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The brevity of these notes indicates a certain lack of contentious issues relating to the Council in recent weeks. This lack is partly due to the extreme difficulties in obtaining responses from other bodies, notably Avon C.C. with regard to the road through the Village. We continue however to press strongly for action to remedy a blatantly unacceptable state of affairs at the 'priority system'.

The mis-management of traffic generally through the Village was demonstrated by a recent serious accident involving a milk lorry. It was extremely fortunate that no pedestrians were about at that time.

It may be necessary to remove the notice board from the front of the former village shop. If anyone has suggestions for an alternative location, please let the Council know. The board at the White Hart will, of course, remain.

A revised Electoral Roll for the Parish has now been received. This can be seen on the Notice Board and Church Notice Board.

* * * * *

IAN BORLAND
Chairman

P. A. SIMONS

•••• BUILDING CONTRACTORS ••••

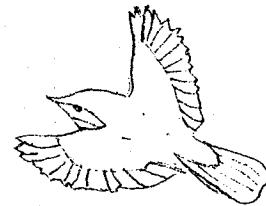
UPVC FACIAS SOFFITS - WINDOWS - CONSERVATORIES - HARDWOOD DOORS & WINDOWS

DOMESTIC OR COMMERCIAL
NEW BUILD ••••• EXTENSIONS
RENOVATIONS ••••• MAINTENANCE
LOFT CONVERSIONS •••••• REPAIRS

◆◆ 0275-845510

◆◆ 0836-615198

FREE ESTIMATES



NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES

The October meeting 'Man Made for Nature' wasn't quite as I had predicted in the last Parish Pump, but was a nature film on the wild life supported by the lakes. An interesting evening all the same and we were able to send £20 to St. Peters Hospice.

November was the 'flu' month and although numbers were low we enjoyed an evening of reminiscences of the music hall era - audience participation as well, joining in the choruses with Malcolm Rowley. One wonders will our grandchildren be able to remember the words of the popular songs of the 1990's as we remember the 1890's?

The weather did its best to mar the December meeting, but we were not to be deterred by a few gusts of wind! Marylyn Fell demonstrated a table centre decoration, with an ample supply of bits and pieces for everyone to use in their own. She also showed us how to make our own luxury crackers. The whole evening got us into the spirit of Christmas with wine and mince pies for refreshment.

You may be interested to know that over the first year the money sent to charities is £202. Thankyou everyone for supporting the Nightingale Valley Ladies and hope you will continue to come and enjoy the meetings already in the diary for 1994.

There will not be a meeting in January - it's pantomime time - but on the 16th February Jeanette Huntley is coming again, last February she entertained us so well with her journey through China, this time her journey is through America and her talk is entitled 'The Plains People'. I am sure she will have some slides to show us and possibly some examples of the quilts made by them. Jeannette is a member of the Quilters Guild, hence the reason for visiting that part of America.

On 16th March we are going to hear 'first hand' what happens when 'one' is honoured by the Queen, from Mrs. Mary McEwan Smith M.B.E.. Our very own Elaine Simons mum, and an excellent raconteur.

On 20th April Gwen Griese has invited a speaker from St. Peters Hospice to give a slide show and talk on the work of the Hospice and Charity shops.

Peggy Alexander's idea for starting these monthly meetings was to fill a gap left when W.I. finished three years ago. Just a couple of hours once a month to listen to a speaker and afterwards time for a natter and a cuppa with friends and neighbours. "Thankyou" Peggy for the idea, for co-ordinating it all and motivating the rest of us to join in.

Gwyneth Challenor



SCRIPTURE CHRISTMAS CAKE

The following recipe was taken from the 'Llanidloes Favourite Cookery Book'.

If anyone does decipher the recipe and makes it, I would love to know of their results - I haven't made the cake myself!

4½	cupfuls	Kings 1, Ch. 4, v. 22
½	lb.	Judges, Ch. 5, v. 25
2	cupfuls	Jeremiah, Ch. 6, v. 20
2	cupfuls	Nahum, Ch. 3, v. 12
2	cupfuls	Samuel 1, Ch. 30, v. 12
2	cupfuls	Numbers, Ch. 17, v. 8
2	teaspn.	Samuel 1, Ch. 14, v. 25
To taste		Chronicles II, Ch. 9, v. 9
3-4		Jeremiah, Ch. 17, v. 11
1½	cupfuls	Judges, Ch. 4, v. 19
2	teaspn.	Amos, Ch. 4, v. 5
1	pinch	Leviticus, Ch. 2, v. 13

Directions: Proverbs, Ch. 23, v. 14
Bake in lined tin 1½ - 2 hours

THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE : A GUIDE TO DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

PART 3 : TAXATION AND RATING RECORDS

As far as written records are concerned these two classes are the only ones guaranteed to provide comprehensive cover for a particular parish.

Taxation Records These are confined to the duplicate of land tax assessment between 1781 and 1832 to serve as evidence of property qualification for voting purposes at County Parliamentary elections.

The Assessments give names of owners and occupiers and often no more than a one word property description e.g. J. H. Willmott tenement £2.10.6. Sometimes it is uncertain whether a house is involved even. Using this record successfully depends upon two things: the ability to cover the gap between 1832 (the latest assessment) and 1840 (the tithe map) and the satisfactory identification of your property (sometimes very difficult indeed!). If these two questions are solved you have a succession of owners and occupiers over a 50 year period. The gap between 1832 and 1841 tithe map can be bridged by rate books or by the Register of Electors which took over in 1832 - but remember the franchise was very restricted so these records are limited.

Parish Records Parish rating records, whether as separate documents or incorporated in account books of churchwardens, overseers or highway surveyors, are fairly complete at the County Records Office. Sometimes they date from mid 17th century but are much fuller from mid 18th century onwards. If a property appears at the foot of a rate or section of a rate it can often be taken as a clue to the date of the building. Unfortunately they cannot be relied upon to name occupiers in addition to owners before about 1837. Also remember that the house name is often given as that of the current owners in the Assessments. Only important buildings such as manor houses, parsonages, pubs and churches maintain their names. But even here at one time the White Hart is referred to as the White Horse in one Assessment.

There are, of course, other records such as births, marriages and deaths but these give little guidelines to follow with regard to houses. Privately deposited estate records can be a help. As far as the Village is concerned the Church Commissioners Records are useful. The Seymour family records can also be consulted. Wills and inventories are also useful and based at Taunton. There are 10-12,000 wills 1812-1857 in existence. Virtually all probate wills dating from early 16th century were destroyed in an Exeter air raid in 1942.

There are separate sources available for parsonage houses, glebe records, benefice returns, inns, schools, poor houses, charity properties, toll houses and mills.

In the next part of this series I will deal with dating of houses from architectural features.

GRAHAME TANNER



EX MOTHER & TODDLERS GROUP

This Group which used to meet in the Village Hall disbanded naturally as the children reached Nursery and then School age.

However, the remaining 2 and 3 year olds meet on an informal basis in each other's houses.

On Saturday, 11th December Father Christmas again visited the Hall when ex Mother and Toddlers met for a party, the children had a wonderful time (noisy games and plenty to eat) - so did mums and dads (ditto). All the dads seemed to be there. It was a most enjoyable experience for an ex-officio 'Auntie'.

We do have a first class Father Christmas living in the Village - he even has the snow boots!

GWEN GRIESE

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

BARN DANCE - The Village Barn Dance took place as planned on Saturday, 16th October and became the usual chaotic event that all devotees seem to enjoy. Why is it that normal intelligent people can attend a barn dance and suddenly lose all sense of direction - except the way to the bar? Next year it has been suggested that everyone wears shoes with left and right printed on them! But joking apart, the event proved again to be very popular, with a band and a caller (or perhaps a Master of Ceremonies is a better term) encouraging everyone to get up and give it a go. Re-fuelling was undertaken by the ladies of the committee, who prepared a wonderful ploughman's supper after which everyone seemed to have the idea and wanted to demonstrate their dancing skills on the floor. You can always tell the good events when everyone is still talking about it long after. No doubt another one will be discussed by the Social Committee for 1994.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The A.G.M. took place in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th November and was very well attended by local villagers. Elaine Simons, Richard Nelson and Ross Merrifield all resigned this year and I am sure everyone joins the Committee in thanking them for their time and effort to the Social Committee. Fortunately we were not short of volunteers to join us and four new members were elected, namely John and Ann Bridges, Vicki Sopp and George Croxford or 'George the Forge' as many know him. Good luck to all of them. At the first meeting of the Committee the officers were elected and these are:-

Chairperson - Sue Broadway (843329)
Secretary - Pete Church (844050)
Treasurer - John Bridges (843380)

FUTURE EVENTS - Many new events have been suggested this year as well as the popular usual ones. Ideas put forward include:- Lexiquiz, theme evening perhaps based on the 40's, a barbecue or a pig or lamb roast, a racing evening

in the Village Hall - no, horses will not be required to race around, but they will on film, a visit to an English vineyard, a treasure hunt, an extended "village fun day", a river cruise or "booze cruise" as some call them, a village firework display and of course the barn dance or american square dance. It is pretty obvious the Social Committee is in for a very busy year.

PANTOMIME - This is the next event to be staged and it is well into rehearsals. Everyone must know the production this year is "Aladdin". This event will be as popular as ever and will be staged in the Village Hall on the evenings of Wednesday to Saturday, 26th to 29th January 1994 with a matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. Tickets will be on sale after Christmas and will be available from Committee Members at the price of £3.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.

PETER CHURCH

ITEMS FOR HIRE

Video Camera	-	Sue Broadway £3 per day £5 per weekend £10 per week
Karaoke	-	Pete Church As video
Glasses	-	Pete Church £3 per night
Hostess Trolley	-	Sue Broadway £3 per night
Tape Machine	-	Pete Church £2 per night

VILLAGE PUMPKIN COMPETITION

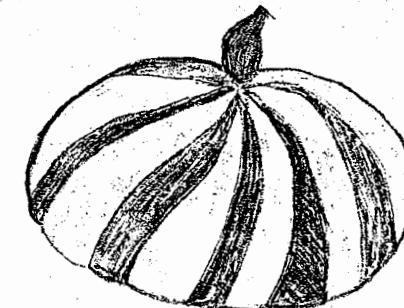
There were thirteen entries on the night, out of thirty-two plants sold. All shapes and sizes were seen, and the rivalry lives on amongst those keen to face the challenge! A lively and enjoyable evening was spent in the White Hart for the Judgement Day, and the results were:

1st	Cliff Biddle	120 lbs
2nd	Julie Topps	76 lbs
3rd	John	73 lbs
Booby Prize to Carol Hodgekinson		
Best Looking Pumpkin to John Goater		

Guess the weight was won by Clarence Sulley.

Thanks to everyone for taking part - good luck for next year!

Cliff Biddle



ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

Quite a few events to report since the last issue of the Pump.

Sept. 18 : The Harvest Concert and Supper

The Church looking beautiful as usual (how it lends itself to decoration). A large audience treated to a display of Village talents - Geoff Mitchell with a selection of songs, Judith Wilson flute with two young pupils, Paul Alexander reciting Keats' 'Autumn', Simon and Iris with their special kind of music and finally the Village Choir with a song selection. If that wasn't treat enough - on to the Village Hall for an excellent Harvest Supper. Presentations were made to Elizabeth Horner and Joan Staley for their restoration work and to Mrs. Woolward for her tapestry gifts.

Sept. 19 : The Festival Service conducted by Rev. John Smart and Rev. Mary Richards. Sermon by William King with readings by Tom Down and Norman Hawken. Produce was delivered to Clevedon Hospital and £30 sent to St. Peters Hospice.

Oct. 9 : Jumble Sale Very poorly attended but £59 was raised by ten helpers - I wonder how?

Nov. 14 : Annual Remembrance Service when we honour those whose names are registered on the Roll of Honour. Service conducted by the Rector, lessons read by Norman Hawken and Paul Alexander with Preb. Rev. Roland Clark. Present also Rev. John Hall from St. Nicholas Church, Portishead and Church members. Anthems sung by the Conygar Choir.

No. 27 : The Christmas Fayre "Something different". There was a great welcome for Father Christmas who arrived on his "snow" white sleigh. As he stopped on the main road outside the Hall (courageous) he was greeted by large and small children. He was very generous and from his Grotto (courtesy of Art Club) gave each child a gift.. There were many goodies for sale!

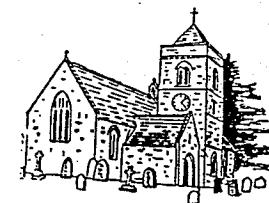
Dec. 3 : Safari Supper Another evening of "coming and going". Starting at Mr. & Mrs. Horner's for drinks and nibbles, on to various houses for main course and finally the Village Hall for mince pies, coffee, drinks and dance. As last year was so successful there was a 100% demand for tickets, no need to advertise. It was a very good evening, nice to have Rev. Preb. Ted James, Rev. Preb. Roland Clark and Norma, Rev. Mary Richards, Bill England and William King join us. I am sure all who "indulged" enjoyed!

Dec. 5 : The Christingle Service How well attended, the Church was nearly full and several children. Advent candles, orange candles - it was all very beautiful, as was the singing by the young children. Catherine Pearce (aged 10) read a lesson expertly. Conducted by Rev. Mary it was good to have congregation involvement and the children answered most questions directed at them.

Not a bad programme for our small Church.

At the last PCC meeting it was noted that in spite of our very precarious financial position, £56.49 was sent to the Children's Society as a result of collection. A gift to the British Legion, a cheque, clothes and toys to the Church Community Development Officer under the Urban Aid Fund, based at Withywood, Bristol.

FUTURE - 19th December Carol Service and Readings. The Gordano Chorus will be singing. Full Church is anticipated.



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

'Our Village Church' was the title of an illustrated talk given by the Rev. John Smart, MA, at the Parish Church on Wednesday, 24th November. It was a dreadful night as far as the weather was concerned but the small, erudite audience (or is it congregation?) who braved the elements thoroughly enjoyed the talk and the guided tour. The medieval windows were the highlight for me - the reason for their being there still eludes me however - why put musicians in a village church? Perhaps the patrons of the Church were music lovers! Or Welsh! The primitive pews were fascinating too as were the original misericords carved by some long-forgotten village carpenter. What a little gem the Church is! There is so much more there to be researched. I mean why is the Primate of All Ireland buried there?

Fred and Elizabeth Horner have invited us to meet at their house on January 26th. On the agenda is the exciting prospect of looking through copies of the Church Records, listening to Fred's account of his investigation into the 1881 census and finally to make preparations for World War 2 exhibition - hopefully planned for April sometime.

Photographs, artifacts and memories are required for this event. Anyone who can help please come along.

GRAHAME TANNER



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 19 - Church Carol Service with Gordano Chorus
21 - Carol Singing around the Village

January 26 - Local History Group
Mr. & Mrs. Horner's
26-29 - Pantomime

February 5 - Wine and Cheese Village Hall
16 - Nightingale Valley Ladies

March 16 - Nightingale Valley Ladies
18 - PUMP DEADLINE



C A R O L S I N G I N G

JOIN THE VILLAGE SOCIAL COMMITTEE
in
CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

Starting 6.45 pm

Outside

THE WHITE HART

on

TUESDAY, 21st DECEMBER, 1993

All proceeds to
COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH SERVICES
WESTGATE HOUSE, SOUTHMEAD HOSPITAL

Merry
Christmas

from the editors.