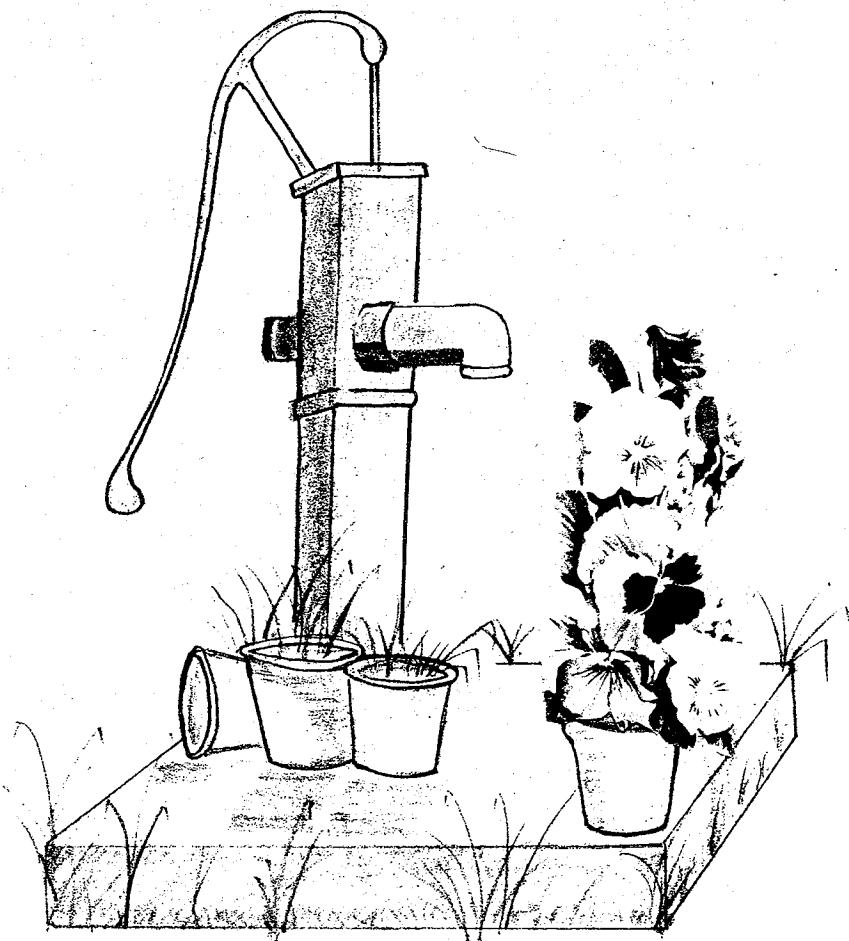


PARISH PUMP



MARCH 94

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

EDITORIAL

Spring has sprung at last, well illustrated by the lovely display of daffodils at each end of the Village and on the Village Green.

Looking at our Dates for your Diary we have a busy year ahead of us with a really good variety of events to keep all tastes satisfied. We hope you all participate fully and look forward to receiving many reports from you to fill our pages.

With the Winter Season over, we would like to thank Phil and Carol at the White Hart for hosting the regular Sunday Night Quizzes which gave many of us frustrating, but most enjoyable, evenings.

Pete Church also ran a quiz last week as a fund-raiser for the Social Committee's Village Hall Extension Fund. It was a shame that there was a noticeable absence of Village Committee members to enjoy the evening. Well done Pete!!

Have you all noticed we now have our full complement of lamp posts again? We wonder how long they'll last this time!

May we wish you all a very Happy Easter and we hope the bunny visits you!!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION - SUNDAY, 19th JUNE.
PLEASE TRY AND CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING - ANYTHING!!

ANGELA

RICHARD

ELAINE

You may have noticed that the heap of rubbish in the yard next to the old school seems to be growing, and is certainly becoming more overgrown and unsightly. The Council have used all avenues to prevail upon the owner to remove the blot from the village and abate what we consider to be a potential health hazard. In view of our lack of success we have written to Woodspring to ask them to consider removing the material, directing the costs as they see fit. We hope for action soon.

We still await a sensible answer from Avon County Council on the obvious failings of the priority system in the village - the term "brick wall" comes to mind. We have now written to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary asking for help on this matter.

As you are probably aware, a decision was made against the proclamation of a footpath at a recent enquiry held at Walton in Gordano Village Hall. This Council was criticized by the Avon County Solicitor for failing to formulate a sufficiently professional case and present the case adequately at the enquiry. It is unfortunate that our small Council cannot afford the resources necessary to combat full-time, and often professional, officials from other bodies.

Tentative, exploratory contacts have been received regarding the twinning of Weston In Gordano with a small village South East of Paris. Further details are awaited.

p.s. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
27 April with Speaker
STATUTORY PARISH MEETING
4th May

Ian Borland
Chairman, Parish Council

Were you born in

1945

(and proud of it, or at least
willing to admit it???)

If so we would like to hear from you. We too will reach the big 50 in 1995 and rather than sit at home peering in the mirror to see how many more wrinkles have appeared and which bits have sagged or bulged, we want to celebrate it in grand style - "Weston-in-Gordano fashion". What particular form this will take has yet to be decided but ideally we would like to find a few more people with a similar outlook on life to help us make 1995 a year to remember.

For instance - there will certainly be music (live if possible), dancing, food and the odd drink or two, hopefully somewhere in the Village so that no-one need travel too far. This will all need careful thought and organisation and this is why we are asking now to give plenty of time.

Please contact:- **Gill Stringer** (Samois, Cadbury Lane)
or
Judith Stone (Talla, Cadbury Lane)

Serious applicants only considered.

PAINTING GROUP

Has restarted with 5 regulars. Why not join us, perhaps you have other creative skills? - embroidery, etc. Margaret Jacobs even brought her canal boat panels to paint! I painted the ornate frame of a mirror

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

GWEN GRIESE

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

The Carol Service must not go unreported - too late for the last magazine. December 19th - a full Church, good readings, excellent singing with the Gordano Chorus (and Richard's drums!). Followed by refreshments - thank you Chorus and Village support.

The main report of this issue is a sad appeal for the Church's need for help. Those of you who take the Church Magazine will know of our difficulties but the Pump has a circulation to the whole Village and our appeal must be repeated.

The organ was damaged by water leaking through split guttering. Investigation of this revealed that the side of the Vestry roof needed re-slating. The Church Architect who was called in also insisted that damaged leaded windows (some medieval) must be restored. A subsequent assessment suggests this alone needs £15000. The Vestry has just had much needed re-decoration but now there seems to be damp from the Tower wall into the Vestry. Calor gas heaters in the Church have proved hazardous to floating cassocks and pre-heating the Church with loaned industrial heaters is short-lived and costly. Heating is essential to prevent further decay to building and contents.

The Church is important in the Village, we are lucky it is there for weddings, christenings, etc. (even worship). Many villages would envy us, described officially as a 'gem' it is an asset to our environment. The Village would be less a 'village' if it were to fall into dis-repair and close. Can you help us keep it open?

We, the Church, are going to have to make great efforts to raise money. On **3rd April, Easter Sunday**, we are starting our fundraising with a **GIFT DAY**. The Church will be open all day. If you haven't visited us before, please do, and if you have, come again. It is hoped you will contribute generously.

A second appeal - we are to co-opt someone to be our Church Treasurer. We need a Treasurer, can you volunteer? Speak to the Church Wardens.



NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES

The 16th February was one of the coldest nights of the year. To see the clear blue skies and colourful quilts of the Amish people on the slides shown by Jeanette Huntley made us forget the English winter for an hour. A most interesting and enjoyable evening.

On 16th March we had the great pleasure of the company of Mrs. Mary McEwen-Smith MBE to hear all about the investiture. It was a most hilarious evening and much appreciated by everyone. We were able to send £14 to the R.N.L.I.

20th April - Slides and talk on St. Peters Hospice
18th May - Rev. John Smart showing slides on his 3 month stay in New Zealand
15th June - At Elizabeth Horner's home - an evening of embroidery



GWYNETH CHALENOR

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear All,

My apologies for the behaviour of my burglar alarm during February - I didn't realize the chaos it caused because I was out!

You will all be relieved to know that everything has now been resolved - at vast cost!

May I take this opportunity to thank everybody who responded to the alarm's call; it was not a wasted effort, it shows that our Neighbourhood Watch scheme is working and if my alarm goes off in the future it will not be because of a loose connection at the back door.

Very many thanks to you all.

Mary (Pemberton)

p.s. I shall be "on the streets" for K.G.F.S. during the second week of April - please give generously.

CAROL SINGING

As a result of the carol singing around the village in December a record amount of £120.00 was collected. The proceeds were donated to Westgate House, Southmead Hospital, and a letter of thanks is reproduced

SOUTHMEAD HEALTH Services-

A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE TRUST

Community Child Health Services
Westgate House
Southmead Hospital
Westbury-On-Trym
BRISTOL BS10 5NB

Tel: (0272) 595354

6th January 1994

Mrs S Broadway
(Weston-in-Gordano Social Committee)
Honeysuckle Cottage
Clevedon Road
Weston-in-Gordano
NR. PORTISHEAD
Bristol

Dear Mrs Broadway

Many thanks to your Social Committee and villagers of Weston-in-Gordano for carol singing and raising £120.00 for our Child Abuse Unit, Westgate House.

Donations such as yours are invaluable and help to provide facilities for children under our care who have been physically and sexually abused.

Once again everyone here at the Child Abuse Unit, Westgate House send their thanks and Best Wishes for a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

LINDA TAYLOR (Miss)
ADMINISTRATOR

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Every year the Social Committee organises a "Village Barbecue" and this year's will take place on Saturday, 2nd July, in the garden of John and Ann Bridges, and will be based on a calypso theme.

The weather will never stop this event, but a lack of venues could. If anyone living in the village would like to offer a suitably large garden for future years it would be very much appreciated by the members of the Social Committee.

Please contact Sue Broadway at Honeysuckle Cottage or ring on 843329.

Future Events:

A full programme of events has been organised this year, and the Social Committee looks forward to your usual support. Other dates to be put in your diary are :

Saturday, 14th May A Theme Evening will take place in the Village Hall and will take the form of a variety show based on the War Years. Hopefully you would have responded to the notice put through your letterbox in February and will be taking part, but if not it's not too late. Contact John Bridges at "The Bellows" or tel. 843380 giving your name and type of act.

Sunday, 5th June The annual Car Treasure Hunt will be run from the White Hart and no doubt back to the White Hart.

Saturday, 6th Aug. An evening "Booze Cruise" has been arranged but must be strictly limited to 50 persons. First come - first served at £7.50 per head. At 6.00pm a coach will take you from

the White Hart to Saltford and the boat on to Bath. The cost includes on board supper, music and dancing, but you must buy your own drinks from the on board bar. Arrival back at the White Hart will be midnight approx.. All applications for the trip to Vicki Sopp, tel. : 845056.

Monday, 29 Aug.

The afternoon of the Bank Holiday will see a "Village Fun Day" take place, giving good "sport" for the "children" of the village, whatever their age. Bring your own pic-nic. If anyone has any ideas of activities for this event which they would like to see please contact Sue Broadway on 843329.

Saturday, 1 Oct.

Hoe Down or an American Square Dance will take place in the Village Hall and will no doubt prove to be as popular an evening event as the previous Barn Dances.

Pete Church



P. A. SIMONS

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FREE ESTIMATES

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

You will all have noticed that now we have six strategically placed signs in the village, paid for by the Parish Council. Some information on discounted house insurance was sent round in the belief that it could be advantageous, besides doing a favour to the brokers who arranged free public liability cover on our signs.

The marking kit was made available to all members over two weekends at the end of January. The take-up, together with those that had already been 'done', was good but if anyone missed out please let your contact person know and we will arrange to borrow the kit again later in the year.

Two problems were brought to notice in the last three months. Firstly the noise caused by shooting taking place as late as 9.30pm on land at the rear of the houses at the East end of the village, on the quarry side. This matter was raised with the police and, apparently, provided the persons concerned have the permission of the landowner (which we are informed they did in this instance), it is quite in order until 10.00pm. Hopefully it is an inconvenience of short duration whilst rabbit numbers are reduced.

Secondly the problem of the vagrant in the village which has been a continuing matter of concern to many of us. The police have been fully aware of him for several years as he has moved from place to place in the Portishead District area. Apparently he refuses to accept good and generous offers of accommodation and assistance from the DHSS and Salvation Army, and prefers to do his own thing living rough, including spending a good part of the year in Weston Big Wood, and begging for most of his every day needs. The police are unable to do anything other than ask him not to bother people in a particular area when concerns are voiced, and this has been done in our case to no avail. They suggest that if we want him to go away we consider refusing his requests and he will move to another area where the people are initially more receptive. He came to us from North Weston where he had remained for about eighteen months. Obviously it seems unkind to adopt such

an attitude, but we should remember those in our community who live alone and will be worried by such an individual calling on them, particularly in the evening darkness. A few points to mention about the person in question :-

1. He is aged late 20's.
2. He apparently cuts his hair with a razor blade which gives it an unkempt appearance.
3. He apparently has some fear of door bell pushes, and if there is no knocker he will rattle the letter boxes or tap on windows, standing back away from the door bell when anyone comes.
4. His name we believe is Andrew Prouds.

May we remind you that should you wish it, you may advise your Contact Person of the times that you are leaving your premises unattended for any length of time. We appreciate that in many cases you will have a family member, neighbour or friend looking in, but please feel free to involve your Contact Person if you feel he/she could assist in any way during your absence. At least the knowledge that you are away enables us to take particular notice if we see anything or anyone out of the ordinary around your property.

Remember - Neighbourliness is the Watchword.

Mike Challenor
Coordinator



THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE : ITS GENERAL APPEARANCE

Previous to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century most houses were of single pile construction, one room deep. Sometimes there was a lean-to at the rear. Early 'open-hall' houses are probable if there is a low eaves line.

After the late seventeenth century the two room deep plan under a single roof space became popular. Local clay deposits made the use of roof tiles widespread in the nineteenth century. Earlier than that most houses were thatched. Only the landed gentry's houses had stone tiles. Most roofs need stripping every hundred years or so, thatches last for an even shorter time. As cheaper roofing materials were developed they superceded older, less modern and often more expensive predecessors. When thatching was generally discontinued, flatter roof pitches were introduced. Older houses were often doubled up and re-roofed in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. In gable end walls evidence of steeper pitches can often be seen.

Was your house enlarged at some time? Straight joints in stone and brickwork, changes in building materials and in window and door design can show additions to the house. If you look at the facade of your house the positions of doors, windows, and chimney stacks can show its original plan form. The traditional three room and cross passage plan of medieval origin will be reflected in the main elevations. The main chimney stack will adjoin either the cross passage inserted in the passage forming a sort of lobby entrance plan, or between the hall and the parlour.

The early chimney stacks are generally large. Their fireplaces have often been infilled but like the Olde Thatch once renovations are begun old inglenooks and open fireplaces reveal themselves. A symmetrical elevation with central doorway and matching stacks are unlikely to be earlier than the 1650's.

Most houses which have survived from earlier periods are likely to be substantial houses such as farmhouses, and in this area stone-built. They probably had an additional use such as trading or craft use. Most farm houses fall into two types : the longhouse, typical of the North and West and associated with pastoral farming, and the Yeoman farmer's house of the South and East.

In the next Parish Pump I will deal with longhouses in general. In subsequent editions I hope to discuss the detail of roofs, walls, doors and windows, stairs and floors.

Grahame Tanner



Now everybody has them, whether they're on letters from Australia, America, Botswana or Bristol, and how often do they just get tossed into the rubbish bin along with the envelope? Well please, please from now on would you take just that extra minute to tear the stamp off the corner, stick it in a bag or something in that drawer that collects useful items, and when the bag is full just drop it in to Cliff Biddle, either at home or at the White Hart, and he will then sort them and pass them on to the very worthy cause of Stamps for the Blind. Cliff has been doing this for many years and would welcome any more stamps with open arms to go towards this wonderful charity.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Meetings monthly in January and February! The January meeting at Fred and Elizabeth Horner's was noticeable for the 1881 Census and the difficulties involved in its interpretation. Why oh why did the enumerator not note down the separate houses and their names or numbers? Instead of which most people seemed to inhabit the White Hart permanently - perhaps they did! It is so frustrating that one person's carelessness could negate so much research. The Church records were so detailed that much more work is required on them. An earnest hope on my part is that more of the villagers whose antecedents have long links with the village would come and help. They have so much to offer. Their children and grandchildren will be unable to look into the past as we are trying to do if their invaluable knowledge is not recorded.

The February meeting was held again at Gordano Lodge to discuss details of the proposed WORLD WAR II EXHIBITION to be held in conjunction with the World War II theme evening of the Social Committee. Their representatives were invaluable in sorting out dates etc.. Finally it was decided to hold the exhibition in the Village Hall on Friday evening, May 13th and Saturday morning, May 14th.

We are in urgent need of any World War II memorabilia, not necessarily to do with the village. Obviously the more we can borrow from villagers the better, but personal war memorabilia is important too.

What sort of things would we like to borrow? - Identity cards, photographs, ration books, letters, cards, menus, clothes, magazines, newspapers, comics, posters, birthday cards, maps, wartime recipes, military records, etc. etc.. There are so many things which constitute an historical record. If you have anything you can lend could you tell us by 31st March, please. We can then make arrangements to borrow the items.

Who do you contact with promises? -

Mike Challenor	on	845218	or
Ken A'Court	on	818043	or
Grahame Tanner	on	817131	

Please, please help make this event a success and be assured your valued items will be protected and looked after very carefully.

Grahame Tanner



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Normal Day

EASTER

7th April
14th "

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

5th May

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

2nd June

Revised Day

Saturday, 9th April
Friday, 15th April

Friday, 6th May

Friday, 3rd June

CRIBBAGE

Tuesday nights in the White Hart sees a regular gathering of players and friends of this most enjoyable game. The teams play just for fun, or in the local Cribbage League. Anyone who is interested in joining this night please don't be frightened to come along, we'll teach you how to play if you don't know, or come as an already able participant! For any further information please contact Cliff Biddle on 849766.

Cliff Biddle

YOUNGER GENERATION

We went to see "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" at the Bristol Hippodrome. It was excellent. Did you know that a group of children from Highdown School won an open competition to take part throughout this show? One of the children was Catherine Pearce of Barn Close. The children were all amazingly professional and if you wanted to witness 'discipline' you would have seen it in the faultless performance of these children. Congratulations.

Saturday 12 March - Wedding of Elizabeth Carrad and Christopher Agnew conducted by the Bishop of Malmesbury.

Sunday 27 March - Palm Sunday Service 6.30 pm
Conygar Singers

Easter Day - 9.30 am Communion Service
- 6.30 pm Festival Service with
Gordano Chorus

FULL CHURCH PLEASE!!

Any more children for the Sunday School with Joy Kelly? 9 children at the last meeting. 10.30 am at the Church 1st and 3rd Sundays of month.

GWEN GRIESE

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Pantomime seems a very long time ago, but it won't be long before arrangements for the next one will be under way.

As usual the hall was full for each performance with the audience traditionally trying to outdo the performers. In fact on the last night it was a close run thing, but the cast as to be expected did come out on top.

The panto "Aladdin" was very colourful and proved to be a great success and many congratulations are extended to all concerned with the event.

On Friday, 4th March, Paul Alexander presented his Lexiquiz in the village hall. It proved to be very popular although it must be said that some teams did create a little chaos. No names mentioned of course for fear of law suits.

The rules were explained by Paul and seemed to be simple enough! Everyone understood except for the teams already mentioned.

Four bottles of vintage wine were presented to the winning team namely Ian and Angela Borland and Richard and Sharon Nelson. It was very close, in fact they only just won.



MIDDLE HILL COMMON

Open Day, Sunday 22nd May

Five years of scrub bashing - ooops! mustn't say that, it's not 'politically correct' - five years of bramble and bracken clearing are now being rewarded by the sight of buds and green shoots appearing across the common. By May, the short grassy areas should be a mass of colour with, if the weather is kind, drifts of butterflies sipping the nectar of the wild flowers.

Do you have childhood memories of wandering through fields full of flowers and say "it isn't like that any more"? Well, it is still "like that" up on the common. Do come up and have a look, anytime, but especially on Sunday, May 22nd when we are proudly having an OPEN DAY, starting at 10.30am. It will be well worth the gentle climb.

And by the way, not only is 'scrub bashing' politically incorrect, you mustn't call Japanese Knotweed an 'invasive alien' either - we are told that these are 'ecofascism' terms. Help!

John Harrison



N.B. The next work morning will be on Sunday, 12th June, beginning 10.00am., with tasks ranging from very gentle to mildly energetic (editor's note - should that read 'wildly'?) Do come along.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL	3 (all day)	Church 'Gift' Day
	3 (p.m.)	Festival Service with Gordano Chorus
20		Nightingale Valley Ladies
27		Annual Parish Assembly
MAY	4	Statutory Parish Meeting
	13	World War II Exhibition
	14 (a.m.)	" " " "
	14 (p.m.)	World War II Theme Evening
	18	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	22 (a.m.)	Middle Hill Common Open Day
JUNE	5	Annual Car Treasure Hunt
	12	Middle Hill Working Party
	15	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	19	DEADLINE PARISH PUMP
JULY	2	Village Barbecue
AUGUST	6	"Booze" Cruise
	29	Village Fun Day
OCTOBER	1	Hoe Down/American Square Dance