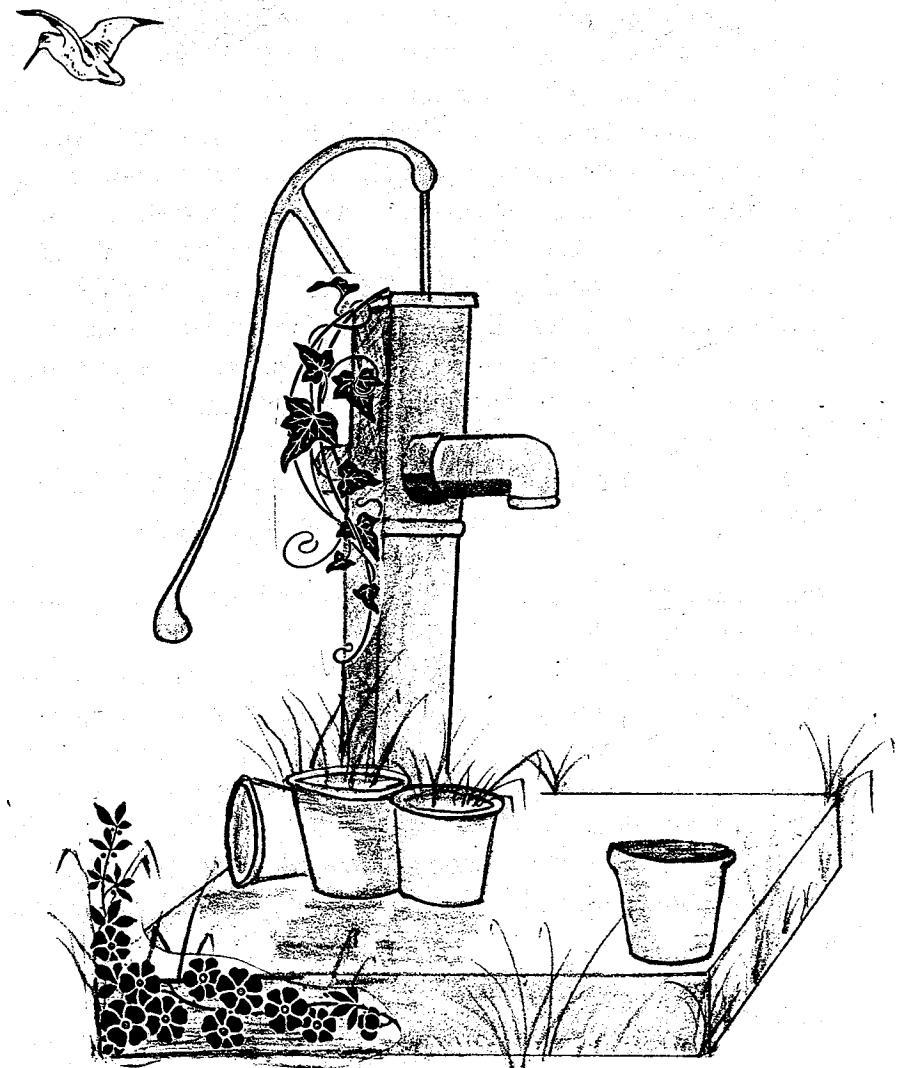


PARISH PUMP



EDITORIAL

With smiles on our faces we announce that we have received THE seal of approval. To quote "It is informative, witty, well written, well presented, and an excellent publication". Yes, we are talking about the Parish Pump, and it was the Mercury's famed journalist Piers McBride who uttered those words. We are now financially secure enough to continue publication for another year thanks to monies given by all our village groups. But, of course, as Piers McBride pointed out it all depends on your editorial contributions; so please keep those letters and articles rolling in.

Suggestions: Book/Film reviews, Recipes, Jokes, Quizzes, Cross-words, Photographs, Anecdotes, Holiday stories, Etc, Etc.

Condolences go to the family and friends of Bill Cooling, who passed away recently.

Best wishes go to Gail, Keith and Lucy who also left the Village last week and welcome to the new residents of The Old Post Office.

We understand that the civil engineering project on the Lido beside the Church has just about come to an end now. It has though, we hear, claimed its first victim - did she fall or was she pushed??!

DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS EDITION WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER

A COMMON VIEW

Thanks are due to 13 stalwarts who turned out on September 4th to take the annual hay cut of the Common and to the 8 who completed the task a fortnight later. All the toil of the last six years has rescued the Common from its bramble and bracken tangle and it now looks healthy, open and very attractive. The wildlife has responded to the changes and a sunny summer's day brings out a mass of butterflies - Marbled Whites, Small Coppers, Brown Argus and Common Blues to name just a few, all much less common than in days gone by.

On the subject of butterflies - and moths - have you noticed some rather unusual ones this summer? Those with long memories will remember the warm weather back in May, June and July, this brought over from the continent a fair number of migrant butterflies and some of them got as far as the Gordano Valley. Painted Ladies, a brightly coloured butterfly rather lighter than our Small Tortoiseshell and lacking the blue patches on the wings, appeared also Clouded Yellows, which are a much richer yellow than our Brimstones and with brown borders on their wings. Both of these migrate across the Channel but only in quantity during warm summers, they then breed here but few of their offspring make the return trip, most dying in the winter chill.

Also a couple of migrant moths were around, the daytime flying Humming-bird Hawk Moth and the Silver Y. The Humming-bird Hawk is unmistakable behaving just like its namesake as it hovers at honeysuckle sipping the nectar, while the Silver Y sits on flower heads with wings quivering at 45° displaying the silver Y. One evening in August I saw several dozen of these on Valerian flower-heads not far from the White Hart (before I went in, not after!).

A Common Man

P.S. The next Common working party is timed to help you burn off the excess of Christmas and New Year - Sunday, January 8th. Happy New Year!

A POTTED HISTORY OF PANTOMIME : PART TWO

Following the death of John Rich in 1761, developments in "English pantomime" and the movement away from the Italian style, passed to Garrick and his successors at Drury Lane, which remained "the home of pantomime" until the 1914/18 period though there was little change in the basic costumes from the originals.

Harlequin wore a half-mask and carried a magic sword-like wand to give him advantage over his enemies. In order to let him display his agility, his was a tight fitting costume of coloured triangular patches. Columbine as his dancing partner wore a fairly plain white costume with a contrasting bodice, a white full calf-length skirt which gave sight of her neat footwork. Pantaloons costume changed very little as well, with the mid-length pantaloons style trousers over yellow stockings. The clown costume took longer to become standardised.

In the second half of the 18th Century a pantomime would fall into two distinct parts - the first a serious story to include the problems of the plight of the young lovers, in some form or another - which was transformed into the Harlequinade, when the main characters then became the four characters - Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloons and Clown involved in the comical knockabout routines.

Over the years the balance between the two altered considerably - sometimes the Harlequinade took precedence over the serious story - then there was much more emphasis on the story-line - with comedy introduced, so that the Harlequinade became no more than a brief comical curtain-raiser to the main pantomime. In this fashion it was played against a drop scene made up of shop fronts, but many opening doors and windows, giving rise to hilarious and inventive chases and acrobatics. By the start of this century it had virtually disappeared. The last recorded Harlequinade in London seems to be in 1952 as a prelude to the Palladium pantomime - probably as a curiosity which would have made little sense to the audience. Harlequin too lost much of his attraction - and Clown took over.

Towards the end of the 1770's in "Robinson Crusoe or Harlequin Friday" an elderly Italian immigrant pantomime actor Giuseppe Grimaldi was playing Clown, a part he was not as happy playing as when he was Pantaloons. However he was active not only on stage but off it as well - to the extent that he caused a sensation at Drury Lane with the announcement that the 25 year old Corps de Ballet mistress (in more names than one!) had presented him with a son. He was called Joseph, who was put on the stage from a very early age, to become an accomplished acrobat, dancer, singer and comedian, and in 1800 he was given the chance to play Clown in the Sadlers Wells pantomime "Peter Wilkins or Harlequin in the Flying World".

It was Joseph Grimaldi who "made" the Clown character his own - and we get the term Joey the Clown from him. He established the clown facial makeup and costume which virtually all subsequent pantomime clowns adopted. He was probably the first to use a catchphrase, making his entrances with "Here we are again!!", and making sure that he became as one with the audience. He used live birds and animals in his routines and was generally loved by pantomime audiences at Drury Lane. As one writer of the time noted, "Whether he robbed a pie-man, opened an oyster, rode a giant cart horse, grasped a red hot poker, beat a watchman, sneezed snuffed or nursed a baby, in all this he was extravagantly natural". But his acrobatic antics and occasional accidents took a toll, when arthritis set in.

In 1828 he had a farewell benefit at Drury Lane. Charles Dickens, who was an enthusiastic pantomime goer right from childhood, was in the audience and wrote "even in this distressing condition he retained enough of his old humour to succeed in calling down repeated shouts of merriment and laughter". After his death in 1837 Dickens was the editor of Joseph Grimaldi's biography.

The 19th century saw a great number of changes and developments in theatre and theatrical performances and presentations, including pantomimes. It was the age of technical discoveries, inventions in various fields. Lighting had always posed problems, leading to fires and destruction of theatres, including Drury Lane, which led to its being rebuilt after a serious fire in 1809.

The first half of the 19th century saw many changes in general life-style, the Industrial Revolution, and the start of the "Victorian Period", the former bringing a "marvelous complexity of mechanism, painting, lighting, coloured fire and effects for general stage presentations". The rebuilt Drury Lane stage was large and plenty of space for scenery, properties and similar workshops, and wardrobe, enabling the presentation of elaborate and spectacular pantomimes with quite large casts. Elsewhere in the country other managements were able to follow suit albeit with more moderate budgets.

At the same time it became necessary to find a wider range of stories on which pantomimes could be based. Fairy tales, legends, nursery rhymes were a useful source and the basic plots could be extended with classical and historical references. Mother Goose, Dick Whittington, Red Riding Hood, and even King Alfred the Great, as well as characters like Ignorance and Antiquity appeared in pantomimes.

This led to some writers turning their hands to this particular end, contriving elegant and imaginative scripts of considerable literary merit. Many scripts were written entirely in rhyme which included puns.

E. L. Blanchard was one of the most prolific and inventive pantomime writers from 1844 until 1888. So too was John James (Hickory) Wood - and the puns - e.g.

"The wretched maid racked her poor brains
To count her sheets, she cannot count 'er pains".

"Haste to his home and in his Christmas pie
Place the charmed plum .. don't ask the raisin why".

Then further changes were to come in the later years of the last century.

To be continued.....

Paul Alexander

VILLAGE MEMORIES

I was showing an 'older' gentleman out of my office the other day, generally chatting on a clear but chilly morning, when on reaching the outer door I lifted the latch, kneeled the lower section, kicked the base and gently leaned my shoulder into the middle panel on the spot where the big knot of wood is, at which stage the door opened easily, and he just stood there and roared with laughter.

I had better explain. I suppose "office" is a little pretentious of me, it's more a stone and brick shed in the middle of a field really, with some adaptations to the modern way of life, like a fireplace and linoleum on the floor! Having originally been built as a gas production plant in Victorian times, then used as stables, and then as somewhere to put the staff and call an "Estate Office", it is now my place of work every morning of the week and it is what I think an Estate Agent would describe as "rustic and full of character", - hence the latched, rather obstructive door!

Anyway, to get back to my story, the gentleman roared with laughter and said "Good grief, that reminds me of a Cub Scout camp I went on as a young boy in a little place called Weston In Gordano". My ears pricked instantly and I asked him to tell me more.

It seems that he was a member of the Whitchurch Cub Scouts and as a special treat their Summer Camp was held on a site in Weston In Gordano. Two things he could remember vividly, one was that it rained every single day, and the second was a day trip they took by train on the Portishead to Clevedon Railway. He remembers the little station in the village, but more importantly he remembered discovering the chocolate bar vending machine there, and these dear little Cub Scouts had worked out that if you kicked the supporting leg on a certain spot, and at the same time banged the side of the box, then a never ending supply of chocolate bars would be dispensed free of charge - they

thought Christmas and Summer Holidays had come all at once!!

Needless to say officialdom put a stop to their antics and the station became 'Out of Bounds', but my action at the door had just triggered off that happy memory for him, and he thanked me for it.

Angela



DEFINITION OF A SENIOR CITIZEN

A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the pill, television, frozen foods, credit cards, ball point pens, jet engines and supersonic flight.

For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, a chip was something you ate with fish and bought in penn'orths. Hardware meant durable, and there was no such word as software. Porn meant raising a loan, jeans wereJean's. We were before pantyhose and drip-dry clothes, dishwashers and tumble dryers. We had hot water bottles and not electric blankets. We got married first and then lived together.

We thought cleavage was something the butcher did. We were before Batman, disposable nappies, jeeps, pizzas, instant coffee, Chinese takeaways and supermarkets. Soaps were for washing with.

In our days cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing and pot a cooking utensil. To be gay was to be the life and soul of the party - while aids meant beauty creams, trusses and wigs.

We are today's Senior Citizens, a hardy bunch when you think how the world has changed and of the adjustments we've made!

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

29th June, the Patronal Festival was celebrated with a service of Holy Communion with visitors from Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church. All Saints, St. Mary's Choir led the singing and refreshments in the Church followed.

3rd July, The wedding of Claire Harrison, (daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harrison of Court Farm) and Carl Lang, was one of the few weddings to have sunshine. Claire, Carl and bridesmaid walked from Court Farm to the Church which was beautifully decorated by Gwyneth Challenor, Marilyn Ettery and Elizabeth Horner. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Peter Wills, a family friend. The village children were at the Church gate to follow the traditions of undoing the gate ribbon, and the scramble for coins thrown by the groom. The bridal party then walked back to Court Farm for the reception in a Marquee in the garden.

This marquee was used again on the Sunday. Following a Service of Prayer and Praise when the United Benefice Music Group played and All Saints Junior Choir shared our singing, we all moved to Court Farm. Here we had an excellent supper (including surplus wedding delicacies) we were then entertained by the Village Chorus singing well loved songs, (how could they after that 'snack'!). Those replete sat and managed to tap a foot to the well-rendered songs. There was then a raffle and it was spontaneously decided to purchase a portable T.V. for Stacey Redway to help her during her enforced 'lie-in' after her treatments. Stacey's letter follows. Altogether a rather special Patronal Festival.

A coffee morning was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Chevasse at Blackberry Lane. The weather was very kind and we sat in the garden and enjoyed the morning. The money raised was given for fete expenses and a number of bottles were collected for the bottle stall. The Fete. July 3rd was a beautifully warm, sunny day. Held at Barn End (Mr. & Mrs. Carrad) and Barn Close (Mr. & Mrs. Pearce) this annual event depends on fine weather. Mr. Carrad's working model railway is quite remarkable; also remarkable the variety of stalls, raffles, goodies, competitions, the children's Fancy Dress (won by Alex Sopp as a super French Onion Boy)

There was the "Band", (with our Trevor), and the tea and refreshments non-stop. £1,010 was raised. Thank you to all who 'did' and to all who came and gave.

7th August, a double christening with Charlotte Elizabeth Stadden (Lucy Wells/Ian), granddaughter to Mr. & Mrs. Wells, Silver Street, and Matthew Robert Tyler, (Dianne/Robert), grandson to Mr. & Mrs. Tyler of Clapton. Matthew remained unmoved by the ceremony and Charlotte asked for "MORE, MORE WATER"!

4th September. Christening of Robert Paul Jacobs, (David/Teresa), grandson to Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs of The Old Farmhouse. This christening followed the children's Sunday School and the children "helped" and sang a song for Robert Paul who seemed very happy with the situation.
NOTE the grandchildren coming on the scene in the village!

There was a full church for the funeral service of Mrs. Edith Stanley who lived in the village for 22 years before moving to Portishead and then Stone, Staffs. She was an original member of the W.I. where she played the piano, (also the organ at the church from time to time). On occasions she helped the late Mary Sully in the Old Post Office. Her ashes were returned to Staffordshire.

18th September. Harvest Festival. This year there were some newcomers to the flower arrangers team. Impossible to better previous decoration but there were subtle differences - and once more the little church was very beautiful. The Rev. Mary Richards conducted to a full congregation. The Rev. John Angle preached the sermon. The celebration already late because of the traffic hold-up due to the tragic motorway accident, the singing overcame the constant noise of the traffic, but when Rev. Angle tried to speak it seemed all the police vans stopped outside, lights flashing, sirens wailing. Through the joy of a Harvest Service we sensed an underlying anxiety for what might be happening down the road. The Village Chorus led the general singing and treated us to a solo which was much enjoyed, and under the circumstances, much appreciated. As was the supper which followed in the Hall. Food excellent, company excellent, there were several visitors, Bill and Cath Adolpho, and it was Bill's birthday, yet another burst of song - only to discover it was Margaret Jacob's birthday and a surprise cake appeared. Thankyou singers, helpers, attenders.

We need a NEW ORGANIST. Anyone interested please contact the Church Wardens for further information:
Mrs. Margaret Jacobs 849154.
Mrs. Sybil Hawken 844779.

It has been suggested by the flower arranging team that should anyone be interested in having flowers or an arrangement in the church for a special occasion, say an anniversary, thanksgiving (arranged by themselves or by the church team), this can be organised. Please contact Mrs. Ettery 843802 or Mrs. Challenor 845218.



RESTORATION OF WESTON IN GORDANO CHURCH

A committee has been set up to be responsible for masterminding the raising of funds for essential Church restoration, as a separate project from other Church affairs.

Ten villagers attended the first meeting on Sept. 6th at Barn End and heard reports from the Churchwardens and Treasurer on the necessary repairs that need attention. The overall target is in the region of £20,000. About £7,500 has been raised so far from donations, covenants and the fund of the late Mrs. Dorothy Howard.

Various fund raising activities were discussed and at the next meeting on October 11th at Gordano Lodge the committee hopes to make plans for a LAUNCH PARTY IN NOVEMBER and look into the possibility of a SPONSORED HYMN SING IN DECEMBER (soft cushions for the organist permitting!!).

Jean Carrad

PARISH COUNCIL

In the last edition of the Pump I mentioned that "a small treatment plant" was to be installed to cope with effluent from the old Local Authority tip. Since then we have been supplied with details of the proposed plant. We were horrified to see the size of the proposed building - it amounted to an enormous plastic box surrounded by a high metal fence. Not exactly in sympathy with an area of natural beauty! We have voiced our disapproval to the Authority, pointing out alternative plants which could be constructed substantially underground. At the time of writing we have not yet received a reply.

B3124. Following the petition to Avon County Council about the failure of the priority system a coach load of Councillors recently visited the site to see the situation for themselves. However, this did not result in much good news. Firstly the reversal of the system "is out of the question" - not least because the police have now said that a reversal would prove "confusing". The firm opinion of Avon County Council is that traffic lights are the ultimate answer - (no, we do not agree). However, in view of financial constraints the installation of lights appears to be some years away. In the meantime we are promised some traffic calming measures, although we are not aware of precise details.

Ian Borland



HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Hopefully the next meeting of the History Group will be in the last week of October when we can decide on officers and future activities.

On Sunday September 18th, the village experienced something it is hardly likely to have witnessed before. Following the serious coach accident on the M5 near Clevedon, the motorway was closed for about seven hours and the traffic was diverted through the Gordano Valley along the B3124. The result was very heavy traffic through the village, and a certain amount of congestion arising from the "pinch point".

But the Community Policeman - helped by Phil Hodgkinson - managed to keep the flow moving, having to deal not only with single cars, but also those towing caravans, vans, and lorries, including some long distance lorries with trailers, and passenger coaches.

It was the evening of the Harvest Festival Service in the Church, and those making their way along the narrow pavements had all this traffic almost brushing past. At times the service was interrupted by the noise along the road outside the church.

After the service, those going to the Village Hall for the Harvest Supper had once again to keep as far away as possible from the passing vehicles, and thanks to Phil were able to cross the road safely opposite the Village Hall.

It is to be hoped the village does not have such an experience again, although naturally we all recognise the need for this emergency measure on this particular occasion.

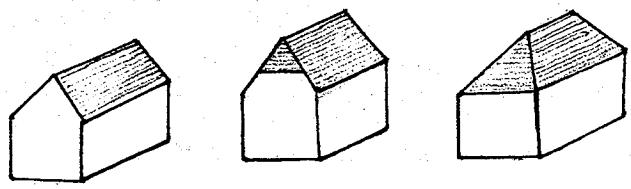
THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE : ITS CONSTRUCTION

My concluding articles on the history of the house deal with its construction. Obviously I cannot delve into great detail but I hope to provide a foundation of knowledge upon which those who wish to acquire more can build. The articles will deal with roofs; chimneys and fireplaces; floors, ceilings and stairs; and finally doors and windows.

Roofs

The simplest roof covered a rectangular building - thus irregular and picturesque cottages are the results of later alterations. Roof coverings also affected the roof shape - each material has to have its own appropriate pitch; its weight also affected its construction. Thatch, tiles and limestone slates could all be used with dormers, hips and valleys whereas sandstone slates, slate and pantiles were considered to be more appropriate to simple gabled roofs.

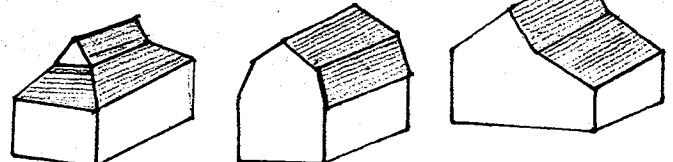
There are two basic groups of roofs: the hipped and the gabled.



Gabled

Half Hipped

Hipped



Gambrel

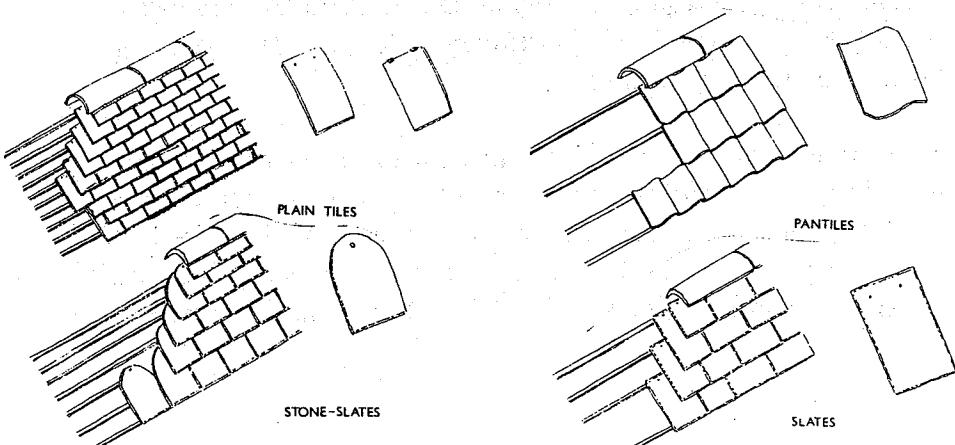
Mansard

Catslide Extension
on Gabled Roof

Roof Coverings

1. Thatch - early thatch could be of almost any vegetable matter - straw, heather, reed, flax, sedge or even broom. Its great advantage was its lightness of weight and easiness of acquisition. Thatch was used in town and country alike. Fire dangers caused many towns to demand a whitewash coat on the thatch. In London in 1212 a coat of lime-plaster was made compulsory to reduce fire risk. Thatch continued to be the most popular roof covering until the Agrarian Revolution when much rebuilding took place. Palsgrove in 1530 wrote: "I am but a poor man, sythe I can not tyle my house, I must be fayne to thacke it". In 1805 in the North it was reported that thatch which "used to be the universal covering had nearly fallen into disuse".

2. Stone Slates - They were used extensively in Somerset. In 1530 Palsgrove wrote "it is better to slate a house than to tyle it". Limestone slates were thinner than those of sandstone. Because stone slates were uneven a steep pitch was needed between 45 degrees and even as much as 60 degrees. Stone slates are very heavy - every 100 square feet weighs a ton - they are, after all, flagstones. Roofs often used to collapse. Sandstone slated roofs had a low pitch - often as low as 30 degrees - sometimes much less. Stone slates were fixed in with oak pegs hooked over battens - often bedded on hay, straw or even bog grass. The slates were laid in diminishing courses: the largest at the eaves, the smallest at the ridge. Ridges were sometimes made of sawn or hand-worked freestone.



3. Slate

Welsh slate was very popular in the Industrial Revolution - it had many advantages - it could be split into slabs of uniform thickness and size, it was much thinner than stone and weighed less than a fifth of its weight. Roof timbers could be less, therefore cheaper. The pitch could be as low as 22 degrees. In 1831 the Slate Tax was removed, but remained on stone. For the first time local roofing materials were largely abandoned for imported slate from Wales. Cornish slate is fine-grain, dark grey, often smaller than Welsh - known as "peggies"; Devon slates are richly textured and very attractive. In Cornwall and Devon some slates are laid in cement and covered with a cement slurry. Sometimes they even covered them with a mixture of red lead and tar. In these counties "rag-slates" were often used - trimmed only where they could be seen. They were larger and rougher than "peggies" smaller and thinner "scantles" were often used. Originally slates were bedded in moss, hay or straw and oak-pegged - only later were iron or galvanised nails used.

4. Plain Tiles - when brick making was developed, plain clay tiles were often fired in the same kilns. In 1477 the plain tile was standardized at 10.5" x 6.25" x 5/8". In Kent they were 9" x 6", in Leicester 11" x 7". Plain tiles are double lapped - each tile overlaps two others. They were bedded on hay, straw or moss. Roof pitches were between 45 and 60 degrees. Tiles were fixed to riven oak laths by pegs, mainly of oak but sometimes of hazel, willow or elder. Tiles were of different coloured clays; yellows, browns, pinks, greys and reds.

5. Pantiles - these resemble the plain tiles in manufacture and materials; they differ in size, shape and appearance. In George 1st's reign they were standardized as not less than 13.5" x 9.5" x .5". They are single lap tiles - each tile lapping the one underneath and by a sideways lap where each bent down edge

overlaps the turn-up edge of the adjacent tile. Roofs are pitched at 35 degrees or more. The prevention of snow or water penetration was often achieved by torching using reed, clay or lime-hair mortar. Pantiled roofs are light but pantiles are relatively unsuitable for hipped roofs; valleys and dormers are difficult to incorporate. They were imported from Holland during the 17th century but in the 18th century English pantiles were used. In the South West, Bridgwater was a main production area so Somerset has many pantiled cottages.

G. TANNER



6, The Close,
Weston-In-Gordano.

Dear All,

I wanted to write and thank you ever so much for your kind thoughts and generosity.

The television was very much appreciated, it was a lovely surprise and I am delighted with it.

It means a lot to me knowing that I have so many friends who are thinking of me and supporting me in these times.

Thank you once again,

love from

Stacey
XX!

A LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Ed.,

Why, oh why have our summer afternoons and evenings been spoiled by 'gardeners' who insist on burning garden rubbish. There is really no need to do so - how much potash do you need? The sensible gardener recycles his garden refuse to provide future food for the following season's plants.

Apart from the waste of money that burning incurs, burning garden refuse pollutes the atmosphere when neighbours have doors and windows open. Asthma sufferers are very badly affected by such ill-considered anti-social actions.

Woodspring has a scheme to provide gardeners with cheap compost bins to encourage recycling - use it!

I hope that my letter is read and taken to heart so that our lovely village will be a purer place in which to live.

Yours,

Grahame Tanner

THE ART GROUP

We did not meet in late August/September because of holidays, but before we had enjoyed several evenings in the Challoner's garden (where Mike encouraged us to study a special shrub).

We were delighted to be asked to have an exhibition in a corner of the Carrad's garden at the Church fete. This was very encouraging - we actually offered a picture (by Stuart Redway) for raffle and we raised £14.00 for the general fund. To any newcomers in the village we are a small 'non-expert' group; new members are welcome on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Gwen Griese

NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES

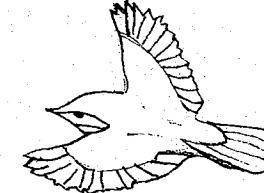
Our new season of meetings got off to a good start with Mr. Piers McBride (Backchat) of the Clevedon Mercury. He professed to "not being a speaker" but he entertained us very well before reading snippets from Mercury's past, some real gems from 1894! We finished the evening with a competition he had prepared to raise more funds for the Parish Pump. To everyone's delight he doubled the amount raised and we were able to give the Editors £50.50.

The next meeting is on: Wednesday, 19th October - R.S.P.C.A.

then: Wednesday, 16th November - Zara Ford, an osteopath.

Both meetings start at 8.00pm, tea/coffee and biscuits, £1 entrance, everyone most welcome.

Gwyneth Challenor



THE SECOND VILLAGE CONKER CHAMPIONSHIP

TO BE HELD ON WESTON IN GORDANO VILLAGE GREEN

SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER 1994 at 11.00 a.m.

LADIES' AND MENS' CONTESTS OPEN TO ALL AGES

All conkers supplied courtesy of the 6th Earl of Stradbroke, Henham Estate, Wangford, Suffolk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Thankfully the summer months have not been too bad for us - however please keep up the level of watchfulness as no-one can afford to be complacent with a continuing high level of incidence of crime in Portishead and Clevedon. We have unfortunately to report a recent break in and theft from a car parked in Meadow Drive. Please do not leave anything in cars which are not garaged at night. If you have a garage or safe area and can use it please do.

Two members in Hill Lane and The Close were instrumental recently in assisting the Police in catching up with a stolen car which had been followed from a break in at Yatton. The car shot up Hill Lane turned into The Close and immediately into a member's drive, the occupants hoping the Police would lose sight of them whilst they escaped over the gardens. Our alert members saw all that was going on and made sure the Police were directed right to the car. This resulted in all three being apprehended.

We regret to advise you that the vagrant, Andrew Frouds, is still causing a problem in that over the last two months he has called upon single lady members during the hours of darkness, particularly around midnight. This as you will realise is extremely frightening and must not be allowed to continue. Unfortunately even though the Police have spoken to him they feel he is very likely to do the same again. They reiterate their previous advice in that they feel the only way to get him to move to another area is for us not to supply him with food, drink or other items he requests. In October he will have been with us for twelve months which apparently is more time than he has had anywhere. We realise this is a very difficult situation and would ask everyone to consider matters carefully and helpful suggestions would be welcomed. Already there have been at least seven of our members frightened and shocked by his activities, many specific

indecent behaviour and problems with the contamination of cattle troughs providing the animals drinking water. In all your Co-ordinator has received over forty telephone calls and there have been many more to Contact Persons/Deputies. This has meant a great deal of time expended on discussions and visits providing reassurance, not to mention time spent discussing matters with the Police.

Whilst the vagrant is technically committing an offence begging the Police would need us to bring a specific complaint to secure his arrest (which is not something any of us would really wish to do). Even if that course were followed and he was arrested he would appear in Court and be bound over and released and back again in the Village straight away. This has happened elsewhere in the past. A suggestion therefore would be to make it clear that the next gift is the last and suggest he moves elsewhere if he wishes to continue his present lifestyle. He has been offered food and accommodation on a permanent basis which is still open to him, but he prefers to do his own thing.

This problem it seems is not really a Neighbourhood Watch matter but it is constantly referred to us and is taking up too much time. In addition it is dangerous in that we might wrongly put unexplained matters in the Village at the Vagrant's door and dismiss them when the criminal element is about undetected.

We would like to claim credit for obtaining a Police presence in the Village for at least six hours on Sunday, 18th September but, unfortunately, it was because the M5 was closed due to a nasty accident. Still, it was good to see Charlie Burt, our Community Copper, amongst us doing a great job keeping the traffic flowing and keeping the inconvenience to a minimum - thanks Charlie!

M. A. CHALENOR

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

VILLAGE BARBECUE

Remember the weather back in July? Amazingly it was a hot and balmy evening for the village barbecue and what better theme in the circumstances than a Caribbean evening. As usual the annual event was a sell-out, and many put their imagination to good use and came in a fine array of outfits. Had there been a competition (now there's a good idea for next year), I think the prize would have been shared by four lads. Surely you have not forgotten the four all dressed identically. But what would a barbecue be without the food and congratulations must go to Ann Bridges for the authentic menu and to everyone who helped to prepare it and cook it: yes, Geoff Mitchell was there but for most of the evening was shrouded in smoke. Many thanks must be extended to those who helped who are not Social Committee members - Geoff Mitchell, John Broadway, Chris Stringer, Judith Stone, Ann Redway, Mike Tanner, Ross Merrified and finally the four amigos who transported and laid out the tables and chairs. What a pleasure it was that shelter was not necessary although the village band, Cover Story, took no chances and played in the marquee! I think they thought they were at Woodstock. Many thanks to them for the entertainment and a thank you to for Sam Bishop who started the musical proceedings. I think everyone is grateful to Ann and John Bridges for the loan of their garden and for all the trouble they went to.

BOOZE CRUISE

Early in the following month a new event for the Village Social Committee and again the weather kept fine with a warm evening as fifty villagers and friends cruised down the Avon from Saltford to Bristol enjoying a fine barbecued supper on board and naturally a few drinks (well it was a booze cruise). Actually it seemed as if the evening would not have happened at all when the cruiser refused to start, but fortunately the Village has its own marine

engineer in John Broadway who managed to fire it into action.

VILLAGE FUN DAY

Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

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SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS AT BARN END

Those who enjoy an early evening stroll through the village may have seen recently in the failing light, shadowy figures advancing up the drive of Barn End, the Carrad pile down near the Church. They arrive sometimes singly, sometimes in pairs or as small whispering groups at about 7.30pm. Three hours later they emerge but now they are screaming with maniacal laughter, "learn our lines before the next rehearsal? He must be joking!".

You've guessed it. It's countdown to "Pantomime 95". Rehearsals are under way for DICK WHITTINGTON - THE PANTO, based upon as yet untold tales of the intrepid future Lord Mayor of London and his cat.

Jeremy Carrad, the producer this year, promises a completely new experience for the faithful audience which has been such an important part of the success of the annual event over the past years - and some new faces on the Village Hall stage.

The Village performances will be in late January but rumours of a European run, before opening on Broadway, are as exaggerated as the claims that lines will be learnt by mid-October.

So, if you meet any of your neighbours wandering along the pavement muttering to themselves and occasionally breaking into song, be gentle with them. Remind them, IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT!

Jeremy Carrad

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 1	HOE DOWN
OCTOBER 5	PARISH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 9	CONKER COMPETITION
OCTOBER 19	NIGHTINGALE LADIES
OCTOBER 26	SOCIAL COMMITTEE A.G.M.
LAST WEEK	HISTORY GROUP
NOVEMBER 16	NIGHTINGALE LADIES
NOVEMBER 19	VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE QUIZ (Licence Applied For)
DECEMBER 7	DEADLINE FOR PARISH PUMP
DECEMBER (Late)	CAROL SINGING
JANUARY 8	MIDDLE HILL WORKING PARTY
JANUARY (End)	PANTOMIME
FEBRUARY 4	CHEESE & WINE
THURSDAYS	ART GROUP