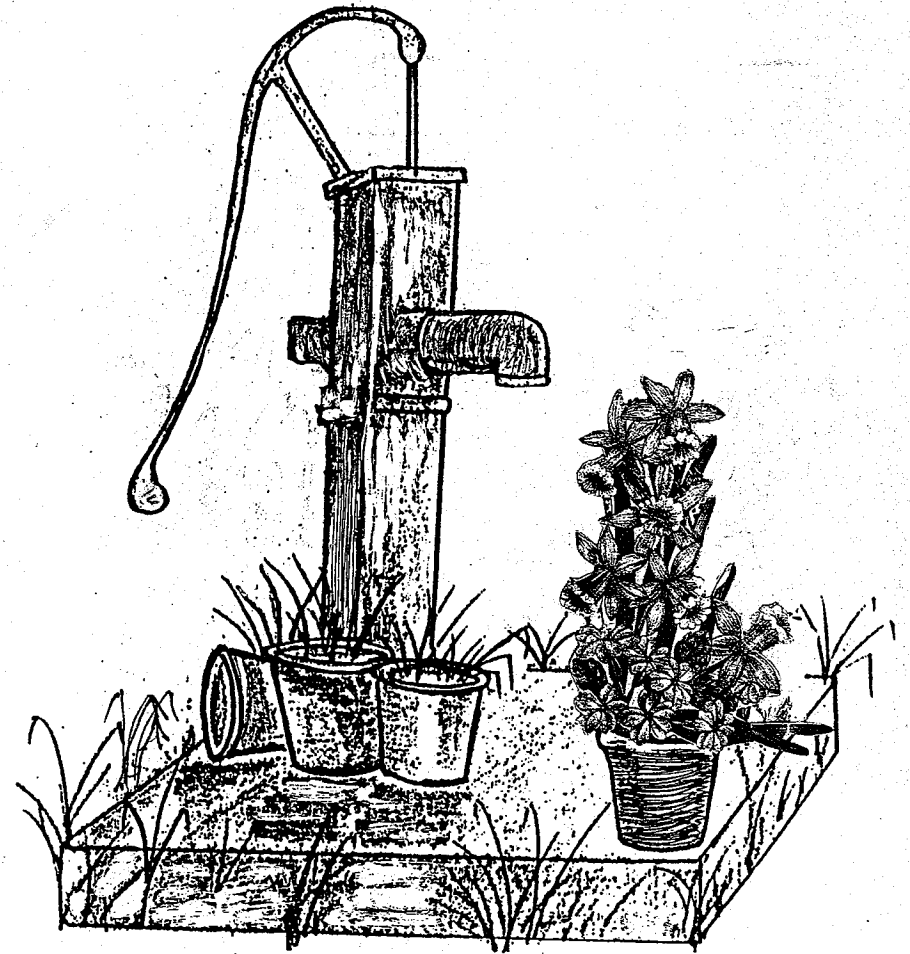


# PARISH PUMP



## EDITORIAL

Are you S.A.D?\* This long and dismal winter really does seem to have taken its toll, just about every family in the Village has had somebody laid up with one of the many awful flu viruses that have hit the Country this season. Nevermind, Spring is on its way with the Pump to bring you news of things to look forward to, though we must admit we're finding the S.A.D. syndrome has hit us and inspiration is SADly lacking in this editorial.

We hear that SADly Maureen Fletcher and Laurie Mason have both had falls and resulting broken bones since our last edition, we wish them both a speedy recovery! Best wishes in advance too to Laurie Mason - 90 years young in April.

Good news which we must comment on is the refurbishment of the Village Hall. A brilliant job has been done by Paul Simons and his men and we hope that this new look will encourage more people to make more use of this focal point of our community.

SADly, we must sign off now, don't forget all contributions most welcome by:-

**WEDNESDAY, 28th JUNE**

Angela Richard Elaine  
**EDITORS**

\*Seasonally Affected Disorder

## THE FRIENDS OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

The Sponsored Hymn Sing was a great success. Not all the pledges are yet in but with over £3,500.00 in the kitty we have high hopes that the final figure will be around £4,000.00!

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who supported this event. We are particularly grateful to David Lewis who not only had the idea, but provided most of the organisation and also to Jean Carrad who played every one of the 533 hymns!

We must also record our thanks to Elizabeth Horner who raised a magnificent £184.00 by making and selling beautiful fabric dolls at Christmas.

Several further events are planned. Some of the village's keen amateur gardeners are organising a 'Midsummer Medley' on 1st/2nd July. Several gardens will be open to the public and there will be tempting teas in the Village Hall.

We also hope to organise a balloon race for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of V.J. Day, and a Party/Barn Dance towards the end of the year, - watch this space!

David Giles  
Chairman

### NIGHTINGALE VALLEY LADIES



At last I can report on our December meeting when 'Wilbur the Grate' told us all about clowns through the ages. Quite a stressful evening for him, one way or another, as it was the first time he had 'starred' without his full clown make-up and to an audience appreciably older than the norm for him. The money from the evening, including a raffle, was sent to the Sam Pointer Trust. (Letter attached).

The total amount of money donated to various charities throughout 1994 was £168.00. Thank you everyone who paid a £1 at the door.

The 1995 season got off to a good start in February with us doing the work!! Mrs. Janette Huntley had prepared little bags of patchwork for each of us and showed us step by step how to do a Somerset patchwork pin cushion. People who hadn't threaded a needle for years joined in and a good time was had by all. Our thanks to Mrs. Huntley for her enthusiasm, the preparation involved and for making us 'have a go' at patchwork.

As the Village Hall is still having its face lift, Elizabeth Horner generously offered her home for this evening's meeting, when Mr. Ken Tapley gave a talk and slide show on Kenya. It was a magical tour of Kenya, the wildlife, the people, the country and the flowers. His very professional slides taken over many visits, and a soundtrack, transported us there for the evening. The proceeds went to the Playhouse Improvements for the Disabled Fund. Our thanks to Elizabeth and Fred Horner for their kind hospitality.

On the **19th April** the meeting is 'Heal Yourself', the speaker is Velda Marshall.

On the **17th May** we have Janet Cryer talking about Hearing DOGS for the Deaf. (Don't know if it was my writing, but wrongly printed in December Parish Pump as DAYS!! - humble apologies we really need a proof-reader!! - Eds.)

Phil Tollerton from the Wildlife Trust for Bristol, Bath and Avon is with us on **21st June**.

We have slipped an extra meeting in on **5th July**, the speaker is Barbara Palmer and her topic is 'Women Driving Alone'.

All these meetings may be of interest to the menfolk - come and join us for the evening, you are always most welcome.

GWYNETH'S GRIPE coming up .... Have rushed home to put pen to paper to finish my report for the 15th March DEADLINE - I should have put money on that date. Here am I burning the midnight oil, the fire nearly out, my Ovaltine going cold. Are you feeling mean an'orrible, Editors? Are you sorry for putting me through this? Are you going to say the next Parish Pump deadline is the 21st June? Are you sitting there saying YES! YES! YES!?

I shall make you feel very guilty now by finishing with...

All my love, Gwyneth

XXXXXXX

Nightingale ladies

The Sam Pointer Trust  
10 Porlock Gardens  
Nailsea  
Bristol  
BS19 2QX

Dear ladies

Marilyn and I would like to say a big thank you for your donation towards Sam's walking frame. Words cannot express how grateful we are and how humble everyone's generosity has made us feel.

We are sure that when you see Sam out and about in his walker you will see the benefit he is getting from it, but would you also feel proud of yourselves because your help has made it possible.

Once again thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Kind regards

Marilyn Ray & Sam Pointer

## VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The annual Wine and Cheese Party held on Saturday, 4th February attracted a record-breaking 95 tickets actually sold. All the villagers and friends enjoyed a convivial atmosphere with plenty of good food attractively prepared and displayed, whilst at the bar Smiles Bitter was dispensed with a choice of red and white wines. Thanks to all the villagers for supporting this function and participating in the grand prize draw. The evening produced a nett profit of £321.00 which contributes towards the running of the hall and our annual expenses.

Since the last issue of the Pump we received very good news of the acceptance by Woodspring District Council and the Rural Development Commission of our applications for Grant Aid to fund the much needed improvements to the facilities in the hall, and the complete refurbishment of the structure. Many villagers have now seen the work on-going which is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. For your information the main works are :

1. Construction of new 'Gents Toilet' accommodation where the previous store was.
2. Conversion of both existing toilets to "Ladies".
3. Refurbishment of old outside building to a store to house spare chairs, etc..
4. Completely new kitchen with double sink unit, wash hand basin and new floor and wall units, and complete with new hot water system to supply all the handbasins.
5. Complete refurbishment of structure including new front door and replacement window frames as required, plus replacement roof sheets where required and new gutters and fascia boards.

At the same time the opportunity is being taken to completely redecorate the hall both inside and out, so by the end of March your village will have an "As New" hall of which we can all be very proud. We apologise to village organisations for the inconvenience caused during the above works, but hope you will all agree that these long overdue improvements were worth waiting for.

Peter Scrutton, Secretary

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

B3124 Our persistence may be paying some dividends with regard to "The Narrows". Although the police will not change their opinion that reversing the priority direction would be dangerous, we have received a letter from Avon County Council to say that they are looking at further "minor" improvements to the situation which remains chaotic and unworkable. We have been promised that we will be consulted about these improvements before they are implemented. We wait in hope. There is increasing evidence from the police and Highway Authority that they consider that traffic lights are the only real solution to the problem. Of course there are considerable difficulties with traffic lights which have not yet been answered, e.g. what happens to traffic joining the narrows from houses?

Parish Clerk We recently received the resignation of Graham Tanner from the post of Parish Clerk. Graham has expertly carried out the duties for about two years, having joined after difficulties with a previous clerk which resulted in him taking over the papers and accounts which were in some disarray. The situation was soon solved by Graham - almost miraculously! We are sorry to lose Graham and Arleen who plan to move to Suffolk for family reasons. We are lucky to have recruited Katherine Dixon as the new Parish Clerk. We are happy that the smooth running engineered by Graham will be continued by Katherine.

Elections The Parish Council Elections will take place in May of this year. Please look out for notices regarding this in the near future.

Civic Amenity Site Despite vociferous objections, the Civic Amenity Site (Tip) in the quarry in Valley Road will become a reality in the very near future. This replaces the present site in Albert Road, Portishead, and a number of other existing "town" sites. We understand that the new tip will open on Sundays. Not good for traffic generation, but at least it should cut down on "fly" tipping.

Ian Borland  
Chairman



## ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

Sunday 11th December - Christingle Service. An almost full Church (100 congregation) decorated by the "Flower Team", Christmas tree by the Art Group and friends, red candles alight for the celebration - it all looked very beautiful to the crib in the stone pulpit. Rev. Mary Richards was assisted by Rev. John Angle who told us the story of the "orange". The children lit Advent and Christingle candles, answered questions and sang around the tree. Aleyna Harris read the Lesson. A child centred Service enjoyed by the adults.

December 18th - Annual Carol Service. Conducted by Rev. Mary with our Gordano Chorus leading the singing. Lessons were read by all male readers, Prof. Peter Wells, Tom Wells, John Bridges, Paul Alexander, John Harrison and James Morgan (grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Horner). The very enthusiastic singing was rewarded with "refreshments" and the evening was very much a social gathering.

1995 January 1st New Year's Day. Rev. John Smart directed a somewhat smaller congregation. Sister Carol home for two days read the Lesson.

Lent began Wednesday, 1st March when we had our Wednesday morning Communion, but perhaps a little more "special" than usual. Lent House Group meetings have started and continue throughout Lent at 2.30 p.m. each Tuesday at The Old Farmhouse (Margaret Jacobs).

March 10th - Annual PCC Meeting. Church Wardens Mrs. Margaret Jacobs and Mrs. Sybil Hawken were re-appointed as was the PCC with the addition of Mr. & Mrs. Chevasse. Church finances were the main subject to discuss. There is a Report submitted by a Member of the Friends of St. Peter and St. Paul detailing their great achievement on Saturday 11th February - it was a wonderful day (reported in detail in Church magazine). Money raised by this Committee will be used for restoration of features (eg. medieval windows) of our beautiful Church which are in desperate need of attention. Money raised otherwise by the Church is only just sufficient for the general "running" of the Church. How grateful we are for the Friends efforts on our behalf.

Future Dates:-

29th June

22nd July

Patronal Festival

Summer Fete at Barn End

**GWEN GRIESE**



## VILLAGE GARDENS

Following the spectacular success of the Sponsored Hymn Sing, a few keen amateur gardeners are planning a 'Mid-Summer Medley' on 1st - 2nd July to raise funds for the preservation of our splendid church.

Several gardens will be open to the public and there will be tempting teas in the village hall. Of course we would appreciate some help, so please get potting and planting and we'll have plenty of plants to sell on the day.

Looking further ahead, we hope our newly born gardening club will continue to flourish on an informal basis. If your fingers are even the palest shade of green, and you'd like to know more, please contact us :-

J. Carrad

G. Challenor

E. Horner

A. Chavasse

C. Lewis

A. Round



## THOUGHTS OF A COMMON MAN

We do take common things for granted, don't we? The green woodpecker, that splendid green bird with a bright red crown that often feeds on our lawns, is so much a part of the village scene that we scarcely give it more than a passing glance but, to my alarm, I see that it has just been put on the U.K. Red Data List - a list of threatened species. Apparently, the green woodpecker has been declining right across Europe for some time now and the alarm bells are ringing in case our presently healthy population might do the same.

Even that bird many of us love to hate, the starling, has dropped in numbers. It doesn't rate highly with us but to the Scandinavians the first starling of the year heralds approaching spring. We need to find out why there has been a decline.

The Wildlife Trust is just launching a survey of tree sparrows - like a house sparrow but with a brown cap and a black comma on its cheek - in Avonmouth area. Why? Because numbers have dropped dramatically, to a third of the number in the late 70's.

Pity the poor corncrake. Back at the end of the last century they were common in farmland right across Britain. Now you have to go to the Hebrides or the Western Isles, and be very lucky, to hear its amazing call. Little chance of seeing one. Last year, for the first time probably since the ice retreated 10,000 or so years ago, not a single chick was raised in Northern Ireland.

We are still lucky to have our green woodpeckers. We must make sure they don't follow the corncrake.

Next working party on the Common is on Sunday, June 11th to pull the bracken - a nice gentle job. Do come and join us. Meet 10am at the top of Hill Lane, finishing around noon.

John Harrison

To: The Weston In Gordano Social Committee

Congratulations must go to the Social Committee for their hard work in organising the various social events during 1994, and in particular to the wonderful Pantomime - which we all enjoyed.

Can it be suggested however, that more events are introduced to cater for the growing number of families settling in the village? The Annual Bar-Be-Que for example, could be started earlier in the evening/late afternoon to allow families to come together. Or how about a communal Bonfire Night, or an Easter Fun Day to include some element for the young teenagers, and Egg Hunt for the youngsters?

Perhaps to note, the independantly organised Christmas Party was a great success and attracted 13 families out the 19 families with younger children now living in the village. The interest is obviously there and it was so nice to see all ages of children together.

The Village Fun Day and Conker Competition are very much appreciated, although not well attended, but perhaps this may be due (especially with a view to the latter) because the venue is not ideal. Could we suggest a safer venue for the Conker Competition (e.g. White Hart Beer Garden) may draw a larger crowd?

Thank you for listening to us - we would appreciate your comments.

S. Holder  
M. Conn  
V. Sopp

C. Harris  
P. Rogers  
D. Groves

As a P.S. we are willing to help out with the introduction of any family events.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Unfortunately we have to report another break-in which took place on Friday/Saturday 28/29 January at the Portishead end of the Village whilst the owners were away on a short break. Entry was gained by forcing a rear window but fortunately again it appeared that the burglars were disturbed in the act and left taking only a few small valuables. They had obviously put together more substantial items near to the patio windows which had been opened from inside to facilitate removal and getaway. The fact that the patio windows and blinds were open was seen by a Watch Member early on the Saturday morning and nearby family alerted to discover the break-in. The police were informed and the premises made safe.

From talking to the police it seems that criminals, if they are determined to gain entry when a house is unoccupied, will do so by some means regardless of all sensible precautions having been taken to keep intruders out. The way to protect ourselves is to take as many security measures as reasonably possible, at least ensuring that all doors and windows are secured to present an initial entry problem. We should do all possible to remove/resite or conceal TVs, videos and other valuable items from sight through windows.

The best defence is to use our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to the full. Please ensure that you tell the Contact Person/Deputy for your area if you are leaving the premises unoccupied, even for short breaks. It may not be possible to stop anything untoward happening but the knowledge that you are away will give us good reason to suspect anything unusual taking place in or around your property. You should also tell your neighbours, and if family/friends will be calling to keep an eye on things it would be useful to let your Contact Person know in case anything is reported as suspicious. We must all watch for the unusual and mention it and that way the maximum protection will be afforded to everyone. Even if our actions appear 'nosy' our fellow Watch Members will appreciate the reason and need.



Please do not get complacent. The police have only limited means and it is up to us to make ourselves as secure as possible. Another point mentioned by the police is that we should never leave keys 'hidden' outside our houses, criminals know every sort of hiding place and this is their favourite entry card.

Our thanks are due to Ann Tormey (and her husband Chris) for all their help since our Scheme was set up. They have now left the Village and we are grateful to Jean Gaubert for stepping up to Contact Person, Clevedon Road East, and to Marilyn Ettery who has kindly taken over as Deputy.

Over the next month or so may we ask you to put any suggestions or queries to your own Contact Person/Deputy so that we may discuss them at our meetings and come back to you.

To finish on a less serious note, maybe in view of what is about to take place in the Village we should consider forming a 'Plant Watch'!!

MIKE CHALLENGOR

## FLOWERS

Are you a frustrated flower arranger who would like to do the big pedestal in Church once in a while, or help at the Festival times .. Easter, Harvest, with something smaller? You are just the person we would like to hear from. We are preparing the Church Flower Rota for the next twelve months and would be delighted to add you name to the list.

Do you have a special anniversary this year or a day when you think of a loved one and would like to 'remember' them with flowers? Perhaps you can't arrange them, but would like to donate the flowers or the money to buy them. For whatever reason we would be happy to mark the date down on the list.

For further information or to have your date for 'someone special' put on the list please telephone Marilyn Ettery 843802 or Gwyneth Challenor 845218.

## ART GROUP

We assisted with decorations in the Church for Christmas. After a spell when we have been unable to meet, we have had some evenings at Gwyneth Challenor's - hardly the garret atmosphere necessary for the best paintings!!

As soon as the Hall is available we will meet each Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Why not join us?

GWEN GRIESE

## KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

Mary (Pemberton) will be 'walking the streets' again during the week 3-7 April. Yes, she is after your money but only for the above worthy cause. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Carol Singing Christmas seems such a long time ago, but on Tuesday, 20th December, 1994, villagers joined forces with members of the Social Committee, and braving the elements sang carols around the village. As usual the refreshments! were on offer at pre-arranged venues (it is no wonder so many like to take part!) and the singers were still capable of finishing the evening with carols in the White Hart.

This event in 1993 produced a record collection which was surpassed this time with a total sum collected of £141.00. Well done to all the singers and to the kind villagers who made the sum possible. This time the sum collected was donated to the "Rhys Daniel Trust".

Pantomime Well what can you say? A mammoth production, still waiting to go on tour. It is amazing what can be done with our village hall and what a transformation for the production of "Dick Whittington". Mind you some might think that the "Avon Caravan and Camping Club" had a hand in the production, but the entrance foyer and cast dressing room are owned locally and are available for wedding receptions or other similar functions!

The script as usual was kindly supplied by Paul Alexander and was adapted by Jeremy Carrad who not only produced and directed but also appeared in the pantomime. In fact Jeremy was one of a few new faces treading the boards this year and I think everyone will agree who saw the show what a great success it was.

There was a lot of back-stage help this time and thanks must go to everyone who spent so much time preparing the scenery, the lights, the sound effects, the transformation of the hall and of course to the cast all of whom made the pantomime a memorable occasion.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18th March  
Saturday 20th May

Sunday 4th June  
Saturday 24th June

Lexiquiz  
Theme Evening on  
Hollywood/Musicals  
Car Treasure Hunt  
Village Barbecue on the  
theme of "specifically  
Pacific"



August 1995

Booze Cruise (details to  
be announced)

Saturday 23rd September

Barn Dance

Theme Evening This event in the past has produced excellent entertainment and previous shows and the pantomime have proved what a lot of talent there is in the village. So come on, put on your thinking caps and come up with an act. Gill Stringer (tel. 842744) is co-ordinating the acts and is waiting by the 'phone to hear from you.

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who supports the events organised because without you the Committee could not function.

Pete Church  
Secretary

### Maiden Speech

A TRAWL through the Oxford English Dictionary to identify words celebrating the centenaries of their first recorded appearances in the language provides a verbal picture of the changing world.

*Feminist* first appeared in 1894, although the linguistic bias was maintained with *good-looker* and *décolletage* coming into use. On the leisure side we acquired *honky-tonk* and *wireless* and the academic world gave us *cholesterol* to worry about for the first time.

In 1794 the appearance of *cavort* encouraged *pessimism* about the *low-life* but a healthier side of life was represented with *aubergine* and *coleslaw*. Two surprising debuts were *iron curtain* and *skyscraper*, although their meanings were confined to a safety device in theatres and a ship's sail.

*Poll tax* emerged in 1694, while a *dyspeptic* could burst a *blood-vessel* using the *horsewhip* on his *housemaid*. *Giraffe* appeared in 1594, although this could have been *unfamiliar* to a *depraved* and *sultry temptress*. *Triumphant*, *affectionate* and *prodigy* secured their *admission* in 1494. However we should note it was also the year of the first *misprint*.

### Suffer, Little Children

MY SON was about to start school so I carefully explained to him that everyone has to attend school until they are 16. All seemed to be going well until the big day arrived and I was about to hand him over to his new teacher. The significance of his trembling lower lip was made clear when he turned to me and said, "You won't forget to come back and get me when I'm 16, will you?"

### THE YOUTH OF TODAY

We hear so much these days about the young "offenders", "vandals", "layabouts" etc. What about a little appreciation for those young people in our own Village who do not fall into these categories, yet manage to have an exciting time in the pursuit of their career. With pleasure I submit Elizabeth Borland. I asked her parents for an account of her activities as Elizabeth had told me, prior to her applications to V.S.O. and G.A.P., of her wish to spend a fruitful year. She is to be congratulated on her initiative.

Liz, 18, decided to take a year out before starting her General Nursing training at Bournemouth University on the Project 2000 Scheme. She wanted a placement in anything in the Health field to give her some sort of experience to take to her nursing education. She found her place with L'Arche Homefires through an organisation called GAP - a company that specialise in placing 18-21 year olds in overseas and local placements as a fill-in for a year out before continuing their higher education. It was a tough, day-long interview at the GAP offices before any decisions were made on the suitability of candidates for placements. However, in November 1994 Liz went to a L'Arche Homefires house in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. There is a community of six houses there, she is in the largest with six handicapped residents and six helpers. After an initial introduction for a few weeks they are allocated one handicapped member to take responsibility for and generally care for on a one-to-one basis. Liz's friend is a girl called Lyn who is 22 years old and suffers with cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. Most of the handicapped residents go out to part-time work - their ages range from 20 years to 40 - but the more severely handicapped go to the Day Care Centre where Liz now works every week-day. There they have their physiotherapy, etc. and occupational therapy. Liz takes them swimming, horse riding, shopping, walking, etc. and has started to teach some of them basic computer skills. She is also learning more advanced piano playing i.e. using ten fingers instead of two! - as the members enjoy music and rhythm.

She is also learning about the drugs used in the treatment of the various mental handicaps they came across and basic nursing care when needed. In the house they all share the work as much as possible - it is run like a family home. All take turns with cooking, washing, cleaning, etc. and try to be as independent as possible. Each house has the use of a car so they are quite mobile. She gets full board and lodging in the house, and is paid pocket money, which is enough to live on - on a student level!

Socially she is having a wonderful time! All the carers are youngish, though Liz is the youngest there, but they come from all around the world and seem to be a great bunch. The Canadian people could not be more welcoming and kind. There is a University in the town and she has met many people from England, Scotland and Ireland and has formed some good friendships. They have been off in the very cold Canadian winter climate camping and skiing and also night clubbing, etc.

L'Arche Homefires is a Christian Community, but Liz has no religious affiliation at all, but has found the Community very accepting of this and finds it very easy to withdraw when she wants to from the more religious moments of life there. One of the best friends she has made there is an Indian girl from Reading who is a Moslem, and she has settled and loves it as much as Liz.

Liz being Liz, we fight hard to get letters from her and she tends to use the reverse charge telephone call rather too easily, but generally she has matured such a lot and become very capable and so kind and understanding. But, she still loves life and has got herself into a few scrapes and little adventures as is her way!!

GWEN GRIESE

## NOISES OFF! or "My First Experience as an A.S.M."

Way back in the later 1930's, London Business-houses with staff Dramatic Groups, had the choice of two theatres for productions, the Scala, used for larger groups like London Transport Players with a membership allowing for large casts. This theatre is no more, unlike the Fortune Theatre which still stands across the road from Drury Lane, but now for professional usage. This was used by smaller organisations such as Arthur Sanderson & Sons where I was then a young member of staff.

I think it would be 1938, when the play was "For The Love of Mike", and I was roped in, I admit without much in the way of reluctance as Call Boy and Assistant Stage Manager. The Call Boy needed much energy because the Fortune seemed to have been designed on the lighthouse principle: above the stage some three or four floors of single dressing-rooms served by a steep staircase. In those days there was no Tannoy system enabling the cast in dressing-rooms to hear what was taking place on stage, and so be ready for entrances on cue. Plenty of work for the Call Boy and it was a good job I was youthfully fit and active!

The play was typical of its time, a comedy Three Acter, based on a single set of the "anyone for tennis" style involving a pair of practical French Windows. Part of the plot took place in the early hours of the morning when a hired professional, but not-too-bright, burglar had been given the task of breaking open a safe and removing some compromising letters.

As Assistant Stage Manager I had to look after two sound effects, which nowadays would be reproduced using very life-like recordings, requiring little or no ingenuity on the part of the stage management. But then such effects had to be produced mechanically, which was my job.

The first was the chiming of a nearby church clock at four o'clock in the morning. The other was that of a bird singing just outside the open French Windows, while the burglar was active at the safe. Still singing, the bird according to the script flew away, though whether this was ornithologically accurate, I've no idea!

Sandersons had a business-linkage with Waring and Gillow, and some furniture and props were on loan from that firm, including my two effects: a gong on a stand, and a clock-work bird in a cage. Having set up and dealt with the gong for the first effect, I took up a position offstage near the French Window flat and on cue set the bird singing, and after a pause, hurried away with it for the song to die away, and it worked very well indeed to everyone's satisfaction.

At the Fortune Theatre there was (probably still is) a sort of "Green Room" or Actors' Rest-room, directly under the stage, reached by a flight of stone steps off upstage right and left.

Came the final performance on the Saturday night with a Full House, including of course the firm's Top Brass and families. All was going well. On cue I dealt with the church clock, and then took up my place ready for the song-bird, as in the previous two performances hurrying away, holding the bird-cage, into the dimly lit offstage area. But, somebody had moved the gong and I ran full tilt into it!

It came off its stand, and then like a coin on edge, it sped towards and then down the stone steps, bouncing on every one of them, rolling round at the bottom until it came to rest, the noise resounding right through the theatre. It resulted in the biggest audience laugh of the night!

We never discovered who had moved that gong!

Paul Alexander

### LOOKING AHEAD

Peggy Alexander's brother, Tony Lewis, is well-known in New Zealand, not only for his paintings, but also the Lecture and practical Workshop Tours he undertakes in both North and South Islands. He and his wife Dawn, also an artist, have their own gallery in Coromandel.

He and Dawn will be staying here in the Village in October, and will run a practical workshop over a week-end in the Village Hall. This will be limited to a working group of not more than twelve.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Peggy:  
Tel: 844905.

### WESTON IN GORDANO CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Fun, laughter and the Christmas Spirit arrived in full force in the Village - in the form of the Children's Christmas Party, held on Saturday, December 17th in the Village Hall.

Invitations had been sent to all village children and 21 plus came, along with many Mums and Dads.

The Hall had previously been decorated by various mothers, and food prepared and supplied aswell. Games, dancing and great fun was had by all.

The highlight was, of course, the arrival of Father Christmas, who gave out presents galore, and listened eagerly to the children's various "present requests". A big thankyou must go to John Sopp for his excellent portrayal of F/C. Our thanks also to Vicki who managed to get a donation from the Weston In Gordano Social Committee to help towards the expense of such a very happy and enjoyable event.

### AND THE BAND PLAYS ON!

"Cover Story", your village band, continue to earn their keep in their spare time, as they did last weekend by touring in the North Midlands. After many requests for a return visit they played again at the Malbank Hotel, Nantwich. They managed too during the weekend on tour to include Granada Studios, Manchester. They didn't actually 'play' there, but played there on the rides and down Coronation Street!

The Malbank gig went exceptionally well, supported by their loyal groupies, and the appreciative audience really did make them feel very welcome. One does have to wonder though if the fact that some of the audience think the bass guitarist is Roger Whittaker makes any difference to their popularity?!

Joking apart, the band work very hard with their music and at rehearsal and have now achieved a unique sound of their own, and their performances show a growing confidence and professionalism which is evident in their increasing repertoire. Well done to them all.

Any enquiries please contact either the Haigh's, Nelson's or Borland's.

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stopping  
car thieves.



Quorum's IMMOBILISER is the vehicle security system that wires directly into your ignition. To start the car, a custom-coded key must first be inserted. No key, no go. Only you can start the car. It even comes with a lifetime warranty. Only Quorum products give you that kind of technology and security.

**Quorum**  
Securing Life

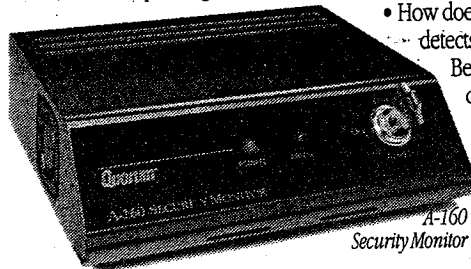
... Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor. ...

Rest assured,  
it will wake you up.

Equip your home with a Quorum A-160 Security Monitor, and you can be sure no one will enter your home unnoticed. This simple, but effective security system will blast an ear-piercing 103dB (minimum) if anyone forcibly opens a door or window.

- How does it work? The A-160 simply detects any subsonic shock waves.

Best of all, it works off a constantly charging battery, so it even operates during power cuts. Only Quorum products give you that kind of technology and security.



A-160  
Security Monitor

**Quorum**  
Securing Life

..... Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor. ....

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>MARCH</b>	26	Mothering Sunday Service with Village Chorus
	End	Village Hall Refurbishments completed
<b>APRIL</b>	19	Nightingale Valley Ladies
<b>MAY</b>	Early	Parish Council Elections
	17	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	20	Theme Evening Hollywood/Musicals
<b>JUNE</b>	4	Car Treasure Hunt
	11	Middle Hill Working Party
	21	Nightingale Valley Ladies
	24	Village Barbecue
	28	DEADLINE - PARISH PUMP
<b>JULY</b>	1-2	Village Gardens Open
	22	Church Fete - Barn End

## **THURSDAYS**

Art Group

**PETER SCRUTTON**  
**842085**