

# The Corstonian

## The Newsletter for Corston Villagers

Summer Issue

(Incorporating "Neighbourhood Watch")

July 1995

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### Corston Parish Council

Reg Gay (Chairman) - 873639

Jim Mansbridge (V-Chairman) - 873623

Jim Radway - 872698

Kevin Ashman - 872393

Gary Breckon - 872860

Dave Freeguard - 873759

Mike Bendall - 873644

Clerk: Terry Miller - 872711

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### Clerk's Notebook

So - here are the members of your new Parish Council. Regretfully, Jenny Burton, who has served for the last eight years, does not count among them. Jenny did an awful lot of work for her corner of Corston. I came to think of her as 'The Guardian of Ashton Hill'. She will certainly be missed at AOB time!

In the event, two of the old Council did not put up for re-election. The other, Mike Bendall, was persuaded to offer himself for co-option which took place, formally, at the first meeting of the new Council on 5th May. Newcomer Dave Freeguard, has not been in the village very long (he bought Ivor Buck's cottage when the Buck family moved to Weston-S-Mare) but, from the very beginning, he and his wife, Brenda, have taken a keen interest in things parochial and taken an active part in the village at every opportunity. I know he will do his best to fulfil his role as Parish Councillor.

I have been most impressed with the service that the village has received from Avon Highways recently. Soon after Cynthia Payne was admitted to St Teresa's (and I am sad to report, from the family, that there is only a very slight improvement in her condition) I saw, to my horror, Norman Payne, in his wheelchair on the way to visit her, in the road, on the wrong side of it, in the dark! Norman explained that, although he could get onto the pavement at the village green end, he couldn't get off at the other. I made an urgent call to Avon and within no more than ten days the kerbs at the Convent entrance had been dropped.

In addition, the fallen topstone from the wall at the foot of Ashton Hill has been replaced and, on request, at the suggestion of Jim Radway, those extremely effective yellow backing boards are going to be fitted to the 30mph signs at both ends of the restricted area on the A39. Wansdyke came close in the 'Amazing Speed Stakes' when they replaced the dead tree on the green at the top of Meadlands with a nice cherry sapling in double quick time. Work on Ashton Hill to improve the drainage has been carried out and the plans for the re-siting of the 30mph sign in Corston Lane are close to being finalised. I recently received a plan which shows that it is to be moved from the 'Hanging Tree' site to the extreme opposite end of Corston Lane at the A4. Thus, Meadlands, The Barton, Lower Farm Lane and Gould Close will also come under the restriction.

Agreement is also close to being reached on the correct siting of the stile on Public Footpath BA9/6 at the north end of the playing field. Officials of the Avon Rights of Way Office were here recently in order to prepare an inch-perfect map which, it is hoped, will solve the dispute.

Because of difficulty of attendance on Fridays, the Council will now meet on a Thursday and at the earlier time of 7.30pm. As usual, all electors are welcome to attend these meetings although their role must be restricted to watching and listening. Except, that is, at the Annual Parish Meeting, which is the opportunity for any local electors to have their say on how the village is run. Not that that opportunity was seized upon at this year's AGM on 25th May, when only one member of the public turned up and that the wife of one of the Councillors. Perhaps that was because it was the first time that the AGM had been held on a Thursday; or could it simply be that everyone is so happy with the work of the Parish Council that they felt no need to attend? If not, or even if so, perhaps you could write and tell us.

Two Parish Councillors have separately suffered quite traumatic illnesses recently. Reg Gay, on a routine visit to the Vascular Studies Clinic, was told that he had a problem with a major artery in his neck and was given the choice of having an operation with only a 1-in-10 chance of survival or face the almost certain risk of suffering a disabling stroke. He chose the operation which, I am delighted to report, was entirely successful. Reg was discharged from hospital after only four days and now looks and feels very well. Not so Kevin Ashman who, following a simple slip on the bottom three steps of his cottage staircase, spent three and a half weeks in the RUH at the end of May and into June undergoing two operations and suffering continuous, severe pain on a damaged leg which become seriously infected. Kevin is home now but, as I write, is still on crutches, taking pain-killers and antibiotics and, because the start of physiotherapy treatment had to be delayed because of the risk of spreading the infection, has been told that he may never enjoy full and proper use of his leg again. We do hope that that prognosis is proved wrong and that he will soon be restored to full mobility.

Proposed dates of future Council Meetings are July 12th, Sept. 14th, Oct 26th and Dec 7th. These dates may be varied but any change will appear on the Parish Notice Board.

Terry Miller

## Editorial

Well, the "Letters to the Editor" aren't exactly pouring in. In fact, we had only one this time - and that a postcard. But what a surprise and delight it was. (See "Letters".)

We would so dearly love to have your views on "The Corstonian" - criticisms, suggestions - whatever. How about something (slightly) controversial? That might produce a chain reaction. If you wish to write in confidence - fine. We would need you to supply your name but it would not be printed. Please do get your pens out. Live letters help a magazine to breathe.

We have an abundance of advertisers now and we hope to keep them contented enough to renew their advertisements when they expire. We are sorry if there seem to be too many of them but, the more advertisements, the more "newsy" the paper can be.

It's holiday time! We would be delighted to hear about your holiday when you return. A descriptive account, an amusing, or spine-chilling anecdote, a recommendation perhaps (or the opposite!). It would be good to hear about it.

Whatever you do, wherever you go, we wish you all "A good summer".

The Editors

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The views expressed in



are not necessarily those of  
the Parish Council  
We reserve the right to edit

**Published by :**  
Andy Thompson  
Bath (420442)  
**Edited and produced**  
**by:**  
Gary Breckon and  
Terry Miller

## Neighbourhood Watch

Congratulations! We've won our colours! Because of your continued and active interest as part of the Kingswood District Neighbourhood Watch Scheme I have been able to apply successfully for a certificate of permission from the Police which will enable us to erect Neighbourhood Watch signs on road-side furniture. (No, not the settee that was deposited on the side of Ashton Hill - lamp posts and things similar.) By the time that you read this I hope to have called a meeting of the eight Watch Contacts to decide how many, where to put them and where the money is coming from.

The following is published by the Kingswood office for your edification:

### WHEN YOU ARE AWAY FROM HOME

- Most burglaries happen when a house or flat is empty.
- An automatic time switch will switch the lights on and off when you are out. This will make it look as if your house is occupied.
- Make sure that your TV or Video is not visible through the window.
- Draw the curtains if you are going out for the evening and leave a small table lamp on.
- Leaving the radio on can give the impression that the house is not empty.
- Get a friend or neighbour to look after your home when you are away on your holidays. Ask them to remove any letters, etc. from behind glass-panelled doors.
- While away cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Only leave a spare key with a friend or neighbour - never in a hiding place.
- Lock all tools and ladders away, preferably out of sight.
- Visual Burglar Alarms make burglars think twice.
- Have your property postcoded. If you have small, valuable items that you would rather not mark, take colour photographs of them and store them in a safe place.
- Keep your cash, cheque book and credit cards in a safe place.
- Never carry your wallet in your back pocket.
- If you have an alarm system fitted, register the names of the keyholder/s with your local Police Station.

### CRIMESTOPPERS

Confidential Freephone Number  
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N.B. Do all you can to protect your garden machinery. They're at it again and already (early June) one of our number has had his garage 'cleaned out'.

Terry Miller

*Invitation*

**This space for rent**  
for more information contact:  
Terry Miller - 872711 or Gary Breckon - 872860



## V.E. Commemorations

Corston's celebration of the 50th anniversary of VE Day was successful beyond even the dreams of those, and they were many, who planned and organised the several events. These were not confined to The Day itself - Monday, 8th May - but really got going on Saturday, 6th when a special market in the Village Hall, extended over lunch time, drew many.

Also on Saturday and continuing through Sunday and Monday, the Festival of Memories and Flowers in the Church attracted a large number of visitors - many from outside. All expressed appreciation of the beautiful flowers and artefacts which had been ingeniously arranged to illustrate wartime themes. Cream teas were served on all three days in the pleasant purlieus of the Churchyard, an innovation which proved so popular that it will surely be repeated on future occasions.

The Day commenced with a display of festive stalls set out in the centre of the village (of which more later) amid the hubbub of which there issued from Jane Didcot's kitchen such lunches that would have gladdened the heart of the late Lord Woolton, Minister of Food during the critical years.

The culminating event was the Victory Supper on Monday, May 8th, which was enjoyed by eighty people. After a welcoming glass of wine, guests, many in garb appropriate to the period and each clutching a Union Jack, were entertained by Terry "Glen" Miller on the accordion, while some of the children present circulated with raffle tickets. After rations of shepherd's pie, fruit pie and a one-ounce piece of cheese there was a Victory Quiz which was won by the table presided over by Mr & Mrs Scott of Laburnum Cottage. Then came the community singing, professionally led by Margaret Smith and David Parfrey, accompanied at the piano by Liz Acton.

Altogether a most successful and enjoyable celebration, with something for all. The events raised over £1000 for Church funds (toilet and bells etc.) and £150 was donated to Cheshire Homes.

Lighthearted though much of it was, those who did not survive to enjoy VE Day fifty years ago, or who afterwards suffered from the effects of the war, were remembered, both during Sunday's Church Service and the two minutes silence during the supper.

Graham Harrison

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## Village Green Market

Reminiscent of the bustle of early-morning London markets of the 40's, the trestle tables and chairs arrived by the trailer-load to be set up for the VE Day Market around the Village Green. Straightaway as the first cup of tea came out for the workers, could be felt an atmosphere of history, comradeship and nostalgia but, above all, of fun.

Little by little the market took shape - the tables placed, each labelled with the name of the cause to which their proceeds were to benefit, began to assume a festive face. (One vendor even took the trouble to take his tables home in order to decorate them in advance.) Union Jacks festooned the "Old Bakery" wall signs appeared on the corners of The Barton beckoning folk to the "Old Forge" where Liz Acton painstakingly re-created a 40's style shop in her front bay window - Dave Freeguard arrived in his 19 Austin 7 "Chummy" for all to view - strings of bunting were bestrewn so enthusiastically that The Barton became detached and the flags had to be taken down to allow a service van to go about its business - the coffee bar and soup kitchen opened in Jane's Cottage - wartime music blared from an anachronistic radio-cassette - the goodwill of common purpose oozed and the VE Day market was in full swing.

And what a glorious success it was. The magnificent total of £724 resulted from the efforts, generosity and goodwill of all involved - not least the "spenders"! Well done the village!

Those causes benefiting were: The Star and Garter Home, St. Teresa's Nursing Home, the Church of St. Andrew and Bell fund, RNLI, the Youth Club, Muscular Dystrophy Research and The Brooke Hospital for Horses.

### The WHEATSHEAF INN

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## The Younger View

It was nearing the VE Day anniversary when the request came from a young teacher (the daughter of a friend) for both of us to go to talk to her Middle School pupils about our experiences during the war.

A group of around ten pupils were chosen - a cross section, with ages varying between nine and twelve years. With these boys and girls we spent the morning answering some very intelligent and interesting questions and I believe both we and the children learned a lot about each other. Immediately following our visit the children were given twenty minutes to write a diary entry for an imaginary day during World War II.

The following extracts are a few examples of their imagination and standard of work:

Tom Powell - aged 10

I was waiting, waiting. I knew something had happened to Harold - something awful. I remembered that time when he had flung his bag over his shoulder and said "I'm going." He walked gently down the garden path, opened our white gate and waved until he was out of sight. Then I was running down the road shouting "Don't go, Harold. Don't go."

Anon

I woke up with a start. Mum was shaking me and saying "Wake up. We have to go straight to the station." I was at the station standing crying. I was given a gas-mask in a box and hurried onto a train. A boy behind me kept pulling my ponytails. Soon we stopped and there we sat, feeling like a bunch of parcels. I saw a posh-looking lady who looked at Harry as if he was a frog, but she took him in. I was picked up by a large family of several boys and girls and driven to a small cottage.

Tom Maine - aged 11

Heading for home I thought about all the exciting things that could happen to a boy in World War II. I soon stopped that when I heard the sound of an air-raid siren booming its voice out into the countryside. For one moment I didn't know what to do. Should I run to my home or jump into the hedge and pray? I took to my heels and ran. At last I was near enough to reach the shelter. Inside, all my family were waiting for me. I plunged into the shelter and everyone heaved a huge sigh of relief.

Abigail - aged 11

Finally school ended and I started to walk home through the devastated streets. I had only got a little way when the air-raid siren went. I started running and tried to get home but then I saw the aeroplanes coming. I heard someone

shouting "Quick, come in here." Their house had all the glass missing like the others. I heard a massive bang and the first bomb had been dropped. I sat in the corner of the shelter, scared stiff.

Cindy - 12

I went along with about 30 other children. None of us had a smile on our face because we were being taken away from our Mums and it was a big shock. We were taken by minibus to a place called Littletown. In the small village hall we had to stand silently. It was very scary - I felt like crying because I wanted my Mum so much. An old lady came from the crowd and called out: "The one with the long black hair and blue gown." "I walked slowly towards her. She pulled me close and gave me a gentle hug. We walked down a lane to a small cottage. It was very quiet and peaceful without the air-raids. Once inside the old lady said that there was nothing to worry about and she put up black sheets at the windows and doors.

Natalie - 12

Everything was silent and still. Then someone shouted "It's over!" It spread round the whole crowd. Everyone was shouting. Oh, how I wish there was no such thing as war!

Jim Mansbridge

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## What's Out and Where

THE LATEST RENTAL RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Wagons East	Comedy western	△
Witch Hunt	Supernatural thriller	18
Blood of the Hunter	Thriller	18
Children of the Corn	Horror	18
Digital Man	Sci-fi thriller	18
Final Combination	Detective thriller	18
Reservoir Dogs	Crime thriller	18
Threesome	Comedy drama	18
The Specialist	Thriller	18
Alien Nation	Sci-fi thriller	12
The Road to Wellville	Comedy	18
Trapped In Paradise	Comedy thriller	△
Sirens	Romantic comedy	18
Nostradamus	True-life drama	18
The Programme	Comedy drama	18
Cyborg 3	Sci-fi thriller	18
Cops & Robbers	Action comedy	△
Captives	Drama	18
Dream Lover	Comedy drama	18
The Fear	Supernatural thriller	18
Chasers	Comedy drama	18
Being Human	Comedy	18
Crooklyn N.Y.	Comedy drama	12
Junior	Comedy drama	△
Prehysteria 2	Family action	△
Op Centre	Thriller	18 TBC
StarGate	Sci-fi action	18
Gettysburg I and II	True-life drama	TBC
D2 The Mighty Ducks	Comedy	△
Shallow Grave	Comedy drama	18
Timecop	Sci-fi thriller	18
Interview With The Vampire	Supernatural thriller	18
Andre	Family drama	△ TBC

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## Wartime Reminiscences

the recent D-Day celebrations and the commemoration of V.E. and V.J. Day have brought memories flooding back of those awful wartime years that I hope the reader will enjoy sharing with me.

For the average young person of today, the Second World War is just a part of history. As a young person in 1944 I was part of that history.

The Army was a reality to me and at 17, I joined the Home Guard. Yes, it is true - we did fight with pitchforks, although what use these would have been if the Germans had landed, as everyone knows. I will never forget when the news came that Jerry was about to invade these islands. As it turned out they never made it and we breathed again!

Later I joined the Royal Navy. Not for me the yearning for the sea - I just thought that it would be better than a muddy trench to dig in. In the event, the best I got was a wooden deck and, when all the hooks were taken, a wooden deck table.

I will never forget my part-one training at HMS Raleigh - a shore base at Torpoint in Cornwall. The ten weeks I spent there involved a serious soul-searching. I was one of a mixed bunch of 'shipmates' which included boys from the Glasgow Gorbals but, at the time the course was over, a lot of ship-building had taken place and we had to live with each other. (Perhaps young people would benefit from such experience?) I was a Plymouth rating - an ordinary Seaman later to become an Able Seaman. Not very able and not much of a

all parts of the world. Those convoys that were so desperately vital to our survival and were part of the arena of so much death and destruction.

This trip we were off to Madagascar via Cape Town and Durban accompanying merchantmen along with the Aircraft Carrier 'Illustrious' which spent most of her time practising flying-off and landing techniques. We saw many planes overshoot the deck and finish up in the sea. Fortunately, the pilots were most often rescued and the planes lifted. One convoy escort duty took us to the Seychelles being, as it is, on the Equator, one of the hottest places in the world. Sadly, there was no shore leave, the incidence of V.D. among the native population so high and the will of the average rating so weak.

My next move was to be sent on a course to H.M.S. Good Hope, which was, in reality, 'The Seaview Hotel', Port Elizabeth. Although this was not as idyllic as it sounds, I spent the most enjoyable days of my war service there. A tidal swimming pool, a girl called Elsa and other distractions made it difficult to do otherwise. The idea was to turn me into a Naval Officer but, at the end of the course, in the Navigation exam., I steered my ship over Table Mountain and the Examining Officer threatened to resign if I did not fail.

Along with three other failures I was off to Pietermaritzburg on a wonderful, slow, slow train. (So slow that we even stopped at Ladysmith to go to a movie - I remember it well - Bing Crosby in 'The Birth of the Blues'.)

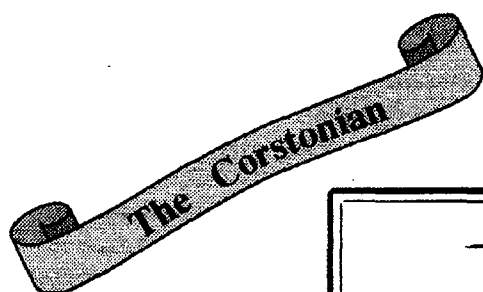
Pietermaritzburg was merely a transit camp and soon I was on my way to Durban to join the famous Battleship 'Warspite'. A 'Headlines' ship if ever there was one with the battle of Narvik, off Norway and Taranto

(when the entire Italian Fleet was effectively put out of action) under its belt. Our task, this time, was to keep the Japanese Fleet as quiet as possible in the South Atlantic and, along with our sister ship, H.M.S. Valiant and various cruisers and destroyers, we sailed to Mombasa in Kenya. Fortunately for us the Japanese Fleet stayed in port. Had they not, our World War I battleships would have been no match for their modern, fast ships. However, we did spend most nights dropping small depth charges along the boom nets that were spread across the harbour. This was to deal with any one-man submarines that might be lurking. Even though the depth charges were small, having dropped one it was "Full Speed Ahead" to get out of the way of the blast. Thank goodness we never had to drop a big one (our orders if we ever saw a submarine) because we'd have probably blown our stern off. After six months of such

operations the "Warspite" was sent to the U.K. where I had my first leave in months.

While we had been away the war was beginning to happen in the Mediterranean. The siege of Malta was coming to its end. Plans were afoot for the first time in Europe. The "Warspite" was to play a part in all this. After a refit in Gourock, Scotland, trials at Scapa Flow (where we were outnumbered the people) we set off. Although the siege was over, food was very scarce, but it came as no surprise. Our ever-resourceful 'Jack' was able to get us 'steak, egg and chips' in a local restaurant. This was to be our staple diet and we managed to find a source wherever we went. By Peter Finnegan

*In the Autumn Edition: Salerno to*



*- Letters -*

Just one post-card in isolation - but what splendid isolation. I reproduce it here:

*Forces Mail  
9th May '95*

Dear Editor,

The Corstonian reaches parts other papers cannot reach. I cannot speak for the other three corners of the world, but it has reached this one. Glad I am of it, too.

Best wishes,  
Martin Seymour  
Port Stanley, Falkland Islands



## We Are Survivors (For those born before 1945)

before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and space, before dishwashers, tumblers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

and first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was a thing, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a meaningful relationship meant getting married, while 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt or young men wearing ties. 'time-sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or a fried potato, and nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

"Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your car. It was something you fastened a collar to a shirt with and 'going all the way' meant taking a double-decker bus to the depot. Pizzas, MacDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. Cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a father's lullaby, "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

Born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are confused and there is a lot to be said for today....BUT By The Grace Of God We Have Survived! Hallelujah!!!

Anon

### **Bath » Weston-Super-Mare Summer Service - X9**

Days (excluding Bank Holidays) until 29th September. Also Sundays : July 16th and August 1st.

Corston Church	-	0935	1635	...	Weston-S-Mare	-	1105	1805
Weston-S-Mare	-	1100	1800	...	Corston Church	-	1213	1913

(Marine Parade)

For more information - many thanks to Mrs D. Bailey

## "Thank You!"

**Paul Wynne** - for overhauling the Parish strimmer without charge.

**Walt Perry** - for watering the new sapling at the top of Meadlands when it looked a bit droopy.

**Reg Pierce** - (belatedly) for strengthening the Village Hall card tables before he emigrated for the winter.

**David Butler** - for collaring an advertisement from Blockbusters video hire.

**Kevin Ashman** - for temporary repair to the Parish Notice board (which needs replacing).

**Paul Warner** - for taking over from Cynthia Payne as N/Hood Watch Contact for the centre of the village.

**Reg Gay** for donating the trough that now adorns the alcove in the wall of the Old Courthouse.

**Mr & Mrs Kerr and the Old Tyme Dance Club** for donating the proceeds of one of their dances to help set the newly-formed Corston Social Club on a firm footing.

**Dean Miles** - for his help in reducing the cost of producing this edition by the loan of a computer.

...and **The Kind Man** - who wishes to remain anonymous and has stapled together the three hundred copies of this issue.

**Robert Taylor** for readily taking over the job of strimming the enclosure next to Barn Court while Kevin Ashman is unable.

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BONEMEAL (ORGANIC)	RR <del>22.23</del>	" "	£10.99

SANDS AND GRITS (FULL RANGE AVAILABLE).....	£2.50
LAWN SAND (MOSSKILLER) RR <del>7.07</del> .....	£3.80
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## **In Memoriam**

**GEOFFREY TAYLOR**  
**1909 - 1995**

Educated at the Cathedral Prep School and King Edward's School, Geoffrey went into banking and, at the outbreak of World War II, he was with the 'Westminster'. A volunteer for the Army, he served with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and was with the 8th Army in Africa with Montgomery. D Day plus 2 saw him landing in Normandy and he fought all the way through to the Ardennes and up to the Kiel Canal. "Although he played a part in liberating Belgium", Mary told me, "by that time the uniforms were so shabby that his unit was not allowed to take part in the Victory Parade."

In 1952 Geoffrey married Mary, a Taunton girl who taught at St. Christopher's Prep School in Bath. Tipped off by Mrs Cynthia Peters, who then lived at Hill House, that Church Cottage had fallen vacant, the couple moved to Corston in the same year.

Upon his demobilisation, Geoffrey, whose father was the then Managing Director of Jolly's, became Company Secretary there, later to become a Director and, finally, Managing Director himself. He continued to hold this position until the merger with Dingles which was followed by the take-over by the House of Fraser. At this point, at the age of 63, Geoffrey retired.

Geoffrey's contribution of voluntary and public service was extraordinary. In addition to his Wardenship at All Saints Church he was also its Treasurer for 30 years. He was well known for his tremendous work for the Scout movement and was Secretary of the Bath Area Scout Council for 25 years. In recognition he was awarded the Metal of Merit to which, later, was added a Bar.

With his wife, Mary, he was a member of the Samaritans from its inception in the late 60's until his illness made it too difficult for him to continue. For many years after his retirement he worked with the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Alzheimer's began to take its hold on Geoffrey as long as twelve years ago; at first and for a year or two, only discernible to Mary. "Some sufferers have plateaus and remissions" Mary explained to me, but Geoffrey's was a continuous and ever-increasing decline."

He was a gentle, loving man; much loved and respected by many and his long illness and passing has left a gap which, one feels, may be most difficult to fill.

---

***Deadline for Summer Issue - 15th September 1995***  
**(contact Gary Breckon or Terry Miller)**

## In Memoriam

STEVE WAKEFIELD

1950 - 1995

One of eleven Steve won a Scholarship to the Blue School in Wells where, no doubt, his early skills at sport would have thrived, but was unable to take it up because of the financial pressures of his family. Nevertheless, as a teenager, he managed to find a place in the Cathedral

Love of sport embraced a wide spectrum; he was an excellent young cricketer and played for Boys. Later he achieved County standard at squash.

From school Steve trained and worked as a chef and, at the opening of the Keynsham Leisure Centre and, later, managed the bar there. His first term as a tenant landlord was at the New Inn, where he remained for eleven years. For the last two of these, as a result of what, to many, was a crazy reorganization by the brewery, he was obliged to relinquish his tenancy and instead become a Manager; two years that he and his wife, Sandy, came to detest and which prompted them to leave the Compton Inn in September of last year.

Not a Corston man but well earns his place in the pages of this magazine. His life touched many outside the realms of his hostelry, among them some from this village.

While he was at the New Inn that Steve did so much work for his beloved charities. He was never less than 'brewing up' some scheme or other that would benefit the many causes that he supported, among them The Heart Foundation, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Leukemia Research and the Children's Hospital. "Steve was one of life's givers" Sandy told me, "not takers."

In his outside interests and involvements Steve's family always came first; a fact that was so reflected in the love and respect of his wife and daughters, Hannah and Becky.

regard of his fellow man was also plain to see in the massive attendance at Steve's funeral at Church, Keynsham, where more than a thousand gathered.

At the over-early age of 45 - a man to be remembered.

T.M.

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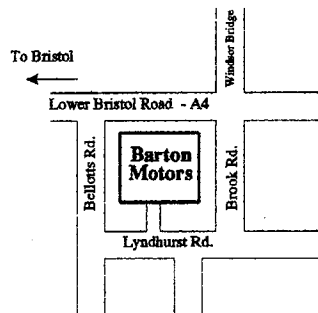
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## HARVEY'S GARAGE

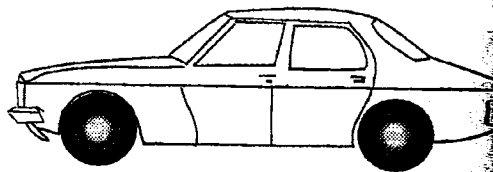
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## Around the Clubs and Societies



Corston Olde Tyme & Modern Sequence Dance Club always welcome new members on Monday evenings, 8.00-10.00 pm. We also hold a Dance every 3rd Saturday in the month from 7.30 - 11 pm. Why not join us? Telephone 873584 for further details.

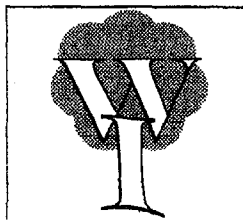
Corston Youth Club have many varied and interesting activities planned for Summer months but a great deal will depend on how much Kevin Ashman is able to participate. At the moment it looks unlikely that he will be fit in time to do much at all so, if there is another young man in the Village willing to step in for him, I am sure that Angie Carter would be pleased to hear from him on 873585. The Youth Club has particularly asked me to thank Sir Hugh Simpson for his kindness in making a gift of the doll he won, as first prize in their raffle at the VE Day market, to baby Stephanie Moore.



Corston P.C.C. tell us that framed, hand-painted prints of All Saints Church, Corston (limited edition) are now available. These have proved very popular and can be obtained from Mrs Margaret de Jong on 873585 for £12.50 (all profits to the Church).

The Playing Field Committee announce the rearranged date of the fete which will now take place on Sunday August 12th, commencing at 2 pm. Admission - 25p.

The W.I. are very pleased to report that their exhibit for the Bath Flower Show on the theme of 'Bygone Days' won a "Highly Commended". The programme for the July Meeting (Village Hall on 11th) will include a talk by Patricia Styles about her work with a Chiropodist. In September, the very entertaining David Rees will continue his series of talks on The Pennine Way. Visitors are welcome. There will be a W.I. stall at the Village fete on 12th August and we look forward to seeing you there. J.M.



The Sunday Club is having a very busy Summer term. In addition to our regular Sunday meetings, we had a sweet stall at the VE Day Market and raised £20 towards the new bells. The Coffee Morning and the 'n' Buy Sale in May raised £125 for "Heartline" and we would like to thank everyone who supported us. We are holding an "Activities" morning on July 23rd from 10.30 - 12 noon. If anyone has a skill/activity that they would like to share with the children please contact Kate Moore on 873637 for details. The morning is run as a series of small "Workshops" so that everyone gets to sample as many things as possible in the time. That will be the last meeting of term. Sunday Club restarts in September. All children aged from 3 to 11 are welcome to join us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month - in the Church from 10.30 to 11.30 am. (Kate Moore)

## Cottage Bindary

### Antiquarian Book Restoration in Corston

Trained in Bath at Bayntums in Manvers Street, starting wage (in 1955) £2.4.6d a week, the three partners of Cottage Bindary all chose totally different jobs at the conclusion of their apprenticeships; probably due to the harsh regime that they had endured for their six years of training. Soon, however, the love of the craft that they had so arduously learned drew them back to their precious books.

It was Robin Wells who created the name "Cottage Bindary" when he set up in his own home at Priston and he was soon joined by his old trainee colleagues, Tony Chivers and Andrew Haycock (who now lives, with his wife, at Brook Cottages, Corston).

After operating from various bases in and around Bath, the trio now occupy a Unit on the Business Park at Church Farm where much of their work is produced for orders from Japan

and America. The demand for the work is wide and varied. Only recently they were engaged to produce a period binding for a book which was to be used by one of the principal characters in the American-made film production of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility".

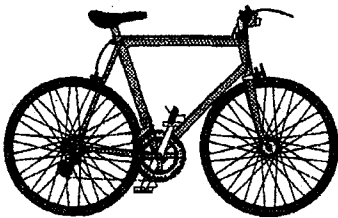
Walking into their workshop is like stepping into history. (It reminded me of the picture of the Caxton Printing Press in my old text book at Junior School.) The binder's tools look as if they have been preserved since the Middle Ages; in fact, they have changed so little, I was told, that a monk would be as much at home with the present day implements as he would have been with those of his Mediaeval Monastery.

The range of the work is extensive and, of course, only the highest quality materials are used in restoration and letter-press bindings, while Tony and Robin are always ready with helpful advice. A Cottage Bindary advertisement appears in these pages.

Terry Miller

## Small Ads

### For Sale



### **Raleigh Mustang**

Suit boy aged 8 - 12,  
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### Wanted

Recent events in our village have reminded me vividly how much I miss the richness of the late 'Skip' Richards' sense of local history.

Many an hour I've spent talking and learning from that interesting man and perusing his wonderful photographs of Corston events such as the Jubilee and the Royal Wedding. But the one that sticks most in my mind is of a wonderful family Wedding outside what is now the Convent. I believe it was taken before the turn of the century. Does anyone know of the whereabouts of this wealth of Corston History? Maybe we could develop our own archives!

Julie Miller

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***Deadline for Summer Issue - 15th September 1995***

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