

Issue 4 February

Christmas forgotten and weather a confusion of spring one day, perfect bright winter the next with miserable grey November-like days to dampen optimism. Birds and buds have more to lose in mistaking the weather signs. Both seem to have declared the end of winter early. I suspect we'll all be breaking the ice on the water and putting out the bread, nuts and seed for a while to come – what one does for buds at freezing time I don't know – but if you do, then do it!

If winter is really ready to step aside for an early spring, then that implies "spring cleaning" comes early, too. The Brockhampton Luncheon Club will help you clear the decks this year with a well-timed Jumble Sale – see Back Page. For the even braver, an idea to extend spring-cleaning to the open air can be enjoyed – Page 2.

Details of Ros Stewart's local history illustrated talk are on the back page. She would welcome your support.



This issue will bring Christmas reminders with a report on the "Dads & Lads" match on Page 3 plus a Report on the Pies & Punch evening (Page 4).

Thanks to "Bluey" Campbell for his technical help.

Anne Jenkin 820338

Get it From the Horse's Mouth



**ATTEND THE
PARISH MEETING
MARCH 24TH
AT 7.30PM
RHODES MEMORIAL HALL**

Plans for celebrating the Millennium locally will be discussed as well as any issues you feel should be debated.

Let Lesley Ball, the Parish Clerk, have details of any items you would like raised and she will include them in the agenda.

Please try to get to the meeting, if villagers don't outnumber councillors, how to we make them do what we want?

Spring-Clean the Parish?

What a Dump!

Colin Handy proposes we tackle a problem that infuriates us all.

Just what motivates people to dump their rubbish in field entrances and hedgerows is beyond comprehension.

Around the Parish right now are caches of discarded household items including glass, tins, plastic containers and even a skateboard.

Perhaps a useful community project would be an organised spring clean of our roads and paths. After all it only takes a band of volunteers and a few bin liners.

You don't even need any training to do it; you just pick it up as you go along!



“New” Post Office, One Year at Rhodes Hall.

Vanessa Holland, (Sub-postmistress)
writes -

The Post Office has now been open at the Rhodes Memorial Hall for a year and has been well supported by residents of Brockhampton, Sevenhampton, Charlton Abbots and Hawling. Complimentary comments have been received from customers, both local and visitors to the area, and from Post Office Counters Ltd. staff and management.

We were audited on June 5th and the accounts received a clean bill of health.

The Post Office has been selected as one of only 200 in the country to receive the hardware and initial software for the Post Office's 'Horizon' computer system. Further software was added in November. At present, the functions of the computer system are extremely limited. However, it is proposed that, eventually, every transaction across the counter will be processed through the computer - even the sale of a single stamp! The sub-postmistress is always grateful for customers' patience while she grapples with the latest "software update"!

Although 'shop space' is limited, a small range of confectionery has been introduced as has stationery. Greetings cards sold in aid of Sue Ryder have proved popular. The cards are displayed on the carpeted bench under the window. Many elderly customers have enjoyed sitting on the bench to choose their card.

The bench has also been appreciated by weary walkers and cyclists who, disappointed to find that the Post Office does not sell cold drinks, have been refreshed by a glass of water and a rest.

The siting of the Post Office in the lobby of the village hall helps to place it at the heart of the community and it is well used by customers attending events in the Hall, e.g. Luncheon Club, Century Club etc. Its place at the community's heart is often apparent when the bench provides the venue for a good gossip.

Thanks to the tremendous support received from many quarters, the Post Office has enjoyed a successful first year. It is hoped that its success as a Post Office and as part of the Community will continue for many years to come.



Dads and Lads Football

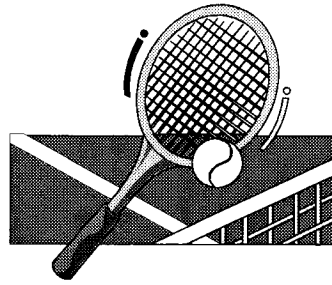
by Mark Oldham

The dads & lads football match proved to be very exciting. It has been said that both sides cheated – even the ref!



The first half saw the Dads score first and then add another a few minutes later. The lads pulled one back. Half time saw some team changing. The match ended 3-3 but the Dads won on penalties.

Better luck next year lads!!!



TENNIS AT "COOMB"

The popular tennis sessions for 6 to 16 year-olds will be back for the Easter and Summer School Holidays.

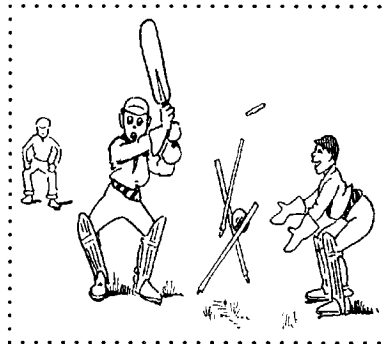
Day: Wednesdays

Time: 3pm

Place: "Coomb"

NOW FOR CRICKET

Following the splendid turn out on Dec 27th for the first revival of Dads & Lads (& Mums & Girls & Dogs) football, Chris and Liz Ball have offered to host a cricket match in the summer. The date has yet to be fixed –hopefully finalised for next issue.



Should be a splendid day.

BALL APPEAL



The enthusiasm and energy of the participants during the tennis sessions means the balls do not last long and so supplies of part-used or slightly worn balls are needed.

Please deliver to Coomb or to Friday Night Club



Ideas needed for other holiday activities!

Brian Turner at Coomb would like suggestions from participants and/or their parents for school holiday outings & activities.

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday
21st February
at
2pm

The **LUNCHEON CLUB** are holding a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall

Come along, and give them your support and then enjoy a cup of tea in good company.

Please deliver jumble to the Hall between 10 am and 12 noon. on day of sale or if not possible ring

Rita Rhone on 820445 and she will arrange to do something which the printer missed off.

Wine Tasting



When you read this you will have either just enjoyed or just missed the Wine Appreciation Evening at the Hall.

Report and Photos in Next Issue

⇒ SYREFORD
⇒ SENNINGTON ⇒
⇒ ST ANDREWS

A Local History Talk
with Slides.

Given by Ros Stewart
on

Friday 6th March
7.30 pm
Rhodes Memorial Hall

Proceeds to Church Funds.

PIES, PUNCH & CAROLS

Report by Georgina Oldham

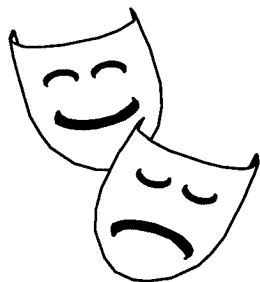
An enjoyable evening, very well attended and, despite the panic when we learnt that we should have doubled the punch recipe we had been given, there was just enough to go around. We'll do better next time.

The money raised has been distributed as follows:

Cheltenham Young Homeless Appeal £100
Special Baby Care Unit at St Pauls Wing of Cheltenham Hospital £100
Andoversford Primary School £50
The Rhodes Memorial Hall £50

Very many thanks to all who supported us and made the evening such a success.

Brockhampton Amateur Dramatics Society



will be Celebrating Spring
at the Village Hall on
Saturday April 18th.

*full details
next issue.*