

Local Talk Back

FEBRUARY 2021

ISSUE 512



Currently frosty, but the prospects look better. Photo by Claire Broomsgrove



A MAGAZINE WITH NEWS, VIEWS AND REPORTS FOR THE RESIDENTS
OF ACTON TURVILLE, BADMINTON AND LITTLE BADMINTON

EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 2021

In this month's edition of Local Talk Back you'll find a picture of a young man called Josh Harris. Josh is from Bathampton, and back in December he ran from Acton Turville to Avonmouth, raising money for an organisation called The Beaver Trust. Why choose that as a route, you might ask. Why run from a small Costwold village to one of the UK's busiest container ports where everything from motor vehicles to fruit and veg are landed around the clock? The answer is the River Avon, which rises in Acton Turville then wends its way through Malmesbury, Chippenham, Bath and Bristol before it reaches the Severn Estuary at Avonmouth. As the crow flies that's probably 20 miles. The route taken by the Avon (and run by Josh) was 52 miles.

Before the river reaches the Severn Estuary it navigates the Avon Gorge in Bristol, passing beneath Brunel's engineering masterpiece the Clifton Suspension Bridge, and then on to Avonmouth, a typically busy industrial area with all the facilities demanded by a major port to distribute produce around the country (and Europe) as quickly and efficiently as possible. It's hard to believe the same river began life in one of our little, quiet villages.

At this stage it might be worth clarifying what we mean when we talk about "the" River Avon. There are in fact several rivers in the UK called the Avon. The longest one, at 85 miles, starts at Naseby in Northamptonshire. It passes through places such as Stratford-upon-Avon before joining the River Severn at Tewkesbury. Of course, that culminates in the Severn Estuary where it meets its namesake from Acton Turville. "That" River Avon is generally referred to as the Warwickshire Avon. "Ours" gets called the Bristol Avon.

What strikes me is the low profile afforded to the source of the Bristol Avon. Nothing on the road signs saying "Acton Turville - Home to the Source of the Avon". No signs guiding visitors to the actual source (it's beautifully kept but you need to know what you're looking for). It's almost like a well-kept secret - even Naseby has erected a structure alongside the source of "its" Avon.

Going back to Josh Harris, the chap who ran to Avonmouth. As pointed out earlier his motivation was not pleasure, it was to raise funds for The Beaver Trust, an organisation dedicated to the reintroduction of beavers into the wild in Britain. Beavers became extinct in the UK in the sixteen century, but organisations such as The Beaver Trust have been working to have them reintroduced for many years. Their tenacity paid off with a controlled release in Kent in 2002. The success of that project prompted further releases across several parts of Britain, resulting in a population which today numbers approximately 550. So why the rush to bring back the beaver? Well the theory goes that beavers help to reduce the flow of water in the rivers and streams in our river catchment areas. They achieve this by doing something they're very good at - building dams. These dams don't block the river, they are (apparently) cleverly designed to reduce the flow rate. Far from being destructive, beavers help to create sustainable environments by reducing the likelihood of flooding and and creating pools of water which help store water during times of drought and encourage a diverse range of wildlife to the countryside. There's been quite a surge of interest in them just recently, with shows such as the BBC's Winterwatch featuring the animals.

Maybe we should introduce a colony to the pond that marks the source of the Bristol Avon. Having said that, I'm not sure what would happen if they turned out to be over-vigorous dam builders: they could potentially end up bringing Avonmouth Docks to a grinding halt.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

Local Talk Back is printed by

SPRINT PRINT, 33 STATION ROAD, YATE, BS37 4PS

Tel: 01454 852255 or email: info@sprint-print.co.uk

Items for Local Talk Back email to: localtalkback1975@gmail.com Tel: 01454 218267

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DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received the following donations this month for which we are most grateful:

Mr & Mrs R Carter - £10

Mr & Mrs R Wood - £50

Mrs J Earl - £20

In addition, £22.90 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.

Thank you!

We very much appreciate all donations as it helps to keep the Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.

There are Local Talk Back collection boxes in Acton Turville Stores and Badminton Stores.

To donate by cheque, please make payable to

LOCAL TALK BACK and send to:

***The Treasurer, Local Talk Back,
Church Farm House, The Street, Acton
Turville, Badminton, S.Glos, GL9 1HL***

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR DECEMBER 2020

**Richard Hartley
David Burchell
Hannah Griffin**

WINNERS FOR JANUARY 2021

**Rebecca Rennie
Brenda Tripp
Doreen Shortall**

Congratulations to all our winners!

Random Ramblings

The Beaver Trust

If you were up and about at 7 o'clock in the morning on the 2nd of December, you might have spotted a young man standing in the centre of Acton Turville, having his picture taken. His name is Josh Harris: that's his picture below, taken by our friend Toby Evans. Josh was running the length of the River Avon, from its source in Acton Turville to Avonmouth, to raise money for the Beaver Trust. In total that's 52 miles, with Josh arriving safely in Avonmouth at 8pm. It's not the first time Josh has undertaken such a challenge in support of the Beaver Trust. He's previously run from his home in Bathampton to his university in Cambridge to raise funds for the beavers. To find out more about the trust, and perhaps contribute to their work, visit <https://beavertrust.org>.



Gate Tying

It's a new one on us. Ray Bird was recently approached by a former resident of Acton Turville who could remember, whenever a wedding was being held in the Church, the local kids would tie bailer twine across the path down to the gate. When the happy couple emerged from the church, the bridegroom had to throw some coins to the kids to distract them while the bailer twine was cut. In Acton Turville, the twine would apparently be tied across the Church Drive between the trees and the gate.

Ray's yet to find anyone else who remembers this happening locally, but someone did suggest that the tying of Church gates is a custom that still goes on today in some villages where the wedding party have to give some money to the kids for them to untie the gates, so maybe it's not unique to Acton Turville after all. Can anyone throw any light on it? Do you remember it happening in our villages? Please get in touch if you do.

In those days it was called Gate Tying, but I suspect the Police have another name for it these days...

Badminton Social Club

It was a great shame to see the Badminton Village Social Club close its doors for the last time towards the end of 2020. The club, which celebrated its centenary in 2012, witnessed many memorable events over the years, none more so than when Queen Mary visited to celebrate the end of the war with the villagers. It will be sorely missed.

Computers for Pupils

Who has an unused computer, preferably a laptop but not necessarily so, preferably working but not necessarily so, that they would like to donate for schools and pupils who need them?

Lions Club of Chipping Sodbury are collecting and wish to thank those who have managed to find machines for us to get electronically cleaned, ready to pass on.

We have also bought a refurbished machine from our own funds.

So if you have any kit to move on, please let Dick Elford know on 218362.

We and the recipients would be very grateful.

In Memoriam



Richard Chappell

Richard Chappell passed away in October aged 76, having sadly lost his daughter Carol earlier in the year. Richard leaves his wife Wendy, son Wayne, Son-in-law Paul, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He had grown up in Hawkesbury Upton, moving to Acton Turville when he married Wendy.

Richard worked in the building trade, working his way up from labourer to Contracts Manager of nine sites. He enjoyed many hobbies and especially loved playing golf for over 25 years in The Duke of Beaufort's Household Golf Society. Richard was a country 'boy' at heart, and spent many hours wandering through the local woodlands observing the flowers, trees and wildlife around him. He made walking sticks from specially chosen wood. He took many photographs which the artist in him turned into beautiful paintings at home. He played skittles for the 'Badminton B' team at Badminton Village Club, winning many trophies alongside his team mates. Richard also loved music, especially Country music, and a glass of red wine. Cheers Richard!!

We send our condolences to Wendy, Wayne and family.



Kay Vacher

It is sad to report the death of Kay Vacher (nee Clark), wife of Tim Vacher. They had lived in Badminton before moving to Switzerland with their children Ben, Charlotte and Kathy. Tim grew up in Badminton and Kay in Burton. They visited home often and had many friends and family here who will miss her.

Our thoughts are with Tim, Ben, Charlotte and Kathy as well as Kay's father Vivian Clark and all her brothers and sisters.



Colonel Tim Hope

Local Talk Back was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Colonel Tim Hope in January. Tim was a fascinating character who moved to Acton Turville in the early eighties with his wife Bridget. They quickly and enthusiastically embraced all aspects of village life and became hugely supportive of the community: for many years, Tim and Bridget hosted the annual village fete in their immaculate garden, and Tim was much involved in the management of the Badminton horse trials.

Before that, Tim was a Military man, joining the Army towards the end of the Second World War. In fact, he was on a troop ship to Japan when the atom bombs were dropped and the war ended. Initially serving in the Parachute Regiment, Tim transferred to the Cavalry where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Tim was a true gentleman. He was unceasingly generous with his time, and someone with whom you always looked forward to passing the time of day. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

We pass on our sincere condolences to Bridget, son Alexander and the family.

1986 – A YEAR IN THE LIFE of OUR VILLAGES

What was going on in our villages 35 years ago. What clubs did we have, how did we spend our time and what charities benefitted from what we did. The Talk Back has the answers.

During 1986 many personal 'Congratulations' and 'Thankyous' were added by readers to their friends and families. We are quite happy for you to use the Talk Back in the same way today.

Kath Gentry thanked the Valentine Club for the lovely 'Senior Citizens Christmas Party' by sharing some verses she copied, because they seemed appropriate.

Beatitude For Friends of the Elderly

Blessed are they who understand
my faltering steps and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know my ears today
must stretch to catch the words they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
my eyes are dim but my wits aren't slow.
Blessed are they who look away
When the coffee was spilt on the table today.
Blessed are they with cheery smile
who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say
"you've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the way
to bring back memories of yesterday.

Kath also told us that "Spring came a little late" and in April journeying to Devon for her holiday "Exmoor hills were snow covered and we passed through heavy snow showers". High winds and heavy rain in early summer made life difficult for gardeners but for the July Air Day "The weather couldn't have been kinder". It seems there was an Indian Summer.

Ray Bird contributed a lot to the Local Talk Back with his Country Life Column. He talked of the recent 1986 big freeze bringing unusual birds to the garden such as Redwings and Fieldfares, normally seen in large flocks on farmland. He visited a Bird of Prey Sanctuary and said "Farmers now realise the Barn Owl is the farmer's friend, catching more rats and mice than any farm cat." The cold wet spring delayed many things in nature. The summer visiting birds were late to arrive. There were high winds and heavy rain in early summer.

Ray wrote in July "At long last summer seems to have arrived. The cold wet spring delayed many things in nature. Hedgerows, trees and other plants were very late to blossom. Resident birds were late in beginning to nest. Summer visitors were late arriving such as the Chiffchaff, Warblers and Swallows."

Maurice Greening sent a message to Acton Turville Talk Back readers to apologise for any inconvenience, noise and disruption caused by his transport lorries recently as many villagers in Acton Turville had commented on the increased activity and the odd looking loads being carried. Maurice said "we have been instructed by a firm who are shipping a 'Tuna fish packaging plant' to collect in one place, the whole of the machinery that will complete the factory, crate it up in waterproof cases and deliver into Felixtowe Docks from where it will be shipped to GHANA. The objects that could not be identified by villagers were boilers, steam vessels, weighing machines, canning machines, drying trays, mobile fish haulage trays, vacuum tanks and conveyor belts totalling 100 tons. All to turn a tuna fish into a product you will recognise on the supermarket shelf as a tin of tuna fish." He also thanked his staff for working long hours to meet the shipping deadline, and who kept up a supply of sarcastic humour and swear words that even Maurice had not heard before.

Badminton Cricket Club was going strong but at this time they were 'much saddened' and paying tribute to player Vic Hunter who had passed away recently. In the club's history very few, if any, made more appearances for the club than Vic. His career spanned over 30 years. Frank Witchard recalled that many times when the club was in deep trouble Vic would go in to bat and save the game by just staying in at the crease. He is remembered for the help and encouragement passed on to the youngsters starting their careers for the club, often standing down to give them a chance.

The Queen's 60th birthday was celebrated in April. Nan Greenaway, housekeeper at Swangrove House, remembered when the Queen and the Queen Mother paid a surprise visit to Swangrove House. "They came into our dining room and showed great interest in the old house, and our activities.

Asking many questions about the home-made wines fermenting, bubbling, and dancing up and down. The Queen Mother said she liked our little 'Whatnot' – I did say we haven't one M'am, she then pointed to the handsome dresser saying 'it just fits your dolls house!!! They are so interested in everything and stayed about half an hour."

1986 A Year in the Life of our Villages page 2

Trinity School had a collection for the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children on St Michael's Hill. Also a Christmas Service and dress rehearsal raised £45 and a Jumble Sale made over £113.

The **Royal Wedding** of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson in July was celebrated at the school.

The **Friends of the School (F.O.S.)** arranged for the children to watch some of the TV coverage of the Royal Wedding in the morning, then in the afternoon, after dancing and playing games they tucked into refreshments while wearing gorgeous celebration hats that they had made. Each pupil received a commemoration mug donated by the F.O.S.

The **Acton Turville Village Association (ATVA)** was a very active group bringing the village together for fund raising for both charity and outings for villagers. Some ATVA members helped at the Castle Combe Steam Fayre for two days and raised £200 for their own funds. A village coach outing was organised to take as many villagers as possible to the Paignton and Dartmouth area, to include a steam train ride from Kingswear to Paignton, and a ferry trip across the river Dart followed by a trip to the beach. This was all subsidised by the ATVA where children under 14 and senior citizens go free. Adults paid a nominal fee of £2.50. The children were also taken to the Pantomime in Bristol. In April a new committee was formed with the hope of having Bingo Night, coach trips to the seaside and a village barbecue to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

In August the ATVA arranged for a Donkey Derby to take place in the village and in November a Fireworks and Bonfire night.

A **monthly Whist Drive** in aid of Acton Turville church funds was held in the Fox and Hounds. Brian and Shirley Hedge were the landlords and Mary Harrington the organiser.

Boundary Changes. Badminton and surrounding villages were previously in the historic county of Gloucestershire, but in 1986 we were in the county of Avon following boundary and name changes in 1974.

In the April 1986 issue of Talk Back Badminton Parish Council reported there was to be a new Boundary Commission Plan to change things again and the Parish Council discussed whether Badminton would be better served by applying to revert back into Gloucestershire.

A meeting in May would be the last opportunity to vote on whether to remain in Avon or return to Gloucestershire. The local vote was 53 for Gloucestershire and 34 for Avon.

The change took another ten years when in 1996 the County of Avon was abolished and was split between four new Unitary Authorities: South Gloucestershire which became our county, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and Bristol. You will notice that we still receive letters addressed as 'Avon'.

Hollybush Close: In August the Acton Turville Parish reported that planning consent was given for the low cost housing project in Acton Turville in land between Chapel Lane and the Littleton Drew Road. Now known as Hollybush Close.

The **Lombard Rally** came to Badminton Park when, in November, the First Special stage took place there. The route through the park, with several very sharp corners and other very fast sections proved spectacular.

Ginny Leng. This was the year that Acton Turville villager Ginny won the World 3-day event Championship in Australia, becoming Individual Champion. GB took the team title. Ginny was now World and European Champion and had won Badminton and Burgley and a Silver Olympic Medal.

On Ginny's return from Australia she was greeted by banners, flags and cheers from a crowd of local fans.

The Silver Lining Club: a group of more mature ladies who would meet in various locations each month, be it a member's home, the village hall or the local Drewetts store. The club was organised by Sylv Bird and meetings could be talks, crafts, social occasions or outings.

TV Show 'Miss Marple'. One episode this year was filmed locally in Marshfield and other locations but also in Badminton's Drewetts Stores. The interior of the shop was transformed with a 'makeover' in preparation for the filming. Shelves were painted to look like brown wood and the freezer was covered to look like a counter. The window display and outdoor display arranged to match the era of the story.

A Blue Peter 'Sight Savers' appeal was run by Jean Earl, who raised £200. For every £1 donated a child's sight would be saved. A £50 donation was added later.

Sheila Fry and Friends from Badminton raised £1,000 for C.L.I.C. in Bristol and the Duchess of Beaufort kindly handed the cheque to the charity on their behalf.

Harvest Festival Auctions took place in Badminton Village Club and the Fox and Hounds at Acton Turville. The money raised was £294 each for Little Badminton Churchyard Fund and Acton Turville Churchyard fund.

The Valentine Club (ladies group) had a very busy year with fundraising for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party which provided a hot meal, lots of drink and entertainment. This year with the help of the ATVA, senior citizens from Acton Turville were invited to join the party.

On February 14th the club celebrated their sixth anniversary and husbands and friends joined them for a Church service followed by a Cheese & Wine party at the vicarage as Vicar's wife Gloria Gibson was the Chairman of the club.

The club's chosen charity for the year was St Peter's Hospice, and many functions were organised to raise funds for that.

Entertainers, speakers and demonstrators were booked for the twice monthly meetings.

In January Badminton resident Sister Brooksbank went along to tell the ladies about the Talking Books for the Blind that she can hire. She took her machine for them to hear the beginning of the book she had on hire at the time. The club donated £50 to her as she is hoping to sponsor a Talking Book for the Library for the Blind. Sister Brooksbank returned to tell about her days as a District Nurse in Badminton.

Club members spent a pleasant evening at Swangrove House by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Greenaway. Over a glass of wine they learned something of the history of the house and visitors that included a friendly ghost. Other outings were to a Microwave cookery demonstration at Lackham College and a fruit picking evening followed by supper at a pub. A wine tasting evening and a Fashion Show to raise money for St Peter's Hospice were enjoyed by all.

Badminton Air Day in July took place on the rural airfield of the Duke of Beaufort's Estate. The show included a Britain Memorial Flight and the Royal Naval Historic Flight. Opening the show was a fly past of a British Airways 1-11 carrying paying passengers to raise money for a Christmas Charity Appeal. Displays were to include the Mosquito, Toyota Pitts, Spitfire and other supporting aircraft. In the arena were displays of log-felling, ATC activities, Vintage Rolls Royce and motorcycles. Also a meeting of the British Car Rally Association with drivers from all over the UK in their challenge for the newly presented 'Badminton Cup'. It was a great day out for families. From the Air Day £3,400 was raised for various charities including the R.A.F., Royal Navy and the Army Benevolent Fund, Acton Turville Fun Run, Avon Ambulance, British Red Cross, Frenchay Head Injuries Unit, the Talk Back and for the Blind to name a few.

The Badminton Parachute Club . Over £14,00 was raised for charities by the people taking part in the parachute jumps throughout the year. Some recipients were Bath RUH Childrens' Ward, Bristol Childrens' Hospital, Bristol Homeless, C.L.I.C., Frenchay Hospital Scanner Appeal and Riding for the Disabled.

The Acton Turville Fun Run presentation of prizes and charity cheque took place in January for the December 1985 Fun Run. The charity was 'Ward 18 of Frenchay Hospital', principally a ward for heart attack patients. They were handed £3,196. Organisers were John Smith, John Wayman and Terry Tripp.

The Charity Fun Run in December 1986 was a 4 mile run between the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville and Badminton Village Club. The return journey was across the fields. The run was in aid of the Cancer Research Laboratory of the Bristol Radiotherapy and Oncology Centre. A cheque for £3,060 was handed to Dr Alan Preece by the Duchess of Beaufort on behalf of the Fun Run. The organisers were John Smith, Terry Tripp and Pat Nettles with help from family and friends.

Badminton Cancer Committee was organised by Adrian Packer, of Burton, along with a group of helpers, many from Badminton and Acton Turville. In 1986 Adrian was lucky enough in getting into the London Marathon and had offered to raise £600 for St Peter's Hospice as they were opening a new wing which will hold 12 patients. They needed a motorised syringe which a patient carries around their waist and it monitors and gives correct doses for pain killing during a 24 hour period. They also required a portable colour TV for their day room. He also offered the person who raised the most money for him a portable TV. Adrian eventually raised £1,087.40 and took 3hrs 8 minutes to complete the course.

Church Coffee Mornings and Fetes were held for local Churches. The Fete at Stonelea raised £750 towards a new boiler for Acton Turville Church. A coffee morning at Mrs Minty's home at the Potteries was also for the boiler. The whole heating was paid for by the above plus £170 from a Cheese and Wine at the Vicarage. A Coffee Morning at Badminton House realised £905 for church funds.

Other events such as skittle matches, dances, discos, and live music events took place at Badminton Club, the Village Hall and the Fox and Hounds.

In conclusion it seems that an awful lot of people gave their time and energy to give many more people some lovely social occasions to attend, which in turn raised a huge amount of money for many different charities.

The End

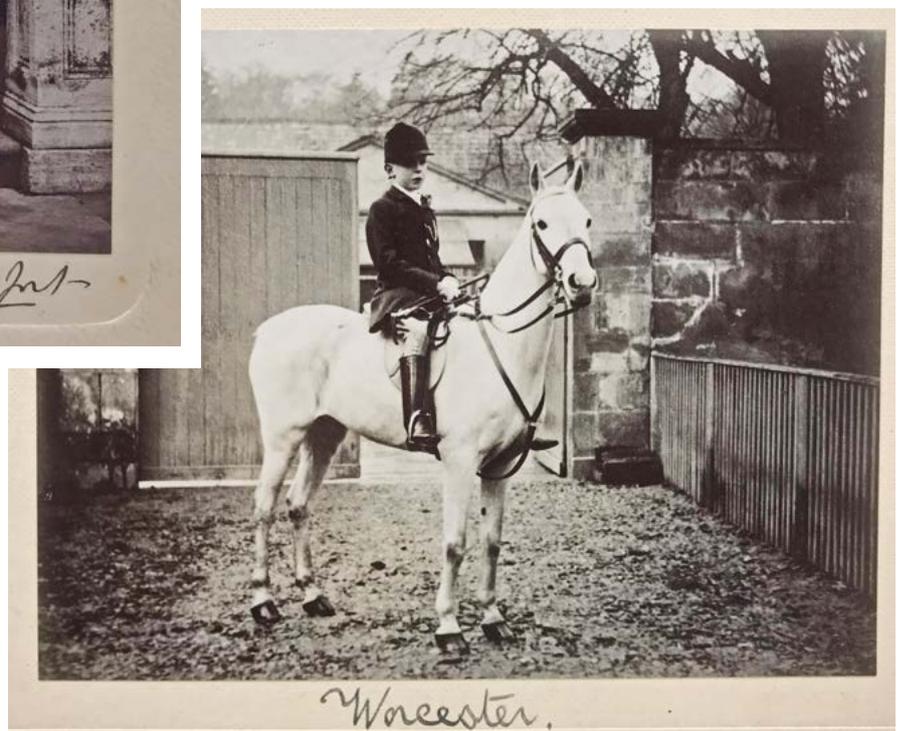
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Over the past few months, Local Talk Back has been publishing a series of images depicting scenes from the Beaufort Hunt taken at the start of the twentieth century. The pictures, obtained by Ray Bird and due to be published in a book on the history of the hunt, provided a fascinating insight into an integral part of our local history. We received much positive feedback on the pictures, with many of you commenting on the quality of the images which belied the fact they were taken over a hundred years ago.

One particularly interesting response was that received from Sir George White. Yvonne Nettles had contacted him when researching her article on the the Bristol Biplane aircraft which photographed on a visit to Badminton in 1911 (Yvonne's article appeared in the December 2020 issue of Talk Back). Sir George's grandfather, Sir Stanley White, was managing director of the Bristol Aeroplane Company from 1911 (when it was still called the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company) until 1954, and his father (also Sir George White) was responsible for aircraft production during World War II. He was therefore ideally placed to explain why the Bristol aeroplane had visited the park, and provide the missing pieces of information that Yvonne needed to complete her article. Sir George has once again been in touch and very kindly sent us the two pictures which he found tucked into his grandmother's scrapbook. The pictures, reproduced below, date from around 1911 and show the 9th Duke of Beaufort and 'Worcester', later to be the 10th Duke and known by everyone as 'Master'.



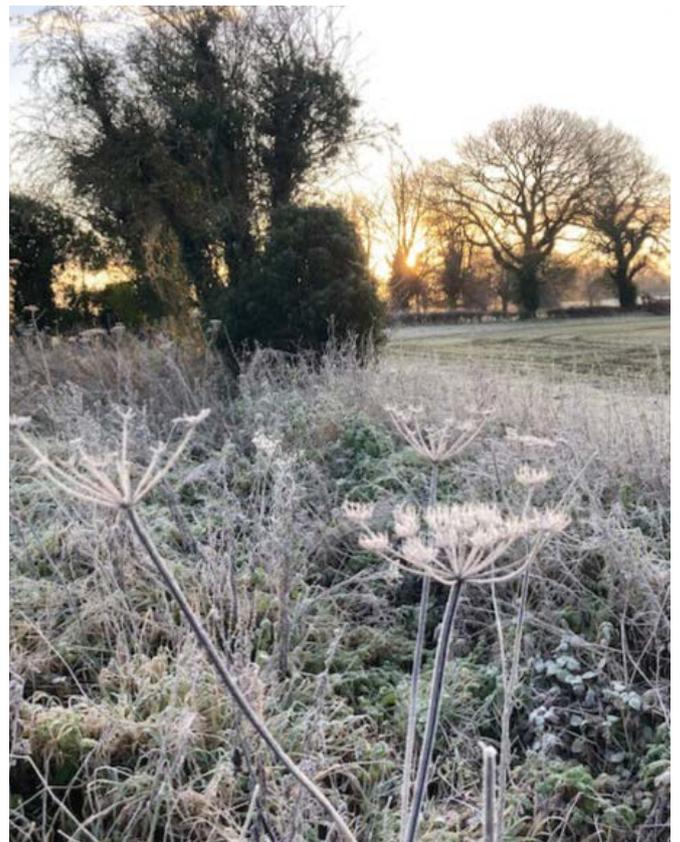
As a footnote to the Plane In The Park article and his links to the aviation industry, Sir George recounted the times when he had travelled on Concorde. He remembered what an experience it was to look out the window and see the dark sky above the aircraft with the turquoise halo around the curvature of the earth. On another occasion, he managed to blag his way into the cockpit on take-off from what was then Leningrad airport. We'll let him take up the story: "It was like sitting in the fastest sports car imaginable. No sooner were we airborne, than a panic-stricken air hostess rushed into the cockpit to say that a passenger must have been left behind in the hands of the Soviets, because there was an empty seat. It was of course mine. She was very relieved to find me on board!"



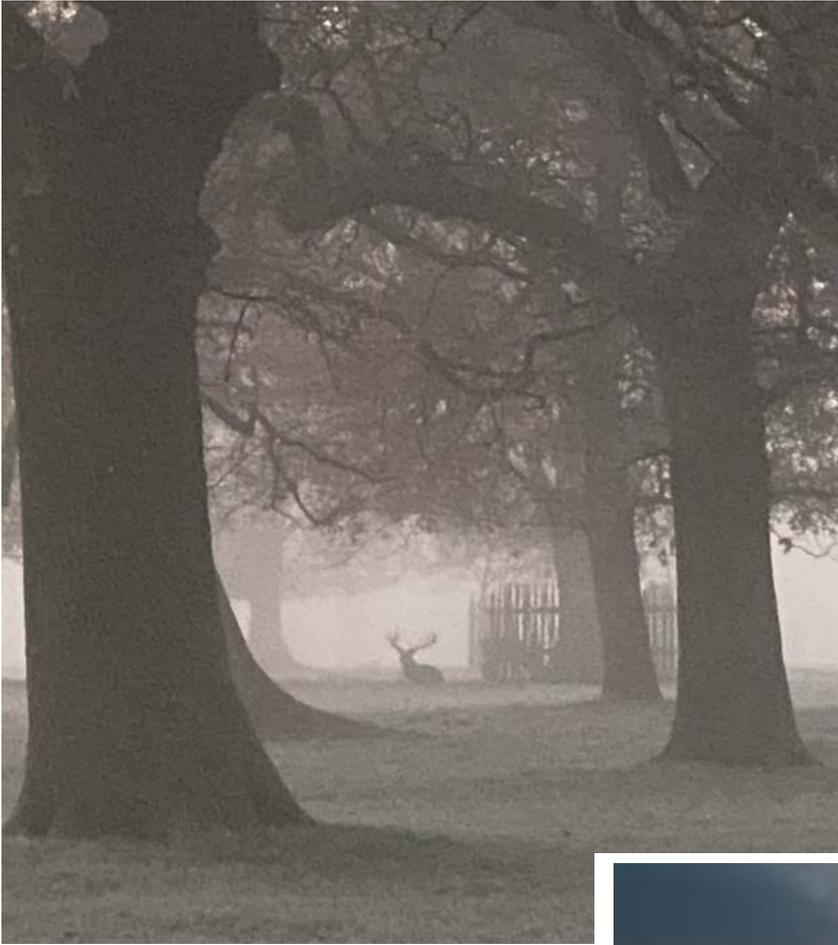
Picture Gallery

One month in to 2021 and the weather has been varied to say the least. The year started well with unseasonal sunshine: it was almost spring-like. Not for long though. The sun soon gave way to more seasonally-typical frost, then a healthy sprinkling of snow and finally rain. Dodging the downpours, Yvonne Nettles captured the two pictures on the right, showing rising water levels in Badminton Park, with the village of Little Badminton in the background.

Claire Broomsgrove provided the pictures below. While the thick frost gives everything a very wintery feel, the glimpses of sun through the trees suggests it might be a better day after all.



Picture Gallery

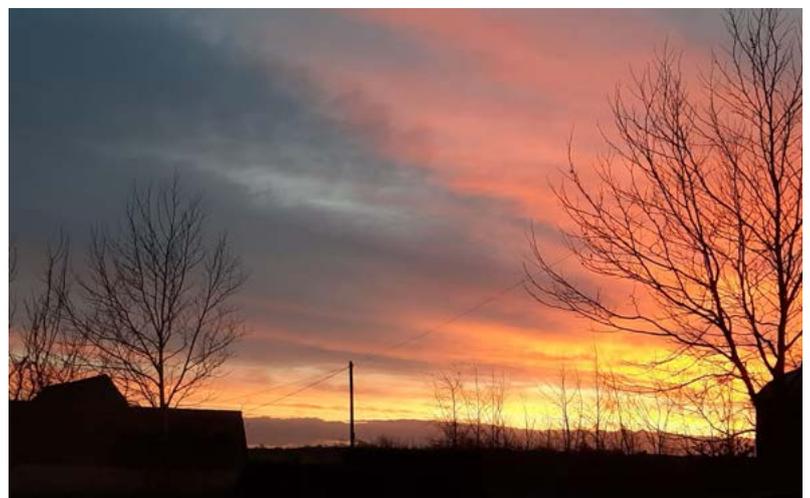


Here in the Local Talk Back editorial office we're constantly amazed at the quality of the photos sent in by our readers. We're fortunate to be surrounded by some glorious countryside which provides plenty of photographic opportunities, but it takes skill and a keen eye to produce the sort of results we regularly see.

This month we have a stunning shot of a majestic stag peering through the mists, expertly captured by Piers Talalla.

Sunsets always make for a good picture but they're notoriously difficult to photograph. We think you'll agree that Pamela Codrington (centre) and Mike Bird (bottom) got the settings just right and provide us with a welcome splash of vibrant colour.

Thanks to you all for sending in such great pictures.



ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

*s are allowed on the playing field or in the play area.
p vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission
uncil. Please put all litter in the bins provided. Thank you.*

January 2021

Playing Field

Tennis Court - Due to a further lockdown, and to adhere to current Government Guidelines on outdoor sports facilities, the Tennis Court has been closed for the time being.

Ash Tree - Further to our previous bulletin the diseased Ash Tree will be removed shortly prior to the nesting season.

Boundary Wall

You may be aware part of the boundary wall surrounding the playing field has collapsed and is badly in need of repair. Despite our continued efforts we have been unable to find a suitable contractor to carry out the work. If anyone is aware of anyone familiar with Cotswold Stone Walling who we can approach please contact a Councillor or the Clerk via the details below. Thank you.

Street Lighting

South Gloucestershire Streetcare informed us that work will be taking place during December/January to replace the old Street lights with new LED bulbs so, by the time you read this edition of Local Talk Back, you may notice your street has been illuminated to a higher standard than previously. Something positive for the winter months.

To report any issues or forward questions to the Council, please contact the Clerk via the details below.

Sybil Haddrell (Acting Chair) 218772, Sally Smith 218510, Chris Bennett 218550,
Toby Evans 219116, Ian Carter 219129

Next meeting: Monday 8 February 2021 @ 7.00 pm

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Snippets from Hawkesbury's History

Petty France named after a Napoleonic prisoner of war camp? no in fact it is earlier than that; in 1450 Hawkesbury exported raw wool to Bruges in Belgium for sale, but a law was passed to the effect that all wool passed via Calais which was in English control for taxation reasons until it fell into French hands in 1558, this delayed delivery of the prized English wool in turn the price of the finished woollen cloth woven in Belgium and imported to England increased dramatically, so large land owners such as the Duke of Beaufort with large sheep herd's around 1500-1550 imported Flemish weavers their looms and skills into Hawkesbury and Petty France (French Petit = little) is where they were grouped some local names in the area such as Clutterbuck can be trace to Clutterbooke in Holland.

Robert Millard

Visit my web pages at <http://www.btinternet.com/~ra.millard/index.htm>

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



As we move into February, take time to enjoy the garden and finish off any pruning of the roses. Apple trees can also be pruned to keep them in shape. This is more of creating an open shape than to reducing size, which if done too drastically could kill the tree and if it survives may look pretty unattractive. Stand back and take a look at it first and again as you thin out branches. Let it please the eye.

If you have got this far, you are probably an outdoors person. If you are thinking brr, chuck a log on the fire, you will be missing out on the several wonderful sunny bright non freezing days that happen every year in February, so when these precious days happen, get outside.

Jobs for this Month

Having done the pruning, this is a good time to plant "bare root" trees or hedges as they are dormant. Give these woody plants a drink of water in a bucket first. Dig a big enough hole the same depth as the soil mark on the tree but wider. Put in a stake if necessary or buy much smaller plants: no stake required and the smaller plants will soon catch up and make sturdy specimens. Have some friable good new soil ready, a handful of bonemeal (which promotes root establishment) and a watering can full of some tepid water. In fact a wonderful environment to start with.

Choosing Bamboo

This is a warning about bamboo. There are two types, clump forming or spreading, do be careful which one you get. A friend purchased a house with a bamboo on the boundary in their neighbour's garden. It just took off when garden works started next door. A digger came in to get rid of it, but it persisted in continually spreading over the boundary and into the lawn. It's a very tough plant and difficult to get rid of. I am not anti bamboo, in fact I find the black or yellow stemmed ones very attractive.

Plant of the Month

A plant which brightens up the view from inside is cornus midwinter fire with its orange yellow branches.

And Finally...

Soon the very first bulbs will be flowering, snowdrops, crocus, daffodils. We will be on our way to nicer weather.

Sudoku

February's challenge set by Neil Fozard

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

EASY !!

	5		9					
9				2				1
		8					9	6
	6			1		9	8	
	9		6		5		7	
	8	4		9				2
5	2					7		
4				6				2
					7		4	

NOT SO EASY !!

		2						9
			7	2	8			3
6	3							
3				4				1
	1	6	2		3			7
		9		8				4
		3	8	1				9
2				3		1		
1	6				2	4		

Answers to the December quizzes:

'Easy'

5	6	4	7	9	1	8	2	3
7	9	8	2	3	5	1	4	6
1	3	2	8	4	6	5	7	9
9	7	3	6	1	2	4	5	8
2	4	1	9	5	8	6	3	7
8	5	6	3	7	4	2	9	1
3	1	5	4	8	7	9	6	2
6	8	7	5	2	9	3	1	4
4	2	9	1	6	3	7	8	5

'Not so Easy'

2	7	5	9	1	8	4	6	3
3	1	4	2	7	6	9	8	5
8	6	9	4	3	5	1	7	2
4	2	1	7	9	3	6	5	8
7	9	8	6	5	4	2	3	1
6	5	3	8	2	1	7	9	4
5	3	7	1	4	9	8	2	6
9	4	6	5	8	2	3	1	7
1	8	2	3	6	7	5	4	9

Church Matters

February 2021 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this, we are deep in Lockdown with a real sense of winter as we are huddled in our homes staying warm. Those of us with children learning remotely will no doubt be feeling the strain of child-minding 24-7, and possibly with the added strain of financial hardship. But at least you can go to church without leaving your sitting room!

There are pre-recorded services on Sundays at 10am on:

www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice

We have recently celebrated the extravagance of the wise men giving their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the holy child. Like them, we have come a long way to lay our gifts at the feet of God. And our return to being with God, like the wise men's back to their homes is the place where we also begin our journey. The gifts we bring to the world, are our skills, our habits and our manner of being, which is who we are. That is the most profound gift we can give others.

I am beginning a mediation group for adults, which will be for half an hour in an evening. We will be reflecting on Scripture, but allowing our minds to roam. We will aim to learn more about ourselves and the way we see the world around us. It will of course be a zoom group, which has the advantage that we can join in from the comfort and safety of our own homes.

Please let me know if this might interest you,

Richard Thomson

Contact details:

Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Rd. Badminton GL9 1EU

Benefice website: www.badmintonchurch.org.uk

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

Mobile 077 177 91858

Badminton Benefice Rota for February 2021

Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	6th Feb	10AM	From Hawkesbury	www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice
Sunday next before Lent	13th Feb	10AM	From Leighterton	www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice
1 st Sunday of Lent	20th Feb	10AM	From Oldbury	www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice
2 nd Sunday of Lent	27th Feb	10AM	From Badminton	www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice

Mid week service on Zoom BCP MATINS Wednesdays at 9.30AM

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A ROYAL VISIT TO TETBURY HOSPITAL

Shortly before Christmas, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales visited Tetbury Hospital to personally thank staff for their hard work and support to the community during the current COVID pandemic. The hospital were naturally delighted to welcome their Patron, and were keen to show His Royal Highness how they had adapted to keep services running throughout the pandemic.

Matron, Mrs Sarah Taylor, who has worked at the hospital for two years said “On behalf of the staff at Tetbury Hospital I would like to thank His Royal Highness for giving his time to meet and talk to them today. It was greatly appreciated as the teams have been working hard to provide a service to the local community. This was an enormous morale boost for our incredibly dedicated staff during these unprecedented times, as they shared their stories of the challenges they have faced and how we have overcome them.”

Debbie Loewenthal, Day Surgery Lead, said “It was really lovely to meet His Royal Highness, he spent time with each member of our team and it really lifted our spirits at the end of a difficult year.”

His Royal Highness ended his visit by signing the Visitors Book and was presented with a copy of The Tetbury Hospital Cook Book and two Tetbury Hospital Mugs.

We hope you enjoy the pictures, and we too extend our thanks to all those who are working so hard to keep our essential services operating in these difficult times.

