

# Local Talk Back

MARCH 2020

ISSUE 502

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I think I can see spring on the horizon. Picture by Ray Bird



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

## MARCH 2020 --- CALENDAR

- Sun 1st      Bingo at Badminton Village Club – doors 7pm, eyes down 7:30pm
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup>      Didmarton Cinema – ‘Judy’. Village Hall, doors 6:30pm - see advert
- Mon 9<sup>th</sup>      Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting – Trinity School 7:00pm
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup>     Acton Turville Luncheon Club at The Fox & Hounds - see advert
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup>     Bingo at Badminton Club - doors 7pm, eyes down 7:30pm
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup>    Royal British Legion Badminton Branch, Fox & Hounds 7:00pm
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup>     Bingo at Badminton Village Club – doors 7pm, eyes down 7:30pm

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS – ACTON TURVILLE SPRING CLEAN 2020\*\*\***

***The 2020 Acton Turville Spring Clean will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.***

***Why not join in and help keep our lovely village clean, green and tidy?***

***Full details in the next issue of Local Talk Back!***



### St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

We invite you to join us in celebrating Lent with weekly short services followed by a simple lunch.

They will be held on Thursdays in March and April, six in total.

We are holding a brief service of reflection, meditation and prayer in church at 12.00 noon, followed at 12.30 by a lunch of soup, bread and cheese, in six different homes.

You are warmly invited to join either or both events on any or all dates. There is no necessity to attend the service first, just turn up on the spur of the moment for lunch. And there is no need to make any regular commitment. It will be an opportunity to meet and chat, and to prepare for Easter.

The invitation is extended to the neighbouring villages too.

#### Dates, hosts and venues:

Thursday 5th March	Prue Moss	Church Farm House
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Chris Griffin	Hope Cottage
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Eileen Stephens	The Old Barn
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	June Gott	Tayman House
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Elaine Collin	Prospect House
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Sue Butler	Old Garage House

Telephone 218425 if further information is required.

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PLEASE SEND IN ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

### *DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH*

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

*Mrs J Earl £10*

*Mrs. Sue Hope £50*

*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, Badminton Stores and  
 Badminton Village Club.*

*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*



The Badminton branch of the Royal British Legion meets on the third Tuesday of each month, commencing in September and finishing for the summer in May. The venues, for alternate months are The Beaufort, High Street, Hawkesbury Upton, and the Fox & Hounds at Acton Turville. Meetings commence at 19.00 hours.

Various outings and talks are arranged and the Branch is represented at events of Remembrance throughout the year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville.

8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day – the day when the guns fell silent at the end of the Second World War in Europe. Events have been organised across the UK, and the early May Bank Holiday in 2020 has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to coincide with VE Day.

If you're thinking of planning an event locally, you might just have time to apply for a grant from South Gloucestershire Council – **but you'll have to be quick!** The Council has announced that £30,000 is being made available for grants to organisations planning VE Day events over the Bank Holiday weekend. Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, as well as Town or Parish Councils in South Gloucestershire, are being encouraged to apply for a share of the funding which can be used for a range of purposes including publicity costs, insurance, marshalling and entertainment.

The closing date for applications is noon on 5 March 2020 and successful applicants will be notified after 2 April 2020.

# EDITORIAL MARCH 2020

It's a Leap Year. A year when we all get a free day. For nothing. It surprises me that we don't pay more attention to Leap Years. There's no real drive to have them recognised as a Bank Holiday (which admittedly might cause a problem when, like this year, February 29<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday) and as far as I know, Hallmark have yet to launch a range of Happy Leap Year cards. It can only be a matter of time. A quick search of the internet identifies February 29<sup>th</sup> as the day when a woman can propose to her dear beloved but that's it – that's all I could find. Maybe that's not a bad thing. Maybe it puts the onus on the individual to use their initiative to mark this special day, to do something out of the ordinary. To take a leap of faith, if you like. A random act of kindness perhaps, or confronting a particular challenge. My advice is to avoid anything that involves kites or hang gliders this year, unless the weather has been transformed between me writing this and you reading it, but seriously, why not make the effort to mark this significant event? And if you do, let us know.

It's a curtailed editorial this month because we needed to fit such a lot into Local Talk Back, but please take the time to read the tribute to Sandra Broomsgrove that Yvonne and Sally have written. I think you'll agree it captures their memories of a much-missed friend beautifully.

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

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**Headteacher:** Mr Conrad Hutton  
**Chair of Governors:** Lisa Bailey  
**E-mail:** [trinityprimary.school@gmail.org.uk](mailto:trinityprimary.school@gmail.org.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.trinityceprimaryschool.co.uk>



**Trinity CE Primary School**

Acton Turville

GL9 1HJ

Tel: 01454 218462

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Trinity CE Primary School, Acton Turville, are looking for enthusiastic and committed locals to join our school governing board.

### **Could you be what we are looking for?**

Would you like to help make a positive contribution to children's education? Could you use your workplace skills in partnership with our head teacher to promote the continuous improvement in the performance of the school?

The role of a governor is a strategic one, they work as part of a team setting the aims and objectives of the school, setting the policies and targets to meet these aims, monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achieving its aims and objectives and providing a source of challenge and support to the head teacher.

We would love to hear from you. Please contact the school for more information.

## Newman's Industries Exhibition – Yate Heritage Centre

We visited Yate Heritage Centre to see the Newman's factory exhibition. **It is on until 24<sup>th</sup> March on Tues.Wed.Thur.Sat 10.30am to 4.30pm.**

It was made up of story boards around the room which tell the history of the factory from its beginning at the Yate site in 1932 until its closure in 1988.

The exhibition includes photos of factory workshops, and of staff and their families, films, artefacts, folders of information including technical details and tapes are playing with the voices of workers and local people telling their own stories and memories.

Quite apart from the workings of the factory there was an overall sense of community and of a family friendly company which had the most wonderful programme of recreational activities for the workers and their families. We saw the photos of the Christmas parties for staff and for the children of the workers, sports days for the children, bonfire nights and a Miss Newman competition and a Best Ankle competition in the 1950's. There was a social club where dances were held and there were dart, crib and skittles teams and a boxing club. There was also a sports field where football and two cricket teams had played.

Stephen Newman and sons A.J. and Hedley had an electric motor company in Bristol in 1922 then became The Central Electrical Engineering Works (Newman Sons & Co) making all kinds of electrical products, especially generators.

In 1932 Newman Sons & Co bought 23 acres of land at Yate for £7,000, which was part of the site of George Parnall & Co and included Poole Court. (land now occupied by Morrisons and B & Q and a housing estate) The site had originally been part of the WW1 Aircraft Repair Depot used by the Royal Flying Corp and included an airfield. Afterwards it was occupied by Parnalls who controlled the whole site from 1925 to 1932 until selling part to Newman's. The airfield was between the two factories and is now occupied by Cranleigh Court Road and the Aerodrome Estate.

Newman Sons & Co became Newman Industries Ltd in 1936. The site they had taken over had various workshops and offices and by 1940 they had built a foundry. From a small business it grew as it took on more work during WWII making 3" shells and employed hundreds of men and women on site.

Newman's had a major impact on the Yate area, increasing the traffic and causing, along with Parnalls,

a 'rush hour' on the main roads. By the 1940's Newman's ran 15 coaches from outlying areas to transport their workers. The train also brought in many workers.

Both the Parnall and Newman factories were making products for the war and so were targets for the bombers during the Bristol Blitz. Both factories were bombed. In August 1940 three bombs dropped on the Newman's works leaving four casualties and two seriously injured but at the Parnalls factory over 50 people lost their lives during the war. (Parnalls became Creda and is now Whirlpool)

By 1941 the work force of Newman Industries increased to 1,300 with other products being made for the war – brass anchor chains, generators and searchlights.

The business had done well after the war with the foundry, pattern shop, press shop and paint shop. In 1963 they built an aluminium foundry. They also had a tractor factory in Grantham and took on another motor manufacturing company. They employed a lot of women, especially in the small motor department. They made and rebuilt all sorts of metal products such as anchor chains, including the motors for anchor winches on the QEII. They employed more than 1,500 people during the 1960's and were making motors for export around the world.

The Poole Court building (now the Register Office) was offices and meeting rooms for the company, and was known as the Guest House by those who worked there.

By the 1970's Newman's was in trouble. Wage bills were rising and there was more worldwide competition for electrical motors and some workers were being laid off. A.J.Newman died in 1976.

The foundries closed in 1986 and the company was taken over in 1987 and then in 1988 the site closed down with the loss of 400 jobs.

We know many people from our villages worked there. If you have a story to tell please get in touch by email [localtalkback1975@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkback1975@gmail.com)

We followed this visit with lunch at The Lawns restaurant which was originally a house belonging to the Newman family. The menu is varied and only wanting a snack we had the £4.95 2-course menu. The restaurant was packed. Lots of other options including a Carvery.

*Sally & Yvonne*

## **ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting Monday 24th February 2020**

***Please!*** No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area.  
*All gates must be kept shut. No vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission of the Parish Council. Please put all litter in the bins provided. Thank you.*

### **Playing field**

Work to clean the tennis court was planned for the end of February and should, by the time Talk Back is published, be completed.

This is in preparation for the new Season and the new Tennis Club taking over the running of the Court.

Details are being prepared and will be published shortly. It is planned to include Taster Sessions for adults and children; to involve the school; have booked sessions available and discussions are underway to see if it will be possible to get lessons which can also be booked.

Routine work is being carried out to prune undergrowth around the playing field in preparation for the new growing season. The pruning will be completed before the nesting season commences.

### **Drains in the village**

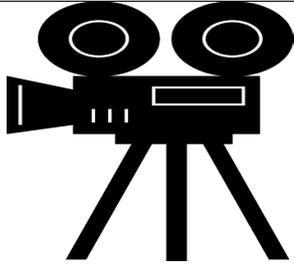
South Glos Council is still investigating what can be done to improve the drainage and prevent flooding in the village. One part of the work may involve diverting one drain into another to provide additional capacity and this is being followed up by South Glos. The Council has also been carrying out cleaning and clearing of drains and has discovered that in another part of the village drains which used to discharge onto neighbouring land no longer appear to do so. Investigations continue.

### **Fly Tipping**

There was a recent incidence of fly tipping – mattress and black bags of rubbish – along Littleton Drew Lane. This was quickly reported to South Glos who dealt with the problem. Anyone seeing any dumped rubbish can report it direct to South Glos by calling 01454 868000 or via the website – [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk) the click on "Report It" button and again click on the line 'fly tipping'. Anyone having suspicions about any person or vehicle involved is asked to give this information to South Glos as they will follow up anonymously.

Chris Farrell (Chair) 219483, Sybil Haddrell (Vice Chair) 218772, Sally Smith 218510,  
Chris Bennett 218550, Toby Evans 219116

**NEXT MEETING – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Time: 7 p.m.**  
**Venue: Trinity School. Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675**  
**Email: [actonturvillepc@aol.com](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)**



**Didmarton Rural Cinema  
The Village Hall  
Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Judy**

Thirty years after starring in "The Wizard of Oz," beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband

Doors open at 6.30pm with cash bar - Film show starts at 7.30pm  
Ticket £4.00  
Contact [jennybody@btconnect.com](mailto:jennybody@btconnect.com) 01454238358 to confirm seat

**Sudoku**

**March'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				2		
			4	9	3			
2			5		7			8
		6	9		4	5		
	3		2		1		6	
	2	3				9	7	
		8				1		
	6		1	7	2			3

**NOT SO EASY !!**

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

## Our Tribute to Sandra

The Three Country Girls are now only two as it is with sadness that we have to say that we have lost our friend Sandra Broomsgrove.

Together with Sandra we answered Liz's call for someone to take over the Editorial of the Local Talk Back, following on from Kath Gentry. We were all interested in local history and felt we could do this as a joint venture. We began in August 2003 and said at the time "We, as part of the next generation are hoping to continue the Editorial, and in our own small way make a contribution of past and present glimpses into life in our three villages." We would do this collectively and merge our ideas and memories. We called ourselves 'The Three Country Girls' as we were all born and bred quite locally. We thought we could do this anonymously – but that didn't last long!

And for sixteen years we did just what we had intended, for much of the time meeting up each month either at home or out and about in various coffee shops and restaurants etc to put together something of interest including details of where we had been, often with background information on the place. Some of you did tell us that we inspired you to also visit those places.

We did bring to the editorials a similar theme to those of Kath Gentry. Often we included a weather report and by taking an up-to-date-topic would then recall something similar from local history, or even just from our own memories.

In the first few months we recorded the closure of Acton Turville Garage, Tim and Iris Penney taking over the shop and Mary and Tracy becoming landladies of the Fox and Hounds.

Often Sandra was the one who would start us off with the first paragraph or two before more inspiration would come to us all. Weather statistics and celestial happenings were usually down to Sandra's knowledge and research, as was much of the history of the area, especially Acton Turville for which she had teamed up with Margie Mitchelmore to do very in-depth research. Many of Sandra and John's visits to wildlife and wildflower areas and other places of interest would help fill the pages.

We had a lot of fun along the way as we visited places including Fosse Farm House Tea Shop at Nettleton for afternoon tea, Stanton Manor where we took advantage of a special lunch offer, and then Sweetapples Tea Shop in Marshfield, where we called

in to various other interesting shops. There followed Dyrham Park for their Tulipmania exhibition with amazing floral arrangements filling the house, and learnt the history of the original Tulipmania in the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Republic where bulbs could fetch as much as the cost of a house. Also, we took an interesting look around Whatley Manor gardens followed by lunch in the hotel; had an evening meal in the Fox and Hounds; followed by visits to many other restaurants for lunch – Beechfield House at Melksham, Rudloe Hall Hotel Corsham, The Bell Malmesbury, Lucknam Park Hotel and Tetbury hotels to name a few. There were more unusual trips – a visit to the Ribbons and Lace Bridal shop run by Anita Hall from Acton Turville; Castle Combe Golf Club restaurant; and probably the most unusual visits were to see Steve King's Robotic Milking parlour at his farm at Knockdown; a trip to see the famous 1,000 year old Spanish Chestnut tree on the Tortworth estate and a visit to Wiltshire Wood Recycling depot.

In Bristol we had coffee in the Commercial Rooms in Corn Street before visiting the St Nicholas Market in the Corn Exchange and the four Nails on the pavement outside where the merchants carried out their transactions and which has given us the phrase 'paying on the nail'. We then walked around Castle Green to see all the various memorials to the blitz and other local events. We tried to imagine what it was like as Bristol's main shopping area before the bombing destroyed it and a new shopping area was build nearby in Broadmead. Sandra was in her element, she loved learning the history of places. On another visit to Bristol we followed part of the Gromit trail before having lunch on the wonderful terrace of the Avon Gorge Hotel with a very close view of the Suspension Bridge. There were many other outings we shared and memories of our time together can never be taken away.

Personally, we will miss Sandra, as will many others who had close relationships with her. Sandra had lived all her life in Acton Turville so had many friends and acquaintances here who she was involved with over the years. She had worked for local company Silvey and later had been one of the Dinner Ladies, or Playground Assistants at Trinity School and had welcomed the children from different classes to visit her garden, where she had on show the history of the village and many artefacts that were part of that history. In earlier years Sandra had taken the Sunday School classes.

Continued.....

## Our Tribute to Sandra continued



Yvonne, Sandra & Sally at Stanton Manor

We first met Sandra through the Valentine Club Ladies group which began in 1980 and she spent some time, alongside Sally, on the Acton Turville Parish Council. She was a true villager, as was her late husband, John, and village life and the community were important to them.

Sandra was always learning, researching the world around her, whether it was special events of the planets and the moon, weather statistics, or what was happening to the wildlife, wild flowers and woodlands because of

weather or disease. She passed on for the Talk Back *Seasonal Secrets* such as why the leaves change colour. We will miss being able to say 'Sandra, could you find out something relevant to this month and write a few words to give us inspiration?'

From the point of view of the Talk Back there have been changes over the last six months and our new editor, Ian Carter, is doing a fantastic job in bringing the Local Talk Back to you every month and taking control of the editorial. As for the two of us, we will still go 'out and about' (but maybe not as often) and will have some input towards the magazine so please keep us up to date with the goings on in the villages, and join us in sending Sandra's daughter, Claire, not only our sympathy for her loss but our very best wishes for her future.

*Sally & Yvonne*

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### The Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club



At our February Meeting everyone was given their own programme card for 2020. Suggestions were discussed for our Summer outing in July and our annual Talk in October.

The afternoon entertainer was singer Rob Dee. This was Rob's first visit to the Luncheon Club and we hope for a return visit soon.

On the 11th March we are looking forward to welcoming Trinity School pupils to entertain us once again. They are very talented and always popular with members of the Luncheon Club.

If you would like more information ring Sally on 01454218510

# THE KILLING AT THE PORTCULLIS INN, BADMINTON 1848

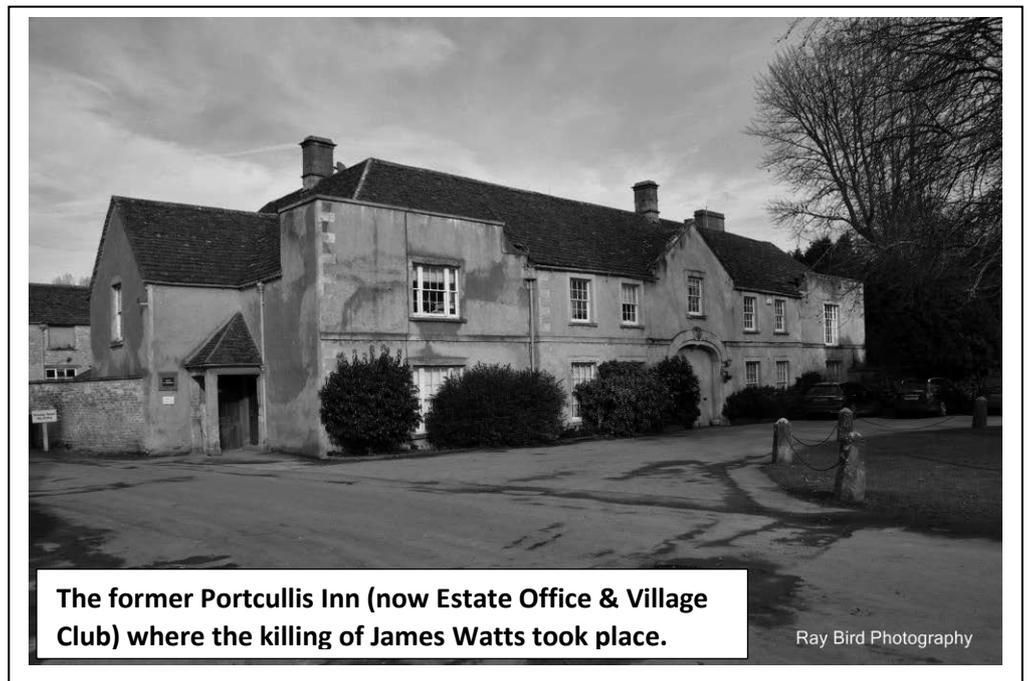
Words and Pictures - Ray Bird, Acton Turville

*This story could have come from straight from the pages of an Agatha Christie crime novel, except this is no work of fiction: this is a true story. The mystery was not who had committed the crime, for the culprit was suspected from the very start. No, the big question turned out to be whether it was murder or manslaughter. Ray Bird takes up the tale.*

In true crime novel fashion, the story begins on a dark winter's night, in this case in the bar of what was then the Portcullis Inn, Badminton (now the Estate Office and Village Club). The date was Friday December 1st 1848, and a party of 10-12 people had been drinking together, one of whom was William Watts, a tailor from Didmarton. On arrival that night, William had left a bundle of clothes in the bar while he went drinking in the parlour. When he came back into the bar to collect his bundle to go home, it had gone missing. Despite looking everywhere, it could not be found, to which James Watts, a stable-hand to the Duke of Beaufort, asked William Watts if he was sure he had brought it with him.

Such a question would, on the face of it, seem innocent enough, but it seems to have not been liked by William's friend Elijah Hobbs, a house servant to the Duke, who retorted to James Watts "do you think he's a fool and would forget something like that?" This sparked words between them, which progressed to Hobbs challenging James Watts to a fight which he accepted.

The pair proceeded to fight outside the front of the Inn until, with Hobbs clearly getting the worst of it, the fight was broken up by bystanders. The landlord then told them to go home, which they appeared to do. Elijah Hobbs set off towards his home in the street, and James Watts disappeared through the archway at the back of the Inn, into the stable yard at the rear, for it was his job last thing at night to close a gate in the yard. About 10 minutes later Hobbs returned to the Inn, complaining to the landlord about the treatment he had received before appearing to set off towards home again.



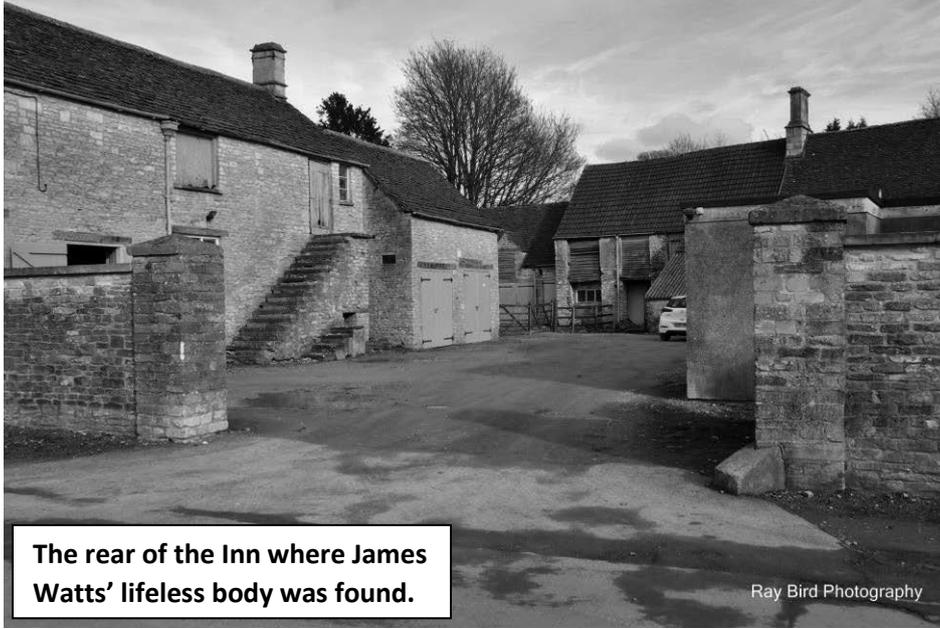
About 15 minutes later John Broad, an ostler at the Inn, was going through the back yard and saw someone lying on the ground. On closer inspection, he realised it was the lifeless body of James Watts. When it was moved into the light, his body was shown to be saturated with blood that had flowed from two puncture wounds in the chest.

Later Elijah Hobbs was questioned at home and taken into Police custody. A search revealed a clasp knife in the pocket of the coat he had worn that night which had blood on it. The next day he was charged with the wilful murder of James Watts and sent to Horsley prison, near Nailsworth, to await trial.

# THE KILLING AT THE PORTCULLIS INN, BADMINTON 1848 (CONTINUED)

## THE TRIAL - April 1849

Prior to the trial it seemed a "cut and dry" case. Elijah Hobbs, knowing James Watts' job was to close the gate at the rear of Inn, had made towards going home but had actually slipped around the side on the Inn and into the back yard. Here, he waited in the shadows for Watts whom he then waylaid, stabbing him twice in the chest, where it was thought Watts then fell to the ground and died almost instantly. This was also basically at the heart of the case that the prosecutor put to the jury.



The rear of the Inn where James Watts' lifeless body was found.

Ray Bird Photography

In the witness box, Hobbs admitted that he had stabbed Watts, but denied it had happened in the backyard of the Inn. He claimed he had done it during the fight with Watts outside the front of the Inn in self-defence when Watts was beating him up. At first this seemed an extraordinary story given none of the bystanders had seen him stab Watts during the fight. When the fight was stopped, no blood was seen on Watts, nor did he say anything about being stabbed. What's more, the person who saw him leave

the Inn to go out into the backyard said he was not staggering as though he had been stabbed but appeared to be walking normally.

However, when a prominent surgeon was called to give his opinion about deaths from stab wounds, he said that stabbing to the chest does not always mean instant death. At first, even Watts himself may not have realised he had been stabbed. In addition, the surgeon explained that bleeding can be internal to start with, so no blood might have been seen by those present at, or just after the fight, and it may well have been some time after that Watts suddenly collapsed and died.

During the trial, several prominent local people, including the parish vicar, had testified that Elijah Hobbs was a man of good character, quiet and kind hearted. This along with the words of the surgeon no doubt played a big part in the jury saving Hobbs from the hangman's rope, for not only did they return a verdict of manslaughter rather than murder, but recommended the judge be lenient as it probably was only done in self-defence. Obviously taking all these points on board the judge indeed did seem to be lenient and gave Hobbs just a 6-months prison sentence, of which by then he had already served more than four months.

## Ray Bird

### Footnotes

*The full story of this case can be found in papers in the Gloucester archives.*

*The Local Talk Back team are always on the lookout for any old or interesting stories of events in our community. Please contact us at the address on page three.*

# The Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations with 'Its a Knockout' and a Party in the Park.

Kindly sent in by Charley Crewe following an article about the event in our December 500<sup>th</sup> edition



Tug of war: centre Catherine White & Lisa Talbot in red

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Silver Jubilee in June 1977 and official records show that 1,200 applications to close streets in order to celebrate this great event were granted.

Didmarton was unable to hold a street party but an event held in the Playing Field was a great success. But the best party of all was in Badminton Park by kind invitation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort, known more famously as "Master".

The party was held as "Its A Knockout". Teams from the Northern group being Didmarton, Sopworth and Leighterton, teams from the Southern group being Great Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville.

There was a Clay Pigeon Shoot that was won by Badminton's very own Mervyn Barrett. The Tug-of-war was won by Didmarton, refereed by Mervyn.

There were raft races in the park lake. Rafts had to be made by the lake and pulled across the lake by ropes. In another raft race the raft was already made and the occupants had to paddle to the other side. But fighting broke out, all in good fun I must emphasise! It was done to stop one team from winning.



There were many events for children and adults alike including Wellie throwing and there was Obstacle racing for children, an event where you had to carry a bowl of water through large drain pipes, relay races for children and adults alike where various items had to be put on at the end of each sprint. The final run was being pushed in a wheel barrow to the end.

The whole event was a very enjoyable time with some very nice refreshments followed by music until late.

The parade of hounds, which is always nice to see, finished off the day's event. The end of a very enjoyable occasion.

Submitted by Charley Crewe [of Didmarton] with some input by John & Cathy Talbot who were greatly involved in the Didmarton part of this "Party in the Park".

# Councillor Pat Trull – March 2020 Report

## **South Gloucestershire Libraries named among nation's best for digital services**

South Gloucestershire Council is in the top 10 of unitary authorities for the loan of library material in electronic format, which includes ebooks, emagazines and eaudio. National figures show that libraries across the district are embracing digital technology to enable more people to access the services on offer.

The introduction of an Open Access system in 2017 means we have more libraries open for over 60 hours per week than almost every other authority in the UK, finishing third out of 205 authorities across the country for 2018-19. It also means our libraries can be open more days per year including bank holidays, which provides people with flexibility and options on how and when they access the services.

South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Rachael Hunt, said: "Transforming our libraries and diversifying the way we deliver our services has meant we can provide more people with more choice and provide flexibility around how and when they access the services on offer. Books on shelves will always be an important part of the library service but people have much more choice now."

To discover the digital services available please visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources) or for more information pop into any South Gloucestershire library.

## **Schools presented with Mental Wellbeing Awards during Children's Mental Health week**

Three schools in South Gloucestershire have been presented with awards for nurturing a positive culture which supports good mental health and wellbeing in children and staff.

The Mental Wellbeing Awards are part of the Health in Schools programme, which was developed by South Gloucestershire Council's Public Health and Wellbeing team.

The awards are designed to evaluate the schools' ethos and environment as well as the mental health support provided for students, the teaching and learning around wellbeing, staff development and work with parents and carers.

Schools are provided with training, resources and networking opportunities to share examples of best practice as part of the scheme. A 'whole school' approach is encouraged to improve the mental health of everyone connected with the school.

South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Cllr Ben Stokes visited Longwell Green Primary School, New Horizons Learning Centre in Kingswood and Sir Bernard Lovell Academy in Oldland Common during Children's Mental Health Week (3 to 9 February) to present the awards.

Cllr Stokes said: "Congratulations to the deserved winners who demonstrated an impressive commitment to tackling the issues surrounding mental health and emotional wellbeing. The Council's number one priority is to improve educational standards and supportive schools will give our young people the best possible chance to achieve their full potential."

Meanwhile, South Gloucestershire Libraries have launched the 'Reading Well' programme, which is a national book on prescription scheme that provides helpful reading to support children's mental and physical health and wellbeing. Every child in South Gloucestershire has received a leaflet with the list of books which help children understand their feelings and emotions in a range of situations.

Conrad Hutton, Headteacher of Trinity CE VC Primary School, said: "The Reading Well for children book list is fantastic. The collection means we have a range of age-appropriate books that allow us to explore issues with pupils, their families, classes and even the whole school in an accessible and sensitive way."

All of the books are available from South Gloucestershire Libraries and can be reserved at [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk). Find your nearest library at [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries)

# Church Matters

## Badminton Benefice Rota for March 2020

	1 <sup>st</sup> March	8 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> March
Great Badminton					
Little Badminton St Michael and All Angels		11:15am Mattins Tony King		11:15am Mattins + HC Richard Morgan	
Sopworth St Mary's/ Village Hall			11:15am Mattins Richard Morgan		11:15am Mattins Rob Axford
Didmarton St Lawrence's	11:15am Mattins Mike Swain		8:30am BCP HC Rob Axford		
Acton Turville St Mary's		9:30am BCP HC Archdeacon of Gloucester		9:30am Mattins Roger Wookey	
Boxwell St Mary's					
Oldbury on the Hill, St Arild's					
Leighterton St Andrew's		11:00 am Mattins Archdeacon of Gloucester			9:30am Northern Benefice BCP HC Richard Morgan
Lasborough St Mary's	9:30am Mattins Roger Wookey	9:30am BCP HC Peter Cheesman		9:30am CW HC Peter Cheesman	
Hawkesbury St Mary's	9:45am CW HC Rob Axford	5:00pm Evensong Chris Andrew	9:45am Family Service Lay Led	5:00pm BCP HC Richard Morgan	

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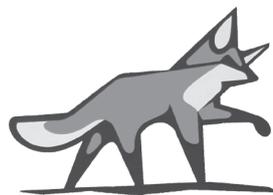
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