

# Local Talk Back

MAY 2020

ISSUE 504

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Avenue of Trees. Withybed Road, Little Badminton. Picture by Yvonne Nettles.



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

## MAY 2020 --- ANNOUNCEMENTS

*As a result of the current coronavirus situation, many of the events planned over the coming months have been cancelled. Thanks to everyone who contacted Local Talk Back to provide us with updates.*

### Ready, set, snap!

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's annual wildlife photography competition is now open for entries, with new categories and bigger and better prizes.

GWT would love to see your images showcasing the stunning scenery and spectacular wildlife here in Gloucestershire. We appreciate that movement is currently restricted due to lockdown but we think the 'on your doorstep' category provides the perfect opportunity for capturing snaps of wildlife and wild places close to your home – either in your garden or whilst out enjoying your daily exercise.

In addition to the adult categories, there is also a juniors category for those aged 17 or under – a great excuse for a family photography session, and a fun activity for children to take part in.

We're looking forward to seeing your entries, whether it's a photograph that's been taken on a smartphone, compact camera or SLR.

To find out more about the categories and how to enter, head to [www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/photocomp](http://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/photocomp)

***Entries close at midnight on 31 July 2020.***



**Gloucestershire**  
Wildlife Trust



### CAROL BARRETT

We are very sad to report that Carol passed away recently. Carol grew up in Acton Turville, daughter of Richard and Wendy Chappell. She lived with her husband Paul in the Deer Keepers House in Badminton Park. She was very much involved in his work with the deer. We send our deepest sympathy to Paul, Martin, Anthony, and to Richard, Wendy and Maureen, for their very sad loss of Carol at such a young age.

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

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## EDITORIAL MAY 2020

I hope you're all coping in what continue to be very difficult times. It's well over a month since the lockdown began, and although some people are adapting to what is now a new normal, for many others it remains a very anxious and trying time. As always, it's times like these that bring out the best in people, and it's heart-warming to see our communities pull together and offer support to those who need it. Sometimes that can be a practical gesture like shopping or collecting prescriptions, at other times it's being the person on the other end of the phone, providing that vital connection with the outside world.

Some have likened it to the 1950's, when life was slower and people found more time to look out for one another. It's definitely quieter. Remarkably quiet, in fact, with the roads virtually deserted. This lack of traffic tempted me to dust off my push bike and head off into the wilderness for my one hour's worth of exercise. It's been a journey of discovery. Discovery number one was the number of people who've had the same idea. There are bikes everywhere, from family groups enjoying the nice weather to serious cyclists on very expensive looking machinery. What struck me was how friendly everyone has been, with cheery waves and greetings galore. Cycling, like walking, is a great way to see the local countryside, which brings me on to discovery number two. In the small village of Leighterton, near Didmarton, there's a small cemetery fronted by a row of black railings. In amongst the family graves are three rows of Military headstones, where two dozen members of the Australian Flying Corps are laid to rest. A plaque records that Numbers 7 and 8 Training Squadrons were based in Leighterton between 1918 and 1919, where trainee pilots operated--z from a local grass airstrip to master control of their aircraft. The Flying Corps would subsequently evolve into the Royal Australian Air Force in 1921. As far as I could see, no other relics of those days exist, just the 24 immaculately maintained headstones.

These days we have our own heroes. While many of us are staying indoors, working from home or being furloughed, others are still working on the front line, maintaining vital services which are doing so much to keep the country going. These are the people undertaking key tasks such as providing health and social care, maintaining public transport links, keeping our shops open, ensuring our utilities work effectively and delivering mail and parcels. They are all heroes, just like those young men who came to Leighterton from the other side of the world 100 years ago.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

### **DONATIONS**

*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**

## Locked Down In Spain – Michael Gibson

*What it is like to be 'Locked down in Spain' has been shared with us by Michael Gibson, son of Gloria and the late Rev. Tom Gibson. Tom was our Vicar for about 20 years. Michael and Emma feel trapped in Spain.*

We are now about to enter our eighth week of lock down and not sure when we will be able to come back to UK. How are you all coping? I thought you might like to read this. Friends have asked me to share our experience of 'lock down' as we have just completed 7 weeks of it. All the borders are closed and we don't know when flights will be resumed as it's unlikely they will want the virus to return with tourists. Today Spain is second only to the US in infections and fourth after US, UK and Italy in deaths.

In Italy, France and here in Spain the lock down regime is much more draconian than in the UK. This maybe because, in Spain's case, it's recent history; the shadow of Franco still lives on and all the various police forces, and there are a lot of them, have a lot of power and also have guns! Nobody messes with the police here, everyone does exactly as they are told and are taking it very seriously. We can only leave the house one at a time and only to go to the food shop or the pharmacy and have to have a till receipt to prove we have been there. We are not allowed to go for a walk, see friends and are not allowed guests. There are police outside and periodically they cruise the streets with loudspeakers telling everyone to stay inside. Flouting these laws brings an immediate 600 Euro fine... There are road blocks everywhere and if you haven't got an adequate reason for travel, they turn you round and send you back.

When I hear people moaning on and on about Boris not instituting this level of isolation in UK earlier, I don't think they have any idea what is involved. Obviously what he is trying to do is to get everyone on board so that they will do it voluntarily, neighborhood solidarity is so much more effective. There are not enough police in UK to enforce it, can't remember ever seeing a policeman in North Cadbury, where I live in England, whereas here in Gaucin we have eight full time, armed police! Here if you try to obstruct them in any way or even answer back, they just drag you round the corner and beat you up! Whereas in the UK the police have apparently been told to 'reason and persuade' people to comply. It will only succeed if the majority of people want to do it. The army arrived in our little village to man the road blocks in advance of Palm Sunday to make sure that no outsiders came into the community.

This first 10 days were a bit chaotic as we get into the rhythm of it all. It is strange but you lose track of what day it is, probably because every day is the same. We try to get up early and not lie around and have started trying to structure our day. We read a bit, do a bit on our computers and are starting to do exercises, apparently muscle wastage sets in after about 4 days! We are lucky in that we are in a relatively big house with a garden and we have lots of projects, there are a lot of families stuck in flats and tiny houses. We are also lucky it isn't high summer when small living spaces become unbearable. We have had builders refurbishing the apartment upstairs where we normally live and luckily they finished just before all this hit us. So we are in the process of moving back in, cleaning (the cleaner can't come in!), we're hanging pictures, moving furniture around and Emma is making curtains. I enrolled with a language school in Ronda but was only able to have 2 one-to-one lessons before lock down and now I do it on Skype which is quite complicated! We have made a studio out of a big room on the ground floor and I am starting to make working drawings of the pieces I'm planning to do.

I have to say I do feel continually anxious. Outside there is an eerie silence in what is normally a bustling village. Sometimes you see a lone figure scuttling along with their face covered by a mask. Everyone is afraid of everyone else. In our little supermarket nobody speaks and they run away if you get too close. This whole thing is surreal and so open ended. That the whole world should suddenly stop like this is something none of us have ever experienced. To see a whole population ordered to stay in their houses and actually obey is something I still find hard to believe, both world wars had a bit of a lead in but this is so sudden. I worry how we will retrieve the lives we had before, I don't think it will ever be the same again. But thank God for technology although there was a power cut on Thursday and fear gripped the village as we were plunged into darkness and the internet went down! As I write Emma is setting up a Zoom group for her Pilates class, I do Facetime with my mum and anyone else who would like to? We are now planning to have a Zoom supper party with friends! Keep safe and follow the rules, it does make a difference...

*The 2nd May was the first day the people in Spain were allowed out for exercise . Adults under 70 - 6am-10am or 8pm-11pm; vulnerable people and over 70's – 10am -12pm or 7pm-8pm; children with an adult guardian – 12pm – 7pm*

## DRIVING TODAY'S MODERN CAR



The motor car has been with us for the best part of 120 years. Modern vehicles provide us with the sort of mobility that few could have imagined at the dawn of the motoring age, but that mobility has come at a price, leading to an increasing focus on the safety and environmental issues presented by motor vehicles. One innovative solution aimed at reducing the number of accidents has been the introduction of speed awareness courses. These courses provide drivers caught exceeding the speed limit with the option of attending a re-education course which aims to teach them the importance of safe driving. Local courses are held regularly at the Compass Inn, Tormarton, where you may well find the session being led by Acton Turville resident Alastair Gilbert. We asked Alastair for some tips safe motoring.

- In 1966 almost 8000 people died in UK road traffic accidents. There were 15 million vehicles on the road.
- In 2018, 1783 people were killed, with 38 million vehicles on the road.

That's a staggering reduction brought about by many factors such as car and road design, but we have also greatly improved the way we provide drivers with the essential skills they need in order to negotiate our roadways safely. However, once individuals are issued with their licence to drive, the UK currently has no scheme to monitor their driving standards, or to ensure they maintain their knowledge of the Highway Code. For example, our motorways provide a very safe driving environment, and the introduction of new Smart Motorways have seen additional measures aimed at keeping the traffic moving. Did you know that 30% of people don't know how they work?



So, my tips to stay safe on the road:

- Concentration. See it. Say it. Check it. Only drive for 2 hours or 100 miles before taking a break.
- Observation. Look far, middle, near. Check your mirrors, check your speed.
- Anticipation. Think "what if".
- Space. Maintain a two second gap between you and the car you're following (remember "only a fool breaks the two second rule"). Multiply that by four in the rain.
- Time. Plan your journey. Give yourself lots of time, and make sure you have time to react.

To keep to the speed limit try these tips:

- In a 20mph speed limit, use 2<sup>nd</sup> gear. 30mph, 3<sup>rd</sup> gear. 40 mph, 4<sup>th</sup> gear. Try it. It really works.
- In automatics, manually select a lower gear or engage sports mode which will use the braking effect of your engine to reduce your speed. Better still, use your speed limiter for manual and automatics. You won't use any more fuel, but you might save yourself from a speeding ticket.



I hope this is useful for you.

If you think you probably need to find out more about Smart Motorways, look on Highway England web site. And if you spot problems with potholes, signs that have become overgrown etc, please take the time to report them on the [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) website.

Final tip of the day: Drive with dip headlights on; drive to be seen.

Watch this space, I don't want to see you on a course!

The 8<sup>th</sup> of May will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe – VE Day, when the war in Europe ended. Due to the current crisis the celebrations will be delayed until later in the year.

In the March Talk Back we told the story of Newman's factory, and its role in WW2 was presented from information gathered at the exhibition at Yate Heritage Centre. Also a few years ago we had serialised the book '*My Royal Connections*' by Phyllis Salmon who, during the war, had worked for a time at the Newman's factory alongside two of her sisters and a brother. Newman's had turned to making munitions during that time.

Phyllis was one of ten children of William and Emma Brown, the family living in a small cottage at Mount Pleasant, Badminton. Following the early death of her father the family moved to New Road, Acton Turville. In 1942 Phyllis married John Salmon, one of four dispatch riders/ bodyguards that Queen Mary had brought with her when staying at Badminton House during the war. Her sister Edith Nettles and brother George Brown were well known locally and sister Bet Goddard lives in Badminton.

The following excerpts are from Phyllis' book as she tells of life during the war.

"In July 1939 after two weeks holiday at home back in Badminton I had returned to work for a family in London, helping to look after the children. The family had taken a house in Norfolk for August and September and myself and another maid went with them to look after the children during the holiday. We had plenty of time to go for bicycle rides and to the beach and to meet new friends. Things went on happily enough, except for the shadow of war.

Then on the morning of September 3<sup>rd</sup> about 11am, Neville Chamberlain's voice came over the air saying we were at war. Everyone felt so sad at the news, for we knew life would no longer go on the same. We gathered together with friends to talk about it and share the sadness with one another. The Mistress said we would have to pack our things and return to London the next day. So after a month at Sherringham we were in London once again. The first night back the sirens went for an air raid and they all came down to the

basement, the Master had some shovels in case we had to dig our way out. It was a false alarm.

The family decided to leave London and the bombing, if any, for it was many weeks before the first air raid came, I was told later. They went to their country home and gave me the choice of either going with them or returning home. I chose to go home.

Having not been called up to do war work, I took a job as cook general. This meant I did everything even the washing for nothing went to the laundry. The house was attached to the bank with the black horse in Tetbury, it was the home of the bank manager and his wife. I was there for the winter 1939-40 which was a very bad one, we had a lot of snow and frost that got hard packed on the roads, and lasted over a month. I was unable to get home for several weeks. It was ten miles and I thought nothing of cycling there and back once a week. I did not like cycling along the dark lanes on my own but did not mind once I got past Badminton Park.

After six months in this job I had word from the Ministry of Employment to say that I had to do war work. So I went back home and reported to the Labour Exchange at Chipping Sodbury. That was the end of my domestic service days, and a whole new life stretched out before me. Little did I know then what it held for me.

Because I was a single woman I had quite a choice of things I could do. There was the Ladies Forces, the Land Army, the Forestry Commission or a munitions factory. My mother didn't want me to be away from home, so it was the munitions factory at Yate (Newman's) where the labour exchange made me work.

There was another factory that made aircraft, Parnalls, and was separated from where I worked by an airstrip or small airfield. I had to cycle eight miles from home to get there. The foreman showed me how to work a big machine. I had to turn base plates, these came in round black lumps of steel about four inches across. I had to fix them to a thing called a chuck, one at a time; there were two cutting tools that cut the steel across the diameter with one and at the edge with the other and at the edge with the other. This shaped it like a cap to fit into the bottom of a shell.

## Working Through the War Years page 2

We worked shifts. I started on the early shift – 6am – 2pm and worked a week, changing shift on Sunday to 2pm – 10pm, then the following week 10pm – 6am, that was the night shift.

Many were the times the air raid siren went during the night shift. We had no shelters then, for they had not got around to building them, so we had to go into the fields, climbing over a wall. Working with the same two girls every shift, I soon made friends with them and we went to the fields together. My two friends came from Bristol, and we had only been in the field twice, then the next time one of them fell getting over the wall so we took her to one of the cottages nearby. There a couple asked us in and helped with our friend who had grazed her leg. They made us a cup of tea, and said whenever there was an air raid we were to go to their house. Although we didn't like the raids, we weren't getting any work done. We were paid so much an hour and were timed to do the base plates. I'm glad to say it was not long before they built some shelters.

After working there six months my sister, Lilian, joined me and we then went to the shelters and our dinner breaks together. During the breaks they had Worker's Playtime on the wireless, sometimes they would have live entertainment when a visiting star or two would come to entertain us, but that was not very often. For half an hour some of the workers would entertain us, they were never short of volunteers to go on stage, some to sing and some to tell jokes.

A younger brother, Fred, joined us at the factory and I must say we had some hair-raising experiences on our travels to and from work, often in the dark. My sister, Edith, also worked at the factory, driving the overhead crane. During a raid the electric would go off and she would have to bail out down a rope.

It was a common sight to see members of the armed forces in the countryside, either walking or on bikes, going on leave. There were many soldiers around us, for there were a great many guarding Badminton House, for we had Her Majesty Queen Mary come to stay amongst us from the start of the war. She could be seen almost every day somewhere in the village. While Her Majesty was at Badminton the German

bombers came over and bombed Badminton, dropping three bombs and luckily missing the big house, but dropping in the garden of one of the houses in the main street, close by. Luckily, they didn't go off and had to have the Disposal Unit to make them safe. This happened in July 1940 and several other bombs dropped in the fields around the area. The railway ran past our village about a couple of hundred yards from our house. It was half a mile to the tunnel that went through the hill to Old Sodbury, and was guarded at both ends by a platoon of soldiers. Bombing had started in Bristol and we were on late turns and had cycled to the top of the hill at Old Sodbury from where we could see Bristol on fire most nights. They had it very badly.

In the country at that time, one could go anywhere, there were no restrictions, you could walk across any field, and in any wood. We were taught not to damage, or leave any gate open, not to walk through the mowing grass or corn, and always to walk around the edge of fields.

One day near our house we heard the drone of a bomber, it was German and so low we could see the swastika on the side. It was following the railway line and could easily have bombed it. It got to our factory undetected, then dropped a bomb on our section, doing very little damage, and I'm glad to say no-one was hurt. The other bombs were dropped in the fields, then they landed the bomber and gave themselves up. We were told this when we got to work the following night.

There was another daylight raid, and it started before they had time to sound the warning. But the emergency claxon went as they were dropping the bombs on the factory across the airfield, and the vibration caused the stacks of shells to crash down everywhere. There was real panic as we all ran for the shelter, and as we did so we saw some of the bombs being dropped and part of the building collapsed at the factory next to ours. They said one bomb had dropped on their shelter killing quite a number. I said a quiet prayer for them, and one of thanks that it was not our factory, although they used their machine guns on it, leaving many holes in the roof, it was lucky no-one was hurt.

### Working Through the War Years – page 3

In the spring of 1942 I was not in very good health, so the doctor advised me to leave and get a job on a farm. So this I did, and with great relief left the factory.

I went to a farmer near home and asked him if he would take me on. I had not done any farming before but was willing to try. My younger brother, George, worked on the farm and I had him to help me and show me the ropes. The first thing I had to do was help with the milking, clean all the utensils after milking was finished including the milking machine.

By now I had been going out with John, one of Queen Mary's bodyguards, for a while and at home all the talk was about my coming marriage to John. We had arranged the wedding for the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942.

Following my marriage I was still working on the farm. My sister Edith also left the factory and was working at Badminton Station as a porter.

I sadly left the farm in the spring of 1943. John was due on leave, and so we decided that I should go and live with his mother and brother at Kingsley, Staffordshire. We were almost sure the war would not last much longer and it would be a good thing to settle there until he came out of the army.

I had to find myself a job so I went for an interview at the aircraft factory about eight miles from Kingsley, and they told me to start work on the following Monday. I was working on the finished plane which was a Beaufighter. The man I worked with was called 'a snagger' and I was 'a snagger's mate'. He was the one who put right everything that was done wrong, and put several little panels on that had been left off for inspection. He had to put in the plane all the little things that were needed, such as the compass, water bottles, and oxygen, and then test they were alright. I had to clean the plane from front to tail, this meant I had to crawl on my hands and knees through the tail end, it was a very warm job in there.

I had been in the factory almost five months when I wrote to John to ask him if I could return home for the war was going on longer. Back in Acton Turville I wasted no time before I went to another

farmer in the village for work. My luck was in as he said he could do with another hand. My job was nothing to do with cows. The nearest I got to them was when I sliced up mangels for them with the old slicing machine. The jobs I had to do were mostly with horses and Carter. (The Carter looked after and worked the Cart Horses) The only job I didn't do was ploughing for the men did that. It was planting time and the boss sent me with the carter to plant a field with corn. My job was to walk behind the drill and to watch that the cups that let the corn into the furrows were working alright, and to tell the carter when it wanted filling.

One morning I found Carter very upset, he had heard that his son was missing believed killed in action. It was not the only time that the sad news came to our little village, Badminton and Acton Turville were as one village then. It was twice to a house at Badminton that the dreaded telegram arrived at different times, telling the widowed mother that her only two sons had been killed, one in the Tank Regiment and the other at sea in the Navy. I think of them each Armistice Day and shed a few tears, for they went to the same school as us, and we spent many happy hours playing with the one that went in to the Navy.

I had many jobs on the farm and one morning was given orders to help the Shepherd with dipping the sheep and later to help with lambing. There was also the horses to be taken to be shod by the Blacksmith at Badminton.

During the autumn of 1944 I had to see a specialist and had to finish working on the farm, and I was very sad to leave. My sister was expecting her second child in a few weeks so I took on her job as cleaner at one of the big houses in the village.

In 1945 the papers were full of the war raging in Germany, and that it would soon be over. There were terrible pictures on the front of the papers, I remember quite well, of Belsen Concentration Camp, and stories of what happened there.

In the last week in April John thought it was time for me to return to Kingsley now that the war was almost over. John took me back there in May, and I wasn't to see him again until two weeks before Christmas 1945.

# ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

No meetings able to be held at present

*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.*

April 2020

## Playing Field

As you may have seen due to Covid-19 we have been instructed to close the Tennis Court and Play Area until further notice. We would like to thank everyone for their co-operation during these unprecedented times and aim to have these facilities open again as soon as we are able. We would also thank everyone who stayed indoors, stayed safe and stayed well.

## Meetings & information

All our scheduled meetings have been postponed until further notice. As soon as we are notified it is safe to go ahead, we will re-arrange to hold both the Annual Parish and Annual Council meeting. Details will be posted on the parish notice board. Please check the Parish Website for the latest updates and the link to further information for this area.

## Councillors

Councillors are available to discuss any concerns you may have during this time. Please remember those self-isolating in particular those who are alone, and look after your neighbours. Remember a phone call works wonders.

## Thanks

Finally, we would like to thank the Village Shop, along with all those who have come forward and volunteered their services at this difficult time including walking dogs, help to deliver medication, posting letters etc. You are all very much appreciated. We don't know how long the 'Lockdown' will continue at the time of writing this, but Acton Turville will get through it.

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

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675  
Email: [actonturvillepc@aol.com](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)

BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOM



Top two photos: *Little Badminton Churchyard*



*Acton Turville Churchyard*



*In the hedgerow*



*Chestnut blossom*



*Little Badminton*

## Virginia Holgate/Leng MBE - a Local Sporting Legend.

Little did local residents know that when in c1981 a young lady called Virginia Holgate and her horses moved into Ivy Leaze in Acton Turville, they would soon have one of the all-time 3-day Eventing sporting legends living amongst them. Ray Bird takes up the story.



Priceless/Ginny Holgate, Badminton H.T. 1985  
Ray Bird Photography

Ginny, as she was usually called, had in fact had some success before moving to Acton Turville which included being part of the junior European 3-day Event team that won team gold in 1973, and in 1975 she had won a senior 3-day event in Canada.

Her career was then rather curtailed for several years when, in 1976, she suffered a serious fall at an event that shattered her left arm in 23 places and required no less than five operations and a lot of determination by Ginny. In 1981 that determination began to pay off when she was a member of GBR's gold medal senior winning team at the European 3-day Event Championship. From then there was no stopping her as success followed success. These included Olympic Individual & Team medals in both 1984 & 1988, Individual World Champion in 1986 and World Team medals in 1982, 1986 & 1990. Ginny was also European Individual Champion three times in a row in 1985, 1987 and 1989, and won European Team medals in 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987 and 1989.

Closer to home, Ginny was a 3-times Badminton winner, in 1985, 1989 & 1993, and won Burghley five times, including four times in succession in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986, then again in 1989.

For her sporting achievements she was awarded the MBE. She moved away from the village in c1993 and retired from competitive Eventing in c1999.



Murphy Himself Virginia Leng, Badminton H.T. 1986  
Ray Bird Photography



Nightcap - Virginia Leng, Badminton H.T. 1986

Ray Bird Photography

## A Local Sporting Legend (continued)

Ginny's achievements cannot be over stated. Below is a more detailed account of her major successes.

### *Olympic Games*

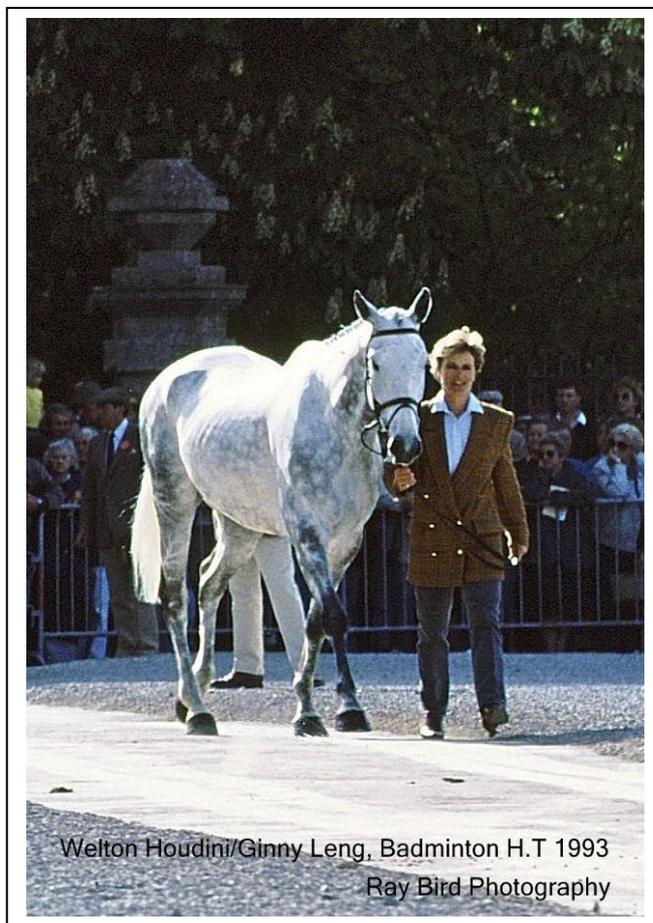
- 1984 Los Angeles, USA - Individual Bronze & GBR Team Silver medals riding Priceless.
- 1988 Seoul, South Korea - Individual Bronze & GBR Team Silver Medals riding Master Craftsman.

### *World Championship*

- 1982 Luhmuhlen, Germany - GBR Team Gold Medal riding Priceless
- 1986 Gawler, Australia - Individual Gold & GBR Team Gold Medals riding Priceless
- 1990 Stockholm, Sweden - GBR Team Silver Medal riding Griffin.

### *European Championship*

- 1981 Horsen, Denmark - GBR Team Gold Medal riding Priceless
- 1983 Frauenfeld, Switzerland - GBR Team Silver Medal riding Nightcap II
- 1985 Burghley, England - Individual Gold & GBR Team Gold Medals riding Priceless
- 1987 Luhmuhlen, Germany - Individual Gold & GBR Team Gold Medals riding Nightcap II
- 1989 Burghley, England - Individual Gold & GBR Team Gold Medals riding Master Craftsman



### *Badminton winner*

- 1985 riding Priceless
- 1989 riding Master Craftsman
- 1993 riding Welton Houdini

### *Burghley Winner*

- 1983 riding Priceless
- 1984 riding Nightcap II
- 1985 riding Priceless - European Championship
- 1986 riding Murphy Himself
- 1989 riding Master Craftsman - European Championship

## A Local Sporting Legend (continued)

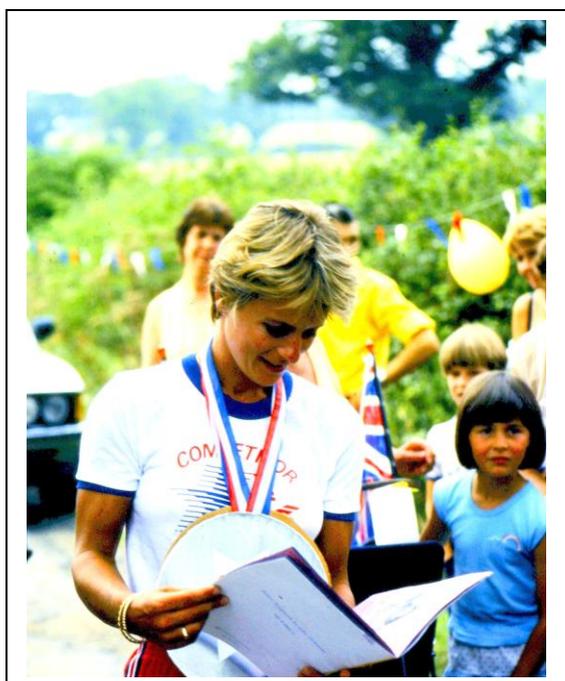


While all the above were great achievements there is something extra special about winning that first Olympic medal, or in Ginny's case two medals, and to celebrate that first success in 1984 there was a good crowd of villagers, as well as local TV & Radio reporters to welcome her homecoming. The lane up to her Ivy Leaze home had been decked out with a huge banner, balloons, Olympic rings and two replica medals hanging across the lane between two trees.

On arrival at the bottom of the lane, Ginny, surprised by the reception that awaited her, was made to alight from her friend's car that had picked her up from the airport, and was immediately greeted with claps and cheers. After cutting a tape that had been tied across the lane, and being presented with a huge card that had been signed by locals, she made her way slowly up the lane to the sound of what had been the BBC's Olympic signature tune ringing out over the local countryside. Waiting for her at the top of the lane was her head groom with Priceless, the horse she had partnered in Los Angeles, who had been flown back earlier. On seeing him, she gave him a big hug and kiss, a fitting end to a great achievement and a memorable day for many locals. After all there are not many villages that have a double Olympic medallist living amongst them.

Words and all photographs: Ray Bird, Acton Turville

*PS - If you have any special memories of the above mentioned day, or any of Ginny in general that you would like to share, then please contact the LTB team.*



# Church Matters

## May 2020 Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Parishioners,

As I write this, the sun is pouring in and we are having the most beautiful spring. I cannot help thinking how lucky we all are to live in the countryside. What it must be like to be stuck in a flat in a city in lockdown, is unimaginable.

The seed in the field behind the Vicarage is just beginning to shoot, having only been planted last week. May 17th is Rogation Sunday. The season of blessing the crops. Often we have a 'Blessing of the lambs' service in Didmarton, at this time of year.

Having started a course in beekeeping, I am very conscious this year of the gentle hum of insects. Hoping that a swarm might come my way. The birds too are chirping. As the earth comes to life again.

Perhaps this year with so many of our neighbours furloughed and languishing at home and not able to go about their daily business, we can remember those who have no income at this time and the worry that brings, which must be very difficult to overcome.

For those of us are lucky enough to have some income - this time offers an opportunity to be quiet. Life can be often be too busy for the windows of the soul to open to the quiet whisper of our Heavenly Father.

This time of quiet offers us a time of retreat. Time to read, think and pray. With the plethora of services being streamed on YouTube (including ours) and spirituality available, there has never been a better opportunity to access Christian worship - without leaving the safe confines of one's home.

This comes with my prayers and best wishes,

Rev Richard Thomson

Contact details:

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

Benefice website: [www.badmintonchurch.org.uk](http://www.badmintonchurch.org.uk)

Email: [revrichardthomson@gmail.com](mailto:revrichardthomson@gmail.com)

Tel. 01454 219236

Mobile 077 177 91858

## ***Coronavirus Update***

Please note that churches remain closed due to the current Coronavirus outbreak. However, a series of virtual services are available to view on YouTube. Just search for "Badminton Benefice" and you'll find Matins and Evensong at 10am and 6pm on Sundays.

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE**

### ***100 Club***

#### ***WINNERS FOR APRIL 2020***

*Chris Farrell  
Diane Cummins  
Wendy Chappell*

#### ***WINNERS FOR MAY 2020***

*Susan Ridd  
Dominic Rennie  
Anne Beesley*

***Congratulations to all our winners!!***

## Picture Gallery

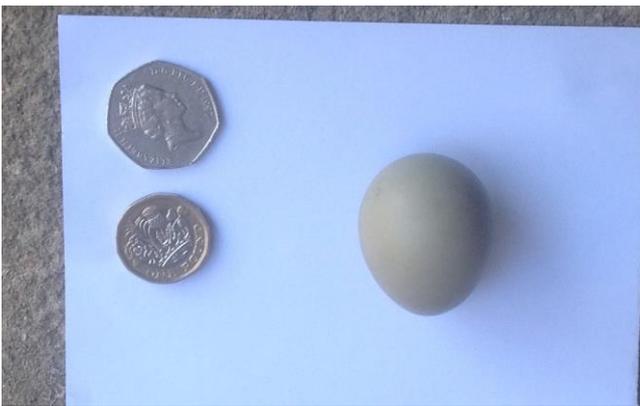


Clockwise from left:

An atmospheric shot of Clay Pond, Little Badminton, photographed by Yvonne Nettles.

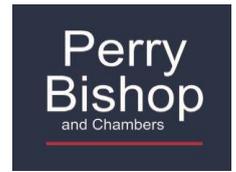
Martin Gentry spotted these Tufted Ducks, and grabbed this fine picture of a den of Grass Snakes.

And lastly, can anyone identify this dark-coloured bird's egg discovered by Bridget Hope?



# MEET THE ADVERTISER

Spring is traditionally a time of peak activity for estate agents. The longer days provide plenty of good light to show properties to their best advantage, and the warmer weather makes house hunting a far more attractive proposition. But what happens when we're told to stay indoors and venture out only if essential? What impact does that have on the local housing market, and how are estate agents adapting to new ways of working? To find out, Local Talk Back spoke to our newest advertiser, estate agents Perry Bishop and Chambers. Our reporter discussed the current situation with Caroline Ferris, who manages sales across North Wiltshire, primarily the hugely popular and convenient villages close to Chippenham and along the M4 corridor from Bath to Swindon.



***Thanks for taking the time to talk to me Caroline. These must be difficult times for estate agents everywhere. Can you tell me what our local property market is like just now?***

What we are seeing is a genuine demand, and in some cases need, for people to move. So much so that in the four weeks following lock down eighteen of our clients have accepted offers on their homes, subject to contract. Two of these sales have been agreed to buyers who have viewed via video link only. The remainder all viewed prior to lockdown.

Furloughed workers have a lot of time on their hands and many are now deciding their house is too big, or too small, and some have seen the need to move closer to family or work, preferring to shorten their commute. They all have time to plan their future moves.

We are receiving good levels of enquiries on a daily basis (albeit reduced from normal numbers), and are having detailed conversations with many new applicants to fully understand their requirements and match them to the right properties.

***Did you really say you were doing viewings via video link?***

Yes, that's right. What we are not doing is conducting face to face viewings or market advice meetings. But we are doing these by video link.

***There's been a lot of talk about the impact that the coronavirus pandemic will have on the economy in general and the housing market in particular. What's your view? What do you think the future will hold?***

None of us has a crystal ball, but we do know our local property market inside and out. For many years, through good times and bad, we have been an integral part of our local communities. Many of us have lived in the area most of our lives and have raised our families here.

Over the decades, we have provided level headed and astute property advice to thousands of local people through storms, floods, droughts, market booms and busts, the 2008 banking crisis and all the good times. Now we are doing the same through this pandemic.

During the three year Brexit negotiation period many buyers and sellers chose to put their moves on hold. Throughout January, February and March 2020 and immediately before lock down, we had started to see fresh activity from this pent up demand. There was already a shortage of property stock in our area. Interest rates continue to be at historically low levels.

Looking into my crystal ball, if I had one, I would expect a very busy market once lockdown is relaxed or lifted, and expected problems with lack of supply will lead to an increase in house prices before the end of the year.

## MEET THE ADVERTISER (continued)

***So if we are thinking of selling or buying a property, what would you suggest we should we be doing to ensure we are ready to hit the ground running when the current restrictions relaxed or lifted?***

That's a good question. My advice is to use this time to prepare your property. Take a good look around, as if through the lens of a camera, and make a list of jobs to improve the saleability. A deep clean inside and out, glistening windows and tidy, colourful gardens are fairly easy and cheap ways to perk things up! If you're not sure what is necessary, then let me know and we can set up a video tour and I can provide some honest and realistic advice.

Also, take time to research. Look at the properties for sale in the area you want to move to. Find out sold prices, what amenities and facilities are nearby, local schools etc. Again, if you're not sure where to find this information contact me.

Like all scouts and girl guides, we need to 'be prepared'!

***That's good advice! Thank you for providing our readers with a very interesting overview of the local housing market, and for supporting Local Talk Back. How can people contact you?***

You're very welcome. I'd be delighted to hear from your readers at whichever stage of the buying and selling process they may be. My contact details are below:

**Caroline Ferris**

**Perry Bishop and Chambers**

**Tel. 01249 470166 / 07971 244865 Email: [carolineferris@perrybishop.co.uk](mailto:carolineferris@perrybishop.co.uk)**

### ***Are you a Local Talk Back advertiser?***

If you'd like to tell Local Talk Back readers a bit more about your company and the services you offer, please contact Pauline Henson at

**[localtalkbackads@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkbackads@gmail.com)**

\*\*\*\*\*

This slightly surreal view of the M4 was captured by Yvonne Nettles. Not a car or lorry in sight. Why's it never like that when I'm on it?



## Garden waste collections and Sort-It Centres in South Gloucestershire



Garden waste collections have now resumed in South Gloucestershire after being temporarily suspended during the coronavirus outbreak due to staff shortages. Essential collections of black bin waste and recyclables was maintained by using resources usually deployed to collect garden waste, but the situation has now improved and collections have returned to normal.

### To have your garden waste bin emptied, please:

- Put your garden waste bin out on your normal collection day by 7.00am.
- Be sensible about what you put in the bin. Our crews may not be able to empty overweight bins. We understand you may have a backlog of garden waste, but do not try to squeeze everything into the bin to be collected in one go. If your bin is very full and heavy, please try to remove some of the contents before your collection so our crews can empty it safely.
- Only put compostable garden waste in the bin. Do not put any other type of waste in – this contaminates the material so we won't be able to compost it and would have to dispose of it as non-recyclable waste.
- Carry on composting. Reducing garden waste and composting where possible will help keep the service going in the current situation.

Sort It recycling centres will remain closed with recycling collections on a fortnightly basis for the time-being.

## Sudoku

### May'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 !!

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

#### NOT SO EASY !!

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

### Answers to the April quizzes:

#### 'Easy'

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

#### 'Not so Easy'

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

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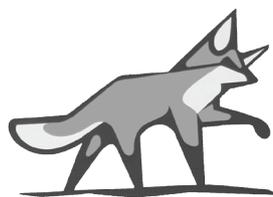
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*And finally....*

Making the most of the quiet roads. Thanks to Caroline Gelinet from Acton Turville for this great picture capturing the latest recruit to the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme!!

