

Local Talk Back

APRIL 2023

<http://actonturville.info/talkback/>

ISSUE 536



Atmospheric vista on an early morning dog walk. Picture by Chris Farrell, Acton Turville



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

EDITORIAL APRIL 2023

This month we are pleased to welcome Chris Farrell from Acton Turville as guest editor. We thank Chris for his very thoughtful, very timely and very relevant editorial.

I recently discovered a book which grabbed my attention. It is entitled “Letters from Ukraine” and is a selection of the speeches made by President Volodymyr Zelensky. I have found that whenever President Zelensky appears on the news it is worth listening to what he says. He puts emotion into his words; whether that is delivering a serious message or one of hope. He is not afraid of tears and even introduces an element of humour at such a dreadful time.

The book includes speeches which have been chosen personally by President Zelensky starting with his first address to his Nation within hours of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I found that as I read each text, it helped me focus on the amazing strength and tenacity of the Ukrainian people. The President’s words to the U.N., and to both our Houses of Parliament, can hardly fail to engender support among those listening. How often do we see MP’s and Peers united in applause of support for a Foreign Leader.

Looking on from the comfort of our homes, who can fail to be impressed by his oratory? He has galvanised his People to take up arms and we see ordinary people - dentists, accountants, and architects among others - fighting for the very existence of their country, their way of life and basic freedoms. We have those professions here in our village – would WE have the courage they are showing?

If you want to find some inspiration at a time when our own country is going through difficult times – which are nothing to the way in which Russia is trying to wipe Ukraine from the map – I recommend reading this small book. The cover price is £9.99 but Amazon currently has it listed at £6. All President Zelensky's proceeds from this book - amounting to at least 60p per copy of the print edition sold in the UK - will go to United24, his initiative to collect donations in support of Ukraine.

I hear we will shortly be welcoming some new Ukrainian friends into our village. I hope everyone will give them a warm welcome – why not join me in flying the Ukraine flag on your home or business (pop one in your window perhaps?). I have done so for the last year (other than during the Official Mourning for Her Majesty). It may be a small gesture, but it shows our solidarity with a people fighting for their very existence in the face of a bully who cares nothing for the suffering and destruction caused by his appetite for power.

Just so you know, “Welcome” in Ukrainian is Ласкаво просимо – pronounced Laskavo prosymo.

Thank you for reading.

CHRIS FARRELL

It’s been a while since we had a guest editor here at Local Talk Back so we’re very grateful to Chris Farrell for providing us with such a thought-provoking piece. If anyone else wants to be “editor for a day”, why not get in touch? We’d love to hear from you.

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

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH APRIL.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April

Sat 1 st / Sun 2 nd	Wedding Showcase, Badminton Estate
Mon 3 rd – Thurs 6 th	Children's Tennis Lessons, Acton Turville Tennis Club
Fri 7 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Mon 11 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
Wed 12 th	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Fri 14 th	Didmarton Rural Cinema – The Banshees of Inisherin
Sun 16 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit
Fri 21 st	Acton Turville Social "Drinks in the Pub", Fox & Hounds
Sun 23 rd	Badminton House Open Gardens
Sun 30 th	Botanical Monoprinting Workshop, Badminton Estate

May

Thurs 4 th – Mon 8 th	Badminton Horse Trials
Fri 19 th	Acton Turville Social "Drinks in the Pub", Fox & Hounds
Sat 20 th	The Bolt 5k Run, Badminton Estate
Sat 20 th / Sun 21 st	Steam Fair, Castle Combe Circuit
Sun 28 th	Car Boot Fair, Castle Combe Circuit
Fri 26 th	Acton Turville Social Quiz Night, further details TBC

Please check with venues before setting off

Please let Local Talk Back know if you're planning an event and we'll add it to our dates for the diary.

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We received one anonymous donation this month for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £13.46 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,
6 Hollybush Close, Acton Turville,
Badminton, South Glos, GL9 1JJ*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR MARCH 2023

Peter Moss
Kate Farmer
Eileen Whittock

Congratulations!



BADMINTON ESTATE

BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 23 April

Visit the first Open Gardens event of 2023 for Tulip Day. The gardens are open from 10am with last entry at 4pm. There will be a selection of plants for sale plus food and drink available to purchase from a range of sellers.

Adults £10 pre-sale or £12.50 on the gate.
Seniors £7.50 pre-sale, £10 on the gate.
Carers and children under 12 go FREE.

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NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!



ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL UPDATES

Acton Turville Social would like to thank Conrad Hutton and the Trinity School choir who brightened a Friday morning during our warm space initiative. You sang your hearts out and made our day.

Another thank you to everyone who supported "A Night at the Dogs" in the Fox & Hounds. All funds raised will be going towards our summer event which we hope will be free to villagers.

The warm space initiative has developed and changed over the past months. Acton Turville Social decided to return our grant from South Gloucestershire Council but continue to host and fund what has turned into very sociable coffee mornings. Over 200 people have come to these Friday morning gatherings and our thanks go to all the talented bakers - your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

Going forward into the warmer months, from Friday 7th April our coffee mornings at the Fox & Hounds will be held monthly, on the first Friday of every month, between 10am-12. The only omission is Friday 5th May. We may increase the frequency later in the year.

New Event

*Starting from the 21st April (then on the 3rd Friday of every month)
Drinks in the pub from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. Come and meet your neighbours!*

Dates for the Diary

26th May - Quiz Night with the fantastic Ben Holt as quiz master. Details coming soon.

24th June- Acton Turville Social Summer event. Details tbc.

As usual any queries contact Mel, Karen or Caroline or email

Actonturvillesocial@gmail.com



ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

Easter Tennis lessons

with our new coach
Dan Tomkins

Free
(first come first serve basis)

Children's sessions
3-6th April
ages 6-11years
& 12-16 years

Free adult taster sessions
Starting Tuesday 18th April
Weekly for 3 weeks.

Please see further details via our website
www.actionturville.info/tennis

DOING IT FOR CHARITY

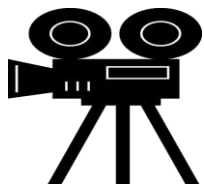
The Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville is always very willing to support groups raising money for worthy causes, and we've previously reported on the hugely successful Macmillan coffee mornings that have taken place there.

In the run up to Christmas, the Fox & Hounds organised a raffle in aid of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance which raised a most impressive £323. To date, that takes their total raised for the air ambulance to an amazing £804!

Well done to all involved!



WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 14th April 2023

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

(2022, Cert 15) – Comedy

Starring: Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Barry Keoghan

Director: Martin McDonagh

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, 'The Banshees Of Inisherin' follows lifelong friends Padraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson), who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, cash bar

Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can ensure that sufficient seating is available

jennybody@btconnect.com

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 12th April

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

*The Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club meets the
2nd Wednesday of every month.*



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224



Latest News from Chorley's

At Chorley's we have a fantastic location on the edge of the Cotswolds overlooking Gloucester, there are numerous gorgeous towns and villages within a short drive of the saleroom. Our location is part of our appeal and we have been entrusted with some of the most high-profile sales held in the local area. We specialise in country house collections and have sold contents from numerous prominent local properties including Beverston Castle and Ombersley Court. We also handle notable single-owner collections such as that of Sir Roy Strong (2021) and the forthcoming Henry Sandon Study Collection sale (April 2023).

All our sales are 'live online' meaning that the lots we sell are presented to a truly worldwide audience of buyers. Closer to home our auctions are well viewed by collectors, dealers and people who just want an afternoon out with tea and cake at the Prinknash café afterwards. Chorley's undertake valuations for insurance, probate and sale purposes and we pride ourselves on our discretion, knowledge and compassion. If you would like advice on any antique related matters do not hesitate to get in touch.

For more information about Chorley's please visit our website

www.chorleys.com

 **Chorley's**



Sir Alfred James Munnings, PRA, RI
(1878-1959)

Study For A Horse
sold for £74,000 (plus fees)
December 2022

FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - April 1978



After his enforced break from the editorial chair, Les Rochester was back in charge of Local Talk Back in time for the April 1978 edition, now fully recovered after his short stay in Winford Hospital. He thanked readers for the cards, letters and messages that he'd received during his time in hospital, but was clearly pleased to be back home and on the road to full fitness. In case you're wondering (as I was), Winford hospital was located in the Chew Valley. Initially built in 1930 as a civilian hospital, it was extended in 1940 with additional wards for the treatment of war casualties (both service and civilian). It closed in September 1993, when its services were moved to Southmead Hospital.

Last month we reported on the career of Will Pinnell, the 25-year-old local lad who had recently given up his job as an apprentice mechanic to become a professional drummer. In an article by trainee reporter Lloyd Bracey, we heard how Will would shortly be setting off on tour with none other than The Wurzels. A rather nice tribute to Will from Mrs N Punter appeared in April's Talk Back:

"I would like to take this opportunity to wish William Pinnell the very best of luck on his success, which he well deserves. As a very small boy I remember him banging away on his first little drum. I thought – one day that little drum might lead to bigger ones, and possibly to the road to success. Being self-taught makes that success even more of an honour. William comes from a musical family, his father as well as being church organist for many years also played other instruments at village dances. His sisters, Nicolette and Anita, had lovely singing voices and also played the piano. Good luck William."

Entertainment featured quite heavily in April's Talk Back which, as per normal, included reports from the local Guide and Brownie packs. Mrs Lane told readers that the Guides had enjoyed their visit to Mother Goose and were now looking forward to seeing (presumably the band) Hot Chocolate on the 3rd April! Rather cryptically, she adds "it should be quite an experience for the Guiders, if no one else!" I wonder if we'll get a report on how the evening went next month? The Brownies had to content themselves with an activity called "Museum Corner" where everyone had to bring in something old or interesting and give a sort talk about it. In her report, our friend Mrs Jean Earl noted that the number of Brownies had dropped to 15 from a one-time high of 24.

Over at the school, they were celebrating the successful pantomime which they'd put on at the Badminton Village Hall. This year they'd chosen Little Boy Blue. Based on Les Rochester's account, it sounds like it was a big success:

"In true tradition we had a matinee on March 9th with an evening performance to a full house on March 10th. Aided and abetted by their teachers and egged on by the cheers and boos of the audience, operating enthusiastically to strategically-produced "prompt boards", the youngsters gave a spirited, word-perfect performance. It would be unfair to single out any individual performance, justice is done if we say "well done, Trinity School"."

Talking about the school, Headmistress Miss B A Ford felt obliged to issue a statement on the school's future in response to some rumours that had been circulating.

"I am very concerned at the rumours in the Villages regarding the future of the school. All small schools in Avon are under review due to the economic situation, but no one has said that our school will close. We are under no immediate threat whatever. Representative from Avon will, at some stage, be meeting the parents to discuss the school's future – by all means, in readiness talk over positive reasons why you support Trinity School! – but I must stress that there is no imminent threat of closure."

Hmm, I'm not sure how reassured I'd have been to read that statement!!

In Badminton, the new Committee Room in the Village Hall had been christened when the Badminton Parish Council met there on the 9th March, closely followed by the British Legion. Everyone agreed the room, which offered seating for 13 people, was a great asset to the village which it was hoped would be used by local organisations to hold meetings. As always the Village Hall had numerous events planned for horse trials week, with film evenings on the Thursday and Friday when they would be showing "films to interest everyone". Good luck with that. On the Saturday it was the turn of the Horse Trials Dance when entertainment would come not from Hot Chocolate but a local band called Kaleidoscope who were "very well recommended". Admission was a very reasonable £1.

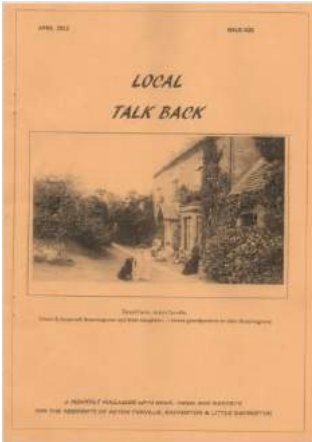
To round off our review of April 1978, it's congratulations to local farmer John Smith whose horse Accord, ridden by Nicky Bush, won the Beaufort Hunt point-to-point race at Didmarton on the 4th March. Well done John.

From the Archives (cont'd)

20 Years Ago - April 2003

Once again, Talk Back failed to appear in April 2003 as the team were struggling to find the resources to produce it. It would return in May.

10 Years Ago - April 2013



That's Street Farm in Acton Turville on the cover of April 2013's edition of Local Talk Back, where Edwin and Susannah Broomsgrove are picture relaxing in the garden with their daughters, and a large black dog. April's editorial comes courtesy of the Three Country Girls. They have clearly had enough of the recent cold weather, noting that March had been the coldest on record since the early sixties. Pictures on the news of cars being dug out of snowdrifts in more Northern parts brought back memories of the winter of 1963 when the whole country had seemingly been engulfed in snow for months on end, so on balance they suggested that we should probably be grateful our area hadn't been so badly hit this time round. Sadly the editorial records the passing of Mary Pinnell, whose son Will featured in our review of April 1978 when he was setting out on tour with The Wurzels. A celebration of Mary's life, held in Little Badminton Church, was "a little unusual" as "most of the ceremony was a Greek Orthodox Service by Father George", Mary having born and brought up in Greece before moving to

Badminton with her husband Bill, who she met in Greece during his wartime service.

Street Farm and the Broomsgrove family feature in an article entitled "My Memories of Village Life" written by Les Edmonds who "many years ago" had lived in Acton Turville on the Luckington Road. Les seemed to have a story about every aspect of village life, this one being typical:

"PC Keene had a pet dog which did not like cyclists or paper delivery boys. It used to chase me when delivering the evening papers. I was always pleased to see the Magpie that Roy Cousins had because the dog was frightened of it. I don't know how Charlie Ralph - the postman who lived next door - got on with the dog, but knowing him I expect he frightened the dog, whether he was cycling or carrying the post bag."

As well as his stories about ferreting, watching the Badminton Cricket Team and the intricacies of the postal system, Les recalled the way we used to shop in what must have been the pre-war years. Butter was bought from Drewett's Stores where the Hudson brothers would pat it to shape before wrapping it in greaseproof paper, while Kings of Chippenham had a mobile shop "about the size of a four-berth horse box" which would visit our villages twice a week. If you wanted fish, "Fishy Day" from Hawkesbury was your man. He probably dreamt of owning something the size of a four-berth horse box, but for now he made do with a cycle from which he sold herrings, kippers and sprats in season, and smoked haddock "every so often". All very entertaining.

The Over 60s Luncheon Club reported on their latest meeting which had been held at The Bell in Yatton Keynell, the Fox & Hounds being closed for renovation after its recent acquisition by new landlord Mark. Having to visit a new venue was clearly no hardship with a choice of ham, eggs and chips or fish pie, followed by fruit crumble or cheesecake. Yum yum. For those who preferred a spot of home cooking, April's Talk Back included a recipe for Cheese & Marmite scones. I'm sure I've just seen someone make those on Bake Off....

A different kind of meeting was to be held on the 9th April at Trinity School, Acton Turville, where plans to revamp the local playground and provide "new and exciting equipment for tots to teens" were to be discussed. A group of local residents had already been looking at options which were to be presented at the meeting. After much hard work, the new play area would open in September 2014.

Turning to the Sports & Social calendar, there doesn't seem to be much happening in April 2013. In addition to the Luncheon Club, the Craft Group are meeting every other week at the Badminton Village Hall (we'd still love to hear from anyone who remembers attending the craft group), and Vera's Whist Drive is also a monthly occurrence at the same venue. Further afield, the Hawkesbury Gardening Club are meeting on the 22nd, when they'll no doubt be discussing the annual plant sale they have planned for Saturday the 11th May. Let's hope the weather had improved by then.

Finally, ten years ago Talk Back had yet more warnings about scams and rogue traders. This time it's cold callers who turn up and offer to clear your gutters when what the really want to do is distract you so their accomplice can burgle your house, and rogue traders who are pressuring homeowners into having their ash trees unnecessarily felled due to ash die back. I wonder what it'll be next month?

THE BEWICK'S SWANS AT SLIMBRIDGE part two



The number of Bewick's swans that travel over 4,000 miles from Siberia to over winter on the wetlands of the UK have been declining over the years. At Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) there was great concern and Sacha Dench, who was working for the WWT, elected to take on an epic journey to find out the reason for the decline. She flew by paramotor, and later microlight, alongside the swans on their journey from Russia to the UK.

Sacha had a microlight team as back up, the support of a ground crew and many volunteers. Along the way she encountered extreme weather, hostile landscapes of pylons and tall buildings, struggled to find places to land, rest and fuel. All the while filming live broadcasts. She overcame engine

failure and a dislocated knee and when the paramotor was grounded had to change to microlight flight. She met nomadic reindeer herders who are also caretakers for a huge number of swans and other birds.

Sacha met community groups, governments and conservationists along the flightpath, debated with hunters in Poland about shooting swans and met Russian school children who were sent out to shoot migrating birds for food.

In the sky during her ten-week adventure Sacha travelled at 35mph and –

- Struggled to keep up with the speed of the swans.
- Witnessed the scale of the Russian Tundra with the most beautiful colour she had seen in any landscape.
- Crossed the vast Taiga Forest of Russia and saw no trace of human habitation.
- Tried not to disturb the swans but sometimes they joined her. At 2,800ft, above the clouds the sky was filled with geese.
- Tried to turn away from two white fronted geese as they came towards her, only to find that they flew alongside her wing tips in a V-formation.

The Netherlands is one of the most important wintering areas for Bewick's swans along the flyway. The Dutch have a long history of Bewick's research. They do a lot to preserve areas of lakes, wetlands and farmlands to ensure migratory birds have sufficient feeding grounds. Of main concern are the massive amount of wind turbines erected across the Netherlands.

After having navigated hazardous areas with no landing places, crossing the English Channel was the toughest challenge for Sacha as the large stretch of water had no landing places if a problem occurred. Her next stop was in London to hand over a petition to Westminster to tell the Government to defend and extend our nature laws to protect wetlands for the benefit of swans and other wildlife. This couldn't be achieved by paramotor as the Civil Aviation Authority refused permission for her to fly her paramotor above the Thames and over London.



A New Law: Following years of campaigning by WWT, Bird Life and other International partners, it is now illegal to use lead gunshot in and around wetlands in all 27 EU countries as well as Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein. The new law, which came in to effect on 15th February 2023 will not help protect the health of wetlands but should save millions of birds. Waterbirds are susceptible to lead poisoning as they mistake discarded lead shot for grit which they use to grind up their food. The law will not eliminate the problem completely as lead shot is still legal outside of wetlands. Waterbirds such as Bewick's swans spend a lot of time feeding away from the wetlands. But it is a start.

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Have you managed to prune the roses? Well you have almost missed the boat if you haven't. But never fear, they will survive but will flower rather late. Perhaps give them a pep talk and cheer them up.

If you are tying any branches back remember to use garden string with a figure of eight so the branch doesn't rub against the fence or wall and damage itself.

Remain Calm

Don't get over excited about getting the annuals planted out. We could get some late cold weather. If you have a light warmish place indoors, plant some seeds. You can plant small amounts of the packet over a period, it will give you a longer flowering time.

Don't Forget Your Pots

If it's not very nice outside, go to the shed and check on the plants in pots. Do they need the next size pot with some new compost? Bear in mind, that Agapanthus prefer to be very snug in their pot to flower well, they are also drought tolerant. If it's a nice warmish day move containers, in groups of three or five, near a wall or under a shrub. Keep an eye on the weather, as with the annuals, it may be a case of bringing pots in and out for three or four days to help them along.

This Month's Jobs

If you have sensibly not tidied up penstemon plants to protect them from cold, now is probably the time to do so.

Just keep on top of any small weeds, and mulch which looks good but gives the plants a good chance to blossom. Don't despair if even after the five-star treatment a plant gives up. Some take several years to bloom and some others have reached their life span, most herbaceous plants are not oak trees.

A lovely small iris which will be available in pots now is Katherine Hodgkin, and can be planted out later too. Remember to turn the compost bin. This is not absolutely necessary but it will speed up the rotting process.

Plants purchased from a shop or nursery will usually have enough fertiliser in the compost to last for six weeks, so no need to add more.

As the days get sunnier remove slugs, don't hope they will just go away!

And Finally

Wash the garden furniture and be ready for a heat wave.

Sudoku

April'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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the March puzzles:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Chainsaw Carved Tree Sculptures



Travelling from Chipping Sodbury to Yate you may have seen the beautifully carved tree sculpture at the entrance to The Ridge housing estate. It stands on the green in front of a timbered lodge which was built in 1883 by Colonel Burges who owned Ridge House and grounds. Ridge House was demolished in the 1960's to make way for a quarry office building.

One of the two giant Sequoia trees that stood in front of the lodge was diseased and had to be felled. Yate Town Council commissioned local chainsaw artist Andy O'Neill to make the sculpture on the trunk that was left. We recently made contact with Andy and he kindly agreed to tell us his story.

Andy was born at the nearby Cottage Hospital and then lived in Melrose Avenue on the Ridge estate. As a boy he would have passed the two Sequoias many times, how fitting that he should have left a grand monument in what is still his home town.

Andy said 'I first worked as a graphic designer but didn't like working in an office. I then became a tree surgeon and it was through this work that I was able to see artists creating the chainsaw carved sculptures. I loved it and thought I

could do that'. With lots of practice and studying other people carving, Andy became an expert himself and is in very great demand. He uses varying sized chainsaws, the largest being 4ft long.

The inspiration for the design of the Ridge sculpture came from the history of the area which is on the edge of Ridge Wood. The name 'Yate' is said to have derived from the old English word 'giete' of 'gete' meaning a gateway into the King's wood, which was said to have spread out from here to Bristol and out to the Kingswood/Wotton-Under-Edge area and beyond.

In 2018 Andy removed the thick bark of the Sequoia before starting on the Anglo Saxon inspired design based on, as Andy was also led to believe, the meaning of the word 'Yate' being the gateway to the King's wood or Ye Olde Gate. At the top of the sculpture Andy carved a King's head, below that leafwork and the woodland creatures circling the trunk were inspired by drawings by pupils from Broadway Infants and The Ridge Junior school. At the bottom is the gateway to the forest. It is hard to believe that even the intricate work is made with a chainsaw.



Chainsaw Carved Tree Sculptures (cont'd)

In the Autumn we visited Kingsgate Park in Yate where there is another tree carving by Andy O'Neill. This one is a Maple tree which had to be felled due to disease. Andy explained that the Maple weathers in a different way and changes to a darker colour.

There was a consultation with the Friends of Kingsgate Park and the inspiration for this tree is 'A British Wildlife Scene' with carvings of the animals and birds found in the park. There is also a doorway to a fairy tale castle. These trees are absolutely fascinating to see.



We have read in 'The Yate and Sodbury Voice' that Andy has another project in Kingsgate Park. To mark King Charles III Coronation it was agreed to commission a tree sculpture. During assessment of the tree stump it was discovered the tree was diseased and the whole had to be felled. It is now planned to create a commemorative bench from the trunk. We look forward to seeing the new seat in place.



WILDWOOD CARVING

TO CATCH UP WITH MORE OF ANDY'S WORK

www.wildwoodcarving.co.uk

While in Kingsgate Park to see the sculpture tree we had a pleasant walk around the whole park. It is a lovely calm space in the midst of the housing estates and there is plenty to see. There are various play areas for young children and a more adventurous play area for older ones. A large lake was teeming with bird life from ducks to seagulls. There were plenty of seats, some overlooking the lake. And if you are looking for refreshments the Vintage Birdcage Cakery, a hidden gem, is right on the edge of the park!



Sally Smith and Yvonne Nettles

Church Matters

April 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

At last, Easter is almost here now, and the daffodils will be waving joyfully in our villages.

Easter celebrates the resurrection which is at the heart of the Christian faith. This is the Resurrection which undergirds a Christian understanding of life beyond this world.

Our Theology of eternal life, is based upon our union with Christ in his Death and Resurrection, which we have sacramentally, through our Baptism.

In days gone by, all Baptisms would have happened at Easter. Lent would have been a time for preparing the catechists for their Baptism at this time.

Much popular Christian thinking, simply sees Baptism as a welcome to a baby into the world, and this important Christian teaching outlined above, is missed. Our union with Christ in his Death and Resurrection through Baptism, is a belief commonly held by all denominations and churches.

Some traditions, dunk a person completely under the water, whereas most Church of England Baptisms happen in a font with a shell or a hand, sprinkling water on the head of a person.

The sprinkling of water is repeated sometimes on a coffin, or at a Confirmation service - to remind the faithful of their baptism.

I hope this Easter, you will eat your Easter eggs, remembering with joy that first happy event, when the boulder was moved away and the hope and joy of the resurrection was first born. It is this which gives so many of us hope for the future, and a belief that no matter how much of a hash people make of their lives, there is always more to come.

With my best wishes

Richard

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

Church Services for April 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 nd April Palm Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
7 th April Good Friday	12 Noon	Little Badminton	Good Friday Liturgy	Rev R Thomson
	1.30pm – 3pm	Hawkesbury	Readings, Music and Walk Up The Knoll	Rev R Thomson
9 th April Easter Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion BCP	Rev J Wilson
	11.00am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
16 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Theme – Mothering Sunday	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
23 rd April 3 rd Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Lay Led
	2.30pm	Leighterton Cemetery	ANZAC Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
30 th April 4 th Sunday of Easter	11.15am	Hawkesbury	Matins with HC	Rev T Novis Preacher

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

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.

Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.

MARCH 2023 REPORT

Items discussed at March's meeting included

Playing Field Maintenance - We are pleased to confirm we have two additional volunteers joining our mowing team for the summer, welcome Mike and Clive. If you are 18 and over and would like to help maintain the playing field, even on a temporary basis, please consider giving it a go.

Use of Playing Field - Anyone wishing to use the playing field for an event please contact the Clerk for a permission form. This is now a standard requirement to comply with our insurance.

Community Speed Watch - Additional volunteers needed.

Village Spring Clean - We would like to thank all those who attended the Village Spring Clean on Saturday 18th March. It was a very good turnout and everyone worked extremely hard. Also thanks to the mowing team for the demonstration in the playing field on how to safely use the council mower. We look forward to doing all this again in the Autumn!

Jubilee Garden - The Hebes planted last year have unfortunately not lasted and therefore we are looking to replace these with a more hardy species of Hebe to make the garden a pleasant place to sit.

Parish Notice Board - Work is due to commence at the end of March to erect two raised beds which will be planted to create flower gardens on either side of the notice board to make this area more attractive.

Parish Councillors:

Sybil Haddrell 218772 (Chair) Sally Smith 218510, Ian Carter 219129 (Vice Chair)

Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7 pm Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.

Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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

Antisocial Behaviour

It's disappointing and frustrating to again report on instances of petty vandalism and antisocial behaviour in Acton Turville. For the past couple of years, Parish Councillors have been regularly replanting the conifers which someone has been pulling from the planters adjacent to the Parish Council noticeboard on Littleton Drew Road and throwing onto the pavement. In addition, someone clearly gets pleasure from turning road signs to point in the wrong direction. Now one of the oak saplings planted in the playing field to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been ripped up and discarded, and the fence by the play area has also been vandalised. The Parish Council had rather hoped that those responsible for these acts might have moved on to more constructive pastimes by now, but it would appear not. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around the village or in the playing field or think you know who was responsible for the latest acts of vandalism, please contact the Parish Council on actonturvillepc@aol.com. Thank you.



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Days Out Hellebore Heaven

We're spoilt for choice these days when it comes to buying plants, with a seemingly endless array of nurseries and garden centres offering us more variety than ever before. If you're looking for something just a little bit different, you might end up at a specialist nursery such as Kapunda Plants. Located on the outskirts of Bath, Kapunda was set up by Juliet Davis in 1995 as a perennial-plant nursery, but for the past 25 years their focus has been almost exclusively on Hellebores, or Lentern Roses as they are sometimes known. At the beginning of March, they opened their gardens to raise money for the Dorothy House charity, so Gill and I headed over to see what they had to offer.

Walking around the grounds of the nursery there are Hellebores everywhere, with swathes of colour sweeping across the beds. That is surely the plants trump card – providing colour so early in the season before most plants have even stirred, with the plants themselves ranging in colour from very dark purple, almost black, to pale pinks, greens and yellows. As well as colour, Hellebores come in a seemingly infinite range of shapes, sizes and flower forms, ensuring there is something for every garden.

We enjoyed our look around Kapunda. It was interesting to hear how they go about creating new hybrids (including a slate-grey variety which looked most unusual) and the friendly staff were on hand to provide tips on planting and caring for the plants. For those who were inspired by the open gardens, there was a wide range of plants available to buy which were being snapped up by a steady stream of willing gardeners. For those who just needed sustenance, there was a very welcome refreshments marquee selling tea and cake. Do check out the kapunda website for more information about Hellebores (<http://www.kapundaplants.co.uk/>) and look out for announcements about future open days. It was well worth the trip.

