

Local Talk Back

APRIL 2024

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

ISSUE 547



Spring Cheer at St Mary's. Picture by Simon Long, Acton Turville



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

EDITORIAL APRIL 2024

If you're just about to eagerly scrutinise this month's edition of Local Talk Back to spot our hilarious 2024 April Fools' prank, I can save you the effort. There isn't one. It's definitely something the editorial team have discussed over the years, but when push comes to shove the risk of the joke back-firing has brought us to our senses and we've quickly shredded the idea. One that sticks in my mind was inspired by a chap called Josh Harris who ran the length of the River Avon from its source in Acton Turville to the point where it joins the Bristol Channel at Avonmouth. He was raising money for the Beaver Trust, an organisation which is keen to see beavers released into the wild where they can help regenerate landscapes and improve the quality of waterways. We thought it would be amusing to reveal that a colony of beavers had been established locally at an unidentified location, and had already been spotted building dams and creating new wetlands in which it was hoped they'd thrive. It was fun producing the article, but rather wisely we wondered what would happen if someone's pet went missing, or landowners started reporting increased levels of flooding, and it all got blamed on the mythical beaver colony. We really didn't fancy having the ensuing conversations.

Looking back, the earliest example of an April Fools' prank I can remember was shown on the BBC Panorama programme back in 1957, when a deadpan Richard Dimbleby travelled to Switzerland to report on the bountiful crop of spaghetti they were experiencing. The camera panned along rows and rows of spaghetti trees, and as viewers watched workers carefully harvested long strings of the stuff, Dimbleby explained the ins and outs of spaghetti farming, including the science behind getting the spaghetti to grow to a uniform length and the ever-present threat of the notorious spaghetti weevil. The piece was undoubtedly all the more convincing because Richard Dimbleby was a well-respected journalist who just a decade or so earlier had been the BBC's first war correspondent, reporting on some of the most significant events of the Second World War. It probably helped that in the 1950s, spaghetti was still something of a novelty, one that came in tins with a rich tomato sauce. Viewers were apparently most put out to learn that most of it came not from the foothills of a mountain in Switzerland but from a factory in St Albans.

The spaghetti prank stands the test of time. It has all the key ingredients to make it credible and it was produced by the BBC which was an organisation that viewers trusted implicitly. It was also one of the first examples of an April Fools' prank delivered by a national broadcaster in Britain so viewers were not expecting it. Fast forward 65-odd years and the media will be full of pranks come the 1st April with everyone from the weatherman to celebrity chefs getting in on the act, but of course the viewers, listeners and readers will be wise to it and won't be so easily taken in. Will they?

On the subject of the media, if you haven't done so already, please take the time to read this month's Vicar's Letter. Our vicar is rightly aggrieved that some sections of the national media are spinning stories about the church which he argues are blatantly untrue, supported by data which is incorrect. His bottom line is "don't believe what you read", or at least take it with a large pinch of salt. Richard's letter is very timely, coming so soon after the press launched into an unsightly feeding frenzy when pictures of the Princess of Wales and her young family were found to be doctored, only for the editors to be served large portions of humble pie when the real reason for the changes became apparent and their fanciful stories proved unfounded. Don't let the facts get in the way of a good story as they say, because it's good stories that sell newspapers, not facts.

Elsewhere in this month's Talk Back you'll see that the events pages are filling up. It's apparently Spring, although from where I'm sitting that statement has all the hallmarks of an April Fools' prank. Coming up in April we have the first of the Badminton House open gardens events of 2024, then towards the end of the month there's something new in the form of a guided tour around the woodlands of Badminton Estate followed by a visit to Worcester Lodge which should be quite special. Also taking place towards the end of April is the ANZAC Day parade at Leighterton, where the 23 pilots of the Australian Flying Corps who are buried in the cemetery on the edge of the village will be remembered. They died between 1918 and 1919, learning to fly at the nearby airfield which was set up by the Australians during the latter stages of the First World War. The ANZAC Day event, organised by the local Branch of the Royal British Legion, is always well attended so if you plan to attend, we recommend getting there early. If you can't make it, find time to visit the cemetery and pay your respects. It's well worth it, and slightly surreal to see the immaculate rows of headstones in such a peaceful Cotswold setting.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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 APRIL EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH APRIL 2024.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April 2024

Fri 5th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
 Mon 8th Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, St Mary's, 6.30pm
 Wed 10th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
 Wed 10th Defibrillator Training, Fox & Hounds. 6.30pm. See *ATPC update for details*
 Fri 12th Didmarton Rural Cinema, One Life (12)
 Tues 16th Royal British Legion monthly meeting, Fox & Hounds
 Sat 20th Acton Turville Social Dog Racing, Fox & Hounds
 Sat 20th Royal British Legion visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum
 Sun 21st Badminton House Open Gardens
 Tues 23rd Badminton Parochial Church Council Meeting APCM, Badminton Village Hall
 Wed 24th Woodlands of Worcester Lodge Tour, Badminton Estate, 1.30 – 3.30pm
 Sun 28th ANZAC Day Parade, Leighterton

May 2024

Wed 8th–
 Sun 12th Badminton Horse Trials
 Fri 17th Dawn Chorus Walk, Badminton Estate

June 2024

Sat 29th Fundraiser for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville

*****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.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR MARCH 2024

Katy Voisey
 Rupert Monyard
 K Seymour Smith

Congratulations!

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

*Lee & Kay Butcher
 Mr & Mrs Chris Bowyer*

Thanks to you all.

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*

STOP PRESS!!

The Royal British Legion have organised a coach trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton on Saturday 20th April. All welcome. For details and to book a place please contact Alastair on 01454 218314

Badminton Parochial Church Council Committee APCM 2024

The Badminton Parochial Church Council Committee would like to welcome all members of the parish (Badminton and Little Badminton), to join us for the APCM to be held at the

Badminton Village Hall on 23rd April 2024 at 18h00.

Those parish members not on the benefice electoral roll would not be entitled to vote, but your input would still be most welcome. We look forward to your support and to seeing you at the meeting.

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

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 12th April 2024

ONE LIFE

(2023, Cert 12)

Starring: Helena Bonham Carter, Anthony Hopkins, Lena Olin, Jonathan Pryce

Director: James Hawes Parker

The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 children from the Nazis. Fifty years later, Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety, blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until he is introduced to some of the surviving children – now adults – on a live BBC television show that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades.

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

jenny.body1@gmail.com

The FOX
& HOUNDS INN
Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW
01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 10th April

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



A NIGHT AT THE DOGS

A Race Night Like No Other!

Saturday 20th April at The Fox and Hounds, Acton Turville



First Race 7.30pm

Sponsorship needed - Name a Dog - £10

Name a Race - £25

£1 per bet or multiples of - cash only

There will be hotdogs and burgers available from the FSJH

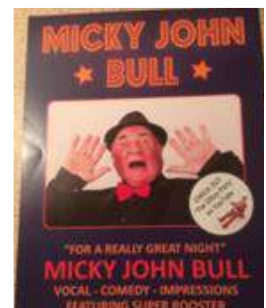
Proceeds towards the Acton
Turville Summer Event.

For further information
Please Contact:
Mel, Karen, or Caroline on:
ActonTurvilleSocial@gmail.com

Please come along for an evening of fun and laughter!

That's Entertainment!

In November's Talk Back, as part of our look back to November 2003, we noted that all-round entertainer and general good-guy Micky John Bull was appearing at the Badminton Village Club. Describing him as a "vocalist, comedian and impressionist who'd won awards and been on TV", we wondered where he was these days. Well guess what? He's only appearing as guest entertainer at the Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club on the 10th April! How amazing is that? We decided to check out his material on-line, but despite that, we're still going to be there!! Seriously, Micky really is a class act and it's a real coup for the Luncheon Club to have booked him. Whatever you do, don't miss it!



NEWS NEWS NEWS



BADMINTON ESTATE

BADMINTON HOUSE GARDEN OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL, 10AM-4PM

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A VIBRANT DISPLAY OF TULIPS, WHERE THE HISTORIC GROUNDS COME ALIVE WITH A BURST OF COLOURS. WANDER THROUGH ENCHANTING GARDENS, MARVEL AT DIVERSE TULIP VARIETIES, AND SOAK IN THE BEAUTY OF SPRING IN FULL BLOOM. JOIN US FOR A DAY OF BOTANICAL BLISS AMID THE TIMELESS CHARM OF BADMINTON HOUSE.

COMING SOON

THE WOODLANDS OF WORCESTER LODGE TOUR

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL, 1.30PM – 3:30PM

JOIN LOCAL CONSERVATIONIST, STEVE ENGLAND ON A 2 HOUR WALK AROUND THE PRIVATE WOODLANDS OF BADMINTON ESTATE AND VISIT THE HISTORIC WORCESTER LODGE.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS

8TH – 12TH MAY

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY THROUGH TO SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2024. THIS ANNUAL SPECTACLE OFFERS A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT, WITH CHILDREN AND DOGS VERY WELCOME TO ENJOY GREAT HOSPITALITY OPTIONS, SHOPPING, TOP LEVEL EQUESTRIAN SPORT AND MORE IN A STUNNING LOCATION.

DAWN CHORUS WALK

FRIDAY 17TH MAY, 5.30AM – 7.30AM

JOIN LOCAL CONSERVATIONIST, STEVE ENGLAND FOR AN ENCHANTING DAWN CHORUS WALK THROUGH BADMINTON ESTATE STARTING AT WORCESTER LODGE, WHERE THE SYMPHONY OF BIRDSONG HERALDS THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW DAY



See <https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/> for full details



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LEIGHTERTON ANZAC DAY EVENT SUNDAY 28 APRIL

Towards the end of the First World War, on the outskirts of the small village of Leighterton, the Australian Flying Corps established a military airfield to train pilots before they were sent to France for combat. Flying at that time was a highly dangerous business, and sadly 23 pilots were killed during training. These pilots are buried together at Leighterton in Commonwealth War Graves.

Every year, on the Sunday nearest to ANZAC Day, a memorial service is held at Leighterton cemetery, organized by the Royal British Legion.

Representatives from the Australian and New Zealand High Commission are normally there and the service is well attended.

This year the service is on 28 April at 3.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend should allow ample time and be in the cemetery by 2.45.

Peter Moss

Thank You!

Acton Turville Parish Council would like to thank everyone who supported this year's village Spring Clean. As usual we had an excellent turn out with villagers kept busy collecting litter, tidying the planted areas and digging up weeds. Great support was provided by the South Glos Streetcare Team who ensured there were plenty of litterpickers, gloves and bags for everyone.

It's very heartening to see how many people pick up litter throughout the year as they walk around the village. It really makes a difference. Thank you!

CARER AVAILABLE

My name is Julie Mildon and I am an experienced carer living in Badminton. I am able to offer a range of caring services, from daytime visits to overnight care, and have experience working with the elderly and those suffering with dementia. I can also provide short term cover for holidays etc
Fully DBS checked, references available.

Please contact me to discuss your needs.

I will do what I can to help.

You can email me on julieedp65@gmail.com or telephone on 07890312114 or 07432874049



In Memoriam

Pauline Joan Jones

Local Talk Back was very sad to hear that Pauline Joan Jones had recently passed away. Known to everyone as Joan, she lived most of her life in Acton Turville. As a child growing up in the early forties the family home was No 1 Railway Cottages, where Joan lived until she married her husband Alec, who worked on the railways. The newly-weds' new home was No 4 Railway Cottages, just three doors up from Joan's previous home, where Joan and Alec shared many happy years. Daughter Kay, who still lives in the same property, provided the following fitting tribute to her mother:

*Joan Jones passed away peacefully with her family by her side at Beaufort House, Hawkesbury Upton on the 17th January aged 85. Much Loved Mum, Grandmother, Great Grandmother & Sister
Forever in our hearts*

Local Talk Back offers our sincere condolences to Kay, Lee and the family on their sad loss. We were very touched to learn that the family had donated £119, the collection money taken at the funeral, to Local Talk Back which Joan loved reading. Thank you, and rest in peace Joan.

From The Archives

It's November 1977 and John Davis reports on activities at the recently-extended Badminton Village Hall prior to its grand re-opening.

VILLAGE HALL NOTES

The winter activities are now underway, and the Hall as usual, is in great demand. Functions at present arranged include a Dance on November 4th (in conjunction with the P.T.A.); Christmas Bazaar on Sat 26th November; and we are hopeful that we can arrange a film show evening, possibly sometime in January, to include films taken at the Jubilee Sports Day.

Has anyone got one or two easy chairs that they are anxious to get rid of? We need quite a few television type chairs (that is small compact easy chairs) for furnishing the new television lounge. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels they could donate such a chair, or sell at a reasonable figure.

Now that the dark evenings have arrived we are hoping to restart our voluntary work at the Hall to finish off the extension, and to continue with the construction of the Committee Room and the minor improvements needed to the stage. The work in the extension is nearly all straight forward decorating, and the kitchen also needs its final decorations. The new Committee Room has yet to be constructed over what was the old clinic room, and it is hoped to get this completed during the winter. When all this work has been done, it is hopeful that the official opening ceremony may be arranged for May of 1978. If you feel you could spare an evening to help complete our Community Centre it would be very much appreciated. If only two or three helpers came along each evening, the project would be finished in not time at all. If you can lend a hand, there will definitely be some work going on, on a Monday and a Thursday evening. Other evenings can be done by arrangement, if either Monday or Thursday is not suitable for you.

John Davis.

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 2024 REPORT

Flooding – In an attempt to resolve the flooding reported last month in the vicinity of the railway bridge and railway approach, South Glos Council have inspected the drains and flushed them in order to remove an obstruction. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the area but it is hoped this will prevent the issue re-occurring

Dog Fouling – it is disappointing to note that dog fouling remains an issue in some parts of the village. The Parish Council have put up more signs to remind dog owners to act responsibly and clear up after their dogs.

South Glos News – at the Parish Council meeting in March, District Councillor Becky Romaine highlighted a number of actions being taken by the council in an attempt to reduce costs. These included introducing charges to council-owned car parks across South Glos, increasing the annual cost of green bin collections from £30 to £60, and requiring all visits to Sort-It Centres to be pre-booked in order to reduce delays at peak times. On a positive note, additional funding has been released to improve the condition of the local roads and address the large number of pot holes which have appeared over the winter months.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING



Following last month's defibrillator training session at Trinity school, a second session has been arranged by Tim and Iris at The Stores. This will take place on the 10th April at the Fox & Hounds, starting at 6:30pm.

Anyone unable to attend the previous session at Trinity school is welcome to join us. To register for the defibrillator training, please contact Tim on 07989701266 or pop into the shop.

Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Sally Smith 218510, Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Next Meeting: Monday 8th April 2024 @ 6.30pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville. Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

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



TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE

1 APRIL – 22 MAY 2024

Badminton Park Footpath Temporary Closure

Please be advised of a temporary closure of the public footpath running through Badminton Park between Badminton and Little Badminton from 1 April until 22 May 2024.

The temporary closure is necessary to ensure the safety of the public during the set up and take down period of the Horse Trials event.

This temporary closure has been approved by South Gloucestershire Council through a Temporary Prohibition of Use by Foot Passengers Order (Public Footpath LBA/2, Badminton).

A signed diversion route outside of the Park will be available while the path is closed.

We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

The Estate Office
Badminton, South Gloucestershire, GL9 1DD
Tel 01454 218203 estateoffice@badmintonestate.com

WESTlink Latest

No sooner had Local Talk Back published a couple of articles on local bus services than one of them has announced a series of changes which will come into force on the 8th April. The one that's been tweaked is the on-demand WESTlink service that you book to take you to any destination within a defined "zone". You might recall that our local villages were within quite a large zone that was bounded by the Bristol Channel in one direction and encompassed places like Keynsham and the Bath Park & Ride in the other. Well that's one of the bits that's changed. WESTlink are keen for people to make shorter journeys, and rather than have a bus tied up travelling long distances with maybe just one passenger on board, they want them to be freed up to transport more passengers, ideally to a place where they can transfer onto scheduled bus and train services in order to complete their journey. Our "large zone" has therefore been transformed into a far smaller zone, now called Yate Rural. As you can see from the map, this roughly extends as far as the A38/M5 in one direction, and doesn't go much further than Westerleigh if you're heading the other way. On the plus side, those starting their journeys in the Yate Rural zone will still be able to travel to Thornbury via what they term a "shared zone". Similar zones will also allow journeys to Southmead Hospital, Parkway train station and UWE/MOD Abbey Wood sites which were not previously an option.

Changes are also being made to the booking system. From the 8th April, if you request a WESTlink bus for a journey than can be made using a scheduled service (eg Badminton to Yate) your request will be declined and you'll be pointed towards the 41 service operated by Coachstyle.

Local Talk Back's experience of WESTlink was good in parts, but it was very evident that the buses were under-utilised. Maybe these changes will help address that issue in particular. It's ironic though that the people we spoke to who did use the service on a regular basis were making journeys to Bitton and the Park & Ride at Bath, both of which are now outside "our" zone. So, what options will our Bitton-bound WESTlink -using friend have once these changes are introduced? The journey on WESTlink currently takes about an hour, so let's use the handy Travelwest journey planner to find out what impact the changes will have. Well, if our friend is up early enough they can catch the 7.09am 95 service from Badminton to Chippenham (we'd not previously heard of the 95 service but it appears to run only during the school term time, making that one early stop at Badminton). 24 stops and 1 hour later, they can let the train take the strain from Chippenham to Bath Spa, from where they take the number 19 bus to Bitton. Total journey time, just over 2 hours. If a 7am start is too early, the next bus departs at 10.20am, takes 2 hours and 20 minutes, and involves three buses. Other options involve a combination of bus and train travel but the journey times are broadly comparable. Coming back is a similar story, with journeys taking between 2½ to 3 hours. We couldn't find how much the journey would cost, but if you're paying for each element as a separate journey, the costs will soon add up and quickly surpass the £2 each way that WESTlink will currently charge you.

Public transport will always have winners and losers, and we are particularly fortunate to have the 41 service which runs throughout the day between Yate and Malmesbury. WESTlink was a new concept that was slowly finding favour with local residents, but on the occasions when we saw it pass through the village it was rare to see more than one or two passengers on it. Maybe it was inevitable that changes would be made, but many of the benefits appear to have been eroded with the forthcoming changes. Let us know what you think.



Revised WESTlink map showing how the previous North Zone has been divided into three parts – Thornbury Rural, Yate Rural (which includes Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville) and Boyd Valley. In general, journeys on WESTlink can take place within one zone only (for example, you cannot start your journey in Yate Rural and travel into Bristol North).

If you are in...	You can also travel to:	Key destinations
Yate rural	Yate shared UWE shared Southmead shared	Yate and Chipping Sodbury town centres, KLB school NEW Southmead Hospital, UWE, MOD & Filton Abbey Wood, Bristol Parkway, Hambrook

The Travelwest Journey Planner can be found here: <https://journeyplanner.travelwest.info/directions>

THE VALENTINE CLUB – part two

The first year of the Valentine Club was very busy. It gave us all the things we had hoped for – interesting talks and demonstrations, lots of social gatherings, trips out and involved family and friends. We catered for the children, for the pensioners of the village and brought the wider community together for fundraising occasions.

We had a lot of fun and learned a lot of new things from interesting speakers. If we had put it all into practice we should have finished the year fit and healthy, well dressed and looking glamorous as we became perfect hostesses with amazing culinary skills. We could have made beautiful floral decorations for every occasion, then filled our 'spare' time with new hobbies of knitting, sewing and embroidery etc. But there was no time, next year's programme had to be planned!

The following years through the 80's became even busier as we took on charity fundraising. Our first project was to sponsor a Guide Dog for the Blind, committing to a target of £1,000. We were helped a lot by our President Lady Caroline, later the Duchess of Beaufort. Each year she helped our fundraising enormously by very kindly allowing us the use of her home and hosting wine and cheese parties for our members and friends. Many times we used the Ballroom at Badminton House for our fundraising events.

Tom and Gloria Gibson also opened their home and garden to us on many occasions, especially for the Summer Fetes. Gloria was Chairman of the club until she moved away to Bath.

It took several years to collect the sponsor money for a Guide Dog as we were also fundraising for the Christmas parties. One evening we had a visit from Mr Frost who had travelled all the way from Chester with his Guide Dog 'Marty'. Mr Frost was South West Regional Manager for Guide Dogs for the Blind. He talked about his training experience with his dog 'Marty' and his first dog 'Ambie'. It wasn't long after that we were able to hand over the £1,000 to the charity and we received a framed photograph of 'Petra', the Guide Dog we had sponsored.

Our next project was to redecorate the Jubilee room and kitchen of Badminton Hall and supply new curtains. We were helped along by the villagers who came to our fundraising Bingo nights. Some of the ladies of our group helped with the decorating and found talent they didn't know they had and muscles they also didn't know they had. Several husbands helped with the more difficult decorations. We would have been lost without them.

We then heard that Stoke Park Hospital in Bristol was in need of funds for equipment for the young patients' and we decided to help. (Stoke Park Hospital used to be in the big House overlooking the M32 which incidentally, years earlier had belonged to the Beaufort family. The hospital closed in 1997)

An important and special meeting for the Valentine Club was to welcome 20 young patients from Stoke Park Hospital. The evening began with our President the Duchess of Beaufort presenting cheques to the value of £200 on our behalf. The evening continued with a sing-song followed by a buffet supper. The Valentine members interacted with the young people and everyone had a good time. Mr and Mrs Greenaway had joined us and Mrs Greenaway played the piano. Our next two charity fundraisers were for St Peter's Hospice and the Macmillan Nurses.

The bingos, skittle evenings, square dancing, fashion shows and wine and cheese parties etc were how we funded our charities and along with our outings were, for many of us, our social lives. We did have fun!

Cont'd over

THE VALENTINE CLUB – continued

Every year we arranged the senior citizens Christmas party and were soon able to include the Acton Turville residents and members friends and family in the invitations. The first few years we put on a tea party in the afternoon, followed by the entertainment towards the evening. This later changed to a hot cooked lunch, mince pies and afternoon tea later followed by the entertainment. Finishing off with a sherry. Everyone went home with a gift from Father Christmas and some had prizes from a free raffle. We were kindly donated the sherry by Badminton Village Club and several people gave cash donations towards the party, including His Grace, the Duke of Beaufort. When John Davis was involved in the Badminton Air Day he also gave us a donation from their profits.

We continued to enjoy the different speakers and demonstrators. One evening we were shown, and were able to try on, elegant historic outfits from the B.B.C.'s Costume Department. As seen in the photos.

There were visits to the M.E.B. Electric company at Chipping Sodbury and to Lackham College for cookery demonstrations. Then a trip to the Bristol International Food, Wine and Kitchen Exhibition. A fruit picking trip by coach for many years took us first to Ledbury and Newent then closer to home at Bromham. Always stopping for supper in a pub on the way home.

Keep fit evenings were popular so became a yearly tradition for a while. There was also a Yoga demo and talk and Women's Self Defence.



THE VALENTINE CLUB -continued.

Photos from one of the Christmas parties. There will be readers living here who will recognise their relatives.



Church Matters

April 2024 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

I've been a Daily Telegraph Reader for probably 40 years now, and the other day I rang and discussed cancelling my subscription. The half-truths reported and articles against an institution I love, has really annoyed me.

The drum being beaten is threefold : The Church of England is guilty of 1) 'epistemic abuse' of government asylum policy, by holding industrial scale baptisms for asylum seekers; 2) giving £1 billion in reparations for slavery but ignore the financial issues of struggling parishes and 3) undermining the Government's plan to send refugees to Rwanda.

All this criticism is unjustified. There is no 'epistemic abuse' of the Asylum system. The Times newspaper investigated the former Home Secretary's claim and discovered that in 2022 there were just 26 Baptisms of Asylum seekers out of a total of something like 900,000! And 15 or so of those were rejected by the Home Office. The incoming Home Secretary admitted that there is no evidence of 'systemic abuse' of the system, as The Telegraph broadcasted.

The claim to give £1bn in slavery reparations is wrong. The church commissioners have agreed to give £10 million a year for the next ten years. That is it. The calls by some people to give £1bn would not be met by the Church Commissioners nor by congregations. Any funds would have to be raised.

Finally, Rwanda - As we all know, it is the role of the Upper Chamber to question, advise and sieve the government's bills, not to stop them. That Bishops point out our moral obligation to stay within international law, does not seem to be evidence of anything other than having a moral compass. That is surely the purpose of the Upper House?

These amplified criticisms really sadden me. And it worries me because people believe what they read. I just wish everyone who cared about the church, could read the Church Times which explains the true situation that lies behind these headlines.

Whether I go through with cancelling my subscription we will have to see. But please take what you read in the papers, with a bucket load of salt!

Have a happy April,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home: 01454 219236/ Mob: 07717791858

Church Services for April 2024

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
7 th April	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins with Christingles	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Easter Family Service	Rev R Thomson
14 th April	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion and APCM	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
21 st April	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong and APCM	Rev R Thomson
28 th April	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion APCM	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Leighterton Churchyard	ANZAC Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong with APCM	Rev R Thomson
Online 9.30am every Thursday		Ask Vicar for Link	Matins	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Let us look forward to spring flowers and no dramatic weather. There has already been a good show of daffodils, large and smaller ones. Herbaceous plants are also putting their noses above ground. Lots of promise of what is to come. But take care, the weather can have a sting in its tail. If you have put some pots out on a sunny spring day remember to fetch them in under cover at night. The hellebores have lasted in flower for a long time, if you didn't remove their scruffy leaves earlier, now is the time to do it, and it really tidies them up. Also make a note of ones you need to buy, and root out seedlings that are disappointing or you have too many of boringly coloured ones.

Here's an Idea

If you have an area that needs lightening up, perhaps think of euphorbia. Lots to choose from and easy to grow. But with a white sap which some people are allergic too, but a zingy colour. Camasias and fritillaries will follow on.

Ready, Steady, Pot!

Plan what to put in your pots. Get your orders in. Support local nurseries who may have annuals in all of one colour available. In other words, not a mix of colours in one seed tray. Single colours can have more impact. But that is just a consideration! Do you need an evergreen to highlight something in front of it.

Wash flower pots, so you start the season disease free. Anything that needs keeping in shape, now is the time, and it really spruces things up.

And Finally

Mow the lawn and trim the edges. Buy some epimediums, from delicate ones to those about six to eight inches tall. Corydalis, lovely blue flowers, ferny foliage, light shade.

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the March quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



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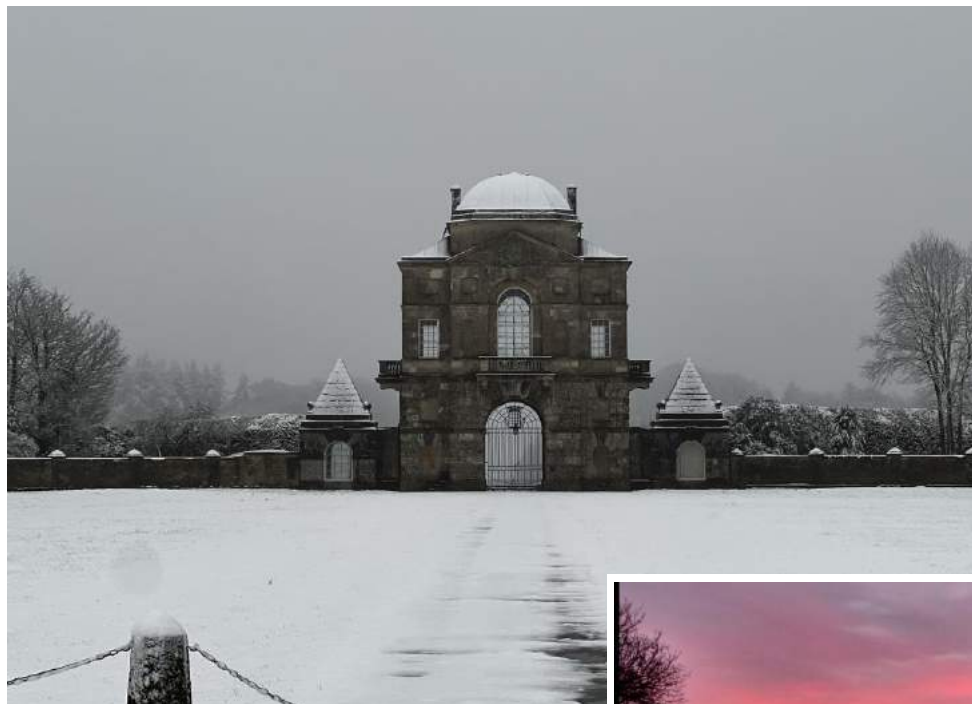
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Picture Gallery



We're lucky to have some very talented photographers living amongst us and we always appreciate the pictures we receive for publication in Talk Back. The picture of a snowy Worcester Lodge is from Piers Talalla, who lives in Little Badminton. It perfectly captures the fine design of the building, but every time I look at it I get the urge to put my coat on and turn up the heating.

At the other end of the colour spectrum are these pictures taken by Badminton's Mike Bird, capturing the hounds being exercised first thing in the morning as the sunrise casts an orange glow across the horizon. There's something quite otherworldly about the pictures isn't there?

To Piers and Mike, and Simon whose picture graces this month's cover, thank you as always for sending them to Local Talk Back.

