

Local Talk Back

FEBRUARY 2024

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

ISSUE 545



WAKE UP, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING

PICTURE BY MIKE BIRD, LITTLE BADMINTON



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

EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 2024

I've just been watching one of David Attenborough's wildlife documentaries on the TV. It showed a polar bear waking up after its long winter hibernation, tentatively poking its head through the snow to take its first wary glimpses of an outside world that it hadn't seen for several months, unsure of what it would find. I know the feeling. After what seemed like months of non-stop rain, we then had a succession of storms blowing in, battering the house overnight and sending recycling containers and their contents cascading down the road. From the safety of my bed, I was convinced I could hear roof tiles crashing to the ground, fence panels being smashed to smithereens and the patio furniture making a b-line for the M4 where it would no doubt be causing havoc. Thankfully, much like David Attenborough's polar bear, the sight that greeted me was invariably less catastrophic than initially feared, and with the exception of a couple of pot-plants, we escaped any serious damage. I hope it was the same for you.

As I sit here writing this first Talk Back of 2024, the sun's shining and snowdrops are beginning to appear. In fact, as reported in JJ's Gardening Blog, early Daffodils have been spotted too. It almost feels like Spring and I'm itching to exercise the lawnmower, but there's a while to go before the warmer weather arrives. Unless you live in Spain that is (ola to our Spanish readers), where in some parts temperatures are already well into the 20s, way above what would be expected at this time of year. Although we can't know what sort of summer to expect in 2024, we can most definitely look forward to some days out - the calendar is beginning to fill up already. As always, the local highlight for many of us will be the Badminton Horse Trials, back to their traditional format after last year's re-shuffle to deconflict with the King's Coronation (was that only last year?). That's between the 8th - 12th May, but before that there's the first Open Gardens event on the 21st April. If you can't wait that long, why not have a day at the races and visit the Point-to-Point organised by the Beaufort Hunt at Didmarton. If you've not been before it's a great day out for all the family with lots going on. If you're organising an event locally, please let us know so we can add it to our What's On page.

Later in the year, on the 6th June Britain will be commemorating 80 years since D-Day, when the operation to liberate occupied France began with the Normandy landings. At a national level, major events are being planned to mark the occasion, but communities are also being encouraged to hold local events to remember all those involved in the operation.

Finally, Talk Back was greatly saddened to learn that Jean Earl, long-time resident of Acton Turville and Badminton, recently passed away. Jean will be remembered as a very active member of our community for a great many years. This was brought home to us when we were reviewing old copies of Talk Back for our recent "From the Archive" series of articles. Jean seemed to be involved in everything, and as Brown Owl she would send in regular reports on the exploits of the local Brownie pack. She worked tirelessly raising funds for good causes including the local church, Guide Dogs for the Blind and numerous Blue Peter appeals, and was Secretary to the Badminton Village Club. She even found time to deliver Talk Back for 30 years which she did come rain or shine.

Jean was married to Mike, the village Police Constable, and for a long time they lived in the Police house next to the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville. They were a devoted couple and proud parents. After a spell living in Badminton, Jean moved to be nearer her family in Yate where she kept in touch with local news via Talk Back. We always looked forward to hearing from her, most recently when she recounted how she had inadvertently made off with the takings from the church tombola stall when she put the notes in her bra to stop them blowing away. It wasn't until she was getting ready for bed that she realised what she'd done! She'll be sadly missed. We send our sincere condolences to Jean's family.



Jean, in the white skirt, celebrating with Ginny Holgate on her return to Ivyleaze after winning gold at the 1984 Olympics.

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 2024

- Fri 2nd Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 9th Didmarton Rural Cinema, The Great Escaper (12A)
- Mon 12th Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, St Mary's
- Wed 14th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 17th Acton Turville Social event - How Well Do You Know Me? Fox & Hounds
- Tues 20th Royal British Legion monthly meeting, Fox & Hounds
- Sun 25th Jewellery for Dog Lovers Workshop, Badminton Estate

March 2024

- Fri 1st Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 2nd Point-to-Point Races, Didmarton
- Sat 2nd Royal Iced Biscuits Workshop, Badminton Estate
- Mon 11th Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, St Mary's
- Wed 13th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 16th Acton Turville Social Music Quiz, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 16th Acton Turville Spring Clean
- Sun 24th Introduction to Bread Making Workshop, Badminton Estate

April 2024

- Sat 20th Acton Turville Social Dog Racing, Fox & Hounds
- Sun 21st Badminton House Open Gardens

*****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 very much appreciate all donations as it helps to keep the Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors. This month we were delighted to find that £50 had been donated via the collecting box in the Acton Turville Stores. Thank you so much. 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 JANUARY 2024

Pauline Hewitt
Belinda Elford
Adrian Sainsbury

WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Sally Smith
Xiaowei Hartley
Richard Felix

Congratulations!



**DUKE OF BEAUFORT'S HUNT
BEAUFORT RACES & COUNTRY FAIR**



Horse & Pony
Racing

Fun Dog Show

Best Dressed
Competition

*Saturday 2nd March 2024
Didmarton Point to Point Course*

*Gates Open 9.30am
Pony Racing 11.30am
Horse Racing 1.00pm*

Children's
Entertainment

Trade Stands

Food & Bar

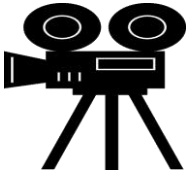
See <https://www.beauforthunt.com/p2phome> for full details

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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 9th February 2024

THE GREAT ESCAPER

(2023, Cert 12A) – Drama

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, John Standing

Director: Oliver Parker

In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

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



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 14th February

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.*



Trinity CE Primary School Position Available: Clerk to Governors



The board of governors are looking for someone who has excellent administrative and written communication skills who can manage information effectively.

They will be required to:

- prepare meeting agendas;
- track progress against actions;
- take minutes;
- maintain an electronic filing system;
- advise on and track progress against statutory requirements

The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining governing body records and will need the ability to find the information governors require to enable them to make informed decisions. Discretion and confidentiality are essential.

Previous experience as a Clerk to Governors or a similar committee is desirable but not essential.

The position is for approximately 120 hours per year and is remunerated. This role does require some flexibility. Meetings mostly take place in the evenings on pre-arranged dates within the school year, however there are instances where dates/time may change with notice.

Contact us via trinityprimaryschool@gmail.org.uk with "FAO Chair of Governors" as the subject to arrange an informal chat and to understand more about this vital role.

Trinity Church of England Primary School
"Shine as lights in the world;" Philipians 2:15
Courage Friendship Respect

Coming Up at the Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

The Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club is kicking off 2024 with a great line-up of quality entertainment.

The season starts on February 14th with the return of the ever-popular singer *Richie C*, the perfect performer for Valentine's Day!

On the 10th April, there's a real treat in store when *Micky John Bull* will be keeping everyone entertained with his unique brand of music and comedy.

Then on the 12th June it's the turn of talented singing duo *Les & Gina* who are always a big hit whenever they play the Luncheon Club.

On the months in between, there's more entertainment with a light-hearted quiz or competition.

Why not come along and join in the fun? We think you'll like it!

NEWS NEWS NEWS



BADMINTON ESTATE

We are excited to announce more events than ever this year at Badminton Estate. We've got something for everyone, from tasty food events to hands-on crafting workshops led by skilled artisans. Dive into the spirit of the seasons with us, whether it's viewing the tulips for our Spring garden opening or a visit to the world famous Badminton Horse Trails - now in its 75th year - we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

COMING SOON

SILVER METAL CLAY JEWELLERY FOR DOG LOVERS

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, 9.30AM-1 PM

ROYAL ICED BISCUITS

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH, 9.30AM-1.30PM

INTRODUCTION TO BREAD MAKING

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH, 10AM-1 PM



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.

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

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BADMINTON AND HAWKESBURY BRANCH



The Badminton and Hawkesbury Branch of the Royal British Legion had a fantastic Poppy Appeal in 2023, with donations totalling £13719.87. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed so generously to support such a worthy cause.

But did you know you can become a member of the Royal British Legion even if you haven't served in the Armed Forces? By doing so, you are supporting those men and women that have served, or are currently serving, and their families.

The Badminton and Hawkesbury Branch holds meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is on February 20th at the Fox & Hounds.

We organise a range of events including coach trips, and regularly arrange dinners at which we often have guest speakers. We also have a guest speaker after each branch meeting, as well as an update on the war in Ukraine.

To find out more, phone Alastair on 01454 218314 or drop in to one of our meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

THE ACTON TURVILLE SPRING CLEAN

The Annual Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick will be held on

Saturday 16 March 2024

Can you help keep our lovely village looking green, clean and tidy?

If you can, join us at the Fox & Hounds Car Park between 10 and 11am.

Bags, gloves and pickers will be provided to help with litter clearing, or bring your gardening tools if you fancy getting stuck into something more horticultural.

Everyone welcome!

Any questions?

Contact actonturvillepc@aol.com

ON THE LOCAL BUSES

When was the last time you travelled on a bus? That was the question being debated by a group of villagers at a recent Acton Turville Social coffee morning. Some people were regular bus users, but it's fair to say they were in the minority. For most of the group, the thought of using a bus was something that never featured on their radar. Why is this? Well the non-bus users invariably cited reasons such as inconvenience, expense and unreliability, making travel by car the preferred option. Conversely those who actually used the services found them to be quite the opposite. One question that the group struggled to answer was which buses still served our villages and where did they go? Haven't some services been cut, and what are those strange little green buses that have recently appeared? This article attempts to provide some of the answers. Next month you'll find out what happened when the group made use of our local services.

It's a long time since local councils operated their own fleet of buses, and if your favoured means of identifying one is to look for the iconic, hand-painted Bristol scroll or chirpy Badger logo on the side of a large green vehicle, you might be in for a long wait. These days, South Gloucestershire Council has contracts with a range of bus and coach companies to provide services across the county. It also subsidises routes which would otherwise be uneconomical for the commercial operators to run. Those operators include national companies such as First Group who run the major city centre routes, and smaller concerns who operate in the more rural areas. That includes Coachstyle, based in The Gibb, who provide most (but not all) of the buses you see in our villages. So, now we know how to spot a bus and how they're funded, what would you do if you wanted to use one? Let's start by seeing what buses serve our villages.

Traditional Bus Services



A local bus at rest in Malmesbury.

some buses don't stop in Badminton or Acton Turville.

In addition there are two buses which serve Acton Turville but not Badminton. The first is the X79 which runs on Thursdays only. The destination of the once-a-week "shopper special" is the historic city of Bath. It starts its journey at 09.15 in Hullavington, then visits Corston, Malmesbury, Sherston and Luckington before reaching Acton Turville at 09.55. It's in Bath by 10.50, then heads back home at 13.15, giving you just enough time for some retail therapy and a frothy coffee. Don't miss it though, or you'll have a week to wait until the next one. Fares on the X79 are also capped at £2 each way which is quite good value for a trip which also takes in The Gibb, Castle Combe, Biddeston and Marshfield

The second non-Badminton bus is the C62 which goes from Yate to Cirencester College via Malmesbury. It runs just once a day, and only between Monday to Friday, so is probably best suited to students at Cirencester College and those who work at Dysons in Malmesbury. The stop in Acton Turville is at the bottom of the Luckington Road, which it visits at 7.31am and 17.19pm. Stagecoach operate this service.

The main bus that we see in these parts is the Coachstyle-operated Number 41 which runs from Yate to Malmesbury roughly every other hour, Monday to Saturday (there's no Sunday service). It stops outside The Stores in Badminton and on The Street at Acton Turville, near the junction with the Luckington Road. Badminton to Yate takes 23 minutes and takes you through Acton Turville, Tormarton, Old Sodbury and Chipping Sodbury. Go the other way to Malmesbury and it's closer to 30 minutes, but you'll get to see Luckington, Sherston and Easton Grey. Single fares are capped at £2. Be careful with the timetable though as

On The Local Buses (cont'd)

WESTlink

So, those are the three main bus services that serve our villages, but that's not the end of the story by any means. Say hello to *Westlink*, those little green buses that have sprung up over the past few months. To quote directly from the *Westlink* website: "WESTlink is a new type of bus service which operates in the vast majority of the West of England, outside of Bristol and Bath city centres. It runs without a fixed timetable or route, and is booked 'on demand' by users through the WESTlink app or by phone." That's right. If you want a bus, you go on-line or pick up the phone and book one. Simple as that. It's not quite like a taxi, where you can say pick me up in 20 minutes outside my front door, but if, for instance,



WESTlink buses are very easy to spot!

you want to get the bus from Badminton at 9am the next day and travel to Yate, they'll work out a route that fits in with you and anyone else who is going in that general direction and give you a precise time when you can expect the bus to arrive. The advantage is, if nobody wants to stop at Chipping Sodbury, the bus will just head straight into Yate

and save all that time waiting at empty bus stops. It's called on-demand transport and is a concept that has been rolled out in many parts of the UK (and indeed overseas as well). The clever bit is the software which plans the routes the buses will take, much like those parcel delivery companies who tell you your order will be with you at 10.26am, and invariably get it spot on. And because it doesn't follow a standard route, your choice of destinations is far wider – anywhere in what is called the North Zone, which stretches from the Bath Park & Ride at Lansdown to Keynsham, Severn Beach, Tortworth and Almondsbury. All for £2 per journey. One important aspect to bear in mind is you need to book a seat for every journey – you can't just hop on a WESTlink bus and buy a ticket. Bear that in mind before you decide to travel to Severn Beach for a day out by the seaside – if you fall asleep sitting on the Promenade and miss your bus home, it might not be straightforward finding an alternative service to get you back to Badminton. Where WESTlink further differs from the other services is in the funding model – it is centrally funded by the government and at the moment that funding is for just two years.

FREE BUS TRAVEL!

Everyone gets free travel on off-peak buses when they reach State Pension Age (currently 66 for both men and women). All you need to do is apply to your local authority and they will issue you with your bus pass.

But did you know anybody over 5 years of age can get a pass which gives them free bus travel in the West of England throughout their birthday month? Just apply on line and your imaginatively-named Birthday Month Bus Pass will be delivered to you by post. More info here:

<https://travelwest.info/tickets-travelcards/free-bus-travel-on-your-birthday-month/>

Those then are the headline facts for travelling by bus in and around our villages. In summary:

- You can get to Malmesbury and Yate (and all points in between) from Badminton and Acton Turville every day except Sunday.
- There's a bus to Bath and back every Thursday, but it only stops at Acton Turville, not Badminton,
- There's another bus that runs from Yate to Cirencester once a day, Monday to Friday, and stops at Acton Turville.
- The WESTlink is a bookable on-demand service which offers huge flexibility across a large part of South Gloucestershire.

What's it like in practice though? Are the services reliable? How easy is it to find the bus times (or indeed the bus stops)? What happens if you don't have access to a computer, can you still plan journeys or book a seat on a WESTlink bus? That's what the group who discussed public transport at the coffee morning plan to find out over the coming weeks and months. We'll tell you what went well and what didn't go so well, what we liked and what we could have done without. We'd also like to hear from you though. Do you use the buses regularly? Maybe you've tried the WESTlink service. Do you have any tips or advice that would be useful for others? Get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

From The Archives

We publish this in memory of Jean Earl who died recently. It's from January 1977. A reminder of simpler times.

1ST ACTON TURVILLE BROWNIES

Two car loads of us went to the November Beetle Drive at Chipping Sodbury. It was a lovely evening and there must have been at least 100 "dice throwing" Brownies who had a smashing time. I believe we did bring a few prizes home.

On Tuesday 30th Nov Tawny showed us a large Advent calendar which she had made and then a quarter of the Pack opened the windows - the remainder to do so at following meetings before Christmas. We also finished off the calendars which were made for Mums & Dads.

Five of us attended the enrolment of Amanda Bird as a Guide on Monday 13th December. These were the three Sixers, Carol Chappell, Louise Barratt, Greta Jones, and Tawny and myself, it was a very pleasant evening and thankyou for asking us Mrs Lane, I am sure now, that when these girls go up into Guides, they won't have quite so many butterflies in their tummies!

We had a nice meeting on 7th Dec, when one of the games we played was pass the parcel. This evening we all had a go at making small Christmas crackers for the tree, with Tawny.

Our last meeting until 11th January 1977 - was held on 14th Dec, when everyone turned up with trousers, scarves, gloves etc, as we went carol singing around Acton Turville. Golly, what a freezing cold, foggy night it was too, but we all enjoyed it very much, and a special mention here to four of my Brownies who played their recorders, Andrea Barratt, Selena Earl, Louise Barratt & Carol Chappell, you played beautifully. We collected £7, which has been given to Rev. T. Gibson for Acton Turville Church Funds. Hannah Gentry joined us for the evening, as she is doing work with a Brownie Pack to help towards her Guide training. Nice to have you Hannah.

I have just welcomed Hannah, but it was also a very sad evening, as we had to say goodbye to Mrs W Chappell - our Tawny - who has now left us. May I say a special thankyou Wendy for the tremendous help you have given the Pack in your 2 years with us. Also thanks to Richard, who has helped in many ways especially with transport. Thankyou both very much.

I expect by the time you read this Talk-Back, our Senior Citizens and special friends will have received the Brownie's Christmas gifts, we do hope you like them and we wish you especially, a very Happy Christmas.

We are now looking forward to Friday 14th January, when we are going by coach (Fox & Hounds car park at 5.15pm parents please) to Bristol Hippodrome to see the Black & White Minstrel Show, as our Christmas treat.

A big thankyou here to Mrs Proudfoot, who gave the Pack a Christmas present of a flower press. It is lovely, and it will certainly be very useful. I must be honest here and say that, we did open it before Christmas as we couldn't wait to see inside!!!

May I now close by wishing everyone a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS, and do have a safe one. Be back next year!

Jean Earl
Brownie Guider

Village Agent Update

Help, support, and advice for residents of the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.



I'm not really one for New Years resolutions but this year I have promised myself that I will do my best to keep in touch with friends and family. I confess that during and after Covid it was sometimes easier to make less of an effort, and those regular calls to check on people to see how they were doing were not always as regular as I'd have liked. I know how important and invigorating it can be to talk things through, whether good or bad. There have been many times when I have reflected on a small piece of advice, or someone else's life story, and it's helped me to change something or my approach to the tasks in hand. Add more salt to the meatballs is a recent one that springs to mind!

As Village Agent I'm here to listen and help in any way I can - practically or by pointing people in the right direction. I say this because I have been reminded yet again that, whilst the answer to most people's problems **are** out there on the Internet, Social Media or Amazon, it's important to remember that not everybody has a landline, mobile phone, email or access to the Internet (or they choose not to engage with this technology). Recently I have written and hand-delivered a letter. Writing that letter was a reminder to me that we used to communicate in a different way where talking and face to face contact and discussion about life's challenges and successes happened as part of everyday life.

I suppose this is a way of reiterating that my Village Agent role has opened my eyes to the kind of isolation and confusion that some people experience when trying to access services. The way services are designed and delivered increasingly relies on people having a phone or email address, and without them it can be hugely frustrating when trying to find essential information. So, if you know anyone who you think might benefit from some help, support, or advice on how to make things better please give me a ring. I'm here to help.

Paul

Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies. Your help to promote and develop the service would be greatly appreciated.

More information on the project can be found here: www.wern.org.uk/village-agents

Contact me on:

T: 07795442272

E: paul@wern.org.uk



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ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2024 REPORT

South Glos Local Plan – Consultation on the Local Plan, which proposes out how South Glos intend to meet their Government-set targets for building new homes, runs until the 16th February. The plan includes proposals for Acton Turville. A copy can be found on the Parish Council website www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Defibrillator Training – Tim and Iris at The Stores are still working to arrange an informal defibrillator training course. Details will be announced as soon as the date and location have been finalised. If you wish to take part in the training session, please contact Tim or Iris on 07989701266 or email mrspenn@hotmail.co.uk with the subject "defib training" so they can get a rough idea on potential numbers.

Acton Turville Spring Clean – The 2024 Spring Clean will take place on the 16th March. See this month's News page for details.

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 12th February 2024 @ 7 pm. 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

A SPECIAL CLOCK RETURNS TO BADMINTON

Mention the words 'Badminton' and 'Furniture' in the same sentence and most people will think of The Badminton Cabinet, the highly ornate 18th-century chest which, when it sold in December 2004 for £19 million, set a world record for the most expensive piece of furniture to be sold at auction (and in doing so, broke the previous record set by the same item). Others might have seen the equally-ornate Badminton Bed, currently on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum and the subject of a fascinating article by Melissa Spreadborough in the December 2022 edition of Local Talk Back. However, this article is about another piece of furniture which, whilst less ornate and (we presume) less valuable, has a very fascinating tale to tell. Yvonne Nettles takes up the story.

Mike Harris, who lives in Badminton, has in his care a Longcase clock, that having left Badminton in 1924, has been on a hundred-year journey right back to the village where its story began.

Mike's brother Dave has an antique business in Devon and at times does house clearances. One such clearance at the end of last year gave him quite a surprise, as amongst the items was a Longcase clock with a brass plaque mentioning Badminton. It was too much of a coincidence that his brother happened to live in Badminton and so Dave has passed the clock on to Mike.



The Plaque reads:

*PRESENTED TO MARY WALSH
BY THE DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT
ON BEHALF OF MANY FRIENDS IN BADMINTON AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 35 YEARS POST OFFICE SERVICE.
JUNE 1924*

The Duchess of Beaufort at the time was Louise, wife of Henry Somerset, 9th Duke of Beaufort. The Duchess had been very much involved in village life. During the First World War she worked with the military hospital at Acton Turville and raised funds to send parcels to the local men who were prisoners of war, and organised collections of clothing and other items needed for the men at the hospital. After the war she was part of the committee who organised the building of Badminton Village Memorial Hall in memory of local men who had lost their lives in the war.

Mary Walsh had received the clock on retirement from Great Badminton Post Office. Looking through census records we can tell a little more about Mary Walsh.

A SPECIAL CLOCK RETURNS TO BADMINTON (cont'd)

Born in 1873 in Dursley, Mary was part of a family of at least eight children, only one being a boy. Her parents were John and Ellen Walsh who had an ironmongers shop in Dursley (1881 census).

Age 17, in 1891 Mary was a Post Office Assistant in Great Badminton. The Post Mistress was Anna Brooks, and a second assistant was Amy Milsom. Mary had already worked for the Post Office for two years. By the 1901 census Mary, now 27, was Badminton's Sub Post Mistress with two of her sisters, Ellen and May, as Post Office Assistants. Ten years later in 1911 Mary is still the Sub Post Mistress with just one sister, Ellen, as assistant along with Elsie Maud Brown.



Mary's sister May was now working as Post Office Assistant at Yatton Keynell post office with yet another sister, Alice Walsh, as Sub Post Mistress. Parents John and Ellen had retired and were living at the Yatton Keynell Post Office.

1921 is the last census year that Mary is working in Badminton. She is now 47 and named as 'Employer, Sub Postmistress and Stationer'. Her sister Ellen is still Post Office Assistant, as is Elsie Brown. When Mary retired from the Post Office in June 1924 she was 50 years old. It seems that none of the four sisters ever married.

On the 1939 Register taken just before the war, three of the sisters, Mary, Ellen and May were living together in Wells, Somerset, and all working as shop assistants. All four sisters lived out their lives in Wells, Mary being the last of them aged 96 years. There is no way of knowing if Mary kept the clock with her but for now it is back in Badminton where she spent so many years.

Despite studying the clock closely, there is nothing to indicate who made it. One suggestion is it might have been crafted locally, but there are no records of a clock maker working in Badminton or the surrounding villages at the time. Can anyone suggest where it might have originated?

Yvonne

Picture Gallery



We're indebted to our good friend Mike Bird for providing the image which appears on this month's cover. Here are some more of the pictures he sent in showing the glorious sunrises that have been lighting up the sky just recently. We really appreciate you sending them in Mike, thank you.

Church Matters

February 2024 Letter from the Vicar

Dear All,

Easter is early this year which means that Ash Wednesday is on St. Valentine's Day, 14th of February. Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence and sorrow, whereas St Valentine's Day is a day of celebration for love. So, this clash will undoubtedly make for interesting discussions in Vicarages up and down the country between husbands and wives. Most likely focusing on the question of which is the vicar's priority, the church, or the wife? (Not a problem I have, as I have learnt the correct answer!) But get the answer wrong, and the vicar could be making his own supper for the foreseeable.

But it is difficult if say, you have a designated **fast** day on a designated **feast** day, which takes precedence? The church prioritises some days as **red letter** days. These are days that are very important and were therefore printed in the calendar in red, rather than in black.

St. Valentine is a **black** letter day, which is less important than Ash Wednesday which is a **red** letter day. So St Valentine is unfortunately for all those romanticists, well and truly trumped. Which means that many vicars could be in very real danger of making their own suppers on Feb 14th! But the upside is that their Lenten supper of bread and soup will I am sure, make them feel very virtuous.

On a more serious note, Ash Wednesday ushers in the 40 days of Lent which precedes Easter. It is a time of prayer and penitence (and soup!) - so I hope to see many of you in church as with me, you reflect on your life and our many weaknesses. And in so doing, prepare ourselves to celebrate the deep joys of our union with the risen Christ, this Easter.

May I remind those more ascetically-minded amongst you, that Sundays are always Feast days, so could be excluded from your Lenten fast. This is because every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection and therefore, in effect, a mini-Easter Day. I hope that that thought cheers the cockles of your heart, on a cold February day.

So, soup in Lent but not on Sundays And I have always thought that if someone has a special day of celebration in Lent, the fast can be set aside for that day, also.

Have a Happy February,

Richard

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

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home:01454 219236/ Mob:07717791858

Church Services for February 2024

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
11 th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
14 th Feb Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Service of Communion with Ashing	Rev R Thomson
18 th Feb	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
25 th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins + HC	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev L Maydew
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



It's the time to wander around the garden and take stock of what you liked and what has got too big, what was a weakling etc and remember to jot down your thoughts in a gardening note book. If a particular plant was rather disappointing, was it overshadowed by another, did it need acid or alkaline soil, or was it a weak specimen and you have already given it a good deal of attention. Maybe it is a poor plant and not worth spending any more time on.

What's Happening in the Garden?

Let's dwell on some lovely primroses and primulas that are flowering now. What a joy they are. Snowdrops will soon follow. They grow easily in the Cotswolds and those properties with swathes of them are worth visiting. Look up details of these gardens and their opening times either in the Yellow Book or in the free gardening paper available in garden centres and nurseries.

Tasks for This Month

Pot up lily bulbs. Sew sweet peas. Plan the vegetable rotations. Cover seed beds for spring vegetable sowing with cardboard to stop the soil becoming impacted and weed free.

There's always something to do. Do it now and it all becomes a small job, push it aside and it becomes a chore. Lots to look forward to

And Finally

I have seen the first early daffodils out at the war memorial in Hillesly!

Sudoku

February's challenge set by Neil Fozard.

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



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It's Snowdrop Season!



It might be slightly premature to be talking about the first signs of Spring, but seeing the snowdrops emerging reminds us that we're moving in the right direction and the evenings will soon be getting lighter.

There are several places where you can go and see magnificent displays of snowdrops, but our favoured destination is undoubtedly the Rococo Garden at Painswick. These pictures are from last year, but expect to see the gardens transformed, with spectacular swathes of flowers that fully justify the name "Snowdrop Spectacular". It does get busy though so you'll need to book your visit in advance. For more information, go to:

<https://www.rococogarden.org.uk/snowdrops/>



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