

Local Talk Back

MARCH 2022

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

ISSUE 524



Snowdrops at the Rococo Garden, Painswick. Picture by Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton



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

EDITORIAL MARCH 2022

They say change is inevitable. That's certainly true where I work. One of management's favourite "initiatives" is to rearrange the office, which seems to be happening on an increasingly regular basis. The message is very much that the office is a place to work (they may have a point there), and one way of reinforcing that message has been to reduce opportunities for people to personalise their desk areas. Looking back many years, I think it's fair to say some of my colleagues might have taken things to extremes. We'd all have pictures of our loved ones on our desks, along with pots full of pens and the obligatory ash tray, but I can recall at least one desk looking like the soft toy department of Hamley's, and another which resembled an annex of Kew Gardens. The message finally came out that desks were not to be considered personal spaces and all such items were to be removed from display at the end of the working day. That meant the girl with delusions of Hamley's started packing up half an hour before the rest of us, carefully stowing her fluffy friends away for the night in various lockers and cupboards, then spent a similar amount of time unpacking everything the following morning. This went on for six months or so before the next missive came out, listing items which were considered appropriate for display and items which, under no circumstances, were to be afforded desk space. Ash trays were still in, teddy bears were to be sent packing. The result was an office that looked much more professional but which lacked the previous familiarity, which is important when you're spending eight hours a day there. Having successfully culled the fluffy toys, management gained the confidence to take it a step further. No longer would we have "our" desks; from now on it would be a desk free-for-all and we could sit wherever we wanted, wherever there was a space. Desks by the windows tended to fill up first, desks by the tea urn were next, and those who came in late would wince when they realised the only remaining desk was the one next to the boss. I made sure I was always in early.

It isn't just desks that have been rationalised. The squeeze has been put on storage space too. I've always tended to hold on to "stuff". When I see something that might one day come in handy, I'll stash it neatly in one drawer or another, building up a useful collection of "stuff" that has proven useful on numerous occasions. All things must come to an end though, and as a result of our latest office re-shuffle I've been forced to have a spring clean. Moving from a 4-drawer filing cabinet to a small locker is like downsizing from a 4-bedroom house to a caravan and inevitably some things that deserve to be kept have been sacrificed. Although I've been fairly ruthless, I must admit several boxes of "stuff" have made their way home to Acton Turville where they are undergoing one final review before heading either to the loft or to the bin. As I type this, next to me is a copy of a newspaper called (imaginatively) The News. It's from the Portsmouth area, it's dated June 28th 1977, and it's a souvenir of The Fleet Review, held to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The News explains how the Royal party, safely aboard the Royal Yacht BRITANNIA, were to inspect almost 100 Royal Navy warships which would be strategically anchored in the Solent. Amongst the paper's flag-waving support for our Armed Forces, it's difficult not to notice how the articles are tinged with regret that the fleet to be reviewed will be far smaller than the one assembled for the Coronation review 25 years previously. They'd have kittens if they saw the size of the current fleet. I cheer myself up by looking through the rest of the paper. If it was entertainment you wanted, you could have done a lot worse than splash out £2.00 on a ticket to see popular beat combo Showaddywaddy at the Guildhall in what was billed as "the greatest rock 'n' roll show ever". No pressure then. Maybe rock 'n' roll was not your thing, in which case you could have hot-footed it to the Kings Theatre in Southsea. What a week – Larry Grayson, then Harry Secombe and finally Cilla Black. Years later Cilla would be on the television, but on the 28th June 1977 you had to make do with Animal Magic, Z Cars, Man About The House and The Waltons. Suddenly Showaddywaddy sounds like a better proposition.

In general, we rarely like change being imposed on us, and surroundings which are familiar to us provide comfort. Over time, we might come to accept changes, and maybe even admit they were for the better, but what we can't deny is that change is inevitable. That doesn't mean it's not sometimes nice to look back and remember how things used to be though.

In other words, I'm keeping the newspaper. I wonder if I've still got my Showaddywaddy LPs in the loft?

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 MARCH.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March

- Fri 4th Tack Sale, Badminton Village Hall, 6pm to 8pm
 Sat 5th Beaufort Hunt Point-to-Point Races
 Sun 6th Didmarton Cricket Club Practice Session
 All welcome. Tel 0798 9567795
 Wed 9th Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club
 Fri 11th Little Women (U) at the Rural Cinema,
 Didmarton Village Hall

Forthcoming events

April

- Sun 24th Badminton House Open Gardens

May

- Wed 4th - Badminton Horse Trials
 Sun 8th
 Sat 28th / Castle Combe Steam Fair
 Sun 29th

June

- Thurs 2nd Royal Bath & West Show, Shepton Mallet
 - Sat 4th
 Sun 5th Acton Turville Jubilee Fete
 Sun 19th Badminton House Open Gardens

Please check with venues before setting off

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

Sheila Carter £20

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



ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

The Acton Turville Tennis Club is holding its Annual General Meeting on TUESDAY 8th MARCH at 8pm. Any members who wish to attend should contact the club secretary at actonturvilletennisclub@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Peggy Sainsbury

Valerie Burchell

Mick Bell

Congratulations!

Local Talk Back is printed by

SPRINT PRINT, 22 STATION ROAD, YATE, BS37 4PS

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

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. Thank you.

FEBRUARY 2022

Playing Field

As you will note the Ash tree in the turning space outside the play area has been successfully removed by Badminton Estate contractors. We are still looking for volunteers to help to maintain the playing field / play area during the summer months (i.e. strimming and mowing). Please contact a Councillor or the Clerk for more details.

Jubilee 2022

The Parish Council have obtained two free Oak Trees for the Queens Jubilee which have been planted in the playing field at either end of the boundary fence (avoiding neighbouring properties.) We are sure these will be of great significance in future years. Photos of the planting are shown elsewhere in Talk Back.

Spring 'Tidy-up'

We look forward to having our usual 'Tidy up' in Spring and aim to set a date shortly. We will be liaising with South Gloucestershire Council for the usual bags and gloves etc. for volunteers to use.

Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Sally Smith 218510, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 219129
Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Next Meeting: Monday 14 March 2022 @ 7 pm Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.
Details on Website & Parish Notice Board

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com

Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan – Consultation Exercise

South Gloucestershire Council are currently running a consultation exercise on Phase 2 of their New Local Plan. The aim of the plan is to shape a new strategy for growth and change in South Gloucestershire. The strategy must meet the area's demand for new homes and jobs, but at the same time it must respond to climate change and the need for the economy to become cleaner and greener by protecting our environment and encouraging greater levels of regeneration in urban areas. However, the consultation exercise is also looking at the potential for growth in rural villages and settlements, where it wants to identify areas suitable for growth and investigate how that can be achieved sustainably such as through the increased use of renewable energy like wind and solar.

The consultation, which closes on the 21st March 2022, is seeking views on a number of aspects, but it is the proposals for rural development which are likely to be of greatest interest for Local Talk Back readers. The Local Plan can be found on the South Gloucestershire Council website here:

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-2020-phase-2-urban-rural-and-key-issues>

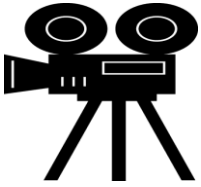
Rural development is covered in the following publication:

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-2020-phase-2-urban-rural-and-key-issues/creating-sustainable-rural-villages-and-settlements/>

Links to both of these documents can be found on the Acton Turville Parish Council website. The documents include a series of questions which will be used to gather views on the proposals.

*Your feedback on the proposals is vital as it will help influence
the future shape of our villages.*

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 11th March 2022

LITTLE WOMEN

(2019, U) – Drama

Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Meryl Streep, Emma Watson

Four sisters come of age in America in the aftermath of the Civil War.

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 arrange tables and chairs

jennybody@btconnect.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 9th March

WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM IAN OLIVER

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£10.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



BEAUFORT HUNT POINT-TO-POINT RACES

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH at DIDMARTON



*Pony Racing
from 11:30*



*Fun Dog Show
Enter on the Day*



*Point-to-Point Racing
First Race 12:30*

Trade Stands - Food - Bar - Children's Entertainment

Gates Open 9:30

Adults £12.50

Children Free

REMEMBERING A LOCAL EQUINE HERO

By Ray Bird, Acton Turville

This month sees the annual Beaufort Hunt Point-to-Point races at Didmarton. Some of you may remember that last year I delved into the history of the race, this year I am doing it again, but this time into the life of our most successful local Point-to-Point horse. The name of that horse was Sabaria, a 17-hand gelding. Born in 1951 he was originally owned by Bob Turnell, one of top National Hunt trainers of that era. Although bred to race, any hope of such a career could have ended before it had even begun due to a leg injury he sustained early in his life. Of that injury the TV racing presenter, journalist and amateur jockey, the late Lord John Oaksey wrote - "In his younger days Sabaria had got loose on the road galloping for miles before being caught, as a result his forelegs took on the shape of two pillar boxes".



John Smith & Sabaria display some of their trophies

With those dodgy legs, being unsure he would fulfil any racing expectations, Bob gave the horse to his good friend John Smith of New House Farm to ride, and to see how his legs fared when out galloping and jumping in the hunting field. Although pleased with him, John felt he could benefit even more from being fired (a type of leg operation), which in 1956 he duly had done.

1957 saw Sabaria have a quiet year recovering fully from his operation. Happy with his progress, the following year John decided to ride him in four Point-to-Point races, including the Beaufort Hunt meeting at Didmarton, which he duly won, he also won one other race and finished 3rd and 4th in the other two. Following those runs, it was felt that he had potential to achieve success at a higher level and so went back to Bob Turnell's training yard.

It was while in Bob's yard that he had his greatest victory when winning the 4-mile National Hunt Challenge Cup Chase at the 1959 Cheltenham festival, a race for novice horses and amateur jockeys, ridden on that occasion by John Lawrence (later Lord Oaksey).



Patricia Smith riding Sabaria. She won on him in her debut Point-to-Point

He was also to achieve a further win and be placed in some hunter chases. In 1960 and 1961 he ran in the Grand National, finishing 5th and 13th respectively, ridden on both occasions by professional jockey Mick Roberts. Just weeks before running in the latter race, as a Grand National warm-up run, ridden by John Smith they won a Point-to-Point race at Didmarton. Following that Grand National run, Bob gave the horse back to John to keep, who then continued to hunt and Point-to-Point him.

The 1962 season saw the pair reach their peak in Point-to-Point racing when from their seven races they won their first 6 and finished 2nd in the other one.

The severe winter of 1963 saw the Point-to-Point season curtailed, so they only had two runs which resulted in a further win and a second. In 1964 it only had one race which it duly won.

For the 1965 season Sabaria had a jockey change, when John's 18-year old daughter Patricia took on the ride, although by then he was 14 years old he still retained his enthusiasm for racing and ran seven times that season, winning twice and being placed in four others, and had one unseated rider. The first of his races that season was at the Weston Harriers meeting at Nedge, nr Chewton Mendip in the Ladies open race, which they duly won, giving Patricia a win on her debut Point-to-Point ride.

1966 saw yet another change of jockey, this time with John's son Richard riding, however, by then age was clearly catching up with Sabaria and for the first time in his Point-to-Point career he was pulled up. After that race he was retired and spent the rest of his life at home in the fields of New House Farm.

In total Sabaria had run in 23 Point-to-Point races, winning 13 of them, having five seconds, two thirds, one fourth, an unseated rider and once pulled up, and remarkably had never fallen. In the world of Point-to-Point racing it's always extra nice to win at your local hunt meeting, a feat that John and Sabaria achieved three times at the Beaufort Hunt races. As already mentioned, when with Bob Turnell, he had also won and been placed in hunter chases, had run and finished in two Grand Nationals, and won the prestigious 4-mile chase at the Cheltenham Festival. Not bad for a horse that had dodgy legs !!

My thanks to Patricia Richards and Jenny & Richard Smith for providing the information and photographs.



Clockwise from above: Daughter Patricia leading in Sabaria after Didmarton win, John Lawrence (later Lord Oaksey) winning at the 1959 Cheltenham Festival on Sabaria, John Smith on Sabaria (centre) in Point-Point race.

ACTON TURVILLE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

DON'T FORGET THE DATE: SUNDAY JUNE 5TH

We have had a fantastic initial response to our appeal for donations with more than a dozen villagers and local businesses contributing already.

Thank you all so much!

Come on villagers more donations would make for a super celebration!

Please look out for updates on our Acton Turville Connect Facebook page.

In the coming months we will be looking for volunteers for various activities, as the Queen's Jubilee Celebration begins to take shape. If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch.



You can find us on Facebook at
Acton Turville Connect
or email us at
Actonturvilleconnect@outlook.com

See you there!



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

A big thank you to all those lovely volunteers who gallantly cleaned the church and provided flowers on the altar. It has been such an on/off year for the church, culminating in the heart-breaking cancellation of Christmas services, yet again. The new rota for cleaning and for flower arranging has been distributed. Please contact me if changes are required.

I am in dire need of more volunteers; there are a couple of months (July and December) where the church may yet be mucky and defoliated. And it is probable that some of the current volunteers will wish to retire, having provided support for more years than they care to remember. Surely we can find a few energetic young (this means under 70 years old!) people who are busting to exhibit some sense of community spirit. The cleaning consists of dusting, vacuuming and polishing (if the brass looks unhappy) twice, and the flower arranging consists of popping a small bunch of whatever into two brass vases on the altar, once. What could be more enticing? And you get to do it in a building of considerable age, cultural significance and beauty.

And I would like someone else to take over the supervision of the rota, as I am far too old and grumpy to keep going. Help!

And the parochial parish council would like to recruit more members. At present there are two. The entire congregation has already served time on the pcc, so I am hoping to engage new recruits. I am not necessarily expecting to be overwhelmed by your eagerness to volunteer – all previous pleas have resulted in a gloriously empty inbox, and I don't like shocks at my age – but it is evident that there is a breach into which someone may be willing to step. Please!

Annual Meeting of the Parochial Parish Council

The Annual Parochial Parish Council Meeting will be held in the church on Sunday 3rd April. There will be the service of evensong at 6.00pm followed at 6.45pm by the meeting. Few, very few, people find this an unmissable event. Why not come along, swell the numbers and have a chat with new friends?

Refreshments of a fruit-based variety will be offered.

Eileen Stephens

eileen_stephens@gmx.com

MEET THE ADVERTISER

LIFE IS FULL OF AUCTION AT CHORLEY'S!

Chorley's is a thriving auction room located at Prinknash Abbey Park near Cheltenham, where they hold regular fine art sales. Specialising in country house collections, Chorley's have recently handled single owner collections belonging to Sir Roy Strong and Lord and Lady Charteris. They also sell smaller collections and individual items and regularly achieve outstanding prices. Local Talk Back caught up with Victoria Stevens from Chorley's who explained a bit more about the auctions process and the services they offer.

"Our work centres on the Cotswolds but we also travel across the UK. All our sales are 'live online' meaning that the lots we sell are presented to a truly worldwide audience of buyers. People love to come and view our auctions which are laid out in room settings enabling the full potential of items to be seen. We have Sunday viewings which have proved incredibly popular and visitors to Prinknash can also enjoy tea and cake in the neighbouring café.

"Chorley's undertake formal valuations for all taxation and family division purposes and we pride ourselves on our discretion, knowledge and compassion. We deal with many local solicitors and private individuals on a regular basis."

Chorley's have a comprehensive website which includes dates of forthcoming auctions and results from previous sales as well as information about their full range of services.

To find out more, visit www.chorleys.com

Chorley's



Attributed to the Master of the Countess of Warwick (act. Circa 1560-1570), Portrait of a Lady, sold for £25,000 (+fees) Chorley's January 2022

Sudoku

March's challenge set by Neil Fozard.

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

FLIGHT FROM THE EAST

DRIVING BACK TO THE UK FROM KUWAIT IN 1969

By Peter Moss, Acton Turville

PART 4. ROME TO LONDON

In the final instalment of his epic travelogue, we find Peter Moss heading up through Europe, taking in the culture of Italy, enjoying the sights of Switzerland, and hearing stories about General de Gaulle in France before making it to London.

I arrived in Rome on my 28th birthday and what a splendid place to spend it in. I like Rome which is a colourful city seething with vitality. The many historic remains, of different periods, give the city an overwhelming sense of history. I booked into the Pension Alfa. By this stage I had found that many Italian hotels had the unpleasant habit of turning off the water supply to the shower. To an engineer this was a challenge. I transferred a 'mole' wrench from the car tool kit to my overnight bag and this problem was easily overcome.



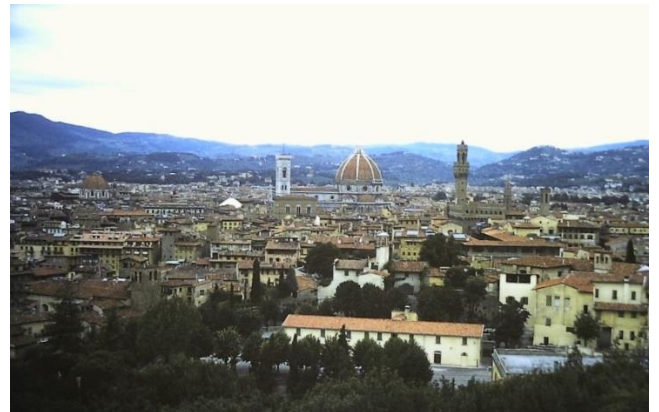
The Forum, for centuries the centre of day-to-day life in Rome, and below, the magnificent Trevi Fountain



I spent two rather touristy days in Rome, visiting all the main sites. My diary records that 'I had a good lunch'. It was a great pleasure to drink wine again after enforced abstinence in Kuwait. But I found that a bottle a day was a bit much.

In the evening I went to a 'son et lumiere' at the forum, which I enjoyed. The following morning I took the autostrada for Florence. I encountered a bit of a problem on the Autostrada when it began to rain heavily. It does not rain in Kuwait, where I had come from, so I had not replaced my windscreen wipers. I found them quite useless and had to pause on the hard shoulder for a while. Then the sun came out and I pressed on to Florence, booking into the Hotel Cavour.

I have always loved Florence, which is the most beautiful city, despite the tourists, and in the 1960s the problem of tourism was not as acute as it is now. In my diary I enthused about the olive green colouring of the surrounding hills, the splendid buildings and the river Arno running serenely through it all. I explored the city on foot, visiting the splendid Duomo and Baptistery and the Palazzo Vecchio. Sadly the Uffizi gallery was closed.



A panoramic view of the beautiful city of Florence and below, the Ponte Vecchio on the river Arno.



The autostrada for Turin was quite hard going, but I eventually reached Turin and booked into the Hotel Central.

I must confess to being an Italian car enthusiast and to having left behind in England an old Lancia Aurelia. Turin is the home of both Lancia and Fiat and thus has a special meaning for me. It is, apart from that, a very attractive city with a fine colonnaded town centre all overshadowed by the Alps in the background.

My stay in Turin was rather dominated by my motoring interests. I spent some time looking for spare parts for my old Lancia, and even more time at the splendid Italian motor museum.



A Lancia D24 in the Turin motor museum

After a very pleasant day I was mortified next morning to find that a thief has slit the fabric roof of my MGB. I had foolishly left my Japanese doll on the back seat of the car and this may have attracted the attention of the thief. Although nothing had been stolen, the roof was damaged.

Leaving Turin I took the new autostrada along the Aosta valley towards the Great St Bernard Pass and Switzerland. I love driving over the big alpine passes with their spectacular mountain views, which I find supremely exhilarating, particularly in an open car. Sadly the weather was not on my side as it was very cold with a bit of snow.



*The Great St Bernard Pass, Switzerland
(photo courtesy of Wikipedia)*

I stopped at the hermitage on the pass to visit the St Bernard dogs in their kennel, and to have a coffee. Then I descended into Switzerland, driving through Lausanne, and spent the night in a small hotel in Cossonay. This hotel was full of Swiss Army reservists, who were all very jolly. As a Territorial soldier myself I was able to enter into the spirit of things!

I then crossed the French border at Vallorbe for the last leg of my trip. This was before the days of the autoroute. I went through Pontarlier, St Dizier and Chalons sur Marne, before spending the night in the hotel Universal in Reims. My diary records one amusing incident. I paused by the roadside near Chaumont for my lunchtime picnic of bread and cheese and was approached by a French lady. I had not appreciated that the nearby village was Colombey Les Deux Églises, the country seat of General De Gaulle. My new found French friend gave me a detailed account of many exciting incidents relating to him. Returning to Reims my diary records that the hotel was 'full of British' but I visited the cathedral to uplift my soul.

The next day was my last before reaching England. I drove through St Quentin, Cambrai, Arras and Montreux before reaching Boulogne. I boarded the Lord Warden ferry and arrived in Dover that afternoon. I had hoped to drive on to London that afternoon but was delayed by Customs and Excise who were interested in the import of my car. I therefore spent the night in Dover and drove home to London the next morning. Total distance covered was 9,956 km.

Fuji Musume was happy to have her feet on dry land.



Church Matters

March 2022 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

Duties towards Believers

St Paul's first letter to Timothy in chapter 5 says this:

'Do not speak harshly to an older man, but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters—with absolute purity'.

I am frequently reminded how fortunate I am to have a job that involves speaking to older people. Sometimes you come across a real gem, someone who not only do you really like and get on with, but you feel is a rather 'saintly' person. And I use that term advisedly.

Saints are not your average person, nor have standards that are like most of ours. They tend to be utterly fearless and happy to upset people, if they think something needs saying, they do not care what the world does to them nor thinks of them. They tend to be utterly disinterested in money or wealth. They tend to be non-judgemental and open-hearted. Saints tend to laugh like billy-ho, at things most of us take for granted. Saints tend to pray long and hard, deeply and thoughtfully, and thank God for every day that brings them closer to their Lord.

Such was Hilary Peters of Worcester Lodge, who sadly died on the first weekend in February. She would put you straight with a sharp retort and with a smile, that told you that though she may disagree with something you were doing, she did not judge you. She also at the same time showed that she understood your excuses. She 'hated the sin but loved the sinner', as the phrase goes. She was generous with the sloe gin she made, at the Meets, that met regularly in front of her home. Her balcony was always swarming with guests and friends. She prayed deeply and found God in nature as well as in the beautiful architecture of churches. And yet she loved nothing more than to spend time in solitude and silence.

We are, if we meet such people, fortunate. Because it is people like this who remind us of the path we are on, and the journey we must make. A saint's life can seem quite mad and at odds with our world. That does not matter, because the saint shows us as if bearing a torch, the Christian path, that we all must make.

With my prayers and blessings this Lent as we walk our way, towards the Cross and Easter.

With my best wishes,

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

Badminton Benefice Rota for March 2022

| Sunday | Date | Time | Parish | Service | Minister |
|--|------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st Sunday of Lent | 6 th March | 9.30am | Lasborough | Matins | Lay led |
| | | 9.30am | Hawkesbury | Holy Communion CW | RT |
| | | 11.15am | Didmarton | Matins | RT |
| | | 3.00pm | Acton Turville | Evensong with HC | RT |
| 2 nd Sunday of Lent of Christ | 13 th March | 9.30am | Lasborough | Holy Communion BCP | P Cheeseman |
| | | 9.30am | Leighterton | Holy Communion BCP | Rev J Wilson |
| | | 11.15am | Little Badminton | Matins | Rev J Wilson |
| | | 5.00pm | Hawkesbury | Evensong | Sir I MacFadyan |
| 3 rd Sunday of Lent | 20 th March | 8.30am | Didmarton | Holy Communion BCP | RT |
| | | 9.30am | Hawkesbury | Morning Prayer | Lay led |
| | | 11.15am | Sopworth | Matins | RT |
| | | 3.00pm | Acton Turville | Evensong | RT |
| Mothering Sunday Lent | 27 th March | 9.30am | Lasborough | Holy Communion BCP | RT |
| | | 11.00am | Leighterton | Matins | J Wookey |
| | | 11.15am | Little Badminton | Matins | RT |
| | | 6.00pm | Hawkesbury | Evensong | RT |

Lent course Wed 9.20am by Zoom on March 23rd and 30th, contact Vicar

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



It's time to do a bit of tidying up, which on a sunny spring day is just fine. Prune apple and pear trees, as a guide, remove about ten per cent of the oldest wood and anything dead or diseased. Cut away shoots to create an open shape

Wisteria need the whip like shoots cut back to two or three buds from the base and anything which has got out of hand. Make sure that roses are not suffering from wind rock and firm them in if necessary. Prune out spindly shoots and other branches to just above a nascent bud, sloping the cut downwards to direct rain away. Remove the oldest wood to the base and about a third of the rest to about six inches.

Some Planting Options

A lovely sight at the moment are the primroses, who like a bit of dampness. Maybe along a hedge or beneath a tree would be a typical place. There are plenty of colour variations to choose from and they make trouble-free container plants. If you prefer the pale yellow ones, select *primula vulgaris*. The colourful hybrids have the Barnhaven prefix.

Hellebore are also blooming and a specialist nursery is Ashwood for a great choice.

After the snowdrops end they are followed by another lovely bulb, very similar but taller called *Leucojum aestivum* or spring snowflake.

Tips Of The Month

Try not to compact the soil, maybe stand on a plank to spread the weight, if this is not possible, loosen the ground with a fork after the job is done.

Particularly for vegetable areas, cover the soil with thick, black plastic to warm up the soil and stop weeds from germinating.

Don't Spare The Birch

Silver birch trees are too tall for most domestic gardens, but if you must have one, particularly *Betulus jacquemontii* with its lovely white trunk, get a multi stemmed one as it will not grow as tall and you will get three or four white barked trunks.

And Finally

Sit by the fire planning what plants you would like, or, tidy the greenhouse, wash the glass and sweep up any debris, then go inside for a mug of tea.



It's remarkable how little these cottages along Station Road in Badminton have changed since this picture was taken. We think it must be from the turn of the century, possibly the late 1800s, well before the motor car made such an impact on everyday views such as this.

If you have any old photos of our villages, send them in, we'd love to see them.

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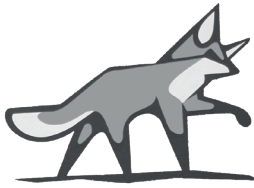


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Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 – Victory Bouquets



The Winter Olympics Beijing 2022 recently came to an end, but did you notice that the Victory flower bouquets presented to the medal winners were hand knitted?

The knitted and crocheted wool bouquets replaced traditional fresh flowers. The idea was part of the low carbon concept at the 'Green Olympics'. The flowers would never wither and could be enjoyed forever.

1,251 knitted bouquets were required for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics. Designer Li Meili, a 70 year old grandmother, had her bouquet chosen for the award ceremonies. She had inherited a traditional Shanghai knitting technique. Li was responsible for personnel training, quality control and final assembly of the bouquets. Even though it would take longer to make them up, she chose thin wool because it would look more exquisite.

The flowers were knitted and crocheted over three months by retirees, many over 80 years of age, belonging to clubs from various cities. Many of them would usually knit and sew garments for charity. They used 50 different types of stitch.

Each bouquet has six different types of flowers: Roses, Chinese roses, Lily of the Valley, Hydrangeas, Laurels, Sweet Osmanthus and Laurel leaves. Each one has a special meaning such as Friendship, Perseverance, unity, Victory, Bounty and Peace.

A blue Cosmos will be added to the Paralympic bouquets to symbolise freedom and eternal happiness.

The work involved was immense. One rose consists of ten petals, three leaves and one stem and it takes one person about five hours to knit one rose. A whole bouquet takes about 35 hours. It was suggested that altogether the work was 50,000 hours.



To ensure consistency of bouquets each knitting group had only two kinds of flowers to make up, which were then sent to the headquarters for assembling.



Paralympic Games Victory Bouquet

