

Local Talk Back

MARCH 2023

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

ISSUE 535



Snowdrops 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 MARCH 2023

Spam. Where I come from (namely the past), Spam will always be first and foremost a particularly tasty brand of tinned luncheon meat containing ham, pork and an artery-clogging helping of fat. Throughout my formative years, Spam was the ideal ingredient when a quick, hot meal was called for. Indeed, some of my most pleasing culinary creations have been produced using little more than a tin opener, a frying pan and a tin of Spam, although in fairness that may say more about the limitations of my cooking skills than it does about Spam. So how did something so wonderful and nutritious end up being adopted as the term used to describe all those unwelcome and unwanted emails that fill your inbox? Before we find out, I'll provide a bit of background which hopefully won't sound too much like a series of pitiful excuses.

Over the years I've had a whole string of email addresses. I think my first one was with Blue Yonder (remember them?) which then morphed into a Virgin Media account before I switched to one managed by John Lewis. All had their own strengths, all had weaknesses, but something that's never troubled me was spam. I don't know how they did it, but all of those accounts were brilliant at filtering out unwanted emails to the extent that I never needed to check my spam folder. Whenever I did, the only thing I found was genuine spam. Much like my food cupboard all those years ago. Things have changed though and these days, courtesy of Mr Google, I am now fully converted to gmail, both at home and here at Talk Back.

In general it works well, but what it doesn't seem to do is capture spam emails. For instance, if I look right now in the Talk Back inbox, I will see that Jasmin Kuar is offering to improve the performance of our website, overlooking the minor detail that we don't have one. Kamal Singh is "desperate" to develop a Local Talk Back app for us, and Sunny Singh keeps "reaching out" to us to transform our web presence. I guess they all work on the principle that if they send us enough emails, we'll eventually crack. Their cunning plan hasn't worked yet though. Not unreasonably, I concluded that gmail has no spam filter. Guess what? It has. And guess what I find when I look in the spam folder? Hmm, you're a step ahead of me. How frustrating. This only really came to light when a couple of people mentioned emails that they'd sent but which just didn't ring a bell with me. I quickly put together a multi-stage strategy to find out what was going on. It went something like this: Step 1 – find the gmail spam folder. Step 2 – open the folder. Step 3 – discover the spam folder is peppered with genuine emails. Step 4 – wonder what else found its way in there and ended up being auto-deleted. Step 5 – start grovelling.

So, here we are at Step 5! Hopefully not much has gone that way, but if we do appear to have ignored your emails, that might explain it. To Jacquie and Eileen in particular, sincere apologies.

What I've not been able to work out is what causes some emails from the same user to be identified as spam but not others. Like most things to do with computers, it remains a mystery to me, and despite spending some considerable time searching Google for the answer I'm non the wiser (although I've now discovered a whole new part of the internet dedicated to Cooking With Spam, which is an unexpected bonus).

I mentioned at the start that I was intrigued to know why the name of a delicious and nutritious meat product was now being used as the term for unwanted emails. I found this explanation.

"Use of the term Spam was adopted as a result of the Monty Python skit in which a group of Vikings eating in a restaurant repeatedly sang a song about Spam luncheon meat. They repeated the chorus of "Spam Spam Spam" in an increasing crescendo, drowning out other conversation. Hence, the analogy applied because unwanted emails were drowning out normal discourse on the Internet."

That's it, blame the Vikings.

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 MARCH

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March

- Wed 1st Badminton Parish Council meeting
- Sat 4th Beaufort Hunt Point-to-Point Races, Didmarton
- Wed 8th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 10th Didmarton Rural Cinema – The Lost King
- Mon 13th Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
- Sat 18th Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick
- Sun 19th Arm Knitting Workshop, Badminton Estate

April

- Sat 1st / Sun 2nd Wedding Showcase, Badminton Estate
- Sun 23rd Badminton House Open Gardens

May

- Thurs 4th – Mon 8th Badminton Horse Trials
- Sat 20th Badminton Bolt 5k Run
- Sat 20th – Sun 21st Castle Combe Steam Rally

*****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 have received donations this month from:

Sandra Godwin

Sheila Carter

Richard & Xiaowei Hartley

In addition, £38.60 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.

Thank you!

We very much appreciate all donations as it helps to keep the Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.

There are Local Talk Back collection boxes in Acton Turville Stores and Badminton Stores.

To donate by cheque, please make payable to

LOCAL TALK BACK

and send to:

*The Treasurer, Local Talk Back,
6 Hollybush Close, Acton Turville, Badminton,
South Glos, GL9 1JJ*



ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE

24TH MARCH, 7PM

AT THE FOX & HOUNDS

ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL PRESENTS

“A night at the dogs”

LOOK OUT FOR THE FLYERS!

**ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL
COFFEE MORNINGS**

EVERY FRIDAY MORNING, 10.00 TO 12.00,
AT THE FOX & HOUNDS.

COME JOIN US AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

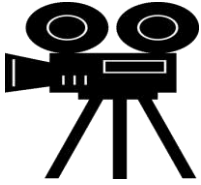
*FRIDAY 3RD MARCH, SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
BY THE TRINITY SCHOOL CHOIR*

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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 10th March 2023

THE LOST KING

(2022, Cert 12) – Comedy, Drama

Starring: Steve Coogan, Sally Hawkins

Director: Stephen Frears

'The Lost King' is the life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, and we now have a card machine!

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

jennybody@btconnect.com

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club



Wednesday 8th March

Tea/Coffee on arrival

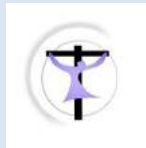
Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

Lent 2023

We have reinstated our Lent services, after the unwelcome appearance of The Bug and Lockdown meant that we had to bring our plans to an early end three years ago. We are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating Lent with weekly short services followed by a simple lunch.

They will be held on Wednesdays in March, five in total.

We are once again holding a brief service of reflection, meditation and prayer in church, led by Christine Griffin, at 12.00 noon, followed by a lunch of soup, bread and cheese, in five different homes.

You are warmly invited to join either or both events on any or all dates. There is no necessity to attend the service first, just turn up on the spur of the moment for lunch. And, as before, there is no need to make any regular commitment. It will be an opportunity to meet and chat, and to prepare for Easter.

The invitation is extended to the neighbouring villages too.

Dates, hosts and venues:

Wednesday 1 st March	Diana Silvey	Orchard Byre
Wednesday 8 th March	Bridget Hope	Stonelea
Wednesday 15 th March	Simon Long	Street Cottage
Wednesday 22 nd March	Eileen Stephens	The Old Barn
Wednesday 29 th March	Prue Moss	Church Farm House

Telephone 218425 if further information is required.

Days Out

Mention a trip to an arboretum and most people's thoughts will invariably turn to Westonbirt. With its 600 acres being home to 2500 different species and 15000 specimens from all corners of the globe, Westonbirt fully deserves its title of The National Arboretum. For those wanting something a bit different though, there is a tantalising alternative. Point the car up the Fosse Way, head to Moreton-in-Marsh and there, set behind a garden centre, you will find Batsford Arboretum. Whilst it can't compete with Westonbirt in terms of scale, its emphasis on plants from the Far East means it offers something very different. It also has a fascinating history.

The arboretum's story begins in 1886 when ownership of the estate passed to Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford, who until recently had worked overseas for the foreign office in locations including China and Japan. During this time, Freeman-Mitford immersed himself in all aspects of oriental culture. In particular, he developed a deep love of the oriental landscape, which directly influenced his plans for the arboretum.

Freeman-Mitford moved quickly when he inherited the estate. The existing Georgian mansion which sat in the grounds was demolished and in its place he had built the neo-Tudor house which still stands today. When it came to the gardens, Freeman-Mitford had a very clear vision of the landscape he wanted to create, and he immediately began to sketch out a design which drew heavily on his Chinese and Japanese influences. Water, both still and running, was a key component of the final design which also featured hard landscaping, a range of sculptures, several traditional Chinese buildings and, of course, plants. By now something of an authority on bamboos, he created one of the foremost collections of the time. In addition, there are significant displays of Japanese Maples and Magnolias, as well as the National Collection of Japanese Flowering Cherries, all interspersed with the more traditional indigenous trees and shrubs.



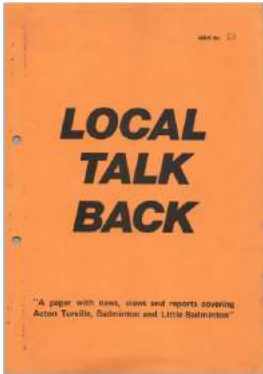
Many of the trees we see at Batsford today were originally planted by Freeman-Mitford, and much of the garden layout remains true to his vision – the artificial watercourse which runs down the western side of the gardens was built by him, and he was instrumental in the design of other features such as the hermit's cave, rockeries, the thatched cottage and a Japanese Rest House. Several of the bronze statues that have been placed strategically around the gardens were imported in 1900 by Mitford who by then was a practicing Buddhist.

The history of the arboretum takes an unexpected turn when, in 1916, Batsford Park was inherited by David Mitford who moved into the house with his family, including his six daughters who gained notoriety as the Mitford Sisters. Despite their aristocratic upbringing, two of the sisters in particular, Unity and Diana, caused outrage when they aligned themselves to the Fascist movement. Both were prominent figures at Fascist marches, and Diana would go on to marry the British Fascist leader Sir Oswald Moseley. Unity became obsessed with the politics of Adolf Hitler, and fulfilled her goal of meeting the Nazi leader with whom she was photographed on many occasions prior to the Second World War. Rather than brushing this period of its history under the carpet, Batsford has marked it in a touching way – by growing a horse chestnut tree from a cutting taken from the tree that Anne Frank could see from her Amsterdam attic as she hid from the Nazis prior to her arrest and deportation in August 1944. She died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, along with her sister, in March 1945.

Batsford Arboretum & Garden Centre is located just a mile and a half from the historic Cotswold market town of Moreton-in-Marsh. Use the postcode GL56 9AT if you're relying on your satnav. Entrance to the arboretum is free to Westonbirt season ticket holders.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - March 1978



The editorial of the March 1978 edition of Local Talk Back was written by Jon Davis, standing in for regular editor Les Rochester who was recovering after a spell in hospital. There was reference to the recent arrival of some particularly severe winter weather, but acknowledgement that the forthcoming horse trials was a clear indication that “summer is around the corner”. The editorial also contained a plea for readers to submit material for the newsletter, aimed in particular at “the Senior Citizens” who it was hoped would be able to tell readers “how things used to be in the area many years ago.”

Someone who had already responded to that request was a gentleman called Arthur Andrews, a resident of Badminton since 1894 when he was born in the same house where he was living in 1978. His fascinating story was told by Lloyd Bracey, who at the time was a trainee reporter with the Bristol United Press. Arthur recalled how he started his working life aged just 14 at Little Badminton Farm, before being sent to fight for his country in the First World War. In 1933 he moved to Castle Barn Farm, once more wearing his uniform as a member of the Home Guard in the Second World War. As well as an enthusiastic member of the Badminton football and cricket teams, it would appear that Arthur had another claim to fame:

“Let’s not forget Arthur the film-star. To this day he is very proud of a picture of him beside Hayley Mills in the making of the 1966 film “Sky West and Crooked”, where he played grand-dad. He enjoyed being a film star. Understandable when you realise that even the most humble film star earns more than the average root-hoer of Arthur’s boyhood would ever see in a lifetime.”

We mentioned last month that the Badminton Conservative Association was holding its AGM at the Village Hall. The evening was marked by the resignation of Mr Windell, who stood down as Chairman after “more years than he cared to admit.” To soften the blow, it was announced that the South Gloucestershire Conservative Association were to hold a Sparkling Wine Evening in Badminton House which was to be attended by former Prime Minister Mr Ted Heath no less. Tickets were “very limited”.

Trainee reporter Lloyd Bracey contributed a further article in March, this time featuring local lad Will Pinnell who, at the ripe old age of 25, was “in the enviable position of being able to turn down professional positions that would be the envy of many men”. Will, you see, was a professional drummer. After spending time as an apprentice mechanic, he eventually followed his dreams and landed a job at Butlin’s in Minehead, before making the big break and turning professional. As reported in Talk Back: “Right now he lives in Yate with his wife, and last week he was off to Lincoln where he will form half of a back-up team for that famous yokel trio The Wurzels. The tour will take him to all parts of the country on this, his second contract with the trio. They must like him.”

Sport was well covered as always with reports on darts, skittles, football and crib. The following piece caught our eye, and we’re not really sure what to make of it. Can anyone enlighten us?

DARTS (NOT SERIOUS) – Players over 90 free buffet.

A darts evening is to take place at the Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville, on the 17th April. Matches, knock outs etc will be played with the minimum of casualties. A maximum of 40 players required, young and old, the worse you play the better, good players penalized. Crusty bread, cheese, onions, will be laid on by Mine Host. List in Post Office on 14th March, close on 7th April as we require to know how many to cater for.

M.B.

The final word from March 1978 goes to Mrs J Earl, the 1st Acton Turville Brownies’ Brown Owl, who provided us with a report about a recent trip the pack made to Bristol:

“We had a good day at Bristol Hippodrome and thank goodness the weather was kind to us. As mentioned in last month’s LTB, Andrea Barratt was unable to go as she moved to Tamworth. So I wrote to Mr John Inman explaining that she was very disappointed and almost by return of post, he sent a signed photograph, also a programme in which was a photograph of him and he had written across it, “To Andrea with love from John Inman”. This was forwarded to Andrea who has written a nice letter of thanks. A special thank you here to Mrs A Beesley who supplied us all with a packet of opal fruits to munch through during the show.”

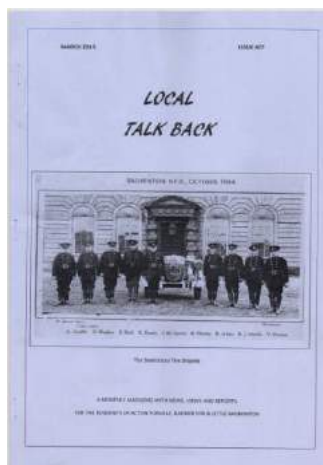
That was nice of John Inman wasn’t it? And very kind of Anne Beesley too, don’t you think? Do any of our readers recall the trip? Let us know if you do.

From the Archives (cont'd)

20 Years Ago - March 2003

There was no Talk Back in March 2003, and it wouldn't reappear until May 2003 when the editorial explained that, "due to the workload that production of the magazine promotes, it will only be published bi-monthly." Let's jump forward to 2013 then; we can return to 2003 in a couple of months' time.

10 Years Ago - March 2013



The March 2013 edition of Talk Back has a picture of the Badminton National Fire Service (which is how the Fire Brigade was known during the war years) on its front cover, taken in October 1944. The editorial, by The Three Country Girls, welcomes Mark as the new landlord to the Fox & Hounds, and wishes him every success in his new venture. It's great to see he's still there and the pub is flourishing.

The Country Girls have been out and about again this month, this time on the hunt for seasonal snowdrop displays. There was a trip to Colesbourne Park between Cirencester and Cheltenham which sounds like something of a mecca for snowdrop enthusiasts with over 250 varieties in their collection. For their second day out, the Girls stayed more local, visiting somewhere I've seen signposted but never visited myself – Camers Gardens at Old Sodbury. Camers is a private residence with an Elizabethan farmhouse and landscaped gardens which are set out a different levels, providing views over the Severn Estuary and beyond. The Country Girls clearly enjoyed their visit:

"As we progressed through the different garden areas, we came across other sculptures amongst the plants, several incorporating coloured glass and others in stone or metal. There were also several water features including a boy playing his flute as he sits above the water of a tumbling spring. The Topiary Sea is a fascinating feature where miniature box hedges are formed into waves, a "pea green boat" with the owl and the pussycat as passengers. There was a surprise around every corner and great use was made of the sloping landscape. The view across to the Severn valley and Welsh mountains was quite spectacular. Who could think, as you drive down the hill into Old Sodbury, that this view is possible from here."

Readers were presented with a variety of options for broadening their social horizons. Over two evenings in March, the Hawkesbury Theatrical Group were presenting "more hilarious comedy" with their versions of those comedy classics The Vicar of Dibley and Fawlty Towers. It's not clear whether they kept Dibley and Fawlty as two separate shows, or merged the two to create something quite unique (and strangely appealing), but whatever route they took, the results were "Not Suitable for Young Children". The craft group were still holding their monthly meetings in Badminton Hall, and there was a report from the Hawkesbury Gardening Club who, at their January meeting, had enjoyed a talk from Brian Noble entitled Mediterranean Vegetables and What To Do With Them. The club were regular contributors to Talk Back until recently. Are they still going I wonder? An opportunity to demonstrate your new-found skills with Mediterranean vegetables would be presenting itself in May:

ACTON TURVILLE SAFARI SUPPER

Another Safari Supper around Acton Turville is planned for Saturday 11th May.

If you would like to join the fun, please contact Belinda Elford or Eileen Stephens.

Who knows who you will meet?

Elsewhere, at the January meeting of the Badminton Parish Council, Tim Nicholls reported on the need to introduce some form of filtering on the A46 Cross Hands traffic lights, a subject which is still causing issues and generating debate. There is also confirmation that "part-night street lighting" would shortly be implemented, with lights turned off between midnight and 5am "where it was safe to do so" to reduce carbon emissions and conserve energy.

Finally, following on from last month's warning about cold callers, this time Talk Back is warning readers about a scam aimed at those looking for work who have uploaded their CVs onto the internet.

"The scammers offer the person work, but are known to request passport details, copies of birth certificates and even print outs of their online bank accounts as part of the recruitment process. They use other genuine business details and telephone numbers with local dialling codes."

We hope this month's From The Archives stories bring back some memories for you. Do you know what happened to Will Pinnell after his tour with The Wurzels? Did you get to meet Ted Heath at Badminton? Are you still coming to terms with the Vicar of Dibley's visit to Fawlty Towers? Or are you now doing amazing things with Mediterranean vegetables? We'd love to hear from you!

MEET THE ADVERTISER

LANDCARE TREE & PLANT NURSERY

It was only back in December that JJ's Gardening Blog was recommending Landcare Tree & Plant Nursery as a great place to buy trees, so it's really nice to be able to welcome them on board as Talk Back's newest advertiser. Located in Old Sodbury, not far from The Dog Inn public house, Landcare Nursery is open to both the general public and trade. On a recent visit to the nursery, we caught up with Tom and Charlotte who explained a bit about their business.

"Our names are Tom and Charlotte Hodder and we took over Landcare Tree and Plant Nursery in November of last year. Tom already has an established Tree Surgery and Landscape management company, Simply Gardens, so the two work together nicely!"

You're known as "the place for trees", but looking round there's much more on offer?

"Yes, Landcare is a traditional tree and plant nursery specialising in potted, bare root and root ball trees and hedging but we offer a wide range of other plants and wildflowers too. We're also excited to be launching our new garden shop this month, as well as expanding the variety of herbaceous plants on offer. We have a website <http://www.landcaretrees.co.uk/> that describes some of the plants and materials we sell, and the services we offer, but our stock is always changing so we recommend you call us if there's something specific you're looking for. Better still, come and visit us!"

A visit is definitely the best way to get a feel for the place and see the wide range of plants you offer. Are there any offers available to Local Talk Back readers?

"We'd love your readers to come and meet our friendly team. What's more, we're offering 10% off until the end of April, by presenting the discount coupon included in our advert within this magazine. We look forward to seeing you!"

What's not to like? We really enjoyed our visit to Landcare and would like to thank Tom and Charlotte for taking the time to talk to us. They're located along Chapel Lane in Old Sodbury, postcode BS37 6SJ. You can call them on 01454 310664, email them on info@landcaretrees.co.uk or, best of all, pay them a visit. You won't be disappointed.



From The Archives - Local Talk Back September 1988

ACTON TURVILLE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Village Day Out - 17 July - A mass exodus took place from the villagers of Great and Little Badminton and Acton Turville on Sunday, 17 July. The destination was the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp, Dorset.

After a couple of hours drive, we arrived at the Camp and proceeded to walk around the 1st and 2nd World War exhibits. Looking at them makes you wonder how a tank crew managed to sit in one of these tracked vehicles for many hours, never mind engaged in a battle. I am not surprised to hear that some men had to be forced to go in them!

After the look back in history we had one of the best buffet lunches I have seen! Not only was there plenty for everyone, but it was laid out in a very informal way which meant there was no pressure on our party, young and old alike.

After leaving the Camp we arrived in Weymouth within 40 minutes. We spent about 4 hours there, walking around the town, or just sat on the beach.

The coaches arrived at 6 pm and we headed for home. Just short of Shepton Mallet we stopped at a country pub with 2 coaches in the park. Plus our 2 and another arriving 10 minutes later, you can imagine it was a bit cramped, but the staff soon sorted us all out. We left at 9 pm and arrived home at 10.30pm. A good day had by all I hope. Thank you to all those who have written letters of thanks.

J J's GARDENING BLOG



Well, spring seems to be on its way. The snowdrops have spread their whiteness and delicate blooms at last. The daffodils, primulas and hellebore are making an effort too. This of course means little weeds are appearing also. Put on the gardening gloves and remove the weeds...On a sunny day with loose soil it is very enjoyable and probably very good in the 'stretch and bend' zone.

Get Mulching

Now is the latest time to mulch the beds and to prune the roses. Please notice that you weed the beds first, do not be tempted to cover the weeds thinking that you will smother them. The little blighters will revel in the food you have provided and will appear stronger and larger than before.

Be Prepared

The Shed. It needs a review: have you got some sacks of soil, new ones have got more umph than old. And those tools, are they sharp? Pruning saw, secateurs, hoe? It is rather frustrating to go outside to garden only to discover that the tool needed for the job is blunt. Oh, and don't forget the gardening string!

Jobs for This Month

Check the ties on the trees and make sure the stakes are not rubbing. A tree which has been in the ground for two years can have the stake removed.

Evergreen shrubs can have a trim up. If your box has died from blight or whatever, try something else. Remove the dead box and refresh the planting area with compost/rotted manure, replant, try any of the small leaved eponymous, and water well.

As a guide: anything in a pot can be planted at any time. But try and be sensible, a warm soil will be more successful than a north easterly weather forecast.

Lawns could have a light trim to tidy things up on a dry day.

And Finally

The wallflowers are starting to flower. Enjoy their lovely scent.

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

'Easy'

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

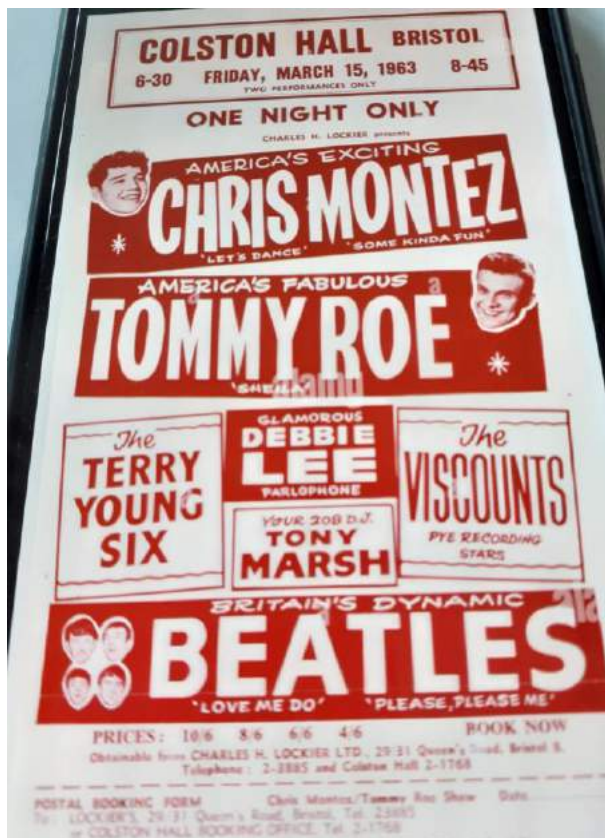
'Not so Easy'

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

Was It Really 60 Years Ago?

The announcement that The Who will be playing live at Badminton this summer has created quite a buzz, and many people have been reminiscing about trips to see their favourite bands over the years. Local Talk Back has previously mentioned a coach trip that took members of the local youth club to see the Beatles play at the Colston Hall in Bristol. One of those who went along that night was John Smith from Acton Turville. John is lucky enough to have a poster advertising the evening, and when he checked the date he realised it will soon be exactly 60 years since that trip to Bristol. Was it really that long ago?

Early incarnations of the Beatles had started playing in 1960, but it wasn't until 1962 that they settled on their classic line-up of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. Guided by manager Brian Epstein, the Beatles honed their sound and image with a punishing schedule of gigs – in 1962, they played an amazing 391 times, often putting on lunchtime shows at venues such as the Cavern Club in Liverpool before heading off cross-country to perform again the same evening. It might have been a harsh regime, but it transformed the band into a slick, professional outfit with a loyal fanbase, in their home town and beyond. In 1962, they signed to EMI Records, and in October 1962 they released their debut single, Love Me Do.



By the time of their Bristol show, they had a second single under their belt, Please Please Me, which was riding high in the charts, but their debut album of the same name was yet to be released. They were hardly a household name. That is reflected by their position on the bill that night, behind not only two established acts from across the Atlantic, described on the flyer as “America’s Exciting Chris Montez” and “America’s Fabulous Tommy Roe”, but also behind four more British acts. The Beatles were the first of seven performers to grace the stage of the Colston Hall that night. Their set consisted of just six numbers: Love Me Do, Misery, A Taste Of Honey, Do You Want To Know A Secret, Please Please Me and I Saw Her Standing There.

John remembers his trip to the Colston Hall well. “We travelled to Bristol on Flints Luxury coaches to see the concert. Tickets cost 10/6, approximately 50p today. I can remember Tommy Roe singing Dizzy, Chris Montez singing Let’s Dance and the Beatles singing Please Please Me which was Number 1 in the charts at the time. On our way home we stopped in Downend for a bag of chips costing 1 shilling or 5p in today’s money.”

Such “package tours” were quite common in the sixties. The tour with Chris Montez visited 21 towns and cities in March 1963, playing as far south as Exeter and as far

north as Newcastle. For the Beatles, it came on the back of a 14-date tour when they were part of an 11-act package headed by 16-year old singing sensation Helen Shapiro, and prior to a 24-date Spring tour in April and another 23 dates in May. The fact that the Beatles had by then been promoted to be joint-headliners with Roy Orbison showed that Beatlemania was by now in full swing!

In December 2017, Local Talk Back was planning an article to coincide with the Colston Hall’s 150th anniversary, and asked readers to share their memories of the venue, in particular the time when the Beatles played there in 1963 (Talk Back actually incorrectly said it was 1964). We were very grateful to receive two replies, the first from Sheila Staines who, at the time of the trip was Sheila Crewe and lived at Didmarton. She went with her future husband Michael Staines.

Sheila explained that she belonged to the Badminton Youth Club which met at Badminton Village Hall. Mike’s father, Desmond Staines, was Clerk of the Works for the Badminton Estate and ran the youth club. It was Desmond that organised the coach trip to see the Beatles, which was quite the highlight of the year. Sheila remembers: “Chris Montez was also part of the show, but the Beatles were the band that everyone wanted to see.” Whether Beatlemania had begun by then made little difference because, as Sheila explained, “everyone was screaming anyway which proved to be a bit too much for Desmond who didn’t appreciate “all the screaming kids” so took himself off to the bar!”

Was It Really 60 Years Ago? cont'd

Sheila also remembers Mike buying himself a Beatles wig and wearing it to the pictures once, causing a bit of a stir. "The Beatles went on to become the most famous band in the country", said Sheila, "and Badminton Youth Club were lucky that they got to see them live, even if they couldn't hear them!" Sheila also corroborates John's story about a food stop on the way home at Downend and remembers "one of the Hawkesbury lads having a fight with a local lad!"

The second response came from the Rev Christopher Mulholland. Although he didn't attend the show at the Colston Hall, he had his own very special memories of the Beatles' early days. He recalled: "In the 1960s I was living near Liverpool and a friend of mine told me that some school friends at Quarry Bank High School had a pop group. They played in church and did village hall gigs. They had recorded a disc and it was to be released that day (5th October 1962). My friend was going to buy the disc at NEMS Record Store in Whitechapel, Liverpool which I think was owned by Brian Epstein."

"In those days, a purchaser selected a record and stood under a hood to hear it played before deciding whether to buy it. Davin Abrahams and I listened to "Love Me Do" by the Beatles. It sounded entirely unmusical to me and I said "you're not going to pay six shilling and eightpence for that are you?" David said "yes, I want to support them." Love Me Do went to about number 18 in the charts. Within a few weeks, another release went straight to the top and the Beatles were a national success and soon after...well the rest is history."

"At those times my friends and I could go to The Cavern Club in Matthew Street in Liverpool at lunchtime for one shilling (5 pence) and hear live, up-and-coming pop bands. Cilla Black was the cloakroom girl and I remember hearing the unknown Gerry & The Pacemakers and Freddie & The Dreamers. The Cavern Club was an old wine cellar below street level in a back street of central Liverpool. Until that time, Liverpool was a city famous for two football teams, dock strikes and a failing maritime history but suddenly it became the pop music centre of the universe."

The Beatles would return to the Colston Hall twice more, in November 1963 and again in November 1964, although local fans would also have been able to catch them on their 72-day Summer 1963 tour when they played the Bath Pavilion in June and, amazingly, six consecutive nights at the Odeon Theatre in Weston-Super-Mare.

By 1965, they were scaling back their live tours as their sound became increasingly difficult to replicate on stage, and they were spending more and more time in the studio. Their final live performance took place on the 30th January 1969 when they played on the roof of the Apple headquarters building, Saville Row, in London. The performance lasted 42 minutes and finished with the song Get Back.

On the 25th June 2022, 59 years after he first took to the stage at the Colston Hall, Paul McCartney headlined the main stage at Glastonbury. His 38-song set culminated very fittingly with the Beatles song The End.

ROD STEWART AND THE WHO AT BADMINTON

Think of events on the Badminton Estate and what do you think of? The horse trials immediately spring to mind, but don't forget the open gardens and the annual tough mudder challenge. But live music, featuring two of the biggest-selling UK performers of all time? No, we definitely weren't expecting that!

First up, on the 2nd July it's Rod Stewart. Since the mid-seventies, Rod Stewart has enjoyed huge commercial success as a solo artist with a string of chart-topping singles and albums, but he first found fame in the sixties as a member of highly-influential bands such as the Jeff Beck group and The Faces. He is rock n roll royalty.

So what does that make The Who, the band who have continually reinvented themselves ever since they first crashed onto the music scene in 1964? The term "legendary" is frequently over-used in modern music, but if any band deserves that status, it's surely The Who. With a CV that includes classic songs such as My Generation, appearances at the Woodstock and Isle of Wight festivals, a couple of rock operas and more stories of rock 'n' roll excess than you can shake a stick at, The Who are up there with the very best. Playing at Badminton on the 19th July with orchestra backing (and Zak Starkey on drums!), this is one not to be missed.

See the Badminton Estate website for full details and to order your tickets.

Church Matters

March 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

We are now in Lent. If you come to church you should find that the liturgical colour has changed to purple, reminding us of those words of Isaiah in his first chapter:

‘Come now, and let us reason together,
saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.’

Purple is the colour of penitence. Penitence for bad actions, harmful words, negative thoughts.

Perhaps we are sometimes guilty of avoiding such things, maybe we excuse ourselves by saying “it’s not my fault”, or pointing the finger at someone else and saying “it’s him - not me”.

Our society is very good at finger-pointing. Whenever anything goes wrong, it is always someone’s fault. Someone must be blamed. Someone must be held to account. Are we becoming a blaming culture, which easily happens if we stop being honest and reflective about ourselves.

Lent is a time to reflect on our own failings and knowing that as soon as we do, and we own up to them, God meets us and forgives us. And if God forgives us, we should forgive ourselves. And there should be no need for finger-pointing.

With my best wishes

Richard

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

LENT 2023

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING DURING LENT, RICHARD THOMSON (VICAR) WILL BE HOLDING AN ON-LINE BIBLE REFLECTION. EACH ONE STARTS AT 9.30AM. WHY NOT JOIN HIM? THE LINK IS:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/7381120380](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7381120380)

Church Services for February 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5 th March Lent Begins	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
12 th March	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	11.00am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
19 th March Mothering Sunday	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.30am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Mothering Sunday Theme	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Family Service Mothering Sunday Theme	Rev R Thomson
26 th March	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Please! No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area.

All gates must be kept shut. No vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission of the Parish Council. Please put all litter in the bins provided.

Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.

FEBRUARY 2023 REPORT

Items discussed at February's meeting included:

Playing Field Maintenance - If you are 18 and over and would like to help with maintaining the playing field, even on a temporary basis, why not come along on Saturday 18th March where we'll be explaining what's involved and offering training on how to use the mower. See below for more details.

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

Village signs - We are pleased to report several new road and footpath signs and have been recently installed to replace those missing or damaged.

Community Speed Watch - The Speed Watch Team are looking to recruit additional volunteers who can help in this important activity. Please contact the Parish Council if you can help.

Planning - Following the extensive consultations with residents of Acton Turville and Badminton Estate, South Glos Council have now approved with conditions the proposed development at Hollybush Farm. The decision notices have been posted on the Parish Notice Board. Full details can be found on the South Glos Website.

Village Spring Clean - The date for the next Spring Clean will be Saturday 18th March. Everyone welcome.

Parish Notice Board - We recently received a donation from a local company to enhance the area around the notice board. The aim is to remove the weeded section and install a low flower bed. Work is hoped to commence at the end of March.

Parish Councillors:

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

*Next Meeting: Monday 13 March 2023 @ 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website*

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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

ACTON TURVILLE PLAYING FIELD - VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

We are fortunate in Acton Turville to have a small group of volunteers who give up their time to maintain the playing field. Could you help us make it a slightly larger group of volunteers?

As part of the Spring Clean event on the 18th March, we will be explaining what is involved in maintaining the field and demonstrating how machinery such as the ride-on mower operates. If you're over 18 and think you might be able to help, we'd love to see you between 10 and 11am at the playing field.

Full training and safety equipment will always be provided before any machinery is operated.

THE ACTON TURVILLE SPRING CLEAN

The Annual Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 18th March 2023.

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?

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Picture Gallery



We start with a picture kindly sent in by our good friend June Gott. It was taken in the car park of the Fox & Hounds at Acton Turville to mark the millennium, but can anyone tell us who took the photograph and who organised it? We've enjoyed scrutinising the full-size version with a magnifying glass to see who we can recognise but accept that might not be so easy with this copy. If you want a scan of the picture, get in touch with us here at Talk Back and we'll see what we can do.

We continue the nostalgic theme with the pictures below. Going clockwise from top right, we start with the opening of the Acton Turville play area by Her Grace, Miranda, Duchess of Beaufort in September 2014. Next we have a picture from the street fair held in June 2012 to mark the centenary of the Badminton Village Club, with the 11th Duke admiring a horse-drawn fire appliance bearing his name, then one from the Silver Jubilee "It's A Knockout" event held in the grounds of Badminton House in 1977. Finally an advert for the Badminton Social Club, dating from 2019. The club was a great supporter of Local Talk Back. It's still greatly missed.

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