

# Local Talk Back

MARCH 2024

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

ISSUE 546



Snowdrops at Painswick Rococo Gardens, near Stroud. Picture by the Editor



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



# EDITORIAL MARCH 2024

2024 has packed a lot into its first two months hasn't it? Every week seems to bring a new conflict, a new political outrage, a new weather extreme or a new threat to our financial well-being. Then in February the unthinkable happened. Nestle announced they were to stop producing the Breakaway chocolate bar. After 54 years, packed lunches will never be the same again. As soon as I heard the news I was immediately transported back to family picnics when, after reluctantly chomping through piles of egg sandwiches and rather dubious-tasting meat-paste rolls, our spirits would be raised when a packet of Breakaways miraculously appeared from the bottom of the cool box. They remained a firm favourite over many years, even seeing off a brief challenge from the Orange Club biscuit which blotted its copybook by constantly shrinking in size and acquiring an ever-thinner coating of chocolate. However, in a very small way I might indirectly be responsible for the Breakaway's demise, as, like a lot of people I suspect, it must be 30 years since I last sampled one. And that's often the way isn't it? We're up in arms when a favourite shop closes, a magazine ceases publication or public transport is withdrawn, but when we think about it we realise we only ever visited the shop to look at items we subsequently bought on Amazon, read the magazines from cover to cover in WH Smiths without ever buying one, and admired the concept of public transport but not enough to actually use it ourselves.

No doubt sales of Breakaways will reach unprecedented levels over the coming weeks as people seek out that one final indulgence, only to find the Orange Club biscuit wasn't the only one shedding its chocolate covering. After that they'll start appearing on eBay, snapped up by buyers lured in by its nostalgic charms. The decision is then whether to eat it, frame it or bring it out on special occasions to impress your friends: "so when did you last see one of these?" Maybe one will be bought by the same person who also invests in a set of four genuine 1980s Tesco's plastic carrier bags, a copy of the East Grinstead Courier newspaper from the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1974, or the vintage 1970s Kenwood Chef food mixer, all of which are currently for sale on eBay. Clearly nostalgia sells (although my bet is that newspaper will prove to be a bit niche for someone to throw a fiver at it). It's not just physical items either. When I was reading the magazines in WH Smiths the other day (lol...) I spotted one called The Best of British, sporting a large Union flag on the cover. After sidling over towards it and making sure I wasn't about to pick up the monthly journal of Combat 18 or some other banned neo-Nazi party, I was reassured to see it declared itself to be 'The UK's Leading Nostalgia Monthly', with articles on Radio Caroline, cigarette cards and the record-breaking aeroplanes that made Britain famous. They even claimed to have tracked down the little lad who famously starred in the television adverts for Hovis bread all those years ago, and promised no less than 16 pages of readers' real-life stories.

All of a sudden I came to my senses and thought how humiliating it would be if I was spotted reading a magazine that was clearly aimed at my grandad's generation, only to realise it wasn't. I remember that Hovis advert when it was first on the TV, and I'd happily tag along with my father to see those same record-breaking aeroplanes performing at airshows around the country. I was the target audience. And it's true, the seventies and eighties are now peak nostalgia. What's more, you can charge more for it if you call it 'retro'. The people who grew up during those times are looking for reminders of their youth and have the funds available to pay for it (or read about it in WH Smiths). The seventies are the new 50s and the eighties are the new 60s. Turn on the TV and it's full of popular (and worryingly obscure) shows from back then. If you want a more immersive experience you can take yourself away to a holiday camp for an out-of-season seventies-themed weekend. There, the stars of yesteryear will beat out all their big hits while you dance the night away in your flares and tank top, only stopping when your back plays up or your knee starts to swell.

Make the most of it, because it won't be long before the seventies lose their cool and it's the 90s that are retro. Then you'll really feel old.

Just before I go and tuck into a plate of Breakaways, all of us here at Local Talk Back really want to thank everyone who ensures the newsletter reaches you every month, from our regular contributors, our advertisers and the people at Sprint Print who turn around our little newsletter so quickly, to the volunteers who collect and distribute it and of course the very kind people who donate every month. We never take your support for granted, and we always appreciate it. Thank you.

Now, where did I put that East Grinstead Courier? And my reading glasses, I can never find them...

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

Items for Local Talk Back email to: [localtalkback1975@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkback1975@gmail.com) Tel: 01454 218267

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: [LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com](mailto:LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com)

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE APRIL EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024.  
THANK YOU.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**March 2024**

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Point-to-Point Races, Didmarton
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Iced Biscuits Workshop, Badminton Estate
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Gardens in aid of Dorothy House (see What's On page for details)
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Rural Cinema, A Haunting In Venice (12A)
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, St Mary's, 6.30pm
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Music Quiz, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Spring Clean
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Bread Making Workshop, Badminton Estate
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Defibrillator Training, Trinity School, Acton Turville. 6.30pm. See ATPC update for details

**April 2024**

- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, St Mary's, 6.30pm
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Dog Racing, Fox & Hounds
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Badminton House Open Gardens
- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Woodlands of Worcester Lodge Tour, Badminton Estate, 1.30 – 3.30pm

**\*\*\*Please check with venues before setting off\*\*\***

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

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE**

**100 Club**

WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

- Dick Elford
- Rebecca Rennie
- Anne Beesley

***Congratulations!***

**DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

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

*Richard & Xiawei Hartley £25*

*Sheila Carter £25*

*In addition, £67 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.*

*Thanks to you all.*

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

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

*To donate by cheque, please make payable to*

**LOCAL TALK BACK**

*and send to:*

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

**THE ACTON TURVILLE SPRING CLEAN**

The Annual Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick will be held on

**Saturday 16 March 2024**

Help keep our lovely village looking green, clean and tidy by joining us at the Fox & Hounds Car Park between 10 and 11am.

Everyone welcome!

Contact [actonturvillepc@aol.com](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) for more info.

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Tel: 01454 852255 or email: [info@sprint-print.co.uk](mailto:info@sprint-print.co.uk)

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### A HAUNTING IN VENICE

(2023, Cert 12A) – Crime Drama Horror

Starring: Kyle Allen, Camille Cottin, Jamie Dornan, Tina Fey, Jude Hill, Ali Khan, Emma Laird, Kelly Reilly, Riccardo Scamarcio and Michelle Yeoh.

Director: Kenneth Branagh

"A Haunting in Venice" is set in eerie, post-World War II Venice on All Hallows' Eve and is a terrifying mystery featuring the return of the celebrated sleuth, Hercule Poirot. Now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, Poirot reluctantly attends a séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo. When one of the guests is murdered, the detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

**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](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)



Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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



**ACTON TURVILLE  
SOCIAL**

# MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**FOX AND HOUNDS PUB**  
**7:30 PM**

**BRING A TEAM OR JOIN A TEAM**  
**TICKETS £5 a head**

To Sign Up Contact:  
Mel, Karen, or Caroline  
[ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com](mailto:ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com)

**SUMMER PARTY**  
**PRELIMINARY SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY 22 JUNE**

## Hellebores

Open Garden in aid of Dorothy House



Our Hellebores Open Garden is hosted at Kapunda – a gorgeous location with 2-acre gardens on the outskirts of Bath. It's the perfect setting for an early spring stroll! Parking will be available and there will be tea, coffee and cake for you to enjoy, along with the opportunity to purchase these beautiful Hellebore plants yourself. There is no need to pre-book, just turn up on the day.

### **Event information.**

Location

**Kapunda, Bath BA2 5SH**

Date and time

**3 March 2024, 2pm – 4pm**

Entry is £5, which supports us with our delivery of outstanding palliative and end-of-life care across Bath & North East Somerset, and parts of Somerset and Wilts.

For more information, contact:

[events@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk](mailto:events@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk)

01225 721480

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



## BADMINTON ESTATE

### FOR THCOMING EVENTS

#### ROYAL ICED BISCUITS

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH, 9.30AM - 1.30PM

ELEVATE YOUR BISCUIT DECORATING SKILLS WITH A ROYAL ICED BISCUIT WORKSHOP LED BY GRACE AND CLOVER AT BADMINTON HOUSE.

#### INTRODUCTION TO BREAD MAKING

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH, 10AM - 1PM

DISCOVER THE ART OF BREAD MAKING WITH OUR HANDS-ON WORKSHOP LED BY HOLLY FROM THE LOAF SHACK AT BADMINTON ESTATE.

#### BADMINTON HOUSE GARDEN OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL, 10AM - 4PM

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

#### THE WOODLANDS OF WORCESTER LODGE TOUR

WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1.30PM – 3.30PM

THIS WALK ACROSS BADMINTON ESTATE IS AN EXPLORATION OF THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORY OF THE LAND. IT WILL START AND END AT WORCESTER LODGE, WHERE VISITORS CAN SEE INSIDE THIS HISTORIC BUILDING AND ENJOY SOME WARM REFRESHMENTS.

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

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

### MARCH 2024 REPORT

**Flooding** – The PC has been informed that flooding due to blocked drains remains a problem in the vicinity of the railway bridge and railway approach. The issue has been raised with both Network Rail and South Glos Council, and District Councillor Becky Romain has also been appraised of the situation

**Fly Tipping** – Several instances of fly tipping have occurred recently. These have been reported to South Glos Council and the landowner. Villagers are encouraged to report any further occurrences via the South Glos website

**Acton Turville Spring Clean** – The 2024 Spring Clean will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. See this month's donations page for details.

**D-Day Anniversary Events** – Discussions are taking place with a number of groups to see how best the village may mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. Further information will be posted closer to the time.

### DEFIBRILLATOR and DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The defibrillator located outside The Stores in Acton Turville has previously required a code to access it. The code was known to those individuals who received training in how to use the device when it was originally installed, but a recent incident has highlighted the need to review this policy. Consequently the code is now prominently displayed on the front of the machine and in the window of The Stores.

**A defibrillator training session will take place at Trinity School on Wednesday 27th March at 6:30pm. Doors open 6.20pm. To book a place please contact: Paul Jones Village Agent on 07795442272, paul@wern.org.uk or speak to Tim or Iris in the shop.**

It is planned to hold a second session in April.

#### 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 6.30pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.  
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website*

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: [actonturvillepc@aol.com](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)



# ON THE LOCAL BUSES *Part 2*

*In last month's Local Talk Back we explained how we were taking a look at the bus services that serve our local villages. The first part covered the basics such as which buses stop in Acton Turville and Badminton, where they go and how often they run. It also mentioned the new WESTlink service which is an 'on demand' service that you need to book in advance. This month we've been out and about, putting the services to the test, finding how easy they are to use and how reliable they proved to be. Read on to discover how things went and what we learnt.*

It's February 2024 and a group of us are heading serenely towards Chipping Sodbury on a rather smart WESTlink bus which we'd booked hours earlier using an app on our mobile phones. Times have definitely changed since I was last on a bus.

You can find out how the WESTlink trip went a bit later on. Before that, let's look at the more traditional services, starting with the 41 that runs between Malmesbury and Yate. With the weather forecast promising a break from the recent wet and windy conditions, I decided to try out the service and make the short hop from Acton Turville to Yate. First things first - check the bus times and work out where to catch the bus from. A quick google took me to the Travelwest website at <https://travelwest.info/> which has the tagline "Travel in the West of England made simple." That sounds like my kind of website, and in no time I had the timetable for the No 41 in front of me. I picked the 10:25am and, with a couple of minutes to spare, wandered out to the bus stop. Now, if you're catching the bus from Badminton you're blessed with a bus shelter, located next to Drewett's Stores on the High Street, that has the latest bus timetables stapled to the back wall. In Acton Turville, there is no bus shelter. In fact, as far as I could tell there is nothing to indicate where the bus stop is sited. I was expecting a pole with a sign on top, and maybe a handy timetable attached to a board half way up the pole, but there's nothing. Thankfully there was a friendly group of people gathered near the junction with the Luckington Road who confirmed I was in the right place (and on the right side of the road), but surely, if you're trying to entice people onto public transport, making the bus stop visible would be a good starting point? The bus arrived with the route number and destination clearly displayed, and I paid the driver my £2 for a single ticket (cash or card accepted) before taking my seat amongst the half-dozen or so passengers who were already on board. It took just 20 minutes to reach Yate, having taken us past such landmarks as



*Badminton's charming bus shelter*

The Compass Inn at Tormarton and James Dysons' Doddington estate before heading down through Old Sodbury and along Chipping Sodbury High Street. I was impressed; the bus was clean and comfortable, it was on time and it dropped us off right in the heart of Yate shopping centre. Coming back reinforced the positive impressions with the clearly-marked bus stop at the Yate end making it easy to find the bus. The passengers I chatted to were mostly regular users. Some used the bus because it was their sole means of transport, others because it was so convenient, but they were all full of praise for the service.

The second of our "traditional" local bus services is the X79. As we explained last months, this is a "shopper special" which runs from Hullavington to Bath, via Acton Turville but not Badminton. And it only runs on Thursdays. We've yet to make it onto the X79, so we spoke to regular user June Gott to find out what she thinks of it. "I've been catching the X79 for over a year now and really appreciate the convenience of getting a bus which stops virtually outside my front door and drops me in the centre of Bath, just outside the Abbey. I normally meet a friend on the bus who starts her journey in Marlborough before catching the X79 in Hullavington, and we enjoy a good natter as the bus makes its scenic journey through lovely villages such as Castle Combe and Biddeston before arriving in Bath at 10:50am. It leaves Bath at 1:15pm, giving us around 2½ hours to look around the shops, enjoy a light lunch and take in the sights which is just right for us. I think we're very fortunate to have this bus and I always look forward to my trips to Bath. The fact that I can use my bus pass on it is even better! These days I wouldn't consider driving into Bath. It's so busy and congested, and parking can be a nightmare, but on the bus the whole experience is much more pleasurable and relaxing. I'm amazed more people don't use the shopper special, maybe they don't know about it, but the bus is never more than half full."

That seems to be a common theme, one we'll return to later.

*Cont'd over*

## *On the Local Buses (cont'd)*

And so to WESTlink, which claims to provide travellers with a new, more efficient type of bus service, freed from the constraints of timetables and fixed routes. That means it sends buses to where there are people waiting for them, and it takes the quickest route to its destination, bypassing those stops where nobody wants to get on or get off. For that to happen, all passengers need to book a seat on the bus, which is where Team Talk Back's WESTlink journey started. With support from local Village Agent Paul Jones and our friend and regular bus user June Gott, we decided to start small and take the WESTlink to Chipping Sodbury, where we'd have a coffee before heading back to Acton Turville. So, step 1, book the tickets. I opted to book on-line, but it's also possible to call them and do it over the telephone. My first attempt using a laptop was slow and frustrating with constant error messages (eg "Travel In This Zone Is Not Permitted"), no clear means of getting back to the home page, and numerous other irritations. Eventually I gave up and switched to my phone. That was much better. It was still not quite the slick on-line experience that other providers have managed to deliver but I got there in the end and the experience definitely improved with familiarity. We're going to persevere with booking WESTlink tickets on-line and via the phone and report back to let you know how we get on. One nuance to be aware of - you can only book tickets one day ahead or on the actual day of travel, and you're only given an arrival time on the day of travel. Presumably that's because WESTlink only plan the route at the last minute when they have the final list of passengers that they'll be picking up, but if you need to get somewhere by a specific time it adds an extra complication.

There were further glitches when it came to catching the bus. The confirmation text said we'd be picked up between 12.00 and 12.20pm. At 11.45am, we received a text to say the bus would pick us up in five minutes. Similar wobbles occurred on the return journey, where a 2.00pm-2.20pm window was promised but at 1.36pm we were texted to say the bus was five minutes away! We rushed to the pick-up point and got there at 1.50pm. Disaster. With no sign of the bus, we assumed we must have missed our ride home. Paul was just about to head for the nearest bar when, bang on 2.00pm, the bus loomed into view. All's well that ends well, but it took the shine off the experience. It also made us wonder how you'd get on if you didn't have a mobile phone as the service relies heavily on text updates to keep you informed of its whereabouts and expected arrival times. As for the bus ride, that was fine; it was just the three of us there and back for a journey that took the most direct route with no stops, shaving an impressive five minutes off the scheduled service. What a pleasant way to travel.

So, what did we learn from our look at the local bus services? Without exception, regular users of the 41 service operated by Coachstyle gave it a glowing report, describing it as cheap, reliable, comfortable and convenient with buses running throughout the day. As non-regular users, we agreed, but would like to see the bus stops properly identified in Acton Turville with timetables readily available. The X79 shopper special came in for similar praise from the regular users, but finding regular users was extremely difficult. In fact, finding anyone who'd even *heard* of the service was extremely difficult, it's as if someone is working very hard to keep its existence a secret. And finally, WESTlink. Our experience was something of a curate's egg; the bits WESTlink did well it did very well, but there some aspects which fell below our expectations, which was disappointing. It's as if it was introduced before it had received that final polish, that last upgrade, which was a great shame.

The final word goes to Paul, our Village Agent, who recognises how important the bus services are to our communities. "For a lot of people, these buses are their only means of transport, and they rely on them to get to the shops, to the doctors or to access other essential services. We're lucky to have the buses we have, but they are expensive to run and a prime target when resources are limited and cuts need to be made. Buses that don't attract lots of passengers are always going to be vulnerable, but the impact of losing those buses that serve villages such as ours has a major impact on the rural community, contributing to a sense of isolation. I'm sure if more people appreciated the benefits of travelling by bus the number of passengers would increase, but over these past few weeks I've been struck by how little is done to publicise our local services and give people the information they need. In addition, more and more of the information that people need to access bus services is moving on line. That's not a problem if you have access to the internet, but it's a real issue if you don't, and a surprising number of people are in that position. I'm going to report back my findings and discuss what can be done to encourage more people to use the buses, and part of that will definitely be to increase awareness and provide people with the information they need, but in the meantime I'm more than happy to help anyone who wants to know more about our local services on a one-to-one basis."

*Thanks to Paul Jones and June Gott for helping us with this article. So, what do you, our Local Talk Back readers, think of the local bus services? Do you use them? Are you a fan, could they be improved, or what needs to change for you to even consider getting on board? And WESTlink, if you've used it, how did you find it? Please let us know, we'd love to hear from you. The address is [localtalkback1975@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkback1975@gmail.com)*

## 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.



There's a term which I heard for the first time a few months back but which now seems to be cropping up more and more frequently: Ageing Well. It's the concept that getting older should not be perceived as a barrier to living a fulfilling life, and the realisation that there are many things that we can do to help us enjoy life to the full. In my Village Agent role, I spend a lot of time working with the increasing number of groups and organisations who are committed to helping us age well. Some you will have heard of, such as Age UK, but many of the other are new to me. What strikes me in particular is the number of these groups who operate locally, which enables them to deliver the one-to-one support that people typically want. One of these groups is called Evergreen, who have regular meetings in the village hall at Hawkesbury. In April, they are putting on a special event to showcase the sort of services available to help people age well. It's completely free and we're even looking to provide transport from Badminton and Acton Turville for those who need it. I'll be there, probably sitting near the cake stall, so why not come over, say hello and distract me from the cakes. I'd love to meet you. Full details of the event are below.

Paul

More information on the Village Agent project can be found here: [www.wern.org.uk/village-agents](http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents)

Contact me on:

T: 07795442272

E: [paul@wern.org.uk](mailto:paul@wern.org.uk)



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*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.*



## WELLBEING ROADSHOW

*Presented by the Evergreens Group*

**Hawkesbury Village Hall**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm**

*Did you know there are lots of groups and organisations in this area who are dedicated to helping people 'Age Well'? As well as keeping both physically and mentally active, a key part of Ageing Well is ensuring people have access to services which can make a real difference to their lives. This might include adapting homes to make them suitable for those with mobility issues, or offering advice on the sources of financial support which are sometimes available. The Wellbeing Roadshow brings together some of these groups and organisations in a friendly, sociable setting, allowing you to hear about the services they have to offer including:*

- *Advice on Finance and Pension Credit*
- *Home Adaptation Service and advice*
- *Movement and Physical Activity*
- *Talking Therapies and Mental Health*

*You'll also be able to learn about the Village Agent service for Cotswold Edge and how it may be able to help you, and the extensive range of services offered by Age UK, who will have people on hand to answer your questions.*

***Why not come along for tea, coffee and cake, a bit of fun and advice on ageing well!!***

*For more information or to arrange a lift to the event, contact Paul (Village Agent) on 0779 5442272 or Mandy (Evergreens) on 0787 6532021*

Supported by:





## THE VALENTINE CLUB – THE FIRST YEAR

By Yvonne Nettles & Sally Smith

As founder members of the Valentine Club we have been asked to write something about the history of the Valentine Club which ran from 1980 to 2009. It came about after a meeting to discuss having a WI in Badminton, which didn't get much response. We knew, from talking to the ladies in the village that some kind of group was needed but one in which we 'could do our own thing'. The two of us along with Anne Day went to see Gloria Gibson, wife of our Vicar, Rev Tom Gibson, to see if she had any ideas. Gloria said she would support us in any way she could.

Mrs Gibson wrote in the Local Talk Back for December 1979:

*A NEW GROUP FOR WOMEN - BADMINTON I have been approached by a number of women to form a new group which will have an affiliation to the Church. The main emphasis will be the home and family, but it is hoped that the activities of the group will cover a wide and interesting field. A meeting has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Jubilee room of the village hall where our meetings will be held. There will be a general discussion. So all those interested are invited to attend so that a wide range of views and suggestions may be looked at.*

*Mrs Gloria Thomson Gibson*

Followed in the January 1980

*Another meeting has been arranged for January to discuss further the formation of a women's group in these parishes. There was much enthusiasm expressed at our first meeting and we hope to go ahead and elect a committee and draw up a programme for the coming year. Please bring lots of ideas!!*

*G. Thomson Gibson*

We were to meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Jubilee Room of Badminton Memorial Hall. As our first meeting would be on 14<sup>th</sup> February - Valentine's Day – the name chosen for our group was to be The Valentine Club. We were yet to find out how this name caused a lot of hilarity and mistaken ideas in what kind of club we were! That happened especially when we were out in restaurants or other venues where we shared space with groups of strangers. The favourite idea that many came to about our name was that we were a Lonely Heart's Club.

The first meeting of our newly formed club was a great success. The evening started with a short service and Blessing in Badminton Church. Each member was presented with a single red rosebud expertly made by Yvonne Nettles and Sally Smith. The lesson was read by Mrs G Gibson. The theme of the service and sermon was 'Love' in its widest sense, and this being St. Valentine's Day was very appropriate. After the service, we were invited to the Vicarage for coffee and refreshments. This gave us a chance to chat and get to know each other.

The start of our club was covered by the Evening Post which headed it **Club Starts with Roses and Love**, and the Evening Post which declared **Ladies' Heart to Heart**.

We aimed to have a demonstration or interesting speaker once a month, and once a month an open meeting to do our own thing, or see what comes along. In addition to the Thursday meetings, it was planned to have lots of social occasions which would include husbands and friends, as well as something for the members' children.

We were all delighted that Lady Caroline Somerset, wife of Mr David Somerset, the Duke of Beaufort's heir, kindly accepted our invitation to be our President. It was hoped we would see her at lots of our gatherings, which we did even after she became the Duchess of Beaufort.

*Cont'd over*

*THE VALENTINE CLUB continued.*

A club committee was elected in which we tried to represent each age group of the club. While the hope was that the younger members would come forward with lots of bright new ideas, it was nice to know that we had older members from whom we could ask for help and advice.

The Committee was:

Chairman Gloria Gibson, Vice Chairman Nellie Rich, Secretary Anne Day, Treasurer Yvonne Nettles, Programme Sally Smith, Connie Vacher, Sheila Staines, Bronwen Barrett and Dawn Crewe.

THE VALENTINE CLUB PROGRAMME 1980

14 Feb	Church Service & Blessing and American Supper at the Vicarage
28 Feb	Tri-Chem Liquid Embroidery
13 Mar	Clevedon Opera - Rebel Maid
20 Mar	Bath Opera - Iolanthe
27 Mar	Beauty Therapy by Marie of Sante et Beaute, Chipping Sodbury
10 Apr	Beetle Drive
12 Apr	Skittle Evening at Badminton Village Club
24 Apr	Keep Fit - Talk and Demonstration
8 May	Talk by Social Worker Mr Williams
29 May	Sponsored Knit – in £10 to Local Talk Back
12 Jun	Talk and Slides on a Visit to India and the Far East by Lady Caroline and Mrs Lees-Milne
26 Jun	Cake Decoration by Mrs Kath Gentry and a baby photo competition
10 Jul	Fruit Picking trip to Ledbury and pub supper
24 Jul	Flower Arranging by Mrs Matthews of Chipping Sodbury Flower Club
26 Jul	Summer Fayre in the Vicarage Garden
21 Aug	Cheese and Wine party at the Vicarage
11 Sep	Silv-an-Eve Jewellery Party
25 Sep	Consumer Rights talk by the Trading Standards Office
9 Oct	Clothing Sale by Mrs Chris Ditte
23 Oct	Creative Dance talk and demo by Marie Ware and Vance of the Bristol Dance Company
13 Nov	Members' Dinner – a Medieval Banquet at Caldicot Castle
27 Nov	Home Made Wine talk by Radio Bristol's Maurice Chant
29 Nov	Christmas Jumble Sale – Fund Raising
11 Dec	Beetle Drive
19 Dec	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party
30 Dec	Pantomime trip to see Alladin at the Bristol Hippodrome



## VALENTINE CLUB – continued

Well, just looking through the programme for the year and the notes on each month was an experience. We felt quite worn out as we both agreed “How did we do all this?”. There was a lot of behind-the-scenes work mostly carried out by the committee but on other occasions everyone pitched in. Just finding all the speakers and demonstrators was a major job, much of which was down to Sally who was forever on the phone.

The programme was certainly a varied mix of talks and demos so here we enlarge on some of them.

**Liquid Embroidery:** small tubes of paints to use on material. It was so interesting that lessons were arranged in the home of Sheila Staines. We purchased a large tablecloth on which someone drew a design and the letters of *THE VALENTINE CLUB* and then anyone who wished would ‘embroider’ part of the design.

**Light Operas:** Penny Wood of Badminton was involved with the Bath Opera *Iolanthe*, and the Clevedon Light Opera Club read about our new group in the Evening Post and sent a letter offering us special concessionary booking for 50p per ticket instead of 80p.

**India and the Far East:** This was the first time that our President Lady Caroline attended a club meeting and with the help of Mrs Lees-Milne gave an interesting and amusing talk, with slides, of their recent visit to India. To add more interest to the evening they both arrived wearing Indian outfits.

**Fruit Picking:** A fruit picking evening when a 45-seater coach took members and friends to Hill Top Farm at Ledbury. It was a warm sunny evening and after filling our baskets with ‘pick-your-own’ strawberries and raspberries we returned via a pub for food and drinks, arriving home rather later than planned. Some of those baskets of juicy strawberries weren’t able to be sorted before the next afternoon and by that time were very squishy. Never mind – we had a good time.

**Summer Fayre:** this was opened by the Duchess of Beaufort who was presented with a bouquet by Donna Smith. Members and husbands worked hard to arrange games, stalls, tombola, skittles and more. Tea and cakes were served by Dora Viner and Beryl Pounsberry. £224 was raised towards the Christmas Party and Pantomime outing.

**Caldicot Medieval Banquet:** 23 ladies only travelled to Caldicot Castle. Once across the drawbridge of a real castle we stepped back in history, wearing bibs and eating from wooden boards with only a knife.

**Bristol Creative Dance Company:** Marie Ware and Vance gave a demo of Modern Ballet. Members joined in with the limbering up. Bronwen and Ann joined Marie and Vance in a dance sequence.

**Senior Citizens Christmas Party:** Invitations were sent out to the pensioners of Badminton who enjoyed an Afternoon Tea and entertainment. Guests included the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, and Lady Caroline Somerset. Bill Pinnell played the organ for a sing-a-long of Carols, followed by a short entertainment by Charlie Crewe and Friends. Everyone was given sherry and mince pies before the end of the party and everyone went home with a present from under the tree. Each guest had been given a lucky number for a draw. The prize was a blanket made from squares knitted at our sponsored knit -in. it was won by Hilda Halford, Badminton’s most senior resident.

**Pantomime:** 52 members, children and friends went to see Danny La Rue in *Alladin* at the Bristol Hippodrome. The children were taken free.

All in all it was a very successful year. Our members were aged 18 to 84 and from the villages of Badminton, Little Badminton, Acton Turville, Burton, Tormarton, Didmarton and Yate.

# Church Matters

## March 2024 Letter from the Vicar

Dear All,

In preparation for Lent, I've been studying the book of Revelations. I have been learning from an American evangelist from the deep south. And from a Biblical teacher in London.

Comparing the two approaches to scripture has been fascinating. One is full of diatribe against Catholicism, and the liberal thinkers of the western theological tradition, enjoining one to believe in Jesus or face the consequences. The other is a more learned approach to the historical background and is less preachy.

You would think that the first would be less popular than the more up-to-date liberal teacher. But you would be wrong. And this reflects the situation with religion today. Neo-Conservative approaches to religion are very popular, whereas the more gentle Christianity that we are used to in the countryside, is less so.

Why is this? The answer is probably very simple. People follow a faith for different reasons. Currently, people are gravitating towards the authoritarian, absolutist type of religion, which condemns all else besides. The inclusive, more moderate position of the liberal tradition, welcoming all faiths, and none, seems to be not so well supported.

Where does this leave the parish Church? Surely, we can not believe that God ignores other religions or indeed our faith is the only true one? And yet, we do believe that God challenges us to believe. Whether in Jesus or Allah, or whatever name God is called. To accept God and follow God, requires sacrifice and urgency. To use a football analogy- The playing field might level, but the goals still need to come.

It does matter whether or not we believe, or whether we respond to Truth and act justly. It also matters that we are not blinkered nor bigoted. Evil is wrong, and it must be fought against. We think God exists, but God does go by many different names, even perhaps by the name 'atheism', which has a respected theological pedigree behind it believe it or not (called the 'apathetic' way). And for sure, it is vital that we encourage people to take their faith seriously, and not be lukewarm.

Have a Happy March,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

Email: [revrichardthomson@gmail.com](mailto:revrichardthomson@gmail.com)

Home:01454 219236/ Mob:07717791858

### Church Services for March 2024

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
3 <sup>rd</sup> March Lent 3	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
10 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 4 and Mothering Sunday	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
18 <sup>th</sup> March Lent 5	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
24 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev L Maydew
29 <sup>th</sup> March Good Friday	12.00 Noon	Little Badminton	Good Friday Liturgy	Rev R Thomson
	1.30pm	Hawkesbury	Readings and Music	Rev R Thomson
	2.30pm	Hawkesbury	Walk up the Knoll to the Cross	Rev R Thomson
31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter Day	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
Online 9.30am every Thursday		Ask Vicar for Link	Matins	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)



## J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Well, the bulbs are pushing up through the soil and the snowdrops are putting on a good show. Pick a few to put in a small vase near where you sit or on a bedside table. It really lifts one's spirits. Some coloured stems, such as red cornus are also worth picking. Maybe plant one or several in your garden. Something evergreen or variegated near the front of a border or close to where you come in and out cheers things up. Potentially growing to about five feet tall is Fatsia japonica, evergreen and also variegated, with quite large hand shaped leaves.

But it does look a bit exotic at this time of year and different.

### **Perk Up Your Pots**

The pots could probably do with a freshen up. Small daffodils, crocus, short iris reticulata. Try to add some fresh potting soil whenever you add new plants to troughs etc.

### **And Finally**

Keep an eye out for how big a plant is growing in your scheme, and before it gets too big use the secateurs. The plant will then stay compact without large holes.

## 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 !!**

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

### **NOT SO EASY !!**

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

### 'Easy'

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

### 'Not so Easy'

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



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## *Snowdrops at Painswick*



As always, the Rococo Garden at Painswick put on a fine display of snowdrops this year. After carefully studying the weather forecast, we managed to find what promised to be a rare sunny day and headed up the A46 towards Stroud. Thankfully the forecast was spot on for a change and we didn't have to call on the boot full of wet weather gear that we packed just in case! The Rococo gardens are always a lovely place to while away an afternoon, and in the sunshine the snowdrops looked particularly spectacular. With the additional attraction of a coffee shop selling delicious home-made cakes and a well-stocked nursery offering a wide selection of plants, it was definitely worth the effort. For more information about the Rococo Garden, go to:

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

