

Local Talk Back

NOVEMBER 2023

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

ISSUE 543



THE STORES, ACTON TURVILLE, CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN THE SAFE HANDS OF TIM AND IRIS PENNEY. CONGRATULATIONS!



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

EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 2023

The television schedules are full of people fixing things up just now aren't they? From a crumbling village in a remote region of France which is being rebuilt from the ground up by someone whose previous DIY experience was changing a lightbulb, to the transformation of a rusty heap of a car into a priceless gem, everyone is at it. I quite enjoy the programmes. It's somehow therapeutic watching someone overcome all manner of obstacles to achieve their aim and deliver something of which they can be justifiably very proud. Of course it's made for TV, and I sometimes get the impression there's lots going on in the background which never gets shown on the screen. I remember someone saying their brother had been on one of those programmes where a group of strangers take it in turn to cook dinner for each other. Afterwards, they provide a stinging critique of the evening which invariably contradicts all the nice things they'd been saying to the host when they were seated at the table. I was shocked when he told me how contrived everything was, with people being told what to say and how to behave with one poor lady being told to be "generally unpleasant". And there was me thinking everything on TV was real.

Anyway, back to the restoration shows, one I keep returning to is *The Repair Shop*, presented by cheeky London chappie Jay Blades, where artefacts in dire need of specialist care are brought in by members of the public (well, I assume they're members of the public – maybe they're just actors. See, my confidence in television has been shattered). The artefacts brought along to *The Repair Shop* are invariably family heirlooms with an interesting back-story that makes them special to the people bringing them in. Whatever the item, and whatever the problem might be with it, *The Repair Shop* have someone who can fix it. It's amazing the diverse range of skills these people have, and the very niche areas in which they work. For example, I can imagine people who restore paintings, furniture or pottery for a living are kept quite busy and receive enough commissions to make it worth their while financially, but how about the two ladies whose area of expertise is teddy bear restoration? With surgical precision they reverse the aging process by reattaching long-lost limbs, ears and eyes. Then they replace stuffing that has lost its bounce, and hide bald patches by invisibly grafting in new pieces of perfectly-matched fur. They do an amazing job and are clearly very skilled at what they do, but is there really a market for teddy bear restorers? Can you make a living from it (I'm asking for a friend, honest...)?

After many hours and days being brought back to life by a member of the restoration team, the beautifully-refreshed family heirlooms are reunited with their owners, the television cameras catching their delight as our friend Jay lifts the cloth to reveal the transformation for the first time. Smiles are good, tears of joy are a bonus. And that's just from the viewers. And therein lies part of the programme's appeal. Whereas the focus of the people rebuilding their villages in France or restoring their rusty cars is a nice healthy profit, *The Repair Shop* makes no mention of money. People are overjoyed, not because the value has increased ten-fold (and the licence fee payer is picking up the tab), but because something important to them has been returned to the state they remember from years ago, bringing back happy memories in the process (and the licence fee payer is picking up the tab). Sometimes it's not about the money. It's feel-good viewing.

I wonder if that bloke in France sometimes wishes he was restoring a teddy bear rather than a crumbling village?

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

Cover Story

2023 marks 20 years since Tim and Iris Penney took over *The Stores* in Acton Turville, saving the local shop from closure and potential demolition. In that time they have transformed *The Stores* into a thriving business, with the whole team working tirelessly to provide villagers with a range of essential services. To Tim, Iris and all at *The Stores* - congratulations and thank you! Of course, you can thank them in person if you go along to their evening of food and wine tasting on the 8th December at *The Stores*. Full details on page 5.

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 DECEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH NOVEMBER.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November

Fri 3 rd	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Wed 8 th	Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club
Wed 8 th	Badminton Craft Group
Fri 10 th	Remembrance Parade, Acton Turville St Marys
Sun 12 th	Remembrance Parade, Badminton
Sun 12 th	Arm Knitting Workshop, Badminton Estate
Mon 13 th	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting
Fri 17 th	Didmarton Rural Cinema – Where The Crawdads Sing (cert 15)
Fri 17 th /Sat 18 th	Cocktail Making Classes, Badminton Estate
Wed 22 nd	Badminton Craft Group

December

Fri 1 st	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning
Sat 2 nd	Trinity School Christmas Fair, Acton Turville
Sat 2 nd /Sun 3 rd	Wreath-Making Workshop, Badminton Estate
Wed 6 th	Badminton Craft Group
Fri 8 th	Wine & Food Tasting, The Stores, Acton Turville
Fri 8 th	Whisky & Chocolate Tasting, Badminton Estate
Sat 9 th	Mince Pie Masterclass, Badminton Estate

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

This month from we have received donations from Hugh McErlaine, Steve Stafford and the Acton Turville Parish Council, plus one anonymous donation. We really are most grateful to you all.

In addition, donations totalling £12.40 were received via the collecting boxes in the Badminton and Acton Turville stores.

Thanks to everyone who has kindly donated. 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***

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2023

Liz Bell
Graham Middleton
Melissa Spreadborough

Congratulations!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE 100 CLUB

It's that time of year again!

Another chance to win a share of £400 prize money

and to support your local church.

Annual membership costs just £12.

Monthly draws take place with prizes of £20, £10, and £5

Join now or renew your membership by sending a cheque for £12 per membership

plus your name and contact details to:-

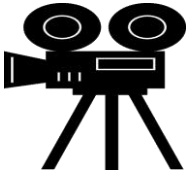
Chris Spreadborough, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville, South Glos GL9 1HD

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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 17th November 2023

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

(2022, Cert 15) – Drama, Mystery and Thriller

Starring: Harris Dickinson, Daisy Edgar-Jones, Taylor Smith

Director: Olivia Newman

From the best-selling novel comes a captivating mystery. Where the Crawdads Sing tells the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina..

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, cash bar

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

jenny.body1@gmail.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 8th November

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.*



REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2023



The Royal British Legion and Trinity School are holding a Remembrance Parade on Friday 10th November at Acton Turville Church, 1045hrs for 1100hrs.

All Villagers are welcome.

There will be tea/coffee and cakes afterwards by kind permission of Craig and Aira at Hollybush Farm, Acton Turville.

If anyone can kindly make a cake or brownies please let Aira know, many thanks.

Badminton Remembrance Parade on Sunday 12th November will form up at 1035hrs at the previously named, Badminton Club with walk/march off at 1038hrs, everyone is welcome to join the walk/march or can you be in the Church by 1050hrs.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested, please join us or our next meeting at the Fox & Hounds on Tuesday 21 Nov 1900hrs.



ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

The Acton Turville Tennis Club is holding its Annual General Meeting on **TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. Any members who wish to attend should contact the club secretary at actonturvilletennisclub@gmail.com



ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL UPDATES

Dates for the Diary

3rd November 2023

Acton Turville Social coffee morning in the Fox & Hounds. Everyone welcome, as are your cakes and a few £ in the collection box!

1st December 2023

*Acton Turville Fireside carols. Details tbc
Karen, Mel and Caroline ATS*

actonturvillesocial@gmail.com

NEWS NEWS NEWS



BADMINTON ESTATE

Badminton Estate has seen an exciting array of events throughout the year, starting with the filming of Guy Ritchie's upcoming Netflix series, scheduled for an early 2024 release. The estate also rocked to the tunes of music legends at Worcester Lodge, with the likes of Rod Stewart and The Who gracing the stage for unforgettable performances.

Thrill-seekers had their adrenaline fix with Tough Mudder, which posed an obstacle course challenge, and introduced a new race called, Spartan who really took it up a notch with activities like spear throwing and fire jumping. Meanwhile, Detectival brought the world of detective work to life, unearthing finds, from ancient Roman coins dating back to Emperor Nero to Victorian baby rattles.

Among these events, the Garden Open Days always shine as a highlight, attracting a growing number of visitors each year, with September boasting over 1,000 attendees. This not only offers a chance to connect with the local community but also results in generous donations to the Severn Area Rescue Association and the Church Restoration Fund. Additionally, the 5k Bolt for Acton Turville School and the Walk to Defeat for Motor Neurone Disease played a significant role in raising funds for commendable causes.

As the year ends, there's still much to look forward to with Christmas events at Badminton House, featuring activities like Cocktail Making, Whisky Tasting with Chocolates, and a delightful array of Christmas Crafts – see below. With the momentum gained in 2023, Badminton Estate is eagerly gearing up for another exciting year of events in 2024, with hopes for even better weather to complement the festivities.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GIANT KNITTING WITH THE CHUNKY NEEDLE

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

CLASSIC COCKTAIL MAKING WITH THE BAR BROS

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS WREATHS WITH THE FLOWER HUT, TETBURY

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

WHISKY & CHOCOLATE TASTING WITH DISTILLER DAVID WOOD

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MINCE PIE MASTERCLASS WITH CHEF JULIA JONES

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

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

The poster for the Trinity Christmas Fair features a festive design with a red and white striped awning at the top, decorated with hanging Christmas ornaments and a large gold bell. The text is set against a dark background with twinkling lights. At the bottom, there are three small images: 'Food & Drink' showing a plate of food, 'Elf festive fun activities' showing children in elf costumes, and 'Craft stalls' showing a stall with various items.

The TRINITY CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sat 2nd December
Trinity School Acton Turville GL9 1HJ
11am – 3pm
FREE entry for children
£1 entry for adults
Kids carols at 11:30am & 2:30pm
All children (and adults!) welcome to join in!

THE STORES, ACTON TURVILLE

TO CELEBRATE

20 YEARS

OF SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,

TIM, IRIS AND THE TEAM

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO

THE STORES AT ACTON TURVILLE

FOR AN EVENING OF WINE AND FOOD TASTING ON

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

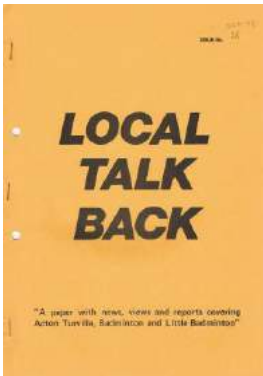
FROM 4PM TO 7PM.

ALSO A SELECTION OF FESTIVE GOODS

AVAILABLE FOR SALE

FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - November 1978



Les Rochester's editorial was short and to the point:

"Dear Readers,

We have much reading in this issue and we thank all contributions. We are pleased to give publicity to your past deeds and your future intentions.

Yours sincerely

Les Rochester"

So what "past deeds and future intentions" were to be found within the pages of November 1978's Talk Back? Well the main story concerns the retirement of local Postman Wilf Childerley who, as mentioned last month, was retiring after 31 years service. Wilf was clearly (and quite rightly) held in high esteem by those to whom he had been delivering his letters and parcels all those years, and each local Post Office had organised a collection for him to show their gratitude. The official presentation was made at Badminton Post Office on the 13th October where members of the Post Office staff were joined by dignitaries including Her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort and the Head Postmasters of both Swindon and Chippenham. In addition to the gold watch and diploma presented by the Head Postmaster of Swindon, Wilf also received the money collected for him at the Post Offices in Badminton and Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton and Tormarton. The Post Office at Acton Turville used the money to buy him some gifts – "five bottles of very suitable celebration wines and spirits, a box of chocolates and an easy chair." Sounds like the perfect way to start retirement to me. There was a nice note from Wilf too, thanking people for the wonderful gifts. He signed off by saying: "Serving you, meeting you and talking with you over the years has given me so much pleasure." A true gent.

Over at Trinity School in Acton Turville, there had been some changes to the way the Parent Teachers Association operated. They had taken the decision to open up their meetings to anyone interested in supporting the work of the school, at the same time renaming the group the "Friends of the School", which is the title it uses to this day. As the Friends said in their report, "we discovered just how many friends the school has when our Jumble Sale raised over £110." The money would enable the Friends to purchase a projector stand and screen for the school, and provide for the children's Christmas Party. Back in 1978, the friends met on the first Monday of each month. The meetings would feature a guest speaker. In September the subject was "First Aid in the Home", then in October, members were treated to "a display of modern stainless steel." Sadly no more details are forthcoming, but orders would be available for collection at the November meeting – and the Friends raised £10!! Can anyone remember what this was all about?

More fundraising had taken place in the Badminton Village Club on the 7th October, when Ray Bird reported that a disco had raised the very good sum of £28 for the Guide Dog fund. Ray's report doesn't mention who provided the disco – I wonder if it was The Captain Apache Roadshow that local lads Adrian Knight and Nicky Capp had set up earlier in the year after the demise of Merlin's Disco??

Looking forward, the diaries for November and December were taking shape quite nicely. On the 4th November at 6.30pm, the Acton Turville Village Association had organised their much-missed bonfire and firework display on the playing field, promising sustenance in the form of soup, hotdogs (with real sausages) and onions. Entry was free but there'd be a collection afterwards. Then on the 12th, the Royal British Legion were marching up to Great Badminton Church for the annual Service of Remembrance, forming up on Kennel Drive at 10.30am – sharp. Fast forwarding to the end of the month, on the 24th there was a Christmas Bazaar at the Badminton Village Hall, where numerous organisations such as the church, the Guides and the Friends of the School were having stalls to raise money, and a Coffee Morning/Bring 'n' Buy Sale to look forward to at Badminton House on the 30th with proceeds going to the general Church Fund. Plenty to keep you occupied then.

Finally, Acton Turville Parish Council continued to fixate on the recent Best Kept Village Competition, where in 1978 they were narrowly defeated at the semi-final stage. By November they had received (and no doubt disceted) the full results of the voting panel, where Avon's Countryside Officer reported:

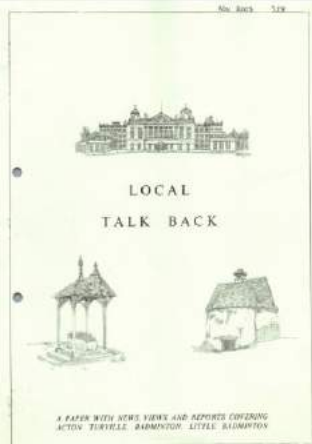
"The overall high standard in Acton Turville is obviously reflected in their semi-final placing. In particular, the absence of litter was striking and the private gardens were impressive." Then the killer blow: "The verges on entrance to the village could have been better maintained."

I bet there are people in Acton Turville still haunted by that final sentence.

Cont'd over

From the Archives (cont'd)

20 Years Ago - November 2003



November 2003's edition of Local Talk Back includes some items that would have been familiar to readers back in 1978, such as the Coffee Morning/Bring 'n' Buy Sale at Badminton House on the 25th November, but other events had fallen by the wayside, most notably the bonfire and firework display that had been held for many years in Acton Turville. The evening had grown massively in popularity over the years, attracting people from miles around which had greatly increased the workload of the small group of volunteers who organised it. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council to find more volunteers, the bonfire held in 2000 would turn out to be the last, and a long tradition came to an end. Most people who remember the bonfire think of it taking place on the playing field along the Luckington Drew road, but the November 2003 editorial recalls a conversation with Mrs Hazzard (described as "possibly the oldest resident in Acton Turville") who remembered when it was held on The Green at Chapel Lane before the additional houses were built.

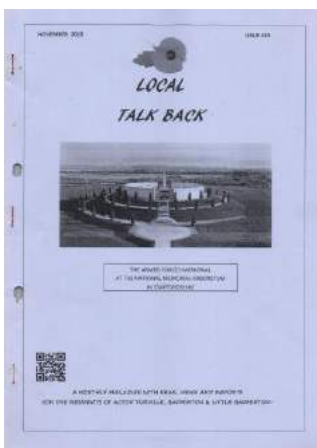
Incidentally, Mrs Hazzard also provided Talk Back with some fascinating photos, one showing children from Mrs May's class at Badminton school from the late 40s/early 50s which was published in the November 2003 edition. We're just gathering together some of the pictures for a series which we'll run in 2024 (just as soon as we can get the scanner working again).

There are several items of news relating to the church, amongst which is an announcement that the induction of the Rev Christopher Mulholland by the Archdeacon of Gloucester was to take place at Badminton Church on the 7th November. Members of the congregation could pass on their best wishes at the reception which followed his induction. And Prue and Peter Moss were very generously opening up their house for a coffee morning in aid of St Mary's in Acton Turville, which promised a cake stall, raffle, handmade gifts and games, as well as a much-anticipated appearance by Father Christmas himself. How exciting's that?

On the subject of entertainment, the advert for the Badminton Village Club gives star billing to one Mickey John Bull who's appearing at the club on the 29th November. With the advert describing him as a vocalist, comedian, impressionist and comedian who'd won awards and been on TV, he comes across as a very talented chap. In fact he must have been good as a quick google suggests he's still performing today (at least, someone with that name is). They describe themselves as a comedy entertainer, and from their Facebook page they sound local as they were recently searching for Jack Edgar, the puppet man from Weston Super Mare. Maybe they were thinking of starting a double act. I'd buy a ticket for that.

Finally, Talk Back provides a platform to members of the Bybrook and Badminton Broadband Initiative, a group of locals who are lobbying BT to have broadband installed in our villages. Their argument sounds very familiar – without broadband, those working or learning from home will be seriously disadvantaged without access to a broadband connection, which may ultimately have a negative effect on property prices. As a first step, the group is looking to recruit volunteers who can establish the potential level of demand in their areas to support their case to have broadband rolled out across our villages. I remember something similar happening ten years later for high-speed broadband. And haven't we just done it again for full-fibre? Plus ça change, plus la meme, as our French colleagues would say.

10 Years Ago - November 2013



The picture on the front of the November 2013 edition of Talk Back shows the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, which was the destination of a coach trip organised by Alastair Gilbert and the local branch of the Royal British Legion back in September. A very interesting article written by Jo and Steve did a good job of describing how it was designed and developed. The article paints a very vivid picture of some of the many memorials, including the statue of a soldier mounted on the winged horse Pegasus, dedicated to members of the Parachute Regiment. In addition to the Military memorials, there were others for civilian organisations such as the Police Fire Service and the Post Office. The article summed it up perfectly: "It is a very important memorial for this country and I'm very glad that I've visited it. It is little known but it is a lovely place to remember a loved one, or just take a moment for some quiet contemplation." Nicely put.

Cont'd over

From the Archives (cont'd)

Reading through the old Talk Backs, one constant has always been the amount of effort put in by people to raise funds for good causes. Whether it's for the church, Friends of the School, the Guides or national charities such as Macmillan Cancer Research, villagers have been selfless in providing support for these causes. It's something that's picked up in the editorial, which notes that over two weekends, a grand total of £1200 was raised locally through a combination of coffee mornings, auctions of harvest produce and the ever-popular pig racing at the Fox & Hounds. The team raising funds to revamp the play area at Acton Turville rather hit the jackpot though when their application for a grant from the Corey Environmental Trust was approved and they were awarded the fantastic sum of £20,000. That didn't mean their other fundraising initiatives could cease though, and the £25 raised by Beth, Josh, Kit and Emmy, who held a cake sale at the end of their road, was just as gratefully received. In fact, it was this kind of local fundraising that the Corey Environmental Trust were looking for when they assessed Acton Turville's application for the grant, so that cake sale really did make a difference. However, next time, maybe someone should consider selling Gromits. Not those rubber bungs used to plug holes, we're talking about the cute dog that makes up half of the Wallace & Gromit duo, stars of such cinematic delights as A Grand Day Out and The Wrong Trousers which were produced by the Bristol-based Aardman Animations. Someone had the bright idea of making 80 giant fibreglass replicas of Gromit, getting them painted by famous painters or celebrities and placing them at different locations around Bristol. After a couple of months, the Gromits were gathered (herded?) together and auctioned off, raising an incredible £2.3million for the Bristol Children's Hospital. According to the November 2013 editorial, Grosmos Gromit, decorated by the Bristol artist "Cheba", was purchased by the Cotswold Airport at Kemble for the sum of £28000. He'd taken up residence in the AV8 restaurant. That was a far cry from the Harvey Nichols store that he'd previously called home, but at least he could now enjoy panoramic views of the runway from the restaurant's sun terrace (weather permitting).

We end with another look back at the long-running series of "My Royal Connections" articles, charting the life of Phyllis Salmon who spent many years living in Badminton. In Part 4, Phyllis recalled the events that everyone in the village would look forward to each year. The Badminton Show was always much anticipated for its displays of produce and livestock, but it also provided an opportunity to make a bob or two:

"The Badminton Show was one of the biggest village shows in Gloucestershire and visitors would come from miles around on their bikes. Being near the showground, father put up a notice saying "Bikes Taken Care Of Here, Tuppence A Bike." Well, by the time the show started we were completely stacked with bikes. Father did it in style, giving each one a ticket with a number. There was only just enough room to get out of our gate but the real fun started when it was time to go home. There would be a dozen or more piled against one another when someone wanted one at the back. I felt sorry for my two older brothers as one or the other had to be there at all times to see them in and out. There must have been a hundred or more."

A hundred or more bicycles, at tuppence a throw? That's a nice little earner. Did Phyllis's father make a fortune by founding NCP Car Parks? Maybe we'll find out in a future edition.



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

*The Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on
Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm.*

*Everyone is welcome. The service will be led by Rev Richard Thomson.
Stay for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.*



*The Christingle Service will be held on
Sunday 24th December at 4.30pm.
Children are especially welcome.
This service will be led by Dr Matthew Butler.*



J J's GARDENING BLOG



It has been so mild that some plants have carried on flowering much longer. Not as strongly as earlier but enough flower to make a small arrangement to lift the spirits. Because it has been fairly wet, pulling out weeds has been very easy and satisfying. You may not have found time to take any cuttings. It's rather late, but just give it a go, nothing ventured.....nice gritty compost, a light position, may be on a window sill. Don't expect to see much sign of life until about May time, and be mean with the watering or they will rot. Plectranthus, with grey slightly velvet leaves and insignificant purple flowers is a good plant to try with.

Remember that most grey leaved plants are Mediterranean, so whatever you have that fits that description will not survive outside in winter. You could also try some geranium cuttings, particularly if you have some that you especially like. Talk to them regularly.

Jobs for This Month

Collect and store seeds. Get some envelopes, and write the name of the plant you are collecting on first, or you will have wiggly writing, and the date too. Some seed can be viable for years, like an acorn, and others only for a month or two. Storage is important too, a lidded tin or ice cream container to keep seeds dry and away from mice are good, and keep in the dark.

Are You Feeling Lucky?

If a plant needs re positioning and the soil is still warm, this is not the best moment, but sometimes you just have to. So give it a go, think about nice soil and maybe a stake for a year.

Sometimes a tiny plant or a cutting is offered by a friend at the wrong time. Plant it up and you could have a star.

And Finally

Have you planted lots of bulbs? Perhaps some new to you. Hold back on planting tulips until after the first frost, which will kill off tulip blight. Have you got space to plant more bulbs for picking to bring indoors?

November Sudoku

November'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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the October quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Faster Than A Speeding Bullet

The enduring magic that is Concorde

It seems hard to believe that 20 years have passed since Concorde made its final flight. Having touched down after carrying passengers for the last time between New York City's JFK International Airport to London Heathrow on the 24th October 2003, the entire fleet of these incredible aircraft was taken out of commercial service. One month later, on the 26th November, the last ever flight by Concorde ended in Bristol, when Concorde 216 landed, fittingly, at Filton airfield, just yards from the spot where the aircraft had been assembled between 1965 and 1979.

I'm sure many of us will remember watching the dart-shaped plane fly overhead, high in the sky, on its way between Heathrow and New York, but how many of us actually had the good fortune to fly on her? Regrettably I wasn't one of them, but over the years, two members of the Local Talk Back editorial team who did manage to travel on Concorde (not on expenses, I hasten to add) were former editor Kath Gentry and long-time contributor Yvonne Nettles.

Kath Gentry had a real passion for aircraft and flying, and achieved a long-held ambition when her family treated her to a flight on Concorde in February 1991. The family hired a small mini-bus for the trip to Heathrow, from where they would be able to watch as Concorde took off with Kath on board. Things started well when an Air Hostess presented Kath with a lovely corsage of pale-yellow freesias when she checked her boarding pass, but she was less impressed when "an unsmiling young lady" briskly frisked her as she made her way through security, then watched as her male colleague proceeded to check the entire contents of her handbag. "Why me?", she pondered! Having overcome that minor hurdle, Kath was directed towards the coach which was to take passengers across the apron to their awaiting aeroplane:

"As we left, we were each presented with a carrier bag and a model of Concorde. Away we went across the acres of tarmac and there was the real thing, resting and waiting for us. All excitement, we climbed on board and found our seats. Mine was 3a, nearest a window and quite close to the flight deck. "Welcome to Concorde"."

The excitement proved to be short-lived. The engines started, Concorde moved back 10 yards – and there it stopped. There was a problem with one engine, announced the Captain. The blow was softened with fine champagne, but diagnosing the engine problem was taking longer than expected, so to keep everyone happy, lunch was served, along with more champagne. Then another announcement - it would appear that a new part was needed to fix the engine problem, but that wasn't a problem and they'd be back up and running in no time. In the meantime, have some more champagne.

Eventually it became clear that this Concorde would be going nowhere fast – not today anyway – so a replacement Concorde was located and refuelled, the passengers were transferred onto it, and preparations were made for take-off. By now it was 4 o'clock. Kath had been at the airport since 10.15am. We suspect she might have been a bit peeved, but all her frustrations were soon to be erased:

"The take-off, when it came, was something of a shock. The Captain talked us through it, but nothing prepared me for the unseen "hand" that seemed to push me back into my seat – hard – as we shot up through the clouds. One moment we were in the gloom of a cold February afternoon, the next we were in what could have been a glorious summer day. Brilliant blue sky and incredibly blue sunshine. As we climbed higher, my ears "popped" as they had never popped before."

"The clouds fell away below us, so thick that they looked like a huge sheepskin, I felt that I could step out and walk on them."

"Our journey took us West to Bristol, over Wales to the Atlantic approaches where the plane reached supersonic speed – 1350 miles per hour. We were now 12 miles high. A long left turn around the Scilly Isles, South past the Cherbourg peninsula and then crossing the Channel Islands to return to London via the Isle of Wight and Southampton."



Concorde on the tarmac at Heathrow. Photos by Yvonne Nettles

Cont'd over

Faster Than A Speeding Bullet (cont'd)

“As dusk started to fall, we caught a brief glimpse of a wonderful setting sun and as our speed decreased and our height also, we were able to see the lights of towns and villages below us. When we touched down, we had travelled 860 miles in the 1½ hours. Incredible and unforgettable.”

Time to return to the minibus for the journey home, and relived the memories of an incredible day many times over. Yvonne Nettles' flight on Concorde nearly didn't happen as she initially planned to buy just one ticket for her husband Pat to mark his 40th birthday. Eventually she relented and agreed to keep him company on the flight, which was one of the “Champagne Flights of Fantasy” made regularly by Concorde over the Bay of Biscay. Yvonne takes up her story:

“When the day came, friends took us to Heathrow Airport where we checked in at the British Airways desk before going through to the Concorde departure lounge for a champagne reception. A bus then took us out to where Concorde was waiting. The first impression was how small she was compared to other planes that we had travelled on. It was great to be able to wander about below her to take photographs before climbing the steps to take our seats. When making the booking, I had asked for “as near the front as possible” knowing that the wings are attached to most of the length of the plane and would interrupt the view below. We were given seats in Row 4 so had a good view. The seats were like armchairs, very comfortable and in grey leather. The plane looked even smaller inside. The door to the flightdeck was kept open for take-off and all the way through the flight so we could see the crew and the hundreds of dials. We taxied to the runway for take-off and as Concorde takes priority we passed four or five other planes to get to the head of the queue.”

“The take-off was different to any other I had experienced. It was so fast and the thrust pushed me back in my seat as we left the ground. We went up very steeply and with such a force that it immediately gave me a headache. I felt that someone had hit me on the head with a hammer (this doesn't happen to everyone). The headache stayed all the way through the 1½ hour trip but I still enjoyed it very much. We were travelling about 300mph on take-off.”

“We flew from Heathrow across to Swansea and then turned to go out over the Scilly Isles and towards the Atlantic. Across the bulkhead in front of Row 1 was a digital panel showing the mph speed, height, Mach speed and outside temperature.”

After enjoying a delicious lunch, washed down with the obligatory champagne, passengers were invited to the flight deck to meet the Captain and crew and ask any questions they may have. Once back in their seats, they could watch the numbers on the digital panel chart Concorde's vital statistics:

“We could watch the panel showing our height climbing up to over 50,000 feet and the speed going up – 1090mph, 1100, 1200, 1300 – and when we reached 1340mph we were flying at Mach 2 (twice the speed of sound) and at a height of 52,000 feet. We were now at the edge of space and the sky above was quite black and below you could actually see the curvature of the earth. It was a fascinating experience.”

The return journey was similar to Kath's, flying over the Channel Islands, Isle of Wight and Southampton.

“Too soon we were landing and walking back down the steps with a little more time for photos before returning on the bus to the airport buildings, everyone straining to get a last glimpse of the unique plane.”



Today, Concorde 216 is the star exhibit at the Aerospace Bristol museum, housed in a purpose-built hangar where you can take a tour around the aircraft, see inside the cabin and imagine what it was like flying in such luxury at twice the speed of sound. Will we ever see such a machine again? Time will tell, but if the opportunity ever arises in my lifetime, I'll make sure I don't miss out again.

Visit <https://aerospacebristol.org/> for details of the Aerospace Museum at Filton, home of Concorde 216

The end of Concorde's final flight on the 26th November 2003 at Filton Airfield, caught on camera by Yvonne Nettles

Church Matters

November 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

The nights have drawn in and Christians around the world are celebrating our first major winter festival, which is All Saints, 1st November.

It is a demonstration of the success of secularisation that in many parts of the Western world, the Eve of All Saints features more prominently than All Saints. Better known as Halloween (All Hallows Eve). Children dress up as demons, vampires, Frankenstein, ghosts and everything that is scary in their spiritual imagination.

What is this all about? Is it a harmless exorcizing of those fears and terrors of the night that haunt children? Or is it a celebration of something more sinister?

For sure, Halloween should be trounced by All Saints. The Saints come marching in and cast out all the evil from society. But where are the Saints?

The white garments of the Saints are nowhere to be seen after the ghoulish costumes of Halloween. Instead we must wait till December when the lights of the coming of Jesus, light up our houses and streets.

Perhaps we should not wait so long, but take away our pumpkins on All Saints Day, and in their place, light candles for All Saints Day and thank God that evil really has been judged by God in Christ, and its days are numbered.

Because that is our faith. We shall certainly be doing so in church on the first Sunday after All Saints Day, 1st November.

Have a good November,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice

website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home: 01454 219236 / Mob:07717791858

Church Services for November 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5 th Nov	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion (Common Worship)	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Remembrance Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
12 th Nov	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	10.50am	Great Badminton	Remembrance Sunday Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Hawkesbury	Service by the War Memorial	Ecumenical
	11.00am	Sopworth	Short Service by the War Memorial	Lay Led
19 th Nov	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Advent Theme	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Great Badminton	El Gubi Service RGH	The Dean of Gloucester Cathedral, The Very Reverend Andrew Zihni, will be preaching.
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	M Butler
26 th Nov	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Leighterton	Patronal Matins	Lay Led
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Advent Service	Rev R Thomson
Also in November				
2 nd Nov All Souls Day	7.00pm	Hawkesbury	Quiet service of reflection for loved ones	Rev R Thomson
11 th Nov Saturday	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Festival of Remembrance	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.

NOVEMBER 2023 REPORT

Items discussed at October's meeting included:

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

Village Agent - Paul Jones, Village Agent for Acton Turville, provided a useful update on his activities to-date. He was pleased to report that he had been able to provide support and advice to several people who contacted him on a range of subjects, and he continues to look at how best to increase awareness of schemes which may be of benefit to groups and individuals. Paul is aware that younger members of rural communities also face issues such as isolation and is looking to engage with the school and other groups to see what might be done to help those affected.

Road Closure - The scheduled closure of a section of The Street by Bristol Water on the 10th October went ahead as planned, but the Parish Council has been concerned at the disruption caused by other traffic light-controlled works which have been scheduled without their notification. They are looking to rectify this situation so that residents may be given prior notice.

Village Tidy-Up - The Autumn Tidy-Up took place on Saturday 14th October and again there was an excellent turn-out of volunteers who collected rubbish and tended to the various planted areas around the village. The Parish Council is most grateful to everyone who gave up their time to keep our village looking its best, and it was great to see some new faces amongst the regular supported. See you all for the 2024 Spring Clean!!

Parish Councillors:

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

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

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052



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

Logging the cost of Ash Dieback

For a stark illustration of the effects of Ash dieback, look no further than Swangrove Wood where over 50 acres of woodland have recently been cleared of diseased trees. The results can be seen in the huge piles of logs that have been constructed over the past few weeks, with each log exhibiting the tell-tale signs of dieback.





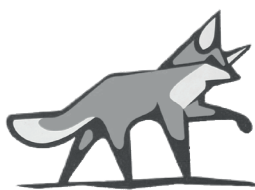
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SALT LAKES IN SPAIN – Yvonne Nettles



There is an area of Spain that we like to visit for a few days before flying out of the nearby Murcia airport. It is the Mar Menor 'Little Sea' which is almost closed off from the Mediterranean by the La Manga strip. The water in the lagoon is very salty, warmer than the Med and is quite shallow. Ideal for bathing.

On the north side of the lagoon is San Pedro del Pinatar which also gives its name to and area of wetlands, a protected Regional Park with shallow salt ponds. They provide resting and feeding places for many water birds including several species of flamingos who thrive in the rich salty water. Some are pink, getting their colour from their food of microscopic algae and brine shrimps which are abundant in some of the salt lakes, but many others are grey.

The protected area has walking and cycle tracks, viewing hides, and access to beaches on the Mediterranean shore. Not too far away you could have a mud bath in another of the small lakes. There is also a Marina with restaurants and an amazing array of yachts and cruisers.

The important commercial side of the area comes from the production of salt in the salt ponds. These man-made ponds are filled by the sea water and then blocked off and left to evaporate naturally as the sun heats them up. The production of salt starts up in the warm months of June to October. As the water evaporates salt crystals form and solidify. The harvest starts in September or October with machines extracting the salt from the bottom. Now the white mountains of salt appear, separated into different qualities. Much of this salt is for road maintenance, some to industry and the best to the food industry. Just up the coast there are salt lakes at Torrevieja and Santa Pola. In one year the lakes of Torrevieja, one pink and one green, harvested 55,000 tonnes of salt. Most for export for the winters in Sweden, Finland, Belgium, UK, the Netherlands and Norway for melting the snow on the roads.

The salt for gastronomic purposes is harvested manually, taking more care of the salt.

