Local Talk Back

NOVEMBER 2026 http://actonturville.info/talkback/ ISSUE 576



LEST WE FORGET
PICTURE BY LEE BUTCHER, ACTON TURVILLE



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

EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 2026

Well it looks like it could be curtains for the Villa Vie Odyssey. Just in case the name is not instantly recognisable, it's the cruise ship that set sail for a never-ending voyage back in October 2024. Unlike traditional cruises where the ship performs the role of a floating hotel while passengers enjoy a two-week jaunt to the Med or Caribbean, the Villa Vie Odyssey was more like a floating apartment block, where passengers bought a cabin that they could call home, and enjoyed a constantly-changing view from their porthole as the ship cruised from glamourous destination to glamorous destination. It made for a compelling proposition, and once sufficient punters with sufficient funds had signed up to it, the project was given the go-ahead. The itinerary was epic. Sailing on the 1st November 2023, the ship would follow the sun, spending the next 3½ years visiting 375 ports across 135 countries and all seven continents. There had never been anything like it. All aboard!

One minor detail remained outstanding – the lack of a ship. It turned out the operators of this floating palace of dreams had identified the perfect ship. It was undergoing a refit, but as soon as that was complete they'd be taking ownership and preparing the ship for her maiden voyage from the exotic city of Istanbul no less. What a way for all the lucky passengers to start a new life! Or at least, it would have been if the ship hadn't sold it to someone else. It's one thing being told your holiday of a lifetime is being delayed, but can you imagine how you'd feel if you'd sold your house to pay for it and now had nowhere to live, which is the position in which many people now found themselves? With prices starting at $29,999 annually for individuals sharing an inside cabin and topping out at nearly $109,999 for a more spacious suite, it was an anxious time for them, especially the ones who had bought their cabins outright for a one-off payment of $440,000.

Eventually, a new ship was found. Make that a replacement ship, as this one was over 30 years old and the log book showed 3 previous owners. Renamed the Villa Vie Odyssey, it was due to set sail on the 30th May 2024, six months later than originally planned. Istanbul was a distant memory too, as the start point was the slightly less dreamy city of Belfast. Isn't that where the Titanic was built? Best not mention that to the passengers. As it turned out, those poor passengers would have to wait until the 3rd October for their new life on the ocean waves to become a reality, when the captain pointed the bow of the majestic liner towards Brest in France. Let the magic begin. And in fairness, it did. Passengers eulogised about life on board with first class food and facilities, and talked about enjoying a real sense of community with their fellow travellers. The ship visited western Europe, northwest Africa, then transited the Atlantic Ocean, sailed through the Panama Canal before moving south to the Strait of Magellan. The voyage was one of continual discovery, with the wonders of the world seemingly passing by on a never-ending conveyor belt.

Did we say never-ending? As you might have noticed, the price of filling up your car with petrol or your oil tank with heating oil have sky-rocketed just lately. When you're running a 24,344-tonne cruise liner that spends its life criss-crossing the oceans, the effect of that price increase is going to even more acute. Now, if you thought the price of a cabin was steep, wait until you see how much fuel it takes to run the ship. Before the price rise, it was costing $1800 dollars *per cabin, per month* in fuel alone. The ship's operator now says that has risen in some parts of Asia to $8000 (or £6000) per month. Per cabin!! Not surprisingly, the operator had for some time been looking to cut costs, including cruising at a slower speed and spending more time in port, but, after 750 days at sea, it would seem that those measures turned out to be insufficient to offset the extraordinary increase in fuel costs. The ship has been tied up alongside and the passengers asked to disembark while the owners try to re-finance their business.

To rub salt into the wounds, the ship is not alongside in one of the world's most glamorous ports. It's not in St Tropez, or Cadiz, or the Bahamas. It's not even in Istanbul or Belfast. It's in Cambodia, in the town of Sihanoukville, which the BBC describes as a "once sleepy beach town that has gained global notoriety in recent years as a hub for Chinese casinos and scam centres." Holiday in Cambodia anyone?

Passenger Holly Hennessey held her cat tightly as she told the BBC: "It was not on my bingo card of places where I'd be spending a lot of time"

You have to feel for the people who find themselves in such a perilous position, people who gambled everything to live the dream but lost. I took a gamble when I moved here to Acton Turville and I'm still living the dream. Maybe we should all be grateful for just how lucky we are. Mind you, I wouldn't rule out a move to Cambodia if my monthly bill for heating oil reaches £6000.

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 DECEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH NOVEMBER 2026. THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 2026

Thurs 5th	Bonfire Night, Fox & Hounds, from 6pm
Fri 6th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Sun 8th	Service of Remembrance, Badminton, 10.50am
Mon 9th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Tues 10th	Acton Turville Tennis Club AGM, 8pm
Tues 10th	Chipping Sodbury Music Society present Rob Burton & Mark Rogers at the Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, 7.30pm
Wed 11th	Acton Turville Remembrance Parade, St Mary's, 10.45am
Wed 11th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Fri 13th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 14th	Christmas Cooking Demonstration, Badminton Estate
Fri 20th	Bingo Night, Fox & Hounds, from 8pm
Sat 21st	Christmas Crafts Workshop, Badminton Estate
Tues 24th	Beaufort Christmas Fair, Newnton Dairy Farm, Long Newnton SN16 9SR, 9.30am – 5pm
Sat 28th	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Badminton Estate
Sun 29th	Shabby Sheep Christmas Pop-Up Bookshop, Sherston Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

December 2026

Tues 1st	Chipping Sodbury Music Society present Keziah Thomas at the Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, 7.30pm
Sat 5th	Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival, Bethesda Chapel, Hawkesbury Upton, 11am – 3pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2026

Deborah Samuelson
Mick Bell
Anne Beesley

Congratulations!

ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

The Acton Turville Tennis Club is holding its Annual General Meeting on TUESDAY 10th November at 8.00pm. Any members who wish to attend should contact the secretary at actonturvilletennisclub@gmail.com

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received two anonymous donations this month for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £82.55 was very generously donated in the shop collection boxes.

We really do appreciate all donations as it helps to keep 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

Thank you!



Coffee Morning

Fox and Hounds, Acton Turville
10 – 12 First Friday of Every Month

Next coffee morning – Friday 6th November

Local Talk Back is printed by

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

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

WHAT'S ON

DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 13th November 2026

To receive full details of the films being shown each month by the Didmarton Film Club, simply join the club by filling in a form which will be available on film nights – membership is free, just provide your name, email address and mobile number.to join.

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Didmarton Village Hall. Whilst there is no charge for entry, all those attending are expected to make a donation (suggested amount £5).

The bar will run as usual.

Non-members may contact the organiser, Jenny Body, for the title of this month's film.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

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

jenny.body1@gmail.com

The FOX & HOUNDS INN
Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW
01454 218224

Fox & Hounds
Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 11th November
Tea/Coffee on arrival
Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)
£13.00 per head

The Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

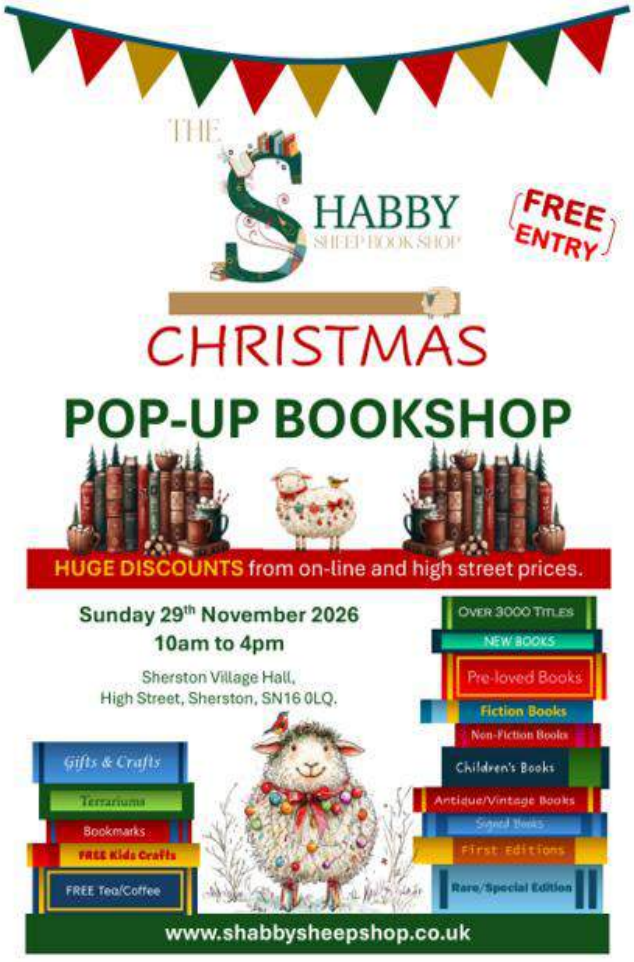
REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2026

The Badminton Remembrance Service is on Sunday 8th November at Badminton Church (there will be no parade this year). Everyone is welcome to join. Please be in the Church by 1050hrs.

The Badminton and Hawkesbury Branch of the Royal British Legion and Trinity School are holding a Remembrance Parade on Wednesday 11th November at St Mary's Church Acton Turville, at 1045hrs for 1100hrs.

All villagers are welcome. There will be tea, coffee and cake afterwards at the church this year by kind permission of Allen Hill and Iris Penny. If anyone can kindly make a cake or some brownies, please let Iris know. Thank you.

If you or someone you know needs help from the Royal British Legion please contact the National Helpline on 0808 802 8080 or join us for our next meeting at the Fox and Hounds on Tuesday 17th November at 1900hrs.



WHAT'S ON

Chipping Sodbury Music Society

Forthcoming Events

ROB BURTON AND MARK ROGERS (SAXOPHONE AND PIANO)

Tuesday 10th November 2026 - 7:30pm
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall



Classic FM 'Rising Star' Rob Burton and award-winning pianist Mark Rogers met while studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Their recitals explore the saxophone's remarkable versatility, blending classic transcriptions, hidden gems, and jazz-classical crossover repertoire.'

Courtesy of the Countess of Munster Musical Trust



KEZIAH THOMAS – HARP

Tuesday 1st December 2026 - 7:30pm
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

Harpist Keziah Thomas, acclaimed by the New York Concert Review as "stupendous… totally original and engaging" at her Carnegie Hall debut recital, presents her critically acclaimed solo harp arrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, alongside vivid musical tales from around the world.

Tickets on the door: £20
Accompanied school aged children: free.

For full details and to purchase tickets, visit the Chipping Sodbury Music Society website at
https://csmusicsociety.co.uk/

What's On at the Fox & Hounds



Bonfire Night
Thursday 5th Nov from 6pm
No fireworks but bonfires, food and drink. Both the Beaufort Bar and Coffee box will be in attendance along with a BBQ. Food will also be served in the pub as usual

Bingo Night
Friday 20th November from 8pm



Dear Customers,

We would like to let you know that The Fox & Hounds will be closed on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 November while we carry out refurbishment works.

The pub will reopen on Wednesday 11 November, although some areas will still be undergoing improvements. The main bar will remain temporarily closed, but guests will be able to enjoy other areas of the pub as normal.

We're carrying out these works to enhance the pub and create a better experience for everyone. We appreciate your patience during this period and hope you'll enjoy the refreshed space once it's finished.

We expect the remaining works to be completed over the following few weeks and will keep you updated on our progress through our social media channels and mailing list.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. We look forward to welcoming you back and sharing the improvements with you.

The Fox & Hounds Team

LOCAL TALK- BACK - 50 YEARS ON.
by Ray Bird, Acton Turville.

The article in last month's magazine looking back over 50 years brought back many memories, and given I was mentioned several times I would like to add some further relevant notes on the people and advances in the magazine not mentioned.

My role as editor was in reality the easy job, the real credit goes to the late John Davis, the estate farm manager, and in particular to his secretary Liz, who not only typed it (including correcting my bad spelling and English) but put it all in order and stapled it together. Without the work from the farm office there simply would have been no magazine.

How it began.

As was briefly stated in the article, in the 1970's there was a lot of social & sports organisations in the community, from children's groups like the Acton Turville Brownies & Badminton Girl Guides to adults over 60's club, sports teams of cricket, football, cribbage and darts, plus the occasional dance, jumble sales etc To advertise those dates John had started a monthly social & sports sheet that was delivered around Badminton. One day I suggested to him about taking it further with a monthly magazine where the organisers could give both the dates and after the event a post run down. As well as their reports, other current news and events could be included, plus old local stories of interest. John agreed it was a good idea, but with a farm to run he would not have time to take it on, but gave me the green light to try and his office would produce it. Although I knew nothing about media work I agreed to "give it a go". My first task was to go around the various organisers explain we were starting the magazine for the three villages and would like them to contribute. At the time I was a Badminton postman so it would be easy for me to collect material from them while on my rounds.

For the first issue only Mike Earl (RBL & Cribbage), Jean Earl (A.T Brownies) and Edith Smith (Over 60 club) responded, but with their reports, John's events dates & 300 club draw results, plus my editorial and a few stories, including filling a page with the story of Harry Crooks retirement from the Fox & Hounds Pub after 30 years, we managed to put together enough for that first issue.

Issue no 2 saw a much better response with 9 reports, including the Church News coming on board, plus John & my bits. From then it slowly grew.

After 19 issues I passed the editorial reins on to Les Rochester, but continued to regularly contribute.

One other worthy note not mentioned in the article was that in the 1990's we started putting pictures in it, the quality was not that good but nevertheless they went down well, in particular the old hunting photos, a selection of those early ones I have included in a collage below.

It goes without saying that over the 50 years the magazine has changed quite a lot, most noticeable being the organisations and sports club that dominated those early issues have mostly since disbanded. On the bright side though, it is still going, and proved wrong those that said it would not last 5 minutes!!



Photo Collage (clockwise from top left)

Hounds & Kennel Staff in Park – 1903

Queen Mary with Hunt - date unknown

Meet at Westonbirt Girls School - c1929

Portcullis Hotel Meet - date unknown

TAKING A ROADTRIP IN AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE. WHY A NORWEGIAN WOULD.

BY CHRIS BENNETT, ACTON TURVILLE

We can't ignore the effect that advances in technology have on our everyday lives, but the secret seems to be to make it work for us, rather than letting it take us over. You might think that planning a holiday would be relatively technology-free, but as Acton Turville's Chris Bennett found out, input from Artificial Intelligence offered him and his wife Christine some unexpected opportunities to ensure they got the most from a recent trip to Norway. Once they arrived in Norway, they also discovered how the country was leading the world in the move to electric vehicles, thanks to huge investment in green technologies and a comprehensive network of fast, reliable chargers, ironically funded from the windfall they received from extracting fossil fuels from the North Sea. So how did it go? Have they witnessed a future we should all be happy to embrace, or did they enjoy the view from the back of a recovery truck after running out of charge in the middle of nowhere? Chris takes up the story.

A planned Norwegian roadtrip was immediately thrown a curve ball when we realised that nearly all rental cars on offer were electric vehicles, or EVs – hardly surprising because EVs now make up 99% of all new car sales there. While friends and family with EVs have been very happy with their cars as home charged, local runabouts, an extended roadtrip was another matter. But Norway is widely regarded as being in the vanguard of the EV transition so if there was one place to give it a go then Norway was going to be it.



Ready, steady, charge! Topping up at Hjerkinn, population 4!

Being completely new to the EV mode of travel we also had to expand our preparation planning and this seemed like a good opportunity to give Artificial Intelligence, or AI, its chance. Our usual planning involves the use of guide books, maps and other information to identify places of interest, but more and more people are leaving in all in the hands of AI. Earlier this summer we bumped into an American on a hike and got chatting – a mutually advantageous opportunity to take a break! We got on to the subject of travel planning and he told us that he no longer used a travel agent or his own devices to plan a trip. He simply left it all to AI. And in these days of AI "agents", 'leaving it all' really means just that as the agent can plan the itinerary and go on to handle all the reservations for you because, as it is often described, it is your internet alter ego with all your personal preferences, history, details and financial tools to hand (if you let it, of course). We were not sure we were ready to go this far but with the prospect of our first experience of an EV roadtrip and in a foreign country we felt a little extra assistance could be useful.

My AI enquiry began with the simple question of how would a visitor go about planning a roadtrip in Norway with an EV, with particular emphasis on payment methods and costs. Typical of AI, the response was a succinct overview of the options and choices quickly followed by 'if you would like further information, please tell me more about your trip'. And so began a conversation which continued with questions about the rental company and the model of car reserved, followed by our itinerary all the way through to 'if you provide me with details of exactly where you will be staying and for how many days at each stop, I can plan a schedule of charging stops based on your likely battery usage and choice of charger station depending on whether convenience or cost are priorities'. At a basic level, AI is simply (but quickly) scanning multiple sources of information and summarising the results, but at another level it is interpreting context and suggesting alternatives or prompting further questions, and it is here that it is at its most impressive. Weirdly, it did feel as if I was talking to a helpful person, interested in my plans, who was taking plenty of time to understand what I needed and coming up with really good advice and information. It may not be 100% perfect but then what is?

I digress. Let's get back to Norway. The flight to Oslo took just over two hours. After passing through customs and passport control, we headed to the hire car desk and in no time we were sitting in an all-electric car - a VW ID3 to be precise. With slight trepidation we pressed the start button, pushed down on the accelerator and marvelled as the car effortlessly and silently glided off into the traffic. So far, so good. The display showed the battery to be 74% charged with a predicted range of 200 miles. Excellent, until after about 40 miles on the motorway the range had plummeted to 105 miles and the battery was below 50%. This wasn't looking too good, we thought. Thankfully, once off the motorway and onto A and B roads, the battery consumption improved and we were soon at our first overnight stop. Time to plug in and recharge.

Cont'd over

Something that our AI agent had highlighted was the bewildering number of companies that operate the EV charging stations. That's important because, unlike when you fill up with petrol, you don't just use your bank card to pay the cashier when the charge is complete. Instead, you have to have an app on your phone which allows you to connect the charger to the car, permits you to start charging, and automatically transfers the money when you finish. To avoid the need to download a whole raft of separate apps on your phone, you can use one of the shared charging apps which let you charge at any one of their partners' stations via a single account. The app we used most of the time was ELTON which would allow us to charge at stations belonging to more than 40 operators. As well as avoiding the need to set up accounts with multiple operators, using the app also rewarded us with a very welcome discount. The ELTON app was to prove invaluable on our roadtrip, showing all the nearby chargers, their availability, charging speed and cost.

At the first overnight stop, a local grocery store had a bank of 20 high-speed "superchargers" operated by Elon Musk's Tesla organisation. After a few failed attempts, due primarily to our inexperience, charging began and the battery went from 47% to 80% in just 24 minutes. That would give us an indicated range of 210 miles, but we had been warned that these figures were invariably optimistic and in reality the range was likely to reduce to well below 190 miles.

The following day we planned a 220-miles plus journey from Lillehammer to Trondheim, so a recharge stop looked inevitable. The first part of the journey was a gentle but long climb up on to the plateau and it showed in the numbers. After going for 80 miles the battery had fallen to 40%. If it kept consuming energy at that rate, we'd have gone from 80% to an empty battery after only 160 miles. We were in a place called Hjerkinn, in the middle of nowhere (altitude 1,017m and population 4!), and for the first time we started to suffer range anxiety, worried that we really needed to find a charger soon if we were to get back to base. Incredibly, ELTON informed us that we were just minutes from a bank of Tesla chargers! In 25 minutes, we replenished the battery to 90% and the remainder of the journey back to sea level was much more efficient with 105 miles only consuming 32% of the battery. We soon started to appreciate how much of a difference factors such as terrain and temperature made to range, much more than they do in a petrol car, and even using functions such as lights, wipers and the heater had a noticeable effect. We learned to regard the initial readout with caution.

The next day we had another 220-mile plus journey ahead of us, travelling from Trondheim to Ålesund along the scenic 'Atlantic Road'. A lunch stop was taken at the halfway point (Aspøya) and another Tesla rapid charger quickly topped up the battery. This was getting easy, we thought, but subsequent days only reinforced how much the range could fluctuate, with one 140 mile trip leaving us with very little in the energy tank.

We were also learning about another variable: charging speed. The chargers are rated in kilowatt hours (kWh) and the higher the kWh, the quicker they charge. Most of the modern chargers, such as the Tesla ones, were rated at 300kWh, so we could add roughly 150-200 miles in about 25 minutes, but some of the older chargers delivered energy at half that rate, making them more practical for overnight charging. Our initial strategy was to look for chargers when we got down to about 40% and fill in up to 80/85% (manufacturers advise against charging to 100% as it risks damaging the batteries), but as our confidence in the charging network grew, we found ourselves making more short (10 minute) stops when we were out on the road and didn't want to sit around for 25 minutes, then fully charging when we stopped for lunch or overnight.

Another variable was cost. At one hotel we soon stopped charging when we spotted their exorbitant rates, instead waiting until the morning to connect to one of the Tesla chargers across the road which worked its magic while we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast. Most of the high-speed chargers we used were between 45p and 65p per kWh, but the cheapest we found was just 25p per kWh. It's interesting to note that older, slower chargers are cheaper too, but be aware just how long it will take to charge your car using a 5, 7, 12 or 50 kWh charger as opposed to a modern 250 or 300KWh version! The fact that charging speeds have increased so much just goes to show how quickly this technology is evolving.

So, did our Norwegian roadtrip convert us to EV evangelists? Let's look at some numbers first. Our hire car came with an average size battery and a full charge would cost around £29, which would get us a fraction over 250 miles. £29 sounds quite cheap for 250 miles, wouldn't you agree? In comparison, it would probably cost you £45 to travel the same distance in a petrol car in the UK. That's a tick in the box for cost then. Now look at range. 250 miles sounds quite a lot but that's from fully charged to fully empty. Manufacturers advise owners not to charge above 80% and most people would charge at 20%, so that range effectively reduces to 150 miles. Still good enough for the majority of journeys, but it means a 25-minute stop every two or three hours at a high speed charger, or longer at one of the slower ones. At that rate, you could find yourself consuming a lot of leisurely coffees on a longer trip. It also compares badly when you think an average petrol or diesel car will go 500 or so miles on a tank.

At the end of our 11-day Norwegian roadtrip, how do I assess the future of EVs for worry free roadtrips? Our experience proves that, with an extensive rapid charging infrastructure (chargers and apps) in an average-range car, it is easily and comfortably doable without any of the "range anxiety" that we expected.

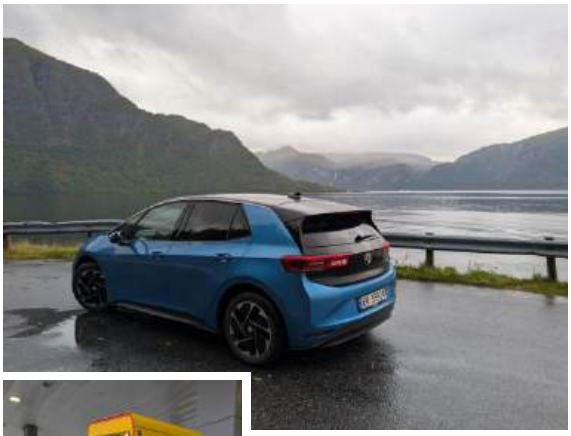
Cont'd over

TAKING A ROADTRIP IN AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (cont'd)

Recharging didn't turn out to be the pain I had anticipated due to the plentiful availability of rapid chargers, useful apps and never having to wait for a free charger. I had previously imagined having to plan recharging stops ahead and then waiting for the charge to take place would be a frustrating chore. However, in practice it was no great issue and scheduling stops around coffee/toilet breaks or lunch/shopping was something you quickly got used to. Cost was also significantly lower than we expected, and lower than we'd have experienced in a petrol or diesel car. And of course, the technology that goes into EVs is still developing, with the newer cars able to go further and charge quicker. Don't forget, it's taken 125 years for conventional cars to get where they are today!

Would we do it again? In Norway, absolutely, and we have already asked AI to look at the options! Would we do it anywhere other than Norway? Quite simply, no. What made it possible in Norway was the infrastructure. Even in the most remote parts of the country, you were never far from a modern, fast charger, delivering charge at 300kWh for as little as 25p per kWh. I've just looked online to see what there is around here. Yate shopping centre has 10 chargers rated at 150kWh, so half the charging speed of Norway. The cost is 87p per kWh. Next to the South Glos Council offices, there's a bank of 11 chargers, rated at 22kWh and costing 56p per kWh, and in Westerleigh, four of the six chargers are rated at just 7kWh. Clearly the UK has a lot of catching up to do, especially if the government is serious about banning the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035, but remember, charging at home is far, far cheaper, so if you have the ability to do that, for the vast majority of journeys you won't need to make use of public chargers.

As for driving in Norway, it was generally a very enjoyable experience. The roads were quiet and in good state of repair although, away from populated areas, somewhat narrow and occasionally with animals. There are a large number of bridges, tunnels (with junctions inside mountains!) and ferries which impress with their slick operation. But the beauty of Norway lies in the scenery. It is quite simply breathtaking, as the attached pictures show. That our trip went so well and so easily is a testament to Norway's success in building the EV infrastructure ahead of the demand for which they deserve huge credit.



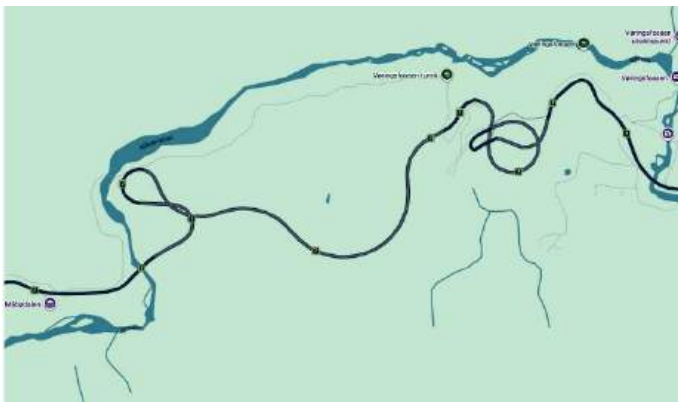




Clockwise from above left:

- *Cold & wet at Stor fjord.*
- *Like chargers, Norway's ferries are abundant and quick.*
- *This road was as interesting as it appeared on the map!*
- *The scenic Atlantic Road.*
- *Uno X, great for charging (and cycling).*





Inside Outside



On the 4th of October, St Mary's Church in Hawkesbury once again provided the perfect venue for an exhibition of drawings, paintings, prints and sculptures, but whereas previous events have featured work by established local artists, this one presented a collection of exhibits produced by inmates at HMP Erlestoke. It was organised by Philip Ringland, who for the past 12 months has been Artist In Residence and Art Tutor at Erlestoke. Under his guidance, a group of about ten learners spend three hours, four days a week in the art room, exploring techniques in painting, drawing, print and ceramics. The time provides them with a brief respite from the reality of life behind bars, and Philip has witnessed transformations in behaviour, self-awareness and empathy.

We found the exhibition quite fascinating, and some of the stories behind the works helped put into perspective just what an effect imprisonment has on an individual. Hopefully the exhibition will be repeated in the future.

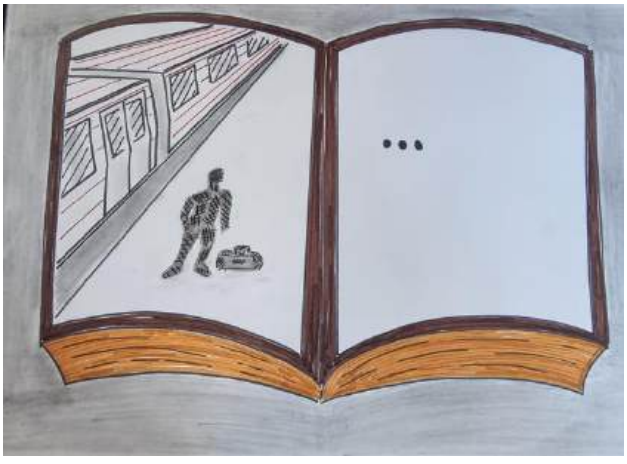
The initiative is promoted by the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance. To find out more about the alliance and how it is helping people to turn their lives around, visit:

https://artsincriminaljustice.org.uk









The Bristol Tapestry

In last month's Local Talk Back, we included the following extract from the October 1976 issue:

> "THE BRISTOL HISTORIC TAPESTRY
>
> The Badminton WI has made arrangements for the Bristol Historical Tapestry to be displayed at Badminton Memorial Hall on Tuesday 2nd November at 8.00pm. Mrs Bleasdale, who has been responsible for directing the team of embroiderers over the last few years, will give a talk and answer any questions about the tapestry, and afterwards those attending will be able to examine this fine and unique work more closely. Refreshments will be served by WI members.
>
> All local inhabitants and readers of Talk Back are invited to attend this interesting evening. As numbers will have to be limited, entry will be by ticket only, which may be purchased at Badminton Post office at 25p each. Hurry to buy your ticket, and don't miss this opportunity to see an important work of great local interest.
>
> Mrs R Wood"

Never having heard of the Bristol Historical Tapestry, we were hoping that someone might be able to educate us. We were therefore delighted when the phone rang and it was a gentleman by the name of Richard Wood. Richard was previously the Badminton Estate Manager (and Chairman of the Badminton Club), holding the post for many years until Simon Dring took over, and it was his wife Penny who had penned the original announcement in Talk Back. It was fascinating to chat with Richard, and his call prompted us to head into Bristol and navigate our way to the City Museum, where the tapestry is on display.

It turns out the tapestry was the idea of Mrs Marjorie Bleasdale (who you'll see gave the talk at Badminton) and Mrs Jean Tanner. They started the project in the late sixties, and it would take until 1976 for the two ladies and a team of 90 helpers to complete it. The finished article, which is made up of four panels with a combined length of 73-feet, tells the 1000-year history of Bristol in 27 scenes, from its origins as a village called Brigg Stow (meaning a meeting place by a bridge) to the days when it was manufacturing Concorde. Along the way, it depicts scenes including John Cabot's voyage of discovery to America in 1497, the visit of Elizabeth I to Bristol in 1574, and, from the Victorian era, the many engineering achievements of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It was originally hoped the tapestry would be completed in time for the Bristol 600 celebrations in 1973, but the work took longer than anyone expected and just a selection of panels were displayed in a marquee on The Downs. It made up for it by travelling to the US on Concorde for their bicentennial celebrations in 1976, where it is claimed that an American gentleman was so taken by the tapestry that he enquired about buying it!

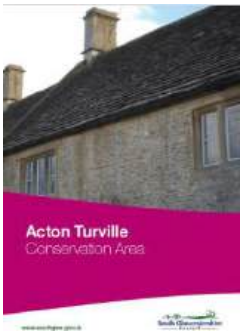


The tapestry makes for an impressive sight at the museum, with its vibrant colours depicting many scenes from the city's long history, some of which you will have read about, and some of which you might remember. However, although it's referred to as a tapestry, that's apparently not technically correct, as it also involves other techniques such as screen printing and embroidery. The ladies who created it also used various pieces of material to represent different textures, including an old pair of particularly furry mittens which ingeniously now form the coat of John Wesley's (particularly furry) horse!



We would like to thank Richard for contacting us and providing some background to the tapestry's appearance at Badminton. We'd also recommend visiting it at the museum in Bristol. It's a fascinating part of the city's history.

REVIEWING THE ACTON TURVILLE CONSERVATION AREA



The villages of Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville are all designated Conservation Areas. It's a concept that was introduced back in 1967 and used to signify areas "the character of which is considered worthy of preservation or enhancement." The first village to gain Conservation Area status was Stamford in Lincolnshire, since when approximately 10,000 more have been added across all parts of England, in both rural and urban locations.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure the rules relating to Conservation Areas are being correctly applied, not just to protect the integrity and character of buildings but also to preserve the area as a whole. As part of this process, regular reviews are conducted which check the current status of the area and consider whether any changes or updates are required.

One such review is being undertaken in Acton Turville, and as part of the process, Rebecca Anthony, the Conservation Officer for South Gloucestershire, asked the Parish Council to organise a visit to explain what the review involved and to hear the views of local people. The visit was originally planned as a quick walk around the village to trace the route of the Conservation Area's boundary and discuss particular features, but that plan was soon abandoned as residents enthusiastically discussed all aspects of the history of the village and its buildings. Four hours later, it was only an autumnal downpour that brought the visit to an end! Rebecca was delighted to discover so much local knowledge, with several villagers having undertaken detailed research into their own homes and the people who used to live there, and thanked everyone for their input. In turn, the Parish Council would like to thank both Rebecca and all those villagers who made the event such a success. We look forward to seeing the outcome of the review.



MORE WHAT'S ON!

BADMINTON ESTATE

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS COOKING DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER, 4PM–7PM

Join Nancy Lawson from Overtown Manor for an evening of festive cooking and inspiration.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 10AM–12:30PM

Choose from three festive workshops: block printing your own Christmas tea towel, making scented candles or arm knitting a cosy throw for the winter months.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER, 3PM–5PM

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER, 6PM–8PM

Create your own festive wreath using seasonal foliage and decorations, while enjoying Baileys hot chocolate and freshly baked mince pies.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

~~SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER, 6:30PM–9PM~~ *SOLD OUT!*

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER, 2PM–4PM

Following the popularity of our sold-out evening concert, we are delighted to introduce a new matinee performance when the Bristol Ensemble will perform highlights from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, alongside much-loved festive favourites.

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

BEAUFORT *Christmas* FAIR

THE HOME OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2026

9.30am-8.00pm

NEWNTON DAIRY FARM, LONG NEWNTON, SN16 9SR

Admittance £10

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

★ CAFE by relish ★ SHOPPING ★ BAR by iglu ★

Sponsored by: TILL WE MEET AGAIN

Supported Charities include: Wiltshire Air Ambulance

WWW.BEAUFORTCHRISTMASFAIR.CO.UK

Church Matters

November 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

At the heart of any club, tournament or family there is an event which focuses the soul of all the entity/activity. It could be the Centre Court at Wimbledon, the opening ceremony of the Olympic games, or the Christmas meal of a family. For the Church, there is something similar. No matter what denomination you are. It is the service of Holy Communion. Also known as the Mass, the Eucharist, or the Lord's table.

So highly prized is this meal that it only takes place four times a year in some Protestant churches. And in others, it is considered so important that it takes place every day.

But why is it so important?

At the last supper before Jesus was betrayed, he gave his disciples bread and wine. He told them to come together to eat and drink the bread and wine, in remembrance of him.

Why would he do that? Maybe, because he knew that His presence going forward in the lives of his disciples, could be kept alive and effective, if they remembered the sacrifice he was about to make. And that the power of his sacrifice, could be transmitted through this meal.

And so that is what Christians have done through the centuries - remembered His sacrifice regularly in Word and Sacrament. In Word by reading the scriptures together and in Sacrament by eating and drinking the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

We have a Service of Holy Communion somewhere in our Benefice, every Sunday. Though we only still get small numbers at Holy communion in one or two of our churches. This is lamentable.

And just to dispel a myth. In days gone by, an adult had to be Confirmed in order to receive communion. Today, we are happy to give Communion to any Baptised person. Children even, can receive the sacrament after a short course of preparation.

Jesus gave two instructions about worship. Firstly, go into your private room and pray to God in secret. And secondly, come together, to take and eat the bread and wine and remember me.

Do we do this?

With my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable November,

Your local vicar, Richard

revrichardthomson@gmail.com
07717791858.
Website: badmintonbenefice.com

Church Services for November 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
1st November All Saints Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins plus Act of Remembrance	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
2nd November	7.00pm	Hawkesbury	All Souls Service	D Young
6th November	7.00pm	Hawkesbury	Festival of Remembrance	Rev R Thomson
8th November Remembrance Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	10.50am	Sopworth War Memorial	Act of Remembrance	Lay Led
	10.50am	Hawkesbury War Memorial	Act of Remembrance	Lay Led
	10.50am	Great Badminton	Remembrance Service	Rt Rev David Jennings
11th November	10.50am	Leighterton War Memorial	Act of Remembrance	Lay Led
15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service with Thanksgiving for a Child	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Taize	Robert BP
22nd November Sunday before Advent	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Great Badminton	El Gubi Service	The Dean preaching
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	L Maydew
29th November	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Advent Service	Rev R Thomson

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 12th October 2026. Matters discussed at the meeting included:

Planning. Four planning applications had been submitted since the previous meeting.

- Location: Land adjacent to The Street, Acton Turville.
  Description: Demolition of an Agricultural Building. Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of a new access and parking area.
  Response: The PC noted several issues with the proposed development, primarily the impact on the views across the site from vehicles parked on the raised area behind the dwelling, but overall supported the scheme. No Objection.
- Location: Land at Hollybush Farm, The Street, Acton Turville.
  Description: Creation of 4 no. parking spaces to rear of Burton Road cottages.
  Response: No Objection.
- Location: Hollybush Farm, The Street, Acton Turville (area known as Duchess Garden).
  Description: Reduce height of 6 no Yew Trees by 1.5m.
  Response: No Objection.
- Location Street Farm House, The Street, Acton Turville.
  Description: Thin crown of 1 no. Ash Tree by 15% and reduce height of 1 no. Holly Tree by approx. 1m.
  Response: No Objection.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council remains in discussion with the Police to see what would be involved in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Acton Turville. We would very much like to hear from volunteers who could help run it. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance if you think you might be able to assist, or would like more information.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2026 @ 7.00pm
Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:
Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Vice Chair: Sybil Haddrell 01454 218772,
Sally Smith 07789 414606, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674
Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052
Email: clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk Website: https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the October quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

CARERS AVAILABLE

Julie Williams (formerly Mildon) & Steve Williams
Experienced carers living in Badminton
We are able to offer a range of caring services:

Daytime visits & overnight care
Short term cover for holidays, etc
Experience working with the elderly and those suffering from dementia

Respite can now be done from your home, provided your property can accommodate

Domestic Services also available

Fully DBS checked - references available

To discuss your needs, please contact:

07890 312114 or **07432 874049**
julieedp65@gmail.com

To advertise your business or club,
please email:
localtalkbackads@gmail.com

HOME COMPUTER PLAYING UP?
NEED SOME HELP?
DON'T DESPAIR!

For help with:

- Windows 7, 8, 10, 11 and Tablets
- Wireless Router, Mobile, SmartTV setup
- Hardware Upgrades and Repairs
- PC's Custom Built to order

No problem too small or large!

Contact: Lloyd Buckingham
Tel: 07940 155064
Email: lb_cs@hotmail.com

LB Computer Services

YOUR LOCAL, LOW COST,
HOME COMPUTER REPAIRER

The FOX & HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

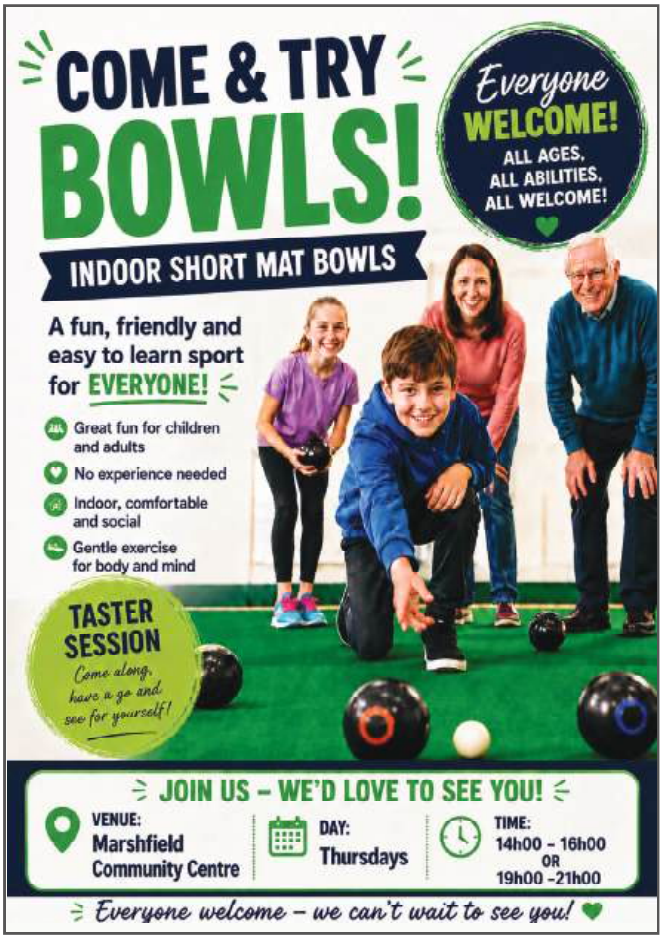
01454 218224

OPEN MONDAY-SUNDAY
INDOOR & OUTDOOR EATING/DRINKING

TAKEAWAYS lunchtimes/evenings
Good Home Cooked Food
Covered Beer Garden
Large Car Park

Senior Citizens Luncheon Club
2nd Wednesday of every month
Tea/coffee on arrival, 2 course Lunch
(main course + dessert)
£13.00 per head





Old Sodbury
Tree and Plant Nursery
(formerly Landcare - same owners!)

Your local independent nursery with over 10,000 trees and plants in stock.

- Ornamental trees
- Fruit trees and shrubs
- Shrubs
- Hedging
- Herbaceous perennials
- Wildflowers
- **Bare-root Dec to Mar**

Delivery and planting services available!



Open to trade and public
Mon to Sat 8:30-16:00

Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury
S.Glos, BS37 6SJ
01454 310664

www.oldsodburytrees.co.uk

DEL HEALTHCARE RECRUITMENT LTD.

24/7 SERVICES

YOUR HEALTH, OUR PRIORITY !

Welcome to Del Healthcare Recruitment Ltd where health matters in the comfort of your own home.
We are a private care provider based in Bristol. We offer a range of healthcare services to suit individuals, families and healthcare organisations, private and public health across Somerset. Serving individuals above 65+
At Del Healthcare, High quality care is our number one priority with a team of exceptional and conscientous Nurses and Care staff's.
Our staffs are highly trained professionals who are able to deliver the best care at home or in the community.
Our services are regulated by CQC.



SERVICES

- Personal Care
- Palliative Care
- Live In Care
- Respite Care
- Companionship
- Night Sitter
- Hospital Discharge

MORE INFORMATION

07949205409
Delhealthcare@yahoo.com
www.delhealthcare.com

DEL HEALTHCARE RECRUITMENT LTD.

We promote innovation by constantly improving the system for planning and service delivery. Our Quality Assurance is based on continous improvement principles for quality services being shouldered by all our employees.

To advertise your business or club, please email:
localtalkbackads@gmail.com

BADMINTON
CURTAINS & BLINDS

Made-to-measure Bespoke Curtains and Roman Blinds

Also suppliers of:
Roller Blinds
Venetian Blinds
Vertical
Perfect Fit
Bifold Blinds

Free Quote & Measure

www.badmintonblinds.co.uk
07977 234193

Powered Up Access
HIRE, SALES & SERVICE

Powered Up Access Ltd have been providing the highest quality of access equipment and plant across multiple industries in the UK since 2010. We have a huge fleet of different models and types of machines, including .....

CHERRY PICKERS, BOOMS, SCISSOR LIFTS

..... and more

All available to hire or buy



Please contact us for more information:

0845 601770
info@poweredupaccess.co.uk

www.poweredupaccess.co.uk



MATTHEW BUTLER BOOKS
Old Garage House, Acton Turville
butler.books@btinternet.com
01454 218036
Good quality and antiquarian books valued, bought and sold. Specialities: Architectural History, Archaeology and Art History.
Browsing by appointment

HJ Health

EAR WAX REMOVAL



- Using latest micro suction techniques
- Treatments carried out by EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONERS
- Very competitive prices

Clinic based in Brimsham Park, Yate
Parking available directly outside the clinic

hayley@hjtherapies.co.uk
07846 452 000 / 01454 314 460
www.hjtherapies.co.uk



Local Talk Back

Local Talk Back relies on advertising revenue and donations to cover publishing costs

Advertising Rates

B&W (per month)

Full page £45
Half page £23
Quarter page £12
1/8th page £9
1/16th page £7

Advertisers booking for one year in advance (11 issues) only pay for 10 issues

If you would like to advertise your business or club, please contact us:

LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com
07855 347103



PJD Home Improvements

Painting and Decorating / Property Maintenance

Check out my Facebook and Instagram pages

Paul Davidson
07766 680161
paul.davidson123@btinternet.com

Foxley Plumbing & Heating

Oil boiler installation, servicing & repairs
Oil tank replacement
Heating installation & repairs
Bathroom installations
Unvented cylinder systems
No job too small

Tim Hibberd
Malmesbury **(01666) 822863**
Mobile: **07966 462202**
Email: foxleyph@btinternet.com

OFTEC

Local Talk Back

Local Talk Back relies on advertising revenue and donations to cover publishing costs

Advertising Rates

B&W (per month)

Full page £45
Half page £23
Quarter page £12
1/8th page £9
1/16th page £7

Advertisers booking for one year in advance (11 issues) only pay for 10 issues

If you would like to advertise your business or club, please contact us:

LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com
07855 347103

To advertise your business or club, please email:
localtalkbackads@gmail.com



FRENCHAY CHIMNEY SWEEP

All sweeps certificated
for house insurance purposes
and landlord
Local, professional no mess service

Contact Paul on
07832 995391

CHORLEY'S AUCTIONEERS
Cotswolds Heritage since 1862

Complimentary Auction Valuations

Monthly Auctions of Art & Antiques
Probate & Insurance Valuations
Open Valuation Thursdays 10am-1pm

Prinknash Abbey Park
Gloucestershire
GL4 8EU

01452 344499
info@chorleys.com
www.chorleys.com

D. J. Mayhead
ELECTRICAL SERVICES

DOMESTIC * INDUSTRIAL * COMMERCIAL

- Wiring, Re-wiring & Upgrading of existing system
- Periodic Inspection, Testing & Certification
- Electric Boilers, Showers & Heating
- Consumer Unit Upgrades
- Internal & External Lighting
- Electric Car Charge Outlet
- 3 Phase Installations
- CCTV, Entry & Alarm Systems

** SOLAR PANEL FITTING **

Benefits of investing in PV Solar Panels:
- Cut your carbon footprint
- Reduce your electricity bills
- Protect against future energy price increases

Reduce your energy bills...

We will:
- Offer you our best honest advice
- Fit top quality guaranteed panels
- Ensure you receive the best value for your money
- Treat your property with the care and respect it deserves



We operate with full insurance and all work is guaranteed!

Please contact us for a FREE no obligation quote...

D.J.Mayhead Electrical Services Ltd, Oxlip Barn, Christian Malford, SN15 4DF
T: 01249 890582 **M:** 07971 684524 **E:** info@djmayheadelectrical.co.uk
www.djmayheadelectrical.co.uk

CLAPCOTE FORESTRY
Established 1981

CLAPCOTE SAWMILL

Specialising in OAK, LARCH, DOUGLAS FIR and ALL NATIVE HARD & SOFT WOODS for beams, lintels planks (inc. air dried) & fencing materials

SWEET CHESTNUT FENCING STAKES

Suppliers of best quality hardwood logs, cut and split to your requirements

KINDLING

ENGLISH LUMPWOOD BARBECUE CHARCOAL

WOOD CHIP

Telephone : Norman and Diane Matthews
YARD & OFFICE **01666 837230**
or visit our yard between Grittleton and Hullavington
to discuss your requirements



Village Link
Volunteers transporting the Community

Do you know anyone who might benefit from our services?
or consider joining our volunteers?
Please ask them to call one of our coordinators on
07590 720836

Disclaimer
The articles in this magazine reflect the personal opinions of the writers and not those of the Editorial Team. Furthermore, the Editorial Team are not responsible for any errors of fact printed in the magazine. Advertising is accepted in good faith. The LTB cannot be held responsible for loss, damage or injury arising out of goods and services sold through any adverts in this magazine. The appearance of an advert in the magazine does not imply any endorsement by the Editorial Team of either the company or its services, not does it constitute a recommendation.
All articles written and submitted should have a contact name and telephone or email information, please.
No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior consent of the publisher.

Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival



For a relatively small village, there's a lot going on in Hawkesbury Upton, not least an annual horticultural show that in 2026 celebrated its 140th anniversary! Something else that's becoming well established is its Literature Festival which has been running since 2015. Originally intended to provide an enjoyable and inclusive literary event for the local community, the Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival (HULF) soon grew to become a major event in multiple venues around the village attracting speakers and audience members from a very wide radius, including France and Australia. Founded by local author Debbie Young, it is now a permanent fixture in the Cotswolds' cultural calendar.

At the end of September, the festival held its summer event at St Mary's in Hawkesbury on the theme of Mysterious Ways. With a great line-up of acclaimed authors, poets and artists (and some fantastic cake), HULF 2026 proved to be a huge success, with the guest speakers (who can be seen in the attached photograph by Peter Salenieks) keeping all those in attendance engaged and entertained throughout the day. The festival also raised the very healthy sum of £300 for Friends of St Mary's.

If you missed the September HULF, fear not, because there's another one in December. Taking place between 11am and 3pm on Saturday the 5th December at the Bethesda Chapel in Hawkesbury Upton, the Christmas HULF will see more authors and special guests giving talks about their books as well as delivering a bit of festive cheer with readings from Christmas classics. Of course, there will also be lots of opportunities to purchase signed books directly from the authors - can there be a better Christmas present than a personally signed and dedicated book? We think not.

For all the latest information and to book tickets, go to www.hulitfest.com



