

Local Talk Back

OCTOBER 2026

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

ISSUE 575



SLAIT LODGE, BADMINTON, ENJOYING A BIT OF AUTUMN SUN.
PICTURE BY SIMON LONG, ACTON TURVILLE



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

EDITORIAL OCTOBER 2026

The one part of the aging process I quite like is the ability to spend more time reminiscing about the old days. Sitting down with friends you've known for years, recalling people, places and events from long ago, is a fine way to while away the hours, even if a lot of the most pertinent details only come back to you several hours after the conversation has finished. In my spare room, under the bed, there are boxes and boxes of Talk Backs that go all the way back to the first issue from November 1975. Over the years I must have been through them all several times, often when putting together articles for Talk Backs, sometimes when just looking for something to read. They describe events that occurred decades before I arrived in the village, yet they paint a vivid picture of life over the past 50 years or so that feels very real to me. There's a sort of twilight zone where I can't be sure whether I actually remember something because I was there, or whether I remember it because I read about it in Talk Back.

Sometimes people will phone up, asking if I can find information about a specific person or event. Many of the back issues were scanned by Talk Back's good friend Chris Farrell a few years back which greatly aids the search process, otherwise it means a trip to the vaults and a couple of hours spent leafing through the paper copies. Someone who's phoned a few times is Norman Williamson. Norman used to live in Little Badminton with his younger brothers Alan and Trevor and started his working life with the builder Fred Ayliffe. He moved away in his mid-twenties, with his job subsequently taking him to various places around the country before he finally settled in Leicester, I'd always tell Norman to call in if he was in the area. A month or so ago, I got a call from Norman to say he was (in the area) and he would (call in). So he did. We chatted away enthusiastically for a couple of hours, reminiscing about times that I'd only ever experienced vicariously through Talk Back, before shaking hands and going our separate ways. It was a nice way to spend an evening.

It was that chat with Norman that prompted the "From the Archives" piece in this issue of Talk Back, which gives a glimpse of what was happening in our villages 5, 25 and 50 years ago. The years more or less chose themselves, but at least two of them turned out to be significant in their own way, coinciding with global events which could have (and maybe did) change the world forever (and we're not talking about the demonstration of corn dolly making at the Badminton WI's recent meeting, although maybe the world would be a better place if more people had diverted their energies to making corn dollies). As always, it was interesting to see how life in our villages was changing, but at the same time there were constants that made us feel comfortable, especially the vicars' letters that managed to capture the essence of village life, in rather different ways as it turned out! Maybe we should do more "From the Archive" articles – what do you think?

As we move into October, the nature of the events available for us to report on begins to change. We enjoyed many events at Badminton this year, especially the horse trials where the ever-popular Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo combo took an historic third victory, but the RHS flower show also stands out as something very special which far exceeded our expectations. The events appearing on the Badminton Estates website now have much more of a seasonal theme, with Christmas Cooking demonstrations and wreath-making workshops to look forward to, reminding us that the seasons are slowly changing and this seemingly never-ending spell of warm weather must eventually subside.

Something else we really enjoyed over the summer were the events centred around St Mary's church in Hawkesbury, where an enthusiastic team have been working hard to present a series of imaginative exhibitions and performances at and around this beautiful venue. Being first and foremost places of worship, some may not think a church would be suitable as a venue for a display of modern art, but we were blown away when we visited their Antiphony exhibition in July. The exhibits transformed the church, but just as importantly, the church provided a stunning venue that showed off the exhibits perfectly. If you're quick, you should be able to make it to the exhibition of artworks by prisoners from HMP Erlestoke on Sunday the 4th October. Make the effort. You won't be disappointed.

It's also great to see that the Chipping Sodbury Music Society will be launching their new season on Tuesday the 20th October with a concert by the Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Europe. The society consistently put on high-quality events, and with a reputation built up over almost 80 years, they are able to book performers who would normally play much bigger venues. We're very lucky to have them on our doorstep.

Right, I must get back to reading through the Talk Back archives. I'm up to 1992 already. Just another 34 years to go.

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

October 2026

Fri 2 nd	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Fri 2 nd	Quiz Night, Fox & Hounds, 8pm
Sun 4 th	Inside Outside Art Exhibition, St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury, 11am – 5pm
Fri 9 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 10 th	Acton Turville Autumn Tidy-Up, meet at the Fox & Hounds Car Park from 10am
Sat 10 th	Oktoberfest, Fox und Hounds, from 5pm
Sun 11 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
Mon 12 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 14 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Tues 20 th	Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Europe, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall
Fri 23 rd and Friday 30 th	Spring Bulb Planting Workshop, Badminton Estate

November 2026

Thurs 5 th	Bonfire Night, Fox & Hounds, from 6pm
Fri 6 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Mon 9 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 11 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Fri 13 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 14 th	Christmas Cooking Demonstration, Badminton Estate
Fri 20 th	Bingo Night, Fox & Hounds, from 8pm
Sat 21 st	Christmas Crafts Workshop, Badminton Estate
Sat 28 th	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Badminton Estate

Please check with venues before setting off

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received donations this month from Sheila Carter and Jackie Crook, for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £31.25 was very kindly 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*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE **100 Club**

WINNERS FOR AUGUST 2026

Arthur Haddrell
Clive Candy
Berry Hope

WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Mary Mullens
Hannah Griffin
Pam and Graham Bubb

Congratulations!



Coffee Morning

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

Next coffee morning – Friday 2nd October

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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 9th October 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



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

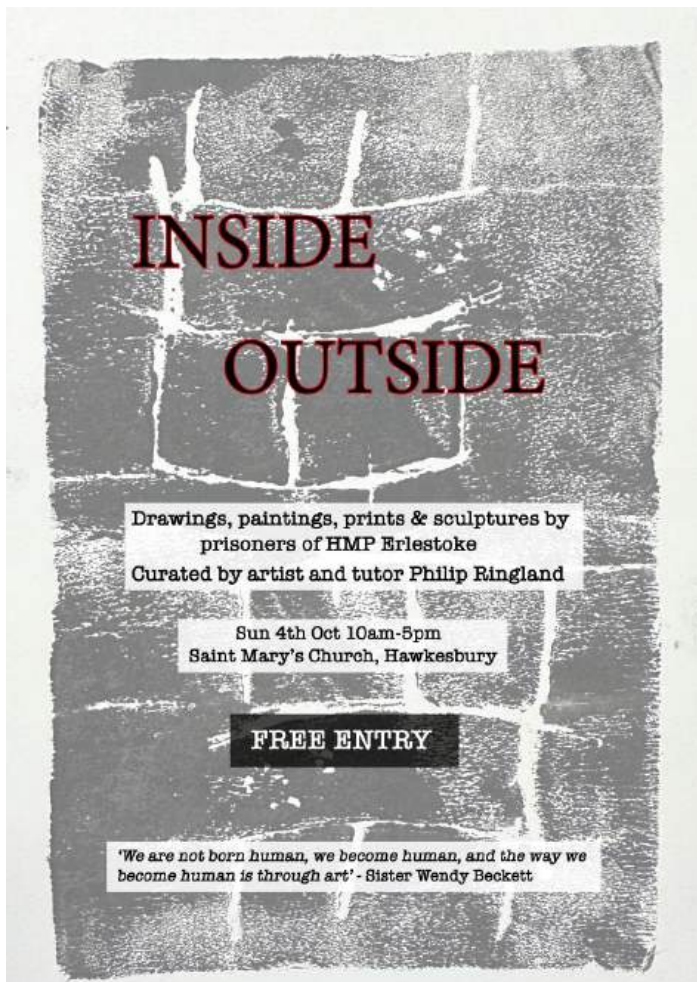
Wednesday 14th October

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.*



BADMINTON ESTATE

SPRING BULB PLANTING WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 23 & 30 OCTOBER, 1PM-3PM

Join the Estate gardening team for a hands-on spring bulb planting workshop, taking place in the Orangery and Walled Garden greenhouse. The workshop will give you the chance to learn how to create beautiful seasonal displays for your garden, as well as the best planting techniques and tips on bulb care.

This Christmas, join us at Badminton House for four much-loved festive events, returning for another year.

Get Ready for Christmas Cooking Demonstration

Saturday 14 November | 4pm-7pm

Christmas Crafts Workshop

Saturday 21 November | 10am-12:30pm

Christmas Wreath Making

Saturday 28 November | 3pm-5pm

Friday 4 December | 6pm-8pm

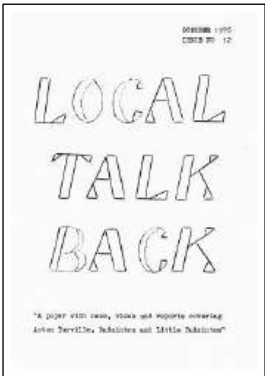
Christmas by Candlelight Concert

Saturday 12 December | 6:30pm-9pm

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

50 Years Ago – October 1976



The very first edition of Local Talk Back was published in November 1975. By the time the October 1976 dropped through letterboxes, the editorial team, led by Ray Bird, had developed a successful format which combined sports reports, local news, announcements and general chat. There were still tweaks to be made, but the 14 pages of hand-typed text made for a good read with something for everyone. It's interesting to note that the one bit that remains virtually unchanged after 50 years is the vicar's letter and church rota. In 1976, the vicar was the Reverend Tom Gibson, and his letter started with a very bold statement: "This month I am going to write about money." It would appear that the churches in both Acton Turville and Badminton were feeling the effects of rising costs and inflation and "sliding quite definitely into the red." Each church needed an additional £300 per annum just to break even, and it was proving to be an uphill struggle to raise the money from the

collecting plate and the occasional fete or coffee morning. The vicar questioned whether it was fair that the full weight of responsibility for funding the activities of the church should rest on the shoulders of the small number of regular churchgoers and, whilst acknowledging that other fund-raising schemes had been set up to "obtain income" from people who were not regular church-goers (presumably a reference to things like the monthly draws that people could join), the Reverend Gibson was not comfortable relying on support from people who were "frankly not interested in the church and its activities." The letter ends by pointing out that the church will continue to "baptise, marry and bury anyone who may need these services", not just the regular church-goers, and urges everyone to recognise what they might be missing out on by not taking a more active role in church life, even if it means they might end up "paying for someone else who doesn't really give a damn!" Yikes.

Elsewhere, there were plenty of events taking place for the editorial team to report on. The British Legion held its annual show on the sports field in Badminton, which enjoyed a good attendance despite the non-appearance of two "colourful attractions", namely the Noddy Train and the Swingboats. There was still plenty to see and do, with a gymkhana, a dog show, a clay pigeon shoot and a flower show, where exhibits were judged to be of a very high standard, despite the long dry summer of 1976. The Army turned up too, demonstrating their skills by recovering an overturned lorry whilst under simulated attack. In the evening there was a social event, which organiser Mike Earl admitted "was not the outstanding success" he'd hoped it would be. He promised to look at other options for 1977, but thought it would probably revert to a dance.

The ever-reliable Jean Earl submitted her regular report on behalf of the 1st Acton Turville Brownies, who in July had taken 18 girls on a day trip to the Burford Wild Life Park. They'd also had a bottle stall at the British Legion show which raised a very impressive £50. Life for the Guides in Badminton had been slightly less glamorous according to the report from Dorothy Lane, and the highlight of their month was a "merry afternoon" cleaning 40 or so chairs at the Memorial Hall! They did get to attend the British Legion's show though, which saw their coffers swell by £23.

As usual, there were reports from the Badminton WI, who'd enjoyed a demonstration of Corn Dolly making, the Acton Turville Villagers Association, who were looking forward to a demonstration of flower arranging, and the Badminton Sunday School, when "30 odd children" (presumably that should have been 30-odd children...) enjoyed an evening at The Vicarage courtesy of the Rev and Mrs Gibson, when they "watched two interesting films about the work of Doctor Barnado's Homes and feasted on a great deal of food".

Finally, I was intrigued to read the following piece about the Bristol Historical Tapestry:

"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.

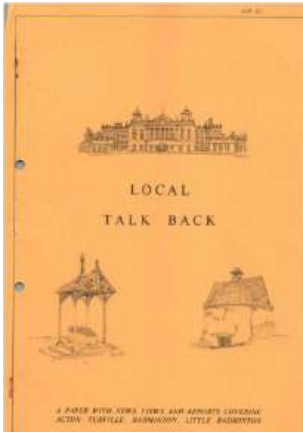
All local inhabitants and readers of Talk Back are invited to attend this interesting evening. As numbers will have to be limited, entry will be by ticket only, which may be purchased at Badminton Post office at 25p each. Hurry to buy your ticket, and don't miss this opportunity to see an important work of great local interest.

Mrs R Wood"

Does anyone remember seeing the tapestry at Badminton, or know what the Bristol Historic Tapestry was all about?

Cont'd over

25 Years Ago - October 2001



Fast forward 25 years and we find ourselves leafing through the 20 pages that make up October 2001 edition of Local Talk Back. Events in our local villages are somewhat overshadowed by events that took place in America on the 11th September, and several contributors, including editor Kath Gentry, express shock that such atrocities could occur. The vicar, the Rev Phillip Berrow, asked us to pray for all those affected by the attacks, and hoped world leaders would find a way to bring peace and justice for all people. In his monthly letter, he also reflected on the anxiety and hardship that farmers were tackling as a result of foot and mouth disease, where he noted a perception that “the politicians don't care” and “most of society does not understand and does not value their lifetime of hard work”. He urged readers to write to the media and their MPs to address this shameful situation. Well said that man.

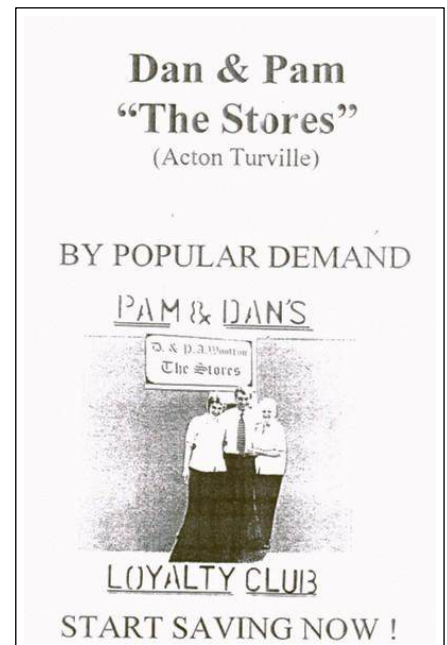
One big change that's very obvious from the October 1976 edition of Talk Back is the arrival of paid adverts which over the years have been a lifeline for our newsletter. Pan & Dan at the Acton Turville Stores were promoting their loyalty club, the Fox & Hounds were looking for a “part time person”, and you could get into the Christmas spirit by ordering a home-reared fresh turkey from Ian & Liz Windell at Badminton Farm.

The much-missed Valentine Club needed a full page to report on its recent and forthcoming offerings. In July, John & Sally Smith held a garden party to raise funds for the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party with a tombola, raffle and games to keep everyone busy while they enjoyed the glorious sunshine. Then there was a boat trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal when 26 people braved the elements on a narrow boat that cruised between Limpley Stoke and Bradford-on-Avon. The weather might have been grim but there was a bar, so it wasn't all bad. The highlight of the year was a visit to Highgrove, the home of Prince Charles (as he was then). Once through security, the Valentine Club Members were split into two groups before setting off on their one-and-a-half hour tours. From the way the tour is described, it's clear everyone enjoyed looking around the many different sections that make up the gardens, and were pleased to spot the sundial given to the prince by the late Duke of Edinburgh. The small bronze chicken pecking at the lichen on a low wall was apparently a gift from Elton John. The day ended with tea and biscuits, which sounds very civilised.

One theme that appears throughout the newsletter is “fundraising”. Over at the Fox & Hounds, landlord Chico was raising money for the Acton Turville church fund by donating profits from the 2001 New Year Eve's party to this very worthwhile cause. There was an Antiques Evening in aid of the Lifeboats at Hawkesbury Upton, where a local expert would value your prized possessions (maximum two per person), and the Girl Guides were having a jumble sale in the Memorial Hall. Local Talk Back also got in on the act, benefitting from some “quite substantial” donations from fundraising events held at both the Fox & Hounds and the Badminton Village Club.

Whilst fundraising might have been on the up, it's noticeable how reports on local sporting events and pastimes had declined since the October 1976 edition. Back in the early days, there were regular reports on cricket, skittles, crib, darts and football. By 2001, all we could read about were the exploits of the Hawkesbury Hotspur junior football club. Were the other sports in decline locally, or was Talk Back struggling to find anyone to report on them?

Two other groups presenting reports were the Acton Turville Parish Council and Trinity School. The Parish Council report noted the passing of a much-loved institution – the annual village bonfire, which it would seem was a victim of emergent safety legislation and ever-increasing insurance costs. There was also concern about the size and frequency of trucks squeezing past The Well. Thankfully that was being reviewed by South Glos council so we can assume that problem has gone away (can't we?). And with the start of a new school year at Trinity came some exciting events to look forward to, including “...another visit from the Young Shakespeare Company to perform Macbeth with the children, and also one from the Storybox Theatre who will perform 'A Space Odyssey 2000'”, the latter sounding like a little-known prequel to Stanley Kubrick's seminal sci-fi masterpiece 2001: A Space Odyssey. Or maybe it was a typo.



Cont'd over

5 Years Ago - October 2021



By October 2021, Talk Back was up to Issue 520 and yours truly was nicely settled into the editorial seat which I'd inhabited for a couple of years by then. The cover picture of a traditional horsedrawn caravan was taken by Yvonne Nettles when she popped along to the 2021 Hawkesbury Tractor Run. There were more pictures of tractors on the back cover, where it was reported that the run, organised by the Hawkesbury Farm Shop, had collected a very impressive £4,500 in aid of the Jessie May Trust.

Yvonne must have relished the opportunity to get along to the show and see a bit of normality returning to everyday life, as it wasn't long ago that England had emerged from the third and (thankfully) final COVID lockdown. During those days of lockdown, Local Talk Back intentionally avoided the hard-hitting messages that seemed to be coming from every media source and instead focused on happier times and positive thoughts, which wasn't always easy. One of my abiding memories of those days is a picture Yvonne took from the bridge over the M4 which showed the carriageway in

both directions totally devoid of traffic. I remember thinking "I wonder if life will ever return to normal?"

The ever-present vicar's letter, now being penned by The Rev Richard Thomson, demonstrated more positivity with reports on recent events including the dedication of a new set of bells at the church in Hawkesbury. A growing challenge would appear to be the considerable backlog of weddings and funerals which needed to be worked through, but at least face coverings were no longer a legal requirement, making attendance at church much more of a pleasure.

His letter also mentioned the Badminton Tea Party organised by the Parochial Church Council and held in the Memorial Hall. The event was kindly written up for us by the PCC's treasurer Jake Olver who included some pictures which we were only too pleased to publish.

The event raised nearly £500, which probably reflected how happy people were to be out and about again.



October 2021 was quite a bumper month for articles. Yvonne Nettles had made the most of a recent stay in hospital to monitor the comings and goings of the air ambulances. One caught her eye, being larger than all the others and staying on site for much longer. It turned out to be a dedicated Children's Air Ambulance, used to transport critically ill children and babies. She explained that some flights were hospital-to-hospital, when the helicopter could fly a medical team of doctors, nurses and their specialist equipment from the Bristol Children's Hospital to whichever hospital was treating a child, turning their local hospital into a specialist care centre. The helicopters were packed with specialist equipment including ventilators, monitors, infusion pumps, a baby incubator pod and a system called ECMO, which was similar to a heart and lung bypass machine, pioneering in flight care for the sickest of children for whom transfer by road may not even be an option. And it was all run on a charitable basis. Amazing.

A second article told the story of James Dyson, who in his early days lived in Street Farmhouse, in the heart of Acton Turville. Penned by Ray Bird, the article was entitled "From Country Bumpkin to Billionaire", which some of us were unsure about. It focussed on his early career, particularly the time when he was designing, assembling and marketing his barrow from Street Farmhouse, and told how close he came to losing the property after he put up as security against a loan. Thankfully it all came good, and Lord Dyson is now one of the biggest landowners in the country. As Ray put it, "In 2003 he bought Dodington House for a reported £15 million, a far cry from the days when he had to borrow the deposit to purchase Street Farmhouse". And the title of the article? That came from a quote where he apparently once referred to himself as a "Norfolk Country Bumpkin", so our concerns were unfounded.

The third article was the latest instalment of a piece written by Peter Moss, which told of an epic journey he made in 1969, driving his MGB sportscar from Kuwait to the UK. The article was published over four issues of Talk Back, each one covering a leg of the journey and describing the wonderful sights and severe challenges he encountered along the way. The first part, published in September, traced his route from Kuwait, through Iraq and into Iran, a journey which would be all but unthinkable today. This month, he's driving from Iran to Turkey. Along the way he dined with a German who was in Iran to set up a German sausage factory, and bought a rather fine antique Persian rug. He slept in a sleeping bag alongside the car, visited the Blue Mosque in the town of Tabriz, and had his MG's alternator refurbished in Turkey while the repair shop plied him with copious quantities of tea to calm his nerves. Peter's story was beautifully written and described a world which is long gone. We must republish it one day.

Talking Back to Local Talk Back

Dear Local Talk Back,

I enjoyed reading Simon Long's article '*The Language Under the Language*' about regional dialects in the June issue of Local Talk Back. I could definitely relate to phrases such as "it's not bad mind" and "mind out", and can remember people from Bristol saying "cheers drive" when they got off the bus. "Gert lush" was a common term but probably used more jokingly, and I still get teased by my Lancastrian friends when I say "where's it to?" or "where's he at?".

I really wanted to reply with my own experiences and those of my family, as Simon's reference to the three distinct local dialects definitely struck a chord!

My nan, mum and her brother John were born in Bristol. My grandad was born in the East End of London, moving to Bristol aged 16 or so. They all moved out to Wiltshire in the war to get away from the Bristol blitz, relocating to The Plough Inn, West Kingston to live with my great grandparents Alfred and Florence Bishop, licensees of the pub. They were both from Somerset.

Myself and six siblings were all born in Wiltshire - West Kingston, Nettleton and Burton.

Through the years we all went our separate ways. I was the eldest, lived 23 years in Wiltshire, got married and came to live in Little Badminton. I am still there but, without moving, have found myself living in Gloucester, Avon and South Gloucestershire. Figure that out!

My brother moved to Chippenham, Wiltshire and the others all moved to Bristol. My mum would say her children had three different accents, each speaking with a slightly different version of the same West Country accent. In fact, there were actually four because those who were in the centre of Bristol had stronger accents than those on the outskirts.

From my Bristol born nan I learnt 'Happy as a sandboy, pay on the nail and ship shape and Bristol fashion', the latter two of which can trace their roots to Bristol's industrial and commercial past.

Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton

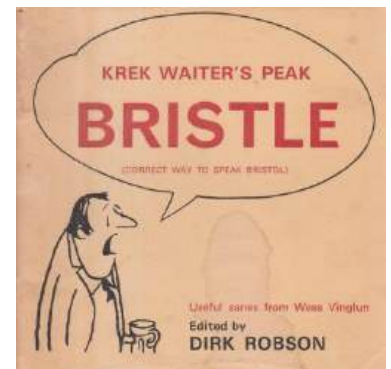
Dear Local Talk Back,

As someone born and brought up in the Midlands, I enjoyed Simon Long's article about the West Country accent. Several years back, when work announced I was to be transferred to our Bristol office, my colleagues very thoughtfully bought me a book called, I think, *Krek Bristle* which contained many of the terms and phrases that Simon mentions in his article (*that would be the book 'Krek Waiter's Peak Bristle' by Dirk Robson - ed*). It also provided some useful tips on how to blend in seamlessly with your new neighbours and work colleagues, one of which was to add the letter 'L' to any word that ended in an 'a' or 'o', so words like America were pronounced as 'Americal'. Years later I read an article which shone a different light on this supposed trait, suggesting what the Bristolian accent actually added was an "aw" sound, so you took your holidays in 'Americaw', not America. Listen carefully and you can see that is indeed what happens. What's more, when a word already ends with an 'L', it too gets changed to an 'aw', so ironically 'Bristol' becomes "Brist-aw".

Like any local accent, a broad Bristol accent can be difficult to understand.

I remember one of the music papers had an interview with the local musician Tricky, who they announced came from the Bristol suburb of Norr Wess. He was actually from Knowle West, but that (along with other parts of the interview) got lost in translation. Similarly a friend's husband used to regularly apply to appear on TV quiz shows. He couldn't understand how he could do so well at the rehearsals but not get picked, only to be taken to one side and told that viewers wouldn't take to his harsh Bristol accent and would struggle to understand what he was saying.

Based on what I hear on the TV and radio, Bristolian must be one of the most difficult accents to master, invariably emerging as a country yokel mish-mash of Dorset and Somerset with a side helping of The Wurzels thrown in for good measure. As a non-local, I've learnt to appreciate the local dialect as something to be proud of, and now only occasionally need to refer to *Krek Bristle* to work out just what the person next to me on the bus is talking about!



MJW, Tormarton

When the robin comes close

By Simon Long, Acton Turville

I was lifting the dahlias when I noticed the robin on a branch above me, almost within touching distance. I hadn't seen it arrive. One moment I was pulling up the last of the tired dahlia tubers; the next, there it was, looking quizzically down at me. I paused, my hand still on the fork. The bird opened its beak and began to sing.



In this image I was lucky enough to capture, you can see a small glimmer of light in its beady eye. Its toes curl casually around the branch; overhead, the leaves have ragged, nibbled edges.

Seen at close quarters, the robin's breast is less pure red and more of a warm, luxurious orange. Along its edges, the colour softens, bleeding into the grey and brown of the surrounding feathers. When the bird turns towards the light, it radiates warmth and joy.

Coco, our dog, barked and, as if on cue, the robin unfurled its glorious feathered rug of a chest and electrified the air with its beautiful chirruping song. Magical.

For those of us who know and love the gardens, lanes and fields around Acton Turville and Badminton, moments like these are nature's timeless seasonal signals. A cool patch of air where the lane lies in shade. A drenching morning dew requiring wellies over sandals. The smell of damp leaves and reluctantly rotting fallen apples on the ground. Occasional warm afternoons still linger, but the gradual transition of colours, hues and light is increasingly evident all around us. A feeling of nostalgia hangs in the air.

I had come out with work to do. For a few minutes, I forgot about it.

There is a saying that *"when robins appear, loved ones are near"*. Some people find in their arrival a reassuring presence, a sense of someone they have lost. For others, the bird brings back a simple memory: a parent working a border, a familiar voice asking them to come and look, a recollection of something that struck a chord and never left them.

A garden can hold these associations for years. We change what grows there, replace a fence, lose a tree. Yet something as small as a robin settling nearby can bring a person clearly to mind.

We have been giving this little bird stories for a long time.

In one Christian legend, a brown robin approaches Christ on the cross and tries to draw a thorn from his crown. A drop of blood stains its breast. In the story, the colour passes to the robins that follow. A version preserved in Ireland's National Folklore Collection shows how the tale travelled beyond England.

Another places the robin in the stable at Bethlehem. The infant Jesus is sleeping and the fire is fading. The bird fans the embers with its wings, moving so close that its breast is scorched as it brings warmth back into the room.

The robin above me shifted its feet, then flew away. Later, it returned to the same branch and sang again. This mellifluous autumn song has an arresting, unhurried sweetness. Honey infused with wine. A heady sunshine blend of dawn and dusk. At once a mournful lament for summer and a herald of the autumn and winter to come.

It's hard to tell whether our little friend is male or female. There is little in the plumage to tell us: both sexes have the same orange-red breast, and both may lay claim to a territory through the autumn season. Listening from my garden vantage point, it's easy to miss the purpose of the song. Somewhere beyond the hedge, another robin is hearing the warning of boundaries being drawn.

The softly dappled light was beginning to fade as it succumbed to the cool crepuscular breath of night-time. There were tools to put away and leaves to take to the compost heap. As I lifted the wheelbarrow handles, the robin twitched cheekily in the corner of my eye. I caught sight of it one final time before reaching the back door.

Over the years, a garden accumulates and absorbs memories of these fleeting episodes in our daily lives. It's a type of mental compost, marinating in our endless cycle of thoughts and recollections. We may forget what we planted, or which autumn brought the early frost, but indelibly printed in our minds are the memories of that robin, butterfly, hedgehog or snail that graced us with their presence.

Tomorrow, perhaps, you will take your tea into the garden. For a few minutes, before there is anything to do, you will sit, watch, listen and reflect. You might be lucky enough to see a red flash...

Where does a robin wait in your garden? And who first taught you to notice it? We would love to hear your memories from Acton Turville, Badminton and Little Badminton.



The Generational Kitchen

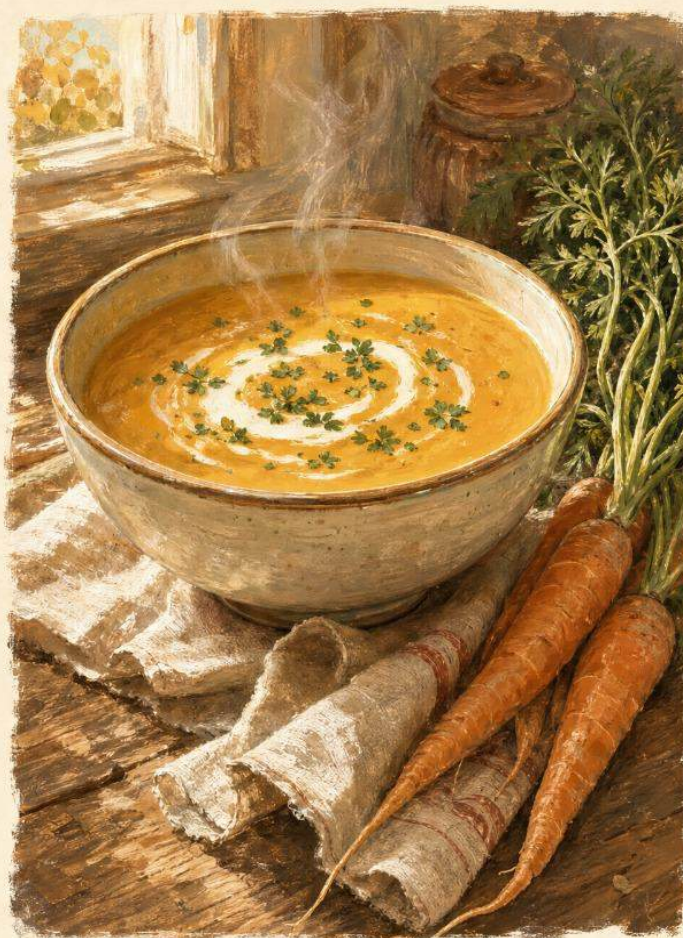


Carrot and Coriander Soup

From the kitchen of Anne Wadey

Welcome to The Generational Kitchen – a place for all those precious recipes handed down with love. The ones scribbled on envelopes, hurriedly dictated down the phones, treasured in tattered recipe books.

There is definitely a whiff of Autumn in the air and that means soups. Warming and nutritious and wonderful for batch cooking. My Mum made this lip-smacking soup very regularly when we were children; her new handheld 'stick blender' proving a useful alternative to the rather ancient blender. Both do the job, of course, but having once unintentionally cracked the glass of my blender jug with piping hot Madeira Sauce, 30 minutes before the arrival of dinner guests, the stick is now my method of choice...



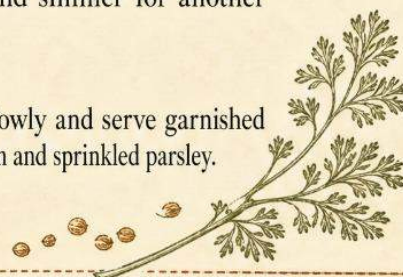
Ingredients

- 3 medium onions, chopped
- 1 clove garlic
- 50g butter
- 450g carrots, thinly sliced
- ½ tbsp coriander seed or powder
- 85ml dry sherry
- 285ml chicken stock (I'm sure you can use vegetable stock too)
- 285ml milk
- Salt & pepper
- Soured cream and parsley (for garnish)



Method

1. Sauté the onions, garlic and coriander in the butter until soft.
2. Add carrots and sherry. Season.
3. Cover with a circle of dampened greaseproof paper and simmer for 30 minutes.
4. Add the stock and simmer for another 30 minutes.
5. Blend/liquidise.
6. Add milk; heat slowly and serve garnished with a swirl of cream and sprinkled parsley.



The Generational Kitchen is brought to you by Amanda Wadey. Maybe you have inherited your own recipes which always remind you of someone special? Why not share the recipes with us, and tell us the story behind them. We can't promise to publish every one we receive, but we'd love to hear from you. The address is localtalkback1975@gmail.com

Blackpool – The Last Resort?



You can't beat a trip to the seaside, and we're lucky to have so many coastal destinations relatively accessible from where we live. Jump in the car and you can be parked on the seafront at Weston-Super-Mare in less than an hour. In two hours you can be exploring one of the pretty towns on the historic Jurassic coast or taking in the spectacular Gower coastline in South Wales, and in three hours you'll be well into Devon and Cornwall territory, enjoying everything those beautiful counties have to offer. On that basis, you might ask why anybody would dream of embarking on a four-hour drive to Blackpool?

Blackpool's popularity as a holiday destination was launched in the second half of the 19th century with the arrival of the railway. In those days, the cotton mills of Lancashire would close for one or two weeks over the summer to undertake maintenance. Known as Wakes Weeks, towns took the holiday on a different week so that from June to September each town was on holiday at different times. Special trains would then be laid on to ferry the workers to the seaside, initially to enjoy the benefits of bathing in the sea, but later on to revel in the many attractions that the resorts began to offer. Blackpool was at the forefront of exploiting the opportunities offered by the arrival of electricity, with street lighting, electric trams and eventually its world-famous illuminations, which were first switched on in 1879. Then there was the Grand Theatre, the tower and the Golden Mile, all making Blackpool one of the UK's favourite holiday destinations (at one time, it was said that the town had a population of 35,000 and could host 250,000 holidaymakers. In 1911, the town's Central station was the busiest in the world; and in July 1936, 650 trains came and went in a single day!).

Sadly for towns like Blackpool, times change, and it was always going to be a hard fight to compete with the increasing-popularity of the foreign package holiday. On a warm, sunny autumnal day, walking down the golden mile was a real pleasure, but you don't have to venture far to find real squalor and rows of derelict buildings. Like many seaside towns, there are clearly social issues too. But return at night to see the illuminations and the place is transformed with crowds and crowds of people enjoying the spectacular light shows. Based on our recent experience, Blackpool is like nothing else and really needs to be experienced, although maybe not on a regular basis.

Thanks to Gill Carter for the pictures

WHAT'S ON



Chipping Sodbury Music Society

In 1947, a group of music enthusiasts met in the Council Chamber of Sodbury Rural District Council, to encourage the appreciation of music by means of illustrated talks, lectures and gramophone records. Over the following years the club developed and prospered, and in the 1960s live performances were introduced, with the club gaining a reputation for promoting music concerts of the highest quality and excellence.

The Club changed its name to the Chipping Sodbury Music Society in 1990, promoting concerts given by artists of international renown and by engaging young talented musicians at the beginning of their careers. Today, the objective of the society is no different from that of those enthusiasts who met seventy years ago:

"... to bring together lovers of good music and musicians in a friendly and convivial atmosphere..."

Each year, Chipping Sodbury Music Society presents seven concerts in Chipping Sodbury's Town Hall (unless otherwise stated) from October through to May. All concerts commence at 7:30 pm. We launch our 2026/27 season with a very welcome return visit from the highly-acclaimed Kammerphilharmonie Europa.

Why not join us? We'd love to see you.

Tuesday 20th October 2026, 7:30pm
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall
Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Europe

Founded in 2006, the Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Europe, or Kammerphilharmonie Europa, is an independent orchestra with a focus on classical music that brings together committed musicians with the aim of forming an artistically demanding ensemble even without a permanent sponsorship. Based just outside Cologne, they now employ over 60 talented professional musicians from currently 18 nations.

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



Quiz Night

Friday 2nd Oct from 8pm

*Test your general knowledge and
have some fun*

Oktober Fest

Saturday 10th Oct from 5pm

*German beer, German food and
plenty of entertainment!*



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



THE 2026 ACTON TURVILLE AUTUMN TIDY-UP

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER AT 10:00AM

MEET IN THE
FOX & HOUNDS CAR PARK

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP KEEP OUR
LOVELY VILLAGE LOOKING GREEN, CLEAN
AND TIDY.

BAGS, GLOVES AND PICKERS WILL BE
PROVIDED TO HELP WITH CLEARING LITTER OR
BRING YOUR GARDENING TOOLS IF YOU FANCY
TACKLING SOME OF THE PRUNING AND
WEEDING THAT ALWAYS NEEDS DOING AT THIS
TIME OF YEAR.

ANY QUESTIONS?

CONTACT

iancarter766@gmail.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 14th September 2026. Matters discussed at the meeting included:

Planning. No new planning applications had been submitted since the previous meeting. One application had been withdrawn:

- Area to the rear of cottages on Burton Road, Acton Turville– creation of two car parking spaces.

Overgrowing Vegetation. The Parish Council has been contacted by a number of residents concerned about problems caused by overgrowing vegetation which is either blocking footpaths and causing pedestrians to step into the road, or obstructing the vision of drivers at junctions, potentially leading to accidents. **PLEASE TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE VEGETATION IS CUT BACK AND KEEP FOOTPATHS AND JUNCTIONS CLEAR.**

Village Tidy Up. The Acton Turville Autumn Tidy Up will take place on Saturday 10th October. If you can help us, please come long to the Fox & Hounds car park where you'll be able to collect litter pickers and bags to fill with rubbish. It would be great to see some new faces this year, in addition to the stalwarts who always help keep our village looking nice.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council would still be interested to hear from any parishioners who could help set up and run a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Acton Turville. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th October 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

October'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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the August quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Church Matters

October 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

The other week, there was a meeting at a local prison HM Eastwood Park, at Falfield for the local clergy. Having read reports in the newspapers of overcrowding and great distress with population numbers, I was keen to see a prison at first hand.

We were shown around and we met one or two inmates. It was very good to see that things were much better than I had imagined. What impressed me most was the mother and baby unit. The care and encouragement the staff give mothers and their babies was amazing. There were toys, facilities and equipment which allowed young mothers to care for their babies in a safe and secure environment. There was even room for fathers to come and stay overnight.

The purpose of prison is not only deterrence, punishment and to protect society from criminals, but also reform and re-education. Training and education are an important part of this. As is offering prisoners new relationships and support. A large number of volunteers and paid professionals are engaged in all this.

As we left, we were given encouragement to find people who would be willing to befriend and support prisoners, whilst they are in prison.

If anyone reading this, feels drawn to this work, I have the contact details of the Chaplains. It is immensely rewarding, and is something our Lord encouraged his disciples to do. It involves meeting and forming a relationship with a prisoner. And supporting them whilst they are in prison.

I do not know if fortunate is the word, but we have several prisons within our area, not only for women but for young offenders as well as sexual offenders. So, there is quite a bit of variation in types of prisoners. Not many of us are good at everything! So, let me know if you think you might like to explore this very worthwhile work and we can have a talk about it and if you wish, I can put you in touch with one of the Chaplains.

With my best wishes for a safe and openhearted October,

Your local vicar, Richard

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

07717791858

Website: badmintonbenefice.com

Church Services for October 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 th October Trinity 18	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	D Young
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	John Swanson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Matthew Butler
11 th October Trinity 19	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Harvest Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
18 th October Trinity 20	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Harvest Service	Rev R Thomson
25 th October BST Ends Last Sunday after Trinity	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	I MacFadyen
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Harvest Evensong	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Leighterton	Taize	R Bryant-Pearson

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com

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After a summer of record temperatures and wall-to-wall sunshine, it was a much more autumnal scene that greeted walkers to Badminton for the 2026 Motor Neurone Disease Association Charity Walk on the 13th September. After a brief introduction from the event organisers, the walkers set off from Badminton House on one of two routes, covering either 2 or 3 ½ miles. Despite the rain, there were smiles all round, and the walkers were soon back in the old kitchen to enjoy a well-deserved hot drink and a slice of cake, and to chance their arm in the raffle.

It was great to see so many people, including many from our local villages, supporting such a worthwhile cause and helping in the fight against this cruel disease. To find out more about MND, and discover how you can help, please visit <https://www.mndassociation.org/>

Thanks to Gill Carter for the pictures



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