Local Talk Back



Fireworks Over Badminton.

Picture by Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton



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

EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 2021

November already. I quite like November. That's partly because it means we've got through October which is traditionally the month when it dawns on me that summer is but a distant memory and we're getting well into winter territory. November on the other hand means we're heading for the bright lights and cheer of Christmas; before we know it, JJ's Gardening Blog will be telling us what we should be doing to prepare our gardens for Spring. There, I'm starting to feel better already.

Having said that, I quite enjoyed October this year. In many ways it felt like the summer never really got going. A combination of lacklustre weather and a reluctance to commit to anything in case COVID restrictions were re-imposed meant that for many of us, holidays were postponed for another year and much-anticipated events were cancelled. Come September and October though and it felt like people were getting their confidence back. More and more events have been appearing on Talk Back's What's On page, and from the feedback we're receiving it looks like there's been a real appetite for those that have taken place so far with plenty of people having plenty of fun (and, in the case of the MacMillan Coffee Morning at the Fox & Hounds, plenty of cake). Of course none of these events would happen if it wasn't for the volunteers who willingly give up their free time to get things organised. Locally we're very lucky to have people who will step forward to get involved and our thanks go out to them. They deserve our support.

Another reason why October was more palatable this year might have been the unseasonally mild weather. I always have a stretched target to avoid switching on the heating until November. As a result, come mid-October I'm waddling around the house looking like the Michelin Man, wearing more layers than a lasagne (or is it an onion?) in a desperate attempt to keep warm. My plan normally lasts until Gill finds the heating controls which I've cunningly hidden in a box of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes. At that point we start consuming heating oil at such a rate that I'd have to plant a forest the size of North Wales just to be carbon neutral. This year things have been different. The heating has made the odd appearance but it's not been a constant companion, and I've spent more time outdoors with the lawn mower than I have wrapping plants up to protect them from the cold.

The mild weather has therefore made it feel slightly surreal when you walk into a shop and find yourself transported to Santa's Grotto. In fact, just now the shops seem to be confused. As well as their Christmas lines, they've simultaneously got aisles dedicated to Halloween and bonfire night. All they need to do now is put out the Easter Eggs and we'll have the perfect storm. It's no wonder you can't find any of the essentials.

Come the New Year, as the unsold Christmas goodies slip unceremoniously from the shelves, we can expect them to be replaced by a sea of products designed especially to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It's a very momentous occasion, the first time a British monarch has ever celebrated 75 years on the throne. To mark the achievement, some very special events are being organised locally. Rest assured Talk Back will bring you full details closer to the time. We can't give away too much just yet, but take it from us they'll be worth waiting for. We just hope you like red, white and blue.

Until the next time

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PLEASE SEND IN ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH NOVEMBER

LIST OF BUSINESSES ADVERTISING IN LOCAL TALK BACK THIS MONTH (if using these advertisers please tell them that you saw it here in the Local Talk Back) **4 COUNTIES OIL TANKS BELGRAVE HOUSE DENTAL CHORLEY'S - Auction Valuations CLAPCOTE FORESTRY LIMITED - Sawmill** COACHSTYLE MOT TESTING STATION D. J. MAYHEAD ELECTRICAL SERVICES EasyMove.com - Property Auctions FARM SHOP AT HAWKESBURY FOOT HEALTH CARE • FORBIDDEN FRUIT & VEG MARKET GARDEN THE FOX & HOUNDS INN, ACTON TURVILLE FOXLEY PLUMBING & HEATING FRENCHAY CHIMNEY SWEEP **HJ THERAPIES** LB COMPUTER SERVICES LENDOLOGY CIC – Loans for homeowners MANDER DUFFILL - Financial Services MARDEN ROOFING MATTHEW BUTLER BOOKS M & M BUILDERS AND CARPENTRY PERRY BISHOP & CHAMBERS - Estate Agents PJD HOME IMPROVEMENTS **PRIOR & COMPANY - Building & Renovations** PUMPKINS NURSERY VILLAGE LINK – Community transport ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE 100 Club WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2021

Dayrell Drake Mr V Knight Lee & Kay Butcher

Congratulations!

DONATIONS

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

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

To donate by cheque, please make payable to LOCAL TALK BACK

and send to: The Treasurer, Local Talk Back, Church Farm House, The Street, Acton Turville, Badminton, S·Glos, GL9 1HL Thank you!

Congratulations to Jane Tuckwell, Director of the Badminton Horse Trials, whose horse Galtur was a member of the Great Britain team at the recent European Showjumping Championship in Germany, ridden by William Whitaker.

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!



Local Talk Back is always on the lookout for additional material. Maybe you have an interesting story to tell, an event to report on or would like to be involved with production of the newsletter. If you think you can help, why not get in touch? back1975@gmail.com

localtalkback1975@gmail.com

LOCAL TALK BACK ON-LINE

Did you know Local Talk Back is just a click away? Copies are available from the Acton Turville Information website at the following address:

http://actonturville.info/talkback/

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

<u>Pleasel</u> No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area. All gates must be kept shut. No vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission of the Parish Council. Please put all litter in the bins provided. Thank you.

OCTOBER 2021

<u> Playing Field</u>

Badminton Estate have confirmed that work is due to take place on the large Ash tree at the edge of the playing field. Date to be confirmed.

Grass cutting - we are still looking for volunteers to help cut the grass in the playing field and play area. If you are considering joining our team of volunteers, or just need more information, please contact a Councillor or the Clerk

Speeding in the Village

We are pleased to report that following the issues with speeding motorists travelling to a meeting at Castle Combe, Police presence in the village was increased for the following event which had the desired effect on the day. The Community Speed Watch team were also out on duty and recorded a number of motorists speeding who will be notified in due course. Thanks to all concerned.

Parish Councillors:

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

Next Meeting: Monday 8 November 2021 @ 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville. Details on website and Parish Notice Board

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675 Email: <u>actonturvillepc@aol.com</u> Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND VEG MARKET GARDEN

Would you like to order a £10 or £15 organic veg box, to be collected weekly from the small house box from 11 am at the blue iron gates to Kennel Drive, Badminton?

AND/OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC VEG GROWING WITH AN EXPERIENCED GROWER IN ONE OF BADMINTON'S WALLED GARDENS, AS AN OCCASIONAL OR REGULAR VOLUNTEER?

IF SO, CONTACT US;

FORBIDDENFRUIT&VEG@GMAIL.COM

OR

07985 465 432

What's On



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 12th November 2021

Nomadland

(2021, 12A) – Drama

Starring: Frances McDormand, Peter Spears, Mollye Asher, Dan Janvey, Chloé Zhao

Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad..

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, cash bar

Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can arrange tables and chairs

jennybody@btconnect.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 10th November Then the 2nd Wednesday of every month

Tea/Coffee on arrival Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert) Coffee to finish £10.00 per head **Everyone welcome!**





St Mary's Church, Acton Turville



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 19th December at 3.00pm. Note the change of time. All are welcome. Stay for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.



The Christingle Service will be held on Thursday 23rd December at 4.30pm. Note the change of date. Children are especially welcome.

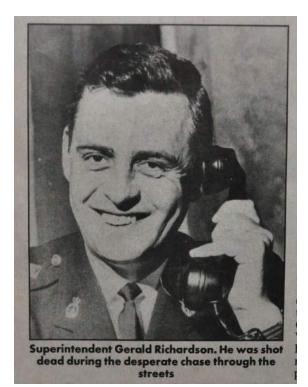
Both services will be led by Rev Richard Thomson.



A big thank you to the anonymous donor of a box of windfalls and a bag of cob nuts, and to the other four donations of harvest offerings at the service on October 17th. The congregation remained small, but perfectly formed. A vote of thanks to Tony King, reader from Dursley, who kindly led us in worship, in the Covid-related absence of Rev Thomson.

MEMORIES OF A BRAVE MAN

BY RAY BIRD, ACTON TURVILLE



When in a recent editorial lan asked for amazing travel stories, the following probably did not come into his line of thought, and while as a travel adventure it does not compare with Peter Moss's story of his trip back from Kuwait, in fact, I hesitate to refer to it as an adventure at all, more a story of the bravery of a man that occurred 50 years ago, the memories of which have remained with me as much as any of my travel adventures abroad.

That brave man was Superintendent Gerald Richardson, a name that probably means little, or nothing, to most LTB readers, nor will his act of bravery be found in many, if any history books, and yet at the time he made headlines on the national TV news channels, filled the front pages of the daily papers, and was to set off one of this country's biggest ever murder hunts.

The story begins one morning in August 1971 when an armed robbery took place at a jewellers shop in a street just off Blackpool's famous Golden Mile. The basics of what then happened was the following - during the raid, unknown to the robbers one of the staff had managed to set off an alarm that was linked directly to the local police station, hence enabling them to arrive at the shop in minutes, in fact they arrived just as

the gang were making their getaway by car. What followed was something that would not be out of place in a Hollywood crime movie, with a car chase through the streets of the towns North Shore district, including at one time along the sea front.

As the chase continued, so more police cars joined in, the scene even included a member of the gang firing shots out of the car window at the pursuing police vehicles. The car and its five occupants were finally brought to a halt when it was rammed, there then followed several foot chases as the gang split up. While three of them were soon caught, in one of the others chases Superintendent Richardson was gradually catching up on one of the other members, when he stopped and pointed a gun at the officer. One eye-witness later said that the policeman had continued to walk slowly towards the gunman talking in a quiet manner to him, telling him not to be so silly and put the gun down, then a scuffle broke out and soon after two shots rang out and the officer slumped to the ground. As other police officers arrived and tried to help their colleague until an ambulance arrived, so the killer made good his escape, one of the other gang members had also managed to escape. Despite road blocks being set up on the main roads out of the town the two remained at large. Sadly Superintendent Richardson died a few hours later. At the time, he was the highest ranked police officer to be killed in the line of duty. Three other policeman were also shot and injured during the chase but later recovered.

Within days, from a photograph on police files they had the name of the killer, he was Frederick Joseph Sewell from London, and so one of the country's biggest ever man hunts began. The Daily Mirror even put up a £10,000 reward (a vast sum of money in 1971) for information leading to Sewell's arrest.



Police roads blocks set up soon after the raid

It would be 45 days though before Sewell was finally tracked down and arrested, and in due course convicted of the murder of Superintendent Richardson.

At his trial, even Sewell said of the officer "he was just too brave, he just kept coming". The remaining robber had been caught earlier.

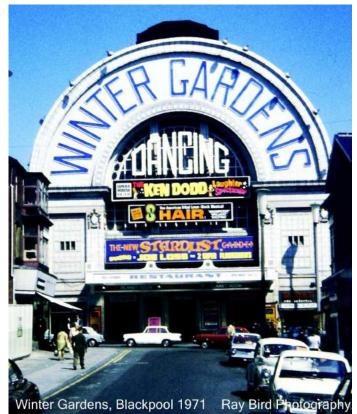
The reason it holds such memories for me is, that at the time I was working in Blackpool as a barman in the Winter Gardens, and three things happened that were in a sense personally connected to the event.

1) With the killer and one other robber still at large, and thoughts that they were possibly still holding up in the town, when in the early hours of the next morning I was returning home from a party I was suddenly waylaid by two police officers, who thinking I might be one of them gave me quite a grilling before I was allowed on my way.

2) The funeral service was held in the Church opposite the Winter Gardens, so I went outside to see what turned out to be a spectacle like I had never seen live before, with hundreds of police (media reports said 800) walking alongside and behind the funeral cortege, and the streets lined 4-5 deep with more police, locals, and holidaymakers.

3) Following the funeral, a drinks reception for the Police that had attended was held in one of the Winter Gardens bars and I felt honoured to be one of the barman serving at it.

In 1972 Superintendent Gerald Richardson was posthumously awarded the George Cross.



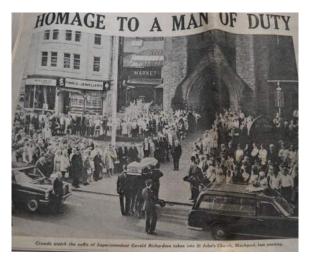
The Winter Gardens, where I worked, and where drinks were served following the funeral service.



Reward of £10,000 for info on Joseph Sewell (insert pic) by the Daily Mirror



Funeral Cortège - police walking behind the hearse and the streets of Blackpool lined with more police, locals and holidaymakers



The funeral cortège enters the Church

November 2021 Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

I write from my isolation at the Vicarage, once again locked down as I know many of you find yourselves. Just when you think you are safe, you suddenly develop a cold and find out that you have a positive test result. The good news is that very few people are developing anything like the dangerous symptoms that we were seeing before the vaccination programme was rolled out. Most people can breathe, stay at home and not need hospital care. As indeed the figures on TV every night demonstrate. For this we should be very grateful. And far less frightened.

That is not to say that we should not be careful. The elderly and those with underlying health issues are more vulnerable and we do need keep vigilant for them. That is why we are being so careful in church, as we have one or two people in this category. We are limiting the amount of singing we do, encouraging the use of facemasks and keeping air flowing as best we can. If you are vulnerable, I hope you will attend services in churches only where there is a lot of space and/or where others are wearing facemasks.

I have found it incredible that people feel disinclined to wear facemasks when they are clearly a very sensible way of protecting the vulnerable. We wear them for others, not for ourselves! This is not helped by many of vulnerable themselves being quite oblivious to the protection that others wearing facemasks gives them.

Last week in the Cathedral I was sitting not far from a woman who was in her seventies. I was just becoming infectious, and I am so relieved that I was wearing a facemask. Had I not been, she would probably have the virus now.

One day we will again be able to be free of facemasks and be able to get people together, laugh with family and value those precious relationships we all have, without fear of transmitting a virus. But for now, let us just protect the vulnerable, so that they can continue to be part of the church and community. And keep wearing facemasks!

With my best wishes,

Richard Thomson

Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Rd. Badminton GL9 1EU Benefice website: www.badmintonchurch.org.uk

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236 Mobile 077 177 91858

Badminton Benefice Rota for November 2021							
Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service			
3 rd Sunday before	7 th November	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins			
Advent		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion			
		11.15am	Didmarton	Matins (Remembrance)			
		3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong with HC			
Remembrance	14 th November	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP			
Sunday		9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion			
		9.30am	Sopworth	Remembrance Parade			
		10.50am	Great Badminton	Remembrance Service			
Christ the King	21 st November	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP			
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer			
		11.15am	Sopworth	Matins Blessing of Work			
		3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong			
Advent Sunday	28 th November	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW			
		11.00am	Great Badminton	El Gubi service			
		5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong			

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Acton Turville Family Rounders Match

On Sunday 26th September a few plucky families and individuals met on Acton Turville's playing field to have a game of rounders. After some furious googling to make sure we knew the rules, and we had sourced a rounders set (thanks Amanda) we made our way to the field at 3pm.

The 2 teams (ingeniously named Team 1 and Team 2) engaged in a hard-fought match with momentum swinging between the teams throughout the clash. Some players came to the fore with Willoughby, Myles and Hannah hitting a strong patch of form during the match. Both teams were cheered on by Skye and Oliver from the side lines (Oliver had to be subbed off following an incident involving a kid-napped match ball. He was ejected from the match following his vigorous protest and refusal to give the ball back).

In the end, Team 1 were deemed to be the winners! We all agreed that the result was correct, even if the score wasn't quite accurate thanks to my dodgy scoring.

Thanks to all those who came along (and to those who expressed an interest but couldn't make it). Hopefully we'll have another match soon. Look out for an announcement on the Acton Turville Connect Facebook page – everyone is welcome.

Becky Rennie



The Royal British Legion will be holding a Remembrance parade at Acton Turville Church on Sunday 11th November at 1045hrs.

Afterwards there will be refreshments at Hollybush Farm, Acton Turville, with donations to the poppy appeal.

Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank You!

The recent Coffee Morning at the Fox & Hounds was a roaring success. Organised as part of MacMillan's "World's Biggest Coffee Morning", the event raised over £440 towards this very worthy cause. Well done to everyone involved.



Super Suppers!

The Fox & Hounds was the venue for the inaugural gathering of the "Acton Turville Eats" Supper Club. The chef pulled out all the stops, treating diners to a fantastic spread of authentic Indian dishes, served up with all the trimmings. Organisers Caroline Gelinet and Melanie Little were delighted to see so many people enjoying themselves and would like to thank everyone at the Fox & Hounds for making it such a memorable evening. Why not join them on the 3rd December when the theme will be decidedly festive? Check the Acton Turville Connect Facebook page for full details.





FLIGHT FROM THE EAST DRIVING BACK TO THE UK FROM KUWAIT IN 1969

By Peter Moss, Acton Turville
PART 3. THROUGH TURKEY AND ON TO EUROPE

In last month's Local Talk Back we heard how Peter Moss' epic journey from Kuwait to the UK had taken him as far as the Turkish town of Malataya, where some worrying noises coming from his trusty MGB forced him to make an unscheduled visit to an auto electrician. With the car returned to full health, Peter headed off to Maras where he stayed at the Celtik Palace Hotel.

From Maras I visited two splendid castles, Yilankale and Toprakkale. They have changed hands many times but appear to be Armenian in origin. Yilinkale has the most spectacular setting on top of a hill.





I enjoyed a drink in the evening with the museum director, sitting on a terrace with magnificent views. Conversation was conducted in our best French!

I then drove South to the sea and followed the road westward along the South coast.

This is the most spectacular drive and in 1969 was quite free of tourists.

The natural setting is extremely beautiful, with rolling hills coming down to a deep blue sea, with the Taurus mountains in the background. As well as that there is an extraordinary wealth of historical and archeological remains including ruined castles of different eras, and very extensive Greek or Roman remains.





I continued west through Adana and Mersin and spent the night in the BP Mocamp near Silifke. Near Mersin are two castles, the Maiden Castle and the Maiden Castle of the Sea. The latter is on an island. I visited the one on the mainland.

There was also excellent sea bathing which I enjoyed. Before leaving the coast road I explored a further crusader castles at Silifke. I was sorry to leave the South coast, which I found fascinating, but I wanted to visit Ankara, the capital of Turkey. I thus turned North after Silifke and crossed the Taurus mountains to Konya and then on to Ankara, where I booked into the Modern Palace Hotel. I had never visited Ankara before and it is not the most exciting of cities. I inspected the Attaturk Mausoleum and Ankara castle, made a quick tour of the town, and then it was off to Istanbul.

I love Istanbul and had already visited it twice in the early 1960s. It has a beautiful setting astride the Bosphorus and it is impossible to visit it without being impressed by the depth of its history and the beauty of its architecture. What a shame that it has lost its romantic original names of Byzantium or Constantinople.

Since my last visit in 1963 the city had become much busier and the traffic was getting out of hand. The dreaded tourists had arrived and I tried some 20 hotels before finding a room. In the evening I visited the Blue Mosque, which I regard as the most atmospheric of buildings. My diary records that I dined with three French students. I must have dined well because I don't remember them at all. It would be easy to go on about Istanbul, but I will round off by attaching pictures of St Sophia and the Blue Mosque.

In the morning I found the BMC agent and had the car serviced. After visiting St Sophia, an amazing building that has been both church and mosque, and the Topkapi palace, I drove down beside the Bosphorus towards Belgrade Woods. That evening I dined with Guner, a Turkish friend who I had met earlier in the year and who worked for BEA. The following morning I was to leave Turkey and enter Europe.







So we leave Peter as he navigates his MGB out of Asia and starts the next leg of his journey which will take him across the continent of Europe, which in 1969 looked very different to the Europe we know today. Look out for further instalments in Local Talk Back.

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



If you have bought your bulbs for indoor displays, now is the time to plant them. Hyacinths planted in bulb fibre can look a bit special if you use a decorative casserole dish as the container. It will not need a saucer as bulbs have everything they require in the bulb. Water a little after planting with a small amount of water just to moisten. Put some twigs around the edge, so that when the hyacinths are in bloom and heavy, the twigs will support them. Put the container in a cool dark place, a shed or the cupboard under the sink. When the 'nose' comes through the soil it will be time to bring them into a room.

Jobs for This Month

Protect bulbs planted in pots outside perhaps with chicken wire to stop squirrels from digging them up. Once the leaves show above the soil, squirrels seem to lose interest. Not the most attractive solution, but it does the job.

Turn the compost bin. Plan what needs cutting back. If the rose is facing North or East it may be better to prune it in March. Similarly other things in mixed beds, consider which plants need help to get through the winter. Would it help them to look a bit unkempt until the spring if it provides a bit of cover and protection from the cold weather and hidey holes for insects and food for birds? Plan to feed the soil with a good cover of your own or bought compost. Which will suppress weed seedlings. Anything like dandelions you will have to dig out first.

Time to Start Planning

Take stock of things: do the boundaries need some repairs. Place orders for plants or trees.

Would a cold frame be useful? What about paths around the garden?

What time do you go on holiday? It is very disappointing if you are away when the garden is at its best. Roses in the summer.....berries in the autumn.

Raised beds? Ones which are only raised six inches high, are good because you fill them with very good soil and they drain and do not become waterlogged. A raised bed about thirty inches high has similar advantages to the latter but you can enjoy looking in detail face to face with the plants.

And Finally

To give a container the WOW factor, elevate it. It makes a considerable difference to something low down and maybe hiding.

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.

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In Memoriam Gaye Bidwell (nee Ariss)

We are sorry to hear of the recent passing of former Badminton resident Gaye Bidwell (nee Ariss). Gaye lived in the village during the 1950s & 1960s living in Garden Cottage, Kennel Drive and working for the 10th Duke of Beaufort in the Gardens there. She was always a country girl at heart with a special love for horses. In the early days of the big snowfall of 1962 -1963 when the village was cut off, riding her horse Killarney (left) she went up through Bath Verge Woodland, then across the fields to Cross-Hands, where she picked up two bags of loaves and a few other essentials and brought them back for villagers in desperate need for such goods.

Our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

We have also received the following from Gaye's daughter Amanda Bennett.

I would like to thank you for your lovely flowers, cards and kind words following the sad loss of Mum. In particular I would like to thank Craig Adams funeral director, for delivering a bespoke funeral for us, Nicki & Mike of Blagdon Horsedrawn carriages, and Rev Ian Wallace & Victoria Veasey for the beautiful flowers.

Thank you



Funeral Horses & Carriage outside of St Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath where Gaye's service was held.

