

Local Talk Back

AUGUST 2021

ISSUE 518



Looks like he's on target for the bullseye.

Picture by Chris Farrell, Acton Turville



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

EDITORIAL AUGUST 2021

I was intrigued when I first saw an advert for the recent fireworks event at Badminton. Fireworks in July? That's not very traditional is it? This wasn't a straightforward firework display though. No, this was a competition between teams of professionals to see who could put on the best display, with the winner being chosen by the viewing public using an app on their mobile phones. In addition to the fireworks, the event promised an air display featuring a pair of stunt planes and a light show using drones to create some spectacular effects. The day of the event got off to a shaky start with an electrical storm providing a light show that was wholly natural, but the prospect of a good soaking didn't deter a large crowd gathering for the main event. Thankfully the weather remained kind and, as the light faded, the anticipation grew. First up were the stunt planes, which soared overhead and carved up the sky in a shower of pyrotechnic sparks that added an extra dimension to what was already a very energetic display. By the time the planes departed it was getting quite dark which could only mean one thing - it was firework time, and the fireworks certainly didn't disappoint. Each display had its own style, but all kept the large crowd enthralled as they exploded in a burst of colour high above the countryside. It really was a shining example of a modern firework display where the public can watch from a safe distance without detracting from the experience. As far as I know, no one injured themselves after being chased by a Jumping Jack, or needed treatment as a result of picking up the wrong end of a sparkler, which has to be a good thing.

A slightly different display is due to take place next year on the Badminton Estate to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As part of the celebrations, on the 2nd June 2022 at 9.15pm, landowners and farmers are being asked to light a bonfire on their property to create a chain of beacons that stretches across the UK. More than 1,500 beacons of different sizes will be lit across the country to mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, with Badminton hopefully providing the setting for one of the largest beacons. This isn't the first time we've seen fires lit across the land to celebrate a Royal event. As early as 1897 they were used to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and more recently we saw them as part of the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees. The 1897 celebrations are slightly too early for me, but I well remember events surrounding the Silver Jubilee in 1977 which was seized upon as an opportunity to bring the nation (and indeed the whole Commonwealth) together and celebrate something very British. People were encouraged to organise street parties, Union Jack bunting was hung from every building and even the buses were painted silver. I seem to recall schoolchildren were presented with a Jubilee Crown, a large silver coin that had a face value of 25p. I also recall my father was less than impressed when I put mine towards a new skateboard.

The Jubilee in 1977 occurred in difficult times for this country, when industrial strife was at its peak, millions were unemployed and power cuts would regularly plunge the nation into darkness. It wasn't just the people that were miserable either. I was recently given a fascinating book called *Bristol, A Portrait*, which is a collection of photos taken between 1970 and 1982. What struck me was how run down everything looked. There were large areas of desolation in the centre of the city, presumably remnants of the awful damage the city suffered during the war, and many buildings were boarded up for years, their fate dependant on the outcome of arguments about the latest road-widening or some-such scheme. The Jubilee provided a much-needed distraction from everyday life and gave people a reason to celebrate, to enjoy themselves.

There are of course similarities between then and now, and many of us have been through some very tough times recently due to the COVID pandemic. Maybe the beacons being lit for the Queen's Jubilee will provide a sign that things are finally getting better and show we've turned a very long corner. Let's hope so.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

D Saunders - £25

C Robbins - £10

In addition, £25 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.

Thank you!

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!

I always suspected Talk Back Readers were a literary lot, and so it proved, as with sales, donations and gift aid the Book Sale in July raised more than £300 for Acton Turville Church, despite it being a wet day. A great result! Thank you to everyone who supported the event and particularly to Ian Carter, Barry Minty, Richard Collin, and Kate Seymour-Smith who all helped in practical ways. I even cleared some bookshelves, and emptied three boxes, creating much needed space!

Matthew Butler

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR JULY 2021

Margie Mitchelmore

Karen Walter

Cynthia Hinton

Congratulations!

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/>

Hedgehogging the Limelight

With the arrival of the warmer weather, more and more of us are leaving bedroom windows open overnight to try and keep cool as we struggle to sleep. I'm often woken by noises from the garden or the security light coming on, but, despite sprinting gazelle-like to the window I've yet to spot the culprits. Maybe it's a fox, or perhaps a badger? So far the identity of our nocturnal visitors has remained a mystery. However, someone who has had more success at finding what goes bump, bark or screech in the night is Becky Rennie from Acton Turville, who provided us with the great pictures you see on this page.

Becky first became aware of this little chap back in 2018. "I was up feeding my baby son when I noticed the security light was illuminated outside. I looked out and saw the hedgehog walking in front of the garage. Following a few more sightings over the next year or so, I finally decided to put some food out to help it." Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, the hedgehog's visits became more and more frequent, so when Becky received a wildlife camera for Christmas in 2020 there was an obvious candidate to test it on. The hedgehog didn't disappoint, but he's not the only garden visitor to be recorded by the camera enjoying a midnight feast: "I have taken lots of pictures and videos" reports Becky. "The camera sometimes capture a mouse and the odd cat, but mostly, the hedgehog is the one caught on camera!"

When the pictures arrived in the Talk Back offices, it suddenly occurred to me how long it is since I myself have seen a hedgehog. When I was young they seemed to be everywhere and you'd often see them in suburban gardens and parklands. Are their numbers really declining? A quick search of the internet provides much evidence to suggest they are. Indeed, since the millennium, their numbers have fallen by 30% in urban areas and a staggering 50% in rural areas. As a result, they are now officially listed as "Vulnerable".



There doesn't appear to be any one specific reason for their decline, just a lot of individual issues which collectively make life difficult for these prickly little creatures.

One problem they have, particularly in urban areas, is their inability to gain access to gardens at the rear of houses. Hedgehogs have traditionally been a good friend of the gardener because they eat the slugs, caterpillars and other invertebrates which do a lot of damage to plants. Unfortunately, modern gardens are often bordered by walls, fences and gates which reach all the way down to the ground, meaning our short-legged friend has little chance of getting in. In becoming a nation of gardeners, we've also been taught to tidy up every corner of the garden and remove all the debris from those nooks and crannies in which the hedgehogs like to forage. A simple way to attract hedgehogs to your garden is to cut holes in the bottom of fences and gates to make the boundaries "hedgehog porous", allowing them to pass freely between gardens. If the result is fewer slugs, it gets my vote.

An alternative way to help the hedgehogs is by supporting one of the organisations who dedicate their time to caring for these animals. Locally we have Hedgehog Rescue in Chipping Sodbury which was established in 2015 by Tracy Boden. They work tirelessly, not just to rehabilitate rescued hedgehogs but also to educate people about these animals and hopefully slow their decline. They are always looking for volunteers and contributions to help them continue their vital work. You can read all about them on their website and see lots of pictures of the hogs they've rescued at www.hedgehogrescuechippingsodbury.co.uk

Have you got pictures of the animals that regularly visit your garden? If so, we'd love to see them. Send your pictures to Local Talk Back at localtalkback1975@gmail.com

In Memoriam

BRIAN HIGHAM

We were sorry to learn of the death of Brian Higham, Stud Groom and stable manager to two Dukes of Beaufort for 51 years and a larger-than-life character within the village of Badminton. We send our sincere condolences to Sherry and family.

Brian was interviewed for the Local Talk Back in the summer of 2004. He had just started his 46th season at Badminton as Stud Groom for the Duke of Beaufort. When he retired in 2010, we believe at the age of 77, he had worked 51 years for the Beaufort family as Stud Groom and as stable manager for the Badminton Horse Trials. That was 25 years for the 10th Duke, known as 'Master', and 26 years for the 11th Duke.

In the 2004 interview Brian explained that he was from Yorkshire but first came to Badminton to visit his Uncle, Bert Pateman, who was here from the 1930's to 1966 as kennel Huntsman. Brian was able to ride while staying with his uncle and continued to do so during his National Service when stationed at RAF Luneberg in Germany. He helped the German instructor who ran the riding club and spent all his spare time there. When he was demobbed jobs were hard to come by where he lived and with the recommendation from his Uncle he was given an interview by the 10th Duke of Beaufort in 1959. The Duke accepted Brian and he came here as Second Man and Second Horse to His Grace. His wages were £7.16s (£7.80p) per week. He took over as head man in 1966.

Brian's job was stable manager in charge of stabling the horses and organising all the staff. He had to make sure the horses were fit all through the season from hound exercise onwards. This was the summer recess and the horses were out to grass and the staff on holiday but he still had a full time job to do. The horses still needed looking after in the fields, and everyday problems that cropped up had to be taken care of. He had to check for pollen rash on their noses and heels and grit in their feet, to name but a few things that can happen. The fences had to be checked, water troughs kept in working order and weeds kept down.

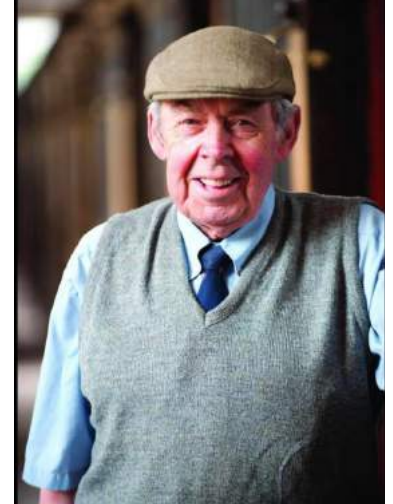
He said many 'horsey' clubs and groups use Badminton all through the year, the main one being the Horse Trials, for which Brian had to make sure all the stables were ready to take the competitors horses and then to keep an eye on the security of those boxes. Throughout the season there was Equestrian Team Training, the Pony Club competitions, sponsored rides and many other horse events riding through who may need stabling provided or help with the organisation. For the Sponsored Ride in September, Brian had been the 'starter' and an organiser since it began in the mid 1980's. Lots of money was raised for charity through the events that happened in Badminton Park.

Brian also said that years ago there was a Tack Man to take care of the tack but economics meant everyone had to muck in and do the work. The winter and the hunting season would bring a whole different load of work and problems.

Brian enjoyed 11 years of retirement, at times still involved with horses, and keeping everyone entertained with his wicked sense of humour, especially in the Badminton doctor's surgery. But that's another story. He will be greatly missed.

Brian's funeral will take place on Friday 6th August at 2pm at Badminton Church.

No Flowers. All are welcome to attend.



COLIN STAINER

Colin sadly passed away recently following a short illness. Originally a Gloucester boy, he had lived locally for many years. Colin had worked for the Duke of Beaufort, firstly in the Forestry and then for the Badminton Estate. He was living at Burton with his wife, Hazel, who he married almost nine years ago. We send our condolences to Hazel and to Colin's children and grandchildren.

Colin was a follower of the Beaufort Hunt and achieved his wish to be 'Blown Away' by the hunting horn, as it was blown by a hunt member in the churchyard.

BADMINTON BOMBS - WAS QUEEN MARY THE REAL TARGET?

By RAY BIRD, ACTON TURVILLE



Queen Mary at Badminton in WW2 - was she really the bombs' target ?

Growing up in the village I had often heard from local residents about the bombs that fell there during WW2. This article therefore is a mixture of those stories, some official reports, and extracts taken from an earlier Talk Back that was written by two villagers who were living in the High Street when the bombs were dropped.

It was the night of 8/9 July 1940 when a lone German aircraft flew over the village and dropped its bombs. The story at the time was that it did so in haste when being chased by a British fighter, - but was that true ? We will look at that more closely later.

The first anyone knew exactly where the bombs had landed was when the following morning, Mr Frapwell the Postmaster, went to his garden at the back of the High Street to pull some onions and to his surprise, where the onions should have been there was a big hole with a unexploded bomb at the bottom of it. The ARP warden was immediately informed, nearby residents were initially evacuated to the village hall, the Royal Engineers bomb unit arrived, and soon set about defusing the bomb. Further bombs were found nearby, although the type and number seem to vary greatly. I remember being told that a further two stick bombs were found in the allotments, and another under the wall in "Pinnells Alley", all of which in due course were taken away by the bomb squad to a field around Luckington Lane where they were safely detonated.

The clearing of the bombs was not quite the end of the story though, for it seems that the big hole made by the bomb in Mr Frapwell's garden, which was reported to have been between 12-16 feet deep, became a local attraction, and so a ladder was placed in it and people could climb down to get a close-up look at the imprint the bomb had made. For those that wanted that closer look, a collection box was at hand to donate a few pence to the war effort.

The following extracts are taken from an earlier issue of LTB that was written by two local residents that were living in the High Street on the night the bombs were dropped.

- Keith Leonard wrote - *"I was 11-12 years old at the time and lived in the house next to the lane that goes to the back of the Post Office & Drewetts store. I was woken in the early hours of the morning by my mother shouting to get up quickly because a bomb has been dropped very close. My parents who had heard the bomb, described it like "an express train coming down the roof". We spent the rest of the night downstairs. As dawn broke there was a lot of activity outside as one bomb had hit the wall in the lane opposite the late William Pinnell's large wooden garage. Most people were temporary evacuated to the village hall, but my parents and myself went to stay with an Aunt and Uncle in Acton Turville for a few days".*

- Marjorie Mills wrote - *"I remember hearing the noise of a bomb dropping, and out of curiosity the next morning we all went and looked at the big crater it made in Mr Frapwell's garden. The bomb had not exploded and we had not realised the seriousness of the situation. Many of us living in the High Street were evacuated while the bomb disposal unit made them safe. I was sent with my mother and our evacuee Ben, and our canary, to stay with father in Badminton House, where he worked, for two nights. It wasn't until the bombs had been opened up to be diffused they were found to be duds that had been purposely made that way by the Czechoslovakians".*

A report at the time, and from stories I was told, and the articles written by our two residents, all say that four bombs fell, but a report released after the war from the Gloucestershire Police archives states that there were "12 high explosive bombs dropped on Badminton that night".

CONTINUED

BADMINTON BOMBS - WAS QUEEN MARY THE REAL TARGET? CONT'D

As stated at the beginning of this article, the story at the time was that the bombs were dropped in haste when the German bomber was being pursued by a British fighter - but was that right ? With so much open countryside around, it does seem a bit of a co-incidence that it just happened to drop its bombs so close to Badminton House where Queen Mary was staying (remember bombing was not so accurate back in 1940). Did the German Luftwaffe know she was staying there and it was really an attempt to bomb the House and kill her? It seems that a Colonel Sleeman, Commander of the Gloucestershire Special Police Force, may have also thought so, for in the aforementioned report from their archives, it states that he did advise Queen Mary to re-locate, albeit she ignored the warning.



Footnote - The full articles by Keith and Marjorie can be seen in those earlier copies of Local Talk Back kept in the Gloucester archives.

If you have any stories about the Badminton bombs, then please contact LTB.

Clockwise from above:

Beyond the fence was the former gardens where three bombs were found including the one that left a big crater

Pinnells Alley - showing the left hand wall where one of the bombs was found.

The wall and former gardens (right hand side of the wall) where the four bombs fell, showing just how close the bombs fell to the houses in the High Street.



ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

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

JUNE / JULY 2021

Playing Field:

We have a new bin in the play area to help keep the area tidy. It should only be used by those in the play area itself. Thank you.

Mowing - Additional help with mowing is always welcome. If you are interested in helping, please contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk.

Village Signs

Many of the village signs have become either old or damaged and require replacing or repair. Photographs of the signs concerned have been sent to South Gloucestershire Council Street Care, who confirmed these will be inspected.

Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Council has received some initial proposals on how we should celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year and we remain open to ideas and further suggestions on this significant occasion. We will pass any suggestions to the organisers. You are always welcome to discuss your ideas with a Councillor - the aim is to have an event which will appeal to everyone in the village.

Councillor Vacancy

Chris Bennett tendered his resignation as Councillor at the end of our June meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for his many years of dedication to the parish and to the fact he has kindly volunteered to continue to carry out our playing field inspections.

Our second vacancy has been advertised following the usual procedures and we aim to fill this shortly.

New Councillor

We welcome Claire Broomsgrove who joined us at our July meeting as the first of our two new Parish Councillors. Claire and her family have lived in the village for many years and we feel sure she will be a valuable asset to the Council.

Parish Councillors: Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 219129, Sally Smith 218510, Claire Broomsgrove 218433

Next Meeting: Monday 13th September 2021 @ 7 pm
Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.

Please check the website and notice board for further information.

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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

From The Archives

BADMINTON CLOTHING CLUB 1908 - 1910

In an earlier Talk Back we heard about the Badminton 'Pig Club' where the school reared a pig which, after slaughter, was shared out between the families who had paid in to the club. In Badminton they were very fond of clubs as two more have come to light.

The Clothing Club – In 1908/10 33 people paid at least one shilling per month into the club on the first Monday at the Vicar's room. The Duchess of Beaufort then gave three shillings to each at the end of the year as a bonus to encourage people to help themselves. Tradesmen gave good terms on their clothes for people with club cards.

The Coal Club – this started after the success of the clothing club. The Duchess, instead of giving £5 towards coal for the poor, gave £5 annually to be used as a bonus for the coal club members.

ACTON TURVILLE CHURCH YARD

an article written in the Talk Back in 1976 by M.K.Mullens

I wonder how many of you have ever thought how it is that your Churchyard is one of the best kept in the country. Many years ago the Churchyard was a wilderness, but by starting in a corner where a loved one lay, a father and son gradually cleared the old Churchyard and with scythe, sickle and shears made it a place where families could walk with ease and flowers would be seen. Help came from many quarters, some giving their time and skill, others small donations towards necessary expenses and so 'The Churchyard Fund' was born.

After the war, the new piece of ground (more commonly known as Whitehay) was acquired as a burial ground. This was ploughed, levelled and reseeded, and the concrete road built, all achieved by voluntary labour and donations for the materials. Later, flowering trees were planted with daffodils round their roots and a bed of roses by the Church door, all given by different people in memory of loved ones. As time went on, push mowers and then motor mowers were purchased, and the job of keeping the Churchyard tidy was taken on by various villagers for only a token payment, many a fine summer evening and weekends were given up and all the village benefitted from these labours of love.

We all like to use the Church at sometime in our lives, whether for regular worship, or only Christenings, Weddings and Funerals, but whatever the occasion, the well-kept appearance of the Churchyard either adds to our joy or lessens our sorrow. Perhaps the present villagers have not realised that there is a fund kept for this purpose. Some families contribute direct, while many others have supported Mr Crook's Harvest Home at the Fox and Hounds, the proceeds of which he has generously given towards this fund.

Richard (no surname given) and his family had kept up the work for 48 years until 1976

At present there is still a fund for the Churchyard, separate to that of the Church, and in the same way as all those years ago, donations are still needed to keep the Churchyard looking tidy and, as then, to lessen the sorrow of those who have family there. Terry Tripp is the Treasurer for the Church for the time being and anyone wishing to contribute can contact him on 01454 218397.

THE COUNTRY GIRLS REMEMBERTHE ERMINE MOTH WEB



It was interesting to see the photos from Chris Farrell of the hedge covered in the webbing made by the Ermine Moth caterpillars.

In a 2010 Talk Back Editorial we reported on the strange goings-on in a hedge near the Three Corner Clump. There were ten large sections of the hedge covered in the silky white web, the largest being six metres long. Research showed it to be the work of the Ermine Moth caterpillars as Chris had said.

There are several species of the moth, each attracted to a different plant. The caterpillars are safe inside their web while feeding on the plants. They can completely strip a plant. By the time we saw the web the caterpillars had flown away as moths. We had noticed at a certain time of year we

would drive through huge numbers of moths on that road without knowing the story of the webbing.

The following year, 2011, we did see the web while the caterpillars were still feeding, thousands and thousands of them. The photo shows how many were in just a few inches. Although it is reported that it doesn't kill the plant as it will recover eventually, it was very obvious that the yearly event was causing damage to this particular hedge. Big gaps appeared at intervals, and all these years later, especially in the winter, you can still see the gaps where the plants never recovered. Not so good if you rely on the hedge to keep your livestock in. The moths are white with black spots and not to be confused with the larger, harmless White Ermine and Buff Ermine common in many gardens.

A Field of Linseed Flowers



More information about the Linseed flowers as pictured in the July issue of the Local Talk Back. These beautiful fields of blue can look like rippling seas on a breezy day. The Linseed flowers last only one day and all fall off by the evening. New flowers open up each day with the rising sun and drop off, earlier on a sunny day than a cloudy one. The fields change from blue to green each evening. This happens for two to three weeks as each plant makes dozens of flowers. The seed pods swell to pea size and turn from green to gold as the plant dies off. The seeds are harvested by a normal Combine using a change of setting for sieve, fan etc.

Cold pressed Linseed oil is used for food production, as a nutritional supplement and is nature's richest source of Omega 3. Industrial Linseed bought at hardware stores is pressed at far higher pressure and temperature to extract more oil from the seeds but damages the Omega 3. This makes it bitter, rancid and inedible. It is added to many wood finishing products as a drying oil in paints and varnishes.

Linseed is sometimes called Flax. Different varieties are grown either for seed as a primary crop, or longer stemmed varieties for fibre production. The fibre flax is not usually grown here.

At one time Linseed was fed to cattle to give a glossy coat, used for oiling cricket bats and for making floor covering linoleum 'lino'. Linen, which gives exceptional coolness in hot weather, is also made from the fibre of a flax plant. Various parts of the different varieties are used to make fabric, dye, paper, medicines, fishing nets, hair gel and soap.

BADMINTON OPEN GARDENS



Back in May, Local Talk Back reported on Tulip Day, when the public were invited to visit the gardens at Badminton House and Well Cottage to enjoy a glorious display of Spring colour. Since then there have been further open days, enabling us to see how the planting has matured and developed through the year.

We were therefore delighted when Cara Wiltshire from the Estate contacted us to say the gardens at Badminton House and Well Cottage will be welcoming visitors one more time this year for the Late Summer Open Day on Sunday the 5th of September. We asked Cara what people could expect to see. "There is a great variety of plants to view, from the formal beds on the east side of the house, designed by Russell Page, to the South Garden with its water squares, hedges, beds and borders. Glorious displays of roses and borders of soft summer colours are combined with herbaceous perennials, campanulas, penstemons, geraniums and phlox". A short stroll from the house lies the Walled Garden, home to the Badminton House kitchen garden. "The Walled Garden provides fruit and vegetables as well as cut flowers for much of the year", explains Cara. "An archway, running the full width of the

garden, is covered with roses, clematis, wisteria and yellow laburnum. The greenhouse is used for propagation and houses a fine display of pelargoniums".

We've been very impressed by the gardens at both Badminton House and Well Cottage this year. It seems like each time we visit there is more to see. We've also been very impressed by the arrangements that have been put in place to ensure everyone can enjoy the gardens in a safe and relaxed atmosphere. It really is a great day out. Maybe we'll see you there in September?

Late Summer Open Day – Sunday 5th September 10am-4pm.

Tickets available now to purchase in advance via the Badminton Estate website for £7.50.

On the day tickets will be £10. Children under 12 are free.

www.badmintonestate.com



J J'S GARDENING BLOG



It is the time of year to keep picking and enjoying any vegetables you have grown and to keep dead heading, snips or secateurs in hand. Pulling off a dead head is better than nothing but snipping to the next leaf node or trimming a too-long shoot back is so much better. Keep putting more seedlings of mixed lettuce or radicchio etc. in to replenish your pickings. Short of space? Pop some lettuce or herbs in amongst the flowers. Not any of the mint plants or they will take advantage and take over, confine them to a generous pot instead.

Jobs for this Month

The best time to re-shape evergreen shrubs or hedges, like laurel or yew for instance is now. Once that is done a feed of blood fish and bone around the base would be a good idea. August is generally a wet month, so any fertiliser will be absorbed into the soil.

Keep feeding tomatoes and water them even daily as necessary. And containers too. Perhaps put matching saucers under them to collect run off when you water.

Thin fruit of apples and plums to get larger fruit and to stop branches getting too heavy and breaking. Pick herbs, put into containers and freeze for winter use and label them.

Now some flowery thoughts. Herbaceous geraniums and pulmonarias which rather sprawl about can be cut back to give light to a plant nearby. A nice combination is a pink and blue geranium planted next to each other. They are not attacked by slugs, nor are foxgloves, Epimediums or French marigolds.

Think about Composting

The compost bin, balance between wet and dry. In other words, something wet like grass cuttings needs something dry like cardboard torn into smaller pieces plus any stems, dead heads etc. to be the sort of mixture to start everything breaking down into a marvellous compost. This will probably take eighteen months in a general sized garden, a lot of heat from everything rotting needs a big heap, such as the size councils have, but one is rewarded for reusing rubbish and not sending it to landfill.

Plan your Planting

A mantra which can make a difference to a planting scheme is "white against dark" in other words, against say an evergreen viburnum plant a white 'Annabel' hydrangea and both will enhance each other.

And Finally...

When watering plants keep the hose low down particularly with white flowers which often turn brown when they get wet on a sunny day.

Once the. Lavender has flowered trim it back with shears to keep it compact. Harvest some flowers and put in a bowl to enjoy. In sachets they keep moths away from woollen clothes in drawers.

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND VEG MARKET GARDEN

ORGANIC VEG BOXES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE
WAITING LIST FOR A BOX OF ORGANIC
VEG IN JULY TO BE COLLECTED WEEKLY
FROM THE HORSE BOX AT THE GATES AT
KENNEL DRIVE, BADMINTON, PLEASE
TEXT SIMON, THE GROWER FOR
FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND VEG
MARKET GARDEN,
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Church Matters

August 2021 Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, last month Pauline Setterfield from Hawkesbury Upton was ordained Priest in Gloucester cathedral and is working at present in Tetbury as the Assistant Curate. We wish her and Peter well, as she starts this new part of her journey in faith.

I recently have received some interesting statistics about ordinations:

Nearly 600 people were recommended for training for ordained ministry in the Church of England last year, including the highest number for a generation of candidates expected to take up paid clergy posts. 591 people were recommended for training for ordained ministry in 2020, the highest figure for 13 years.

The Church of England's Ministry Statistics show that women made up the majority of the 580 ordinands and nearly a quarter of the men and women starting training, or 23%, **were aged under 32** years old. (Nearly two fifths, or 39%, were aged under 40). Ordinands from UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) backgrounds made up 10.9% of the intake. This compares to 4.1% of the current pool of stipendiary clergy.

I share these figures with you because I think they are really encouraging. At a time when people are turning more and more to spirituality and various Eastern forms of meditation, the church rooted as it is in the Western spiritual tradition, is still a major force of spirituality in this country. With its emphasis upon the unity of mind, soul and body, and a focus on community, ethics and the teachings of tradition and Scripture.

I know it is not all about numbers and statistics, far from it, actually. But, I just thought these figures might interest you all the same, and maybe even, be an encouragement.

If you are taking a well-earned rest, I wish you have a very happy holiday this month.

With my best wishes, Richard Thomson

Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Rd. Badminton GL9 1EU

Benefice website: www.badmintonchurch.org.uk

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Badminton Benefice Rota for August 2021

Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
Trinity 9	1 st August	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	RT
		11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	RT
Trinity 10	8 th August	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
		9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	RT
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT
The Blessed Virgin Mary	15 th August	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	RT
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Lay led
		11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	RT
Trinity 12	22 nd August	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	RT
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	RT
		6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT
Trinity 13	29 th August	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
		9.30am	Hawkesbury Showground	Songs of Praise	RT
Trinity 14	5 th September	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	RT
		11.15am	St Arildas, Oldbury	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	RT

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the July quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



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Michelle H,

December 2020



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Picture Gallery



Thanks to Sally Smith for sending in the top two pictures. Sally found the moth sitting on her drive when she arrived home one day and was surprised to see it still there several hours later. She put it into a box where it would at least be safe and was relieved when it later showed signs of improvement by opening its wings. Our local moth expert reckons it could be a Privet Hawk Moth. Any thoughts?

To the left we have butterflies. This pair of Meadow Browns were spotted by regular contributor Claire Broomsgrove when walking at Westonbirt Arboretum. Thanks for sending them in Claire

Finally, farmers must have appreciated the recent upturn in the weather which assisted with the harvest. The pictures below were taken by Yvonne Nettles and show hay baling in Little Badminton.

