

Local Talk Back

DECEMBER 2022

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

ISSUE 533



Reindeers getting excited about Christmas in Acton Turville.

Picture by Melanie Watson



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

EDITORIAL DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the Local Talk Back Christmas edition. Is it just me or has the build up to Christmas been slightly subdued this year? As I write this Christmas is less than a month away, but I've yet to see a single house festooned with Christmas lights, or spotted anyone wearing their festive Christmas jumper. Even the television schedules have yet to take on a Christmas flavour (the exception being the channel that bizarrely re-ran all of the Bake-Off Christmas specials over the first two weeks of November when the country was still basking in semi-tropical temperatures. I wonder if someone simply typed in the wrong month when they were setting their calendar for the year and nobody noticed?). One reason for the lack of festive television might be the World Cup, a tournament which traditionally takes place in the summer but which is being held in the Middle East this year - moving it to the winter should ensure the temperatures are more conducive to playing sport. Somehow it doesn't feel quite right when you switch on the TV expecting to see Wallis & Gromit or The Great Escape and instead find live football matches being played in glorious sunshine. It's not just the television that is bucking the winter trend though. I recently moved some pot plants to a nice sheltered corner of the garden to provide them with protection from the expected seasonal snow and ice and they have responded by producing buds and coming back into flower! I had to look twice but there they were, fresh blooms in November. Bizarre.

Maybe we should expect nothing less from the year that was 2022. It was the year when the country fully emerged from the restrictions imposed in response to Covid and began getting back to normal. Events that had been scrubbed from the calendar over the previous couple of years were back, and we had something else to look forward to – a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June. The events held locally provided a much-needed opportunity for everyone to meet up and socialise with their friends and neighbours, and will I'm sure be remembered for many years to come. Although the Jubilee weekend was not blessed with the best weather, that was soon to change as the country enjoyed wall-to-wall sunshine for what seemed like the whole summer. And most of the autumn come to think of it. Weather forecasters frequently used phrases such as "since records began" when they tried to describe the temperatures we were experiencing, and the complete absence of rain for months on end left the countryside looking parched. A trip down to Weymouth at the beginning of the heatwave found the beach packed with people making the most of the sunshine; the scene was almost Mediterranean. Little did anyone expect the sunshine to last so long. As usual there were transport delays as rails buckled and motorways melted, but for those who could stay home and enjoy the weather, it was bliss. Locally, it was a very busy year on the Badminton Estate which hosted a number of events, some new, others returning favourites. Of course the big news was the return of the horse trials after a two-year absence, with Laura Collett proving to be a very popular winner. In addition, the open gardens were a firm favourite of all here at Local Talk Back; we were amazed how well the displays at the main house and the walled garden had thrived despite the dry conditions. We were also very pleased to see the fireworks coming back to Badminton for a second year, providing some spectacular displays in a very relaxing setting.

The event that had the biggest impact, not just locally but nationally, was the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. After celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June, the nation came together to pay its respects at her funeral in September. It was a day of great solemnity that epitomised the British spirit.

Talk Back is very much a team effort and I want to thank everyone who plays their part in producing, printing, supporting and delivering our newsletter. A special mention must go to all of our advertisers and those whose donations mean we can continue to produce Talk Back every month. That just leaves space to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Me, I'm just off to see how my winter blooms are doing. I hope this doesn't mean I'm going to be cutting the grass all through the winter...

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

Items for Local Talk Back email to: localtalkback1975@gmail.com Tel: 01454 218267

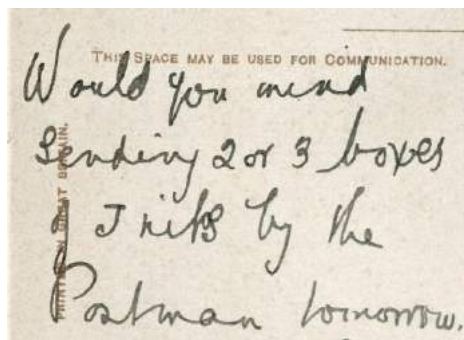
To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH JANUARY
(THERE IS NO LOCAL TALK BACK IN JANUARY)

THANK YOU.

Postcard Update!

In last month's Local Talk Back we provided an update on the mysterious post card sent between the Post Offices in Acton Turville and Badminton where we were struggling to identify the items that were being requested. Carol Lord believed the Post Card was requesting "2 or 3 boxes of knives", but an alternative suggestion has come in from our good friend Stephen Gregson who thinks the items in



question might be 'J nibs'. Apparently, in the days before the arrival of the fountain pen and well before the invention of the ball point pen, people would write using a nib attached to a

simple wooden handle, dipping the nib into an inkwell as often as necessary. The nibs were of various shapes and sizes, one of the most common being the 'J' nib. They would have come in boxes of a dozen or a score, and would have been sold either by the box or singly at a Post Office. That sounds compelling to us, but then we said the same last month about the knives!

We were also puzzled why the Post Office would be using a Post Card to request these items. As Stephen points out, "you have to remember that in those days a postcard often reached its destination on the same day that it was posted because of multiple deliveries, compared to the week or so that today's postage may take! It was the email of its time!"

Good point. Thanks Stephen.

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

Mr & Mrs B Luter

In addition, £47 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,
6 Hollybush Close, Acton Turville,
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ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2022

Alastair Gilbert
Sarah Dunn
Christine Griffin

WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Katie and Andrew Bruton
Sybil Haddrell
Tess Daly

Congratulations!

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



Thank You

GEOFF SHORTALL

We would both like to thank everyone for your kind words and cards on the passing of our dad, and for those who attended his funeral. It has meant a lot to us at this difficult time.

Also, we would like to sincerely thank you all for your donations made to Cancer Research UK in memory of dad.

Carey & Kelly

MIKE LUTER

Bron, Debbie, Kerry, Dean, Sherman and the wider family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers following the sad and sudden loss of Mike Luter. He was a much-loved Husband, Dad, Grampy and Great Grampy, and will be sorely missed by all. Thank you also to all who attended the funeral, it was a great comfort to all the family to see so many there.



The Royal British Legion, Trinity School, the parish council and villagers held a service of Remembrance at St Mary's church, Acton Turville on Friday 11th November.

It was great to see such a good turnout at the service which was led by Mathew Butler. The children performed their roles perfectly and behaved impeccably throughout the service. Afterwards there was tea and cakes at the Fox & Hounds. Local coordinator Alastair Gilbert reported that the Badminton Branch made £7886.08 this year, their best year ever, and thanked the poppy sellers and all who supported them.

The Official History of the Beaufort Hunt

Published 2022

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Christmas Goods, Wines
and Spirits*

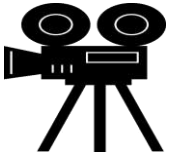
Reminder of Last Posting Dates for Christmas Delivery

1st Class – 21st December

2nd Class – 19th December

Open Boxing Day 8am – 12 noon

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA DIDMARTON VILLAGE HALL

December's Film is a special for the Children but everyone is welcome!

Saturday 10th December 2022

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

The 3D, CG-animated family comedy Arthur Christmas, an Aardman production for Sony Pictures Animation, reveals the incredible, never-before seen answer to every child's question: 'So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night?' The answer: Santa's exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole.

But at the heart of the film is a story with the ingredients of a Christmas classic - a family in a state of comic dysfunction and an unlikely hero, Arthur, with an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning.

Doors open at 2.30pm film starts at 3.30pm

Free entry (donations possible)

Soft drinks, Tea, Coffee and Cakes and cash bar

Friday 13th January 2023

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL

(2022, Cert 15) - Drama.

Starring: Richard Harrington, Joshua McGuire, James Purefoy

Director: Megan Leonard, Nick Moorcroft

'Fisherman's Friends: One And All' charts the next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends amazing and uplifting true-story.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, cash bar

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

jennybody@btconnect.com

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 14th December

Entertainment from singer Richie C

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Traditional Christmas Dinner and Dessert

Glass of Wine

Coffee to finish

£19.00 per head

Everyone welcome!



**The FOX
& HOUNDS INN**

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

*The Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club
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Unique Acton Turville Christmas Cards

The village as it used to be



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Available from Jenny Lomas 0774 871 6148

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All profits shared between Parkinson's UK and
Acton Turville Social.

The Goulters of the Cotswolds

People who study gravestones often say how they provide them with a window on the past, offering clues to events which in some cases happened many hundreds of years ago. Delve deeper and it can be fascinating to find out more about the people whose names are engraved on the headstones and the lives they led. Back in the summer, Local Talk Back was contacted by Judith Bush and James Goulter (right) from Victoria in Australia whose investigations into James' family history had brought them all the way to St Mary's churchyard in Acton Turville to see the grave of his great, great grandparents. The grave they came to see was that of his namesake, James Goulter who died in 1857 and Mary Goulter née Comely. This is their story.



Acton Turville is approximately 10,500 miles from Yarragon in Victoria where James and I live, but standing next to the grave of great great grandfather, James Goulter, we both felt a real affinity to this little Cotswold village. As we looked around the churchyard of St Mary's, we imagined that day in 1857 when James was laid to rest, with friends and family paying their respects exactly as we were doing on that hot and sunny September day in 2022. But how had we arrived at this point?

Like many Australian families with roots in the UK, we had long been interested to learn more about the lives of our ancestors before their migration halfway across the planet. The task of researching the history of the Goulter family began in the days before the internet, when undertaking such research was a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating task. Despite the challenges, good progress was made, and in time a wealth of invaluable documentation and information was



gathered. The emergence of internet-based sites such as Ancestry.com allowed this material to be verified as historic documents became available, but importantly it also provided access to new resources which helped fill in the gaps and reveal some new and unexpected aspects.

The picture that emerged was one of a family who could trace its roots back to the early Huguenots. A number of individuals could lay claim to being the founder of the Goulter family in Britain, but a likely candidate is a French Calvinist named Thomas Gaultier who came to the country in the mid-1500s. There is evidence of the family residing in London at this time, but by the early 1600s their connections

had extended to Chervild (known today as Charfield) in Gloucestershire, and Wotton-under-Edge, where they would stay for many generations.

The family's links with the area around Badminton and Acton Turville date back to the mid-1700s. In 1774, information provided by the Badminton Estate reveals that a John Goulter was working there as a groom, and on the 8th Feb 1776 records show that he married Elizabeth Roach in the parish of Great Badminton. In their marriage banns, John is described as a yeoman farmer and a bachelor of 26 years, and Elizabeth as a 23 year old spinster. Shortly afterwards, John became butler to the Duke of Beaufort, living with Elizabeth in Vicarage House in

Badminton, although it is unclear whether this would have been the current house of that name or an earlier iteration closer to the main house. In 1789, John moved on from his position as butler to that of innkeeper with his purchase of The White Hart Inn in the centre of Chippenham (now the Iceland supermarket). At the time of his move to Chippenham, John and Elizabeth had four children – Mary, Elizabeth, John and

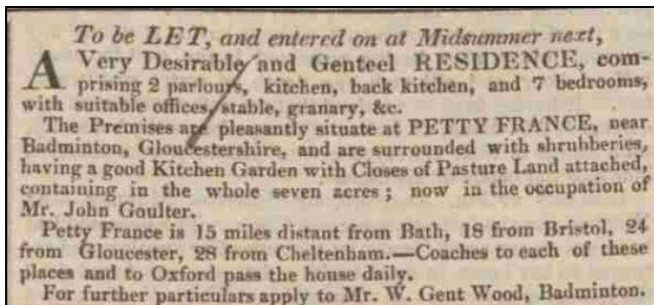
James, whose ages ranged from 2 to 13. As well as an Inn where, according to the Universal British Directory of 1791, "neat carriages, good horses and careful drivers are always at hand". The White Hart served as the Post Office for Chippenham. In those days, businesses such as inns would become an agent for the postal service, with the mail coaches doubling up as a means of transport between different towns and villages.

They stayed there until the turn of the century when the inn was sold for the sum of £300 and John took on the lease of the Beaufort Arms (now Bodkin House) in the hamlet of Petty France where they remained for twenty years.

The Goulters of the Cotswolds (cont'd)

At around the same time as he bought The White Hart, John had also taken over the remainder of a 99 year lease for a house, mill and farm at Burton/Littleton Drew. The property had previously been owned by Elizabeth's uncle, George Roach from Nettleton, who bequeathed it to her in his will. John still had to pay the not-insignificant cost of £400 for the lease to be transferred to his name, plus an annual fee of 22 shillings. The house and farm are still there and now go by the name of Goulter's Mill & Farm, although John and Elizabeth never resided there. It is not known whether other Goulters later had ownership.

They also leased yet another property called Rock House (later known as Manor House) located just across the road from the Beaufort Inn at Petty France.



It was here that Elizabeth died in 1822, aged 72, and John stayed there until 1830 when he moved to Chipping Sodbury, possibly to stay with his daughter. He died there in December 1835 when he was 88 years old. They, and many other Goulters are buried at Hawkesbury.

It is James, the youngest of John and Elizabeth's four children, who is buried in St Mary's. Born in 1787, he was 24 when he married his first wife, 22-year-old Sarah Allen. A year after their marriage in 1811 James and Sarah were living at Limes Farm in Acton Turville, on the corner of Luckington Rd and The Street.

Between 1812 and 1821 James and Sarah had six children, but tragedy struck when, aged just 36, Sarah died, most likely in childbirth. Sarah's untimely death left James with six children to look after on his own, the youngest a new born infant and the eldest nine years old. How he managed with such a young family we shall never know. Matters were made even worse when his mother died just a year later, taking away what must have been invaluable support at such a crucial time. However, three years later, James married Mary Comely, this time in St James Parish, in Bristol. Why Bristol? That's something else we don't know. There were no family witnesses at the wedding, but it was common for farmers sons to marry farmers daughters of a similar status, her parents being Aldom and Prudence Comely of Street Farm.

James was now 37 years old but Mary was just 21 - a sixteen-year age gap. Over the next 16 years, Mary was to have twelve children with James - she had a child every one to two years, including twins, up until 1843 when she was 40 years of age - meaning James fathered eighteen children in total.

The information contained in census returns provides a fascinating picture of the family's life. In 1841, at the time of the first English census, James was 54 years of age and Mary was only 36. Ezra was in Clevedon, Somerset but they still had six children at home: William 16, Eber 13, Theophilus 12, George 10, Mary 7 and Albert who was 1 (the twins Mary and Joseph, and Ann Matilda had died as infants, and Alfred and Edward were yet to be born). The census reveals they also had three female servants to help. By the 1851 census, there were five children at home ranging from Theophilus, now 21 and working on the farm, down to Edward at seven years. The number of servants had reduced to two.

James and Mary farmed substantial acreages in Acton Turville all of their lives. In 1812, the farm amounted to 287 acres, and the 1839 Tithe maps and records show that James was the largest landholder in the area. By 1851 the farm has increased to 296 acres, and James employed five men, two women and two boys who may well have lived in farm accommodation or buildings such as Limes Cottage.

James died on the 14th March 1857, aged 69. Mary was only 54 at the time of his death. Theophilus then took over the lease to Limes Farm and in the 1871 census the farm had grown to 350 acres. Research by local historian and photographer, Ray Bird, attributes this increase to Theophilus renting extra land in 1863 from nearby Street Farm. He believes he also rented its farmhouse which was being occupied by his widowed mother Mary who it would appear lived there until her death in 1881. This was still the Comely family farm and Mary had previously lived there from eleven years old.



Goulters Mill and Farm, Littleton Drew

The Goulters of the Cotswolds (cont'd)

In 1875, for unknown reasons, Theophilus and his family left Limes Farm, although he continued to live in the village, possibly at Street Farmhouse. Late 1870s trade directories list him as an auctioneer, furniture broker and dealer in Acton Turville, Badminton and Malmesbury. In 1880, he emigrated to Canada with his family where they remained for the rest of their lives.

We can only wonder how Mary may have felt at this time – the only son who had farmed with his father and taken over the farm gave it all up to emigrate. Mary died in December 1881, aged 78 years, outliving James by 24 years.

James was buried at St Mary's Church graveyard in Acton Turville on 20 March 1857. Mary was also buried there, on the 6th Dec 1881. Their gravestone reads:

"To the memory of James Goulter, of this parish, yeoman, who died March 14 1857 aged 73 years [actually 69]. Also of Mary, his second wife who died November 30 [1881] Aged 77 years. And of 4 of their children who died in infancy."

The four children who died in infancy certainly were not forgotten.

The grave is located to the north of the church in the oldest part of the churchyard under a lime tree. In light of the name of their farmhouse it is very appropriate. It is a short walk of 100 metres through the back gate and across a paddock (which he had farmed) to where they lived all of their married lives. The church was a significant part of the lives of James and Mary in the village - all of his eighteen children were baptised here, some married, and many burials.

What we have learned about the period when they lived and worked in the area around Badminton and Acton Turville has, for us, been both fascinating and poignant. It revealed a family which worked hard to attain a standard of living which was both comfortable and financially-secure, and in the case of James and Mary, it provided them with the ability to employ servants for the house and agricultural labours to work on their farm. James and Mary spent the whole of their working lives in Acton Turville. Their children were all born there and they both died and were buried there. However, when Mary died in 1881 her surviving children had moved away, some far and wide:

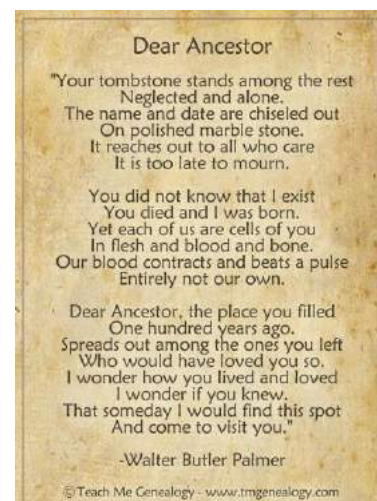
- William Comely, the eldest, had moved to Bristol prior to 1861;
- Ezra emigrated to Victoria, Australia in 1860;
- Eber & George had emigrated to South Australia in 1849 and 1850 respectively;
- Theophilus emigrated to the Canada in 1879;

- Mary Elizabeth went to Wales, then back to Moreton in the Marsh, then back to Wales and finally to Cheltenham, Gloucestershire about the time of her mother's death;
- Albert also went to Wales prior to 1869;
- Alfred, great grandfather to James (of Yarragon), emigrated to Australia in 1865;
- Edward, the youngest, also moved to Wales prior to 1881.

Of the children from James's first marriage, the eldest, Allen was nearby at Hawkesbury. Mary Maria had died in 1842, Daniel in 1840, John between 1871 and 1881, Thomas had emigrated to Canada after 1849 (the only one of these six to leave the country) leaving James just down the road at Hollybush Farm in Acton Turville. Of all the surviving children, it seems Allen (from James' first marriage) was the only one to continue with farming just as his father had done.

Our visit to Acton Turville surpassed our expectations and was highlighted by the warm welcome given to us by the current owners of Limes Farm, Jacqueline and Ian, along with other locals. and Ian shared their knowledge of the farm's history and provided evidence of its existence back to 1637. It is wonderful to know that the older building is still a part of the current building.

As we stood next to the grave of James and Mary, we felt proud of what they had achieved, and were thankful that we were able to honour their memory by reading out this poem.



Our research into the history of the Goulter family has taken us all the way back to the 16th Century. We are currently updating a book documenting our research, "Goulters of the Cotswolds & Beyond" which will be available soon. Please contact us via Local Talk Back if you are interested in obtaining a copy or have any information to contribute.

Judith Bush and James Goulter

J J's GARDENING BLOG



What plants would you put on your Christmas gift list? This is a really good time for planting woody things as the soil is still warmish and damp. What about a hedge? Or roses? Maybe fruit trees, on dwarfing root stock so the fruit will be within easy reach. Trees give a settled established feel to a garden, but choose one that is suitable for the size of the house. A nice one is Sorbus Cashmeriana, not too big with white berries and good autumn leaf colour. You'll find a good tree nursery called Landcare behind The Dog Inn in Chipping Sodbury.

No Space for Trees?

Something smaller, what about Zebra grass? It's a miscanthus so not invasive and about a metre by a metre in size. The foliage turns yellow in the winter so don't tidy it up until the spring when the new leaves start to emerge. As its name suggests it is striped.

Protect your Salvias

If you are going to leave salvias and dahlia plants in the ground they will need protection. Cut the dahlias down to about four inches, shorten the salvias to tidy them up, and cover the root area with a double handful of used potting compost. If the salvias are in pots put them in a warm aspect against the house.

Some More Jobs for the Garden

For next season perhaps? Consider hollyhocks. They have been out of fashion, but good for height. If the leaves get rust, remove them. Quite a good range of colours.

Drain and put away the hose, or it may split with frost.

Store away saucers under pots. Ditto

Put feet under pots to keep them dry. Ditto

And Finally

Have a very Happy Christmas.

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the November puzzles:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

THE BADMINTON BED

A LITTLE SLICE OF LOCAL HISTORY IN THE V&A

By Melissa Spreadborough, Acton Turville

For the last 15 months I have been lucky enough to be studying at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. When I first heard about the so-called 'Badminton Bed' I assumed it had no connection to our small corner of the West Country. The name must just be a coincidence. Out of curiosity, however, I decided to go and see the bed for myself. My assumptions, as it turns out, had been incorrect and standing there, in pride of place in the British Galleries of the V&A, was a magnificent eighteenth-century four-poster bed, designed with an East Asian influence, which had been made for Charles Somerset and his wife Elizabeth Berkeley, the 4th Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

Despite being a rather striking and impressive piece on its own, the bed is not the only object from this period to have been commissioned for Badminton House. Initially being purchased by the museum as a solo piece in 1921, the museum has since acquired a gilded pinewood dressing table and two beechwood armchairs, also inspired by Chinese design and commissioned by the Duke and Duchess to furnish their undoubtedly impressive Chinese bedroom. A matching pair of dwarf bookcases was also commissioned for this room, but these have not been acquired by the museum.



*'The Badminton Bed', designed by John Linnell (1754)
(© Victoria and Albert Museum, London)*

The furniture was inspired by an increased interest in Asian design, during the 1750s and 1760s. This interest originated in France at the end of the seventeenth century, following an increase in the quantity of items being imported from the East, although it only really flourished in England during the next century. Initially adopted for its novelty, Chinoiserie, as this European imitation of Chinese artistic styles was known, soon spread to architecture and gardening, before making its way inside the home. Despite largely being associated with China in the public imagination, Chinoiserie borrowed styles from China, Japan and India without any great distinction. Due to the lack of genuine knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture, as well as an apparent disregard for authenticity, these styles were also often hybridised with other popular movements at the time, such as Rococo and Gothicism, to create an elaborate and impressive visual display.



*Dressing Table, designed by John Linnell (1754),
commissioned by the 4th Duke and Duchess of Beaufort
(© Victoria and Albert Museum, London)*

The bedroom in Badminton House is a good example of this as it featured not one or two choice pieces, but was entirely designed around the concept of creating this fantastical vision of the East.

The furniture in the Chinese room at Badminton House largely took its influence from contemporary Chinese style architecture, which, on the whole, was more common than interior design. The upper panel of the bed, for instance, is reminiscent of a pagoda, adorned dramatically with a golden dragon over each

post. Such pagodas became popular garden ornaments during this period, one of the most significant of which is The Great Pagoda at Kew, which was completed around a decade after this furniture was commissioned.

THE BADMINTON BED (CONT'D)

The lattice work on the chairs and the bed is similarly an area of East Asian influence that was commonly found in imitation architecture. The 'japanned' dressing table with gilded bronze landscape is a more common example of Chinoiserie furniture, with these features also being present many in contemporary articles of the same influence.

All these items of furniture were designed by John Linnell and produced in the workshop of his father, William Linnell. The Linnell firm was founded by William Linnell in 1730 and, by 1754 when the items for Badminton House were commissioned, operated out of a worked shop in Berkeley Square, London. The Linnells were prestigious furniture manufacturers in their day, producing work for many notable patrons and furniture designed by John Linnell, in particular, can be found in public country houses throughout England, including near-by Dyrham House and, one of my personal favourites, Osterley Park House in Greater London.

In keeping with popular styles, John Linnell's designs initially reflected the elaborate and ornate features of the Rococo movement, and this influence is also clear in these pieces. The extravagant ornamentation and general excess of this style lent itself to the dramatic and ornate motifs and golden decoration that were employed in Chinoiserie. By the end of the century, Linnell's personal style had become more influenced by the simpler neoclassical movement, which grew in popularity throughout Europe in response to the excesses of Rococo. In addition to physical furniture, the V&A also holds a large collection of John Linnell's design sketches, including those for the armchairs commissioned by the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, available either online or by appointment, which may be of interest to those with a wider interest in his work.

Described by the museum as 'one of the most imposing examples of English Chinoiserie', the Badminton Bed is certainly a magnificent sight to behold and one I would highly recommend if you find yourself in London with some time to spare.



Armchairs, designed by John Linnell (made in 1754, japanned in 1840), commissioned for the 4th Duke and Duchess of Beaufort (©Victoria and Albert Museum, London)

Melissa Spreadborough

The Badminton Bed, with the accompanying dressing table and armchairs, are all on permanent display in the British Galleries, Room 52, The George Levy Gallery in The Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington.



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Church Matters

December 2022 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

With around thirty other clergy, I have been sitting at the feet of a 'Conflict Resolution' trainer for the past three days. And far from coming away from it feeling smug in the thought that we had it all sorted, most of us came away realising what complicated and difficult people we actually all are.

Some of the time was spent on looking at anxiety and how incredibly easy it is to 'up' the ante by putting complex issues into polarised terms. 'This or that', rather than 'this and that'. Time was spent reflecting on how difficult it is to be logical when one is flustered and upset. When the rational brain gives way to the 'flight-or-flight' instinct. And how different types of personality get wound up by other sorts of personality. We also reflected on how frustrated it feels to NOT be listened to and acknowledged. It was a fascinating course.

I believe that in the Christian community, where we should be characterised by our ability to forgive each other. Something which, in spite of reciting the Lord's prayer frequently, we are not always very good at doing.

Forgiving others their trespasses is difficult, and I know I am always incredibly grateful when I have been forgiven. And it is always hard to forgive others, for being less than perfect.

As we prepare for Christmas, it would be good if whenever we are tempted to 'harden our hearts' against someone, instead we remembered the Lord's prayer, and Jesus' command that we should forgive one another. Because none of us are perfect.

With my best wishes for a reflective season this Advent.

Richard

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

Church Services for December 2022

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 th December	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	Churchwarden led
11 th December	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	11.00am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
18 th December	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Carol Service	M Butler
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Didmarton	Carol Service	Rev Maslen
	6.00pm	Westonbirt	Carol Service	Rev P Cheeseman
Friday 23 rd December	6.00pm	Leighterton	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
24 th December	4.00pm	Hawkesbury	Children's Service	Hilary Cook Meth LP
	4.30pm	Acton Turville	Christingle Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.00pm	Didmarton	Midnight Mass BCP	Rev R Thomson
25 th December Christmas Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion C CW	Rev J Hunnisett
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Great Badminton	Christmas Day Service	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

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

NOVEMBER 2022

(Some of the items discussed)

Playing Field Maintenance - Anyone interested in joining our team of 'mowers & strimmers' please contact a Councillor or the Clerk. We would like to have a few more volunteers next Spring to assist the current team. If you are 18 and over and would like to help please consider giving it a go. Training will be given.
Geoff Shortall - Councillors will be installing a plaque in memory of Geoff Shortall on the seat he liked to sit on in the playing field.

Village signs - Several signs are still on order and we have again reminded South Glos Streetcare who have assured us these will be replaced as soon as they become available.

Community Speed Watch - More volunteers would be appreciated.

Planning - Development by Badminton Estate, no further information but we will notify everyone as soon as we receive an update.

Parish Councillors:

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

Next Meeting:

Monday 12 December 2022 @ 7 pm Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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

St Mary's Church, Acton Turville



Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

led by Dr Matthew Butler

Sunday December 18th at 6.00 pm

Mulled wine & mince pies afterwards



Christingle Service

Led by Rev Richard Thomson

Saturday December 24th at 4.30pm

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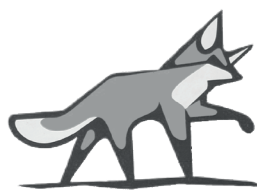
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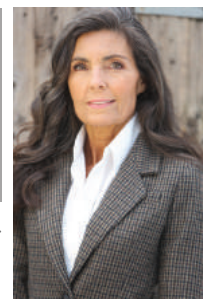
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Merry Christmas



Local Talk Back went to print too early to capture the Christmas Lights being switched on in many of our local towns this year, but we're grateful for these pictures from Yvonne Nettles who made it along to a day of entertainment which culminated in the lights being switched on in Yate. It's hard to believe it's ten years since those popular hitmakers Steps performed a medley of their favourite tunes before hitting the big red button and lighting up the shopping centre in 2012. What the 2022 line-up might have lacked in international household names, it made up for in variety with performances from a Rock Choir and the D-Day Dollies (above) who entertained the crowds with their repertoire of wartime classics.

Christmas arrived at Acton Turville with not one but two Christmas Markets. The first was held at Trinity School then a week later, Acton Turville Social organised an event at the Fox & Hounds. It was great to see both events so well attended and the range of gifts on offer was wide and varied. As you can see from Mel Little's pictures right and below, the bright and colourful lights at the Fox & Hounds certainly brought some festive cheer to a cold November evening.

