

# Local Talk Back

OCTOBER 2022

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

ISSUE 531



Queen Elizabeth II  
1926 - 2022



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

# EDITORIAL OCTOBER 2022

The cover of June's Local Talk Back is one of my favourites. It coincided with this summer's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and featured a picture of a radiant Queen smiling warmly at well-wishers.

We were in Portugal when we heard that the Queen had been taken ill, and shortly afterwards came the news that she had passed away. Even though the news was not unexpected it still came as a shock, and I was surprised how deeply I felt the loss of someone who I'd never met.

The television in the hotel room only had two UK channels, one of which was the BBC News Channel. The BBC was clearly well prepared for such an event. They captured members of the Royal Family making their way to Balmoral, they called on Royal experts to explain what we could expect to see happening in the coming days and weeks, they talked to members of the public who were paying their respects at the Royal residences, and they showed newsreel footage from every stage of Her Majesty's long life. It was deferential, it was reverential, and it reflected the feelings of people across all parts of the nation and wider Commonwealth.

You would expect nothing less from the BBC. What came as a surprise though was the coverage from the other broadcasters. When we flicked the TV onto any of its other many channels, whether French, Italian, Portuguese, German or American, all were mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth. It seemed strange; surely we wouldn't feel the same if it was their head of state who had died, would we? The reason was brought into sharp focus when, in a touching tribute, France's President Macron said "to you, she was your Queen. To us, she was THE Queen."

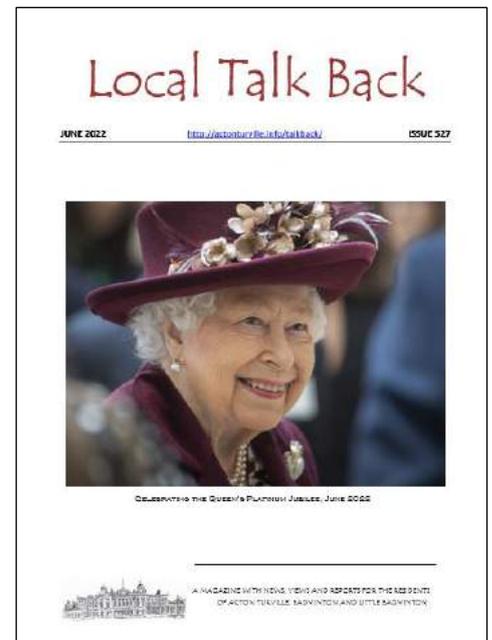
A statistic that was repeated many times over the following weeks was that 80% of people alive today in the UK were born in the Elizabethan era. For many of us, it's all we've known. Governments and Prime Ministers have come and gone, we've been to war with countries that are now our friends (and aligned ourselves with countries that are now our foes), we've seen the once-great British Empire make way for a more palatable Commonwealth, and witnessed all sorts of achievements, successes and disasters. The one constant through all this has been The Queen. Our Queen. Queen Elizabeth the Second. It's no surprise her passing touched so many people. It's the end on an era.

Someone on the radio used the term "the Blitz Generation" to describe people who, like the Queen, lived through the war. He described how they had no option but to get on with life despite the war that was raging around them. When their houses were bombed, or friends and family members were killed, there was no time for self pity. They got over it and moved on. The Blitz Generation, he argued, personified the British spirit, the stiff upper lip, and when they encountered adversity, they would confront it head on. It was that spirit that drove the Queen and defined the monarchy throughout her reign. The thought of abdicating was never an option. Now we have a new king, and we have moved from the Elizabethan era to the Carolean age. We can only wonder at what changes lie ahead.

I must thank Ray Bird for putting together a far more elegant and eloquent tribute to the Queen which appears elsewhere in this issue of Talk Back. The Queen never appeared more relaxed than when she was enjoying the countryside or amongst animals, which I'm sure is something to which many of us can relate.

God Save the King

IAN CARTER



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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.

THANK YOU.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

#### **October**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club  
 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Village Tidy (see below)  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Get Online event, Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall, 2pm – 4pm  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Didmarton Rural Cinema – The Duke

#### **November**

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market, Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville, 4-8pm

**\*\*\*Please check with venues before setting off\*\*\***

### **DONATE TO LOCAL TALK BACK!**

*We very much welcome 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,  
 Badminton, South Glos, GL9 1JJ*

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE**

#### **100 Club**

WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Laura Griffin  
 Kate Seymour Smith  
 Richard Hartley

***Congratulations!***

### **ACTON TURVILLE AUTUMN TIDY**

COULD YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS HELPING KEEP OUR VILLAGE LOOKING CLEAN AND TIDY?

IF YOU CAN, COME AND JOIN US. WE'LL BE MEETING IN THE FOX & HOUNDS CAR PARK ON

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

BETWEEN 10AM AND 11AM

BAGS, GLOVES AND PICKERS WILL BE PROVIDED TO HELP WITH LITTER CLEARING. WE'RE ALSO GOING TO BE TACKLING SOME OF THE PLANTED AREAS WHICH ALWAYS NEED SOME ATTENTION AT THIS TIME OF YEAR SO IF YOU FANCY THAT, BRING ALONG YOUR GARDENING TOOLS.

*EVERYONE WELCOME!*

ANY QUESTIONS?

CONTACT [ACTONTURVILLEPC@AOL.COM](mailto:ACTONTURVILLEPC@AOL.COM)

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## In Memoriam Geoff Shortall

With the sad passing of Geoff Shortall at the age of 70, Acton Turville has lost one of its real characters. Geoff was born in Bradford-on-Avon but grew up locally, attending school in Nettleton then moving to Burton when he got married before putting down roots in Acton Turville, where he lived for many years.

With his distinctive white beard Geoff became a familiar sight around the village, whether walking to collect his paper from the shop before heading to work at Badminton Horseboxes, or cutting the grass at the playing field or churchyard. He always had time for a chat though, when his ready wit and dry sense of humour would come to the fore. When jobs needed doing, Geoff was always the first to volunteer. For many years he maintained the playing field in Acton Turville on a purely voluntary basis. As a mark of their gratitude and in recognition of his efforts, the Parish Council would sometimes give Geoff a gift voucher, normally for B&Q, assuming he would get himself something for his garden. It was only several years later that they discovered Geoff used the vouchers to purchase tools and equipment to maintain the playing field. That summed up Geoff, always thinking of others and putting others first.

Local Talk Back offers its sincere condolences to Geoff's family, especially Doreen and daughters Carey and Kelly. Rest in peace Geoff, you'll be greatly missed.

### ACTON TURVILLE PAYS ITS RESPECTS

As a mark of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, villagers of Acton Turville joined members of the Parish Council on Sunday 18th September to lay a wreath at the well. In bright sunshine, a large group of villagers looked on as the wreath was laid by Sybil Haddrell, Chair of the Parish Council. The simple ceremony was then followed by a two-minute silence. The event was captured for posterity by Emmie Gilbert.



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

### CONRAD JONES

*The interment of the ashes of Lt Cdr Conrad Jones - churchwarden until his death earlier this year - will take place after Evensong in St Mary's, Acton Turville, on 6th November 2022.*

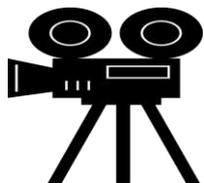
*The service will begin at 3.00pm and the interment will commence at 3.45pm.*

### GET ONLINE EVENT

Do you sometimes feel left behind by technology? Do you wish you could learn how to access material on line but don't know where to start? Rest assured you're not alone, lots of people are missing out on the benefits of using items such as smart phones, tablets or computers to get online because they have never been shown the basics of how to do it. If that includes you, you might be interested in an event being held at the Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> October between 2pm and 4pm. Learn how to access the internet, discover the benefits of getting on-line, and find out about the support that's available while you learn the ropes. The event is open to everyone, just turn up. There will even be tablets and phones for you to use.

***Go on, what's stopping you?***

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### THE DUKE

(2021, Cert 12A) – Drama

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead

Director: Roger Michell

'The Duke' is a moving true story that celebrates a man who was determined to live a meaningful life. Set in 1961, it follows the story of Kempton Bunton, a 60-year-old taxi driver, who stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington.

**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 ensure that sufficient seating is available*

[jennybody@btconnect.com](mailto:jennybody@btconnect.com)



## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£10.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

*The Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club meets the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month.*



## Congratulations!

The sun shone and the bells rang out at St Mary's, Acton Turville on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September for the wedding of local couple Phil Harper and Kay Dowling. It was great to see the church being used for such a happy occasion, and we're sure you'll agree that Phil and Kay make a lovely couple. Local Talk Back wishes them all the very best for a long and happy future together.



## ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>

Fox & Hounds Car Park

4.00pm to 8.00pm

To book a stall please contact  
[actonturvillesocial@gmail.com](mailto:actonturvillesocial@gmail.com)

*See you there!*

# A COUNTRY WOMAN AT HEART.

*By Ray Bird, Acton Turville*

It seems hard to believe that it was only a few months ago when the whole country, including our little community, was celebrating H.M Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Now it's with a heavy heart that we mourn her passing. Indeed, even as I write this, with the television on but without volume, whenever I glance at the screen I see queues of people slowly filing past the coffin as it lays in state in Westminster Hall, most with visible sorrow etched on their faces, and some wiping away a tear, such is the love and respect for this wonderful lady.

Since her passing, the memories and stories of her by the various media outlets have been numerous. I feel among the most fitting have been those that made reference to the fact that "she was very much a country woman at heart with a special love for horses, dogs, and just the simple pleasure of strolling in the countryside dressed in casual clothing of a headscarf, a thick warm coat or raincoat, a tartan skirt, and a sturdy pair of shoes or wellies".

Among those stories of her love of the countryside, and its pursuits, most have told of her time spent at Balmoral, and more locally, of her visits to Cheltenham for the races, but little has been mentioned of her many visits to Badminton.

With the Beaufort family being relatives, her beloved granny Queen Mary staying at the House during WW2, and the 10th Duke being the longest serving Master of the Horse (1936-1978), of which many of those years had been for Queen Elizabeth, she had strong links with Badminton from an early age. Indeed, such was that link with the family that upon the death of the 10th Duke, she attended his funeral service in Badminton Church.

It was however through her numerous trips to the horse trials from the 1950s until the early 1980s, that many of us village stalwarts of a certain age will probably most remember her. Staying in the House with other members of the royal family, often for the event's duration, her visits were a mixture of duty and pleasure.

Although the duty part meant the prize giving, the event went much deeper than a few handshakes and the handing out of trophies, for over the years she had either owned, or bred, a number of horses that took part in the event. These included some ridden by her daughter Princess Anne, and others by her then son-in-law Mark Phillips, one of which was the 1974 winner Columbus, which rather humorously meant that being the winning owner she had to present the trophy to herself!! In 1999, to celebrate the event's 50th anniversary, she made her last visit to present the trophies.

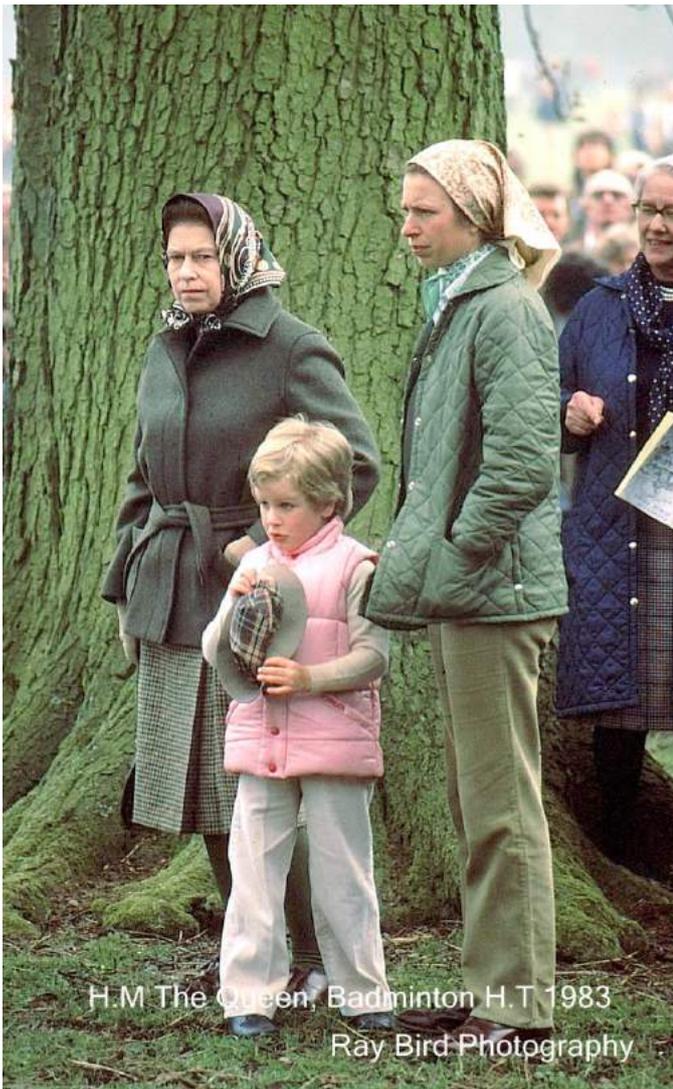
Back to those earlier visits though, and when not on official duty at the event she could often be seen strolling around the stables (they were then open to the public except on X/C day), mingling among the crowds around the trade stands, or sitting on straw bales on old farm wagons at some of the fences on X/C day. At fences where there were no wagons, she would just sit with other members of the royal family on the grass, alongside the other spectators.

Away from the event itself, she would also find time for some of her other interests. Being a lady of strong faith, Sunday morning meant attending the service in Badminton Church. With the Duke and other royals she would take a quiet horse ride in the Park, and with her love for canines she would visit the kennels to see the hounds, where it seems she was very interested in their bloodlines

While her long reign may now be over, such was her legacy that she will for many of us, be remembered in our hearts for a lifetime, and in the annals of history for eternity.

R.I.P MA'AM

# A COUNTRY WOMAN AT HEART (Cont'd)



H.M. The Queen, Badminton H.T. 1983  
Ray Bird Photography



H.M. The Queen, Peter Phillips & 10th Duke of Beaufort, Badminton H.T. Glas 1983  
Ray Bird Photography



Mark Phillips on Columbus, Badminton Horse Trials Winner 1974  
Ray Bird Photography



Clockwise from above:

The Queen with Princess Anne and Peter Phillips at the Badminton Horse Trials in 1983.

With the Duchess of Westminster (leaning against tree), and the 10th Duke of Beaufort, also in 1983.

The Queen's horse Columbus, being ridden to victory by her then son-in-law Mark Phillips in 1974.

Visiting the Kennels with Sarah Armstrong Jones.

On site scorecards of her two horses in the 1973 event after the dressage and steeplechase phases.

HORSE	
NO. 4.	NAME COLUMBUS
RIDER LT. M. PHILLIPS.	
OWNER H.M. THE QUEEN.	
DRESSAGE SCORE	STEEPLECHASE SCORE
50	0

HORSE	
NO. 68.	NAME GOODWILL.
RIDER H.R.H. PRINCESS ANNE.	
OWNER H.M. THE QUEEN.	
DRESSAGE SCORE	STEEPLECHASE SCORE
53.50	72

# J J'S GARDENING BLOG



When the cobwebs are being spun at ground level across the meadows with misty mornings, it signals the start of autumn. Just in time to do some shortening of long branches. To make a neat cut without tearing the bark, draw the saw for three or four strokes on the underside of the branch you need to remove first of all, then proceed as usual. A clean cut that will heal quickly.

## Check Before You Chop

If you have got the secateurs at the ready, just check on the label if that plant is truly hardy, because it could be better to cut it back in the spring. If you have that attractive daisy flowered plant erigeron, it may be better to give it a half-way house trim as it is not completely hardy (and because it seeds around so enthusiastically).

## Start Planning

After the first frost decide whether to dig up the dahlias, cut them back and store them away from mice and damp, or to cut them right down leaving them in the ground and covering them with a double-handful of compost. Probably best to mark the place too.

Perhaps buy or gather from a friend herbs: they are usually trying to outgrow their zone, so friends don't mind you asking. Mint, marjoram, bay, parsley....

Hebes will cope with winter and their foliage is small and colourful.

## Defeat those Squirrels

It's time to think about bulbs and pots and how to stop a squirrel from digging them up. Chicken mesh over the top, keep them in a shed that has a window until they have sprouted and then put them outside.

## Christmas is Coming!

Collect up seed heads for Christmas decorations and door wreaths, such as allium, teasels, eryngium and hang them upside down in a dry and generally dark place like a garage.

## And Finally

The Sylvia's have been so floriferous and haven't minded hot days and lack of water, so give them a tick in your gardening notes to remember for next year. Don't tidy them up until mid-May.

## Sudoku

October's challenge set by Neil Fozard.

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

### EASY !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the September puzzles:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

# Church Matters

## September 2022 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

We have recently reflected on the death of the late Queen Elizabeth. Her unswerving dedication to the people of her kingdom, the energy she found to carry out her duties and the support she found in her husband, her family, her advisors, her animals and her faith.

We have prayed with thanksgiving for her life. For the inspiration and example she set before us. An example which was extraordinary, in its commitment to the nation and the grace with which she carried out her duties. Her Majesty always managed to show her care and if ever it waned, she was able to win back the hearts of the people.

The humanity of the Royal family, like the humanity of Our Lord, is its strength. It is real. Not some idealized family that is without sin or confusion or misunderstanding. They are a real family, and the more understanding an interest the public can have, the more good they can do and the more charities and community assets can be affirmed, with the Royal blessing.

We are more than fortunate to have a Royal family, and incredibly fortunate that the particular individuals who bear the weight of the crown are so loved and appreciated by the nation.

May King Charles have a wonderful reign and may he enjoy it, and may we support him just as we have his mother, the late Queen. God save the King!

With my best wishes.

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

Email: [revrichardthomson@gmail.com](mailto:revrichardthomson@gmail.com)

Tel. 01454 219236

## Church Services for October 2022

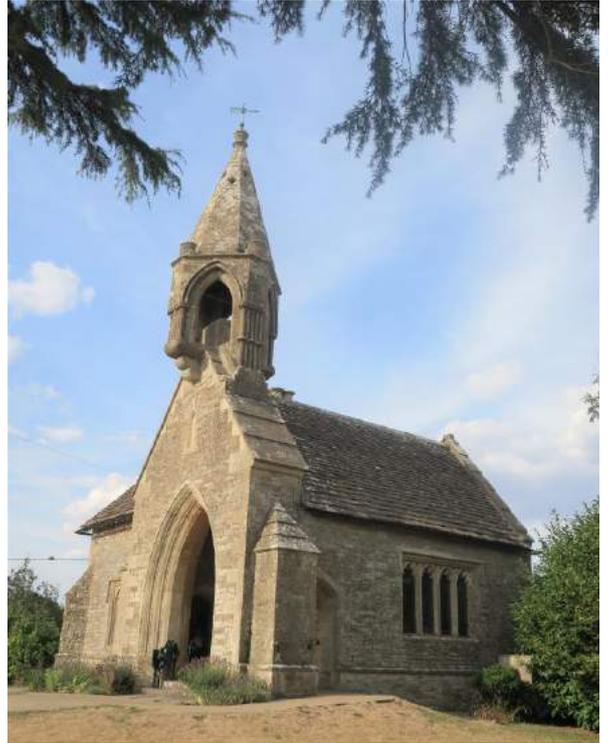
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Harvest Festival Matins	R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Harvest Festival Evensong	R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	Lay Led
9 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP 1928	R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Harvest Festival Matins	R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Harvest Festival Evensong	R Thomson
16 <sup>th</sup> October	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	R Thomson
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Harvest Theme	Lay Led
	11.15am	Sopworth	Harvest Festival Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	M Butler
	6.00pm	Leighterton	Harvest Festival Evensong	Rev J Wilson
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	L Maydew
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Harvest Festival Evensong	R Thomson
30 <sup>th</sup> October	11.15am	Acton Turville	Benefice Matins	R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)

## SEVINGTON VICTORIAN SCHOOL

You may recall adverts for the Sevington Victorian School open days which appeared in *Local Talk Back* during the summer months. Yvonne Nettles from Little Badminton went along to see the school for herself, but this was far from the first time she had been there. We'll let her take up her fascinating story below.

The Sevington school opened in 1849. Its purpose was to educate the children of the working people of Sevington and Leigh Delamere - to prepare them for their future lives as God-fearing citizens, workers, wives and mothers. A private elementary school, it catered for children aged from 4 to 12, though boys were likely to leave at an earlier age to work on the farms. It was built and financed by Joseph Neeld, a son of a London attorney who, in 1827, had inherited the enormous sum of £900,000, roughly equivalent to over £52 million in today's money. This enabled Neeld to buy the Grittleton estate in 1828 (he was also MP for Chippenham until 1856, hence the Neeld Hall, which was originally built as a cheese hall). He was interested in improving the lives of people on his estate, albeit within limits, and to this end he provided decent housing and schooling for the children at Alderton and Sevington. However, it seems he did not intend that people should aspire to rise beyond their God-given station in life.



The school was built partly out of materials recycled from the mediaeval church at Leigh Delamere, including the 14<sup>th</sup> Century chancel arch (which is the school porch), the bell tower, the altar screen (reredos) in the school room and the schoolroom window. Two cottages were demolished to make room for the school and some of these materials also were used.



The original teacher, Mrs Wilmot, was the wife of a 'labourer on the roads', but in April 1860 Miss Elisabeth Squire became the new teacher, aged just 19. She would go on to teach at Sevington for over 57 years. After Miss Squire died in 1928 the school was rented out as a private residence.

The above information was found in a booklet on sale at the open day, but for myself Sevington School house is a very special place. I had lived in the school house for a time when I was three years old. At the time it was the home of my uncle, Bernard House, his wife Edith and children Dorothy (Dolly) and Loretta. Uncle Bern was a gamekeeper to the Grittleton Neeld family. My family were waiting for a house to be ready at Nettleton, so for about six months my Dad and Mum, Herbert and Pearl House, myself and my baby brother Keith stayed with uncle's family in the very small school house. There was a small sitting room, a smaller kitchen and two tiny bedrooms. There was no bathroom.

On the last open day this year, I visited the school and house with my cousin Dolly who lived there until she was about six years old. We have a photo of the two of us sat in the garden holding hands when we were three years old.

## SEVINGTON VICTORIAN SCHOOL (cont'd)

The upstairs bedrooms are not usually open to the public but we were taken up to see the two bedrooms, and could not believe how four adults and four children, two of them babies, could have fitted in those small rooms; we could definitely not have all fitted in the kitchen at the same time!

Even though I was only three I have always had lots of memories of my time there – the smell of the little box hedges in the garden and of the gooseberry bushes, being sat at a table and eating flat dishes of semolina with brown “stuff” on the top, fish with a sauce of what I now know was parsley, pastry biscuits with jam showing through a hole in the top (now jammie dodgers) and doughnuts which my aunty made through her whole life.

This was Dolly's first time in the house since living there, but I had visited the house on an open day nearly 20 years ago with my mum and I said to her that I remembered a basket in the kitchen. She said that was my baby brother's carry cot. There were two things my cousin and I both remembered, first was red steps, which I always thought were the bottom of the stairs but on my first visit could still see some red paint on the four steps that went down into the kitchen from the sitting room, and the 'bucket toilet' outside in a shed. We were surprised to find that is still there (well, the seat is, not the bucket!)

Of course, my cousin has a lot more memories as she was older when she left there and another sister and brother had been born before they moved to Leigh Delamere. Dolly was able to share her memories with the volunteers who look after the building and was able to add her family's names to the time-line they keep on show. For us it was a very special day.

### **The Sevington Victorian School Project**

In 1992 the Sevington School Project signed a lease with the owner and began the task of restoring the school house and garden. Most of the furniture, fittings and equipment in the school room were actually used by Miss Squire and her pupils, including the teacher's desk. On the day of her retirement in 1913, she locked the schoolroom door behind the last three pupils leaving a time capsule of a nineteenth-century small rural school.

The lease expired in 2012 and thanks to various grants they were able to buy the school building. It is a charity run by trustees. Groups of school children attend the school to take part in lessons the same as they would have done in Victorian times. They also dress the part. The Project also caters for adult groups who take part in the lessons.

*Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton*



# BADMINTON PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2022

## South Gloucestershire Councillor Report

Cllr Adrian Rush reported:

- Local Plan – no progress to report on the Local Plan which looks at how demand for housing in the short and longer term can be satisfied in the South Glos area. The current projected date is July 2023 but realistically the Plan will probably be delivered by Autumn 2023. There will be a consultation in Spring 2023 to look at final housing numbers at which time input from the parish will be sought.
- Ofsted Report – an Ofsted report has been received in relation to children's services across the region which highlights a number of shortcomings which the council is actively looking to address. Further updates will be provided in due course.
- A46 Cross Hands Traffic Lights. Cllr Rush agreed to ask why funding cannot be found to change the configuration of these traffic lights. The parish council asked him to keep lobbying for this as the current timings of the lights do not allow a right hand turn towards Acton Turville to take place prior to the traffic on the other side of the carriageway being released by the lights.

## Bus Shelter Old Down Road

The bush shelter on Old Down Road is in need of attention. This shelter predates South Glos. Council, but their records show the parish council own the shelter. We therefore have two options for undertaking the required work. These are:

- Badminton PC continue to own the bus shelter on Old Down Road with the cost of upkeep and maintenance being drawn from PC funds, or
- Badminton PC cede ownership and maintenance to South Gloucestershire Council (for which parishes get charged a maintenance fee under special expenses). No charges will be introduced till the financial year April 2023- March 2024. Based on current charges the maintenance fee per shelter will be in the region of £375-£400 (charged under special expenses).

The Council are currently looking into the usage of the shelter and its current condition.

## Highways Matters

The following items have been reported to South Glos. Council who are being chased for action:

- Flooding in Hayes Lane near old Vicarage
- Flooding near three corner clump on the A4040
- High Street Road surface in Badminton

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in November. A date will be agreed nearer the time. Please see PC website for details.

## Council contact details

Clerk: Fiona Thornton

Email: [clerk.bpcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.bpcouncil@gmail.com)

Tel: 01454 238939

Website: [www.badmintonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.badmintonparishcouncil.co.uk)

# 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.

*Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.*

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Playing Field

We would still like a few more 'mowers & strimmers' to join our current team. If anyone is interested, please contact either a Councillor or the Clerk.

## Geoff Shortall

Councillors paid tribute to Geoff at their September meeting. Geoff had cut and strimmed the playing field over many years and looked after the Parish mower. He loved his work and was much respected by the Council. Never asking for anything, Geoff was always willing to go the 'extra mile' if needed. He will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to Geoff's family at this time.

## Use of the playing field

This is just a reminder that as from 1 September 2022 anyone wishing to use the playing field for events such as social gatherings or similar will be asked to complete a basic Permission Form which can be obtained by emailing the Clerk. Thank you.

## Autumn Spring Clean

The second 'Spring Clean' of the year will be taking place on Saturday 15th October. Details and times are included elsewhere in this edition of Local Talk Back. Bags will be provided and everyone is welcome.

## Thank you

We would like to thank Becky Rennie who volunteered to weed the area by the notice board (whilst on Maternity Leave!). The area now looks much better and her efforts are appreciated by Councillors. Following an offer of a donation from a local company, and depending on the amount, we hope to turn this area into a small garden with low maintenance plants for everyone to enjoy. Watch this space.....

## Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Sally Smith 218510, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 219129

Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Next Meeting: Monday 10 October 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](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)

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## Picture Gallery



*The year at Badminton ended with a colourful flourish, as you can see from the pictures we have for you this month. It must be said the weather forecast didn't look ideal for the day of the fireworks with rain and high winds featuring strongly, but by the evening the deckchairs came out and the large number of spectators were treated to some spectacular displays. The event takes the form of a competition, with three teams competing to put on the best show and the winners decided by a public vote. We were blown away by the displays, they really were very special. If you've not been before, look out for it next year – you won't be disappointed.*

*Just as colourful, but slightly less noisy, were the gardens at Badminton, which opened to the public for the last time this year at the beginning of September. The gardens have consistently exceeded our expectations this year, and everyone we spoke to commented on how colourful and vibrant they were on this occasion. Bearing in mind the lack of rain we've had this summer, it was an amazing achievement for which the gardening team at Badminton deserve huge credit.*

