

Local Talk Back

SEPTEMBER 2021

ISSUE 519



The Old Pump House, Swangrove Wood, Badminton.

Picture by Ian Carter, Acton Turville



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

EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2021

In this month's Local Talk Back you'll find something that's not been seen for a long time - a What's On page. For many years, Yvonne Nettles would keep a keen eye on local and social media to find out what was happening in and around our villages, and produce a monthly calendar of those events which looked like they might be of interest to Talk Back readers. With the arrival of lockdown and the restrictions which followed, events were cancelled across the board and we very quickly ended up with a What's Not On page. It's therefore great to see events returning to the calendar and the What's On page filling up. Locally, we've already had a number of very successful events on the Badminton Estate, starting with the open garden days at the main house and Well Cottage which were very well attended and very well received. There's another garden open day on the 5th September - why not go along and see for yourself how wonderful the gardens are looking this year? Then a couple of months back we had something completely different in the form of a firework display - we're hoping to include some pictures in a forthcoming edition, just as soon as the photos come back from processing at Boots (remember those days?). Most recently we've had the Tough Mudder event, which describes itself as "a series of obstacle and mud runs that will push your physical and mental limits." I think the fireworks are more my cup of tea. Talking about cups of tea, there's a Tea Party taking place in Badminton Village Hall to raise money for the church, while the culinary delights continue at the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville with a MacMillan Coffee Morning and the much-anticipated return of the very popular Luncheon Club. Lastly for this month we're delighted to see the Rural Cinema restarting at the Didmarton Village Hall with the very thought-provoking film *The Father*, starring Anthony Hopkins. For full details, see the What's On page. It's very reassuring to see people giving up their time to organise such events, so if you can, please show your support and let the organisers know how much you appreciate what they're doing. In many cases it looks like you'll be able to do that by purchasing a slice of cake - what's not to like.

Hopefully we'll see the calendar continue to fill up over the coming months and into 2022. If you're organising an event, please let us know and we'll publish details. In fact, how would you like to become the Local Talk Back What's On correspondent? It would really help us out if someone could look after that side of things by keeping tabs on what's happening locally and checking with local groups and businesses to see if they have anything that might deserve exposure to a wider audience. Get in touch if you think that could be you.

Elsewhere in this month's issue you'll find an article from our good friend Peter Moss, recounting how he decided to return to the UK from an assignment in Kuwait - by car. His journey is made all the more poignant with the recent (and on-going) events in Afghanistan, and it highlights just how much the world has changed since Peter made his journey in 1969. His route took in so many of the places that have since been in the news for all the wrong reasons, but the pictures that accompany his story illustrate what wondrous sights and history that part of the world has to offer. We'll have further instalments in the coming months which I know you'll enjoy reading as much as I have. Sincere thanks to Peter for taking the time to capture his fascinating tale. I always admire people who "just do it". I once worked with a lad who would frequently phone in and say he'd be away from the office for a couple of weeks because he was off to some part of the world that I could only identify once I'd looked it up in my 1962 Phillips School Atlas. His trick was to find cheap, last-minute deals on Ceefax, which shows how long ago it was. He'd take money, a credit card and a guide book, and always come back with the most amazing stories. Maybe you've done the same. If you have, why not follow Peter's lead and tell us all about it? We'd love to hear from you.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

*£18.76 was very generously donated in the
 local shop boxes this month.*

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*

**BADMINTON HOUSE
 OPEN GARDENS**

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR AUGUST 2021

**Connor Brazier
 Lesley Drake
 Diane Silvey**

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/>

THE GREAT STORM OF JANUARY 25th 1990

By Ray Bird, Acton Turville

Many readers will remember the Great Storm of October 15/16th 1987 and the infamous statement by BBC weather presenter Michael Fish who had said when delivering his forecast earlier that day - "apparently, a woman rang the BBC and said that she had heard there was a hurricane on the way. Well, if you're watching, don't worry, there isn't." How those words were to leave him with not only 'egg on his face' at the time, but remembered for life!! The reality was that constant winds of nearly 90 mph, with recorded gusts of up to 134 mph, were to batter the southern half of England and parts of Europe. They left behind a trail of devastation with millions of trees uprooted, buildings and vehicles damaged, caravans ripped apart, houses flooded, railways closed, boats capsizing, thousands without electricity for days, and worst of all a number of lives lost. It was later called by the met office a "violent extratropical cyclone", and was said to have been

the worst storm to hit this country for over 300 years, since a storm in 1703.

Although that 1987 storm did do some damage in our area, we were lucky and escaped the worst of it. That however was not the case with another great storm, albeit one that is perhaps less well known. It occurred on January 25th 1990 and our area very much caught the full force as it left a trail of destruction in its wake with gale-force winds reaching gusts of up to 110 mph in South-West England. The storm was particularly devastating for a number of reasons. Firstly it was more widespread than the 1987 storm, affecting a far larger area of the country. Secondly it occurred during the day when more people were out of the house, going about their normal business such as driving, working or



The Severn Mile Plantation, Verge Woodland, where over 300 trees were damaged or uprooted

shopping. It was also a time when children were at school, or going to/from school. As a result many lives were lost either due to trees falling on vehicles or buildings, vehicles (including numerous lorries) being blown over, debris falling from buildings and even buildings collapsing. In total, 47 people in Britain were said to have lost their lives, which was among the highest number ever for a gale force wind storm, and more than were killed in the 1987 storm. Sadly, among those killed fairly locally were two children while at school, one in Bristol and one at Swindon, plus many injured due to debris falling from school buildings.

Although I don't recall hearing any of our local residents suffering injuries, the damage done around our villages was devastating. It included over 300 Beech trees either severely damaged or uprooted along the Severn Mile Plantation in the Verge Woodland alone, vehicles crushed by falling trees, damage to many buildings, and loss of electricity to many homes.

All the photos with this article I took locally within a few days of that storm.

Footnote - if you have any interesting stories of that storm then please contact LTB.



Uprooted tree in another local wood



Left: A mighty Oak snapped off like a matchstick



Right: Car damage at Slait Lodge from a falling Beech tree



Left: Roofing partly ripped off from a Barn in field near Allengrove Wood.

THE BADMINTON BOMBS.

In last month's Talk Back we published an article about the bombs that fell on Badminton in July 1940. We've been contacted by former resident Aileen Cox who remembers the events vividly:

"I was 14 years old at the time, living in Little Badminton and went to Badminton School. In those days, for Badminton and Little Badminton children all of your school years were spent at that School. Being over 80 years ago my memories are a bit vague on some exact points of that day's happenings, but I do recall that although my parents were aware that bombs had been dropped overnight somewhere in the Badminton area, it was not known where, and so as normal I set off the following morning across the Park on my bike for school, unaware of what was happening at the other end of my journey. Once through the Park my route took me past the top end of Pinnells Alley (I don't recall any person or a barrier stopping people going down the Alley, but I suppose there must have been), on down past the estate offices, and across the junction to Hayes Lane and into the school playground. It was only then that I was told where the bombs had fallen and that those living in the High Street were being evacuated, and that us children would not be having lessons in our classrooms. However, back then there was no day off just because some bombs had fallen, staff had simply taken some of our school desks and put them on the grass under the wall at the far end of the playing field, and that was where we did our lessons that day. Luckily it never rained! I seem to remember though that by then in the war, with a number of evacuee children in our villages it was much shorter school days, with us local children having our lessons in the morning from 8.00 - 12.30, and the evacuees having theirs in the afternoon".

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.

AUGUST 2021

Playing Field:

Annual Inspection of the playing field is due to take place in late Autumn.

Mowing

Additional help with mowing is always welcome. If you use the play area or the field, and are from a neighbouring village would you be interested in helping? If so, you will be most welcome. Mowing is seasonal and only takes place for a few months during the summer. The more people involved the less each individual has to do. For more details, please contact any of the Councillors below or email the Clerk.

Autumn 'Tidy -up'

As previously mentioned, following our successful village 'Spring Clean' we are looking to hold an 'Autumn Clean' event. A date has yet to be arranged. Details to follow.

Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

Some ideas have already been suggested to celebrate the Queens Jubilee in 2022. In particular, 'Picnic in the Park.' You may have been one of those who attended a recent meeting held by the organisers to discuss this further. We welcome any additional ideas and are be happy to pass these on. Please feel free to speak to a Councillor, or email the Clerk.

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

ROAD CLOSURE

South Gloucestershire Council is closing the Slaits Road (from Badminton to Little Badminton under low bridge), from MONDAY 27th September for an estimated twelve days in order to carry out road signage work.

BADMINTON PARISH COUNCIL

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



I can recommend a new plant to me, Disporum Cantoniense 'green giant' which I purchased from Oska Copperfield nursery. It is an attractive, pretty much all green plant, described as clusters of long bell shaded green-white flowers in late spring in partial shade growing to about 70 cms. It's a quiet plant, gently attractive in spring and appears to be well behaved. Another plant which has been a joy is the Clerodendron. A medium sized deciduous shrub with heart shaped leaves and delightful three inch sized blooms made up of masses of raspberry coloured flowers which turn into berries later. Sadly I cannot give you its complete name because I purchased it from the plant sale table in Sopworth last year. It looks rather vigorous so will need to be kept in check. The flowering heads are good in a vase too.

Safety First

A plant which I can't find room for is Acanthus/Bears Breeches. Yes, it is architectural, magnificent leaves, often replicated in woodwork and statuary, but covered in viscous spines.

Another plant which attacks one is the rose Mermaid, ghastly thorns.

Jobs for This Month

Time to prune fruit bushes. Black currants need two or three branches removed to ground level, the other red and white currants are dealt differently, cutting all the branches down to about four inches.

Gooseberries, thin out crossing branches and prune to create an open centre.

Keep feeding tomatoes: with six trusses, pinch out the growing tip and start removing or cutting in half the leaves to allow all the energy to go into the fruit.

Plan Your Planting

A nice colour combination at the moment is the Aster munch and the small leaved Salvia Indigo together. The small leaved Salvias, like the one called Hot Lips seem to be hardier than the taller larger-leaved varieties. Good drainage is key, add a good handful of grit to the planting hole.

See how many plants seed into gravel paths. One which is very charming but you need to be ruthless with is the plant covered in pink and white daisies nicknamed Tumbling Ted and in flower all summer.

And Finally

Any plant which has flowered now needs a good feed, maybe seaweed, and reduce any too tall branches to maintain a pleasing shape. Still keep dead heading, it's quite a relaxing pastime.

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,

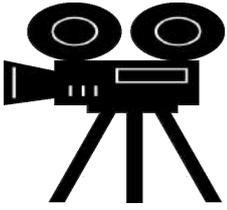
ON
07985 465 432

WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GROW ORGANIC VEG?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY THE SUNSHINE WHILE LEARNING HOW TO GROW ORGANIC VEG IN ONE OF BADMINTON'S WALLED GARDENS, PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR A FEW HOURS WITH OUR EXPERIENCED GROWER AT FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND VEG MARKET GARDEN.

PLEASE TEXT
SIMON MATTHEWS ON
07985 465 432

What's On



Didmarton Rural Cinema
The Village Hall
Friday 10th September 2021

The Father

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Olivia Williams

Director: Florian Zeller

In 'The Father', Anthony Hopkins plays the eponymous role of a mischievous and highly independent man who, as he ages, refuses all assistance from his daughter Anne (Olivia Colman).

Doors open at 6.30pm with cash bar
Tickets £5 - please have correct money if possible

jennybody@btconnect.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Friday, 24th September 2021, from 10.30 a.m.

Come and join us for MacMillan's "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" and help us raise money for this very worthy cause.

Everyone welcome!

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Starts again on Wednesday, 13th October 2021
then the 2nd Wednesday of every month

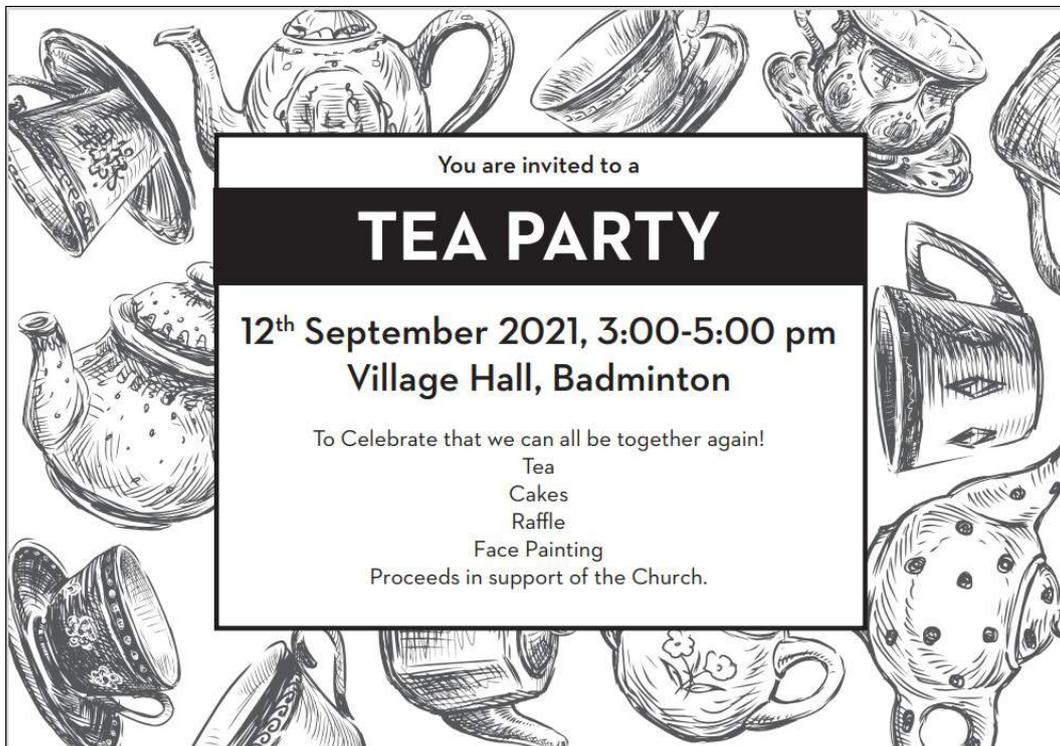
Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£10.00 per head

Everyone welcome!



Tokyo Olympics 2020 – Medals & Victory Bouquets

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Tokyo Olympic Games had to be postponed for a year, and has just taken place in 2021. We have watched amazing athletes achieving their dreams of winning, and being presented with a medal and a bouquet of flowers. There is great significance behind the design of the medals and also the bouquets. The Olympic medals were made from recycled material.

The Medals



Olympic Gold medals are required to be made from at least 92.5% silver and must contain a minimum of six grams of gold. The Tokyo medals contain more than six grams of gold plating on pure silver. Silver medals are pure silver and bronze medals are red brass (95% copper and 5% zinc). The medals are symbols of emotions and have a deeper meaning. The medal design reflects patterns of light, symbolising the energy of the athletes and those who support them.

The Olympic medals presented to the athletes were made from tons of recycled smartphones and laptops donated by the people of Japan. For them it was an opportunity to be part of the Games. A campaign called on the public to donate obsolete devices for the “Tokyo 2020 Medal Project”. The two-year National effort capitalised on the fact that billions worth of precious metals such as gold and silver used in electronic devices and smartphones is discarded each year. Instead of being dumped or burned they were collected and recycled. The aim was to recycle enough material to produce about 5,000 bronze, silver and gold medals. Up to 90% of Japanese cities, towns and villages participated in setting up donation pick-up sites where hundreds of thousands of Japanese citizens could leave their old unwanted electronic devices. The campaign produced approx. 32kg gold, 3,500kg of silver and 2,200kg of bronze from about 79,000 tons of devices collected by municipal authorities and over 6 million used mobile phones from shops across Japan.



A competition was open to designers and design students and over 400 entries were received. The final medals were designed by Junichi Kawanishi, Director, Japan Sign Design Association.

The Victory Bouquets



The Victory Bouquets given to winning athletes in the Tokyo Olympics were carefully designed and each of the flowers held a special meaning for the people of Japan. They were all about the devastation caused by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and subsequent meltdown of three nuclear reactors. About 18,000 people died in the catastrophe and hundreds of thousands of buildings were completely or partially destroyed.

The bouquets symbolise Japan rising from the devastation. The flowers for the bouquets were grown in the three areas of east Japan most badly affected by the earthquake and its aftermath. They were the districts of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate. Recovery is still ongoing and the organisers hoped it would promote the areas, but the Pandemic changed that.

EUSTOMAS were grown in Fukushima on vacated land abandoned when fruit and veg sales in that area plummeted after the disaster. The district established a non-profit organisation to grow flowers in a bid to fuel hope of recovery.

SUNFLOWERS were grown in the district of Miyagi. Parents who lost children in the tragedy returned to plant sunflowers on the hill where their children sought safety from the oncoming tsunami, and every year the hill is covered with sunflowers.

The *GENTIANS* were from Iwate, a district known for supplying over half of all gentians grown in Japan. The Indigo blue colour is the same as the Tokyo 2020 Games Emblem. The three different flowers were arranged in a balanced way to look beautiful from every angle as the athletes held them up. Each bouquet also included an Olympic Mascot named ‘Miraitowa’, as a reminder of Tokyo that the medallists will be able to treasure.



Y. Nettles

FLIGHT FROM THE EAST

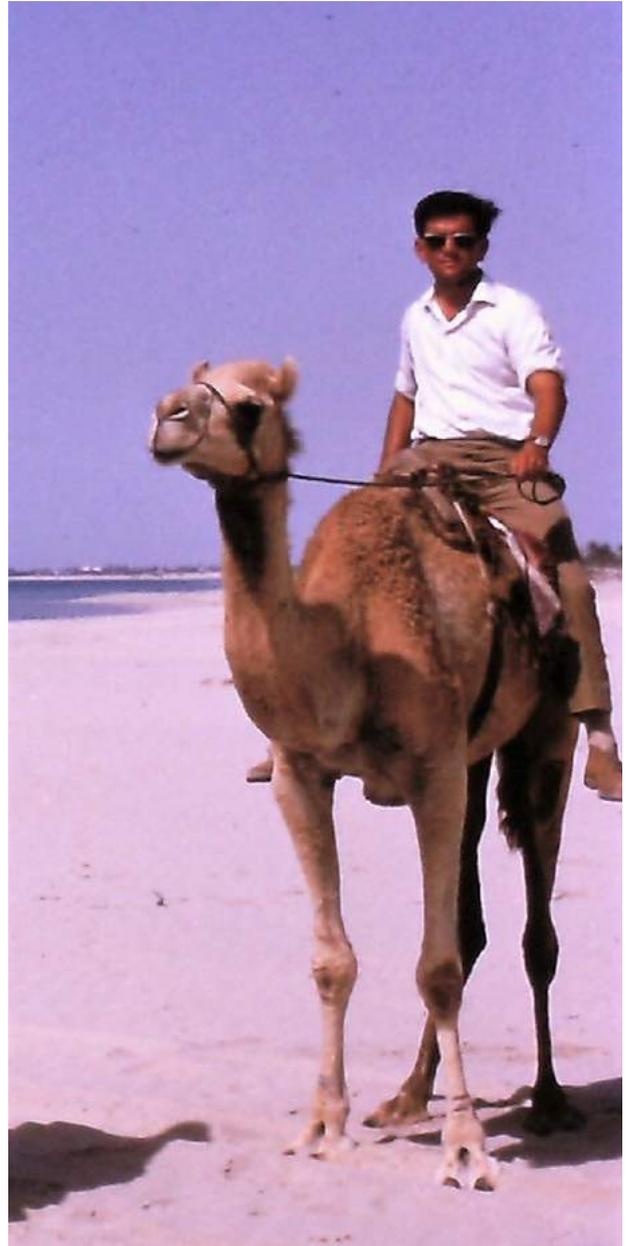
DRIVING BACK TO THE UK FROM KUWAIT IN 1969

By Peter Moss, Acton Turville

PART 1. KUWAIT TO IRAN, VIA IRAQ

In 1968 and 1969 I worked as a civil engineer for a Japanese oil company in a place called Ras Al Khafji, where I was involved in the construction of a new township for oil company employees. Khafji is located in the Neutral Zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, about 90 miles South of Kuwait city. The Neutral Zone was a featureless piece of desert where Bedouin and camels could safely roam and no one had thought it worthwhile to define the international boundary. But then in the 1950s and 1960s oil was discovered and the precise location of the boundary became of great importance. Rather than fight over this area, Kuwait and Saudi took a very grown up attitude and agreed to have a neutral zone where the two countries would share the governance and the important revenue from oil wells.

We would make the most of our free time enjoying a range of past-times as the accompanying photos show. That's me perched rather precariously on a camel, hoping it isn't just about to take flight and head out across the desert.



I was much more at home in the dinghy I shared with another young Englishman, Paul Collins. The boat was called the Sagar Maru, after John Sagar who built it, and Maru because Japanese ships are usually called Maru.

During the day the heat outdoors could be oppressive so we welcomed the opportunity to head indoors where we could enjoy the cooler climate of our air conditioned accommodation. As engineers, we constantly looked for opportunities to apply our skills for making things, and one of the most successful (and popular!) enterprises proved to be the magnificent still which Paul and I built and operated.



The need for this arose since both Kuwait and Saudi were 'dry', so we drew up some plans, worked out what parts we needed and set to work assembling it. The main components were a large pressure cooker body, a cylinder machined out of a solid billet of stainless steel by our friends in Getty Oil Company, and a condenser which was borrowed from the main frame computer room. It produced pure alcohol which could then be flavoured with essences sent from England to produce a very passable gin. I'm not sure what gave us the most pleasure - assembling a working still from a range of random items we'd "acquired" from various sources or sampling the fruits of our labour!



At the end of my tour I had to return to England. To fly straight home would be boring and a wasted opportunity. I considered various options, firstly of going to Japan, where I had friends, or visiting Egypt. I decided it would be most fun to drive home. To do this I needed a motor car. Although my employers gave me a VW Beetle for everyday use, I suspect they would not have welcomed my driving off to the UK in it. I therefore decided to go to a car auction in Kuwait city. This would be an adventure, since the sale was conducted entirely in Arabic and my command of Arabic was basic. I was thus very pleased with myself to emerge from the auction as the proud owner of a 2-seat MGB convertible.

It was 2 years old but had obviously had a hard life. Apart from the desperate need for servicing there were two serious issues I had to address. Firstly, the car would pull away from a standstill in top gear, which implied that the gearing was wrong. I climbed under the rear of the car, dismantled the back axle and emerged with the differential



assembly in my hands which, because it was all sandy outside, I proceeded to examine on my bed. It gradually dawned on me that this was from a completely different car which, not surprisingly, had quite the wrong gear ratios.

Spares for a car like mine were almost unobtainable in Kuwait. I was thus astonished to find the last remaining MGB differential in Kuwait city, and bought and fitted it. The other problem was that the car kept throwing out water from its radiator on a long run. I considered various possible causes and then concluded that it had to be the cylinder head gasket and changed it. That sorted it. I had been hoping to travel home with Paul Collins. He had a very nice Alfa Romeo Guilletta so we would have had to decide whether to take that or my MG. In the event his departure was delayed, so I travelled alone in my MG and he followed some time later.

The next issue to resolve was what route to take home. I would have liked to follow the oil pipe line to Syria, a country that fascinated me. But at that time there were no diplomatic relations between UK and Syria, so that was ruled out. That meant that I had to go through Iraq, Iran and then Turkey, before reaching Europe.

Iran in 1969 was ruled by the Shah and was a very western orientated country. There were thus no problems in driving through Iran. Iraq, however, was a different matter. There had been a series of revolutions in that country and Saddam Hussein had recently come to power. In the North there was continued fighting with the Kurdish tribes. My Japanese friends thought that I would be mad to go through Iraq- but there was no real alternative.

Continued over

FLIGHT FROM THE EAST cont'd

As an aside this does illustrate how volatile and subject to wars and political strife is the Middle East. Much later than my time there Kuwait was invaded by Iraq in 1990. The allied ground assault to retake it in 1991 started in Khafji, so I doubt that much of what I built in 68/69 remains. The road which I took from Kuwait to Basra was the route followed by the retreating Iraqi army in 1991 and it is difficult to forget the awful scenes of destruction wrought by allied ground attack planes. All was peaceful in 1969.

One final amusing detail was that my Japanese friends gave me a beautiful Japanese doll in a large glass case as a leaving present. She was called Fuji Musume. A lovely present but she would have to travel home on the back seat of my MG. By today's standards I would travel very light. Mobile phones and internet were yet to be invented. I had a rather basic road map of the near east, but had been unable to find guide books for Iraq, Iran or Asiatic Turkey. But I had a good tool kit.

KUWAIT TO IRAQ

On 31 July 1969 I left Kuwait city early (5 a.m) and drove North to Basra, crossing the Kuwait/Iraq border without undue delay. There were two things I wished to pursue at this stage. I hoped to visit the Marshy area North of Basra where there is a fascinating life style. Wilfred Thesiger writes about this in his book 'The Marsh Arabs'. I was also intent on visiting Isfahan when I reached Iran, for I knew it to be a fascinating city. There is a road that goes from Basra to Khorramshah, crossing the Shatt Al Arab (the Estuary of the Tigris and the Euphrates), and thus directly into Iran, but this is not always useable. I thus sought out the British consul for advice. I vividly recollect our conversation. He was standing on the first floor balcony of his house in dressing gown and pyjamas, whilst I was standing in the cockpit of my open MG. Thus we conversed. His advice was discouraging. Iraq was a very unstable country but I should be OK if I drove straight through without diversions. The road through Khorramshah was washed out. This was disappointing, so I hit the road for Baghdad. Following the consul's advice I thought it better not to linger in the marshy area North of Basra, but I got a good sense of the life of the Marsh Arabs, their reed huts and reed boats. After 6 hours drive from Basra I was in Baghdad and found an hotel. I was given a quick tour of Baghdad by a rather

disreputable character who was staying at the hotel, but found it rather less magical than the name implies. So at 06.00 the following morning I set off in my MG for Iran on a very rutted tarmac road.

THE ROAD TO IRAN

The road improved after the Iranian border and then passed through a significant mountain range - quite a refreshing surprise after the featureless deserts of Kuwait . I spent the night in Hamadan. It was a relief to enter Iran after Iraq. I felt uncomfortable in Iraq where one was conscious of the political tension, whilst Iran at that time was a very western orientated country.

Driving through the wild and sparsely populated country of Iran I passed a number of abandoned forts with nothing to identify them by. I attach a photo of one and also of a spectacular bridge which caught my eye.



The reason I wanted to visit Isfahan was because I'd heard so much about this remarkable place with its beautiful architecture and breathtaking buildings. I needed to see for myself whether it really was as good as people said. You can read how I got on in next month's Local Talk Back.

Church Matters

Sept 2021 Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

We had recently (at the time of writing) had some sad losses in our communities. Canon David Strong in Leighterton, who helped out with services across the Benefice a few years ago. Brian Higham, a big character in Badminton who was the Duke's groom. Terry Whyton in Acton Turville, who was well known having lived in the village for many years, leaving Tom and her three children. Our thoughts are with the families of these three souls.

Returning from holiday is never an easy phase. As the returning postman said to me, it takes a bit of getting back into. Whilst very few of us have actually been very far this year, getting away is lovely if only because it gives us a break from the normality of life. And we all need a bit of variety. Of course, once back in the groove, everything feels a lot better.

Reading is something a good holiday affords time for. And this year, I read Andrew Cohen and Professor Brian Cox's book, 'The Planets', which I found exhilarating and inspirational. I am now an avid star gazer and peer out at **Jupiter** with new eyes aware at its immense role in shaping our solar system. Without Jupiter, the earth would never have formed (4.5 billion years ago) to be the right size and in the right spot to be a home for life to develop. And how precious this planet is. Quite possibly the only place in our Galaxy, in which life has developed so far. When you think that only in the last 50 years, have we been able to send probes or travel into space, you can see how exciting the discoveries are. It is also interesting that in 4 billion years time, when the sun has consumed the earth, life on Titan, one of the Saturn's moons might just be a bit more bearable. At the moment it is freezing and the rain is made of methane! But by then, the methane will have evaporated and in place of methane lakes, there will be water, which at the moment is frozen beneath the methane.

I hope you enjoyed the Olympics as much as I did, and are as proud of our athletes. It made me feel exhausted just watching some of those people!

Well now that September is arriving, we have to look forward to the joys and successes of life that goes on around us. And there are many, from the Harvest festivals and colouring of Autumn leaves, to football and rugby seasons, fireworks and the odd pub meal huddled around a fire. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world. There is much to be thankful for.

I hope as many as possible can come to the church tea party on Sunday Sept 12th behind the memorial Hall in Badminton (or inside, if raining), for a traditional **Tea Party** to celebrate being part of the community. 3-5pm.

With my best wishes, Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonchurch.org.uk

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236 Mobile 077 177 91858

Badminton Benefice Rota for September 2021

Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
Trinity 14	5 th September	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	RT
		11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong with HC	RT
Friday	10 th September	1.30pm	Hawkesbury	Dedication of Bells	Bishop Rachel
Trinity 15	12 th September	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
		9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	RT
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	RT
		6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT
Trinity 16	19 th September	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 17	26 th September	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW HC	RT
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins Harvest Festival	RT
		6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT

Sudoku

September'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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the August quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



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Trinity Leavers Day 2021

The end of the school year is always a momentous occasion for Year Six pupils as they prepare themselves for the next rung on the education ladder. This year, Trinity School marked the occasion in style by arranging for a suitably-decorated tractor and trailer to take Year Six from Badminton to their last day at school in Acton Turville. We're very grateful to Hannah Ewers Ward for sending us these pictures which capture the day perfectly.

Hannah says "It was a gorgeous sunny morning and with all the doom and gloom of recent covid restrictions it was a really lovely send off."

We couldn't agree more - it looks like a good time was had by all. We're sure our readers will join us in wishing everyone in Year Six all the very best for the future.

