

# Local Talk Back

APRIL 2026

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

ISSUE 569



LITTLE BADMINTON. PRETTY AS A POSTCARD.  
PICTURE BY SIMON LONG, ACTON TURVILLE



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

# EDITORIAL APRIL 2026

At this time of year, it's always exciting to glimpse across Badminton Park and watch its transformation into the venue for one of the world's premier sporting events - the Badminton Horse Trials. With just over a month to go, the park is a hive of activity as arenas, pavilions, trade stands and jumps all take shape. The flow of heavy lorries bringing in the major structures has now subsided, and in its place an increasing bevy of white vans are now flocking to the area. Let's hope for another great event like last year.

The horse trials is not the only competitive event taking place in Badminton this summer, because, to celebrate the RHS Flower Show's arrival in July, the estate have decided to relaunch the Badminton and Little Badminton village garden competition. The competition was a regular fixture in the calendar for many years. From what we can tell, it was first held in 1985, allegedly in an attempt to tidy up some of the gardens which were looking a bit dog-eared! Given the snappy title of The Best Kept and Prettiest Front Garden Competition for the Parish of Badminton, the first year's competition saw a grand total of 13 gardens judged by Mrs Evelyn Cooper and Mrs Michael Farquhar. The result? A dead heat between Mr & Mrs Davis and Mr & Mrs Woodfield, with Talk Back's former editor Kath Gentry coming home a very deserving third.

The competition was clearly a success as it returned again in 1986, this time with several categories – one for small gardens, one for large gardens, one for patio gardens (this is beginning to sound like Goldilocks) and another for combined flower and vegetable gardens. To keep the competition as open as possible, it was decided that the previous year's winners would not be eligible for judging, so it was Mrs & Mrs Goddard who took first prize. The judges were very impressed, and commented on the “overall improvement in the standard of the gardens since last year”. They were probably impressed by the number of gardens entering too, which had more than doubled in that time. By 1991, the numbers had continued to grow and the Duke and Duchess were giving a drinks party for the prize winners. In fact, everybody considered in the final judging was invited, which was a nice touch. Talk Back reported “the gardens do make a great difference, to the village for all of us to enjoy, so keep up the good work – it's well worthwhile.”

Trawling through the archives, updates on the garden competition appear throughout the 90s and the first decade of the 2000s, but as far as we can see, its final flourish was in 2010. Numbers were stronger than ever, but maybe it had run its course. Whatever the reason, after a break of 15 years it's great to see it return, and we really hope the gardeners of Badminton and Little Badminton take up the challenge. Just walking around the villages and seeing some of the lovely gardens that people have created is always rewarding and, to repeat the quote from 1991, “the gardens do make a great difference.”

In other news, by the time you receive this issue of Local Talk Back, the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville will have a new owner and landlord. It's being taken over by the Badminton Estate, who are keen to stress their intentions to keep it at the heart of the local community. It's very easy to underestimate how fortunate we have been to have such a community-focused landlord as Mark for the past 13 years, so the estate's assurances are very welcome. It looks like Drewett's Stores on the High Street in Badminton will be re-opening very shortly too, which is more good news for the community. Lots of effort has gone into refurbishing the shop which is now looking really smart, but I must admit we were slightly taken aback to see it painted blue. I'm sure we'll get used to it, but I just hope the Fox & Hounds doesn't get the same treatment!

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

**Badminton & Little Badminton  
Village Garden Competition**



To celebrate the RHS Badminton Flower Show coming to Badminton this year, Badminton Estate is bringing back the village Garden Competition to showcase the wonderful gardens in our community.

**AWARDS FOR BEST KEPT GARDENS  
PRIZES INCLUDE**

- 2 RHS Tickets
- Tisbury Flower Company Voucher
- Food & Drink Voucher
- Woodchester Valley wine
- KNEAD Bakery Treats
- £ money note

**JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 9TH JUNE**

**DETAILS AND HOW TO ENTER**  
Send your name, address and contact details  
to [estateoffice@badmintonestate.com](mailto:estateoffice@badmintonestate.com) or call 01454 218741  
**ENTRIES CLOSE 1ST MAY**

Items for Local Talk Back email to: [localtalkback1975@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkback1975@gmail.com) Tel: 01454 218267

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: [LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com](mailto:LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com)

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026.

THANK YOU.

### *DATES FOR THE DIARY*

#### **April 2026**

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Cooking Demonstration, Badminton Estate, 6.30pm – 9pm  
 Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch,  
 Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall  
 Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm  
 Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Chipping Sodbury Music Society presents the Meliora Collective, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm  
 Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Stop Lime Down Family Fun Day & Dog Show, The Park, Grittleton, 12pm - 4pm  
 Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Mary's, Acton Turville, 5.30pm  
 Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm

#### **May 2026**

- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> – Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Badminton Horse Trials  
 Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall  
 Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm  
 Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch  
 Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Chipping Sodbury Music Society presents Dominic Alldis Trio, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm

#### **June 2026**

- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville

#### **July 2026**

- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> – Sun 12<sup>th</sup> RHS Badminton Flower Show, Badminton House

#### **August 2026**

- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Summer Party

\*\*\*Check with venues before setting off\*\*

Please let Local Talk Back know if you're planning an event and we'll add it to our dates for the diary.

### *DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH*

*We have received two anonymous donations this month. Thank you.*

*In addition, £12.45 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.*

*We really do appreciate all donations as it helps to keep Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.*

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

*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*

*Thank you!*

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

#### **100 Club**

#### **WINNERS FOR MARCH 2026**

Prue Moss  
Pauline Hewitt  
Pauline Chapman

***Congratulations!***



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# THE OAK AND THE NORMAN

*What I discovered when I finally wondered what our village name actually means*

By Simon Long, Acton Turville

I have a confession. I've lived in Acton Turville for four years and until last week I had no idea what the name actually means. I could tell you where the bins go. I could tell you which nights the Fox & Hounds does a decent pie. I could not tell you why the village is called what it's called. Four years. Slightly embarrassing.

So, I looked it up. And honestly, I wish I'd done it sooner, because it's a story in two words.

Acton comes from the Old English *āc-tūn*. Oak settlement. A Saxon name for a Saxon place, a cluster of dwellings near an oak tree, probably ancient even then. Whoever first said "Acton" spoke a language we'd barely recognise today. But we still say their word for home every time we give someone our address. That word has outlasted the tree, the people who planted it, and every civilisation that's passed through since.

Turville arrived a couple of centuries later, with a sword and a land deed. Robert Turevil, of the Norman Tourvilles, was master of the manor by 1236. He didn't rename the village. He just stuck his name on the end, the way new management, ad agencies or law firms always do. The Saxon settlement stayed. The Norman branding got bolted on top. We've been casually using both ever since, eight hundred years on, as if it were a single word rather than the compressed history of two entirely separate civilisations.

Think about that for a moment. Every time you type this village into a satnav or, more likely, try to explain to a delivery driver that it's "near Badminton, no not the sport", you're speaking a sentence that a Saxon farmer and a Norman lord both contributed to. Neither knew the other would. That's not just history. That's fascinating.

Once I started pulling this thread, I couldn't stop. I should warn you: I may have become mildly obsessed.

The Fosse Way, for instance. It runs so close to us that some of our fields were probably measured from it. Roman military engineers built it around 47 AD, a dead-straight road running from Exeter to Lincoln, the entire diagonal of England. Amazingly, it's still a functioning road. The omnipresent Amazon delivery uses it. It has a speed limit and potholes, and while the speed limit is contemporary, I have my suspicions about some of the potholes...

Then there's Domesday. The original book, compiled in 1086 for William the Conqueror's tax inspectors, lists us as "Achetone." It's terse, bureaucratic, entirely without warmth. It records the value of the land, who held it, how many ploughs were involved. Not a word about whether anyone was happy or whether the pub was any good. Our birth certificate, in other words, is a tax return. Which feels about right given the state of the economy.

But here's the thing that really stopped me. Several older records mention traces of "an ancient building, erected by one of the Saxon kings for a sanctuary." A sanctuary. Built by a king. Here. In Acton Turville.

I've read the parish council website. I've read the noticeboard outside the church. I've read the leaflet inside the church. Nobody mentions it. We appear to have collectively decided that a Saxon king choosing our hilltop as the site for something sacred isn't worth bringing up. I find this baffling. If I'd built a sanctuary on a hilltop, I'd want a plaque at the very least.

I can't find which king. I can't find where it stood. The records trail off into the kind of scholarly vagueness that means "we haven't got a clue." But someone, in the centuries between the Romans leaving and the Normans arriving, looked at this place and thought: this matters. I'll build something here. Then time did what time does. The sanctuary became traces, the traces became a footnote, and the footnote became a single line in a dusty folder that hasn't been read with any enthusiasm since the Crimean War.

While I was in this slightly feverish state, I also discovered that the source of the River Avon rises just north of the village. I must have been living under a stone not to have known this. The Avon. The river that flows through Bath, through Bristol, and out into the Severn Estuary. It starts here. Not at some well-signposted National Trust spring with an honesty box and a car park. Just here. Quietly, in a field, the way all the best things in England seem to happen.



Cont'd over

## THE OAK AND THE NORMAN (CONT'D)

Amanda and I moved here four years ago. We know that we're still the newcomers, and suspect we will be for at least another decade. Fair enough. That's how villages work, and there's something right about that. You earn your place. But what strikes me most about living here isn't the beauty, though it's beautiful, or the community, though it's fierce. It's the depth. You don't just live in Acton Turville. You live on top of it. Layer upon layer: us, then the Victorians who rebuilt the church in 1853, then the Georgians, then the Tudors, then the Normans, then the Saxons, then the Romans drawing their dead-straight line across the hillside, and before them, someone else entirely, watching the oaks.

We tend to undersell this place, I think. "Quiet" is the word people reach for. "Timeless." But Acton Turville isn't quiet and it certainly isn't timeless. Everything has happened here. Saxons, Normans, Romans, a king who built a sanctuary, a river that flows to the sea, a road that's been in use since the Emperor Claudius was running things. And a name, two words, two worlds, that has survived every invasion, every upheaval, and every local government reorganisation the English have managed to inflict on themselves in the past thousand years.

Oak settlement. Norman lordship. Say it slowly next time someone asks where you live. You're not just giving an address. You're telling a story that's been running for over a millennium, and we're all part of the next chapter.

*If anyone knows more about the Saxon sanctuary — where it was, which king, what happened to it — I would genuinely love to hear from you. I've become the sort of person who spends his evenings on the Gloucestershire Archives website, and I'd welcome either more information or a gentle intervention. Contact the editor, or find me in the Fox & Hounds looking slightly haunted.*

*Simon Long, April 2026*

## What's On

### *Moving On*

It'll be all change at the Fox & Hounds on the 1<sup>st</sup> April when, after 13 years in charge, landlord Mark hands over the keys to the pub's new owners - the Badminton Estate. Under his ownership the Fox has been at the very centre of village life, and his support for local groups and events has meant such a lot to the community.

We wish Mark all the very best for the future.

Cheers!



### St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at 5.30pm on Sunday 19th April in the church, following the evening service.

*Everyone is welcome – everytwo would be even more welcome.*



## Chipping Sodbury Music Society

Forthcoming Events

### **MELIORA COLLECTIVE**

Tuesday 14th April 2026 - 7:30pm  
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

*10 players - born with a love of chamber music, Meliora Collective celebrates the shared joy of music making. Founding members, Meera and Steph dreamt up this ensemble in the midst of the pandemic, following a long-held desire to launch an ensemble of this nature.*

### **DOMINIC ALLDIS TRIO**

Tue 19th May 2026 7:30pm  
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

*The Dominic Alldis Trio explore the meeting of two musical worlds: classical and jazz. Bringing a fresh approach to famous classical themes, opera arias and traditional folk songs, they blend glorious melodies with the swinging rhythms and improvisational bravura of jazz.*

For full details and to purchase tickets, visit the Chipping Sodbury Music Society website at <https://csmusicsociety.co.uk/>

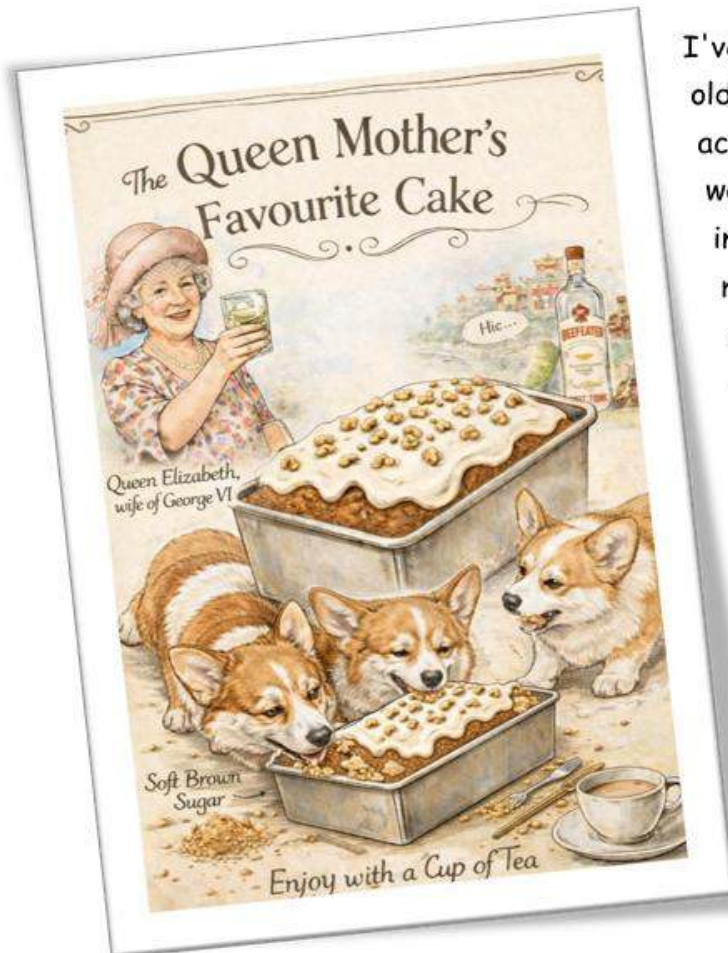
# The Generational Kitchen



Welcome to **The Generational Kitchen** — a place for all those precious recipes handed down with love. The ones scribbled on envelopes, dictated down the phone, treasured in tattered recipe books.

## The Queen Mother's Favourite Cake\*

From the kitchen of Dorothea Ware



I've plundered my mum's battered old recipe book again and stumbled across this gem that I am pretty sure was given to Mum by my Granny. That in itself was unusual; unlike my Mum, my Granny didn't really enjoy cooking and so when my Mum married my Dad and became Chief Culinary Officer she learned to cook by jotting down recipes copied from library books! Speaking of books, who remembers the Hamlyn All Colour Cookbook!? The pictures made everything look a little, well, shiny... Anyway, this recipe is not purloined from that but from the pen of Dorothea Ware and I hope you enjoy it over Easter.

### Ingredients

- 🥄 75g butter (softened)
- 🥄 250g plain flour
- 🥄 1 tsp baking powder
- 🥄 50g chopped walnuts
- 🥄 200g soft brown sugar
- 🥄 1/2 tsp salt
- 🥄 1 egg
- 🥄 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 🥄 200g dates
- 🥄 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

### Topping

- 🥄 3 tblsp brown sugar
- 🥄 2 tblsp butter
- 🥄 2 tblsp top of the milk (cream will do)
- 🥄 2 tblsp chopped walnuts.

### Method

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees C. Cover the dates with boiling water. Add the bicarb of soda and set aside.

Cont'd over

## The Generational Kitchen (cont'd)

Put the rest of the cake ingredients into a large bowl and mix until are fully blended. Add the dates (with their liquid) and mix well. Pour into two loaf tins and bake for one hour, or until a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool.

To make the topping, mix the sugar, butter and milk and bring to the boil; boil for 3 minutes then spread onto the cooled cake and sprinkle over the chopped walnuts. Enjoy with a cup of tea.

*\* I don't know how Granny knew this was the Queen Mother's favourite cake. I can't ask her friends because they've long since joined the celestial version of The Great British Bake Off.*

## WHAT'S ON



### DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

To receive full details of the films being shown each month by the Didmarton Film Club, simply join the club by filling in a form which will be available on film nights – membership is free, just provide your name, email address and mobile number.to join.

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the Didmarton Village Hall. Whilst there is no charge for entry, all those attending are expected to make a donation (suggested amount £5).

The bar will run as usual.

*Non-members may contact the organiser, Jenny Body, for the title of this month's film.*

**Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm**

*Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can ensure that sufficient seating is available*

[jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)

**FOX**  
The  
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**

### Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

*The Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch  
is held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month.*



### Save the Date

### Concert for Ukraine

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June between 2pm and 5pm,  
at Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville.

The Winterbourne Wind Band will once again be performing  
for us.

*Everyone welcome. No tickets required, just turn up.*

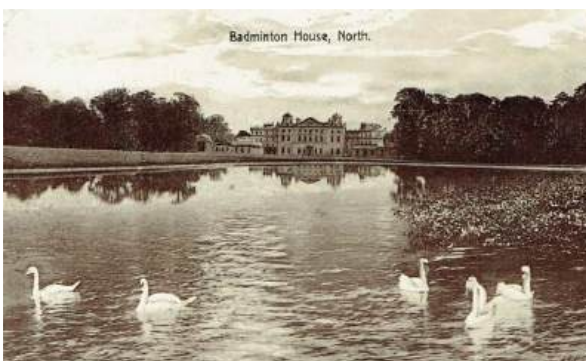


# Images of Badminton



We're very grateful to the person who recently dropped an envelope containing some old photos of Badminton through the Talk Back letterbox. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did. It's often the people in the pictures that make them so special. For instance, in the background of the picture of the hounds (top left), you can just make out an elderly lady, dressed all in black, surveying the scene from a chair. Who might that be? Then there's the little girl dressed in her Sunday best, pictured left. Frustratingly there's no name on the picture. Does anyone recognise her? And you can't help wondering what life has in store for the mowing team. Would they shortly be signing up to serve King and country in a conflict so far removed from the peace and tranquillity of Badminton? Maybe somebody knows and can tell us.

The Vicarage, Badminton



## *Remembering Donna*



Our daughter Donna was diagnosed with Ataxia while she was a pupil at Trinity School. At the time, we were told that there was no cure for the condition. Faced with that reality, we decided that the best way we could help Donna was to support research into finding a treatment.

Our very first fundraiser was a tea afternoon held at our home, Willow House, Acton Turville, in October 1989. We were nervous about organising an event, unsure whether anyone would come or whether we would raise anything at all. To our amazement, the afternoon brought in £512, and even more importantly, everyone who attended told us how much they had enjoyed it.

In the years that followed, the fundraising gathered momentum. We organised bingo and skittles evenings, fun nights, a ball at Grittleton House, and sponsored runs. By the end of the first two years, nearly £4,000 had been raised for the charity. One event that remains especially memorable is the Bad Act Cup, this involved a skittles match between Badminton and Acton Turville. First held in 1991, it ran for several years, with the cup changing hands many times. Badminton won the inaugural match.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, the fundraising continued with dances, jumble sales, bingo nights and summer fairs. Among the most successful events were the Pig Roasts at Willow House and Fun Runs, which raised significant sums for the cause, two different Fun Runs were held for Ataxia.

Donna passed away in December 2025, and her funeral was held in January. We wanted the occasion to reflect the hope and determination that had shaped so much of Donna's life. We asked those attending to make donations to the Ataxia charity instead of sending flowers, and a further £540 was raised in her memory.

As we bring our fundraising efforts to a close, we feel immense pride in what Acton Turville, Badminton, and Little Badminton have achieved together over the years. The generosity, kindness, and unwavering support of our community has been amazing to see.

Although a cure for Ataxia has not yet been found, significant progress is being made in treatments and clinical trials. We like to think that the money raised locally, nearly £40,000, has played a small part in moving that research forward.

Thank you,

John, Sally and Daniel Smith



## PILOTING A BOEING – IN GLOUCESTER

By Chris Bennett, Acton Turville



*With pre-flight checks complete, we're now ready to depart Bristol airport.*

There we were, Grandson and I on the flight deck of a Boeing 737 800NG at the end of the runway preparing for take-off from Bristol Lulsgate. Corbin, in the left-hand seat, released the brakes and we began to roll forward accompanied by the roar of the engines as acceleration built up. "V1" came the first cockpit announcement followed shortly after by "VR" (for Rotate) as Corbin gently pulled back on the stick and we climbed away from the ground. The Bristol Channel quickly came into view below as we banked slowly to the left and I pointed out the two islands off Weston-Super-Mare. "Yes, that's Flat Holm and Steep Holm" remarked Corbin "and that will be my house just over there" near Worle.

So, how had we been allowed to take control of a £20 million commercial airliner? Well we hadn't quite – we were at SimAir 737 Flight Simulators, based at Gloucestershire Airport, near Staverton on the outskirts of Gloucester, where commercial pilots undergo training and regular refresher courses. SimAir also offer 'experiences' to the general public when slots and instructors are available – often at weekends. I had heard about it from a couple of pilot friends, one of whom had enjoyed a session there in company with a group of fellow British Medical Pilots Association friends.

One key feature of SimAir's approach is to tailor the session to the level of flying knowledge of the participants while making the session as rewarding and enjoyable as possible. In our case, we had a rudimentary understanding of the principles but no great familiarity with the controls so our instructor concentrated on getting us used to the primary controls and leave the rest to him and the autopilot.

There were a number of surprises in store for us with the first being the flightdeck and controls of the Boeing. It was explained to us that, being a development of a 60's design, it was very much 'old school' with a two-handed flight 'yoke' that is a familiar sight in countless films. Had we been in an Airbus however it would have looked and felt much different because, being of much more recent design, the 'yoke' is replaced by a computer game type, one handed joystick and with many of the other controls being 'fly by wire'.

Another surprise was the three different methods of manoeuvring the plane to the left and to the right. On the ground when taxiing, the nose wheel turns the plane left and right and is controlled by a large, vertically mounted wheel. In flight, turning is controlled by the wing flaps via the 'yoke', while on the runway it is controlled by the rudder via the rudder pedals. Hmmm!

Much of what followed was a mixture of leaving some of the flying to the autopilot computer, which apparently is the usual state of affairs in normal operation, while also taking manual control of positioning the aircraft in the air which isn't because Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) are widely used. Each 'flight' begins with the instructor feeding in to the computer the aircraft's weight, the weather conditions (perfectly clear in our case), the airport and runway being used (more of this later) and the flaps setting to be used.



*This display shows the aircraft's attitude and course*

*Cont'd over*

## PILOTING A BOEING – IN GLOUCESTER (CONT'D)

The computer then determines the appropriate take-off and landing speeds and these are input to the 'Auto Throttle'. This removes the need to keep adjusting the throttles on take-off and landing although the pilot often still makes minor adjustments as necessary. Then it was just the case of following air traffic control's instructions to the correct runway and await clearance for take-off. Once airborne our instructor gave us a flight plan which took us around the local area and far enough away to make a normal landing approach back at the originating airport.

Manual landings proved to be quite tricky and required maximum concentration involving a combination of visual (out of the cockpit window) and instruments using the artificial horizon and attitude display. Lining up the aircraft perfectly with the runway required many minor adjustments to avoid over correcting, although the instructor managed the throttles which made life a lot easier.

One really nice feature of our session was being able to choose from 100s of different airports. After trying Bristol a couple of times, followed by Heathrow, Palma and Bilbao, our instructor suggested Innsbruck in winter. This turned out to be the best and most rewarding choice of locations because of the snowy conditions and the nearby mountains which added to the sense of drama.

The landing at Innsbruck was also the most challenging because you have to follow the river Inn during the approach and then execute a sharp turn before the runway comes into view.



*Lining up the runway took a lot of concentration*



*Corbin follows the river Inn towards Innsbruck airport*

We made plenty of mistakes – Corbin managed to land with wheels on the grassy edge of the runway a couple of times and I put the aircraft on its side during a turn when I took my eyes off the artificial horizon display. But we got a lot of satisfaction when we managed to get the, admittedly limited, tasks that were assigned to us correct and well controlled.

With the session over we were both left with the feeling of a couple of hours well spent and the desire to return to experience more difficult conditions and take more control of the aircraft's operation.

Finally a few words about the location. Situated close to J11 of the M5, there has been an airfield on the current site since 1936. Originally called Staverton Airport, the 300-acre site served as a training base for pilots during the Second World War. In 1993, it was re-branded as Gloucestershire Airport, with significant money being invested to expand and modernise the facilities. At one stage it was envisaged that the airport could operate scheduled flights to a range of destinations, but these days the majority of flights are for business and recreational purposes. It remains is a very busy airport, or at least it was on the Saturday morning when we were there, with light aircraft movements taking place every few minutes. The spectator area and café were also well patronised, clearly a very popular location for the locals.





## BADMINTON ESTATE

### Coming Up

#### EASTER COOKING DEMONSTRATION

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 6.30PM – 9.00PM

Join us for an inspiring evening as professional cook Nancy Lawson of Overtown Manor presents a seasonal cookery demonstration focused on dishes perfect for Easter entertaining and spring gatherings.

#### BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 10.00AM – 4.00PM

Explore the private gardens of the historic Badminton House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, at this, the first of three garden open days to be held in 2025.

#### BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS SPECIAL OFFER!!

Local residents can enjoy late shopping at the Badminton Horse Trials on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May and/or Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, at a special rate of £11.00 per person. Entry is between 4pm and 6pm, via the Charcoal Clump or Lambing Pen gates. Accompanying children 12 years and under have free admission. Contact the box office for more information!

## Badminton & Little Badminton Village Garden Competition



To celebrate the RHS Badminton Flower Show coming to Badminton this year, Badminton Estate is bringing back the village Garden Competition to showcase the wonderful gardens in our community.

#### AWARDS FOR BEST KEPT GARDENS PRIZES INCLUDE

- 2 RHS Tickets
- Food & Drink Voucher
- KNEAD Bakery Treats
- Tetbury Flower Company Voucher
- Woodchester Valley wine
- & many more

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 9TH JUNE

#### DETAILS AND HOW TO ENTER

Send your name, address and contact details to [estateoffice@badmintonestate.com](mailto:estateoffice@badmintonestate.com) or call 01454 218740.

ENTRIES CLOSE 1ST MAY



## FAMILY Fun Day & Dog Show



Saturday  
18 APRIL '26

The Park,  
Grittleton

///homelands.dizzy.reassured

Entrance  
£5 (kids free)



12PM – 4PM

### Grab your wellies and your sense of adventure!

Our Family Fun Day will be a celebration of  
all things countryside and  
good old-fashioned community spirit



Classic Country Games!



Farm machinery old & new



Meet the animals Fun Dog Show



Competitions & Stalls! Creative Corner



BBQ, teas & cakes

Licensed Bar



[www.stoplimedown.com/events](http://www.stoplimedown.com/events)

### Suggestions Please!

Work on the Hollybush Farm site in Acton Turville is now progressing well and it won't be long before the new dwellings start to take shape.

Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, developers are required to make payments to the local community which can be used to improve certain facilities. The so-called S106 agreement for the Hollybush Farm development stipulates that the funds should primarily be used to provide recreational facilities aimed at young people. The Parish Council are therefore seeking suggestions about the sort of facilities that villagers would like to see introduced in Acton Turville. These must be accessible to the whole community, and promote wellbeing and fitness.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to discuss the subject with the Parish Council, please contact us via the following email address:

[clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk)

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Matters discussed included:

Planning. There were no new planning applications to discuss since the previous meeting.

District Councillor Reports. Cllr Romaine provided further details of the potential cost-cutting measures being considered by South Glos council. Of particular note was a cut to the council's flood management budget, which, in light of recent events, could have implications for Acton Turville. A submission has been presented to the council, outlining her concerns. Further details have been released about the planned introduction of 3-weekly bin collections this year, and residents will already have seen the new recycling bags which now accept soft plastics. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Romaine for her help in securing a bus stop sign for The Street, which has now been installed, but progress on the extension of the footpath along the Burton Road, between Acton Turville and the motorway bridge, remains stalled awaiting budget decisions.

Community Speed Watch. The frequency of sessions undertaken by the Community Speed Watch team remains limited by the number of volunteers who have received training in the use of the equipment. Anyone wanted to join the scheme, or, in the case of those who have previously received training, rejoin the team, should contact the Parish Council in the first instance.

Parish Council Website. To satisfy new standards for accessibility and data protection, the Parish Council has launched a new website <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>. Whilst still work in progress, key information is being migrated from the old website as and when resources allow. Please also note the new email addresses for parish councillors and the parish clerk.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 7.00pm**

**Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.**

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168,  
Sally Smith 218510, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: [clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk) Website: <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>

## Sudoku

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the March quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

# Church Matters

## April 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

As winter turns to spring, and Easter reminds us of the Christian Hope, and the weather picks up, let me tell you another story about Saint Francis.

As we follow the story of Saint Francis we realise just how radical he was. There is a story of him meeting a Leper on the road, and instead of avoiding him as was the custom, he raced up to him and hugged him. He then gave his coat to the leper.

The story has been told many times to remind people that, what is now called 'diversity and inclusion', began a long time ago with Jesus. Embracing a leper is about the most extreme form of 'diversity and inclusion' possible. And Francis throws a light on Jesus.

Something similar in our day might be racing up to a beggar on a pedestrian precinct in Bath and hugging them and insisting on them taking your jacket or jersey and shirt. Then walking away with barely a vest on.

Whilst most of us would not go beyond a smile and handing over a pound or two, we might possibly support a homeless charity, as well. The point about what Francis did, is not to say that that is what we should do. It is rather a demonstration of the love of God which embraces every person no matter what destitute position, they find themselves in.

Like any good saint, Francis teaches us about God. And loving God, will help us to know how we should act.

With my best wishes for a happy Easter,

Rev Richard Thomson, vicar.

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236

07717791858

## Church Services for April 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion	Rev S Abbott
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
12 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 2	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev J Wilson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev J Wilson
19 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 3	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Mr M Butler
26 <sup>th</sup> April Easter 4	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev J Hunnisett
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian Macfadyen
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson

See Benefice website for readings: [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)

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**07867 755772**

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## Picture Gallery



With so many great photos sent to us here at Local Talk Back it's often difficult to decide which ones to publish. This month was no exception, helped in no small part by the Sahara sand that was blown our way, leading to some breathtaking skies (and dusty cars). The animals are also making their presence felt, so much so that it's a full-time job keeping the bird feeders well stocked. Starting from the left and heading clockwise, our pictures come from Lee Butcher, Mike Smith, Yvonne Nettles and Simon Long. Thanks to you all.



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