

Local Talk Back

AUGUST 2023

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

ISSUE 540



WAITING FOR THE SUNSHINE. PIC BY THE EDITOR



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

EDITORIAL AUGUST 2023

I had an evening out in the centre of Bristol recently, meeting up with a couple of colleagues I'd not seen for a long time. I decided to drive down, making sure I left myself a healthy slice of contingency just in case the motorway was busy. I needn't have worried, the roads were clear so I headed through Broadmead and on towards the centre. Happy days. Then things changed. Although the surroundings were familiar, the route I was planning to take was no longer an option. At every turn there was a new challenge - a bus lane here, an extra set of traffic lights there, roads closed off and worrying signs warning me I was now in a low emission zone and quite possibly liable for a crippling fine. I wanted to get from A to B, but found myself lost at C (isn't that a line from a song?). Eventually I pulled into the first parking space I could find and walked the rest of the way. When did driving get so complicated?

I was reminded of simpler times when rummaging through a pile of yellowing, dog-eared books in a junk shop. Amongst the usual cookery and gardening books was a pile of small paperbacks tied together with a length of gardening twine. It turned out to be a collection of books which perfectly reflected the sort of pastimes that kept people (or more specifically, children) entertained back in the sixties when these must have been published. Some of them were from the expansive range of I-Spy books which covered a huge variety of subjects, from birds and wildlife, to coins, transport and the night sky. Each one followed a standard format, with a series of hand-drawn illustrations accompanied by a paragraph or two of text that related to items which fitted the theme of the book. The reader then had to use their observational skills to spot the items being described, recording relevant details in the blanks that had been left for that purpose. Some of the I-Spy books were designed for days out, such as a visit to the zoo, a walk in the countryside or a trip to the seaside. Others were intended to be used on journeys by car, or on a train. There was even one intended for a stay in hospital, where you could presumably diligently tick off the surgical instruments used to remove your appendix. Don't think the fun ended when you'd filled in all the blanks though, oh no. That's when you slipped the book in an envelope and sent it back to the people at I-Spy. In fact, you sent it back to none other than Big Chief I-Spy who would check your answers and, if you made the grade, reward you with a certificate and a feather for your head-dress, thereby enrolling you as a member of the I-Spy Tribe. Yes, things were definitely different in those days.

Wrapped up with the I-Spy books in the junk shop there were more books that recorded train and bus numbers, with various entries carefully underlined in blue biro to show those which had been spotted. Mention Trainspotting to people these days and most will likely think of the Danny Boyle film from the late nineties, but in the post-war years, railway stations were filled with schoolboys desperate to catch sight of specific locomotives so they could cross the numbers off in their little books. Call someone a train spotter today and you're likely to be rewarded with a swift left hook to the jaw, but for many years it was the pastime of choice for a large part of the nation's youth. Maybe it was the fascination with steam, seeing these huge machines at close quarters and experiencing the smells and sounds that went with them, but whatever it was, as the railway switched to diesel locomotives, so the fascination with collecting numbers waned. The age of the train spotter had peaked.

Looking through that collection of books in the junk shop, I couldn't help wondering who they used to belong to and how they'd ended up where they were. You didn't need to be Sherlock Holmes to answer the first question – the young lad had neatly written his name and address in the front of all the books, no doubt hoping they would be returned to him in case they were mislaid. I wonder why he had held on to them for so many years though? Had they been thrown into the back of a cupboard for more than half a century and forgotten about, or were they prized possessions, tangible reminders of happy days out with friends and family when the world was less complicated? I tied up the string and placed them back on the shelf, carefully slotting them between Delia Smith and Allan Titchmarsh.

Right, I'm heading back down into Bristol, clutching my recently-purchased copy of I-Spy Bus Lanes. Wish me luck.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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

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

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH AUGUST.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August

Fri 4 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning,
Sat 12 th – Sun 13 th	Tough Mudder, Badminton Estate
Mon 14 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
Sun 20 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit
Fri 25 th /Sat 26 th /Sun 27 th	Outdoor Cinema, Castle Combe Circuit, 5.00pm

September

Fri 1 st	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning
Sat 2 nd	Botanical Clay Impressions, Badminton Estate.
Sun 3 rd	Open Gardens, Badminton House
Sat 9 th	Ride & Stride for Churches. See July LTB for more details.
Sat 9 th – Sun 10 th	Detectival, Badminton Estate
Mon 11 th	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting
Sun 17 th	Sicilian Summer Feast, Badminton House
Sun 24 th	Botanical Monoprinting, Badminton Estate, Worcester Lodge
Sun 24 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit

Please 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.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR JULY 2023

Hannah Griffin

Connor Brazier

Stephanie Spreadborough

Congratulations!

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We received one anonymous donation this month for which we are most grateful.

We very much appreciate all donations as it helps to keep the Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.

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

To donate by cheque, please make payable to

LOCAL TALK BACK

and send to:

**The Treasurer, Local Talk Back,
6 Hollybush Close, Acton Turville,
Badminton, South Glos, GL9 1JJ**



BADMINTON ESTATE

TOUGH MUDDER

SAT 12TH/SUN 13TH AUGUST

We'll bring world-class obstacles, thick mud and coveted headbands. You bring the teamwork, up-for-anything-attitude and good vibes. It's a match made in mud-covered heaven.

BOTANICAL CLAY IMPRESSIONS

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

Preserve a moment in time with the beauty of foraged botany to make your own clay impressions.

Join artist Clare Mahoney as she guides you through a 'day with clay' at Badminton House.

Clay impressions are used to form a clay mould, which is flooded with plaster and Cornish stone, producing pieces you can hang on a wall. These beautiful hangings will make perfect gifts for your loved ones that celebrate the beauty, structure and texture of the natural world.

For more information, see

<https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/>

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Thank You
Michael Childerley

Thank you very much for all the sympathy cards, messages and kind words. Also thank you to everyone that came to Michael's/Dad's funeral. We collected a fantastic £460 which will be split between Alzheimer's Society and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thanks also to the Fox & Hounds.

Carole, Julie and Kim

Westerleigh Calling!

In last month's look back at 1978, we described how every month, a copy of Talk Back would be passed between a number of former Acton Turville and Badminton residents on a journey that started in Acton Turville and ended in Houston, Texas. We were delighted to receive the following email in response from Sandra Godwin:

Dear Talk Back,

I had the privilege of being the District Nurse in Badminton and surrounding villages from 1985 for over 20 years. The GP practice for whom I worked operated a surgery from the Village club and in later years I also ran a weekly nurse surgery from the premises. I loved the unique population and the people we served and as such I have loved keeping in touch by reading the Local Talk Back. Thanks to the kindness of Yvonne Nettles I have continued to receive the Talk Back since I retired.

In the July edition I was fascinated by a letter quoted in the 'From the Archives' section. This referred to the circuitous route and miles travelled by the Talk Back that a Mrs W D Ralph had received. The list of recipients included 'Mr J Bushell of Westerleigh'.

I have lived in Westerleigh for 24 years and I am delighted to report that Mr J Bushell is still resident here. I took my copy of Talk Back to share with him. It turns out that he was born in Street Farm in Acton Turville in the 1920s, moving to Badminton as a baby where he lived until he was 10 years old. His father was chauffeur to the Duke.

It was a delight to spend some time with Mr Bushell reminiscing about familiar people and places.

We only manage a quarterly news sheet in Westerleigh, a pale shadow of Talk Back! Thank you all for your efforts; you may never learn the pleasure your efforts bring.

With many thanks to you all,

Sandra Godwin

Thanks for taking the time to write to us at Talk Back Sandra, it's great to hear from you and to know that you and Mr Bushell still enjoy reading the newsletter.

THE 137TH HAWKESBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2023

HAWKESBURY VILLAGE HALL
AND RECREATION GROUND,

HIGH STREET,

HAWKESBURY UPTON,

GATES OPEN AT 12.30 P.M.



**The FOX
& HOUNDS INN**

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 9th August

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



From The Archives

“A Grand Football Match”

We're indebted to Dave Bright from Acton Turville who, via John Smith, sent us a programme for a football match between Bristol Rovers and Cardiff City that took place in front of Badminton House on the 4th May 1953. This was a charity match, raising funds for the National Playing Fields Association and the King George VI National Memorial Fund (the latter having been set up to erect a memorial to the recently-departed King). Both teams fielded their strongest sides, with the Rovers line-up including the club's all-time top scorer Geoff Bradford who, two years later, would be playing for England. The fact that the then Duke of Beaufort was Bristol Rovers Club President at the time no doubt helped facilitate the game!

Remarkably, film of the match, made by the Pathe News organisation, can be found on YouTube, from where the accompanying stills have been extracted. The film shows a huge crowd of 11,000 cheering on the teams, although it's fair to say that some of the viewing arrangements could best be described as “agricultural” (literally)! As if a splendid 3-1 victory for the Rovers was not enough, the crowd was even treated to a half-time display by the Beaufort Hounds. The event raised a very credible £750 for the two charities.

1953 wasn't the last time Bristol Rovers would play at Badminton as they were to return 24 years later as part of the village's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Writing in the September 1977 edition of Local Talk Back, Ray Bird reported that “His Grace persuaded Bristol Rovers' manager Don Megson to bring along two six-a-side teams, including a number of the first team squad, to play local sides. A good crowd saw six short games, starting with an all-Rovers match. A Rovers side then played Hawkesbury winning 3-2, then Badminton, winning 6-1. Badminton v Didmarton followed (2-0), Hawkesbury defeated Didmarton 1-0, and the evening was rounded off as it began, with the Rovers showing their skills in another exhibition match.” Does anyone remember that day?



With thanks to Dave and John for providing Local Talk Back with the original 1935 programme.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - August 1978



The big news in the August 1978 edition of Local Talk Back concerns Acton Turville's progress in the Avon Best Kept Village competition. For the first time ever they've made it through to the semi-final stage, and villagers have been busy clearing litter and tidying the verges and pathways in preparation for the arrival of the judges. There was a plea from the Parish Council, who clearly had one eye on the cup: "Please don't drop litter, just keep it in your pocket until the end of the month." Perhaps they could have worded that better! The prize for the victorious village was a cup and a tree. Were Acton Turville successful? Find out next month.

Over in Badminton, the Country Fair held at the end of July was judged to have been a big success, despite some rather windy conditions. Part of the climax of the event was a mass ascent of hot air balloons, closely followed by a mass descent of parachutists. The parachutists clearly had a tough time of the windy conditions, so much so that they released a statement confirming they had third party insurance which would have covered the cost of any damage they might have caused as a result of their display! Elsewhere at the Country Fair, an appearance by Princess Anne in the afternoon was well received, as were the many displays, stalls and events which kept everyone occupied. Many of these were horse-related, from gymkhana-type events to the ever-popular donkey derby, but the boundaries were pushed with the arrival of a camel, which was kept busy giving rides to a seemingly never-ending queue of children.

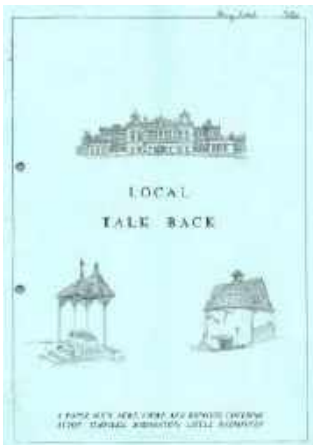
The sports desk was kept busy with reports on Cricket, Skittles, Crib and....fancy dress football. Seems a return match against Didmarton has been organised, where they'll be given the chance to avenge the defeat they suffered at the hands of Badminton during the Silver Jubilee celebrations the previous year. In a deviation from the normal format, the game was to be 12-a side with 6 ladies dressed as men and 6 men dressed as ladies per side. It's unclear how the referee would be dressed.

Finally, the Reverend Gibson penned an interesting Vicar's Letter. He's clearly concerned that the church is losing sight of its core values as it strives to modernise:

"It seems to me that the Church of England took fright about 1960 and, like a startled animal, appeared to lose all sense of direction. Suddenly there seemed to be more empty pews, not nearly enough men coming forward for the Ministry. How did the church deal with this situation? I think rather like a man of 48 years of age who suddenly sees fifty staring him in the face and doesn't like it! The middle-aged man in this situation often starts desperately to adopt the form of dress, speech and general behaviour which rightly belong to his younger friends' generation. All this requires great effort and usually ends with the person concerned looking rather ridiculous, very often alienated from his old friends and family and with a feeling of disillusionment. So I am afraid it is with the Church. The Harpies of legend lured men to their death with their pretty faces and promises of delight. It is time that the church stopped chasing the Harpy of Popular opinion and got back on course."

Ouch.

20 Years Ago - August 2003



August marked the arrival of a new editorial team at Local Talk Back – the Three Country Girls, Yvonne Nettles, Sandra Broomsgrove and Sally Smith bravely agreed to take on the role after the very sad passing of Kath Gentry earlier in the year. The newsletter couldn't have been in better hands. They initially played it safe with their first editorial, commenting on the recent weather which had seen the hottest June since 1976 and the fifth hottest since records began. Their recollections of 1976 included widespread hosepipes bans, being told to put a brick in your toilet cistern, limiting yourself to no more than 5" of water in the bath then making sure you used that water on the garden. The topic then moved on to cows, in particular the loss of so many of the dairy herds which used to be farmed in our villages. They remembered their friend Sue Viner who, as a schoolgirl in the 1960s, used to earn pocket money by watching Farmer Scammell's cows as they grazed the roadside verges between Badminton and Little Badminton. Her job was to make sure they didn't wander into the unfenced Quarry or go the other way and end up in the garden of Slait Lodge!

As they said in their editorial, what a strange way to earn some pocket money (which they calculated to be about 2/6, or 12½ p in new money).

From the Archives (cont'd)

Elsewhere there was an article on Maundy Money, prompted by the news that Bill Pinnell had very deservedly been presented with a set of Maundy coins by the Queen at a ceremony in Gloucester Cathedral. The money is traditionally awarded to a very small number of people each year who have shown particular support to their local communities. Bill was nominated by the Rev. P Berrow in recognition of his "playing the organ in the churches of Great Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville for the past 56 years, and also various other village activities." Very well deserved Bill.

Something that has been tasking the Badminton and Acton Turville Parish Councils for some time was the railway bridge which connected the two villages. Apparently a weight restriction had been put on the old bridge which was causing major disruption, with those vehicles exceeding the limit having to make some quite considerable detours. Not all drivers were obeying the restrictions but the chance of apprehension was minimal as neither the Police nor South Glos council could agree who should be enforcing the rules. It would be September 2010 before a new bridge was installed, and many in the villages remain disgruntled to this day that the design of the new bridge is so out of keeping with its surroundings.

The report provided by Badminton Parish Council on its July meeting records there were six councillors present "and a reporter from the Yate & Chipping Sodbury Gazette." Sadly it doesn't say what had so piqued the reporter's interest. As well as the problems with the railway bridge, the reporter would have heard the councillors agreeing to go ahead with the proposed Millenium Tree Seat, which had come in at a cost of £300. A proposal to build a children's play area in the village remained under discussion. One suggestion was to restrict the size of the play area to 9 metres by 9 metres as this would "reduce the legal responsibility and liability, which would reduce the annual cost to the village." I'm not sure if I'd like to rely on that defence in a court of law. On the subject of the law, the local bobby PC Farrell had been busy setting up a Community Speed Watch group and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. All he needed were some volunteers. Did anyone come forward? Tune in next month to find out.

10 Years Ago - August 2013



It was only in July 2012 that Talk Back started putting photographs on its front cover. There were mostly old post cards which provided a glimpse back to simpler times. Last month it was a picture of Ragged Castle which generated much interest with several readers. This month it's Drewett's Stores in Badminton. The caption says "possibly in the 1930s" but it looks much older than that to me. What do you think?

Turning the page we find a guest editor in the form of Sam Mitchell. He does a great job too, although it looks like he's taken inspiration from the editorial written ten years earlier by the Three Country Girls as he opens with talk of scorching temperatures and "basking in the glorious weather which has reached the UK". There's a further sense of déjà vu with talk of bridge closures, only this time it's the railway bridge on the Luckington Road.

August 2013 marks the beginning of the serialisation of Phyllis Salmon's autobiography written in 1989. They were published under the title "My Royal Connections" and

would appear in Talk Back every month for the next three years. Phyllis was born in 1919 and, with her parents and three siblings, lived in a cottage within the grounds of Ruperra Castle in South Wales where her father worked as a gardener and odd job man. In 1925, the family relocated to Badminton where Phyllis's father took a job as a herdsman. It was the start of a fascinating life for Phyllis. Sadly Ruperra Castle wasn't so fortunate – it would be requisitioned by the Army during the Second World War who rather carelessly managed to burn it down. Locally, the summer was in full swing. At the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville, Alastair Gilbert had organised a Military Tattoo to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. A gentleman called Tony had turned up with a selection of Military vehicles and coordinating weapons, and there were displays of classic cars (courtesy of Bob Stephens) and a demonstration of line dancing. The evening raised a very credible £325 for such a good cause. Nice work Alastair. The church also took the opportunity to engage in a bit of fundraising at the event and set themselves up with a tombola. They did even better than the British Legion, raising £452! Just goes to show you can't beat a good tombola.

Turning to something a bit different, on the 8th July Trinity School held a French Day. All the children dressed in the French colours and started the day with songs sung in French. The school kitchen provided a French menu for lunch which was eaten to an accompaniment of French accordion music. In the afternoon the children split into groups and were challenged with creating a model of the Eiffel Tower using newspaper and Sellotape. Congratulations to Amelia, Ethan, Jack, Sophie and Samara whose tower was awarded first prize. The day finished with the eating of bon-bons. Yum yum.

Paul Jones, Village Agent Update

As you may recall, I was recently recruited as a Village Agent for the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.



Since the last LTB article I've been busy meeting all sorts of people and organisations that provide much-needed support and advice to residents. It's been a revelation to discover the drop in cafés, community transport schemes, ageing well initiatives and practical support out there. My job is very much about raising awareness of these services and the opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. For example, did you know South Gloucestershire council operate a Handyvan service offering a team of friendly, professional carpenters, plumbers, tilers, and gardeners to be the helping hand around your home? If you need more details, please give me a ring or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/handyvan

Meeting and talking to people has revealed how brilliant family, friends and the support networks in village communities are at caring for people, but I've also been told how difficult it is to pick up the phone and reach out. I understand that having been in similar circumstances myself. The Village Agent role has long been established in areas outside South Gloucestershire. More experienced colleagues have shared their views that an initial chat over a cup of tea can soon lead to a discussion about a range of issues that people need help with – not least help with technology! I am here to provide support and advice to supplement what is already in place and hopefully to develop local solutions where necessary – but more on that next time.

Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies. Your help to promote and develop the service would be greatly appreciated.

More information on the project can be found here: www.wern.org.uk/village-agents

Or contact me on:

T: 07795442272

E: paul@wern.org.uk

Paul Jones



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Metro Mayor Update

from Dan Norris, Metro Mayor of West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

Birthday Buses

First of all I'm pleased to let readers of Local Talk Back know about Birthday Buses. If you visit the Birthday Bus website at www.birthdaybus.co.uk, you can apply for a special Birthday bus pass for free bus travel throughout the whole month of your Birthday. We have ambitious net zero targets in the West of England and 44% of our carbon emissions currently come from transport. The Birthday Bus is a plan to encourage people to try the buses and hopefully switch to them, which in turn will mean more fare income and so better buses in the future too. You'll need a digital style passport photo and a local address to apply - and to fill in a couple of quick questions about your travel habits.

Thinking about a green upgrade to your home?

The new "Retrofit West" Advice Line has been launched. Why not call 0800 038 6733 to find out about measures that could suit your home and get advice on next steps.

Refuse Collections

At the time of writing, there appears to be no end in sight to the disruption of refuse and recycling collections in South Glos. To mitigate the impact on residents, we have allocated additional resources on black bin collections from South Gloucestershire Council. Collections have resumed and both parties are now back around the negotiating table. Check <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/waste-services-disruption> for the latest updates! They have also put in place measures to ensure that household waste can be taken to Sort It centres (our nearest one is at Yate) including the Park & Ride at Yate) where recycling and food waste can be deposited. You might like to check with neighbours to see if they need any help disposing of their household waste and recycling. For the most up to date information, please visit the South Glos website at <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/waste-services-disruption>

STOP PRESS!

A HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE

The garden of Portcullis Lodge in Acton Turville was the venue for a very special concert put on by Ken and Christine Spreadborough. The event was organised to raise funds for The Helping Hand for Ukraine, a group who support children and families and help them cope with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Music was provided by The Winterbourne Wind Band, conducted very energetically by Musical Director Joe Galuszka. The band kept the large crowd entertained with a diverse repertoire which included everything from The Beatles, Paul McCartney and Neil Diamond, to Queen, Bon Jovi and Metallica. Very fittingly, their performance finished with a stirring rendition of the Ukrainian National Anthem. People gave generously, and as can be seen from the letter below, the donation was greatly appreciated by The Helping Hand for Ukraine. Pictures from the event can be seen on the next page. We're sure everyone joins us in thanking Ken and Christine for putting on this event in support of such a very worthy cause.

"OFFERING HOPE TO LIVE"



THE HELPING HAND
FOR UKRAINE
A DIVISION OF CCLL

Mrs Chris Spreadborough
Bristol

10th July 2023

Dear Mrs Spreadborough,

Re: The Winterbourne Wind Band Fundraiser

Your message about the fundraising event held last Saturday at your garden where The Winterborne Wind Band performed in support of people of Ukraine came to us as a great and much appreciated surprise.

As a charity we rely on the generosity of private individuals and groups of people to help us deliver projects directly helping communities in Ukraine. One of several directions we work on at present is a setup and launch of 'Safe Ukraine' classrooms at schools located in rural areas across the North of Ukraine.

They aim to provide the children of various ages with hands on skills, knowledge and actual real life training to allow them cope with the daily challenges and risks. They learn how to identify various types of mines and other explosives, how to put out a fire or help someone who is finding difficult to breath. It is a combination of first aid, risk awareness and risk control. The children as young as 8 have to know how to stay safe and how to help their friends and family members in an emergency as in critical situations often it is the children who save other children when the adults are not around or are wounded or not capable to aid the children. Too many children suffer from explosives, fires caused by missile attacks or other ways of threats. The knowledge they will receive in especially equipped and fitted classrooms will save many lives and protect the children!

As a Charity we would not be able to achieve our objective neither deliver many of our projects without the kind support and generous donations such as the £1,000 we received from your fundraiser.

Please thank everyone involved for their contributions and most importantly for their care about the people of Ukraine who are exposed to stress and daily risks to life. They do genuinely value the support they receive.

With my best wishes,



Dennis Vystavkin
Chief Executive

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A HELPING HAND FOR UKRAINE (CONT'D)



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us on Saturday 1st July when 'The Winterbourne Wind Band' played in our garden, to raise money for the people in Ukraine. I think the thank you letter shows how grateful they are for all the money donated and how it will be used. It was lovely to see so many people here. Thank you again for coming and being so generous with your donations.

Chris Spreadborough



Thanks to Yvonne Nettles for the photographs.

PICTURE GALLERY



June's heatwave seems like a distant memory doesn't it? Thankfully there was plenty of shade for the animals as can be seen in Yvonne Nettles' pictures.

This Red Kite was clearly making the most of the thermals over Little Badminton. It was only recently that these majestic birds were first spotted around here but now they're a regular sight.



It's 100 years since the Flying Scotsman rolled out of the Doncaster Railway Works. To celebrate its centenary, the train has embarked on a UK-wide tour, offering steam fans the opportunity to see the iconic locomotive at close quarters. Dominic Rennie captured this shot as it passed through Acton Turville. Thanks Dominic.

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Looking ahead, the autumn is a good time to take hardwood cuttings. Choose a pencil-thick woody shoot from this year's growth about eight inches long and cut just below a bud. Make another cut just above a bud on the other end. Insert the cuttings into a slit in the ground leaving one third above ground. It may be advantageous to take several cuttings. Water and ignore until the following autumn. Make a note of which herbaceous plants will need dividing then too.

What's Flowering Right Now?

Fremontodendron, California Glory which needs a warm, south facing wall and will flower from May until October. Evergreen with a slightly odd flower, bronze at the base becoming yellow.
 Geums, perennials, blooming from May to August, even in hot weather. Agapanthus, also drought tolerant. Alstromerias, sun or shadier places. A nice combination is eryngium and orange Californian poppies or Totally Tangerine dahlias. Aстранtia Shaggy is a calm and interesting plant, as is Trifolium Ochroleucon. After a strong colour, something quieter, like an evergreen or perhaps a grass will enhance each other. Keep deadheading for more flowers, but if you would like some berries for the birds or for autumn colour, put the secateurs away.
 Lots of different hydrangeas are flowering now. And also a pretty rose called Bonica, perfect for a posy.

Jobs for This Month

Give a gentle feed to the roses. The wisteria have flowered and could do with a tidy up. Cut off all the wispy shoots now to tidy them up and plan to prune them properly in February.

Some Planting Suggestions

Have you got a place for a slow growing, small tree. Like a Japanese Maple? They are suitable for most sized gardens and have attractive leaves in a range of colours.
 For a drier position, what about a Santolina?

And Finally

Keep that notebook close by.

August Sudoku

August's challenge set by Neil Fozard.

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the July quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Church Matters

August 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

I wish you all a very happy August wherever you may be, whether on holiday or at home or working. It is a great month if the weather holds good, for weekends, seeing friends and spending some time out of doors.

There is a tendency for us to find it difficult to draw breath amongst all the hustle and bustle of life. The Bishop in her recent book Encounters, speaks of living a 'full' life and the danger of living a 'busy' life. She argues that we all need time to recollect ourselves before the day begins, no matter how much we have to do, so that we enter into each moment fully, rather than in a rush. She speaks of living in the strength of God's spirit, rather than trying to go it alone.

I think we could all do with a bit more time spent in prayer, in whatever way seems appropriate at any particular stage of our life. I find Scripture (particularly the psalms) are a wonderful way to help me press the pause button. Sundays offer time out too, in church. Taking an hour out of our lives to worship God, is seldom a wasted hour. Even if the sermon is not great, we can sit and reflect on our lives, in community with others.

I wish you a month full of pauses,

With my best wishes,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice

website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236

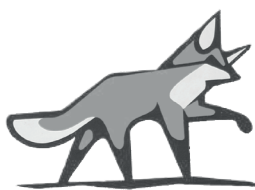
Church Services for August 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
6 th August Transfiguration	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion with Baptism	Rev M Maslen
	11.15am	Didmarton	Said Matins	Rev M Maslen
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Said Evening Prayer	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev M Maslen
13 th August Trinity 10	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer Book	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer Book	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
20 th August Trinity 11	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Pet Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
27 th August Trinity 13	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Hawkesbury	Songs of Praise	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com



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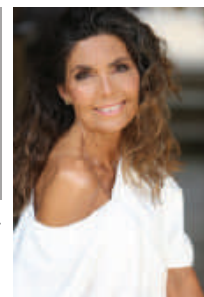
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Acton Turville Village Party



There was much merry-making on Saturday the 15th July at the 2023 Acton Turville Village Party. Although the forecast high winds largely failed to materialise, not even some torrential showers could dampen the spirits of the villagers who made themselves comfortable in two beautifully-decorated marquees. Musical entertainment came from not one but two bands, The Sultanas of Swing and Planet Groove who soon had everyone up and dancing. There was even a magician, Paul Preager, who dazzled everyone as he moved from table to table demonstrating some amazing card tricks.

Now a word from the organisers, Acton Turville Social:

Since Acton Turville Social started for the Jubilee, we have hosted the Jubilee celebration, a Christmas market, Italian night, fireside carols, dog racing and coffee mornings. Through this and donations we were able to offer a fantastic Summer Party, including entertainment, food and drink for £5.00 a head. To make this an annual event we will need help with fundraising and donations: our bank balance is now at £0.00!

Special thanks go to the following

Martin and BLW Construction Ltd for once again supplying generators at no cost.

Alex Bethune IntentsGP Ltd for marquees, seating and tables at a highly discounted price for the village.

Badminton Estate and Ian Windell for allowing us to use the paddock at the last minute.

Lee Butcher, Paul and the BBQ team.

Plus everyone else who helped make this event possible.

Many thanks

Mel , Karen , Caroline

Acton Turville Social

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