

# Local Talk Back

AUGUST 2024

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

ISSUE 551



SUMMER COLOURS. PHOTOGRAPH BY YVONNE NETTLES, LITTLE BADMINTON.



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

# EDITORIAL AUGUST 2024

Happy clappy. That's the phrase that sticks in my mind. The conversation started well enough, with idle chit-chat over a frothy coffee in a half-full city centre coffee shop. Then I happened to mention to my church-going friend that our local place of worship was looking at ways of making it more suitable for a wider range of community activities. Nothing radical, perhaps changing the internal layout to make space for toddler groups or keep fit classes whilst still ensuring it would fulfil its primary purpose as a place of worship. I was hoping my friend might be able to provide some useful insight, or even better have personal experience of such transformations, but the look in her eyes suggested the subject might have been better avoided. No, she didn't have any personal experiences to fall back on, but she knew plenty of people who had been members of churches which had gone down that path. Before you knew it, she told me how teddy bears would be found in compromising positions on the altar and the natural history group would insist on having their collection of animal skulls on permanent display, making the once-pristine church a magnet for disaffected goths. It was when she warned me it was only a matter of time before the church became "happy clappy", with the congregation waving tambourines that I suspected she'd watched one too many episodes of *Midsomer Murders* and was confusing fact with fiction. I needed to divert her attention, so made a dash to the counter and ordered a couple of slices of coffee and walnut cake. That did the trick, and the conversation restarted on a less contentious subject.

I was disappointed that we didn't get a chance to debate the various pros and cons of what was being proposed, and perplexed that the conversation instead jumped straight to the nightmare scenario and the catastrophic outcome. Somewhat taken aback, I headed home and reverted to a bit of on-line sleuthing to see what information I could find about church re-ordering, which I believe is the term used in such cases. I was in luck. There were several on-line chat forums and Facebook pages where people had asked the same questions and sought advice, but after the initial helpful responses and amusing anecdotes ("it was all going well until we discovered the children painting the font") the conversations invariably went the way of my coffee-shop chat and contributors vied with each other to post ever-more outlandish stories, all (apparently) based on personal real-life experiences.

It reminded me of those evenings spent in the pub where there would always be someone who'd top whatever anyone else had done. If you told everyone you'd just seen a well-known TV star like Charlie from *Casualty* crossing the road, the "topper" would swear they'd been to a party with a Hollywood A-lister and met all their famous friends. You suspected if you'd announced you'd had a trip to see the space shuttle, they'd have flown on it. To Jupiter. But when you looked into their eyes and saw nothing but a vacant emptiness, you knew it was all a fantasy so you had a laugh about it and moved on. Now all those people have access to the internet. They can post anonymously and are able to talk with authority, presenting fiction as fact. And people want to be friends with them because they believe they've done all these amazing things, met all these amazing people and been to all these amazing places. In the space shuttle. Before you know it, their tall stories are being quoted widely by people who will swear they're true because "it happened to a friend of mine", even though they've only ever communicated on a chat forum. Eventually, some of the stories are accepted as fact.

It's by no means a new phenomenon. Remember urban myths? I was once told by a colleague that people were being found in parks around their local area who, upon examination, were found to have had one of their kidneys removed using a technique unique to the Russian medical services. The last thing the victims remembered before waking up in the park was meeting an attractive lady in a local nightclub, and of course the lady spoke with a Russian accent. The cases were being hushed up so as not to upset our powerful Russian friends, who needed the kidneys of healthy Westerners to meet their domestic transplant demands, and my colleague only knew about it because he was friends with a detective working on the case. Being sworn to secrecy I quickly told everyone my bit of insider information, only to discover everyone else had similar stories from all around the country, which was rather deflating.

We keep getting told we're living in the information age, but it's getting increasingly difficult to separate fact from fiction. People are much more likely to enjoy hearing stories which are exciting, amusing, mysterious and fascinating, so that's what the internet and television channels serve up. And if they blur the boundaries between fact and fiction, well that's fine if it means more viewers. I've no idea what would happen if our church was re-ordered so I'll leave that to people who understand these things, but in the meantime I'm off to find my tambourine, just in case the answer includes the words "happy" and "clappy".

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024.

THANK YOU.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### Aug 2024

Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> /Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tough Mudder (Sat)/Spartan (Sun), Badminton Estate
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Beaufort Hunt Supporters Club Show, Worcester Lodge
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Parochial Council meeting, Memorial Hall, Badminton, 6pm
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> /Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Cinema, Castle Combe Circuit, 7pm
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	Hawkesbury Show, Hawkesbury Upton

#### Sept 2024

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Church Tea Party, Memorial Hall, Badminton, 4pm
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Introduction to Sourdough Bread Making, Badminton Estate
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Botanical Drawing Masterclass, Badminton Estate

**\*\*\*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 2024

Nick Robinson

Connor Brazier

David Burchell

**Congratulations!**

### DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

*We have received one anonymous donation this month for which we are most grateful:*

*In addition, £37 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.*

*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*

### *A (Coach) Trip Down Memory Lane*

In last month's editorial, we mentioned the coach trips run by the Acton Turville Village Association in the late eighties. Our good friend Anne Beesley got in touch to tell us about the trips her father used to organise.

"After the Second World War, my father Eddie Hayes, the local builder and undertaker, organised coach trips to the seaside including Bournemouth and Weymouth. He also organises dances and Whist Drives in the local school, and trips to the pantomimes. At the Whist Drives, the cakes, sandwiches, tea and coffee would all be provided by his wife, and by Mrs Elsie Jobbins who was their next-door neighbour."

Thanks for getting in touch Anne. Does anyone else remember any of the coach trips, or better still have any photographs from those happy days out by the sea? We'd love to hear from you if you do.

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## In Memoriam Phyllis Ewers nee' Weaver

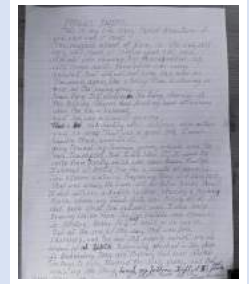
We were sorry to hear that former resident of Little Badminton Phyllis Ewers had passed away recently at the age of 93. Born in 1931, Phyllis was married to her beloved husband Ted for sixty years. He was one of ten children and grew up in Badminton. His family lived on the estate in the Bath Lodge and cottage, and Ted's brother Bill would go on to be valet for the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort. It was when sorting out Phyllis' effects that her family found a note (below) that she'd written in 2018. Titled "My Life Story", we can think of no better tribute to Phyllis. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did. It was clearly a life well lived.

*This is my life story, full of adventure if you can call it that.*

*The second eldest of nine, so life was not easy. I left school at thirteen years old and went straight into cleaning Big Houses, ended up with house maid's knee which was very painful. That did not last long, dad was on the move again like a rolling stone gathering no moss, as the saying goes.*

*Home farm job, working on the dairy, cleaning all the milk churns. Tried my hand at milking when the cows behaved.*

*Next job was a chemist assistant.*



*Phyllis with Ted, her husband of sixty years.*

*Had a job looking after children while mothers went to work. That was a good job, I could handle them, used to it.*

*Going through my teenage years, a bicycle was the only transport but I did like it. I used to cycle from Brentry which was near Blaize Castle. I worked at Bristol Zoo for a couple of years in the kitchen, preparing teas and lunches. That was great, we were still on ration books then.*

*I did witness an English Spitfire chasing a German plane above my head quite low, firing at it. I don't know what the outcome was, I was busy drawing water from the tap outside our house in Corston, Ashley Hill, Bath. I could go on and on, but at the end of the day that was life.*

*Thornbury was the last stop, nearly, except we all ended up at Little Badminton. Worked in the shop in Badminton, then got married, had four children, two boys, two girls. Loved my balloon flight at 87 years old. Married for sixty years, and that was my life story from 1931 to 2018.*

We offer Hannah and the family our sincere condolences. Rest in peace Phyllis.



BADMINTON ESTATE

**TOUGH MUDDER AND SPARTAN - SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> / SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

TOUGH MUDDER IS THE PREMIER CHALLENGE SERIES IN THE WORLD, CREATING HARDCORE OBSTACLE COURSES DESIGNED TO TEST CONTESTANTS' ALL-ROUND STRENGTH, STAMINA, AND MENTAL GRIT. SPARTAN SOUTH WEST FEATURES A HALF MARATHON OF MUD AND OBSTACLES, PLUS A 5KM SPRINT IN THE HISTORIC BADMINTON PARK

**INTRODUCTION TO SOURDOUGH BREAD MAKING - SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

A HANDS-ON SOURDOUGH BREAD MAKING EXPERIENCE LED BY THE TALENTED HOLLY FROM THE LOAF SHACK.

**OPEN GARDEN DAYS – SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

EXPLORE THE PRIVATE GARDENS OF THE HISTORIC BADMINTON HOUSE, WITH GARDENS DESIGNED BY RUSSELL PAGE AND FRANÇOIS GOFFINET.

**A GARDEN OF BOTANICAL ART: PAINTINGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF MARY SOMERSET,  
FIRST DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT – 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

IN 1703, MARY SOMERSET COMMISSIONED A SERIES OF PAINTINGS SHOWING THE EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY OF PLANTS SHE HAD GROWN FROM SEEDS SENT TO HER FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. ON DISPLAY WILL BE REPRODUCTIONS OF 30 OF THE FINEST PAINTINGS AS WELL AS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE ORIGINALS IN THEIR BOUND VOLUMES.

**BOTANICAL DRAWING CLASS WITH JACKIE ISARD – FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

EXPLORE THE ART AND SCIENCE OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION AS YOU LEARN TO CREATE ACCURATE DRAWINGS OF PLANTS AND DELVE INTO THEIR BOTANICAL INTRICACIES. LED BY RENOWNED ARTIST, TUTOR, AND AUTHOR JACKIE ISARD

See <https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/> for full details

# WHAT'S ON

## BEAUFORT HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB SHOW 2024



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Worcester Lodge, Badminton, GL9 1DS

Gymkhana, Dressage, Show Jumping,  
Showing Classes, Dog Show, Fancy Dress and lots more!

## THE 138TH HAWKESBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024

HAWKESBURY VILLAGE HALL  
AND RECREATION GROUND,  
HIGH STREET,  
HAWKESBURY UPTON,

*GATES OPEN AT 12.30 P.M.*



# FOX

**& HOUNDS INN**

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

### **Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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



# ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

## AUGUST 2024 REPORT

**Playing Field.** As always, the Parish Council acknowledge the effort put in by the small group of volunteers who maintain the playing field and children's play area. The playing field can be used by any local group or individual organising an outdoor event. Whilst there is no charge, prior approval must be obtained from the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk for a permission form, which is a standard requirement to comply with our insurance.

**Traffic.** As highlighted in the July report, concerns continue to be raised about the speed of traffic travelling through the village, particularly along The Street (including the pinch-point by the well) and on the Littleton Drew road where parked cars cause an additional hazard. The Parish Council intend to discuss this issue with the relevant authorities to see what may be done to manage the situation more effectively.

**Bus Stops** - We are still awaiting an update on when signs will be fitted to identify the two bus stops in the village. The matter remains with South Glos District Councillor Becky Romaine.

**South Glos Help Desks** - The Parish Council has on several occasions experienced difficulty reporting matters to South Glos council help desks, with phones ringing out and messages not being responded to. Our local district councillors are aware of the situation. They have agreed that the level of service is not satisfactory and are pressing the council to make the necessary improvements.

Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Sally Smith 218510,  
Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

**Next Meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @ 7.00pm (there is no meeting in August).**

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

*Details on Parish Notice Board/Website*

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: [actonturvillepc@aol.com](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)

## 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 !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the July quizzes:

### 'Easy'

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

### 'Not so Easy'

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

## Paul Jones - Village Agent Update

*Help, support, and advice for residents of the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.*



I recently visited the Carers Centre, based in Fishponds, Bristol but their services extend to cover South Gloucestershire. They offer a range of services for carers and are keen to support people living in our rural communities. I know that there are many relatives, friends and neighbours providing care and support in the Cotswold Edge area. I hope the information below is of use, please let me know if you have any comments about the service or contact me if you need any further advice or help.

Carers Support Centre is a charity offering a range of services to help improve life for carers in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Here are some of the ways we can help:

**Carers Emergency Card:** If a carer has an accident or is taken seriously ill, carrying this card will ensure the person they care for continues to receive the support they need.

**Carers Assessments:** Help with getting and completing an assessment. This allows carers to get help and support for themselves and the person they care for.

**One-to-one support:** Advice and information. Help with filling in forms and applying for benefits such as Carers Allowance. Help with communicating with health and social care professionals.

**Parent carers:** Supporting parent carers with a child under 18 who has disabilities/additional needs.

**Carers support groups:** A safe, confidential space to meet with other carers to share information and give support to each other.

**Wellbeing service:** We provide counselling and befriending services, as well as running Walk and Talks where our friendly support worker leads group walks offering a listening ear and providing support to help carers in their caring role.

**Hospital support:** Information and support for carers in hospital and help with discharge planning.

**Carer involvement:** Support for carers to get their voices heard, so they can influence health and social care provision.

**Young Carers:** Supporting children under 18 years old, including individual and family support, activities, groups and outings.

All these services are free to carers and brought to you by a team of caring and compassionate professionals. Please don't be afraid to reach out for the help you need.

If you'd like more information visit our website at [www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk](http://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk) or call CarersLine on 0117 965 2200.

Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies. More information on the project can be found here: [www.wern.org.uk/village-agents](http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents)

Paul

Contact me on:

T: 07795442272

E: [paul@wern.org.uk](mailto:paul@wern.org.uk)





## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE? (CONT'D)

*In last month's Talk Back Michael Silvey asked whether St Mary's Church should be re-purposed to cater for community groups and others who want to use the space, making it more than just a place of worship. Thanks to those who have responded with some interesting thoughts which we will pass on to Michael. In the meantime, we thought you might be interested to know that similar debates are not new to the pages of Talk Back! These are from 1991, and are in response to comments made by the Rev Tom Gibson about a continuing decline in church numbers.*

### ST MARY'S ACTON TURVILLE

Whilst I accept the Reverend Gibson's views regarding Church attendance (Church News April '91), I wonder just what value the residents of Acton Turville place upon their Church.

At the 9.15 Communion on the 14th April, there was just one person in the Congregation and even he was not from Acton Turville.

St Mary's is a beautiful Church. It would be a great shame to lose such a vital part of the village's identity.

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

I was saddened to read in last month's Talkback (May), a letter from Mr Swift on the poor attendance he experienced at Acton Turville Church on April 14th (Low Sunday). I am sure we parishioners are suitably chastised by his comments, but, as a regular Church-goer and communicant in the six years we have lived in the village, I should like to say in our defence that the Church was packed on the Sunday previous (Easter Day), and two services, being the Holy Communion and a Family Service, were well supported on the Sunday following.

It is true that in Victorian times Churches were always full, but how many attended out of social obligation or a desire to display their Sunday best? In the 20th Century our lives are crowded with demands on time, and often Sundays are the only day a family can do things together. Those who therefore attend Church do so out of a true desire for worship, and not out of any hypocritical motives.

As I have never seen Mr Swift in Church previously I know he must be well aware of the conflicting interests which families face. Our Bishop, in this 'Decade of Evangelism', urges us to welcome more people to our Churches, but he also asks us to show a Christian spirit and a caring attitude in our community, and by example draw others to follow Christ. Acton Turville is not short of people who have the welfare of others at heart, and I am sure that any help Mr Swift could give in this respect would be heartily welcomed, thereby giving a more rounded view of Christian fellowship.

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

I did not intend to start an ongoing exchange of letters when writing in March about Church attendance. However, Vanessa Cash deserves a response especially as I am certain she is right regarding the caring attitude of the people of Acton Turville. If I implied otherwise I apologise sincerely.

With my family, I have recently returned from New Zealand and so of course Vanessa would not have seen me before. Having left the 'Country Down Under' where the Church is thriving, the contrast here is striking to say the least.

Without support from the young, there is obviously little future for the Church Service. If children are to make up their own minds about Christianity and the Church they need to have first hand experience. Surely that introduction should be made with their parents at Church, if only on those Sundays when the family is free of other commitments?

It would be interesting to know what form Christianity will take in a hundred years from now. See you on Sunday Vanessa.



## 10 FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT CHIPPING SODBURY AND YATE

1. Chipping Sodbury has the second widest High Street in the country (after Stockton-on-Tees). The medieval street was built to accommodate animal pens for the regular agricultural markets. Nowadays the chippings, where is the name given to the area where the pens used to be located, are used for free parking. The word “chipping” in a place-name traditionally means market.
2. Harry Potter author JK Rowling was born in 1965 at the now-defunct Chipping Sodbury Maternity Hospital on Station Road, between Yate and Chipping Sodbury. She grew up in nearby Winterbourne and is widely believed to have named the Dursley family in the Potter books after the Gloucestershire market town just 20 minutes away.
3. Yate was named at the 45<sup>th</sup> worst place to live in Britain in the 2003 tongue-in-cheek book *Crap Towns*. “Yate”, it said “extends like a textbook hernia from the soft underbelly of Bristol. From the centre, endless ranks of Bovis-like homes radiate to the horizon over trolley-packed streams and along roads with names that don’t even try to be interesting.” It’s clearly improved a lot since 2003. For instance, did you know the roads where the Parnall’s aircraft factory used to be based are all named after aeroplanes such as Spitfire Close and Lancaster Drive?
4. In 2003, inventor and manufacturer (and former resident of Acton Turville) James Dyson bought Dodington Park, just outside Old Sodbury, seeing off competition from Robbie Williams. Dyson paid £13 million for the 300-acre Georgian estate which, in a reference to the range of vacuum cleaners which bear his name, The Sun dubbed Suckingham Palace. Dodington has previously hosted motorbike scrambling meetings and cross-country events for horses, and the gardens used to house an adventure playground and ride-on steam railway when they were open to the public.
5. Take That once played Spirals, Yate’s former night club. On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1992, a young Gary Barlow, Robbie Williams, Mark Owen, Howard Donald and Jason Orange performed at Spirals for the HTV *Hitman & Her* show, presented by Michaela Strachan and Pete Waterman. Before changing its name to Spirals it was the Stars & Stripes club, which in the late seventies hosted bands such as The Boomtown Rats, fronted by Bob Geldof. It’s now a gym.
6. The murder of Chipping Sodbury student Louise Smith on Christmas Day 1997 led to a change in the law on keeping DNA samples on file. David Frost was 22 when he attacked Louise in the early hours of Christmas morning as she walked home from Spirals nightclub. More than 4500 men gave DNA samples to the Police during the murder investigation, which eventually led to the arrest of Frost who had left the UK to work in South Africa. All samples were then destroyed in accordance with the rules at that time. Steve Webb MP and Louise’s parents Robert and Gill have since successfully campaigned for a change in the law which means all samples are now kept on file.
7. Indie band Half Man, Half Biscuit, from Birkenhead, refer to Yate in their song *The Referee’s Alphabet* which appears on their *Cammell Laird Social Club* album. The lyrics inform the listener that “Y is for Yate, the kind of town that referees come from.” Other songs by the band include *The Trumpton Riots* and *All I Want For Christmas Is A Dukla Prague Away Kit*, which indicate how seriously they took themselves.
8. Brimsham Park, Yate’s largest housing estate built to the north of the town in the early 1990s, is actually spelt incorrectly. The site was always known as *Brinsham* and a large fishing lake in the area is still referred to by its original spelling. The “n” was accidentally changed to an “m” by developers, but has stuck. Brimsham Green School has followed suit by adopting the “wrong” spelling.
9. Yate was nearly never built as post-war planners for Gloucestershire advised against developing the town. They felt the high water table made the area unsuitable for house building and preferred Sodbury Common as a site for the new town. However, opposition in Chipping Sodbury caused Yate to become the favoured site. For years, local people claimed that Chipping Sodbury was where the Yate councillors lived!
10. Ridgewood Community Centre on Station Road was built for the princely sum of £2090 as the Chipping Sodbury Union Workhouse in 1839. It opened in May 1840 and housed 160 “inmates”. Children were housed elsewhere in 1914 and the workhouse was taken over by the local authority in 1930 when it became a county infirmary.

# WESTONBIRT

*On a recent visit to the Hare & Hounds Hotel in Westonbirt, I picked up a leaflet on the history of the hotel and village. The hotel management have allowed me to use their notes.*



Westonbirt Arboretum is world famous for the wonderful collection of trees that give a changing picture through each of the seasons of the year. The Autumn colours are probably the most spectacular and the most memorable.

The first trees had been planted in 1829. The Arboretum was then continuously developed by its owners, the Holford family until 1956 when it was acquired by the Forestry Commission and is open to the public every day of the year.



It was nearly 300 years ago that the whole of Westonbirt Estate was owned by the Holford family. In 1665 Sir Richard Holford had married Sarah Crew, the owner of the Elizabethan Manor House in the village.

When Richard's grandson inherited the house, he also had shares in a water company selling water to London, making him very wealthy. When his son George Peter Holford inherited the fortune, it allowed him to demolish the Elizabethan house to build a Georgian manor.

The next generation, Robert Stayner Holford took down the Georgian house to build a grand Italian Renaissance style mansion, the third manor on the same site, and the one that still stands today. Robert also moved the village to its current site to improve his view and re-routed public roads. Robert was an ardent horticulturist, collecting rare plants and shrubs from all over the World.



Robert Stayner Halford founded what is today the world famous Westonbirt Arboretum. When he died in 1892, his son Sir George Holford, also a keen horticulturist, continued his father's work on the house and grounds. When he died in 1926 with no issue, the property was left to a nephew, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Morley. The Earl had property in Devon so decided to sell Westonbirt House and 210 acres of parkland which was then acquired by the 'Martyrs Memorial and Church of England Trust' to be transformed into a boarding school for girls. It is still a school today.



The original Hare and Hounds Hotel dates from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, having previously been a farmhouse. In 1928 the main hotel building was added maintaining the style of the former inn.

At this time the game of polo was much played at Westonbirt and a suite of rooms (since converted) was built to accommodate an Indian Maharajah when he played here.

In 2008 the hotel was purchased by Cotswold Inns and Hotels Ltd. It is set in acres of well-tended gardens and woodland next to the Arboretum.

The lovely outdoor space is ideal for special wedding photos and the hotel is very dog friendly.

The three main properties of the Holford family estate – the Arboretum, the Hare and Hounds and the Italian style Manor House – now belong to three different companies.

Yvonne Nettles



## Acton Turville Village Party 2024



*Acton Turville Social's second Summer Party was a great success!*

The weather was kind and the village came together. Old and new friends gathered with lots of laughter as can be seen in the photos.

Such events can't happen without the support of the village and we thank everyone who helped set up beforehand and clean up afterwards.

Thanks too to those who donated raffle prizes including Route One, Homefire, and The Fox and Hounds.

Special thanks however go to Alex Bethune (Marquees), Martin Seymour-Williams (BLW Construction) and Helen Stacey.

Lastly our thanks as ever to Badminton Estate and Ian Windell for the use of Lower Orchard.



Mel. Karen and Caroline ATS  
[actonturvillesocial@gmail.com](mailto:actonturvillesocial@gmail.com)





# Church Matters

## August 2024 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

I was interested to read that there is a Chaplaincy at Glastonbury festival. It got me thinking about our Badminton Horse Trials chapel. Michael Eavis the founder of the festival, is a practising Methodist and has always given a large marquee for the local churches to operate in. Just as the Horse Trials Office is run mainly by practising Christians and they kindly allow us a marquee here at our big event, to use as a chapel.

At Glastonbury, the Bishop of Bath and Wells is given a five minute slot to speak on the main stage, the chapel has a prayer tree with prayers written on strips of fabric, and they offer an oasis of peace amidst the madness of the festival. I think we could copy the prayer tree idea next year, but we already have big names preaching most years, the Dean of Gloucester this year and the Bishop of Gloucester next. And our chapel is a place of rest and peace, amidst the interest in the event itself and the ancillary stands packed with all kinds of merchandise.

At Glastonbury, the chaplains perform blessings of relationships, renewal of wedding vows as well as baptisms. We also have had a Baptism at Badminton, but could offer blessings of relationships, if requested.

It strikes me as important that the church is present at such events, offering a quiet place and sharing the peace and love that God gives us.

With my best wishes

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

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

Home:01454 606854/ Mob:07717791858

### Church Services for August 2024

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 10	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
11 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 11	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer Book	P Cheeseman
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
18 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 12	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
25 <sup>th</sup> August St Bartholomew	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir I Macfadyan

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

### Dates for the diary

Badminton PCC Meeting 15th August 6pm at the Memorial Hall, Badminton

Badminton Tea Party Sunday 1st September at 4pm (see What's On page for details)

Festival of St. Michael and All Angels September 29th at Great Badminton Church at 11:15am

## J J'S GARDENING BLOG



If you have annuals that are going over, and even worth doing with short perennials, cut them down and give them a liquid feed. Some will flower again and everything will be tidy. If pots need rejuvenating go to your local nursery and get something new. It's not too late, perhaps choose something different, a variegated plant, an evergreen. Even something which will be too big for the present container, but which can be planted into the garden next season or later. Snap dragons, nemesia and sweet Williams will often flower for two seasons if you try 'cut and feed'.

### **Some Plant Suggestions**

If you are looking for a tall herbaceous plant, *Thalictrum Elin* has nice foliage with white or mauve fluffy flowers and grows to about five foot high.

There are lots of sunflowers, cream, bronze, yellow, some tall some smaller. Save some seed for next season, named and dated in envelopes and stored in a tin or plastic box.

Enjoy hydrangeas, newly planted ones may take two years to developed into the plant of your dreams. Water, their name gives you a reminder.

### **Jobs for This Month**

Keep deadheading, cosmos, roses etc, even plants with strap-like leaves such as *sisyrinchium* are attractive and give a different profile after flowering.

Prune back any long whippy growth on wisteria. Cut yew.

### **Get Out and About**

It's time to carry on garden visiting. You will get ideas and the opportunity to talk to the owners, about what works for them.

### **And Finally**

Get someone agile to go up the ladder.



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## A Helping Hand for Ukraine

Once again the sun shone as we joined with 'Winterbourne Wind Band' to raise money to help the people still in Ukraine. It was lovely to see so many happy people in our garden enjoying the music. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who was able to join us and to those people who weren't, but still made a donation. I am really pleased to be able to tell you that we were again able to send £1,000 to 'The Helping Hand for Ukraine', a division of The Chernobyl Children's Life Line formed to help children and their families however they are affected by war.

Lana would also like me to thank you for buying crafts from her. They are made by her sister, who is still living in Ukraine, and the £220 she made has been sent back to her. She spends her evening making beautiful things to try and take her mind off the awful things happening around her. She is really touched that people living so far away, who don't know her, are willing to help.

Thank you again for your support. It is very much appreciated.



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