

Local Talk Back

AUGUST 2026

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

ISSUE 573



RHS BADMINTON 2026. WORTH THE WAIT? OH YES!
PICTURE BY CLAIRE BROOMSGROVE, ACTON TURVILLE



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

EDITORIAL AUGUST 2026

It's been a busy few weeks just lately and the Local Talk Back team have been out and about visiting a range of events. Some have delighted us, some have left us feeling a bit non-plussed, some of them have probably run their course, but all of them have represented a huge effort on behalf of the organisers for which we should be very grateful.

It's always interesting to compare and contrast different events. This year, two things have jumped out at us: the cost of entry and the way in which the shows develop over the years. Of the shows we visited, the cheapest was £5 and the most expensive was getting on for £40. Not surprisingly, the expensive one was RHS Badminton. Can you really justify such a price? These days, the PR machine springs into action as soon as the show is announced, with social media feeds promising the earth in order to convince you to purchase those tickets nice and early. That, of course, helps set expectations, and failure to deliver on any aspect can easily result in unhappy punters who will be only too willing to use those same social media feeds to vent their spleens. Long story short – RHS Badminton was incredible. The park made for the perfect setting, and the view from the Julia Rausing garden, looking down across the lake to the house, was just glorious. There was so much to see, so much variety, and everything was of the highest standard, just like the pre-show PR promised! It's difficult to comprehend how much effort goes into organising such a huge show and, whilst there were some teething troubles, it would be such a shame if the show didn't return some time in the future. Was the cost of entry justified? Completely.

Another event that was a bit of an unknown quantity was the Cotswold Airport Family Day. Back in the day when it was called Kemble, the airport used to host regular airshows which were very highly regarded and drew huge crowds of aviation enthusiasts. The pre-event blurb made it clear this wasn't a return to those days, but there looked to be enough going on to justify the £20 ticket price, so money changed hands and I was on my way. What the organisers delivered was something quite unexpected. The only word I can think of that sums it up is "friendly". The team on the gate seemed genuinely pleased to welcome visitors to the show, and everywhere you went there were people who were only too happy to chat. There were no extra charges for going on-board the various planes on display, and the list of things to see and do far exceeded expectations. To top it all off, despite the event being a sell-out, numbers were kept to a reasonable level so there were no crowds and no queues. It was a real feel-good day out.

That might be a good time to consider the other aspect I mentioned earlier – how events develop. Both the Badminton and Kemble shows were new to us. We didn't really know what to expect but in their different ways they both delivered very special days out. So, if you were running them, what would you do next time? That question was prompted by some other shows we'd been to this year, all shows that we'd attended numerous times in the past, all shows that we'd always enjoyed, and all shows that were very popular. One show was the £5 offering, held on a rugby pitch near Keynsham that has firmly stuck to its roots since it started 20-odd years ago. Every year there's lots to see, but what you see is what you get. In addition to the various displays there's an ice cream van, a barbeque, a local band to add a bit of background music, and a few people selling bits and pieces. It's....honest. The next event in this category started out much like that but saw an opportunity to expand. It advertised heavily, it spent money on special guest and special attractions, and it employed a top team to manage the food and merchandising outlets. In doing so, it began to attract huge numbers of visitors, all trying to squeeze into a tiny venue accessed via a narrow country lane. It also moved away from its roots, and when the price of admission started to go up, the core customers deserted it. It became an event with no real identity. The final event is much bigger than the others and is held on a major showground. First time we went it was amazing, but gradually it dawned on us that the content never varied. Every year in the show ring it was the same performers delivering the same displays, and elsewhere we found ourselves looking at the same animals, crafts and hobbies that we'd see so many times before. It was stale.

Like so many things in life, there is no simple answer, but as the price of admittance goes up, so do expectations. Expectations for the RHS show were justifiably high, and the show definitely delivered, but does that just raise the bar for next time? Similarly, the Cotswold Airport have hit on a format for a friendly, laid-back and relaxing event, but would they lose their key attribute if they went for something bigger and better in 2027?

It's definitely a conundrum for organising committees everywhere, although I expect the organisers of the show at Keynsham will once again be sticking to their tried and tested formula next year. Let's hope so.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH AUGUST 2026.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August 2026

- Sun 2nd Shabby Sheep Pop-Up Bookshop, Sherston Village Hall, 10am – 4pm
 Fri 7th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
 Wed 12th Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
 Fri 14th Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
 Sat 15th – Sun 16th Tough Mudder event, Badminton Estate
 Sun 23rd Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm

September 2026

- Fri 4th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
 Sun 6th Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
 Wed 9th Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
 Fri 11th Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
 Mon 14th Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
 Fri 18th – Sun 20th Heritage Open Days, Badminton House
 Sun 20th Relish Running: Badminton Marathon, Half, 10k, 5k & Fun Run, Worcester Lodge, 10am – 5pm
 Sun 20th Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, Acton Turville, from 3pm

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.

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received two anonymous donations this month, for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £91.98 was very 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 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**

Thank you!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR JULY 2026

Diana Cummins

Barney Hope

Lisa Rice

Congratulations!



Coffee Morning

**Fox and Hounds, Acton Turville
10 – 12 First Friday
of Every Month**

Next coffee morning – Friday 7th August

Local Talk Back is printed by

SPRINT PRINT, 22 STATION ROAD, YATE, BS37 4PS

Tel: 01454 852255 or email: info@sprint-print.co.uk

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 14th August 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 2nd 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

FOX
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 12th August

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

*The Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch
is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.*



THE **SHABBY SHEEP BOOKSHOP** **FREE ENTRY**

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BADMINTON ESTATE

BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 10.00AM – 4.00PM

The final Open Gardens event at Badminton House takes place on Sunday 6th September. Enjoy the colours of the season as you wander through beautifully cultivated gardens filled with a wide range of vibrant late summer blooms.

BADMINTON HOUSE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

FRIDAY 18TH TO SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Enjoy a guided tour through some of the house's most impressive rooms and collections, including the North Hall, Oak Room, Hallway, Large Dining Room, Billiard Room, East Room, Ballroom, and the Servants Quarters.

Throughout the tour, guests will be guided through the history of Badminton House, with stories and insights to Badmintons rich heritage.

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

St Mary's Church, Acton Turville



It may be difficult to imagine during this hot weather a time when you are so cold that you can't feel your nose or toes as Winne the Pooh so famously sang. But winter is coming and hopefully will continue to arrive every year.

Acton Turville PCC have been looking at how to solve the heating problem in the church. As you can read below, the great news is that work is starting on getting rid of the very old boiler and header tank and instead moving to a cheaper more reliable electric solution, ensuring that, in future, it will be a much simpler task to control the heating for a service or function at the church. This, along with 3-phase electricity direct to the Church, means that we can now look at how we use the church and if there are ways of increasing its use by the community.



In order to pay for this, we have now been awarded three grants, including one from the charity Historic Churches of Gloucestershire. There is still a gap in funding that needs to be filled so if you or your company knows of any further grants that could be accessed then please let us know. The first service to be held once the work has been completed will be the annual Harvest Festival on Sunday the 20th September. There will also be a café open to all at 3pm - a great chance to chat to neighbours and eat homemade cake. This will be followed by a short informal family service at 4pm and a chance to sing "We plough the fields and scatter" and the Harvest Samba, a beloved song from the school harvest assembly.

Hopefully the heating won't be required but it will be good to know that we can heat the church if we need to. Even more exciting is the thought that at this year's carol service you will be able to feel your nose and toes - tiddlypom.

More information on the heating update.

Many villagers will be aware that, as part of the Church of England's drive to become "Net-Zero", the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has been working towards replacing the current, ancient, oil-fired central heating system used in the church to an Under-pew Electrical Heating System similar to the type being installed in many other churches. Having secured a grant from the Gloucester Diocese which covers the difference between replacing the oil boiler and the cost of the electrical system, we are now at the point where work can commence.

The work will be in two parts, beginning with the installation of the hardware in the church itself. The Electrical Contractor will be commencing this work in the church on Tuesday 11th August. In order to keep everyone safe and prevent any accidents, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE THE CHURCH TO ALL BUT THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE DURATION OF THE WORKS WHICH WILL TAKE UP TO TWO WEEKS.

We therefore ask everyone to avoid going into the church building for their own safety and that of the Contractors during this time. It has been planned so that there will be minimal disturbance to normal Services. THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST WILL TAKE PLACE AS USUAL.

The church grounds will also remain open for visitors.

The second part of the work involves changing from a "Single-Phase" electrical supply to a "Three-Phase" supply, and this will be carried out by National Grid. They will be working from approximately 2nd to 9th September, but will be in the field to the north of the church and then replacing the aerial cable which links to the North-East corner of the church.

It is anticipated that all the works will be complete by 9th September.

As part of the replacement, the existing boiler, oil tank and ancillary equipment will also be removed and recycled, ensuring there will be no chance of contamination in the future.

The PCC would like to thank everyone in anticipation of their co-operation during this work.

WELCOME TO *BADMINTONWOOD*

By Simon Long, Acton Turville

Chapter One: The Hollywood Invasion

Dear Friends, sorry I missed you last month.

I would like to propose an addition to our vocabulary. Nothing dodgy, I promise. To be clear, nobody has asked for this. In fact, nobody, as far as I can establish, has ever wanted it. But, in case you hadn't noticed, our local stately home has become something of a mecca for the film business, hosting, among others, Anthony Hopkins, the undead, and the United States Pacific Fleet. So, from this month, entirely on my own authority and with no mandate of any kind, I shall be calling the place ***Badmintonwood***. You're welcome. Please feel free never to use it!

In case you think I've lost my marbles, here's my reasoning. Badminton House, seat of the 11th Duke of Beaufort, legendary home to spectacular events, grand occasions and many a homeward-bound late-night wobble, has lately served as the Duke of Hastings' London residence in *Bridgerton*. The grand old house has also played host to Queen Charlotte's entire universe in the spin-off series. By way of sharp contrast, meanwhile, it was transformed into the ancestral pile of a decidedly less agreeable family in Netflix's blockbuster, *The Gentlemen*. Fields of wheat swapped, on screen at least, for a far more noxious and considerably more lucrative crop. Other celluloid guests have included *The Remains of the Day*, *28 Days Later* and *Pearl Harbour*.

More recently, Helena Bonham Carter has been drifting through the conservatory among Badminton's Millfield Gem pelargoniums, solving a murder for Agatha Christie's *Seven Dials*. Badminton House has also hosted a second costume drama, *The Other Bennet Sister*, embracing the ballroom, the dining room, the staircase and the North Hall for its interiors, and the East Front Gardens for anybody required to walk briskly across a lawn in a bonnet. This is the same glorious stage set for the thrice-yearly Open Gardens Days which so many of us look forward to and relish.

Rather embarrassingly, I did briefly manage to convince myself that the Bonkbuster, *Rivals*, was also filmed in the illustrious environs of *Badmintonwood*. Possibly because I fancied myself for the role of Rupert Campbell-Black. Dream on. In fact, the producers chose Chavenage House as The Priory, home of the O'Hara family. Meanwhile, Tetbury miraculously morphed into the fictional town of Cotchester, with local shop fronts and street signs temporarily given the 1980s Hot Fuzz look.

My favourite detail of the whole business comes from Iggy Ellis, location manager on *The Gentlemen*, who told *Radio Times* that Badminton felt like a real home rather than a National Trust property. Walking sticks by the door. Spent shotgun cartridges where they had recently been fired. Cracks and tired bits, as you get in every family home. What the film people wanted, it turns out, was somewhere a character could sit down without an alarm going off.

Chapter Two: Village Reactions

(in which the village declines, almost insultingly, to be impressed)

You always know filming has begun before anybody official tells you, because a sign reading NO FILMING BEYOND THIS POINT appears on the gatepost, directly beneath a hand-painted BEWARE OF THE BULL that has been there since roughly 1987. Nobody has ever established which sign takes precedence, and I like to think that one day the bull will simply test the theory.

There is, in any case, nobody obvious to ask. Everyone has a theory and the WhatsApp groups go off like a firework. Somebody's cousin's friend has seen a Very Big Name in The Rattlebone Inn at Sherston. A *Winnebago* has gone past with, it is widely believed, George Clooney, inside. Rumour has it in the Fox & Hounds that it's going to be taken over for the forthcoming Christmas edition of *Call the Midwife*. You heard it here first.

There is always one small child at the school gates who is entirely certain of the facts. This year it was a boy in Year 4, who announced that he had seen "the main one off the crime one" loitering by the portable toilets, and pointed at a man in a gilet. "That's Dave," said a passing runner, not unkindly. "He does the catering van." The boy considered this. "He could still be famous," he said, with the air of someone unwilling to let go of a good story for the sake of a fact. Dave has, if the story can be trusted, been regarded ever since with a blend of terror and reverence by every parent obliged to collect a child at the same time as him.

Cont'd over

WELCOME TO *BADMINTONWOOD* (cont'd)

The village, meanwhile, carries on precisely as before. Stand in Acton Turville Stores at the right moment and you may be three feet from somebody working on a production watched by tens of millions worldwide. All the while, the entire conversation will still be about whether Tim's got any of the good bread left. Ask Tim what he makes of it all and he'll tell you, without looking up, that a decent loaf does more for this village than any film crew ever has.

There is something quietly magnificent and unflappable about how little any of this fazes us. Hence why the good folk of this parish make such excellent hosts. Nobody is thrown off their stride by passers-by in period garb, gangland villains with double-barrelled shotguns, or pallid men tending a cannabis factory. It's all in an average day's work round here.

Let's face it, anyone can build a stately home. Showing total indifference to Netflix, however, is a much rarer skill, and one this community has in spades. Literally. You see, none of us in *Badmintonwood* is under any illusion that we're the stars of the show. We know our place. We are the scene setters. Historical buildings and farmland, several centuries in the making. Lanes and woodland bursting with hedgerows and animal life. You don't have to remember your lines if you're a field mouse.

So, there you have it. *Badmintonwood*. By Christmas, I fully expect to be the only person in the Fox still saying it out loud. But why not try it once, at least? "Welcome to *Badmintonwood*, studio to the stars, and quintessential Cotswold community". The cameras come here for the scenery, the history, the unparalleled vibe. We live here for the delicious bread and butter of rural life and timeless friendship. That's a wrap!

One last thing, and I mean it. Some of you were here in the early nineties when Anthony Hopkins came and can remember what these lanes looked like with a film unit parked down them. Others were born long after and think a Winnebago on the verge is perfectly normal. If you have a photograph, a memory or a story from any of it, send it in. I would far rather print yours than mine.

Simon Long, Acton Turville, July 2026



The Talk Back team will rise to Simon's challenge with these pictures taken by Yvonne Nettles. The year is 1986, and Drewett's Stores on Badminton High Street has a starring role in an episode of Miss Marple called Nemesis, starring Joan Hickson. As Miss Marple was set in the 1930s, the work needed to transform the stores was extensive both inside and out. Apparently it included painting shelves brown to look like wood and spending considerable time dressing the window and outdoor displays to appear period-perfect.

Does anyone else have any similar pictures and memories they'd be willing to share?





Local Talk Back

Your village magazine by villagers, for villagers

Cold Avocado Soup

Serves 2

This month's contribution has been donated by Amanda Wadey, of Acton Turville.

This month's recipe has more than a whiff of the '70s about it. One imagines that Abigail may have popped it on the menu at one of her soirées, followed, perhaps, by Chicken Veronique and rounded off with a slice of Black Forest Gateau... actually that all sounds rather delicious.

Cold soup is not everyone's cup of tea, as it were, but this is an absolute personal favourite and perfect for these hot, hot days.

Cool, silky
and quietly
retro.



Ingredients ♥

- 2 cups chicken (or vegetable) stock
- 1 large garlic clove, peeled
- 1 large avocado
- 1 cup soured cream
- 1 lemon – juice only
- ¼ teaspoon tabasco
- Dash salt
- Chopped chives



Method ♥

- ① Simmer stock and garlic clove for 5 minutes, then allow to cool.
- ② Put the stock and all remaining ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth.
- ③ Refrigerate until chilled.
- ④ Serve topped with a chopped chives.



Tips

- ♥ Use a ripe avocado!
- ♥ Keep it very cold.
- ♥ Blend until silky.



The Generational Kitchen is brought to you by Amanda Wadey. Maybe you have inherited your own recipes which always remind you of someone special? Why not share the recipes with us, and tell us the story behind them. We can't promise to publish every one we receive, but we'd love to hear from you. The address is localtalkback1975@gmail.com

SPAIN'S COSTA TROPICAL

By Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton



At the end of our holiday in Spain last year, we were looking for a place to stay for the last four days nearer to the airport. We travelled along the coast towards Malaga and needing a late lunch found ourselves at the beach area of Almuñecar. It all looked very nice so we decided to stay not knowing much about the area. It was a good choice, not too busy, plenty of restaurants and a long flat coastal path. And if energetic a walk up to a vibrant old town. This is Spain's COST TROPICAL on the Granada coast with its own subtropical micro

climate. This is the result of the direct contact of the land with the Mediterranean Sea and the fact that it is protected by the mountains of Sierra Nevada and Lujar from the north winds. It has more than 300 days of sunshine a year and an average yearly temperature of 20°C. (Motril just along the coast has one of the warmest winters in Europe).

The mountains are part of the Sierra Nevada which allows Granada to have a ski resort. They say that you can be on the ski slopes in the morning and down on the beach sunbathing in the afternoon, such is the tropical climate. We had left Almeria in temperatures around 37°C and in Almuñecar we had a pleasant 28°C. The average nighttime summer lows 21°C and in winter 16°C. Although we were in bright sunshine for four days those mountains always had dark clouds over them, all part of the tropical climate.



In the town they were advertising tours by Tuk Tuk to take tourists around the town so we booked one. Four of us were picked up at our hotel by Tuk Tuk and would be learning about the history, culture and landscape, as well as agriculture and gastronomy. We set off in the traffic of the modern town but soon were up in the old town learning the history of San Miguel castle. The streets were really narrow so we were 'nipping' along and turning tight corners very close to the walls of the houses which almost all had flowers and decorated pottery pieces hanging on them and trying

to forget that these vehicles had no sides to protect us. We went off on smaller tracks and roads completely surrounded by trees and shrubs and came to a stop next to the very big arches of a Roman Aqueduct.



Cont'd over

SPAIN'S COSTA TROPICAL (cont'd)

Then we were leaving the town and following a river towards a valley into an area of small roads surrounded by trees. The tuk tuk turned into an area of individual farms (Agrofincas) which offered these guided tours.



The Chirimoya or Custard Apple

These fruit trees were all tropical and subtropical which can only grow in this tropical climate. There were Papayas, Bananas, Aubergines, Avocado, Mangoes, Loquats, sugar beet, Lychees and many more but the most prized ones were the CHIRIMOYA (Cherymoya) or sometimes known as Custard Apples. The region's climate is one of a kind in Europe, and Spain is Europe's only major subtropical fruit producer. The area also has the World's most northerly coffee plantation which you can visit.

Our guide stopped the tuk tuk at various places so that we could see the different fruits. He also picked chirimoyas and cut slices off for us to taste. The flesh was very soft and creamy very like bananas or custard with large black pips which looked so unappetising we took them out. What luck as I read later the pips

and skins are toxic. Chirimoyas are harvested by hand from the tree and can also be hand pollinated. There is a different spelling of this fruit in Britain and Europe.

The reason so many trees can be grown is not only down to the climate but to the access to water. Our guide said that back in the mountains one area or another has rain, producing the amount of water for the fruit trees and that gets transferred to where it's needed because of the Romans. Now they are still using 2,000 year old Roman aqueducts which were adapted by the Moors over the centuries to serve the needs of crop irrigation and then back in the 1800's the aqueducts water was used for making bricks for the houses. Five aqueducts have been found going into the town, four of them are still working. This is why the many thousands of acres of fruit trees can be flooded as necessary. Many of these fruits will end up in our shops and supermarkets.



These pictures show banana trees, Papayas and Persimmons and a Chirimoya tree. Chirimoya is native to the Andes mountains and high altitude valleys of Peru and Equador so the fruits from Spain leave a much-reduced footprint. It was a very interesting tour around the various orchards and quite an 'exciting' tuk tuk ride especially around the narrow town streets.

Cont'd over

SPAIN'S COSTA TROPICAL (cont'd)

In Almuñecar there is a Botanical Garden with its own special micro-climate that is ideal for the 200 subtropical botanical species from all parts of the World that grow there. As well as 34 different types of trees, there are sculptures, an entertainment stage and a restaurant. The park is open all year with entertainment in spring, summer and autumn. Crafts and art are sold in little houses in the park.



Also next to the garden are ruins of a fish salting factory which was expanded by the Romans. Large quantities of fish and seasalt was needed as well as a constant supply of water. The factory supplied Greece and Rome with a prized fish paste called 'Garum'. Part of the remains of the fish salting factory were excavated in the 1970's and 80's.



The excavated fish salting factory

There is a lot more to see in this town such as a tropical bird park, an aquarium and a Bonsai garden but four days were not long enough.



What is Garum?

Garum is a fermented fish sauce that was used as a condiment in the cuisines of ancient Greece and Rome. The taste of Garum is comparable to that of today's Asian fish sauces, although many will argue that it has a taste all of its own.

Garum is made by packing fish - whole small fish like mackerel or sardines, or fish offal - in salt, usually in a ratio of roughly 3 parts fish to 1 part salt, and leaving the mixture to ferment at warm temperatures for weeks to months. The salt draws out moisture, and the liquid that results is strained off and bottled. The result is garum: dark amber, intensely savoury, and about as umami-dense as any liquid food gets.

Apparently it is undergoing something of a revival with those chefs who appreciate its intense flavour which they claim cannot be replicated in other fish sauces.

Post Script: It wasn't until we returned home from Spain that I discovered that the author Laurie Lee was rescued by the Royal Navy from Almuñecar at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War in the summer of 1936. He is best known for his autobiographical trilogy 'As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning', 'Cider with Rosie' and 'A Moment of War'. He had grown up at Slad, near Stroud, and bought a cottage there in the 1930s with the money he made from Cider with Rosie. It's a small world!

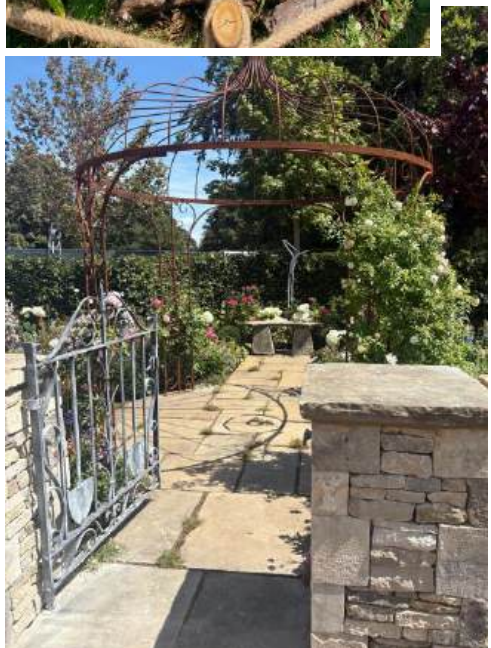
Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton

RHS Badminton 2026



Can anyone remember an event in these parts more keenly anticipated than the RHS Badminton Flower Show? It was back in April 2024 that the RHS announced plans to move some of their well-established shows to different parts of the UK, taking them on tour to regions not traditionally served by such events. The great news for us was discovering that the Badminton estate featured in their plans, meaning we'd have a major horticultural extravaganza on our doorsteps. It wasn't long before details started to emerge of the special features that visitors could expect to see, with highlights including a garden designed to celebrate 75 years of the Archers, and what was claimed to be the largest ever show garden at an RHS event. The scale of the event also became evident as a small town of prefabricated structures began to spread across the park, which only added to the anticipation. All we needed now was some nice weather.

We didn't have to worry on that front, did we? From Day 1, the event was blessed with wall-to-wall sunshine, making it feel more like the Mediterranean than Badminton. Temperatures in the mid-thirties only reinforced the illusion. Our plan was to have a quick wander round the site to get our bearings, then spend more time looking at the show gardens and the floral marquees before seeing what we could find to tempt us amongst the many stands and retail outlets. At least, that was the plan.



RHS Badminton 2026



I don't think we ever comprehended the scale of the show, and just how much there was to see. For a start, there were the four main show gardens, one of which featured a cricket pavilion and planting based on a real cricket ground in East Sussex. Then there were three more gardens created by young designers, plus four gardens in the Artisan category (designed to celebrate the country garden), and a dozen mini pocket gardens, which, despite the diminutive size, were bursting with brilliant and imaginative features. To top it all off, there was the Archer's garden that was full of clever references to the ever-popular radio drama, and of course the centrepiece of the show, the Julia Rausing garden. Situated at the head of the lake with Badminton House as its backdrop, this garden really was quite breathtaking, and to all intents and purposes it looked like it had been part of the landscape forever.

Then there was the floral marquee, the food village, the various stages where you could enjoy hearing words of wisdom from your favourite gardening celebs, and more shopping opportunities than you could ever imagine. We could fill a whole issue of Talk Back with our review of RHS Badminton, but frankly we wouldn't know where to stop. The show was incredible, wonderful, amazing and truly inspirational, and despite the sweltering weather, the displays were stunning. We take our hats off to everyone involved. It's got to return, hasn't it?

Photos courtesy of Claire Broomsgrove and the Talk Back team



Here to Help!

By Claire Broomsgrove, Acton Turville



When it was announced that Badminton was hosting a RHS flower show my first reaction was how do I get involved?

Via the website I applied to be a volunteer at the beginning of this year and I was shortlisted for a garden feature role and invited to an online interview in March.

Not having had an interview for a number of years I hoped my love of gardening, local knowledge and previous experience of volunteering at horse trials would help me through the process.

A nervous wait followed until the middle of March when I heard I had been successful, how exciting!

Lots of valuable information followed helping volunteers old and new become familiar with their roles and what was expected. We then had to pick our choices of gardens, being a passionate Archers fan it was an easy choice for me and luckily I got my choice, Jo Thompsons 75th anniversary garden celebrating Bridge Farm.

One of the most special perks was to be invited to the last build day on the Tuesday of the show to be briefed on our gardens and have access to the site to familiarise ourselves. We donned Hi Viz and sturdy boots and had a wonderful day.



My role was to welcome visitors onto the garden and help with any questions they might have.

I set off for my first shift on Friday having helped with Badminton Estate tours earlier in the week.

We were very well looked after with a volunteer tent which was a base for us to use, very handy to store all those plant purchases!

Seeing the visitors faces as they saw Bridge farm for the first time, lots of Archers fans and others just enjoying the beautiful garden.

Hopefully this will be the first of many more volunteering opportunities for the RHS what's next....Chelsea?

Over 80 volunteers were involved in 5 different roles throughout the week. Perhaps this might inspire you to volunteer or grow your love of gardening by joining the RHS.



Cotswold Airport Family Day 2026



As the spiritual home of the RAF's Red Arrows display team, it's perhaps not surprising that the airport at Kemble, just north of Tetbury, has hosted many memorable airshows over the years. At one stage, they were holding three a year, but times move on and no airshows have been held at Kemble since 2011. In more recent times, the venue, now branded the Cotswold Airport, has undergone something of a rejuvenation, and the current management team certainly seem determined to make the most of the facility.

At the start of July, the public had the chance to have a peek behind the scenes at the Cotswold Airport Family Day. With perfect weather there was so much to see, from the ex-British Airways jumbo jet named Negus to a WW2 Mustang that some lucky members of the public got to fly in. You could even see how the other half live with a tour of a luxury private jet (below). For sale at just £1.25M, it looked something of a bargain, although flying costs of £15,000 an hour probably put off most potential buyers. As well as planes, there were large displays of classic cars and military vehicles, with Tony Wade from the local Royal British Legion Branch being kept busy demonstrating his comprehensive collection of historic weaponry (top left).

It was a fascinating day out in a beautiful, relaxing setting, and definitely one to look out for next year. Will the airshow ever return? We live in hope.



Picture Gallery



Antiphony – A Call and Response

Between the 18th and 24th July, St Mary's church at Hawkesbury was the venue for a fascinating exhibition of original art. Entitled Antiphony – A Call and Response, the exhibition was a collaboration between Hawkesbury's own artist and sculptor Philip Ringland, multidisciplinary artist and aromatherapist Lindsay Woodman, and installation artist and sculptor Sally Jones. Inspired by the historic church itself, the exhibition saw works displayed throughout the building, including the atmospheric Priest's Room, which was accessed via a series of stone spiral stairs.

The choice of St Mary's as the venue was perfect. While the natural light which flooded through the plain glass windows brought so many of the exhibits to life, the projected images which formed part of Lindsay Woodman's installations found natural homes in the darker corners of the vestry.

The event was part of a wider initiative to encourage more people to visit our country churches and appreciate them in a whole new way. It definitely did that.

Chicks Away!

Apparently it's been a good year for our native bird species, which would explain why I've been filling up the feeders in our garden on such a regular basis. We've got Natalie Evans from Acton Turville to thank for these great pictures of the barn swallow chicks that have made a home in her yard. Natalie reports that the chicks all successfully flew the nest and were soon putting their new found flying skills to the test (and no doubt heading straight for my feeders).



Church Matters

August 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Some of you will be going on holiday this month, while others may be planning one. Holidays are something we all look forward to, and they are about much more than simply taking time away from work.

The common theme of a holiday is being with others, especially those we love. Whether with family or friends, holidays give us the chance to share time together, rest, and enjoy each other's company. They remind us that we are more than workers or functionaries of worldly systems. It is interesting that the word 'holiday' comes from holy day, and 'Vacation' is from the Latin word 'vacare', meaning empty. (also as in vacant, and vacancy).

In past centuries in England, holidays were limited to holy days such as Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and the other great Christian festivals. Just as with Sundays, religion featured highly. A holy day was a day when people could rest and not have to work, because it was set aside to celebrate a feast of the Church.

Churches would be open, with services held in honour of the festival, and attending church was all part of the celebration. If you lived in a village or town, the church was where you would meet your neighbours and people from every walk of life. The whole community gathered together. Singing and dancing, eating and drinking, and playing games were often part of the day's festivities.

Quite apart from their religious significance, holy days were occasions for communities to both come together in celebration, and to seek rest.

Although our holidays today are rather different, we still gather with family and friends. We still seek rest and time away from the demands of everyday life.

Holidays still offer opportunities for reflection. In the peace and beauty of nature, away from the hurly-burly of modern life, many people discover a renewed sense of perspective. It is often there that the One we call God can be found—or perhaps, more accurately, where He can find us, even if we are not consciously seeking Him.

So if you are taking a holiday this month, remember that it is a time-honoured tradition to enjoy both the company of others and the peace of God. It is in these moments that we can continue to grow as people, rather than simply becoming absorbed by the demands of everyday life.

With my best wishes for this month of August,

Rev Richard Thomson, vicar.

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236 / 07717791858

Church Services for August 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 nd August Trinity 9	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
Thurs 6 th August Transfiguration of the Lord	8.00am	Acton Turville	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
9 th August Trinity 10	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
Sat 15 th August Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00am	Lasborough	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
16 th August Trinity 11	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service + Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
23 rd August Trinity 12	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
Mon 24 th August St Bartholemew	No Service			
30 th August Trinity 13	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Hawkesbury Show Ground	Songs of Praise	Rev R Thomson

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 13th July 2026. Matters discussed at the meeting included:

Planning. Two new planning applications were submitted since the previous meeting.

- The Old Barn, The Street, Acton Turville. Reduce crown of one Whitebeam tree.
- Street Cottage, The Street, Acton Turville. Install a retractable electric awning to the rear elevation

The Parish Council raised no objections to either application.

RHS Flower Show Traffic Congestion. In response to complaints about the significant congestion caused by the recent RHS show at Badminton, the Parish Council agreed to raise their concerns with the estate and remind them of their obligations to ensure appropriate traffic management plans are in place for such events.

Railway Work. A number of issues were raised by parishioners concerning the conduct of workers undertaking work on the railway line, including individuals sleeping overnight in their car at the side of the road and others causing an obstruction on the carriageway. In both cases, the villager contacted the project manager who dealt with the matter very efficiently but acknowledged that the behaviour was unacceptable.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council would still be interested to hear from any parishioners who could help set up and run a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Acton Turville. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Horseboxes. Several residents have raised concerns about the horseboxes that have been parked on the Littleton Drew Road. The PC are trying to ascertain who owns the vehicles and suggest they are moved to a more suitable location.

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th September 2026 @ 7.00pm (there is no meeting in August)

Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Vice Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772,
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 Website: <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the July quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

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Thank You!

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the generous people who supported the Winterbourne Wind Band Concert, at Portcullis Lodge, on 27th June. Weren't we lucky with the weather? I am very pleased to be able to tell you that we collected £1,100 to help, mainly children, in Ukraine.



The Ukrainians who joined us have asked me to say how touched they are that we are still remembering and helping them.

I received the same message from the chairman of The Helping Hands for Ukraine charity. Dennis Vystavikin wrote : 'Your continued dedication and inspiration is needed and valued. For many of the children and their families, in Ukraine, the knowledge about such people as your supporters being there - even a couple of thousand miles away, is the power that helps them to keep their sanity and hope for a better future.'

If you were able to join us I'm sure you will remember Vira Staddon telling us what life is like for people in Ukraine now. She has been living in the Bristol area since 1997. You might remember seeing her on the local TV programmes when the war started. She was asking for donations to deliver to Ukraine. Sadly, she still is. If you would like to help or support her she would be very pleased to hear from you. Vira can be contacted via the Aid4Ukraine Facebook page. The help needed varies but often includes medication, mobility aids, batteries, warm socks and physical help packing and sorting.

Thank you so much, from us all, for your support once again.

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