

# Local Talk Back

DECEMBER 2022

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

ISSUE 533



Reindeers getting excited about Christmas in Acton Turville.

*Picture by Melanie Watson*



---

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

# EDITORIAL DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the Local Talk Back Christmas edition. Is it just me or has the build up to Christmas been slightly subdued this year? As I write this Christmas is less than a month away, but I've yet to see a single house festooned with Christmas lights, or spotted anyone wearing their festive Christmas jumper. Even the television schedules have yet to take on a Christmas flavour (the exception being the channel that bizarrely re-ran all of the Bake-Off Christmas specials over the first two weeks of November when the country was still basking in semi-tropical temperatures. I wonder if someone simply typed in the wrong month when they were setting their calendar for the year and nobody noticed?). One reason for the lack of festive television might be the World Cup, a tournament which traditionally takes place in the summer but which is being held in the Middle East this year - moving it to the winter should ensure the temperatures are more conducive to playing sport. Somehow it doesn't feel quite right when you switch on the TV expecting to see Wallis & Gromit or The Great Escape and instead find live football matches being played in glorious sunshine. It's not just the television that is bucking the winter trend though. I recently moved some pot plants to a nice sheltered corner of the garden to provide them with protection from the expected seasonal snow and ice and they have responded by producing buds and coming back into flower! I had to look twice but there they were, fresh blooms in November. Bizarre.

Maybe we should expect nothing less from the year that was 2022. It was the year when the country fully emerged from the restrictions imposed in response to Covid and began getting back to normal. Events that had been scrubbed from the calendar over the previous couple of years were back, and we had something else to look forward to – a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June. The events held locally provided a much-needed opportunity for everyone to meet up and socialise with their friends and neighbours, and will I'm sure be remembered for many years to come. Although the Jubilee weekend was not blessed with the best weather, that was soon to change as the country enjoyed wall-to-wall sunshine for what seemed like the whole summer. And most of the autumn come to think of it. Weather forecasters frequently used phrases such as "since records began" when they tried to describe the temperatures we were experiencing, and the complete absence of rain for months on end left the countryside looking parched. A trip down to Weymouth at the beginning of the heatwave found the beach packed with people making the most of the sunshine; the scene was almost Mediterranean. Little did anyone expect the sunshine to last so long. As usual there were transport delays as rails buckled and motorways melted, but for those who could stay home and enjoy the weather, it was bliss. Locally, it was a very busy year on the Badminton Estate which hosted a number of events, some new, others returning favourites. Of course the big news was the return of the horse trials after a two-year absence, with Laura Collett proving to be a very popular winner. In addition, the open gardens were a firm favourite of all here at Local Talk Back; we were amazed how well the displays at the main house and the walled garden had thrived despite the dry conditions. We were also very pleased to see the fireworks coming back to Badminton for a second year, providing some spectacular displays in a very relaxing setting.

The event that had the biggest impact, not just locally but nationally, was the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. After celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June, the nation came together to pay its respects at her funeral in September. It was a day of great solemnity that epitomised the British spirit. Talk Back is very much a team effort and I want to thank everyone who plays their part in producing, printing, supporting and delivering our newsletter. A special mention must go to all of our advertisers and those whose donations mean we can continue to produce Talk Back every month. That just leaves space to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Me, I'm just off to see how my winter blooms are doing. I hope this doesn't mean I'm going to be cutting the grass all through the winter...

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*



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

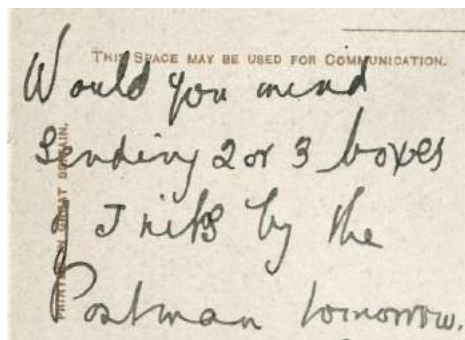
To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: [LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com](mailto:LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com)

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
(THERE IS NO LOCAL TALK BACK IN JANUARY)

THANK YOU.

### Postcard Update!

In last month's Local Talk Back we provided an update on the mysterious post card sent between the Post Offices in Acton Turville and Badminton where we were struggling to identify the items that were being requested. Carol Lord believed the Post Card was requesting "2 or 3 boxes of knives", but an alternative suggestion has come in from our good friend Stephen Gregson who thinks the items in



question might be 'J nibs'. Apparently, in the days before the arrival of the fountain pen and well before the invention of the ball point pen, people would write using a nib attached to a

simple wooden handle, dipping the nib into an inkwell as often as necessary. The nibs were of various shapes and sizes, one of the most common being the 'J' nib. They would have come in boxes of a dozen or a score, and would have been sold either by the box or singly at a Post Office. That sounds compelling to us, but then we said the same last month about the knives!

We were also puzzled why the Post Office would be using a Post Card to request these items. As Stephen points out, "you have to remember that in those days a postcard often reached its destination on the same day that it was posted because of multiple deliveries, compared to the week or so that today's postage may take! It was the email of its time!"

Good point. Thanks Stephen.

### DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

*We have received the following donation this month for which we are most grateful:*

*Mr & Mrs B Luter*

*In addition, £47 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.*

*Thank you!*

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

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

*To donate by cheque, please make payable to*

**LOCAL TALK BACK**

*and send to:*

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

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

#### **100 Club**

WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 2022

Alastair Gilbert  
Sarah Dunn  
Christine Griffin

WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Katie and Andrew Bruton  
Sybil Haddrell  
Tess Daly

***Congratulations!***

Local Talk Back is printed by

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

Tel: 01454 852255 or email: [info@sprint-print.co.uk](mailto:info@sprint-print.co.uk)



## Thank You

### GEOFF SHORTALL

We would both like to thank everyone for your kind words and cards on the passing of our dad, and for those who attended his funeral. It has meant a lot to us at this difficult time. Also, we would like to sincerely thank you all for your donations made to Cancer Research UK in memory of dad.

Carey & Kelly

### MIKE LUTER

Bron, Debbie, Kerry, Dean, Sherman and the wider family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and flowers following the sad and sudden loss of Mike Luter. He was a much-loved Husband, Dad, Grumpy and Great Grumpy, and will be sorely missed by all. Thank you also to all who attended the funeral, it was a great comfort to all the family to see so many there.



The Royal British Legion, Trinity School, the parish council and villagers held a service of Remembrance at St Mary's church, Acton Turville on Friday 11th November.

It was great to see such a good turnout at the service which was led by Mathew Butler. The children performed their roles perfectly and behaved impeccably throughout the service. Afterwards there was tea and cakes at the Fox & Hounds. Local coordinator Alastair Gilbert reported that the Badminton Branch made £7886.08 this year, their best year ever, and thanked the poppy sellers and all who supported them.

### The Official History of the Beaufort Hunt

Published 2022  
Forward by Harry, 12<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort.

*"a totally unique book"*



Order online from Amazon  
or the Beaufort Hunt Supporters Club

#### Charlie Llewellyn Palmer

Colgate Farm,  
Ham Road,  
Cheltenham  
GL54 4EZ  
07980 607 867

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM EVERYONE AT  
THE STORES  
ACTON TURVILLE  
(01454) 218264



*Padded Envelopes and  
Posting Boxes for  
Sending Gifts*

Selection of Ready-Made  
Hampers or Come In and Make  
Up A Hamper of your Choice

*Great Range of  
Christmas Goods, Wines  
and Spirits*

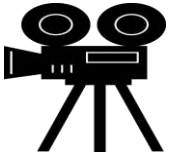
### Reminder of Last Posting Dates for Christmas Delivery

1<sup>st</sup> Class – 21<sup>st</sup> December

2<sup>nd</sup> Class – 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Open Boxing Day 8am – 12 noon**

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA DIDMARTON VILLAGE HALL

*December's Film is a special for the Children but everyone is welcome!*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

The 3D, CG-animated family comedy Arthur Christmas, an Aardman production for Sony Pictures Animation, reveals the incredible, never-before seen answer to every child's question: 'So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night?' The answer: Santa's exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole.

But at the heart of the film is a story with the ingredients of a Christmas classic - a family in a state of comic dysfunction and an unlikely hero, Arthur, with an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning.

**Doors open at 2.30pm film starts at 3.30pm**

**Free entry (donations possible)**

*Soft drinks, Tea, Coffee and Cakes and cash bar*

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL

(2022, Cert 15) - Drama.

Starring: Richard Harrington, Joshua McGuire, James Purefoy

Director: *Megan Leonard, Nick Moorcroft*

'Fisherman's Friends: One And All' charts the next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends amazing and uplifting true-story.

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

**Tickets £5, cash bar**

*Please let us know in advance if you intend attending either of these films so we can arrange tables and chairs*

[jennybody@btconnect.com](mailto:jennybody@btconnect.com)

### Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

*Entertainment from singer Richie C*

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Traditional Christmas Dinner and Dessert

Glass of Wine

Coffee to finish

**£19.00 per head**

**Everyone welcome!**



**The FOX  
& HOUNDS INN**

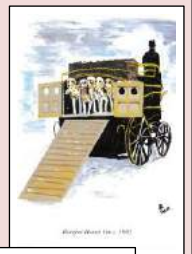
Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**

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

### Unique Acton Turville Christmas Cards

*The village as it used to be*



Printed from original paintings  
on quality card A6 size  
Packs of five £5.00 including envelopes.  
Available from Jenny Lomas 0774 871 6148

[Jennylomas04@gmail.com](mailto:Jennylomas04@gmail.com)

All profits shared between Parkinson's UK and  
Acton Turville Social.



## The Goulters of the Cotswolds

People who study gravestones often say how they provide them with a window on the past, offering clues to events which in some cases happened many hundreds of years ago. Delve deeper and it can be fascinating to find out more about the people whose names are engraved on the headstones and the lives they led. Back in the summer, Local Talk Back was contacted by Judith Bush and James Goulter (right) from Victoria in Australia whose investigations into James' family history had brought them all the way to St Mary's churchyard in Acton Turville to see the grave of his great, great grandparents. The grave they came to see was that of his namesake, James Goulter who died in 1857 and Mary Goulter née Comely. This is their story.



Acton Turville is approximately 10,500 miles from Yarragon in Victoria where James and I live, but standing next to the grave of great great grandfather, James Goulter, we both felt a real affinity to this little Cotswold village. As we looked around the churchyard of St Mary's, we imagined that day in 1857 when James was laid to rest, with friends and family paying their respects exactly as we were doing on that hot and sunny September day in 2022. But how had we arrived at this point?

Like many Australian families with roots in the UK, we had long been interested to learn more about the lives of our ancestors before their migration halfway across the planet. The task of researching the history of the Goulter family began in the days before the internet, when undertaking such research was a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating task. Despite the challenges, good progress was made, and in time a wealth of invaluable documentation and information was gathered. The emergence of internet-based sites such as Ancestry.com allowed this material to be verified as historic documents became available, but importantly it also provided access to new resources which helped fill in the gaps and reveal some new and unexpected aspects.

The picture that emerged was one of a family who could trace its roots back to the early Huguenots. A number of individuals could lay claim to being the founder of the Goulter family in Britain, but a likely candidate is a French Calvinist named Thomas Gaultier who came to the country in the mid-1500s. There is evidence of the family residing in London at this time, but by the early 1600s their connections

had extended to Chervild (known today as Charfield) in Gloucestershire, and Wotton-under-Edge, where they would stay for many generations.

The family's links with the area around Badminton and Acton Turville date back to the mid-1700s. In 1774, information provided by the Badminton Estate reveals that a John Goulter was working there as a groom, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1776 records show that he married Elizabeth Roach in the parish of Great Badminton. In their marriage banns, John is described as a yeoman farmer and a bachelor of 26 years, and Elizabeth as a 23 year old spinster. Shortly afterwards, John became butler to the Duke of Beaufort, living with Elizabeth in Vicarage House in

Badminton, although it is unclear whether this would have been the current house of that name or an earlier iteration closer to the main house. In 1789, John moved on from his position as butler to that of innkeeper with his purchase of The White Hart Inn in the centre of Chippenham (now the Iceland supermarket). At the time of his move to Chippenham, John and Elizabeth had four children – Mary, Elizabeth, John and

James, whose ages ranged from 2 to 13. As well as an Inn where, according to the Universal British Directory of 1791, "neat carriages, good horses and careful drivers are always at hand". The White Hart served as the Post Office for Chippenham. In those days, businesses such as inns would become an agent for the postal service, with the mail coaches doubling up as a means of transport between different towns and villages.

They stayed there until the turn of the century when the inn was sold for the sum of £300 and John took on the lease of the Beaufort Arms (now Bodkin House) in the hamlet of Petty France where they remained for twenty years.



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville, with James Goulter's grave in the foreground.  
Picture – Judith Bush

## *The Goulters of the Cotswolds (cont'd)*

At around the same time as he bought The White Hart, John had also taken over the remainder of a 99-year lease for a house, mill and farm at Burton/Littleton Drew. The property had previously been owned by Elizabeth's uncle, George Roach from Nettleton, who bequeathed it to her in his will. John still had to pay the not-insignificant cost of £400 for the lease to be transferred to his name, plus an annual fee of 22 shillings. The house and farm are still there and now go by the name of Goulter's Mill & Farm, although John and Elizabeth never resided there. It is not known whether other Goulters later had ownership.



*No trace of the original Goulter's Mill remains, the land now home to a stone-built barn and other farm buildings. Picture - Judith Bush*

They also leased yet another property called Rock House (later known as Manor House) located just across the road from the Beaufort Inn at Petty France. It was here that Elizabeth died in 1822, aged 72, and John stayed there until 1830 when he moved to Chipping Sodbury, possibly to stay with his daughter. He died there in December 1835 when he was 88 years old. They, and many other Goulters are buried at Hawkesbury.

It is James, the youngest of John and Elizabeth's four children, who is buried in St Mary's. Born in 1787, he was 24 when he married his first wife, 22-year-old Sarah Allen. A year after their marriage in 1811 James and Sarah were living at Limes Farm in Acton Turville, on the corner of Luckington Rd and The Street.

Between 1812 and 1821 James and Sarah had six children, but tragedy struck when, aged just 36, Sarah died, most likely in childbirth. Sarah's untimely death left James with six children to look after on his own, the youngest a new born infant and the eldest nine years old. How he managed with such a young family we shall never know. Matters were made even worse when his mother died just a year later, taking away what must have been invaluable support at such a crucial time. However, three years later, James married Mary Comely, this time in St James Parish, in Bristol. Why Bristol? That's something else we don't know. There were no family witnesses at the wedding, but it was common for farmers sons to marry farmers

daughters of a similar status, her parents being Aldom and Prudence Comely of Street Farm.

James was now 37 years old but Mary was just 21 - a sixteen-year age gap. Over the next 16 years, Mary was to have twelve children with James - she had a child every one to two years, including twins, up until 1843 when she was 40 years of age - meaning James fathered eighteen children in total.

The information contained in census returns provides a fascinating picture of the family's life. In 1841, at the time of the first English census, James was 54 years of age and Mary was only 36. Ezra was in Clevedon, Somerset but they still had six children at home: William 16, Eber 13, Theophilus 12, George 10, Mary 7 and Albert who was 1 (the twins Mary and Joseph, and Ann Matilda had died as infants, and Alfred and Edward were yet to be born). The census reveals they also had three female servants to help. By the 1851 census, there were five children at home ranging from Theophilus, now 21 and working on the farm, down to Edward at seven years. The number of servants had reduced to two.

James and Mary farmed substantial acreages in Acton Turville all of their lives. In 1812, the farm amounted to 287 acres, and the 1839 Tithe maps and records show that James was the largest landholder in the area. By 1851 the farm has increased to 296 acres, and James employed five men, two women and two boys who may well have lived in farm accommodation or buildings such as Limes Cottage.



*Looking across Park Field, Acton Turville, to Limes Farm. Picture - Ray Bird*

James died on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1857, aged 69. Mary was only 54 at the time of his death. Theophilus then took over the lease to Limes Farm and in the 1871 census the farm had grown to 350 acres. Research by local historian and photographer, Ray Bird, attributes this increase to Theophilus renting extra land in 1863 from nearby Street Farm. He believes he also rented its farmhouse which was being occupied by his widowed mother Mary who it would appear lived there until her death in 1881. This was still the Comely family farm and Mary had previously lived there from eleven years old.



## *The Goulters of the Cotswolds (cont'd)*

In 1875, for unknown reasons, Theophilus and his family left Limes Farm, although he continued to live in the village, possibly at Street Farmhouse. Late 1870s trade directories list him as an auctioneer, furniture broker and dealer in Acton Turville, Badminton and Malmesbury. In 1880, he emigrated to Canada with his family where they remained for the rest of their lives.

We can only wonder how Mary may have felt at this time – the only son who had farmed with his father and taken over the farm gave it all up to emigrate. Mary died in December 1881, aged 78 years, outliving James by 24 years.

James was buried at St Mary's Church graveyard in Acton Turville on 20 March 1857. Mary was also buried there, on the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1881. Their gravestone reads:

*"To the memory of James Goulter, of this parish, yeoman, who died March 14 1857 aged 73 years [actually 69]. Also of Mary, his second wife who died November 30 [1881] Aged 77 years. And of 4 of their children who died in infancy."*

The four children who died in infancy certainly were not forgotten.

The grave is located to the north of the church in the oldest part of the churchyard under a lime tree. In light of the name of their farmhouse it is very appropriate. It is a short walk of 100 metres through the back gate and across a paddock (which he had farmed) to where they lived all of their married lives. The church was a significant part of the lives of James and Mary in the village - all of his eighteen children were baptised here, some married, and many burials.

What we have learned about the period when they lived and worked in the area around Badminton and Acton Turville has, for us, been both fascinating and poignant. It revealed a family which worked hard to attain a standard of living which was both comfortable and financially-secure, and in the case of James and Mary, it provided them with the ability to employ servants for the house and agricultural labours to work on their farm. James and Mary spent the whole of their working lives in Acton Turville. Their children were all born there and they both died and were buried there. However, when Mary died in 1881 her surviving children had moved away, some far and wide:

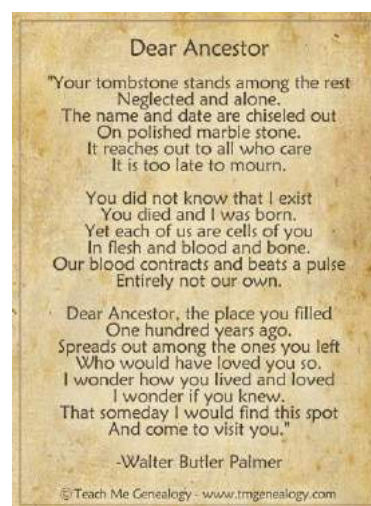
- William Comely, the eldest, had moved to Bristol prior to 1861;
- Ezra emigrated to Victoria, Australia in 1860;
- Eber & George had emigrated to South Australia in 1849 and 1850 respectively;
- Theophilus emigrated to the Canada in 1879;

- Mary Elizabeth went to Wales, then back to Moreton in the Marsh, then back to Wales and finally to Cheltenham, Gloucestershire about the time of her mother's death;
- Albert also went to Wales prior to 1869;
- Alfred, great grandfather to James (of Yarragon), emigrated to Australia in 1865;
- Edward, the youngest, also moved to Wales prior to 1881.

Of the children from James's first marriage, the eldest, Allen was nearby at Hawkesbury. Mary Maria had died in 1842, Daniel in 1840, John between 1871 and 1881, Thomas had emigrated to Canada after 1849 (the only one of these six to leave the country) leaving James just down the road at Hollybush Farm in Acton Turville. Of all the surviving children, it seems Allen (from James' first marriage) was the only one to continue with farming just as his father had done.

Our visit to Acton Turville surpassed our expectations and was highlighted by the warm welcome given to us by the current owners of Limes Farm, Jacqueline and Ian, along with other locals. Ian shared their knowledge of the farm's history and provided evidence of its existence back to 1637. It is wonderful to know that the older building is still a part of the current building.

As we stood next to the grave of James and Mary, we felt proud of what they had achieved, and were thankful that we were able to honour their memory by reading out this poem.



*Our research into the history of the Goulter family has taken us all the way back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. We are currently updating a book documenting our research, "Goulters of the Cotswolds & Beyond" which will be available soon. Please contact us via Local Talk Back if you are interested in obtaining a copy or have any information to contribute.*

*Judith Bush and James Goulter*



# J J'S GARDENING BLOG



What plants would you put on your Christmas gift list? This is a really good time for planting woody things as the soil is still warmish and damp. What about a hedge? Or roses? Maybe fruit trees, on dwarfing root stock so the fruit will be within easy reach. Trees give a settled established feel to a garden, but choose one that is suitable for the size of the house. A nice one is Sorbus Cashmeriana, not too big with white berries and good autumn leaf colour. You'll find a good tree nursery called Landcare behind The Dog Inn in Chipping Sodbury.

## No Space for Trees?

Something smaller, what about Zebra grass? It's a miscanthus so not invasive and about a metre by a metre in size. The foliage turns yellow in the winter so don't tidy it up until the spring when the new leaves start to emerge. As its name suggests it is striped.

## Protect your Salvias

If you are going to leave salvias and dahlia plants in the ground they will need protection. Cut the dahlias down to about four inches, shorten the salvias to tidy them up, and cover the root area with a double handful of used potting compost. If the salvias are in pots put them in a warm aspect against the house.

## Some More Jobs for the Garden

For next season perhaps? Consider hollyhocks. They have been out of fashion, but good for height. If the leaves get rust, remove them. Quite a good range of colours.

Drain and put away the hose, or it may split with frost.

Store away saucers under pots. Ditto

Put feet under pots to keep them dry. Ditto

## And Finally

Have a very Happy Christmas.

## Sudoku

December'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 !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

### Answers to the November puzzles:

#### 'Easy'

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

#### 'Not so Easy'

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

# THE BADMINTON BED

## A LITTLE SLICE OF LOCAL HISTORY IN THE V&A

*By Melissa Spreadborough, Acton Turville*

For the last 15 months I have been lucky enough to be studying at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. When I first heard about the so-called 'Badminton Bed' I assumed it had no connection to our small corner of the West Country. The name must just be a coincidence. Out of curiosity, however, I decided to go and see the bed for myself. My assumptions, as it turns out, had been incorrect and standing there, in pride of place in the British Galleries of the V&A, was a magnificent eighteenth-century four-poster bed, designed with an East Asian influence, which had been made for Charles Somerset and his wife Elizabeth Berkeley, the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

Despite being a rather striking and impressive piece on its own, the bed is not the only object from this period to have been commissioned for Badminton House. Initially being purchased by the museum as a solo piece in 1921, the museum has since acquired a gilded pinewood dressing table and two beechwood armchairs, also inspired by Chinese design and commissioned by the Duke and Duchess to furnish their undoubtedly impressive Chinese bedroom. A matching pair of dwarf bookcases was also commissioned for this room, but these have not been acquired by the museum.



*'The Badminton Bed', designed by John Linnell (1754)  
(© Victoria and Albert Museum, London)*

The furniture was inspired by an increased interest in Asian design, during the 1750s and 1760s. This interest originated in France at the end of the seventeenth century, following an increase in the quantity of items being imported from the East, although it only really flourished in England during the next century. Initially adopted for its novelty, Chinoiserie, as this European imitation of Chinese artistic styles was known,

soon spread to architecture and gardening, before making its way inside the home. Despite largely being associated with China in the public imagination, Chinoiserie borrowed styles from China, Japan and India without any great distinction. Due to the lack of genuine knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture, as well as an apparent disregard for authenticity, these styles were also often hybridised with other popular movements at the time, such as Rococo and Gothicism, to create an elaborate and impressive visual display.

The bedroom in Badminton House is a good example of this as it featured not one or two choice pieces, but was entirely designed around the concept of creating this fantastical vision of the East.

The furniture in the Chinese room at Badminton House largely took its influence from contemporary Chinese style architecture, which, on the whole, was more common than interior design. The upper panel of the bed, for instance, is reminiscent of a pagoda, adorned dramatically with a golden dragon over each



*Dressing Table, designed by John Linnell (1754),  
commissioned by the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke and Duchess of Beaufort  
(© Victoria and Albert Museum, London)*

post. Such pagodas became popular garden ornaments during this period, one of the most significant of which is The Great Pagoda at Kew, which was completed around a decade after this furniture was commissioned.

## THE BADMINTON BED (CONT'D)

The lattice work on the chairs and the bed is similarly an area of East Asian influence that was commonly found in imitation architecture. The 'japanned' dressing table with gilded bronze landscape is a more common example of Chinoiserie furniture, with these features also being present many in contemporary articles of the same influence.

All these items of furniture were designed by John Linnell and produced in the workshop of his father, William Linnell. The Linnell firm was founded by William Linnell in 1730 and, by 1754 when the items for Badminton House were commissioned, operated out of a worked shop in Berkeley Square, London. The Linnells were prestigious furniture manufacturers in their day, producing work for many notable patrons and furniture designed by John Linnell, in particular, can be found in public country houses throughout England, including near-by Dyrham House and, one of my personal favourites, Osterley Park House in Greater London.

In keeping with popular styles, John Linnell's designs initially reflected the elaborate and ornate features of the Rococo movement, and this influence is also clear in these pieces. The extravagant ornamentation and general excess of this style lent itself to the dramatic and ornate motifs and golden decoration that were employed in Chinoiserie. By the end of the century, Linnell's personal style had become more influenced by the simpler neoclassical movement, which grew in popularity throughout Europe in response to the excesses of Rococo. In addition to physical furniture, the V&A also holds a large collection of John Linnell's design sketches, including those for the armchairs commissioned by the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, available either online or by appointment, which may be of interest to those with a wider interest in his work.

Described by the museum as 'one of the most imposing examples of English Chinoiserie', the Badminton Bed is certainly a magnificent sight to behold and one I would highly recommend if you find yourself in London with some time to spare.



*Armchairs, designed by John Linnell (made in 1754, japanned in 1840), commissioned for the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke and Duchess of Beaufort (©Victoria and Albert Museum, London)*

*Melissa Spreadborough*

*The Badminton Bed, with the accompanying dressing table and armchairs, are all on permanent display in the British Galleries, Room 52, The George Levy Gallery in The Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington.*



BADMINTON ESTATE

### CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL MASTERCLASS

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022, 7PM - 9PM

THIS MASTERCLASS LED BY BAR BROS WILL INCLUDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MAKE THREE DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS TO GET YOU IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT.

ENJOY A WELCOME DRINK ON ARRIVAL AT WORCESTER LODGE BEFORE LEARNING HOW TO MIX, MUDDLE AND SHAKE THREE COCKTAILS WITH THE BAR BROS' SEASONED COCKTAIL EXPERTS.

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A DELICIOUS GRAZING TABLE BY TRUFFLE AND THYME TO ENJOY WITH YOUR COCKTAILS, PLUS GAMES AND THE CHANCE TO WIN SOME PRIZES.

TICKETS  
£50.00

SEE [HTTPS://WWW.BADMINTONESTATE.COM/EVENTS/](https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/) FOR FULL DETAILS



# Church Matters

## December 2022 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

With around thirty other clergy, I have been sitting at the feet of a 'Conflict Resolution' trainer for the past three days. And far from coming away from it feeling smug in the thought that we had it all sorted, most of us came away realising what complicated and difficult people we actually all are.

Some of the time was spent on looking at anxiety and how incredibly easy it is to 'up' the ante by putting complex issues into polarised terms. 'This or that', rather than 'this and that'. Time was spent reflecting on how difficult it is to be logical when one is flustered and upset. When the rational brain gives way to the 'flight-or-flight' instinct. And how different types of personality get wound up by other sorts of personality. We also reflected on how frustrated it feels to NOT be listened to and acknowledged. It was a fascinating course.

I believe that in the Christian community, where we should be characterised by our ability to forgive each other. Something which, in spite of reciting the Lord's prayer frequently, we are not always very good at doing.

Forgiving others their trespasses is difficult, and I know I am always incredibly grateful when I have been forgiven. And it is always hard to forgive others, for being less than perfect.

As we prepare for Christmas, it would be good if whenever we are tempted to 'harden our hearts' against someone, instead we remembered the Lord's prayer, and Jesus' command that we should forgive one another. Because none of us are perfect.

With my best wishes for a reflective season this Advent.

Richard

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

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

Tel. 01454 219236

## **Church Services for December 2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Minister</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	Churchwarden led
11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	11.00am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Carol Service	M Butler
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Didmarton	Carol Service	Rev Maslen
	6.00pm	Westonbirt	Carol Service	Rev P Cheeseman
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	6.00pm	Leighterton	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	Hawkesbury	Children's Service	Hilary Cook Meth LP
	4.30pm	Acton Turville	Christingle Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Carol Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.00pm	Didmarton	Midnight Mass BCP	Rev R Thomson
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion C CW	Rev J Hunnisett
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Great Badminton	Christmas Day Service	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

*Please!* No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area. All gates must be kept shut. No vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission of the Parish Council. Please place all litter in the bins provided. *Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.*

NOVEMBER 2022

(Some of the items discussed)

Playing Field Maintenance - Anyone interested in joining our team of 'mowers & strimmers' please contact a Councillor or the Clerk. We would like to have a few more volunteers next Spring to assist the current team. If you are 18 and over and would like to help please consider giving it a go. Training will be given.  
Geoff Shortall - Councillors will be installing a plaque in memory of Geoff Shortall on the seat he liked to sit on in the playing field.

Village signs - Several signs are still on order and we have again reminded South Glos Streetcare who have assured us these will be replaced as soon as they become available.

Community Speed Watch - More volunteers would be appreciated.

Planning - Development by Badminton Estate, no further information but we will notify everyone as soon as we receive an update.

### Parish Councillors:

Sybil Haddrell 218772 (Chair) Sally Smith 218510, Ian Carter 219129 (Vice Chair)  
Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

### Next Meeting:

Monday 12 December 2022 @ 7 pm Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.  
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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

## St Mary's Church, Acton Turville



### *Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*

*led by Dr Matthew Butler*

*Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm*

*Mulled wine & mince pies afterwards*



### *Christingle Service*

*Led by Rev Richard Thomson*

*Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm*

*All welcome, especially children*

## THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT & VEG MARKET GARDEN

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC  
VEG GROWING WITH AN EXPERIENCED GROWER  
IN ONE OF BADMINTON'S WALLED GARDENS,  
AS AN OCCASIONAL OR REGULAR VOLUNTEER?

IF SO, CONTACT US:

**07985 465 432**

FORBIDDENFRUIT&VEG@GMAIL.COM

To advertise your business or club,  
please email:  
**localtalkbackads@gmail.com**



# FOX

*The*  
**& HOUNDS INN**

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**

*Bookings now being taken for Christmas*  
*Ask at the Bar for the Christmas Menu & Booking Form*



TAKEAWAYS lunchtimes/evenings

Good Home Cooked Food

Binend Wines

Covered Beer Garden

Large Car Park

### Luncheon Club

2nd Wednesday of every month

Tea/coffee on arrival, 2 course Lunch  
(main course + dessert), coffee to finish  
£12.00 per head - everyone welcome



## HOME COMPUTER PLAYING UP? NEED SOME HELP? DON'T DESPAIR!

For help with:

- Windows Vista, 7, 8, 10, 11 and Tablets
- Wireless Router, Mobile, SmartTV setup
- Hardware Upgrades and Repairs
- PC's Custom Built to order

No problem too small or large!

Contact: Lloyd Buckingham

Tel: 07940 155064

Email: lb\_cs@hotmail.com

LB Computer Services

YOUR LOCAL, LOW COST,  
HOME COMPUTER REPAIRER



## The Cotswold Stylist



*Amanda Chalmers of  
The Cotswold Stylist*

Not sure what to wear this autumn/winter?

Need help with updating your wardrobe, or  
adding new pieces?

The Cotswold Stylist specialises in a personal,  
tailor-made service, from advice on what to wear  
for every occasion, to accompanying you on  
buying trips, both locally and to London.

*For further details, please contact me:*

**Amanda Chalmers**

**07970 391702**

**amanda@cotswoldstylist.com**

**www.cotswoldstylist.com**





SELL YOUR PROPERTY  
BY AUCTION FOR

**NO%**  
COMMISSION

If you're looking to sell a property, have you ever considered going to auction? It's not as scary as you may think and you could end up getting more money for your property!

info@myeasymove.com  
www.myeasymove.com



Working in Partnership with



To advertise your business or club, please email:  
**localtalkbackads@gmail.com**



### Ear Wax Removal



- Using latest micro suction techniques
- Treatment carried out by experienced registered nurse practitioners
- Very competitive prices

### Foot Clinic



- Diabetic foot care
- Nail cutting
- Thickened & fungal nails
- Corn & callus removal
- Cracked heels... and more!
- Carried out by experienced and qualified foot health practitioners

*Clinic based in Brimsham Park, Yate  
Parking available directly outside the clinic*

hayley@hjtherapies.co.uk  
 07846 452 000 / 01454 314 460  
 www.hjtherapies.co.uk



# 4 COUNTIES OIL TANKS

SUPPLIED & FITTED

Call: 01666 510510  
Mobile: 07966 690807



## PUMPKINS NURSERY

Badminton & Tormarton

Nursery Care and Pre-school Education  
catering for children aged 1 year – 5 years  
Open all year 8am – 6pm  
Pre-school sessions, mornings/afternoons/school days  
Nursery Education Grant funded sessions available  
Forest School sessions run at both settings  
For more information or to request a prospectus  
contact  
**01454 219400 / 218747**  
or email Amanda Wallis at  
**enquiries@pumpkinsnursery.co.uk**  
or visit our website **www.pumpkinsnursery.co.uk**

## MOT TESTING STATION

**COACHSTYLE** has an **MOT** station at its depot at **The Gibb** able to test Cars, Vans, Camper Vans and Mini Buses

We now do air-conditioning as well as service and repair on any vehicle

**TYRES** at competitive prices  
General Servicing and Repairs

### 01249 783366

Ask for Andrew



## MATTHEW BUTLER BOOKS

Old Garage House, Acton Turville  
**butler.books@btinternet.com**  
**01454 218036**

Good quality and antiquarian books valued, bought and sold. Specialities: Architectural History, Archaeology and Art History.  
Browsing by appointment

## Local Talk Back

Local Talk Back relies on advertising revenue and donations to cover publishing costs

### Advertising Rates

**B&W (per month)**



Half page £20  
Quarter page £10  
1/8th page £7  
1/16th page £5

Advertisers booking for one year in advance (11 issues) only pay for 10 issues

If you would like to advertise your business or club, please contact us:

**LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com**  
**01454 218042**  
**07855 347103**

## COULD I BE OF HELP?



### BABYSITTING

INCLUDING NEWBORNS

### HOUSE SITTING

### DOG SITTING / WALKING

Years of Experience | References

Call Christine on 07958 616 980

# mander duffill

— Est 1947 —

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
TAX & FINANCIAL ADVISERS

## WHAT WE OFFER:

- Accountancy and Tax Services
- Tax Compliance, Planning and Advice
- International Tax Planning and Advice
- Business Sales and Acquisitions
- Company Restructuring
- Company and Business Start-ups
- Management Accounts, Bookkeeping and VAT Services
- Payroll and Auto Enrolment
- Research and Development
- Financial Services
- Investments
- Protection
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Pensions and Retirement Planning

## GET IN TOUCH:



info@manderduffill.com



01249 650441



The Old Post Office  
41-43 Market Place  
Chippenham SN15 3HR

Offices also in Devizes,  
Malmesbury and London



**ICAEW**  
CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS

[www.manderduffill.com](http://www.manderduffill.com)





**PJD Home Improvements**  
All types of DIY, painting, decorating and garden maintenance  
Check out my Facebook page 

**Paul J Davidson**  
3 Corvus Cottages  
Station Road  
Badminton  
GL9 1EP

Ring for a competitive quote  
**07766 680161**  
paul.davidson123@btinternet.com

**M & M Builders And Carpentry**  
GENERAL BUILDING AND LISTED PROPERTY

**Mike Brazier**

**M: 07779944773 T: 01454 218765**  
mikebrazier50@gmail.com  
www.mandmbuild.co.uk




**3 Tormarton Road, Acton Turville  
Badminton, S.Glos, GL9 1HP**

**Foxley Plumbing & Heating**

Oil boiler installation, servicing & repairs  
Oil tank replacement  
Heating installation & repairs  
Bathroom installations  
Unvented cylinder systems  
No job too small

**Tim Hibberd**  
Malmesbury (01666) 822863  
Mobile: 07966 462202  
Email: foxleyph@btinternet.com



**D. J. Mayhead**

**ELECTRICAL SERVICES**  
DOMESTIC • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL

- Wiring, Re-wiring & Upgrading of existing system
- Periodic Inspection, Testing & Certification
- Electric Boilers, Showers & Heating
- Consumer Unit Upgrades
- Internal & External Lighting
- Appliance Connections, T.V & B.T Points
- Fire & Security Alarms
- 3 Phase Installations
- CCTV & Entry Systems

We are fully insured and all work is guaranteed



Please contact us for a FREE no obligation quote...

D J Mayhead Electrical Services Ltd  
**M: 07971 684 524 E: info@djmayheadelectrical.co.uk**  
www.djmayheadelectrical.co.uk

To advertise your business or club, please email:  
**localtalkbackads@gmail.com**



**PRIOR & COMPANY**  
*Building on a great reputation!*

Experts in all building works, renovations, conversions, decorating, kitchens and bathrooms for your home or business

**Tel 01249 782898**  
enquiries@priorandcompany.com  
The Courtyard, Bath Road, Shaw, Melksham SN12 8EP



**www.priorandcompany.com**



**MARDEN ROOFING**  
*Taking Service & Quality to new heights!*

Specialists in all roofing, Upvc fascias, soffits and guttering, leadwork, chimneys and sundry works for your home or business

**Tel 01249 814204**  
enquiries@mardenroofing.co.uk  
The Courtyard, Bath Road, Shaw, Melksham SN12 8EP



**www.mardenroofing.co.uk**

## FRENCHAY CHIMNEY SWEEP

All sweeps certificated  
for house insurance purposes  
and landlord  
Local, professional no mess service

Contact Paul on  
**07832 995391**

## Village Link

### Volunteers transporting the Community

Do you know anyone who might  
benefit from our services?  
or consider joining our volunteers?  
Please ask them to call one of our  
coordinators on

**07590 720836**



*Lending with Heart and Mind*

Your Somerset Councils fund a not-for-profit  
loan scheme for homeowners and landlords\*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home  
and we work with you to take the stress out of funding  
repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score. Our  
knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through  
the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

For a no-obligation assessment  
or more information visit  
[www.lendology.org.uk](http://www.lendology.org.uk) or call **01823 461099**

Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU

\*subject to eligibility



Free auction valuations  
Regular fine art & antiques sales  
Insurance & probate valuations

01452 344499  
[enquiries@chorleys.com](mailto:enquiries@chorleys.com)  
[www.chorleys.com](http://www.chorleys.com)

PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL4 8EU

## CLAPCOTE FORESTRY LIMITED

Established 1981

### CLAPCOTE SAWMILL

Specialising in  
OAK, LARCH,  
DOUGLAS FIR and  
ALL NATIVE HARD  
& SOFT WOODS  
for beams, lintels  
planks (inc. air dried)  
& fencing materials



Suppliers of best quality  
hardwood logs, cut and  
split to your requirements

KINDLING

ENGLISH LUMPWOOD  
BARBECUE CHARCOAL

SWEET CHESTNUT  
FENCING STAKES

WOOD CHIP

Telephone : Norman and Diane Matthews  
YARD & OFFICE **01666 837230**  
or visit our yard between Grittleton and Hullavington  
to discuss your requirements



### Disclaimer

The articles in this magazine reflect the personal opinions of the writers and not those of the Editorial Team. Furthermore, the Editorial Team are not responsible for any errors of fact printed in the magazine. Advertising is accepted in good faith. The LTB cannot be held responsible for loss, damage or injury arising out of goods and services sold through any adverts in this magazine. The appearance of an advert in the magazine does not imply any endorsement by the Editorial Team of either the company or its services, nor does it constitute a recommendation.

All articles written and submitted should have a contact name and telephone or email information, please. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior consent of the publisher.



# Merry Christmas



Local Talk Back went to print too early to capture the Christmas Lights being switched on in many of our local towns this year, but we're grateful for these pictures from Yvonne Nettles who made it along to a day of entertainment which culminated in the lights being switched on in Yate. It's hard to believe it's ten years since those popular hitmakers Steps performed a medley of their favourite tunes before hitting the big red button and lighting up the shopping centre in 2012. What the 2022 line-up might have lacked in international household names, it made up for in variety with performances from a Rock Choir and the D-Day Dollies (above) who entertained the crowds with their repertoire of wartime classics.

Christmas arrived at Acton Turville with not one but two Christmas Markets. The first was held at Trinity School then a week later, Acton Turville Social organised an event at the Fox & Hounds. It was great to see both events so well attended and the range of gifts on offer was wide and varied. As you can see from Mel Little's pictures right and below, the bright and colourful lights at the Fox & Hounds certainly brought some festive cheer to a cold November evening.

