

Local Talk Back

FEBRUARY 2023

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

ISSUE 534



WORCESTER LODGE.

FROM A PAINTING BY CRAIG HEELEY, ACTON TURVILLE



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

EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 2023

Something very positive and uplifting happened on the 27th of January this year: I moved the timers that control our lights forward half an hour. OK, not the sort of news that needs to be shouted from the rooftops, but to me it represents the first tangible sign that Spring is on the horizon and we will soon be able to put Winter behind us. Hmm, my finger's now hovering over the delete key as I suspect those words could come back to bite me, but hey, what the heck. The timers don't lie – it's official, the evenings are definitely getting lighter and I'm now eagerly counting down the days to March when Spring will really start to take hold.

I've already spotted a few shoots emerging around the garden, but I'm more interested to see which plants survived the long, hot summer of 2022. The worst affected appear to be some conifers whose leaves now look decidedly brown and crispy which is never attractive on an evergreen. I fear one good shake would leave me with a stick surrounded by a pile of leaves, but I'm still hoping that nature will come good and, like the phoenix rising from the flames, it will soon be healthy and green again. If not, I'll dig it up and get another one from B&Q. I'm not sentimental.

In hindsight it might have been a good idea to be more generous with the watering last year, especially during the long periods without rain. Unfortunately, when it comes to gardening I have a tendency to be reactive rather than proactive, and take signs of distress as an indication that the plant might appreciate some nourishment when in fact it's invariably a sign of the plant's recent demise. This year I'm determined to take inspiration from Mike Ind's beautiful garden in Little Badminton, which is always awash with colour for the whole summer, and keep to a strict regime of watering and feeding throughout the hottest months. Wish me luck.

The eagle-eyed amongst you might have spotted that, in addition to my earlier assertion that Spring is just around the corner, I'm now suggesting we're in for a repeat of last year's heatwave. That's actually a prediction that I've heard increasingly in recent months from weather analysts and climate experts (as well as purveyors of products such as sun cream, barbeques and flip-flops) who are adamant that last year represented a new norm and from now on we should expect something more akin to a Mediterranean climate. Ignoring the potentially cataclysmic effect it could have on our planet for a moment, there was something nice about last year when we knew we were in for a prolonged period of dry weather. We were able to plan days out by the coast, or invite friends round for barbeques in the garden. Much-anticipated outdoor events were bathed in sunshine, not washed out by constant rain, and everything seemed more – relaxed.

Talking of events and days out, elsewhere in this issue of Talk Back you'll see we've been speaking with Katie Harris, the Badminton Estate's Events & Hospitality Manager, who gave us an insight into the planning and hard work that goes into arranging the ever-increasing portfolio of events that take place across the estate. We've got fond memories of visiting the open gardens last year and enjoying the ever-changing displays, and wasn't it great to see the Horse Trails making such a triumphant return after their enforced covid-related break. I don't think I'm quite ready to enter Tough Mudder this year, but I'm still kicking myself for missing last year's cocktail-making masterclass which I've been told was excellent (and much more my type of event). In addition, we've been looking through some old issues of Talk Back to see what we were all up to 10, 20 and 45 years ago in Februarys gone by. We hope the results, which are also in this issue, will rekindle some happy memories for you. What struck me was not so much how things have changed since February 1978, but how they've changed since 2003 and 2013. Somehow 2003 felt just as far away as 1978. We're hoping to publish further gems from the Talk Back archives throughout the year, but we'd love to hear your own recollections of those days. Please drop us a line or give us a call.

Right, I'm off to shake a conifer. Or maybe I'll miss out the middle man and just head directly to B&Q.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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

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

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH FEBRUARY

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February

Wed 8 th	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Fri 10 th	Didmarton Rural Cinema – Operation Mincemeat
Mon 13 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
Tues 21 st	Hawkesbury Local History Society - British Secret Intelligence Service
Sat 25 th	Pastry Demonstration, Badminton Estate

March

Wed 1 st	Badminton Parish Council meeting
Sat 18 th	Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick
Sun 19 th	Arm Knitting Workshop, Badminton Estate

*****Please check with venues before setting off*****

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

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

Jean Earl

In addition, £21 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 DECEMBER 2022

K J Seymour Smith
Rebecca Rennie
Pauline Hewitt

WINNERS FOR JANUARY 2023

Lee Butcher
Laura Griffin
Tim Penney

WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Arthur Haddrell
Pam & Graham Bubb
Eileen Stephens

Congratulations!

THE ACTON TURVILLE SPRING LITTER PICK

The Annual Acton Turville Spring Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 18 March 2023.

Meet at the Fox & Hounds Car Park between 10 and 11am.

Bags, gloves and pickers will be provided.

Everyone welcome!

Contact actonturvillepc@aol.com

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In Memoriam

Paula Sharpe

Local Talk Back was so sorry to receive the following sad news;

Paula Sharpe, Jean Earl's daughter, passed away after a long illness on the 11th January 2023. God Bless.

We offer our very deepest condolences.



ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL UPDATES

Acton Turville Social would like to thank all participants who came to their first village market held in the car park of the Fox & Hounds in November 2022.

With special thanks to Mel and Paul who very generously donated the entire funds raised by selling wooden reindeer to Acton Turville Social for an event this coming summer.

We now have in conjunction with South Gloucestershire council a warm welcome space on Friday mornings from 10-12. Free coffee and cake, lively conversation and themed mornings at the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville. Please come along - the more the merrier!

Look out for further information and updates on future events for the village.

CORRECTION CORNER

It's great to receive feedback from our readers here at Local Talk Back. One article from our December issue which generated lots of comments was that by Judith Bush and James Goulter which traced the history of an ancestor (also called James Goulter) who is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's in Acton Turville. Many people said how much they enjoyed the article, but several also pointed out that the picture which purported to be of Goulter's Mill at The Gibb, well, wasn't. It seems that your hamfisted editor inadvertently added the wrong picture, for which he unconditionally apologises. Thanks to all who pointed out the error. After much intrepid sleuthing, we've worked out that the property in the picture is now called Lockstone Villa and is situated in The Gibb (we got that bit right). The property has changed considerably, but you can still see the distinctive gate and railings peering out from beneath foliage which now forms the hedge to the front of the house. Apologies for the error.



BADMINTON ESTATE

PASTRY DEMONSTRATION WITH CHEF JULIE JONES

Julie is a global Instagram star thanks to her carefully crafted pies, tarts and bakes. The class starts with a demonstration, showing off Julie's unique and exquisite style of pastry making, with helpful hints and tricks to demystify the 'Art in Pastry'. Everyone then receives a sweet pie and tart to practise their own designs on before enjoying some delicious lunch, made by Julie, and of course wine. Julie will be available to answer any questions throughout this part demonstration, part hands-on morning.

DATE: SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

TIME: 10AM - 1.30PM

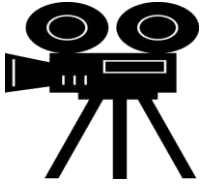
TICKETS: £80

See

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

for full details

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 10th February 2023

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

(2022, Cert 12A) – Drama

Starring: Colin Firth, Johnny Flynn,
Kelly Macdonald, Matthew MacFadyen

Director: John Madden

It's 1943. The Allies are determined to break Hitler's grip on occupied Europe and plan an all-out assault on Sicily; but they face an impossible challenge - how to protect a massive invasion force from potential massacre.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

Tickets £5, cash bar

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

jennybody@btconnect.com

FOX
& HOUNDS INN
Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW
01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 8th February

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



A Hawkesbury Local History Society Event

Covering the life of Major General Sir Stewart Menzies
Head of the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) 1939-1952
(and former local resident)



Tuesday 21 February 20:00 – 21:30 hrs
Location – Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall
Admission by £3 ticket (available on the door)



In a local churchyard there lies the unassuming grave of Major General Sir Stewart Menzies. Here was a man who led a very secret life serving his country and who played a significant role in the country's victory in WW2, yet it was because of the secrecy surrounding much of his work that his contribution has often been understated or overlooked.

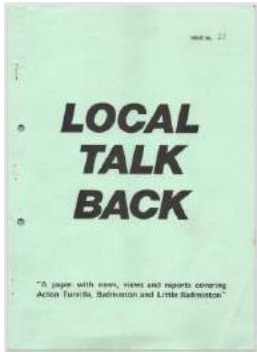
Sir Stewart has claims on popular culture too, being credited as the inspiration for James Bond's Chief "M" in Ian Fleming's novels, and John Le Carré's "Control". His character also features in the 2014 Oscar-winning film "The Imitation Game".

The talk will cover some of the most important aspects of his work and life.
At least, those that can be talked about....

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The first edition of Local Talk Back hit the streets in November 1975 since when it has been dropping through letter boxes on a regular basis. As it says on the cover, Talk Back aims to provide a mixture of news, views and reports which we hope you find interesting and informative. This month we thought we'd have a look back over our shoulders and raid the archives to see what Talk Back was reporting 45, 20 and 10 years ago. We start with Issue 28 from February 1978, when Talk Back was being produced by a team which included John Davis and Ray Bird, who were instrumental in starting Talk Back in 1975, with Les Rochester fulfilling the role of editor.

45 Years Ago - Feb 1978



Amongst the news items was an update on the work to refurbish the village hall at Badminton which noted that the hall now boasted a coinbox telephone which was available "at most times". The refurbishment was partly funded by regular collections of waste paper which was sold on for recycling, and readers were reminded of the forthcoming collection dates. "Old farm string" was on offer should anyone need it to tie up bundles of newspaper. Events at the Village Hall included the AGM of the Badminton Conservative Association on the 14th February at which it was hoped that "all Conservative voters will attend". Another feature of the early Talk Backs was the Sports Desk, with reports on the ups and downs of local teams including Crib (where Mike Childerley, Bill Barrett and George England were flying the flag for Badminton) and darts, where the news

about the local players was not so positive. As well as an excellent array of sports teams, what is very evident is the range of events taking place, with updates on the Badminton Choir, the "300 Club" (more in a later edition) and the local Brownie and Guide packs. The following extracts provide a flavour of what else was going on in our villages.

WIZARD SHOW

We regret to hear that our local "eardrum busters" Merlin's Disco have decided to pack it in. Formed some six years ago, and run by Paul Benson and Tony Bubb, this popular disco has been prominent in providing the music for dances and parties, especially at Badminton Hall. Much in demand for weddings and coming-of-age parties, they have also done excellent work in co-operating with many fund-raising ventures for local organisations. Many thanks to you both, and those others who have helped you in your ventures.

SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER

Thanks to the efforts of the ladies of the Acton Turville Village Association, and the cuisine of our new landlady, 25 senior citizens sat down to the Fox and Hounds Annual Dinner. The regulars and friends who put their small change - and very often much more - into the bottle over the last couple of months made it possible for drinks to be available all the evening. The bold Trevor tinkled the ivories - those that worked - encouraging all to sing, assisted by the terrible twins singing songs even he had not heard of!

1ST BADMINTON GUIDES

January 16th was our first meeting of the New Year, when we welcomed Marianne Hall and Sian Taylor to the Company. Only a week later we were saying goodbye to Louise Barratt, who is leaving the district with her family. We are very sorry to lose her from our company, but hopeful Louise will be able to transfer to another unit near her new home.

Please note we will be unable to meet in the hall on February 6th and 7th as the rooms are fully booked for other organisations. We hope to arrange our panto/theatre trips to compensate.

Mrs D Lane.

1ST ACTON TURVILLE BROWNIES

We have had only three meetings since the last Talkback, so there is little to report this month. We have done pocket book work, rehearsed a play and enjoyed some map observations. On 19th January twenty-five Guide and Brownie Guiders from our District enjoyed a dinner at the Dog Inn, Old Sodbury. We said goodbye and wished all the best to Andrea Barratt on 24th Jan, as she has now moved to Staffordshire, but she hopes to join a Brownie pack there. Emmie has now joined us for two years for her Young Leaders training. On Friday 27th Jan the local Association are holding a Beetle Drive at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall for Guides and Brownies. We will keep our fingers crossed for some prizes to come to Acton Turville.

Mrs Jean Earl (Brown Owl)

20 Years Ago - Feb 2003

By February 2003, Talk Back is up to Issue 323. There's still much going on with a Crib drive, and skittles too, where the Sports Desk reports that local teams Badminton B, The Dragons and The Farmers are all doing well in the Malmesbury & District Skittles League. Skittles was clearly popular back in 2003 – other local teams included the Stags & Does, The Angels and The Bambies, who are described as a “team full of immense experience.” Football still features, but now the focus of attention is on Hawkesbury Hotspurs. Elsewhere there is an article by PC Adrian Farrell which is seeking to drum up support for a Community Speedwatch Team to monitor the speed of traffic on local roads, a problem which doesn't appear to have gone away. Similarly the Vicar's Letter is focussed on the threat of war in Iraq, which still seems depressingly topical today. Here are some more extracts. I wonder of the Pilgrim found a bed for the night (and made it all the way to Santiago de Compostella)?

ONE NIGHT'S SHELTER REQUIRED FOR PILGRIM

Pilgrim Raymond Turner, a retired school master, will be passing through Badminton on foot, en route from Worcester Cathedral to Santiago de Compostella. Raymond is a devout Christian of insubstantial means who is prepared for this challenging walk. Can anyone offer a place to lay his sleeping bag for one night on Friday 21st March 2003. If you can help, please contact Nicole Buckley on 01260 270605

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY organised by the Valentine Club

The inspiration for our 2002 Christmas Party was The Queen's Golden Jubilee and so the Union Jacks joined the Christmas tinsel and tree in giving a warm welcome to our many guests. The waving of flags and the singing along to many nostalgic songs such as “Land of Hope and Glory” was a fitting way for Badminton to end The Jubilee Celebrations. After all the hours of fund-raising, meetings, shopping, preparation, worrying if it would be all right on the day or if there would be enough helping hands – was it all worth it? YES! Once the party was underway and the Christmas spirit took over (do we mean the sherry and wine?) and we could see everyone having a good time, everything was worthwhile. If our guests enjoyed the day half as much as we did then it was a brilliant success!

10 Years Ago - Feb 2013

By Issue 426, the editorial team was now Yvonne Nettles, Sally Smith and the much-missed Sandra Broomsgrove, known collectively as the Three Country Girls. Their editorial reported on a pre-Christmas visit to the Chief Trading Post in Bitton which had not long opened. They described the place as “quite an experience and one that is difficult to explain”, with its offerings including a range of lifesize bronze statues at slightly eye-watering prices. It's still there – as are most of the bronze statues. Talk Back also included an advert for the Craft Evenings which for many years were held at the Badminton Village Hall and always attracted a good turnout. We'd love to hear from anyone who attended and might be able to help us with a forthcoming article on the group.

The Parish Council provided guidance on how best to report potholes, and readers were warned about the increasing number of unsolicited callers operating in the area. Then there was a request from the Police to help them track down some of the 48 numberplates that had apparently been stolen from cars since the start of the year. “If you come across abandoned number plates, even if they look like they have fallen off, give us a call on 101” was the message from the head of the Stolen Number Plate Squad.

CRAFT EVENINGS

JUBILEE ROOM, BADMINTON HALL
7.30-9.30pm every alternate Tuesday
throughout the winter and spring

2013 - 5th & 19th February - 5th & 19th March

We are an informal group where we have the space for everyone to do their own craft – cardmaking, lacemaking, scrapbooking, beading, quilting, doll-making, knitting, crochet etc. – share ideas and get inspiration. No membership fees, just £2 on the night - 7.30-9.30pm

We also arrange professional demonstrations and will go out on visits of interest.

Ring for information: Yvonne (01454) 218267 L/BADMINTON
Heather 218617 BADMINTON
Helen 218792 ACTON TURVILLE

TRINITY SCHOOL

At Trinity, the teachers try to find a variety of ways for the children to write, showing what they have learned from their topic work and also their writing skills. Children from Beech Class, who were studying the Romans last term, were asked to use a computer programme to create a postcard. They had to imagine they were Roman soldiers writing to their families back home. Apart from using their computer skills they were also showing their knowledge of this period in our history.

Here are some of the pieces of writing that children wrote on their cards:

Dear Mum,

I'm missing you already. The place is dreadful! I mean, just look at the picture on the front. There is mud everywhere and the houses aren't even made of stone! So if you could, I would be delighted to be taken home. Obviously there is deplorable weather here and I am freezing so if you do come here please bring my extra toga.

All my love, Candomain. Amelia(9)

THE BEWICK'S SWANS AT SLIMBRIDGE

Every winter Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) welcomes over a hundred Bewick's Swans at the end of their migration. They have flown from their breeding grounds in the northern Russian Tundra. As it gets colder in Russia they and their young make the 4,500 mile (7,000km) flight to the milder climate of Europe, where they over-winter at various wetland sites. The same ones will return to Slimbridge on the Severn Estuary each year. They usually arrive in October, leaving again in March to return the Tundra. They spend most of their time at Slimbridge out on estuary wetlands, flying over to the feeding lake each afternoon about 4pm where the visitors can get a good view of the Bewick's swans as well as many other birds. The Bewick's are smaller than the native Mute swans.

The Severn Wildfowl Trust, now the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) was set up by artist and naturalist Sir Peter Scott who was the son of the Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott. Peter Scott opened the reserve in 1946 and was knighted in 1973. He was the first person to notice that the Bewick's Swans had their own unique bill patterns. He developed a method of recognising individual birds through their characteristics and coloured patterns of their beaks. They could then be given names and can be recognised as they return each year to Slimbridge. They are also given leg rings with large number on so people can report where they have seen them.

Some of the many named Bewick's swans reported this winter

Most Bewick's swan pairs stay together for life. The first pair to arrive this winter were 'Fortune Two' and 'Combo' on 10th November, on the 76th anniversary of the opening of Slimbridge. Their arrival was the latest date for 57 years, which WWT said was likely due to mild weather conditions. Also linked to milder winters in Europe the swans are not wintering as far west as they used to. 'Fotune' is 19 years old, and first arrived at Slimbridge as a cygnet with his parents 'Sauber' and 'Manero' in 2003. He paired with 'Combo' in 2005 and they have returned every year since but only brought back cygnets once, in 2013.

On 22nd November 45 Bewick's were identified at Slimbridge, seven were cygnets. 43 stayed but two moved down to Somerset. 'Croupie' and 'Wheel' arrived with three cygnets. 'Croupie' first came to Slimbridge as a cygnet with parents 'Croupier' and 'Dealer' in November 2004. He has been with mate 'Wheel' since 2010. His grandparents are 'Casino' and 'Punter' and great grandparents are 'Najinsky' and 'Caroline', who first wintered here in 1969. 'Maisie' and 'Mayfield' arrived with two cygnets. 'Knockin' and 'Ringin' are yearlings named to celebrate **over £3.8 million raised for WWT's work** by the People's Postcode Lottery. 'Sarindi' and 'Sarind' arrived with one cygnet. 'Sarindi' is known as the divorced Bewick's swan. He first wintered here with 'Saruni' but two years later they both returned with different partners. On December 12th 'Winkey' and 'Winker' landed at Slimbridge after first spending time in Somerset as they tend to do each year. 'Winkey' is about 26 years old, the oldest at Slimbridge to that date. 'Arkadi' arrived on 17th January having first wintered here in 2010. He has spent eight winters at Slimbridge and in that time brought back cygnets with different mates. By the 20th January 137 individual swans had been identified including 28 cygnets.

The Human Swan

Back in 2016 Sacha Dench, who was working for the WWT, was dubbed 'the Human Swan' as she successfully completed her epic 4,500 mile adventure Flight of the Swans. Sacha was paramotoring alongside of the swans, following their migration all the way from northern Siberia through eleven countries of north western Europe and arriving back in England on 5th December, ten weeks or so later.

The flight was made to raise awareness of the plight of the Bewick's Swan. It became clear that the numbers making the journey to their wintering grounds had fallen from 29,000 in 1995 to near 18,000 only. Although officially protected in every country along its migration route, the Bewick's were in decline. They pass through eleven countries along the edge of Europe. Possible reasons for their loss are hunting, habitat loss, lead, wind turbines and power lines. 36% of the birds arrive with lead shot in their tissue.

Sacha wanted to see for herself what was happening to the swans. Sacha travelled by paramotor, paragliding with a propeller strapped to her back, each night landing with the swans to observe their habitat. She and her team flew with the Bewick's the entire way often at altitudes as low as 100m, navigating the vast Russian Tundra, on a voyage lasting nearly three months.

To be Continued

J J'S GARDENING BLOG



After some really cold weather, the bulbs are just starting to push their noses through, so hope of a lovely display of bulbs looks possible. If you want to refresh the winter pots near the front door, you can pack in some new plants between the existing ones by removing them from their pots and wrapping each rootball in hessian and then easing them into place between the plants already there. Probably a bit of a faff, but could be fun.

Conquering Space

In another part of the garden, you might need some plants to fill a space and to provide year-round interest. Maybe consider viburnum, nandina, skimmia, phormium and dwarf varieties of pines. They are of various sizes, so check the label. Plants sold as dwarf, do continue to grow, but very slowly over time. Some plants that you want to keep small, will have to be kept in proportion with the secateurs. If you keep cutting a plant it may not take kindly to your regime so it could shorten its life. However, anything with thorns revels in being pruned to size.

More Planting Possibilities

Two plants to cheer up winter with a scent; honeysuckle Purpusii and Daphne odors. Though the latter could in theory reach 10 feet, I think you would have to be 100 and live in Cornwall. A white silver birch against a blue sky, gorgeous.

Looking Ahead

Plants that cope with drought (well, you never know!). Two that prefer some loamy soil and a bit of shade (think edge of woodland) are Fatsia japonica 'Spiders Web' and Fatsia polycarbonate. The latter with very divided leaves, and both growing eventually to two or three meters high and wide. Evergreen with hand sized green and white variegation and black berries which the birds love. With gritty soil try Stachys byzantina or Perovskia, now classed as a salvia.

And Finally

If a plant has failed, resist the temptation to replace it with an identical one, as the first may have found the position unsuitable and could have used up the preferred nutrients in the soil as well. This is a good time to bolster the beds with a dressing of compost - your own, or bought in. Plan the rotation of crops for your vegetable beds, preferably while sitting by the fire.

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December puzzles:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Badminton Estate 2023 Events Update



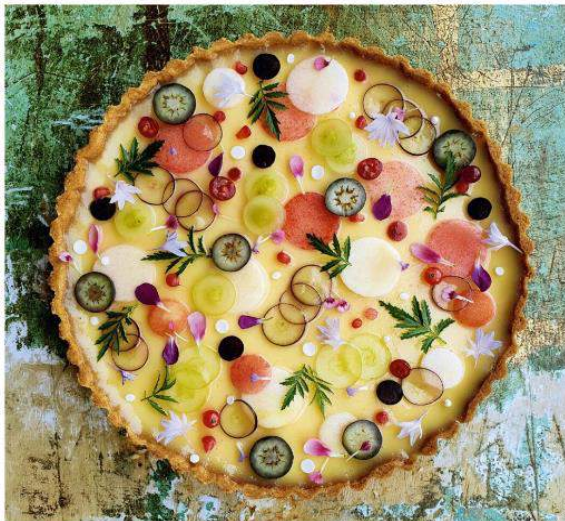
Here at Local Talk Back we've been watching with interest the ever-expanding range of events that are being held on the Badminton Estate. Of course, the Horse Trials continue to be the mainstay of the Badminton calendar, but visitors to the estate can now also enjoy everything from cocktail classes and wreath-making workshops to metal detecting and cross-country runs, as well as the ever-popular open garden weekends. The person who makes all of this happen is Katie Harris, the Event & Hospitality Manager. Katie kindly agreed to take a break from her hectic schedule to tell us what else we can look forward to in the coming months, and what's involved in making it all happen.

Thanks for taking the time to talk to us Katie, please could you start by telling us a little about your role?

I joined the team in February last year, so I've been at Badminton almost 12 months, but so much has happened that I feel I've been here longer. A lot of the events are mapped out a year ahead, depending on their scale, so I'm already thinking of 2024.

We are quite a small office but everyone helps each other out and events often involve discussions across multiple Estate teams including farming, woods, land agents and of course the Horse Trials.

We try to bring a variety of events to the Estate, so there is hopefully something for everyone, meaning we deal with large scale event organisers such as Tough Mudder or Detectival, to local businesses such as The Chunky Needle and Flower Hut Tetbury, who run their own workshops. I am always on the lookout for different ideas to bring to Badminton Estate and these next two years are about trying new things, looking at what is successful and offering more to the local community.



ART IN PASTRY

Recipes and Ideas for Extraordinary Pies and Tarts

Julie Jones

What events are planned for this year?

For 2023 we have the three Open Garden Days in April, June and September and I'm really looking forward to seeing the variety of tulips again this Spring. The gardeners work really hard all year round and enjoy talking to visitors on the Open Days about what they do. We hope to have even more gardening stalls in the courtyard, as well as Knead Bakery and Sodbury Lamb again with their delicious food.

If you are a foodie or want to learn some new culinary skills, then we are introducing Cooking and Food Demonstrations throughout the year. These will be run by a variety of chefs with different specialities. The first in our line-up is Julie Jones who will be giving a Pastry Demonstration with lunch provided. Julie's food is beautiful so I'm thrilled she will start things off.

If you are planning a wedding pop into Worcester Lodge on the 1st and 2nd April 2023 for our Wedding Showcase.

On 20th May The Bolt at Badminton Estate, which is a 5k charity run, will take place to raise money for Trinity Primary School at Acton Turville.

Finally, Tough Mudder is back again in August and with an even more challenging Spartan Race on the Sunday!

I've got a few more announcements to make throughout the year so stay tuned!

Where's the best place for people to find out about what's on?

Visit the website www.badmintonestate.com/events/ or you can sign up to our mailing list to receive our 'What's On' and receive updates on events or property on the Estate. You can follow us @badmintonestate on Instagram and Facebook. I always love to see people's photos from an event.

Whereabouts on the estate are the events held? Did I read that Worcester Lodge has been used? That must be an amazing venue.

We are fortunate to have a variety of areas available for events. Worcester Lodge is a beautiful venue, the view across the park looking down the 3-mile avenue to Badminton House from the balcony is spectacular. The Bar Bros ran a Christmas Cocktail Making event here in December and it was a real success.

We've also had a few private hires, so if you've got a special occasion that warrants a dinner party for 20 people then please get in touch. Alternatively, you can have up to 40 guests for drinks and nibbles – if you want to celebrate a birthday or engagement.

We use the Old Kitchen in Badminton House for classes and workshops, the recent Christmas Wreath Making in this space felt very festive, especially with the original kitchen range lit. It's a great space for all things food and drink, when surrounded by the original copper pots and pans so we will be looking to hold the Cooking and Food Demo's and further Craft Workshops here.

Should people order tickets in advance?

Yes, everything is listed on the website so best to book early, or you can call the office 01454 218203 for details.

In 2022, each of the Open Garden weekends followed a different theme so there was always something new to see. Is that the plan for this year too?

Open gardens are always popular, last year just under 2500 people attended, with June being the most popular month. We follow the theme that you can view the Tulips in April, Roses in June and Dahlia's in September. At each Open Garden Day money is raised for Severn Area Rescue Association who volunteer on the day and the Badminton Church Restoration Fund.



Worcester Lodge, designed by the architect William Kent in 1746.



The wonderful gardens at Badminton in full bloom.

Any other events in the pipeline?

We hope to announce a few more events for the Summer very soon so do keep a look out on social media and our website.

Are there wedding venues available at Badminton Estate?

Yes, currently Worcester Lodge and Worcester Park are available to hire for your special day. Last Summer we had a stunning weekend wedding in the field below Worcester Lodge, known as Worcester Park, with a huge marquee and glamping tents.

If you come along to the Wedding Showcase on 1st and 2nd April you can get a feel for this unique wedding space and meet our suppliers. Please register your interest on our website if you wish to attend, attendance is free of charge.

We've noticed the estate being used more for filming over the past couple of years, is that right?

Our filming credentials include Bridgerton, Sanditon, The Pursuit of Love and 28 Days Later to name a few but unfortunately, I can't reveal anymore. You'll just have to keep an eye out for Badminton Estate on your TV.

I guess there's no chance of the Badminton Air Days making a return?!

Never say never...

As your editor gets all misty-eyed at the prospect of Spitfires and Trident airliners returning to the skies above Badminton, we bid Katie farewell and thank her once again for providing us with an insight into what we can expect to see happening on the Badminton Estate in 2023.

If you go along to any events at Badminton this year, whether it's the open gardens or Tough Mudder, make sure you send us some pictures so we can publish them in Talk Back.

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

Church Matters

February 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

How compassionate are we as a society, and how compassionate is our Press? Sometimes it feels as if we are being steered into being hard and judgemental by the media who sometimes have a tendency to polarise debates and conversations.

The opposite of judgementalism is compassion. Instead of judging a person or a group, we feel for them and try and understand where they are coming from.

Our Lord is frequently said to have been 'moved with compassion'.

He was moved with compassion when confronted by the leper in Mark 1, when two blind men confronted him in Matthew 20, when a mother lost her son in Luke 7; when the crowds appeared directionless Matthew 9; when they needed healing Matthew 14 and were far from home and hungry Mark 6. And in many stories that he told: the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, the Master who forgave the servant's debt.

Compassion plays a huge role in the life of Our Lord. Judgementalism on the other hand, is left to the Pharisees and Doctors of the law who love to exclude and demonise those who do not fit certain criteria for belonging to society – the lepers, the prostitutes, the gentiles, and so forth.

The press often errs on the side of the Pharisees and those who exclude. Sometimes, they do so without getting their facts straight, and they end up in court. I do not read the tabloid press, but from what I see on the front covers in my local shop, they are very keen to demonise and call people 'monsters' and use other emotive descriptive titles.

Perhaps we will one day turn back to the kind gentle ways of Christ, I very much hope so. I do not much care for the black and white world which some of our Press like to paint the world, for us.

With best wishes

Richard

Rev Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

Church Services for February 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5 th February	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
12 th February	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	11.00am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
19 th February	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Family Service Theme - Lent	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
26 th February	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Leighterton	Matins	Lay Led
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com

Badminton Parish Council - November 2022 Report

South Gloucestershire Council Matters

Councillor Adrian Rush reported

- South Glos Council need to find savings of over 10% of their budget. The actual figure is in the region of £29million. The next 3 to 4 years will see substantial cuts.
- The Boundary Commission has now reported on its changes. There will be no impact for this area.
- Local Plan – the timescale for completion is now autumn 2025.

Parish Precept

The Council have set the parish precept sum at £2,685 which is a nil increase from the previous year. The budget is currently at the minimum the council can operate so as to not burden parishioners with additional costs at this time.

Bus Shelter Old Down Road

This shelter predates South Glos. Council, and their records show the parish council own the shelter. The Council are currently looking into the usage of the shelter and its current condition. If you currently use the shelter or know otherwise, then please let us know so we can make an informed decision as to the future of this structure.

Highways Matters

Councillor Tim Nicholls is actively pushing South Glos. Council for action on the flooding in Hayes Lane near old Vicarage and flooding near three corner clump on the A4040. The water level is high for cars on A4040 and a more permanent solution is required. Cllr Adrian Rush will also push for action on this matter.

Toddler Group

Councillor George Matten reported that a toddler group has been set up but is currently having to use second hand equipment. He asked for funding opportunities to try to purchase some new equipment. Cllr Adrian Rush has promised to provide some ward funding towards this project in the region of £200

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st March 2023. 6.30pm Badminton Estate Office Meeting Room (ground floor)

Council contact details

Clerk: Fiona Thornton

Email: clerk.bpcouncil@gmail.com

Tel: 01454 238939

Website: www.badmintonparishcouncil.co.uk

Acton Turville Parish Council - January 2023 Report

Playing Field Maintenance

If you are 18 and over and would like to help even on a temporary basis, please consider giving it a go. Training will be given.

Use of Playing Field

Anyone wishing to use the playing field for an event please contact the Clerk for a permission form. This is necessary to comply with the requirements of our insurance.

Village signs

We are still waiting on one or two signs from South Glos Streetcare and have asked District Councillor Pat Trull to urgently chase these.

Community Speed Watch

More volunteers are needed.

Planning

No further information has been forthcoming re the Badminton Estate Development but we will notify everyone as soon as we receive any update.

Village Spring Clean

The date for the next Spring Clean will be Saturday 18th March. Further details to follow. Everyone is welcome.

Warm & Well (Coffee Mornings)

We hope everyone is enjoying the invitation to the warm space at the Fox & Hounds on Fridays. If you want to save on your heating costs, come along and enjoy the warm space, have a hot drink and a chat.

Parish Councillors:

Sybil Haddrell 218772 (Chair), Sally Smith 218510, Ian Carter 219129 (Vice Chair)

Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Parish Clerk:

Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com

Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 13 February 2023 @ 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville. Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

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A WINDOW ON THE WEATHER

Our thanks go to Yvonne Nettles, Phil Harper and Mike Bird for this month's pictures which capture the ever-changing weather conditions we've been experiencing just recently.

If you're trying to place the snow scene, it's looking down Kennel Drive towards the gates on the High Street. Mike Bird took it early in the morning before the snow has been disturbed by cars or people.

