

Local Talk Back

FEBRUARY 2025

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

ISSUE 556



The Frost Will Soon Be Gone
Picture by Claire Broomsgrove, Acton Turville



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

EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to the first Talk Back of 2025. By my calculations, that means we're a quarter of the way through the 21st century already. That's a sobering thought isn't it? 2025 is a milestone year for Local Talk Back too – this year we celebrate our 50th birthday. Who'd have thought that the newsletter that Ray Bird and his team first published in November 1975 would still be going strong after so many years?

We were reminded earlier in the year of Talk Back's long history when the building that for so many years was home to the much-missed Badminton Social Club was being cleared, ready to be re-purposed for the next chapter of its life. Amongst the paperwork was a big box of Talk Backs which our friend Lee Butcher kindly saved for us. Most of them were from the early 2000s, when the covers were sheets of coloured paper decorated with the little pencil drawings of Badminton House, the dovecote at Little Badminton and the well at Acton Turville which still appear on our front covers today. As the February 2005 edition was near the top of the pile, it seemed fitting to have a quick look to see what was happening 20 years ago. The editorial was written by the Three Country Girls – Sandra Broomsgrove, Sally Smith and Yvonne Nettle. Sandra is sadly no longer with us, but Sally and Yvonne are still very actively involved in Talk Back. Not unreasonably, their editorial started by pointing out Talk Back's forthcoming 30th anniversary. Something else to be celebrated was the re-opening of the Badminton Memorial Hall after the devastating fire which caused so much damage to the main hall and stage area. The fire destroyed many irreplaceable items including some which documented the history of the village, but the building had been saved and was now fully restored, albeit at a cost of £150,000. The official re-opening was in December 2004, but, because the hall was built as a memorial to all those local men who lost their lives serving their country in the Great War, there was to be a re-dedication ceremony on the 20th February 2005, led by the British Legion. There was a lot more information about the hall elsewhere in that month's Talk Back, much of it taken from the Badminton Parish Magazines of 1920 where the vicar gave something of a running commentary on the build. The opening itself was described in an extract from the South Gloucestershire Chronicle, which reported that the Sherston Brass Band played "suitable music" on the green at the entrance to Badminton House as a procession, comprised of local dignitaries, "about 100 demobbed men" and "many of the parishioners", made their way to the hall for the official opening event. This was conducted by her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort who unlocked the doors and declared the memorial hall open. The hall soon filled up. Amongst the attendees were members of the committee who managed the construction of the hall, including a Mr E G Drewett, who coincidentally can be seen standing proudly outside the shop that still bears his name on page 6 of this edition of Local Talk Back. After the Second World War, a further plaque was added to commemorate those locals who died in that conflict. Lest we forget those to whom we owe so much.

Moving on to other content, and looking somewhat unseasonal in a newsletter published in February, we hear about the prize-giving party for the snappily-titled "2004 Badminton and Little Badminton Best Kept & Prettiest Front Garden Competition." The event was judged once again by Brigadier and Mrs Andrew Parker-Bowles and the prizes were awarded by the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, who were delighted to present the overall first prize and the coveted Challenge Cup to Mike and Carol Childerley from Badminton. Winners of the award for Little Badminton were Mike and Valerie Ind, whose colourful displays would go on to delight people for many years to come. The garden competition was a regular feature in the events calendar, as was the next item, the Acton Turville Fun Run, which took place in December on a course that started and ended at the Fox & Hounds. The 2004 event was the 27th to be held, and raised a very much appreciated £3500 for the Children's Hospice South West. Winners were Michael Johnson in the men's competition whilst Mary James won the women's race. Vera got a special mention for selling the raffle tickets.

I whiled away an enjoyable few hours leafing through the newly-discovered back issues of Talk Back. The pages I turned had been produced on an old-style typewriter then reproduced on an office photocopier, and they described aspects of local life which have since fallen from the calendar, such as the garden competition, the fun run, the Valentine Club and of course the Badminton Social Club, which is where this month's editorial started. Then it occurred to me – all of this was only 20 years ago. It wasn't 50 years ago, when Talk Back first appeared, it wasn't even "pre-Millennium" – it was 2005. Time moves on, and change is constant. I suddenly felt very old. I dread to think what it'll be like when we start digging deeper into the archive in this, our Golden Jubilee year!

Until the next time

IAN CAR TER

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 2025.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Feb 2025

- Sun 1st Whisky Tasting, Badminton House
- Fri 7th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Sat 8th Classical Music by Candlelight, Badminton House
- Wed 12th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 14th Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall

March 2025

- Sat 1st Didmarton Point-to-Point Races
- Fri 7th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Mon 10th Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
- Wed 12th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds

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

In addition, £48 was very generously donated in the local shop boxes.

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

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

*To donate by cheque, please make payable to
LOCAL TALK BACK
and send to:*

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

**Badminton Youth Club –
Badminton Village Memorial Hall**

Every Thursday between 6.30pm - 8pm

£2 entry

FEBRUARY

Thursday 6th, 13th, 27th

MARCH:

Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

APRIL:

Thursday 3rd

Leader is Fully
DBS Checked

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR DECEMBER 2024

- Michael Silvey
- Roger Orton
- Dave Bright

WINNERS FOR JANUARY 2025

- Jake Hope
- Richard Felix
- Connor Brazier

Congratulations!

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Comings and Goings

Steve the Postman

Steve has been delivering letters and parcels to the villagers of Acton Turville and parts of Badminton for more than 30 years, but on the 1st March he hangs up his postbag for the last time. In that time he has really become part of the community and is always ready to chat and share the time of day. In fact, over the years he's been invited by villagers to weddings, funerals and children's birthday parties, as well as presenting prizes to competition winners at Trinity School! He'll be greatly missed. We're sure you'll join us in wishing Steve a very long and happy retirement.



Drewett's Stores

Important Notice

It is with great sadness that we announce
Drewett's Stores and Post Office
will close it's doors for the last time
on
Saturday 29th March

Due to factors outside our control it has not been possible to sell our viable business.

We will provide a full explanation later but for now we would like to thank you all for your support over the last 33 years (yes really, 33 YEARS!)

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Wayne & Lesley

It was sad to learn that Wayne and Lesley would be retiring from Drewett's Stores & Post Office in Badminton in 2025. They have served Badminton so well since they took on the running of the shop 33 years ago, and the help and support they provided during the covid epidemic in particular, when they were delivering orders and collecting prescriptions for vulnerable members of the community, will not be forgotten. It had generally been assumed that the running of the stores and Post Office would pass seamlessly to new owners once Wayne and Lesley had retired, but there are worrying indications that this might not be the case, with rumours circulating that the business could be about to close for good. Badminton has had its village shop since around 1750. Surely that tradition can't be about to end - can it?

Brenda & Terry Tripp

We were sorry to bid farewell to Brenda and Terry Tripp shortly before Christmas as they headed off to pastures new in Yate. Over many years living in Acton Turville, Brenda and Terry had been involved in all aspects of village life, and there were few social events that didn't benefit from their input. Whether it was the annual Fun Run, the village bonfire or pig racing at the Fox & Hounds, Terry and Brenda were part of it. They'll be greatly missed, although we suspect they might be making the odd visit just to keep an eye on us. We wish them every happiness in their new home, and wonder how long it'll be before Yate is introduced to the spectacle of pig racing...

The Saga of the Bus Stop Signs

12 months ago, Local Talk Back published an article about local buses. We explained which services operated in our villages and even tried out a couple to see how reliable and convenient they were. Something that several passengers highlighted was the lack of bus stop signs in Acton Turville, so we took the matter up with our District Councillors who contacted the relevant department in South Glos Council on our behalf. After a long period of silence, the council eventually agreed that signs were needed and would be rectifying the issue forthwith. Result! Well, not quite. Rather bizarrely, the team who came out to install the signs decided it was not appropriate to put them on The Street where the regular Malmesbury to Yate service stops several times a day, and instead put just one on the Burton Road, right on the busy junction opposite the Fox & Hounds which, as far as we can see, isn't actually on the bus route. In the meantime, the two stops on The Street remain sign-free. How ridiculous is that!!



WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 14th February 2025

The terms of our new licensing agreement mean the Didmarton Film Club is not permitted to publicly advertise details of forthcoming screenings. However, to receive full details of the films being shown each month, all you need to do is join the film club and we'll put you on our mailing list. Forms will be available on film nights – membership is free, just provide your name, email address and mobile number to join.

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Didmarton Village Hall. Whilst there is no charge for entry, all those attending are expected to make a donation (suggested amount £5).

The bar will run as usual.

Non-members may contact Local Talk Back or the organiser, Jenny Body, for the title of this month's film.

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

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

jenny.body1@gmail.com



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 12th February

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



BADMINTON ESTATE

WHISKY TASTING WITH DISTILLED EVENTS

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

Whether you are a seasoned enthusiast or new to the wonderful world of single malt Scotch whisky, this very special tasting at Badminton House is one not to be missed. As our guest during the evening, you will enjoy six classic single malt whiskies, representing a range of flavour profiles from different regions in Scotland. The drinks will be served with paired foods such as Scottish smoked salmon, cured meats and beautifully paired cheeses.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT BY CANDLELIGHT WITH THE BRISTOL ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

The Bristol Ensemble presents an evening of the finest music from the baroque era, celebrating the transition from winter to spring and exploring nature through music. Step into the enchanting world of baroque music as the historic Badminton House becomes the setting for an unforgettable evening of timeless elegance. Illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight, the acclaimed Bristol Ensemble will transport you to the 17th and 18th centuries with a sublime program of Baroque masterpieces.

BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS —

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025

Explore the private gardens of the historic Badminton House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, at this, the first of three garden open days to be held in 2025.



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

Old Days in Badminton

The following article first appeared in the January 1996 edition of Local Talk Back. It was written by the much-missed Kath Gentry who for many years edited the newsletter. Kath wrote beautifully, and her description of the Badminton village she knew from her childhood paints a very vivid picture. We hope you enjoy reading it.

I was recently shown some photographs of Badminton that took me back to my childhood (what, again!!!). First, The Street. I have seen older photographs, but The Street itself has not changed much over the years. It's the people who change – and the occupations. For instance – behind the photographer's position is The Lodge in which the nightwatchman always lived. When I started school, the Wheeler family lived there. Later came Worthy Gay and his pretty daughter Florence, and after them another Policeman and family. He was Mr Long, and his family were very tall! If I stop to describe all the people I would fill a book, so perhaps I had better stick to the businesses!

Opposite the old school was the shop, run first of all by Mr Jimmy Watts, who later moved into Cape Farm. I don't remember him actually in the shop, but I do remember Mr and Mrs Pinnell of course. The shop was a Cornucopia – full of everything from hair pins to candles, and from toffees to men's overalls. If there was some item you needed that was not in stock, Mrs Pinnell would promise to "get it for ye" – and did! The wonderful smell of newly-baked bread came from the bake house behind the shop. Mr Pinnell also had a collection of horse-drawn vehicles in the stables at the back. There was a landau which was used to bring people to and from the railway station, and a wagonette that took us on our Sunday-school outings to Cherry Orchard! Happy days. These vehicles were beautifully kept.

Opposite, Mr & Mrs Tom Ayliffe ran a smallholding and dairy. Mr Ayliffe slaughtered pigs in the back yard, which was separated from the school playground by double doors. Horrid little boys would hang over these, yelling for trotters when the carcasses were being scorched over straw fires to remove bristles from their skin. Boys were always bloodthirsty!

On the other side of the road was the Post Office. In those days there were, I think, two ladies in charge. The name Grant comes to mind, but I may be wrong. I do remember, though, the rows and rows of books. Was it also a Lending Library and Reading Room? I have been told so. Mr Frapwell ran the Post Office up to and during the War. He was a taciturn man who, when I returned a One Pound note he had overpaid me in my Army Allowance, told me very dourly "The Post Office doesn't make mistakes". He did, however, take the note!

Further up the road on the left was the blacksmith's shop. Here, Elijah Russell shod horses of every shape and size. Despite his name, he was not a "Mighty Man" as was his counterpart in the poem. He was indeed quite small. The blazing forge and the smell of hot shoes placed on the horses' hooves are a memory that will stay with me for ever. He lived with his sister in a cottage opposite the Smithy, next to Drewett's Stores. Mr Drewett was an imposing figure, always immaculately dressed, and always the gentleman. Mrs Drewett was tall and elegant. She was a talented musician – playing both piano and violin, and sang in a lovely soprano voice.



Drewett's Stores, pictured in the 1920s or 30s, with Edward Drewett standing far right

She encouraged me to sing as a teenager, and was a leading light in our early Concert Party. As to the shop. As you entered, the first things to notice were the smells; of bacon and cheeses etc. From the back of the shop most days came the marvellous aroma of fresh-ground coffee. Stacked in front of the counter were tins and tins of biscuits of all sorts, and at the end a new invention – Smiths Crisps!

Cont'd over

Old Days in Badminton (cont' d)

On the shelves behind the counter were lovely black japanned cannisters. Each one labelled in ornate gold lettering – Rice, Tapioca, Sago, Currants, Sultanas and Tea. Sugar was weighed up into strong blue paper bags, and broken biscuits were sold by the penny-worth. Goods were delivered all over the place, by horse and cart. The shop also sold drapery and haberdashery.

There was a lady I omitted to mention. Mrs Such ran a comfy Boarding House next door to Mt Ayliffe. The young men who brought electricity to Badminton came from London, and stayed with Mr & Mrs Such back in the 1930s.



All these people played an important part in the life of the village, and were loved and respected by everyone.

Kathleen Gentry

SIR PETER MARKHAM SCOTT

You can read all about Yvonne Nettles' recent visit to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre in this month's centre pages, but whilst founder Peter Scott may be best known for his conservation work, as Yvonne explains here, that was by no means his only achievement.

Sir Peter Scott was not only famous for founding the Severn Wildfowl Trust, renamed Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in 1946, but he led a very busy and exciting life.

Born Peter Markham Scott in 1909 he was the son of Robert Falcon Scott, Naval Officer and explorer known as Scott of the Antarctic, who sadly perished in an ill-fated expedition to reach the south pole. Peter was only 2 years old at the time. Peter had been named after 'Peter Pan', a character created by his Godfather J M Barrie. His Christening gift from his Godfather was life membership of London Zoological Society.

Peter changed his degree from Natural Sciences to Zoology, Botany and History of Art, which he made good use of in his life. He helped establish 'The World Wildlife Fund' (since renamed 'The World Wide Fund for Nature'), becoming one of two vice-presidents, and he designed the famous Panda Logo as well as the WWT Swan Logo. He became a well-known artist, selling many of his paintings of the wildlife at Slimbridge.

Peter was also a sportsman, winning a pairs skating championship at Westminster rink in 1932, and gaining a Bronze medal at the 1936 Olympic Games for Sailing. He was British Gliding Champion in 1963 and a National Championship Standard ice-skater.

In 1955 Peter established and became the principal presenter of 'LOOK', a BBC natural history television programme which ran until 1970.

In 1973 Peter Scott received a Knighthood, the first person to be Knighted for services to conservation and the environment. In 1987 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and made Companion of Honour to Her Majesty the Queen. Then along with three colleagues he set up the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau to study reports of sightings of the Loch Ness Monster.

As if that wasn't enough he designed the trapeze that racing crews use to hang from a sailing boat, the rocket net that catches birds, and the camouflage used by British World War Two warships, for which he received a CBE.

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In Memoriam

All of us here at Local Talk Back were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Nata Britton. Nata had been an active member of the community for many years, and dedicated so much of her time to working with children, which was something she loved to do. The headmaster of Trinity School, Conrad Hutton, published a very fitting and heartfelt tribute to Nata in their December school newsletter which we reproduce below. To husband Nick and son Oscar, we extend our most sincere condolences.



A tribute Nata Britton

Just before Christmas we received the devastating news that our school community had lost a very special person. Mrs Britton, or Nata to most of us, passed away peacefully following a short illness. It is incredibly hard for our current and former pupils, their parents and carers, her friends on the staff team, and the wider community to come to terms with, and to imagine Trinity without her.

Nata was an integral part of not only the Trinity community, but also the Acton Turville, Brownies and (formerly) Pumpkins community for a very long time. She touched so many lives with her warmth, friendship, positivity, kindness and sense of fun. She always put the needs of others before her own, was always the first to volunteer and always saw the best in people.

I first met Nata in 2013 when she was running Pumpkins' Breakfast and After-school Club at Trinity. Her son Oscar was in Year 1 at the time and her husband Nick our caretaker. She was so welcoming, helpful and supportive and you could tell from her interactions with the pupils in her care that they all loved and respected her. Eventually, after years of trying to persuade her, Nata became part of Team Trinity. She fulfilled so many roles- teaching assistant, lunchbreak supervisor, breakfast and after-school club co-ordinator and cleaner. In each role she was dedicated, professional, hard-working and energetic. She had a very special skill and talent when it came to children of all ages. She instinctively knew what to say or do to support or comfort children when they were upset or hurt, she could sort out friendship issues and disagreements with her calm approach and, because she had the full respect of all pupils, she was always listened to.



We asked the pupils to share their memories of Nata. Every single memory shared by the children talks about her kindness, her looking after them, her helping them out, her being there for them at a difficult time, her supporting them in their work. Some memories go all the way back to Pumpkins. It is clear she made a huge difference to those children in her care and has left a lasting legacy. Nata's 'work family' would echo the memories of the children. She was a doer, the first to lend a hand, always providing support to colleagues, prepared to go the extra mile if it meant a pupil or colleague would benefit.

We want our pupils to show the values of courage, friendship, respect, love and kindness and to '*...shine as lights in the World*'. Nata exemplified those values. She showed courage in the last few months, friendship to her colleagues at all times, respect to the pupils and their families, love for her family and her job and kindness in everything she did. Nata will always be a shining light in our school community.

God bless and rest in peace

Conrad Hutton



A VISIT TO SLIMBRIDGE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

By Yvonne Nettles



Slimbridge on the Severn estuary attracts thousands of wild waterfowl through the year. Migratory birds go between breeding grounds and wintering grounds, often crossing many countries to find warmer climates to spend the winter. Many of these ducks, geese and swans can be seen out on the Severn estuary and on the lakes closer to the Wetland's centre.

There is much more to see within the centre which is divided into different zones and places of interest. There are six species of flamingo. As you wander the paths you could be sharing the space with White Faced Whistling Ducks, Canada

Geese, Cranes, Eider Ducks or a Mute swan. Even otters have moved in.

On this visit we didn't have time to see any of these zones except Swan Lake just alongside of the visitor centre where the Mute Swans are in abundance. The visit was specifically to visit Sir Peter Scott's house which, since 2022, has been opened as a museum, and to watch the 'Wild Bird Feed' which happens every day at 4pm on the Rushy Lake and is included in your admission ticket. Your admission ticket will also cover the tour of the house but you must book in advance a time slot for the tour as numbers will be limited.



We had a light lunch in the Kingfisher Kitchen restaurant before beginning the house tour. All the grounds of Slimbridge WWT belong to the Berkeley Estate and there had been a farm on the site when Peter Scott started to visit. He was a British ornithologist and conservationist and spent a lot of time on the estuary studying the visiting birds.

There was a small cottage on the estate and he was granted permission to live in it. It is still there and you can see the huge window facing the estuary where he could watch all the

comings and goings of the wildlife. In 1953 he had a new house built on the edge of the Rushy Lake and this is where we had the tour. Every room of the house faces the lake and all have very large windows so the lake is always in view. Inside is a time warp back to the 1950's especially in the 1950's blue kitchen. Through all the rooms there are many personal belongings of the family. Peter received a Knighthood in 1973, the first person to be Knighted for services to conservation and the Environment. When Sir Peter died in 1989 the family no longer wanted to live in the house. The two most special rooms are Lady Scott's sitting room and Sir Peter's sitting room/office/study which has huge glass windows looking over the lake. His large library, some of his paintings, a visitors' book with two entries from Queen Elizabeth, and so many other objects of interest are fascinating to see. Sir Peter also had a lookout tower built on to his house where he would spend many hours watching the wildlife.

Pictured is a Bewick's swan. Sir Peter Scott had noticed that the bill patterns of these swans are completely unique, every one different. He started recording them as they flew in and gave them names. That was 60 years ago. When the pairs, or individuals arrive now the wardens can recognise them by their bill patterns and characters.



Cont'd over

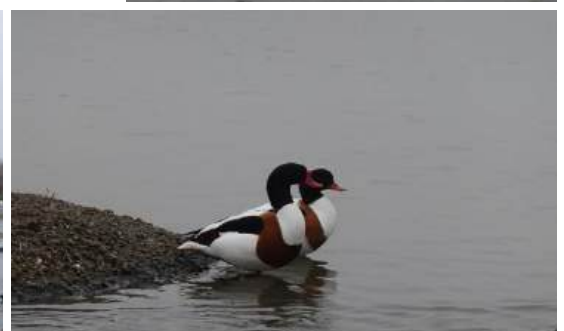
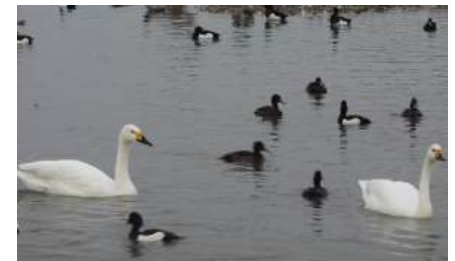
Slimbridge cont..

When Peter Scott started seeing the Bewick's on the estuary there were around 600 visiting over winter. The numbers have declined over the years. In 2016 Sacha Dench flew an epic journey by paramotor from the Russian Tundra to Slimbridge alongside of the swans to learn why their number were going down. Although protected in every country there are many swans returning here with lead shot in their bodies. There is a campaign now to get the Government to ban lead shot. Also some of the Bewick's are staying for the winter in the Netherlands instead of returning here due to the weather being warmer there now, meaning they don't have to fly so far. Over three to four thousand miles is an epic journey. On 20th January 2023 137 individual swans had been identified including 28 cygnets. This year on 17th January when we visited there were about 170 Bewick's swans but none had brought back a cygnet. On the Norfolk wetlands there are 450 Bewick's with only four cygnets. Hopefully the low count is because they are all staying in the Netherlands and not because they have been injured, or worse.



At 3.30pm we went into the heated Peng Observatory to see the 4pm Wild Bird Feed. There is quite a lot of seating in there. It was disappointing to see there were no Bewick's swans but as it got nearer to 4pm many more geese, ducks and swans started to arrive. Then there was the first pair of Bewick's and then more and more, probably 75 of them in total. By now the lake was covered in thousands of water birds. As

the warden walked around the lake with her wheelbarrow of feed, she kept up a commentary for us. It was chaos on the lake but fascinating to watch.



WORK BEGINS ON HOLLYBUSH FARM DEVELOPMENT

It was several years back that Badminton Estate first announced plans to develop the Hollybush Farm site in Acton Turville. Since then, numerous revisions have been made to address the concerns of the planning authorities and local residents. Initial plans showed a two-phase development, with the construction of houses on land between Hollybush Farm and the motorway in addition to development of the farm itself. These plans were eventually scaled back after discussions with the planning authority who had a number of concerns about the larger development, primarily relating to access onto the Burton Road. It wasn't until February 2023 that plans were eventually approved for a sympathetic solution which would see the existing farm buildings converted into homes and a smaller number of new-build properties constructed adjacent to the Littleton Drew road. When complete, the total number of dwellings on the site will be 17.



One of the barns that will be converted into spectacular living accommodation as part of the development of Hollybush Farm by Ashford Homes.

In an unexpected twist, having gained planning permission, Badminton Estate elected to sell the site to a company called Ashford Homes, an independent house builder based in Bradford-on-Avon who specialise in building luxury, high-specification houses in the South West area. Ashford Homes have already started working on the site, with hard hats, hi-viz jackets and JCBs being spotted before Christmas as they conducted initial site surveys. That was followed up with some preliminary trench digging in the New Year. They have now issued an update which outlines their further plans for the site. In a letter to local residents, Project Manager Scott Turner says,

“We expect site groundworks to commence in the spring, during which we will prioritise the formation of the site road, drainage connections and the provision of mains services. We hope to do this as early as possible to minimise the encroachment of mud onto the highway. We are then hopeful to commence demolition of the modern farm buildings, and roof-strip of the existing buildings as we progress into the summer.”

The letter continues,

“There will be some minor off-site highway works and utility diversions to be completed, and we will of course keep you informed of the related timescales as they become clear. We thank you in anticipation of your understanding while we complete the redevelopment of the site and hope the completed development is something of which Ashford Homes and the wider community will be proud.”

Local Talk Back will be keeping a keen eye on progress and hope to publish updates on a regular basis.



Location and plans of the Hollybush Farm development





DUKE OF BEAUFORT'S HUNT

BEAUFORT RACES & COUNTRY FAIR



Horse & Pony Racing

Fun Dog Show

Best Dressed
Competition

Saturday 1st March 2025
Didmarton Point to Point Course

Gates Open 9.30am
Pony Racing 11.30am
Horse Racing 1.00pm

Children's
Entertainment

Trade Stands

Food & Bar

See <https://www.beauforthunt.com/p2phome> for full details

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Please Note: There is no Parish Council meeting in February, but we will continue to post information on our website and on the village notice board where appropriate.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th March 2025 @ 7.00pm

Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Sally Smith 218510,
Claire Broomsgrove 07702 375620, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Church Matters

February 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

Jane Austin wrote in her novel Persuasion, 'They had no conversation together, no intercourse but what the commonest polity required. Once so much to each other! Now nothing!'

Marriage is a hard road and as Jane Austin eludes, it is sad to see couples who once loved each other so much, barely be able to think of each other but with malice, undergirded by hurt.

We put so much on our understanding of marriage, it has to be romantic, it has to be strong, it has to be selfless and it has to be a deep and lasting friendship. Not all the time can every one of those principles be uppermost. At some times, one or the other will suffer.

I was preaching the other day about the crowning ceremony of the Easter orthodox church, and its symbolism. The crowns represent responsibility, victory and martyrdom. We may understand the idea of victory in winning the man/woman of our dreams, and the responsibility of setting rules and patterns in our homes, but we do not often think of marriage as a martyrdom. But of course, it is. We die to self every time we live to the other, as St Paul suggested. And that should be a pattern of marriage, as much as the joy of loving someone, or the responsibility of sharing a home.

None of us are very good at it. As is often said in marriage preparation, we marry sinners, not saints. We should not set our expectations too high or we are destined to be disappointed. But if we can allow for faults and forgive sin, and work together to become better people, then there is hope for every marriage.

Keep warm this winter,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home:01454 219236/ Mob:07717791858

Church Services for February 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 nd February Presentation of Christ	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
9 th February 4 th before Lent	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist CW	Rev R Thomson
16 th February 3 rd before Lent	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Lay Led
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev G Stacey, Area Dean
	5.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev M Butler
23 rd February 2 nd before Lent	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev Leigh Maydew
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Evening Service	Robert Bryant Pearson

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CAN YOU HELP?

We receive quite a few queries here at Talk Back from people looking for local history, but a recent request has left us, and the Badminton Estate Office, completely stumped.

The pictures you see here are of a fire engine that is currently being restored by a gentleman called Mr Bray. Based on a Land Rover, it was converted into a fire engine by a company called Carmichael in the early 1960s, spending its early days at Shoreham Airport before being retired in the 1980s. Mr Bray is trying to find where it was subsequently used and has information which suggests it might have seen service as the fire tender at the Badminton airstrip. That's where we'd like the help of you, our readers. Do you ever recall seeing the vehicle at the airstrip, or on the estate? Maybe you have some pictures of the Badminton airshows or the parachuting club which might show it in the background? Or perhaps you even worked on it when it was operating at Badminton?

If you can help, please get in touch so we can forward any information to Mr Bray, Thank you!



The 1961 prototype became 849 UFK and entered service with a municipal airport. The awkward shape of the side window between the doors was made necessary by using a standard front door sidescreen for the rear side door. The front wings were moulded from GRP, and in this case (as on a few later vehicles) have a distinctive curved feature; its purpose is unknown. (Unknown copyright)



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