

Local Talk Back

JULY 2026

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

ISSUE 572



LINSEED FIELDS IN THE SUMMER SUN AT LITTLE BADMINTON.
PICTURE BY YVONNE NETTLES



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

EDITORIAL JULY 2026

I'm beginning to find holidays a bit of a conundrum these days, and for the first time in many years I've reached July with no plans and few ideas about what to do. My earliest memories of holidays involved the family squeezing into a Ford Cortina and heading somewhere, anywhere, but always in the UK, for a week or two of fun. Sometimes we'd stay in a caravan, sometimes in a B&B, and I can distinctly remember one time when our accommodation bore more than a passing resemblance to a garden shed rather than the luxury holiday chalet shown in the brochure. The main goal was to get away, see another part of the country, and spend some quality time together as a family. That was the plan anyway, and sometimes we probably achieved it, but in those days just going on holiday always seemed like an adventure in itself. Maybe describing it as fun was a step too far though.

Holidaying abroad was never an option for us, and from what I can recall of the early seventies, few of my friends were going abroad with their families either. Stories involving flights to places like Benidorm and the Costa del Sol in a Vickers Viscount sounded very exotic, but no matter how much Frank Bough and Judith Chalmers eulogised about them on the BBC's Holiday Programme, my siblings and I knew it wasn't going to happen.

Of course, times change, and jetting off for a couple of weeks in the sun gradually became the norm for many people. When offered the choice of a cold, wet and miserable week in a cold, wet and miserable hotel in the UK, or a week spent relaxing under clear blue skies, swimming in warm blue waters and eating local dishes that were difficult to pronounce (and often just as difficult to digest), there really wasn't much contest, was there?

Over the years, Gill and I have been to some lovely places and come home feeling fully refreshed, but more recently the abiding memory has been the heat. The first time we experienced it was in Cyprus a few years ago. I remember standing outside the airport, waiting for our transfer to arrive, and wondering where all the hot air was coming from. Were we standing next to a hot air outlet? No, it turned out that was really how hot it was, and it was like that for the next two weeks. On the one hand, with everyone staying in their air-conditioned apartments to keep cool, we didn't have any problems getting a lounge next to the pool, but by the time we got home we were completely drained. That was the last time we went to Cyprus, but more recently we've found our regular destinations getting hotter and hotter, to the point where it becomes unpleasant to sit outside for any length of time. Battling through crowds as we walked around Rome a couple of years ago with temperatures in the high thirties was the final straw. It wasn't pleasant, it wasn't relaxing, and it wasn't what we were looking for in a holiday.

So what's the alternative? Maybe somewhere away from the crowds and away from the heatwaves. Clearly a lot of people are having the same thoughts because the media is full of articles on the subject. They've even coined a phrase for what I need. It's called a Coolcation. Perfect. This might be worth some further investigation so let's have a look at the top destinations. Firstly, Finland. "Sparsely populated, underrated, and enigmatic, you can ice skate on frozen lakes, snowmobile through snow-swathed forests, and learn about the indigenous Sámi culture." I'll think about it. Where else is there? The Arctic. Whoa, that's more like it. You just know when the tour operators use terms like 'beautiful yet inhospitable wilderness', 'ice-choked seas' and 'windswept tundra', it's going to be something special. I can't help thinking of the Titanic though. Antarctica sounds even less appealing – do I really want to spend my money travelling to somewhere that the local tourist board takes pride in describing as 'isolated, inhospitable, and desolate'? I'm not convinced I'm ready for a Coolcation just yet.

So how about a Staycation? That word has been around for a while, and I'm sure it used to mean having day trips rather than a prolonged period away. Now it's been hijacked and just means having a holiday in the UK. It's been a while since we did that. I think that was when we visited the West Coast of Scotland, lured there by the film *Local Hero*. The film portrayed the area as an idyllic coastline that a rich oil magnate, played by Burt Lancaster, wanted to dig up in order to build an oil refinery. It really was as idyllic in real life as the film portrayed. As I recall, we went in summer but still needed our coats.

That's settled. Scotland it is then, for a holiday that combines the best bits of a Coolcation and a Staycation. A Stay Cool Cation, if you will. I'm going to copyright that. Now, where's that *Local Hero* video?

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 AUGUST EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH JULY 2026.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

July 2026

Fri 3 rd	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Wed 8 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Wed 8 th – Sun 12 th	RHS Badminton Flower Show
Fri 10 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sun 12 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
Mon 13 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Sat 18 th	Acton Turville Social Village Party, Fox & Hounds, 3 – 6pm
Sat 18 th	Plant Sale, Badminton House, 10am – 2pm
Sat 18 th – Fri 24 th	Antiphony – A Call and Response, St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury Upton

August 2026

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

September 2026

Sun 6 th	Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
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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 donation this month from Sheila Carter. Thank you Sheila, your donation is much appreciated.

In addition, £15.55 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.

We really do appreciate all donations as it helps to keep Local Talk Back being delivered to your doors.

There are Local Talk Back collection boxes in Acton Turville Stores and the new 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 JUNE 2026

Andy Mitchelmore
Philippa Burton
Chris Farrell

Congratulations!



Coffee Morning

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

Next coffee morning – Friday 3rd July

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

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

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 10th July 2026

To receive full details of the films being shown each month by the Didmarton Film Club, simply join the club by filling in a form which will be available on film nights – membership is free, just provide your name, email address and mobile number to join.

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

The bar will run as usual.

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

Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm

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

jenny.body1@gmail.com

FOX
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 8th July

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

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



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

POP-UP BOOKSHOP

HUGE DISCOUNTS from on-line and high street prices.

Sunday 2nd August 2026
10am to 4pm

Sherston Village Hall (Large Hall),
High Street, Sherston, Wiltshire, SN16 0LQ.

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ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL

Village Summer Tea Party

FOX & HOUNDS GARDEN

18TH July 2026
3:00 – 6:00PM

Raffle

ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com
Mel, Karen, or Caroline

Village Agent Update

By Andy Hiscox, Village Agent for the West of England Rural Network (WERN)

Serving the communities of the Cotswold Edge

The winter is now well behind us and personally I am really looking forward to the summer and some decent weather for us all to enjoy. As a sufferer of hearing loss caused by the demands of my service with the British Army, I thought about the challenges those of us face personally with such issues and where we can get help when required. You may also be worried about how your hearing loss impacts on your social, work and home life, which in my experience is always an ongoing concern.



If you are experiencing problems with your hearing or have been diagnosed with a hearing loss condition, there is support available from South Gloucestershire Council and its partnership agencies. You can contact the council to request an Occupational Therapy assessment which can provide information on equipment to manage your hearing loss such as amplified phones, pager systems or hearing loops. If you would like to arrange an assessment, contact the First Contact team on 01454 868007 or by email csodesk@southglos.gov.uk.

The council also have useful advice on their website about Assistive Technology that can support you in your home and allow you to remain independent.

If you do not have access to email, I can help you with this, or alternatively if you believe you need an Occupational Therapy Assessment, I can also signpost you to help. Transport may also be an issue, and again I may be able to assist.

The Village Agent Service can make a real difference to the rural communities they support by working with local residents and agencies. For more information on the Village Agent Service please visit www.wern.org.uk/village-agents

Or Alternatively please contact myself on:

Mobile: 07795442272

Email: andy@wern.org.uk



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The origins of the name July

The name "July" originates from the Latin word "Julius". The month of July was named in honour of Julius Caesar, who was born in this month. The name carries connotations of warmth and summer, aligning with the characteristics of the month it represents, as July is typically associated with the peak of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. In various cultures, July symbolizes growth, vitality, and the height of the sun's influence.

Culturally, July holds significance in various traditions and practices. In many parts of the world, July is associated with celebrations of independence and national pride. For instance, the United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4th, marking the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This association with freedom and liberty contributes to the cultural weight of the name July, as it evokes themes of patriotism and historical importance.

Volunteering at the World's Best Horse Trials

By Melanie Watson, Acton Turville

For many years I have been involved in the sport of Eventing, or horse trials, first as a competitor (at a very amateur level), then as a Pony Club parent supporting my two daughters, and finally as a volunteer.

I have been volunteering at events for over 20 years, mainly in the role of a Cross Country Fence Judge. This role has taken me all over the country to events, from grassroots lower levels to the highest standard 5 Star events. I have also been lucky enough to judge at international events such as World and European Championships.



But for the uninitiated, “*what is a fence judge?*” I hear you say. Well for those of you that have attended the MARS Badminton Horse Trials on cross country day, you will know that each horse and rider set out to ride across the beautiful parkland tackling a series of very big, solid rustic jumps (fences), as quickly and safely as they can and without incurring any penalties. My role as a fence judge is primarily to check that each horse and rider jump the jump correctly (inside the marked red and white flags) without incurring penalties, and report that back to the control team and commentators via radio so they are up to date with the progress of each competitor around the course. There are several ways in which the horse and rider can incur penalties, such as refusing to

jump or running out at the fence, for fences fitted with safety devices, activating that device so that the jump collapses. If the rider or horse fall at the fence (or in between jumps) they will incur elimination from the competition. I also have to record the time that the rider arrives at my jump, so that if they are temporarily stopped later on the course (such as if a later jump needs to be repaired) an accurate calculation can be made of their overall time. I am also the ‘eyes and ears’ of the event control team at my fence for health and safety purposes.

It’s not a difficult role to perform, but you do need a good understanding of the competition rules, the ability to concentrate all day, to be decisive, and also have a good degree of resilience as we are often sat outside for many hours in all types of weather (events are typically held between March and October – and I pack every type of hat possible including a bobble hat, waterproof hat and sun hat)! In return I get to see the sport I love at close quarters, get a real understanding of the behind-the-scenes work that makes such events possible, and the satisfaction that I am helping to support the event to take place. I also get to meet up regularly with fellow fence judges, many of whom have become great friends.

I volunteer as a fence judge on many weekends during the season. We are blessed in this part of the world with lots of local events, such as Cirencester Park, Barbury, and Dauntsey Park in Great Somerford, but I have been lucky to help at events as far afield as Chatsworth, Blenheim Palace, Bickton, Tryon (North Carolina, USA) and Strzegom (Poland). Despite this I have never, until this year, fence judged at my most local event (and also the most prestigious), Badminton Horse Trials. It had long been an ambition of mine to fence judge here, particularly as I live so close in Acton Turville, but also because it is the worldwide pinnacle of the sport. So you can just imagine how thrilled I was when the email arrived from the organisers earlier this year inviting me and my co-judge, Marcia, to take part.

With such a big event, intricate planning is key, so all fence judges and stewards are invited to a briefing in the village hall on the Sunday before the event. Each fence typically has two fence judges, a number of stewards to help with crowd control and crossing points, as well as a paramedic and often a team to help keep the jump in good repair throughout the day.

At the briefing we learn which jump we have been allocated, are reminded of our responsibilities and the competition rules, and then go out to our allotted fence to meet the event officials who can explain the intricacies of how our fence should be jumped (there are often several alternatives that can be taken). We also agree a rota with our team at each fence to ensure that only authorised people (the riders and trainers) are walking on the course on the days leading up to cross country day. If the public were allowed to walk on the hallowed turf before the event that could damage the ground for the horses running on it later – everything is done to optimise conditions for the horses.

cont’d over

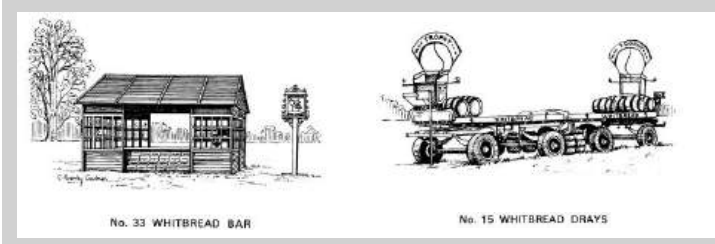
Volunteering at the World's Best Horse Trials (cont'd)

Marcia and I were assigned to Fence 2 this year – the Wiltshire Brewers Drays. We arrived early on cross country day and set ourselves up near the fence so we had a good view of it. Thankfully the weather was

The Whitbread Jumps

Although it may not be the most technical jump on the Badminton cross country course, the Brewers Drays have been a popular feature since they first appeared in 1979. Back in those days, the horse trials were sponsored by the Whitbread brewery, who had become the event's first ever title sponsors in 1961. They would fulfil that role for over 30 years, in which time the arrangement saw the creation of several imaginative Whitbread-branded jumps and combinations, ranging from a fairly straightforward row of barrels to the Whitbread Bar, designed to replicate a country hostelry, complete with pub sign and outdoor seating; the Drays were quite restrained in comparison!

When Whitbread handed the sponsorship reins to Mitsubishi in 1991, they took their barrels and bar with them, but the drays remained. Since then, they have appeared in a range of formats and styles, most recently in the colours of the Devizes-based Wadworth Brewery.



perfect and as the huge crowds gathered around the fence we could sense the anticipation for the exciting day ahead. The Brewers Drays jump is a very attractive, colourful jump, but one which is unlikely to cause any problems so early in the course for the horses and riders at this 5 Star level – and so it proved on the day, with all the riders jumping our jump successfully with no penalties.

Being so close to the first and last fences in the main arena, we could hear the cheers of the crowd as each rider went out onto the course or returned to the arena. I must admit that the hairs stood up on the back of my neck when Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo returned to rapturous cheers on the way to their historic win – they really are a superstar combination.

And all too quickly the day was over. We had a fantastic day – perfect weather, a great team with Andrew and William our stewards, watching some of the world's best horses and riders close-up, and also meeting so many like-minded eventing fans who came to watch the action. I am already looking forward to next year's event!

Melanie Watson

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

CAN YOU HELP US SET UP A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME?

Whilst the village of Acton Turville remains a safe place to live, it is not crime free. Regrettably the police statistics show that crimes such as burglaries, vehicle thefts and thefts from outbuildings continue to occur, causing distress and financial impacts for every victim.

It's a long time since Acton Turville had a dedicated local village bobby, and like many rural communities we can sometimes feel frustrated at the level of the visible police presence within our village. The Parish Council have raised this issue with our local police support team (based in Chipping Sodbury) and with the Police & Crime Commissioner for this area, but the reality is that significant changes to local policing levels are not going to happen in the short term.

We are therefore looking to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the village.

Running a successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme should not be onerous, but it relies of a network of volunteers who operate in support of an overall village coordinator. Although the Parish Council can provide support and advice, we are not resourced to run the scheme, and for that we need help from members of the Acton Turville community.

We are therefore looking to set up a group who can work with us to investigate how we might go about launching a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Acton Turville, and establish what is required to make it a success. The good news is there is plenty of guidance and good practice to help with these aspects, but we need to see how it can be made to work in our village, then make it happen.

If you think you can help, please contact the Parish Clerk, Sue Radford-Hancock, on clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk. Let's get the conversation started and see what we can achieve.

Gloucestershire Police Archives Needs Your Help!

The Royal Collection Trust recently published a photograph of Queen Mary with uniformed Special Constables that was taken in the grounds of Badminton House during April 1941. Although we can't reproduce the photograph here as it's subject to copyright, it may be viewed by visiting the Royal Collection Trust's website, typing 'RCIN2304447' in their search engine and selecting page 6 of Volume 30 or via this link:

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/2304447-e/queen-marys-album-vol-30-6th-october-1940-11th-november-1943>

We can identify the senior officers sitting with Queen Mary; they include Special Superintendent Major Nelson Rooke whose daytime job was that of land agent to the Duke of Beaufort. And according to the Queen's annotations, the men pictured at either end of the middle row are Special Sergeants Walter Wood-Clark and Sidney Cuff.

But we don't know the identities of the other nine Special Constables and a Special Sergeant who are standing in the middle and back rows of the group. And this is why we need your help!

We know that Walter Wood-Clark and Sidney Cuff were members of the Acton Turville section of Gloucestershire Special Constabulary. We think that the unnamed officers were also members of this section because, although we have group photos of Didmarton, Hawkesbury and Marshfield special constables, we don't have any photos of the Acton Turville men in Police Archives.

What we do have is an official list of Acton Turville men who served as special constables. Do any of their descendants still live locally or could people who grew up in Acton Turville tell us anything about them? We'd also be interested to see any surviving photographs of the Acton Turville special constables.

ACTON TURVILLE SECTION

Officer in Charge Special Superintendent Nelson Rooke

<i>A E Barrett</i>	<i>William J Davis</i>	<i>Jeffrey G Oakes</i>
<i>E E Bennett</i>	<i>Richard J Gent</i>	<i>W C Pinnell</i> <i>(Head Special Constable)</i>
<i>E Bird</i>	<i>Dennis A Gulwell</i>	<i>A R Ralph</i>
<i>Sidney W Bray</i>	<i>Rev Vernon Holt</i>	<i>W G Ritchings</i>
<i>S W Brinton</i>	<i>Frank Holton</i>	<i>Stephen E Strange</i>
<i>Archer T Brown</i>	<i>Cecil E H King</i>	<i>Arthur T Viner</i>
<i>P W Carter</i>	<i>Harold A Mullens</i>	<i>William G Viner</i>
<i>Sir Christopher Codrington</i> <i>(Inspector)</i>	<i>H Neal</i>	<i>Peter Watson</i>
<i>Sidney A Cuff (Sergeant)</i>	<i>Merson C Newman</i>	<i>Walter H Wood-Clark (Sergeant)</i>

There are two other people who we'd like to discover more about. One is a Special Constable E Lambourne No 3259 whose name does not appear on our official list. But we know that he served within the Badminton area as he was presented with an award in connection with the 1940 Badminton air raid and this was reported in the Special Constabulary's own wartime magazine.

The other person is Phyllis M Toghill whose daytime occupation was a clerk/typist and who lived at The Lodge, Badminton with John and Laura Toghill in 1939. Phyllis served with Gloucestershire Women's Auxiliary Police Corps during the war and was also presented with an award for her contribution during the 1940 Badminton air aid. We know that in 1947 she visited Canada but was intending to return to the UK.

If you have any information, photographs or stories about the local wartime Special Constabulary we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Sue Webb - Gloucestershire Police Archives Officer

E mail: gloucestershirepolicearchives@gmail.com

In the meantime, you can use the links below to see wartime photographs of other local Special Constabulary officers and our official list of all the men who served in the Thornbury Division.

<https://gloucestershirepolicearchives.org.uk/content/finding-your-police-ancestors/special-constabulary-finding-your-police-ancestors/special-constabulary-world-war-ii-12>

<https://gloucestershirepolicearchives.org.uk/content/finding-your-police-ancestors/special-constabulary-finding-your-police-ancestors/special-constabulary-world-war-ii-02>



The Bolt at Badminton



Wow! What an incredible turnout for the 2026 Bolt at Badminton.

The rain held off and allowed for a fabulous day, with 410 participants (60 more than in 2025) signing up to compete in either the 1.5km, 5km or 10km run. Children and adults alike had a fabulous time competing within the beautiful scenery of the Badminton Estate, and were joined by an entourage of spectators and supporters.

The event organised by Trinity Friends of School (FOS) raised a staggering **£10,503.40** (PROFIT)! This will make a huge difference to the school experience that the Trinity Pupils receive. The money raised will be used to:

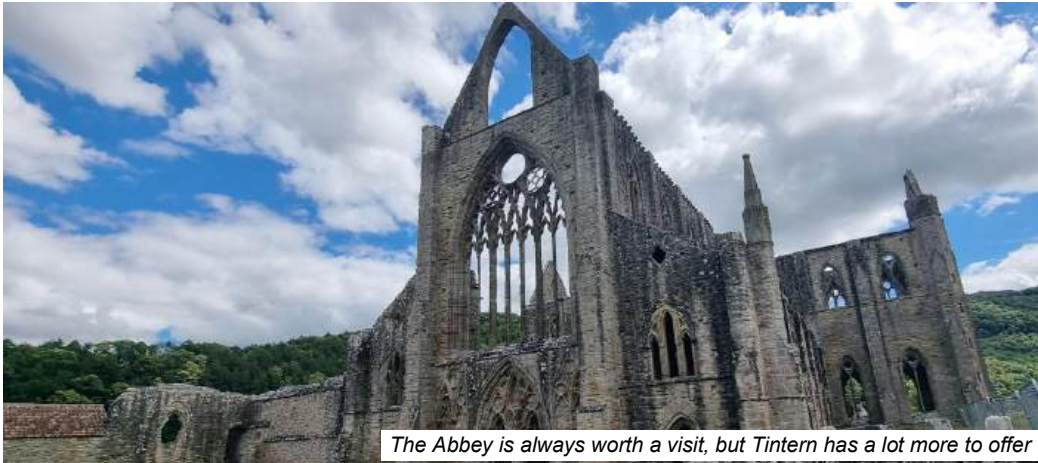
- ⚡ Update and improve the reading curriculum with new high-quality texts/books,
- ⚡ Upgrade IT infrastructure, with new and additional equipment,
- ⚡ Enhance outdoor equipment to promote active outdoor play and learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed by organising, participating, and supporting the event. Without your commitment and support, we wouldn't be able to achieve what we have!

Please do keep an eye out for information on next year's Bolt at Badminton 2027!



Days Out - Why Not Take A Trip To Tintern?



The Abbey is always worth a visit, but Tintern has a lot more to offer



Drive along the M4, cross the old Severn Bridge and in no time at all you'll find yourself in the pretty village of Tintern. Nestled in the beautiful Wye Valley, Tintern is of course best known for its Abbey, but there's far more to the area than that as Local Talk Back discovered on a recent visit.

The Abbey can trace its roots date back almost 900 years to 1131, but it would take several centuries for the splendid Gothic masterpiece we see today to emerge, with the building finally consecrated in 1301. Sadly, like many such sites, its fate was sealed when Henry VIII launched his Dissolution of the Monasteries initiative in 1536 which signalled the start of its long slide into decay and dereliction. The shell remains an imposing sight which draws visitors from all over the world, but there are more strings to Tintern's bow which make it a great destination for a day out.

As unlikely as it may seem, Tintern has a significant industrial heritage, and in the 1560s, it emerged as one of the first areas in Britain to industrialise. Not only was the local landscape rich in minerals such as iron ore, but the surrounding woodland provided a ready supply of fuel for the furnaces which were necessary to extract the iron from the ore, and the fast-flowing Angidy river was perfect for powering the heavy machinery involved in the operation. It was then a matter of transporting the goods to market on ships which berthed alongside jetties on the River Wye.

By 1600, Tintern had established itself as the centre of excellence for the highly-skilled and specialised production of wire, and before long it was producing what was generally recognised as the best wire in the country. Guess where the wire for the first trans-ocean cable, laid by Brunel's ship *The Great Eastern*, came from? That's right, it was produced in Tintern.

Walk around Tintern today and you can still see signs of its industrial past. In the centre of the village there's the site of the original wireworks which operated for over 300 years until 1895.

Cont'd over



There are plenty of walks to choose from, ranging from a leisurely stroll to a major hike

Days Out - Why Not Take A Trip To Tintern?



The scenery is stunning but some of the paths need care (right)



A short walk away are the remains of one of the furnaces that made Tintern such a prosperous place. In the 1780s it was operated by one of Tintern's premier iron masters, David Tanner, and was making cannon to supply the British forces fighting in the American War of Independence. Even in those days, the cannon were subject to rigorous quality controls which involved shipping them to the Woolwich Arsenal for inspection by a Master Gun Founder. Unfortunately it would appear that Mr Tanner was not always following the script, which came to light when the inspector discovered major defects under the suspiciously thick coat of black paint that the manufacturer had applied. The cannon were rejected, but all was not lost - Tanner exported them to Istanbul, where regulations were evidently a bit more relaxed!! His attempt to supply the British forces with sub-standard products at a time of war was roundly condemned and brought his career as an arms manufacturer to an abrupt halt.

Tintern's industrial past has provided it with another dividend that makes it worth visiting, namely the network of bridges and disused railways that criss-cross the region. Significant investment has seen these developed into a series of trails suitable for walking and mountain biking. You can choose anything from a 3-mile loop which circumnavigates the village to a 177-mile hike along the length of Offa's Dyke! Whichever route you take, a good starting point is the Old Station at Tintern where the station buildings have been converted into friendly tea-rooms. Outside, a couple of railway carriages serve as a visitor centre with interesting and informative displays about Tintern's rich past. In no time you'll be heading into lush green countryside with spectacular views and many places of interest to look out for. The various maps and on-line apps will guide you, ensuring you don't get lost or head off into uncharted parts of the forest.

If you're at a loose end and fancy a change of scenery (or a slice of cake from the tea-rooms), why not head over the bridge and discover what Tintern has to offer?



Tintern's Old Station is now a tea rooms with a visitor centre housed in a pair of carriages (right)



All that remains of one of Tintern's old furnaces



The RHS Badminton Flower Show

18-months after it was first announced, the brand new RHS Badminton Flower Show is finally arriving at Badminton!

This spectacular new event, which runs from the 8-12 July, will bring together world-class garden design, inspiring talks, incredible exhibitors, great entertainment and delicious food and drink. It promises to be a celebration of gardens like no other, with plenty to discover for visitors of all ages.

The show will showcase an extraordinary and diverse collection of gardens, including The Julia Rausing Garden, designed by award-winning garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith - the largest RHS Show Garden ever created. Visitors can also explore the BBC Radio 4 and RHS The Archers 75th Anniversary Garden designed by Jo Thompson, and enjoy the amazing displays in the beautiful Perfume Pavilions. Throughout the show there will be a fantastic programme of expert and celebrity talks featuring all your favourite names, including the Duchess of Beaufort and the Badminton Estate gardening team.

Of course there'll be plenty of opportunities for a bit of shopping, from a fantastic selection of trade stands, offering everything you can imagine to make your horticultural dreams come true (and lots more besides), to the beautifully-curated Artisan Studios, which will be showcasing some unique creations from talented local artists and designers.

Last but not least, enjoy a wonderful choice of food and drink - from worldwide street food to lakeside dining, all while soaking up the atmosphere with live music at the Lakeside and views across to Badminton House.



One day plant sale in support of the charity, Horatio's Garden.



Following the RHS Badminton Flower Show, the Badminton Estate will host a special plant sale at Badminton House on Saturday 18 July, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This unique event will offer visitors the opportunity to purchase plants from Tom Stuart-Smith's Feature Garden, the largest garden ever created at an RHS show.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful gardens at Badminton House, which will be open throughout the event.

The café in the Old Kitchen will be open throughout the event, serving tea, coffee, freshly made sandwiches, and a selection of delicious cakes.

Admission: Adults: £8, Seniors: £5

Proceeds from the event will support Horatio's Garden, helping to create and nurture beautiful garden spaces for people living with spinal injuries.

Village Garden Competition

It was wonderful to see so many residents of Badminton and Little Badminton supporting this year's Village Garden Competition. On a beautiful sunny day in June, 27 gardens were judged by Richard Priest, former Head Gardener at the Estate, and Jo Thompson, one of the UK's leading award-winning landscape designers and designer of The Archers 75th Anniversary Feature Garden at this year's RHS Badminton Flower Show.

After much deliberation, the judges were delighted to announce the winners:

Little Badminton

- 1st: Jess Wheeler
- 2nd: Christopher Mulholland
- 3rd: Annabel Davies

Badminton

- 1st: Julie Andrews
- 2nd: Tracey Hancock
- 3rd: Dannielle Townsend
- Highly Commended: Andrew Wilshire
- Highly Commended: Dora Loewenstein



The estate would like to thank everyone who entered the competition. It was evident that a tremendous amount of care, creativity, and hard work had gone into each garden, making the judges' task especially difficult. Every garden looked magnificent, and the standard of entries was exceptionally high. Congratulations are extended not only to the prize winners but to everyone who took part and helped make the Village Garden Competition such an enjoyable and successful community event.

Church Matters

July 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Jesus famously taught his disciples to turn the other cheek. But one wonders when it is right not to turn the other cheek. There are those who believe that following a path of active non-resistance as Mahatma Gandhi did, is the only correct way to respond to violence.

But for many Christians, whilst turning the other cheek is an important teaching,

it is not a commandment. It is a teaching which helps to steer and guide Christians. But there are many times when that rule must be broken.

Having just read about the riots in Northern Ireland over the dreadful knife attack by a man from Sudan, on a member of the public, I think we are all grateful that a bystander managed to grab a piece of wood and hit the attacker over the head, before the attacker killed his victim. This however came after others had shouted at him repeatedly, to leave his victim alone. That is one thing.

What came next, is however definitely not okay. People taking to the streets and burning vehicles and houses in protest at the attack. Egged on by the world's first trillionaire, Elon Musk.

Maybe someone could explain to me, why certain individuals wish to stir up anger and violence, because is difficult to understand. Surely, we all wish to live in peace, and share a mutual respect for the right of others to live in safety? Why then would people wish to hurt others? Hatred and anger are fierce emotions, but we all need to have a an 'off' button, don't we? Or at the least a 'respect the rights of others' button.

Christian teaching is not just about our relationship with God, but also about treating others as we would wish to be treated ourselves.

With my best wishes for this month of July,

Rev Richard Thomson, vicar.

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236

07717791858

Church Services for July 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5 th July Trinity 5	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
12 th July Trinity 6	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
19 th July Trinity 7	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service + Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Lay Led
26 th July Trinity 8	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 8th June 2026. Matters discussed at the meeting included:

Planning. No new planning applications had been submitted since the previous meeting.

Special Expenses. Last month's report referred to a proposal put forward by South Glos Council to delegate responsibility for delivering some tasks to Parish Councils. Although the impact on this parish would be minimal, primarily involving grass cutting and litter picking, we remain concerned with several aspects of the proposed approach, in particular the risk of it being expanded to include other services and the extra burden this would place on the Parish Council. We have responded accordingly.

Railway Works. A drop-in session was held at Trinity School on the 10th June to explain the work being undertaken by Network Rail on the London mainline. The event was well attended, with villagers able to see the scale of the work which included replacing some sections of track, strengthening the cuttings and repairing the lining of the Chipping Sodbury tunnel. The work is now well underway.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council are seeking volunteers who can help set up and run a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Acton Turville. Further information can be found elsewhere in this edition of Talk Back.

Pavements and Walkways. Several villagers have expressed concern about the condition of the pavement between the railway bridge and Badminton, which can be difficult to negotiate due to overgrowing hedges and undergrowth. We have approached the relevant authorities and requested action be taken to ensure the paths remain safe for pedestrians.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th July 2026 @ 7.00pm

Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Vice Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772,
Sally Smith 218510, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk Website: <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the June quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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"Antiphony – A Call and Response"

Saturday 18th-Friday 24th July
10am-5pm

This summer, you are warmly invited to visit a new, free exhibition of original art inspired by the historic setting of St Mary's Hawkesbury. This highly creative show will make you look at your local parish church in a whole new way.

Entitled **Antiphony – A Call and Response**, it is a collaboration by three Fine Art MA graduates of Bath Spa University:



- Hawkesbury's own artist and sculptor **Philip Ringland**
 - multidisciplinary artist and aromatherapist **Lindsay Woodman**
 - installation artist and sculptor **Sally Jones**
- Together they have produced a remarkable array of innovative pieces, including sculpture, installations, and images, inspired by spending time in St Mary's.

The exhibition will be open to the public from **Saturday 18th to Friday 24th July**, during St Mary's usual summer hours of **10am-5pm**. Also:

- On **Saturday 18th**, you can **meet the artists** and chat to them about their work, over **tea and cake** provided by the **Friends of St Mary's**.
- On **Sunday 19th**, the **Family Service** at 10am will include a **short talk about the exhibition**, and at 10.30am Philip Ringland will give a **free children's workshop**.
- **Children's activity sheets** will be available in the church all week, providing a brilliant free family activity for the start of the school holidays. Bring a picnic and stay as long as you like!

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