

Local Talk Back

JUNE 2023

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

ISSUE 538



Winner of the Badminton Horse Trials 2023, Ros Canter on Lordships Graffalo

Picture copyright Badminton Horse Trials



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

EDITORIAL JUNE 2023

Say it quietly but might we be witnessing the early signs of summer? The first indicator for me is normally the itchy eyes that come with hay fever. As usual, the one-a-day tablets that have been carefully stockpiled in the medicine cabinet since last year are out of date so it's a trip to the supermarket for fresh supplies. There used to be two types: one sent you to sleep but controlled the symptoms quite effectively, the other was less effective but at least you didn't unexpectedly fall asleep mid-afternoon (which could be particularly inconvenient if you were, say, a bus driver). Advances in modern medicine now mean that the supermarket shelves are groaning under the weight of a plethora of hay fever remedies, all claiming to provide that perfect cure for the unwelcome symptoms. I carefully study all of them then, thoroughly confused, select the cheapest.

As I push my trolley towards the chiller cabinets, I spot further signs of summer. For a start I can't find anything. Nothing is where it used to be and everything has been moved around to make space for barbeque food, which is either drenched in sticky sauce or skewered on a wooden stick. At least it would be if there was any left, but unfortunately the shelves have been cleared as shoppers get into the spirit of summer and stock up for a season of outdoor catering. Which brings me onto another sign of summer. All of a sudden, dress sense goes out the window. There's more beach wear and tropical attire on display amongst the Tesco's chiller cabinets than in the whole of Aruba. I half expect someone to walk past carrying a surfboard or drinking a cheeky cocktail through a straw. Whatever happened to the days when a chap would wear a linen suit and Panama hat in the summer? Standards really are slipping.

I slump into the car clutching my packet of cheap hay fever tablets and a Pot Noodle, the one item in Tesco's that you can guarantee will never sell out. I wonder whether the elevated temperatures justify undoing my top button, then head out into the traffic. Well, I would if it wasn't for the next sign of summer. Bicycles. Suddenly they're everywhere. Their numbers exploded during lockdown when people discovered how pleasant it was cycling on roads that weren't clogged with cars, and now they're a sure sign that summer is upon us. The lone cyclist is normally simple enough to negotiate, but every so often you come across a whole crocodile of bikes navigating their way down our country lanes. The only option is to sit behind them until you reach a straight stretch of road long enough to pass them safely. Locally, that means the M4 or the Fosse Way.

Eventually I make it home, hot and bothered. I take a hay fever tablet, stretch out on the lounge and fall asleep to the chatter of an army of lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and strimmers which are working hard to make our gardens beautiful now that summer is here.

When I wake up, my stresses will have disappeared. The arrival of summer will have worked its magic and everything is suddenly better. Even getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning is a pleasure when you can look at the early morning sunshine spreading out across our green and pleasant land. The warmth which comes from that sunshine has healing powers too, both physically and mentally, and the long evenings really are perfect for outdoor eating, even if it is just a Pot Noodle.

I've already had a few days out including the recent Castle Combe steam fair which was perfectly timed to coincide with one of the first hot and sunny weekends of the year. It was a return to form for an event that had perhaps lost its sparkle in recent years, but the 2023 event boasted a record number of exhibitors in all categories and was rewarded when visitors turned up in their droves. We should have some pictures in next month's Talk Back for you. June sees the second Open Garden day of the year at Badminton House, when the theme moves from the tulips which were the feature of the April open day to roses. That's on the 25th June. Then of course we have Rod Stewart and The Who to look forward to in July which will be something very special. It's going to be a fantastic summer. Make the most of it and be thankful that we live in such a beautiful part of a great country.

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 JULY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH JUNE.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

June

Fri 9 th	Didmarton Rural Cinema – Mrs Harris Goes to Paris
Mon 12 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
Wed 14 th	Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club
Sun 25 th	Badminton House Open Gardens
Sun 25 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit

July

Sat 1 st	Fundraising Event in aid of Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville
Sun 2 nd	Rod Stewart, Badminton Estate
Mon 10 th	Acton Turville Parish Council meeting
Sun 16 th	The Who, Badminton Estate
Sun 23 rd	Sicilian Cookery 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 received one anonymous donation this month for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £8.80 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*

Thank you!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR MAY 2023

Eileen Orton
 Dave Bright
 Kay Butler

Congratulations!

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
 GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Wednesday 14th June

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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

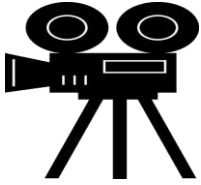


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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 9th June 2023

MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS

(2022, Cert PG) – Comedy, Drama

Starring: Lesley Manville

Director: Anthony Fabian

'Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris' tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

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

RAISING FUNDS FOR UKRAINE

I am sure many of you will have found Chris Farrell's editorial in the April copy of Talk Back very interesting and some may also have purchased President Volodymyr Zelensky's book, 'Letters from Ukraine'.

I would like to tell you of a fundraising event we will be holding, in Acton Turville, to help people still struggling to survive in Ukraine. It will be happening on Saturday 1st July, between 2pm and 5pm, when Winterbourne Wind Band will be playing in our garden (Badminton Village Hall if it is wet).

All the money raised will go to Ukraine via 'The Helping Hand for Ukraine', a division of Chernobyl Children's Life Line. They have been working with children in Ukraine since 2008. Since the war this has expanded to include support for whole families, Children's Hospitals, Special Care Services, Schools and anyone else who needs it. They have done this by establishing partnerships, between individual branches of CCLL and the local communities in Ukraine, which allows them to provide dedicated support for clearly identified needs. This has proven to be both successful and inspiring, establishing close working relationships between branch and community.

We held a similar event last year when money was needed to build a safe house for families fleeing with one or more disabled family members. It has purpose-built units for 7 families. This project is now almost complete and two tons of aid have been delivered from the UK including bedding, towels, clothing, medicines, food, laundry products, crafts and a sewing machine.

There are also smaller projects, including one which is providing families with hens. It started at the end of last year and is working well, providing a steady supply of eggs. Another delivered seeds ready for sowing in the spring, and a third supplied over 3,000 hi viz slap on arm bands for children and key workers at risk of becoming injured on the road.

A larger project is responding to the need for generators, power banks and rechargeable torches. These are not only needed by children but by teachers, nurses, postal staff, ambulance crews, rescuers and fire fighters.

If you would like to help us raise money for projects like these helping those still in Ukraine, please join us on Saturday 1st July.

You would be very welcome, no tickets required, just turn up.

Chris Spreadborough

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
WINTERBOURNE WIND BAND AS THEY PLAY
IN AID OF
UKRAINE
SAT 1ST JULY
2-5PM

Please join us
and bring a
friend!

THE HELPING HAND
FOR UKRAINE
A DIVISION OF CCLL
Reg Charity: 3814274 50006152

Donations
welcome for
Bring&Buy
and cake
stalls

PORTCULLIS LODGE,
ACTON TURVILLE, GL9 1HD
(OR IF WET, IN BADMINTON
VILLAGE HALL, GL9 1DD)

You might want to bring your own chair!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - June 1978



By June 1978, Local Talk Back had settled on a tried-and-tested format which provided readers with a winning combination of updates on local events as well as regular trips down memory lane, courtesy of some of its more mature contributors. Kath Gentry's recollections of the various shops and outlets that used to grace our villagers, published the previous month, had clearly struck a chord with readers who invariably commented on how times had changed over the years. I wonder how much you would find things have changed if you were to compare today's shopping experience with the way things were in 1978? Leading us down memory lane this month was Herbie Neal who was born in 1897, making him 81 when Ray Bird spoke to him for the June 1978 issue. At 14 Herbie left school to work at Church Farm in Acton Turville, where his wages were 7-shillings a week. That's 35p in today's money. In 1914, on the outbreak of the First World War, he signed up to serve King and

country, only returning to Acton Turville after the cessation of hostilities whereupon he took up a position at Limes Farm. Bringing up eight children must have been a struggle for Herbie and his wife Amy, who in later years could be seen in all weathers delivering newspapers from a handcart. It wasn't all bad though – as well as his darts, football and hunting, Herbie enjoyed gardening, and he could often be found tending to his much-admired gardens at Park Cottages. He would be very pleased to know how lovingly those same gardens are still maintained.

Another subject that received regular coverage in Talk Back was the exploits of the local parachute club. The driving force behind the club was John Davis who by 1978 was jumping from aircraft quite regularly having chalked up a very impressive 23 jumps. His enthusiasm had rubbed off on other members of the family too, and Talk Back reported that wife Vera and daughter Ruth had also been bitten by the parachuting bug with seven and one jumps to their name respectively. As Talk Back pointed out, they were not alone:

"The Davis family reflect a national trend that puts parachuting in the top league of Britain's fastest growing sports with thousands of people making a first jump every year."

There, before we know it we'll all be enjoying a spot of parachuting.

Coming back down to earth (and reality), something we've mentioned on numerous occasions is the amount of fundraising that used to go on in our villages. For instance, the May 1978 Talk Back reports that the 1st Badminton Guides raised £35 by holding a coffee evening, the annual collection in Badminton and Little Badminton by the Red Cross amassed a grand total of £12.97½p (I wonder if they ever found who donated the halfpenny?), the Acton Turville Village Association managed to knit itself to a most credible £60 (although it doesn't say what they were knitting – anyone know?) and church funds were bolstered to the tune of £57 by a very successful Jumble Sale. Such a nice way to bring people together for a good cause.

Then there's an interesting article about a forthcoming visit to Badminton by the Bromley Heath Youth Group:

"For several years now, a Youth Group from Bromley Heath have spent a holiday weekend in Badminton at the Memorial Hall. We have come to know and admire their leader, Mrs June Sharpe and her family for all the hard work they put into their charity efforts, especially Guide Dogs for the Blind. They are at present raising money to buy their SEVENTH dog. While they are staying here with us this year, they are going to put on an "Old Time Music Hall" for us, and also show some cine films they have of Badminton. Any proceeds will go towards the purchase of their next dog. Do come along on Saturday June 10th at 7.30pm and support them. Entry at the door will be 10p."

Does anyone remember these visits by the Bromley Heath Youth Group? We'd love to hear from you if you do.

Finally the Sports Desk was being kept busy, reporting on a range of sporting activities including cricket, golf, darts, skittles and crib. Star of the show was undoubtedly David Barrett, who, whilst playing cricket for Badminton against Armoury, captured all ten of the opponent's wickets for just 25 runs, a truly exceptional achievement in anyone's books. Well bowled Dave indeed. We leave June 1978 with another cricket-related snippet:

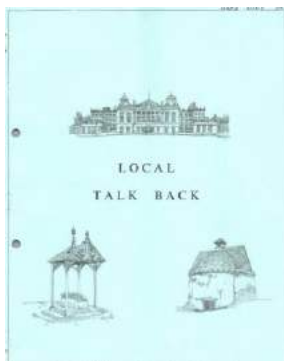
"STOP PRESS – CRICKET

Badminton CC had cause to celebrate on the 28th May when they scored a victory (the first for about ten years) over the London NZ touring team. After dismissing the visitors for 105, Badminton cruised to 107 – 4 to win by ten wickets."

Who can tell us more about that momentous event?

From the Archives (cont'd)

20 Years Ago - June 2003



It's difficult not to be overcome with a huge sense of sadness and loss after reading the June 2003 edition of Local Talk Back.

Kath Gentry had been a permanent fixture in Talk Back since February 1986 when she penned her first editorial, and since then her contributions had been a firm favourite with readers. Kath had a way of writing that conveyed a sense of friendship and warmth. Her stories about the old days took readers back to a time that was comforting and familiar to many, and her observations on the countryside were insightful. June's editorial was not by Kath but by her son, Martin, who reported that his mother had sadly passed away at Easter. His editorial included an extract from Kath's first contribution which mentioned something else very close to her heart – Concorde:

“What a wet and windy start to 1986! The weather so far has been depressing to say the least, but this morning, January 21st, started brilliantly – bright sunshine and glorious blue skies – so I was hoping to see Concorde fly over on its 10th anniversary. In fact I wasted most of the morning watching the heavens, and I missed it. I have been a fan of Concorde from its beginning, and am daft enough to feel that my day has been made when I see that lovely plane fly over on its way to America.

One of the greatest thrills of my life was watching Concorde take off from Heathrow, when Mrs Bird and I took part in the Trident flight on Badminton Air Day, which in itself was a most exciting time. Ah well, who knows, perhaps one day I might “fly Concorde” as they say. Who am I kidding? I can dream can't I?”

Kath's dream came true five years later when her children and grandchildren treated her to a flight on her beloved Concorde for her 75th birthday. Her editorials are still missed by many readers of Local Talk Back.

Our villages lost another much-loved member of the community with the passing of Dora Viner who had lived in Little Badminton for 53 years. It would appear that not much happened locally without Dora's involvement: she helped organise the Little Badminton carnival float that was entered into the Hawkesbury show every year, and was a founder member of the Valentine Club. In addition, Dora looked after Little Badminton church for 20 years, making sure the grass and graves were maintained to an appropriately high standard.

Rounding off the series of sad stories was the news that a serious fire had caused significant damage to the Badminton Memorial Hall. Thankfully the Jubilee Room was still usable, but the main hall was out of action so larger events were having to decant to a marquee which was erected alongside the building. In many ways it was fortunate that damage to the building was not more severe, and work to address the worst of it began quickly. Not everything could be saved though, including historical records dating back to the earliest days of the club and a series of plaques which recorded the names of the local men who lost their lives in the two wars.

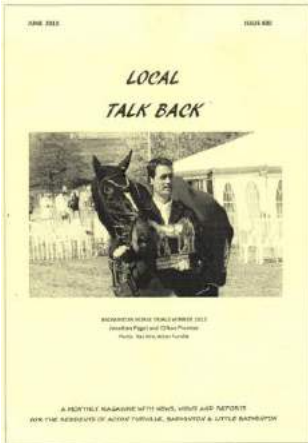
Of course there was cheer to be found in June's Talk Back too. This being the start of summer, events were being added to the diary all the time. On the 5th July, Trinity School were having their summer Fete. Free admission, but keep your money handy for homemade cakes and a grand raffle. Hot on its heels on the 19th July was a Badminton Village Fun Day, to be held on the Badminton Sports Field. The advert promised the heady combination of candy floss, archery, a clown, skittles, ice creams, crazy golf and a bar, which sounds like the sort of experience you'd have after consuming large quantities of mind-altering hallucinogenic drugs. Probably. Slightly more sedate was everyone's favourite, a Jumble Sale, to be held on the 28th June at the Badminton Memorial Hall. For your 20p entrance fee the organisers even included a free cup of tea. Is it my imagination or are things more expensive these days?

Looking further ahead, keen gardeners were no doubt honing their secateurs and feeding their petunias in readiness for the snappily-titled Badminton and Little Badminton Best Kept and Prettiest Front Garden Competition 2003. Winners of the 2002 event were Michael and Carol Childerley, who were presented with their award by Brigadier and Mrs Parker-Bowles at a glittering party at Badminton House, kindly given by the Duke and Duchess. Would they be able to repeat the feat in 2003 and hold on to their trophy? No, as reigning champions they were ineligible for the following year's competition.

To finish our review of June 2003, we must mention something Anne Beesley did to raise funds for Cancer Research. Eschewing the usual jumble sales, cake sale or open garden, Anne trekked to Patagonia and Chile, spending 10 and 11 hours a day clambering over boulders and climbing glaciers. Her efforts were rewarded as she raised the amazing sum of £3088 for such a worthwhile cause. Well done Anne.

From the Archives (cont'd)

10 Years Ago - June 2013



Beaming out from the cover of June 2013's Local Talk Back was Jonathan Paget with his mount Clifton Promise, winners of that year's Badminton Horse Trials. The editorial by the Three Country Girls reported records crowds at Badminton, with visitors making the most of the glorious sunshine and indulging in a spot of sunbathing as they watched the event on the big screens. Traffic management got the thumbs up with less congestion than previous years, despite the record attendance. Also getting the Country Girls' seal of approval was the George Hotel in Chipping Sodbury which was under new management. The girls called in for lunch one day, and declared it "well worth a visit." Moving into the main content we find an article on Village Link, the scheme which sees volunteers providing transport to friends and neighbours for essential journeys. In 2013 the initiative was celebrating 20 years since it was launched, during which time the organisation had gone from strength to strength. According to the article, in 2012 alone their 50 volunteer drivers had completed 1121 trips, driven 22207 miles and worked

2135 unpaid hours supporting the community. Someone who had been there from the start was Belinda Elford who started as a driver before taking on the role of Village Link co-ordinator. Belinda was pictured holding a large bouquet of flowers which had been presented to her at the recent AGM to mark her retirement. What a hard act to follow. Village Link is still very much in operation. I wonder if they're doing anything to celebrate their 30th anniversary?

Someone else who had been recognised for supporting the local community was Sally Smith from Acton Turville. Sally's pictured receiving a very well-deserved South Gloucestershire Council Long Service Award after being nominated by the Badminton Parish Council. The nomination lists her many achievements and runs through the wide range of activities she had been involved with over the years, including the Valentine Club, the Luncheon Club, the annual Fun Run between Acton Turville and Badminton, the (much missed) Acton Turville firework display, the Parish Council and of course Local Talk Back. With the support of her husband John, Sally tirelessly raised money for a range of charities, especially those working on the treatment of Friedreich's Ataxia. Well done Sally, you should be very proud of what you've achieved.

There was plenty happening on the social side too.

"Saturday 11th May saw Acton Turville in a state of turmoil throughout the evening. Every half hour or so two dozen villagers scurried past each other in The Street with an air of anticipation and hilarity. They were all taking part in the Safari Supper and were heading in all directions for the next course. Everyone had a wonderful time, ate well, drank well and met lots of people. Mr & Mrs Hope kindly hosted the final gathering for coffee. The event raised a staggering £320 for much-needed church funds. Grateful thanks to all."

Sounds like fun. Talking of fun, the Fox & Hounds were offering (another) evening of Pig Racing on the 21st June which was "back by popular demand". I can understand why, Terry Tripp always put on a great event. Alternatively you could visit the Badminton House Open Gardens to pick up some tips and ideas for your own green space.

However, if what you were really looking forward to was a Village Fete in Acton Turville, you might have to show willing, roll up your sleeves and help organise it – there was a meeting at the Fox & Hounds to gauge interest and recruit volunteers to do just that. The fete was part of the initiative to raise funds for a new play area in the village. This had been discussed over several months but was now taking shape with a committee headed by Deb Haskew being formed. Clearly fund raising would be key to the success or failure of their plans.

Finally another sporting triumph to report. I remember when every pub and club had a skittles alley and a whole roster of teams which played in the local leagues. Whatever happened to skittles?



ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Please! No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area.
Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.

MAY 2023

The May meeting of the Parish Council was its Annual Meeting. This is timed to coincide with the election of local councillors in the District elections which were held at the beginning of May, when Cllr Adrian Rush (Liberal Democrat) and Becky Romaine (Conservative) were the successful candidates. The Parish Council looks forward to working with Adrian and Becky. We would also like to put on record our thanks to Pat Trull who has supported us for many years.

There was no election at Parish level as the positions were uncontested. The existing team of Parish Councillors therefore remains unchanged.

Much of the agenda for the Annual Meeting comprised the presentation, review and acceptance of annual reports relating to subjects including finance and planning, and the completion of paperwork by councillors to formally accept their positions on the Parish Council.

Other items discussed included:

Playing Field Maintenance – The number of volunteers who maintain the playing field continues to grow with the recent recruitment of Phil Harper. We're sure you'll agree that the facility is looking particularly neat and tidy since the mowing season began. We are always looking for extra volunteers, so if you are 18 and over and would like to help, please contact the PC.

Use of Playing Field – A reminder that, should you wish to use the field for a special occasion or specific event, please contact the Clerk for a permission form. This is a standard requirement to comply with our insurers.

Community Speed Watch – We are pleased to note that two more villagers have recently volunteered to help with Community Speed Watch but additional volunteers are urgently needed. If you can help, or want to know more about Community Speed Watch, please contact the Parish Council and we will pass your details to the local co-ordinator.

Parish Notice Board – The stone required to construct the raised bed adjacent to the Parish Notice Board has now been delivered and the work is due to commence at the end of March. Once complete, the bed will be planted, so if you have any plants going begging they will be very gratefully received by the PC.

Parish Councillors:

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

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 12th June 2023 at 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.

Details on Parish Notice Board/Website

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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



New Village Agent in Cotswold Edge

Hi, just a quick note to introduce myself as the newly-appointed Village Agent in Cotswold Edge covering Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury. This is a new project supported by South Gloucestershire Council. Village Agents provide a free confidential service offering one-to-one support and signposting to information and services. The aim is to promote wellbeing, reduce social isolation and provide help to enable people to remain independent at home.

I've just started, so more information and my telephone contact details will be published in the July edition of Local Talk Back. For now, if you need to know more, please contact me on:

paul@wern.org.uk

Paul Jones



Badminton Horse Trials 2023 Review

By Jane Holderness-Roddam CVO CBE

So as the last remnants of the 2023 Badminton Horse Trials village are dismantled and transported from the course, Local Talk Back takes a look back on an event that was at times challenging, but will ultimately be remembered as another success for the organising team. For this year's Badminton review, we are privileged to welcome a very special guest writer, none other than Jane Holderness-Roddam. Jane's credentials speak for themselves: Olympic Eventing Team Gold Medallist (1968), Badminton winner (1968 & 1978), Burghley winner (1976), equestrian author, trainer, Trustee of the Brooke and World Horse Welfare charities, and owner of West Kington Stud. We are most grateful that Jane found the time to write for Local Talk Back, and we hope you enjoy her review of the 2023 event.

Badminton Horse Trials 2023, sponsored by Mars Equestrian, will be remembered for many different reasons, but most notably for the clash of dates with the Coronation of King Charles III which necessitated a shift of days so that the cross country could run on the Sunday with show jumping on Bank Holiday Monday.

The weather all Spring had been particularly wet and the build-up to the event had been challenging to say the least. However, in true British fashion, spectators donned wellies and waterproofs, umbrellas and hats and stomped merrily through the sludge up and down the shopping avenues, food malls and around the course, thrilled to finally be able to come to the world's greatest Horse Trials.

As it happened, the change of day for the Coronation was a real blessing as Sunday's cross-country day dawned dry and sunny. The sodden ground dried up considerably from the wet on Saturday when the dressage was halted for three hours to enable everyone to enjoy the brilliantly choreographed Coronation on the big screens around the show ground. What a spectacle it was, a wonderful pageant of horses, carriages and tradition yet embracing changing times.

There were some excellent dressage tests with no less than 23 horses achieving scores in the 20s, out of the 64 starters. The diminutive Ros Canter on Lordships Graffalo, last year's runner up, led the field followed by local rider Kitty King, then Oliver Townend. Harry Meade was one of those well placed with a 20s score.

The riders had been relieved that course designer Eric Winter's cross-country course appeared more flowing with less 'skinny' fences than last year, but nonetheless all knew that it was a true 5* track designed for the world's top horses and riders. It not only tested the skill, bravery and training of the horse, but also the versatility and mental strength of the rider. The partnership and trust between the two is vital to success.



Good ground clearance was a bonus this year.



Harry Meade on Away Cruising, attacking the cross country course.

This year was made even more challenging as so many warm-up competitions had been cancelled due to the exceptionally wet spring. Most riders like to have at least 2-3 runs before Badminton to enable them to assess their horse's fitness and to get their eye in for the 'big one'. It also helps to define that all-important unity between horse and rider.

It was left to young Wills Oakden to show everyone that the course was quite jumpable, which he did with a great yet steady clear round. The relief felt amongst competitors at this level, once the first horse has gone clear is palpable. Everyone relaxes and then they start to analyse

how to get really competitive. The ground was still soft but dried up more during the competition, which perhaps made the going more holding for the horses. Several appeared to get a bit tired in these conditions resulting in quite a few falls or tip-offs. The frangible design of modern fences is one of the huge improvements made in the sport in recent times, ensuring that horses are generally unhurt if they misjudge a fence or fall. Poor Kitty King had a particularly unlucky and unexpected fall early on.

Cont'd over

Badminton 2023 Review (cont'd)

There were also some brilliant displays of horsemanship amongst the competitors, most notably Ros Canter on both her rides and Ireland's Austin O'Connor on Colorado Blue who pulled up over 30 places. Harry Meade also had a good ride with Away Cruising. There were 23 clear rounds out of the 30 finishers; six withdrew before the cross country and the rest either retired or were eliminated. Nowadays you are eliminated after a fall anyway and most riders will retire after any mistake to save their horse for another day.

The second Horse Inspection in front of Badminton House on the final day is always fascinating. The grooms have worked hard to show off their superstars and the horses know that that is exactly what they are, as they trot up showing they are fit and well after the rigours of the cross-country test. They all looked superb and every one passed. The riders dress up for the occasion and there were some very fashionable and trendy outfits. Sometimes the inspection panel need reminding that it is the horse they are meant to be looking at rather than the rider!

The show jumping course was big and fairly twisty, so it was important to keep up a forward pace to ensure there were no penalties for time as well as for jumping. The ground was wet and holding so there were only four clear rounds. One of these was World Champion Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo, ensuring she not only maintained her early lead but went one better than last year to win the 2023 Badminton Horse Trials. How consistent is that! Second was Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class, followed by a delighted Austin O'Connor and Colorado Blue, with British team rider Tom McEwen and Toledo de Kerker finishing 4th.



Ireland's Austin O'Connor on Colorado Blue finished an excellent second in the cross country.

The Voltaire Design Grass Roots Championships also take place at Badminton every year, prior to the main event. It is hotly contested at two levels over some challenging courses at BE90 and BE100. This year's winners were Amy Dixon on Goodluck II (BE90) and local rider Kate Raynor on Annandale Idris (BE100).

Thanks and congratulations must go to Badminton Director Jane Tuckwell assisted by Andrew Tucker and their great team, the hunt and stable staff, all the officials and volunteers who help in so many different ways, the sponsors, trade exhibitors, the whole local community and most especially the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort who allow it all to take place.

(Full results can be found on the Badminton website www.Badminton-horse.co.uk)



Left, Ros Cantor and Lordships Graffalo, overall winners of Badminton 2023, and above, Voltaire Design Grassroots BE100 Championship winners Kate Raynor on Annandale Idris, pictured here with the Duke & Duchess of Beaufort, Shane Speak and Matt Tarrant of Voltaire Design.

All photographs are copyright Badminton Horse Trials and are used with their kind permission.

Badminton 2023 Picture Gallery

Pictures by Gill Love, Acton Turville



Clockwise from above:

- Overall winner Ros Cantor on Lordships Graffalo.
- Is there a better setting for a sporting event? William Fox-Pitt probably doesn't have time to admire the view though.
- Maisy the dog, blending into her surroundings.
- The Air Ambulance bears seem to be enjoying themselves.
- Cross country day was a sell-out.
- And a final wave from Ros Cantor.



J J'S GARDENING BLOG



I have to mention this lovely combination I saw, which I will note in my Gardening Book so I don't forget - dark red or maroon tulips with sharp green euphorbia wulfenii. And the bluebells are show-stopping driving around. Not a plant for a flower bed as they multiply readily, but lovely for a woodland.

Know your Acid from your Alkaline?

If you are captured by a super plant in Devon or Cornwall while on holiday, plants that thrive there, will be growing on acid soil, we have alkaline soil. One way around this is to plant your treasure in a pot and to use saved rainwater. If you need a fix to see azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias visit the woodland garden at Bowood for a fantastic display. Or buy a soil testing kit to see what the ph is of your garden.

Save Your Salvias!

How are your salvias? Are they showing some bits of green? Maybe with some TLC they will recover. At least give them a chance - recall not all salvias flower at the same time. The light blue one, Cambridge Blue, is in flower quite a bit later. Those that survived those horrible really cold days last winter, may be naturally hardier or you have found them a warmer/more protected spot in the garden. Worth remembering.

Some Jobs for June.

This is a lovely month in the garden. Lots of buds and promises of colour. Visit gardens, specialist nurseries, pick up a magazine and get some tips.

There is a new evergreen escallonia "showstopper", which is approximately a metre high, a rounded shape, can cope with wind and temperature of minus 8. Sounds like a useful plant and pink flowers too.

You can plant something growing in a pot at any time of year. So don't be anxious, just keep an eye on the watering. Water at replanting and, as a guide, weekly until well settled in.

It's a great time to enjoy peonies, like Sarah Bernhardt, which has masses of pale pink petals. And there are plenty of others too.

Another Euphorbia, oblongata. There are a number of vinca which are useful. Low growing, though the variegated one likes to escape upwards, with blue flowers. For a boggy spot try Iris Sibirica. Aquilegia, very easy and charming plants, though they can throw their seeds around a bit: various colours and nice foliage. Also called Granny's bonnet.

Pots, group them in odd numbers, turn them around sometimes to even the growth. If they are looking tatty, give them a feed and move them to a less conspicuous place to recover.

And Finally

Look out for wayside plant sales. Nurture these young treasures. They will probably need time to get their roots down for a few weeks before planting out.

If you have had aeoniums inside, they can spend the summer outside.

Happy Gardening!

Sudoku

Alas there's not enough space for Sudoku this month. Normal service will be resumed next month. In the meantime, here are the results of the May puzzles:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Church Matters

June 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

There is always plenty of wind around, where we live up on the Cotswold escarpment. Our wind mostly originates in the warmer tropical areas of the Atlantic— brought here by the Gulf stream. Similarly, the rocks upon which we stand were formed 150 million years ago in the Carribean and have been brought here by tectonic plates over that vast period of time.

We are surrounded by a changing world and by warm air. As is Jerusalem which sits on a tectonic plate which is moving North Eastwards and is colliding with European/Asian Continent, resulting in terrible earthquakes as we saw in Syria and Turkey a few months ago. As for the wind, it is mainly North-South. And the average speed of the wind is a mere 10.5 mph at this time of year.

So, how the wind that blew through the house in which the disciples were staying for the Pentecost Festival, is a bit of a mystery. This was a feast which was celebrated at the time, called the Feast of weeks. It occurred 50 days after the Sabbath which followed upon the first sheaf of corn being harvested. Fifty is seven weeks plus one day. So, it was a Sunday.

This feast has been carried on by the church and is traditionally known as Whitsun, this is when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church in wind and fire. It galvanised the first disciples into action, and they took the message and gospel of Jesus to far off cities around the Mediterranean.

We remember that tectonic plates Cotswold stone that resides beneath us, the gulf stream brings the warmth in the wind that comes from Florida, and the early missionaries brought our faith, fired up as they were by the Holy Spirit.

Our corner of the world is part of a history which is inter-related has originated in warmer other parts of the world. We may live on an island, but we would have no Christian faith much colder winters and hotter summers, and no Cotswold stone unless they had been brought here from other parts of the world.

So let us thank God for all the good things that God brings to our little corner of England. And may we resist becoming fearful and insular.

With my best wishes for a Happy June,

Richard

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

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Church Services for June 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 th June Trinity Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
11 th June Barnabas the Apostle	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer Book	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer Book	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev J Wilson
18 th June 2 nd Sunday after Trinity	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service. Theme – Father's Day	Lay Led
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Family Service. Theme – Father's Day	Rev R Thomson
25 th June Birth of John the Baptist	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Preacher Rev Mieke Gaynor

All readings and updates of services on website badmintonbenefice.com



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Picture Gallery Sheep Shearing at Badminton



The estate's sheep were the centre of attention recently when the shearing team turned up to give them their summer clip. The team, comprising five shearers and several helpers, came over from Wales to relieve the sheep of their heavy coats. It was amazing to see the speed at which they worked – on the day they visited Badminton they sheared over 1450 sheep! The fleeces were then collected, packaged up and sent away for processing where they would be turned into a range of products. Don't think they're just used to make woolly jumpers though – some are being used by organic gardeners and vineyards where they are placed around plants to deter pests such as slugs.

Thanks to Mike Bird for talking Local Talk Back through the process, and to Yvonne Nettles for the pictures.

