

# Local Talk Back

JUNE 2024

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

ISSUE 549



Winner of the Badminton Horse Trials 2024, Caroline Powell on Greenacres Special Cavalier.

Picture copyright Badminton Horse Trials



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

# EDITORIAL JUNE 2024

When I was growing up, it was generally accepted that the first sign of summer was the FA Cup Final, held at the start of May at the historic home of football, Wembley Stadium. In the winter months, football matches were played on pitches that sometimes resembled poorly ploughed fields with mud so thick the ball would come to an immediate stop whenever it landed in it. Some clubs tried to improve matters by spreading sand over the pitch, which might have looked neater and reminded people of their summer holidays, but did little for the quality of the football. Then it was May, and time to settle down in front of the TV for the FA Cup Final. First you had to choose a channel, as both BBC 1 or ITV would be showing the match in its entirety, much to the annoyance of housewives everywhere (this was the seventies, well before women discovered the joys of football). And it wasn't just the match they showed – the build-up would start mid-morning so by kick-off time you knew what the players had for breakfast, where they'd got their matching suits with flared lapels and twin vents, and what strange rituals some of them went through before leaving the changing rooms. By the time they emerged from the Wembley tunnel for the 3pm kick-off, you felt like you knew each and every player personally. And when they did emerge, it was always into a stadium bathed in brilliant sunshine. It was a party atmosphere for the 100,000 fans, and the pitch they ran out onto looked like a bowling green, proudly displaying its neat stripes with military precision. I really can't remember a year when it rained for the FA Cup final – it was always sunny. It was always the start of summer, and summers always meant wall-to-wall sunshine.

Things seem to a bit different these days. Perhaps it's due to global warming, or the increasing influence of El Niño (the weather system, not one of those exotic overseas players that brightened up many an FA Cup final with mesmerising skills before losing his temper and getting sent for an early bath after thumping an opponent), or maybe it's just my rose-tinted memories of years gone by, but summers now seem to start later and last further into the year, and the hot spells are concentrated into short, sharp heatwaves, rather than periods of prolonged pleasantness. I wouldn't claim to be a sun-worshiper, but I would admit to feeling better when the sun shines. Waking up to be greeted by the sun streaming in through the curtains is certainly uplifting, and being able to plan a barbeque with friends more than 12-hours in advance is equally welcome. Finding it's still wet and windy as we enter June is less palatable! The good news is the sun shone on the Badminton Horse Trials this year. I'm not sure how Jane Tuckwell and the team managed it, but the sun shone from the moment the gates opened and hung around until the last visitor had left, at which point normal weather was resumed. I don't think I'd enjoyed a Badminton so much for a long time. It could have been my imagination but it felt more relaxed, more laid back. The roads didn't seem as busy, it was much easier to move around the site, and there weren't the same queues for food and drink (and much-needed ice creams). It was a lovely place to be. Another lovely place to be was wandering around the exhibition put on to mark the event's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which presented a fascinating timeline of photos stretching right back to the very earliest days of the horse trials. It's quite remarkable to see how many of the biggest names in the sport have competed at Badminton, and sometimes been very successful, then realise that the competitor who finished second this year holds down a full-time job as marketing manager for a drinks company! You don't get that in the FA Cup final. Amongst the other items on display was a collection of programmes, the earliest ones comprising a mere handful of stapled sheets which contrasted starkly with this year's glossy 144-page tome, and the hand-knitted jumper worn to victory by Lucinda Green. I do like a bit of nostalgia.

While Badminton celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024, this year also marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, when the Allies began their offensive to push the Germans out of occupied Europe. In 1994, Local Talk Back printed a piece written by Fred Ayliffe who worked as a builder from his premises in Acton Turville. On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1944 at 1pm, Fred set sail from Southampton Harbour on a landing craft packed with tanks, armoured cars, trucks and half-tracks which would be used to storm the German defences and transport vital supplies for the troops on the beaches. Also on the landing craft was a vehicle called a Bren Gun Carrier, a lightweight tracked vehicle which could be rapidly deployed to transport men, ammunition and equipment to where they were most needed. This was the vehicle in which Fred would be going ashore. Fred's recollection of that day was stark, chilling, humbling and inspiring. It is impossible to put into words the bravery of all those who took part in those landings. The Royal British Legion are marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day with events on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. It's your opportunity to thank people like Fred and remember the debt we all owe each and every one of them.

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

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

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

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JULY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024.

THANK YOU.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**June 2024**

- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Gentlemen's Cooking Club, Badminton House, 10am – 1pm
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Royal British Legion D-Day Anniversary Events, St Mary's Church, Acton Turville and Fox & Hounds
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup>/Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Middlewick House Open Gardens (see below for details)
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
- Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Gentlemen's Cooking Club, Badminton House, 10am – 1pm
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Rural Cinema, Wicked Little Lies (15)
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> – Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Exhibition of Botanical Art, Badminton House
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Gentlemen's Cooking Club, Badminton House, 10am – 1pm
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Talk – The Life and Legacy of Mary Beaufort, Badminton House, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Botanical Drawing Class, Badminton House, 10.30am – 4pm
- Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Talk – The Life and Legacy of Mary Beaufort, Badminton House, 1pm-2pm
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Acton Turville Social Summer Party, 7pm 'til late
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Botanical Perfumery Workshop, Badminton House, 10.30am – 1pm
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Whisky Tasting, Badminton House, 3pm – 5pm
- Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Woodlands of Worcester Lodge Tour, Badminton Estate, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville 2pm - 5pm
- Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Royal Iced Biscuits Workshop, Badminton House, 9.30am – 1.30pm

**July 2024**

- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Acton Aid, Iron Acton Meadows, with Nearly Elton and Joey & the Lips (see page 8 for details)
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Acton Aid, Iron Acton Meadows, with Leslie Garrett and the Bristol Ensemble (see page 8 for details)
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds

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

**DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

*This month from we have received one anonymous donation of £25. Thank you.*

*In addition, £12 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**

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

**100 Club**

WINNERS FOR MAY 2024

Gordon Shand  
Eileen Whittock  
Richard Hartley

**Congratulations!**

**Middlewick House Open Garden**

8-9 June 2024, 11am to 4:30pm

In aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance and The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

By kind permission of Nick and Annette Mason. Wander around the beautiful gardens and menagerie of animals, as well as seeing a selection of Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason's classic and high performance cars. The family-friendly weekend includes plenty of stalls to browse, with lots of items for sale, including jewellery, plants, candles and art.

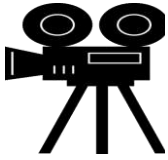
<https://middlewickhouseopengarden.com/>

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# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### WICKED LITTLE LETTERS

(2023, Cert 15), comedy, mystery, history, thriller  
Buckley, Olivia Colman, Malachi Kirby, Timothy Spall, Jason Watkins  
Director: Thea Sharrock

A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a farcical and occasionally sinister scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger than fiction true story, the film follows two neighbours: deeply conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women - led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasani) - begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss, and Rose may not be the culprit after all...

**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*

[jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)



**& HOUNDS INN**

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**

## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£12.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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



ACTON TURVILLE & BADMINTON  
**D-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**  
FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

The villages of Badminton and Acton Turville are holding a series of events to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Proceedings start at 10.45am with a service of remembrance at St Mary's church before moving to the Fox & Hounds for a WW2-themed afternoon featuring military exhibits, picture displays, delicious food, an amazing raffle and dancing to the music of the D-Day Dollies. See advert on page 8 for more details.

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

### JUNE 2024 REPORT

**ATPC Annual Meeting** – The May meeting of the Parish Council was its Annual Meeting. In addition to formally endorsing reports and summaries of the previous year's activities, elections were held for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. With no other nominations being received, Sybil Haddrell and Ian Carter were elected unopposed.

**Future Meetings** – It was agreed to hold future meetings of the Parish Council at Trinity School, with meetings reverting to their traditional start time of 7pm. Parishioners are always welcome to attend meetings, but should inform the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting if they wish to raise any specific issues. Meeting dates can be found on the Parish Council website.

**Bus Stops** – At the May meeting, our District Councillor Becky Romaine confirmed that she was investigating how best to reinstate the village bus stop signs and would provide updates in due course. The Parish Council thanked her for her support.

#### Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Sally Smith 218510,  
Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

*Next Meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 @ 7.00pm. Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.  
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website*

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

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



## NEWS NEWS NEWS



### BADMINTON ESTATE BADMINTON HOUSE GARDEN OPEN DAY AND EXHIBITION OF BOTANICAL ART

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 10AM-4PM

EXPLORE THE GARDENS OF THE HISTORIC BADMINTON HOUSE, HOME OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT, WHERE THE SPRING-TIME DISPLAYS OF TULIPS HAVE MADE WAY FOR ROSES AND DAHLIAS WHICH FILL THE GARDENS WITH VIBRANT COLOURS. A SHORT STROLL FROM THE MAIN HOUSE YOU'LL FIND THE WALLED GARDEN, HOME TO THE BADMINTON HOUSE KITCHEN GARDEN, PROVIDING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AS WELL AS CUT FLOWERS FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR. YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO VISIT WELL COTTAGE, THE HOME OF MIRANDA BEAUFORT, AND HER BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE GARDENS AND GREENHOUSES, THE ENTRY FEE OF £3 ON THE GATE SUPPORTS DOROTHY HOUSE

JUNE ALSO SEES THE FIRST ART EXHIBITION AT BADMINTON HOUSE, FEATURING A UNIQUE COLLECTION SHOWCASING THE BOTANICAL WORKS BELONGING TO MARY SOMERSET, THE FIRST DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE FROM 10AM-4PM AS PART OF THE OPEN GARDEN DAYS AND RUN FOR 1 WEEK AFTER EACH OPENING.

**PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST HAVE AN OPEN GARDEN DAY TICKET TO PURCHASE A £5 EXHIBITION TICKET.**

See <https://www.badmintonestate.com/events/> for full details

## RAISING FUNDS FOR UKRAINE

We would like to invite you to join us on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June in the gardens of our home, Portcullis Lodge in Acton Turville (or Badminton Village Hall if it is wet) when 'Winterbourne Wind Band' will once again be playing to raise money to help those people still struggling to survive in Ukraine. All money raised from this event will go to 'The Helping Hand for Ukraine', a division of The Chernobyl Children's Life Line formed to provide help to children and their families however they are affected by war. The charity supports schools and kindergartens by equipping underground bomb shelters, many of which are old concrete vegetable bunkers or cold, wet basements. They supply heating, lighting, emergency power supply, basic welfare equipment such as water heaters and microwaves, but their main focus is on allowing the children to continue their education during the missile or drone attacks when they have to run to the shelter and spend many hours waiting. The charity is also keen to collect relatively new, no longer used laptops, i-pads or smart phones which can be wiped and returned to factory setting to be used by the children in these 'classrooms'. If you have any, I would be happy to put you in touch with head office.

Since our previous fundraising event, I have received photos of children with hens and eggs from one of the projects I mentioned last year, and a little girl carrying a kid. If you would like to see more pictures, they can be followed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCLLCharity>

If you would like to help us raise money for projects to help those still in Ukraine, please join us, and bring your friends, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm.

You would be very welcome, no tickets required - just turn up - you might also want to bring your own chair though! I am also hoping to have some Ukrainian crafts for sale this year.

Chris Spreadborough



## Paul Jones - Village Agent Update

Help, support, and advice for residents of the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.



**H**ard to believe but I've now been in my Village Agent role for a year, and it's been a very rewarding experience. I'd like to think that attending Parish Council meetings, community events, coffee mornings and lunch clubs has helped to develop trust in the role, and that people feel more able to pick up the phone and ask for help as a result. If there is anything else you think that I could do to promote the work of your Village Agent then please let me know. An area where I've helped people over the last year is gaining access to additional funding which can be used to support their everyday expenditure. It's been mentioned to me on more than one occasion that not everyone is aware of some of the sources of funding out there, Attendance Allowance being a good example.

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people over State Pension age who need help with personal care or supervision because of an illness or disability. It should not be confused with Carers Allowance, which goes to those with caring responsibilities – Attendance Allowance is paid to the individual who needs support. There are two different weekly rates, and the amount you are entitled to depends on how much help you need. Any Attendance Allowance you receive doesn't necessarily need to be spent on your care. Many people spend the money on other types of help in the home, or on equipment to help them stay independent. For example, it could help you pay bills, get meals delivered or cover the cost of taxis.

The money you receive isn't taxable or means-tested – so your savings or income won't affect your claim. Claiming also won't affect any other benefits you receive. In fact, it can help you get other benefits such as Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support

You can claim Attendance Allowance if you meet **all** the following criteria:

- You're over State Pension age (if you haven't reached it, you may be eligible for Personal Independence Payment instead).
- You have any type of disability or physical or mental illness, including sight or hearing impairments and conditions such as dementia.
- You could benefit from help with personal care, such as getting washed or dressed, or supervision to keep you safe during the day or night.
- You have needed help for at least 6 months. This doesn't apply if you're terminally ill, in which case you can make a claim straight away.

I can help with the claims process so if you, or anyone you know might benefit from an Attendance Allowance claim please give me a ring.

*Paul*

*Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies. Your help to promote and develop the service would be greatly appreciated.*

More information on the project can be found here: [www.wern.org.uk/village-agents](http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents)

Or contact me on:

T: 07795442272

E: [paul@wern.org.uk](mailto:paul@wern.org.uk)



# J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Time to prune back early flowering shrubs -except Daphnes- to new growth. Create an open centre and remove any crossing branches. Deadhead tulips by snapping off the seed head and allow the leaves and stems to die down, putting energy back into the bulbs. They may not flower again, so for a guaranteed display replant next season with new bulbs. The Appledorn family do repeat flower.

## ***It's a good time to.....***

If you haven't already put in supports for your sweetpeas, do so now. I prefer hazel to bamboo, I think it blends in better, but it needs replacing after a season or two as it rots.

Attend to the compost bin. Lay some plastic sheet out near the container and fork the compost from the container onto it. Give it a good mix up and then return it back to the container.

## ***Get growing!***

Sow courgettes and pumpkins in a sunny position in rich soil, they are hungry feeders so feed and water them very regularly. Buy small plants of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower, and plant out when warm in late June or July. Buy a pot of parsley from the supermarket, it will contain about thirty plants. Divide the pot into four just by gently pulling apart, and plant one group by the kitchen, one in the vegetable area and two more as gifts. An absolute bargain.

Buy some sunflower seeds for the children to grow. Make it into a fun competition for them.

As the temperature and light levels increase now, start to feed houseplants and increase watering once the soil is dry. Don't overwater, always check first and possibly choose one day a week to do that and preferably put the water in a saucer.

Any chance of a cold snap, rush out and cover your tender young bedding plants and vegetables with a horticultural fleece and remove it as soon as possible.

## ***Slugging it out***

Be on slug patrol with whatever system works for you. Frogs take lots of slugs, and slugs and snails stay away from many grey leaved plants, such as nepeta, salvia, and others including hellebore, hardy geranium, astrantia, penstemon, heuchera and sedums. There is a big choice of plants that slugs leave alone. They also don't like dry soil, so water first thing.

## ***And Finally***

If you are given a young tree, choose one that is not going to end up the size of an oak or beech: a cherry, a pear, a Japanese maple or a Rowan would be good. The newly-discovered woolumi pine, which was thought extinct, is not suitable for a domestic garden, it is a forest tree.

## Sudoku

June'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 !!**

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

### **NOT SO EASY !!**

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

### **Answers to the May quizzes:**

#### **'Easy'**

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

#### **'Not so Easy'**

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



WHAT'S ON

ACTON AID PRESENTS

# MASH

*in the meadows*

## NEARLY ELTON

The ultimate tribute to Elton John

## JOEY THE LIPS

Britain's funkiest 10 piece band

**5th July 2024**

Iron Acton Meadows, Bristol

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [ACTONAIID.ORG.UK](http://ACTONAIID.ORG.UK)



1944 - 2024

## ACTON TURVILLE & BADMINTON

# D-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**FRIDAY 7TH JUNE**

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE  
1045hrs, SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

FOX & HOUNDS, ACTON TURVILLE  
1200hrs TO 1400hrs, MILITARY EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE DISPLAYS

1300hrs, MUSIC FROM THE D-DAY DOLLIES, SINGING SONGS FROM WW2 WITH THE TRINITY SCHOOL CHOIR

*SPECIAL D-DAY TWO COURSE LUNCH, 1200hrs TO LATE. ADD YOUR NAMES TO THE LISTS IN THE BADMINTON OR ACTON TURVILLE STORES, OR THE FOX & HOUNDS, BY THE 24TH MAY*

IF YOU HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT ALASTAIR ON 218314 OR 0775 1915770



## Summer Party

SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE  
LOWER ORCHARD - ACTON TURVILLE  
7:00PM - UNTIL LATE

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT RAFFLE

TICKETS £10  
Available through:  
[ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com](mailto:ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com)  
Mel, Karen, or Caroline



ACTON AID PRESENTS

# LESLEY GARRETT

*and the Bristol Ensemble*



6TH JULY 2024  
IRON ACTON MEADOWS,  
BRISTOL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [ACTONAIID.ORG.UK](http://ACTONAIID.ORG.UK)





## *Badminton Horse Trials 2024*

It's the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, Bank Holiday Monday and I'm sitting on the spectator bank at Castle Combe race circuit. Despite wearing a full set of waterproofs and huddling under a sturdy umbrella, nothing can protect me from the cold winds which drive the incessant rain against my face. I head home early, soaked to the skin, and check the Badminton website, half expecting to see an announcement to say that the horse trials, due to start in two days' time, have been cancelled. There's no announcement. That's brave I think. Roll forward two days to Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May and I'm sitting in the stands at Badminton, overlooking the lake with the house in the background, watching the competitors in the grass roots championship. I'm in shorts and shirt sleeves, enjoying the ice cream that I've just bought from the nearby ice cream van. The sky is blue, the ground is dry, and I can feel my face starting to burn. What a transformation!

Although the weather inevitably featured heavily in conversations during the build-up to Badminton 2024, especially when it was announced that the Festival of British Eventing would no longer be held at Gatcombe after the weather caused last year's event to be abandoned, there remained much to discuss in the months and weeks leading up to the start of competition. 2023's popular winner and current world number two Ros Canter was back and came to Badminton on a great run of form, albeit playing down her chances on a horse which she admitted had limited experience on such a long course as Badminton. Victory for Oliver Townend on Ballaghmor Class would see him become just the third rider to achieve the coveted Rolex Grand Slam, awarded for any horse and rider combination that consecutively wins the world's biggest three five-star competitions. Having already won at Burghley and Kentucky, just Badminton stood between him and the coveted accolade. If you wanted inspiration there was Bubby Upton who, just eight months previously, had sustained a back injury which doctors told her could mean she may never walk again yet here she was competing at Badminton. And of course we were also promised something special to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> running of the Badminton Horse Trials. All that was needed to make 2024 very special was a bit of sunshine.

The main event kicked off on the Thursday with dressage, but alas Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class did not feature after his mount was withdrawn due to injury. It was a dream start by Bubby Upton on Cola who led the pack with a strong score of 27.3. Also up with the leaders was William Fox-Pitt, competing in his 26<sup>th</sup> Badminton and looking forward to the cross-country element where he felt the course would suit him and his horse Graffenacht. The second day of the dressage once again dawned hot and sunny, which was good news for the spectators but not necessarily the horses, some of which didn't particularly seem to enjoy the heat. Ros Canter and Izilot DHI had no such qualms and by the end of the day their score of 25.3 was sufficient to put them at the top of the overall leaderboard ahead of some big names including Pippa Funnell and Tim Price. Saturday. Cross country day. More sunshine, a first-class field for the huge crowds to enjoy and much debate about how Eric Winter's course will hold up. Early signs were positive (although the word "sticky" was used at least once to describe the going!) and the number of horses going clear ensured things remained tight at the top of the leader board. Disappointingly, the hopes of two of the crowd's favourites, Ros Canter and Bubby Upton, were dashed when their horses collected fences, dislodging the frangible pins. Ros was understandably disappointed but remained positive about the potential of what was still a young and relatively inexperienced mount, whereas Bubby was overwhelmed with the support she'd received from those who recognised what an achievement it was for her to be competing at Badminton so soon after her accident. Once the scores had been totted up, it was experience that led the way on the leaderboard, with New Zealand's Tim Price just ahead of the veteran William Fox-Pitt, who had been intimating that 2024 could turn out to be his last time competing at Badminton. In contrast, 27-year old Irish rider Lucy Latta and Badminton first-timer lay in third place on RCA Patron Saint after a stunning cross-country round saw her storm up the leaderboard from her overnight position of 46<sup>th</sup>. It was all building up to a thrilling finale on Sunday with everything to play for in the showjumping.

*Cont'd over*

## *Badminton Horse Trials 2024 (cont'd)*

37 competitors took part in the showjumping phase, competing in front of Her Majesty The Queen who would also be presenting the prizes. With Tim Price and William Fox-Pitt going head-to-head for victory, the crowd settled themselves into their seats and prepared themselves for an epic battle between these two top riders. Clearly neither of them had read the script, and they both had rounds that they'd probably rather forget with Tim having five fences down and William six, pushing them well out of contention - it was definitely not the way William Fox-Pitt would have chosen to bow out of Badminton. Suddenly though there was the intriguing possibility that Badminton first-timer Lucy Latta could emerge victorious. She gave it her all with a great round that saw her finish with just one fence down, but in the end it wasn't quite enough. With one of just four clear rounds, the spoils went to New Zealand's Caroline Powell on Greenacres Special Cavalier with Lucy Latta second and Alex Bragg from Somerset. The biggest cheer though was probably reserved for Bubby Upton and Cola, who put their cross-country disappointment behind them with a perfect clear which, as well as earning them tenth overall, had many in the arena reaching for their handkerchiefs.

Seventh after the dressage and sixth after the cross-country, Caroline had shown the consistency necessary to win at an event like Badminton, and her victory was much deserved. A special mention must go to Alex Bragg, who was down in 60<sup>th</sup> place after the dressage and seemingly out of contention, but followed his excellent cross-country ride with a clear round in the showjumping to earn himself a well-deserved place on the podium.

So that was Badminton 2024. The record books will show Caroline Powell to be victorious, but ultimately it was the event itself that deserved to be crowned the winner. So much work had gone into organising the 75<sup>th</sup> Badminton Horse Trials and making it the huge success that

it turned out to be, and everyone involved deserves to be very proud of what they achieved. The sun definitely shone on the 2024 Badminton Horse Trials, and rightly so.



*Overall winner Caroline Powell on Greenacres Special Cavalier powers round the cross-country course. Photos courtesy of Gary Morris Photography*



*The log-piles from Hinnegar Woods being put to good use!  
Photo by Lisa Horton from Bristol*

*Cont'd over*



## Badminton Horse Trials 2024 (cont'd)



*Above and right:  
More views capturing the action and atmosphere of Badminton 2024. The cross-country course help up amazingly well.  
Thanks to Gill Love and Lisa Horton for providing the pictures*

*Clockwise from below:  
Jubilant winner Caroline Powell completes a well-deserved victory lap.  
Winners of the Voltaire Design Grassroots Championships 2024, Ben Fairbrother and Upper Limit at BE90 level, and Lucinda Mill and Chaconda Blue at BE100.  
The winner is presented with the Mars Badminton Trophy by HM The Queen with Ms Linda Mars of the sponsors.  
Smiles all round on the winners rostrum.  
Photos copyright Badminton Horse Trials.*





# Church Matters

## June 2024 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

It is unlikely that you will have been unaware of the signs popping up around the villages with the demand: 'Stop Lime Down'.

Last Sunday in church, we were reflecting on the words from St John's Gospel, 'I call you friends'. And one of the most important aspects of friendship, is the avoidance of judgement. Friends give advice, and say what they think, but they do not condemn.

The prospect of a solar panel farm covering quite a large area of countryside near us, has understandably raised emotions. It also has the potential to create divisions.

As a community, it behoves us to listen to each other and to try and understand the reasons people have for making decisions.

I love the countryside, and know how it restores my inner being, and I believe that all human activity should be sympathetic to the spiritual character of the land.

But, there are reasons that people have, for supporting a solar park. Arguments about how best to be custodians of the land in a mixed economy.

I leave you with a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins which reminds us that this debate is nothing new:

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;  
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.*

*And for all this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*

Have a lovely June,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

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

Home:01454 219236/ Mob:07717791858

## Church Services for June 2024

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 <sup>nd</sup> June Trinity 1	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
9 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer Book	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer Book	Rev J Wilson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Lay Led
16 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 3 Father's Day	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury School	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Lay Led
23 <sup>rd</sup> June Birth of John the Baptist	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion and Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	FOSM Evensong	Preacher Rev P Settafield
30 <sup>th</sup> June, Peter & Paul	11.15am	St Arild's, Oldbury	Matins	Rev R Thomson



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## Picture Gallery

Once again we have Mike Bird to thank for some great pictures this month. The bluebell season seemed to be shorter than normal this year, but Mike captured these displays in Hinnegar Woods for us, the blooms contrasting beautifully with the vivid greens of the surrounding trees. As always, thanks for taking the time to send them in Mike.



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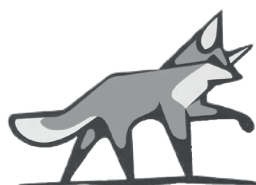
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## 75 YEARS OF THE BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS

Badminton celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style with a major display of pictures, trophies and memorabilia dating back to the very first days of the horse trials in 1949, showing how it had transformed itself into the major international event it is today. Acton Turville's Claire Broomsgrove was on stewarding duties when she spotted a face she recognised, it was multiple Badminton winner and Olympic Champion Ginny Elliott, formerly Ginny Leng, who lived for many years at Ivyleaze, just outside the village. Some readers might remember the pictures Talk Back published of the reception villagers put on for Ginny and her horse Priceless on their return from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Some might even remember seeing a very young Claire amongst the well-wishers. They clearly enjoyed catching up (right).

One item that illustrated how far eventing, and sport in general, has moved on was the jumper worn by Lucinda Green when she won at Badminton. It wasn't made of a material designed for the NASA astronauts, and it wasn't emblazoned with advertisers' logos. The simple yellow jumper, pictured below, was made of wool and it was hand-knitted by - her mum, Lady Doreen Prior-Palmer.

