

# Local Talk Back

JUNE 2025

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

ISSUE 560



ROS CANTER, WINNER OF THE MARS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2025 ON LORDSHIPS GRAFFALO

*PICTURE COURTESY OF THE BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS*



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

# EDITORIAL JUNE 2025

Have you been watching Springwatch? It's the BBC programme where the presenters get very excited when they capture footage of animals out in the wild, revealing both the majestic beauty and harsh reality of the natural world. Over the past few weeks I've been enjoying my own version of Springwatch, taking place in the back garden, mostly beneath the bird feeders. The main protagonists are, not surprisingly, birds, but there have been one or two interlopers which I'll get on to shortly. My initial observation is how well the different species get on. The goldfinches head straight for the feeders, straining their little beaks to nourish themselves on sunflower hearts which they carefully remove one at a time. The peanuts are where you'll find the blue tits, acrobatically nibbling away whilst hanging upside down, and, if you're lucky, a woodpecker or two, which take a somewhat more aggressive approach to removing the nuts by hammering their beaks into the feeders. I dread to think what would happen if a blue tit inadvertently found its way between a woodpecker and the nuts, but I don't think it would be a happy ending. Not for the blue tit anyway.

The lawn underneath the feeders is primarily the domain of the chaffinches and an ever-increasing number of woodpigeons. These birds wait until the feeders are in use and position themselves to Hoover up the discarded morsels that drop to the ground. You can actually see them looking up, readying themselves to pounce on the next treat that comes their way. Competition has traditionally been stiff but fair, and I've never once seen a woodpigeon use its massive size advantage to smother a chaffinch and steal its lunch. The atmosphere changed though when a new arrival appeared on the wall. It studied the freshly-filled feeders and spent some time sizing up the current feathered clientele before flying off and returning with a couple of friends. This bird was much like a pigeon, but slightly smaller, and it marched around with the sort of confidence that showed it meant business. Maybe it was a racing pigeon, with a finely-honed instinct to win at all costs and show no mercy towards its competitors. A quick flick through the 1957 issue of *I Spy Garden Birds* provided the answer. This was no pigeon, racing or otherwise. It was a Stock Dove. No, I'd not heard of it before either, but in no time we had three of them strutting around the garden, looking like they owned the place.

Their arrival has not gone down well with the rest of the feathered community. With the exception of a sparrowhawk that makes a nuisance of itself by eating the other birds, the Stock Doves have quickly become the least popular diners around the metaphorical bird table. They pick the best positions under the feeders and work as a team to drive off any other birds that call in for a snack. I've never seen birds behave like it before. One of them will do the eating while the other two move swiftly to prevent anything else getting close. They remind me of the hired heavies you see protecting celebrities, heads of state and world leaders, their chests pumped out while they scour the crowds for potential threats that they can "neutralise". In the case of the stock doves, those potential threats include the chunky pigeons which they shepherd away, working like a couple of well-trained sheep dogs. I'd like to see how they deal with a flock of pigeons operating as a team, but so far the pigeons have demonstrated a limited grasp of basic military strategy and instead just walk around in circles.

I mentioned the non-feathered visitors. So far we've not spotted the mythical otter that was a frequent sight around fish-filled ponds last year, but the squirrel population has filled the void. They're everywhere. And unfortunately they're still small enough to squeeze through the bars of our squirrel-proof bird feeders, quickly emptying them and doing their best to destroy the feeders at the same time. Something that definitely won't be troubling the bird feeders is the muntjac deer that appeared a couple of weeks back. He seemed more intent on drinking from the pond which was fine, and nibbling on a few plants which was not so great, so I'm hoping he doesn't visit too often. Springwatch? Who needs it.

I'll tell you what we do need though. We need some help with Talk Back. If you're organising or taking part in events, visiting interesting places, researching your family history, or have a hobby or pastime that you'd like to tell us about, please get in touch, we really would love hear from you. In fact, if you think you can help in any way with the production of the newsletter, come and have a chat. We've got a few interesting articles that we'll be publishing over the coming months, but it would be great to have more people involved.

Besides which, I need to dedicate more time to my new YouTube channel. It'll be like Eastenders with birds. And a muntjac deer. I might call it TurvilleWatch.

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JULY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025.

THANK YOU.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### June 2025

Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Castle Combe Circuit Car Boot Sale, 9am – 2pm
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> & Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Mary's Flower Festival & Open Gardens, Acton Turville
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Badminton Benefice Festival of Music, St Mary the Virgin, Sopworth
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm

#### July 2025

Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fundraiser for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Benefice Festival of Music, St Arild's, Oldbury
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm

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

#### 100 Club

#### WINNERS FOR MAY 2025

Diana Silvey  
Doreen Shortall  
Trudi Manning

**Congratulations!**

### DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

*We received one anonymous donation this month, for which we are very grateful.*

*In addition, £20.00 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.*

*We really do 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 the new Badminton shop.*

*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!*

### 90th Birthday Thank You!

*My heart-felt thanks go to all who kindly sent cards and presents for my birthday.*

*A special thank you to Eileen and Bob Stephens who opened their house and garden, with the help of many others, to celebrate the day.*

*Bridget Hope*

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**Acton Turville  
Flower Festival  
and  
Open Gardens**

*In Support of*  
**St. Mary's Church, Acton Turville**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**  
**12.00 – 4.00pm**  
**£5.00**

*(In advance from The Village Stores or on the day at the church)*  
**Refreshments Available**  
**Church Service - Sunday 4pm**



## ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

The Acton Turville Tennis Club is an LTA-affiliated group which runs the community tennis court in Acton Turville. You don't need to live in Acton Turville to join our tennis club, anyone can sign up, and once you're a member you can use the court for free. Booking is simple, just use the on-line form to pick a time and date to suit you.

*Non-members can also use the court on a pay-to-play basis.*

Coaching is available from LTA accredited coaches

For more information, visit the club's website - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ActonTurvilleTennisClub>



## Badminton Benefice Festival of Music 2025



**Come & Sing!** - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May  
at St Mary the Virgin, Hawkesbury  
1pm Singing workshop 4pm Concert



**Young Musicians** - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
at St Mary the Virgin, Sopworth (2.45pm)  
Recital by Westonbirt School students  
led by Nicola Atwell



**Echoes of St Arild's** - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
at St Arild's, Oldbury (1-5pm)  
Art and music with artist Sue Bown  
& the Wotton Chamber Group



**Pastoral Airs** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August  
at St Mary's, Lashborough (3pm)  
Recital of wind instruments  
led by flautist Nicky Russell



**Harvest Home** - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
at St Andrew's Leighterton (5.30pm)  
Folk music & flowers  
with wine & refreshments

*Free admission - donations welcome*  
[www.badmintonbenefice.com/festival-of-music](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com/festival-of-music)

The new Badminton Benefice Festival of Music got off to a brilliant start on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Hawkesbury. The launch event was a highly successful singing workshop open to all members of the Benefice, followed by a short, slick concert staged by singers of all ages, including members of Trinity and Hawkesbury Primary Schools. The workshop and concert were led with energy and enthusiasm by Amy Garry of Voices Together, deftly accompanied on the piano by Ben Humphries, Benefice Music Director and Founder of the Festival. This first event embodied the Festival's aims of bringing collaborative and accessible musical events to the Badminton Benefice community in the beautiful settings of its parish churches. Huge thanks to all those who helped make it such a success. The Festival will bring a new musical event to a different church in the Benefice every month until the end of September. Do come and join us! See poster for details.

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)



## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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



## Raising Funds for Ukraine

We would like to invite you to join the Winterbourne Wind Band, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, as they play a wide variety of musical pieces in our garden to raise money to help people in Ukraine.

*The event will take place between 2pm and 5pm at Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville GL9 1HD (or in Badminton Village Hall if wet).*

No tickets are needed - just turn up.

It would help if you could bring your own chair.

We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you.

*The Spreadborough family*



Last year my friend, Lana, joined us with her Ukrainian craft stall.

She will be here again this year. Lana makes some of the items herself but most are made by her sister who still lives in Ukraine.

The money she takes goes back to her family.



## A Tale of Two Piers

If someone mentions the pier at Weston-super-Mare, you'll probably think about the Grand Pier, the structure that strides out across the mud flats from the centre of the promenade, its colourful fairy lights designed to tempt you aboard to spend your money on candy floss, slot machines and cones of greasy chips. But at the far end of the promenade sits another pier, one whose heydays are but a distant memory, and which looks like one more storm could send it crashing into the waves. Say hello to Birnbeck pier.

Actually, say hello to Birnbeck Island too, as without that small, rocky outcrop, there would be no pier. The island is linked to the mainland by a causeway which is only exposed at low tide, and as invariably happens in such situations, the history books tell us about people being washed to their deaths in the turbulent waters of Weston Bay after getting caught out by a rapidly rising tide. The deaths of two young brothers in 1819 prompted calls for a more stable link to the island, and, after a number of false starts (including a suspension bridge which was partially built but abandoned after it was damaged in a storm), work eventually started on the pier in 1864. Weston even declared a public holiday on the day when the foundation stone was laid. Three years later, the pier was finished and a great procession made its way there from the Town Hall to celebrate its grand opening. Naturally, Weston declared another public holiday.

Like most piers, Birnbeck featured a wooden deck supported on iron piles. It measured 350m (or 1150ft), and at the time was unique because it linked the mainland to an island. That was significant because, with the island of Birnbeck covering an area of approximately 3-acres, there was plenty of space to construct the sort of facilities which would attract visitors. And attract visitors it most definitely did. Those on the Weston side were charged 1d to walk onto the pier, but the designers of the pier had the foresight to include a jetty which could accept steamers packed with day trippers sailing from South Wales and the port of Bristol. It very soon became an extremely popular destination; within 3-months of its opening it had attracted 120,000 people, and the facilities on the island were expanded to cope with the demand. The island served a useful purpose too, as in 1889, a lifeboat house was added to its north side.

The story of the pier almost came to an abrupt end in 1897 when a disastrous fire destroyed many of its buildings, but, no doubt spurred on by its popularity, the owners wasted no time rebuilding them, and just seven months later the new, improved Birnbeck pier re-opened. New attractions were regularly introduced

and before long visitors could enjoy a range of fairground attractions including a water chute, a helter skelter and a switchback railway (like a small big dipper). Not everyone was happy with the way the pier was heading though, and plans to construct a concrete platform to house yet more attractions met with

resistance from local residents and the council, who were concerned that the pier company "*wish to enlarge and convert Birnbeck into a little Coney Island.*"

Visitor numbers remained buoyant throughout the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, despite the pier suffering damage on a number of occasions from high seas and storms, but a greater threat was that posed by the Grand Pier. Originally opened in 1903, it operated quite harmoniously alongside Birnbeck, the two piers offering different attractions and appealing to a different clientele, so much so that many visitors who arrived at Birnbeck on one of the steamers would never feel the need to venture off the island. That changed when the Grand Pier, after suffering a major fire in 1930, was transformed into a much bigger attraction which proved to be a far greater draw than the much smaller Birnbeck. A further blow occurred when Birnbeck was commandeered by the military during the second world war and used for weapon testing, including the bouncing bombs being designed by Barnes-Wallis.

After the war the pier was put up for sale, eventually being bought by P&A Campbell in 1962, the company who operated many of the steamers such as the Balmoral and Waverly that brought in so many visitors. By then the pier was in decline, and matters were not helped when the steamer Westward Ho! collided with it in 1969. Just 10-years after purchasing it, P&A Campbell put Birnbeck back on the market. Early rumours suggested it might be bought by the council, but those negotiations proved fruitless. The eventual buyer was someone called John Critchley, who had great plans for the attraction.

*Cont'd over*



*Birnbeck Pier, 1943, with steamer moored at jetty (top right)*



### *A Tale of Two Piers (cont'd)*

These included a 140-room hotel and even a zoo, which were both rejected out of hand by the planners. Thus began a period of conflict between Critchley and the council, with claims and counter claims being aimed at both parties on a regular basis. Behind the scenes, the existing buildings had continued to deteriorate and in 1979, the final steamer departed from Birnbeck, with rumours circulating that the owner was planning to demolish the pier.



*The Water Chute, circa 1905*

Despite the doom and gloom (and arguments), the pier remained open and visitors could enjoy a meal in the restaurant. It was also hosting rock concerts, leading to its appearance in the once-popular Shoestring TV detective series, where the shambolically-dressed private eye played by Trevor Eve has to rescue a character played by lispypunkette Toyah Wilcox, who did a very convincing job of playing herself. The rock concerts stopped in 1981. In 1984, a barge being used to refurbish the beach at Sand Bay broke free from its moorings and collided with the pier causing damage estimated at £1M. In 1988, there was a major fire in the building that housed the restaurant. In 1990, it was once again damaged by storms, and in 1994, it was closed by the Council for safety reasons. The future looked bleak for Birnbeck.

During this period, the RNLI continued to operate from the island, but because of the poor state of the facility, in 2013 they were forced to move part of their operations to the mainland. This caused them significant problems, because the location of the new lifeboat station did not allow them to launch directly into the water. Instead, they had to hook their lifeboat up to a specially-designed tractor which would haul it along the promenade and down a slipway into the water, which was quite a trek that delayed the launch of the boat by vital minutes, especially when the tide was out.

This situation was also to offer Birnbeck a lifeline. The lifeboat station on the island was hopelessly outdated and would not be suitable for modern boats, but it was the perfect site from which to conduct launches, down the slipway, directly into the water. What if a case could be developed whereby a new, modern, lifeboat station could be built on the island, and the now largely derelict pier could be renovated as part of that work package? In 2020, North Somerset Council, Historic England and the RNLI joined forces and in 2022, they eventually managed to negotiate the purchase of the pier from its then-owners, CNM Estates (who, like many previous owners, had some grand plans for the island that never came to anything). With funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, work began to stabilise the pier and remaining buildings on the island, and in 2023, North Somerset Council became the new owners, the purchase being funded by the RNLI. Plans were drawn up, planning applications submitted and in 2024, North Somerset Council granted planning permission for a scheme that included a state-of-the-art lifeboat station.

Over the past few decades, when demolition of the grade 2\* listed pier seemed the only credible outcome, it was The Friends of the Old Pier Society who steadfastly fought to protect it and stood up to the owners whose motives were often questionable. They have now been joined by the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust and are working together to raise both funds and the profile of the project to rebuild the pier. An information centre has been opened next to the pier where you can find out about its history and what the future holds. Work on the pier has started already, so let's hope the story finally has a happy ending. Maybe they could get Eddie Shoestring to open it when the work is finally complete?

For more information, visit:

The Friends of the Old Pier Society:

<https://www.birnbeck-pier.co.uk/>

The Birnbeck Trust:

<https://www.birnbeckregenerationtrust.org.uk/>



*How Birnbeck pier looks today. The red building is the old lifeboat station*

# THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

by Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton

Photography has meant a lot to me over many years. I hate to be without a camera, though I have a camera on my phone I much prefer to use my 'real' camera. I like to record in pictures as much as I can of things and places around me, especially the changing scenery, wildlife and flowers that surround us in this beautiful countryside.

You may have seen many of my photos in the Talk Back. Over the years friends and family often said "oh no, not the camera again". But in later years they're quite happy that there is a record of those holidays, outings, weddings and local events etc.

I had my first camera when I was 13. The photos were only 1 ½ inches square and black and white. My Grandad let me use his camera until I was given one of my own when I was 15. Of course, someone else had to pay for the developing then.

When I started work I bought a Kodak Instamatic camera which used cartridge film and had square flash bulbs. The first colour film I used was in 1967 – what a revelation, although it must have been expensive as I have black and white photos from that time as well. A friend at work started taking colour slides instead of film, so for the next few years that is what I did. I never did get a slide projector, only a personal slide viewer with a battery-operated light. I still have all my slides and with a more recent photo scanner I was able to print photos from all the slides, which covered nearly five years. Most of those were of work outings, friends' weddings as well as holidays on the Norfolk Broads and Jersey with Sally and John.

I was the one that took the most family photos of my younger brothers and sisters growing up, and family gatherings and Christmases at Nan's house. An amazing record that I have been able to share with them all.

I then progressed to an SLR camera with various lenses. It was very bulky to carry around especially

on holidays and I didn't like using a tripod like my brother said I should. I had a small compact camera as well.

My younger brother had joined a camera club so used more professional film. He advised me to buy the semi-professional Fuji Reala film for better photos – "as long as you have them developed somewhere better than Boots" he said. I was in Bristol quite often to see my Mum so I found a place there to take them.

On a trip through Spain we had a photo stop down through a valley with a major motorway route. Taking my last photo on the film I then changed to the Reala film, taking a second picture of the same place. The result was amazing. A wall way down in the distance looked like a solid block of stone on the first photo but the one taken with Reala you could see every small stone and the pointing. The colour was also more vibrant.

In 2002 I got my first digital camera that had a memory card (a Flash card) instead of film. This was to take on a trip to America. The memory card would take very few photos so I tried to delete some to make space but accidentally formatted the card and lost a whole week's worth of photos of our time from Georgia into South Carolina. Now I have SD cards which can take an enormous number of pictures that can be transferred to a computer. There is no need to print them but they are still available to see.

With all my photos I have made surprise albums for friends and family birthdays or anniversaries, and especially 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Now they are happy that I saved all those photos.

As for surprise albums for myself - they come from my niece Ria. She too surprises friends and family with photographic gifts. On her wedding day in December, she hung small plaques on the venue Christmas tree with photos of all family members who were no longer with us.

*Yvonne Nettles*



## MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2025



The stars aligned for the Badminton Horse Trials in 2025 with perfect weather, a top-class field and, it must be said, a very, very popular winner. The weeks building up to the event were dry and hot as the countryside enjoyed its warmest spring ever, but the early forecasts for Badminton week looked patchy with warnings

that the dry spell was about to come to an end. Whoever was praying for the nice weather to continue certainly did a good job, and whilst temperatures for the grass roots championship on the Wednesday were cooler, things hotted up as the three-day event got into its stride.

The leaderboard after Friday's dressage had a very British feel to it, with the top ten places all being filled with UK riders. At the top of the tree was Oliver Townend on Cooley Rosalent, the world number one and former Badminton winner just ahead of his Tokyo Olympics team-mate Tom McEwen. Gemma Stevens rounded out the top three on Jalepeno (she was also in tenth position of Chilli Knight), then in fourth it was 2023 winner Ros Canter, once again riding Lordships Graffalo. The excitement was mounting ahead of cross-country day, and the event already had all the makings of a classic Badminton.

Despite the dry conditions, the cross-country course looked superb, having been heavily watered in the days and weeks before the competition and drawing compliments from many riders who appreciated how consistently it rode. It was Gemma Stevens who led for most of the day on Chilli Knight, her cause being helped when two of her main competitors, Oliver Townend and Ros Canter, were awarded penalties for going the wrong side of a fence flag. Sadly for Gemma, video evidence showed both penalties to have been incorrectly applied, and with them rescinded on appeal, she slipped to third, behind Townend and Canter. It was a less successful day for Tom McEwan. Having started the day in third, an incident at fence 26, Huntman's Close, saw him tumble down to 15<sup>th</sup> place and out of contention.

Gemma Stevens was the first of the leaders to enter the showjumping arena on the final day, and might have hoped for a decent round being something of a showjumping specialist. Five fences down was not the result she was looking for, and she was out of the running. The tension mounted as second-placed Canter started her round, knowing a clear round would see her at the top of the leaderboard with just Townend to jump. With the capacity crowd willing her on, she put on a superb performance, and Lordships Graffalo never put a hoof wrong as they jumped clear. That put the pressure on leader Townend. Expectations were sky high as he set off on Cooley Rosalent, confidently attacking the fences, but one error saw the win slip from his fingers, meaning he would not be adding to his 2009 victory just yet.

### Random Observations from the Sidelines

Hats off to the organisers for ensuring the traffic flowed smoothly on cross-country day. All that planning definitely paid off.

It occasionally felt like there were more dogs than horses at Badminton this year. Several even found it necessary to try out the course!

The course really did look superb, and it was good to hear the riders praising it too. Several of the fences were works of art.

Dynamic pricing, Badminton style. We bought something for the garden just before Badminton for £35. The same seller was charging £55 at Badminton. Ouch.

Ros Canter was visibly emotional as she was handed the splendid MARS Badminton trophy, having lost her trainer and best friend Caroline Moore just a couple of months earlier. The response from the crowd showed just how much warmth and support there was for Canter at Badminton, and her performance in all disciplines proved what a fantastic team she makes with the wonderful Lordships Graffalo. On this showing, who would bet against them completing a hat-trick of wins in 2026?

*See over for our Badminton 2025 picture gallery.*



## Images of the MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2025



Clockwise from top left:

*Oliver Townend on Ballaghmor Class at speed on the cross-country course,.*

*This was Brazilian rider Rafael Losano's first time at Badminton.*

*Badminton in the sun, what could be better?*

*Tom McEwen survives a wild moment on JL Dublin*

*Some of the fences were works of art!*

*Gemma Stevens had a great round on Chilli Knight*

*Another first timer was Belgian rider Seppe Vilain on Kawa de la Cour.*





## Images of the MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2025



Clockwise from top left:

*Oliver Townend again, this time riding Cooley Rosalent at the lake.*

*Emma Thomas takes flight on the appropriately-named Icarus.*

*Tom Crisp and Dassett Rock Star, about to splash down in Sustainability Bay.*

*Bubby Upton, concentrating hard on Cola.*

*The winning jump – Ros Canter jumps clear to take overall victory at Badminton 2025.*

*That cider was stronger than it looked.*



Thanks to Gary Morris, Lorraine Pope, Gill Carter and Lisa Horton for the pics



# Church Matters

## June 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all

It was great to have the Bishop of Gloucester with us at the Horse Trials service. It was a beautiful day and she very much enjoyed her visit. Looking forward - we have our annual Benefice service at St Arild's Oldbury on the last Sunday of the month, which is always popular. Please do come.

Ben Humphries our organist and choir master has organised a Badminton Benefice Festival of Music which is being held over a period of three months, on Sunday afternoons. There is information on the website, [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com) I hope you may feel like you are inclined to support this. It is for non-churchgoers as much as churchgoers, so if you do not visit church often, you are especially everyone.

With a new Pope installed, it is appropriate that we are welcoming some Roman Catholic pilgrims to St Mary's Hawkesbury to see the Wulfstan window. They are part of a new pastoral area, dedicated to St Wulfstan, so it is great that they are interested in coming to one of our churches.

Talk of a new Archbishop is still a slow old process. Such is the Church of England, nothing happens quickly because it is run by committees! This year they will have five, not one, representatives on the committee, from around the Anglican Communion. Making it more representative than ever of the worldwide role of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Hopefully, the new incumbent will bring much healing and inspiration to the role.

With my best wishes for this month,

Rev Richard Thomson

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 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
1 <sup>st</sup> June Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	D Hewitt
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
8 <sup>th</sup> June Pentecost	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer Book	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer Book	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	FOSM Choral Evensong	Rev R Thomson. Preacher Rev Leslie Huish
15 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity Sunday Father's Day	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury School	Family Service	Rev R Thomson: Lay Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
22 <sup>nd</sup> June Trinity 1	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion and Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins with Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Lay Led
29 <sup>th</sup> June Peter and Paul	11.15am	St Arild's, Oldbury	Matins	Rev R Thomson

See Benefice website for readings: [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)

# 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 !!

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

## NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the May quizzes:

### 'Easy'

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

### 'Not so Easy'

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

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> May. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council's website <https://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org/documents/minutes>.

The Local Government Act requires all Parish Councils to hold an Annual Meeting, usually in May, at which a number of procedural matters must be dealt with including the election of officers. The outcome of these elections are included in the meeting minutes. Other matters dealt with at the May meeting include:

**Police:** In response to feedback from parishioners, the Parish Council asked whether liaison visits from the Police could take place at more convenient times. In response, the local Policing team have proposed dates for visits on weekends as well as Friday mornings to coincide with the Acton Turville Social Coffee Mornings at the Fox & Hounds. We will publish dates once they are confirmed.

**Planning Applications:** One new planning application was received, concerning the removal of a Leylandii tree. The Parish Council supported the application, details of which can be found on the South Glos Council planning portal.

**Review of Internal Documents:** Councillors discussed a number of documents which require review. These are primarily guidance documents for Parish Councillors and relate to subjects such as finances and conduct of meetings. An action was placed on councillors to send feedback to the Parish Clerk prior to the next meeting.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 @ 7.00pm**

**Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.**

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

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

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

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



## Staying Cool – Sheep Style

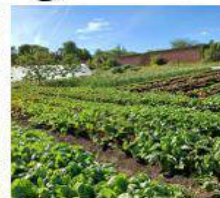
The recent hot weather was pleasant enough but sometimes you just need a bit of shade. These sheep photographed by Yvonne Nettles seem to have found the perfect spot, under some convenient trees. Apparently it was quite amusing to watch the flock shuffling round to keep in the shade!



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## All the Fun of the Steam Fair!



We really enjoyed our visit to this year's Castle Combe Steam Fair. The good weather helped, but it seemed to be much bigger than previous years with more on display and plenty of space to get a good look around the exhibits. It's one of those events when you don't realise how far you've walked until the next day! We hope you enjoy the pictures.



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