

# Local Talk Back

JUNE 2026

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

ISSUE 571



ROS CANTER, WINNER OF THE MARS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2026 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 2026

*So the Badminton Horse Trials are over for another year, and life in our villages is once again beginning to return to normal. It never ceases to amaze me that such a huge international sporting event occurs right on our doorstep, and I can't begin to imagine the work that's put in by the organising team to ensure it all runs smoothly and continues to be a massive success. You can see our report on the event in this issue of Local Talk Back.*

*The organisers are to be congratulated on what they achieve every year, but it's not just the major events that deserve recognition. Our community is very fortunate to have an army of people who beaver away in the background to make things happen at a local level, sometimes working on their own, sometimes working as part of a team, always making our villages better places to live. This month, Local Talk Back is delighted to welcome one of those individuals to be our guest editorial writer. Her name is Annie Bernays. Annie lives in Acton Turville and has very kindly agreed to tell us about a couple of events that she has been involved with just recently. We hope you enjoy reading her story as much as we did.*

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## My Weekend in Badminton & Acton Turville

I love volunteering at the Badminton Bolt. You rock up and already there is a hive of activity. It is well run and so much effort is put in by parents with day jobs of their own.

Registration is my place. Over the four years I have watched the event grow – not least the number of pages the list of competitors cover that I have to tick off. Whereas I alone used to have everyone, I now only get the A-L of the 5km race and I am flanked by volunteers armed with other lists of people.

In my queue are familiar faces and even better people drawn from running clubs and other villages as the Bolt's reputation grows.

The Race Village is alive with runners, buggies and grandparents. The music starts up and out comes Mr Bolt and the warm up crew ready to put the runners through their exercises.

As the different races get underway, I enjoy the first moment of peace since I arrived 2-hours ago. This doesn't last long as the winners sprint to the finishing line. As more finish medals are shown off to their support crews; bacon sandwiches (the food of champions) are consumed and the race village fills back up.

My favourite part though is the encouraging shouts and cheers for those who finish at a more leisurely pace – where the distance was a little far; red, sweaty faces and tired legs both very young and very old.

The money raised is so welcome to the squeezed Trinity school budget. Vital to keeping the school going as a great asset in the centre of our vibrant village community.

Sunday is the Fire Service at St Mary's Church in Acton Turville, and a very different event.

The sun shining down on the hidden away field in the literal centre of the village surrounded by Cotswold stone homes glowing honey-like in the setting sun. Sitting in a circle around the fire pit listening to Laura sing and Christine play a beautiful joyful anthem, it was a moment suspended in time. The circle of neighbours; children waiting patiently for their chance to toast marshmallows, answering the vicar's questions and ignoring their wet bottoms on the grass. The older generation making use of the church chairs, not needing that extra coat and smiling at the scene in front of them.

A coming together of the community, intrigued by a different way of reflecting. A calm sunny gentle way to spend a Sunday evening with a welcome cup of tea or cocoa to warm up. Adults lingering to chat and children running around burning off the late evening sugar rush. A bright spell in an otherwise grey and cloudy May.

So a busy weekend at the heart of the community. But that is why our little villages are so vibrant – living and breathing. An oasis of kindness in a chaotic world.

*Annie Bernays*

*Acton Turville*

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PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JULY EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026.

THANK YOU.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**June 2026**

- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> – Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Middlewick House Open Gardens, Corsham, 10am - 4.30pm. **Advance tickets only!**
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
- Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Music In Country Churches, St Mary's, Hawkesbury, 6.30pm
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Concert for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville, 2pm

**July 2026**

- Fr 1 3<sup>rd</sup> Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> – Sun 12<sup>th</sup> RHS Badminton Flower Show
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm

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

Please let Local Talk Back know if you're planning an event and we'll add it to our dates for the diary.

**DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

*We have received one anonymous donation this month. Thank you.*

*In addition, £14.85 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.*

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

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

*To donate by cheque, please make payable to*

**LOCAL TALK BACK**  
*and send to:*

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

*Thank you!*

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

**100 Club**

**WINNERS FOR MAY 2026**

Bridget Hope  
Alastair Gilbert  
Sarah Farmer

***Congratulations!***



Coffee Morning

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

***Next coffee morning – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June***

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# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 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**  
The  
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**

## Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

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



## MUSIC IN COUNTRY CHURCHES

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 6.30PM

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HAWKESBURY



Friday, 19 June 2026  
6.30pm  
St Mary the Virgin, Hawkesbury  
Gloucestershire GL9 1BN

ARCANGELO NEW ENSEMBLISTS

*Mr Handel & His Merry Musicians*

Tickets  
[musicincountrychurches.org.uk](http://musicincountrychurches.org.uk)



BADMINTON ESTATE

## BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 10.00AM – 4.00PM

The second Open Gardens event at Badminton House takes place on Sunday 14th June. Wander through beautifully cultivated gardens filled with roses, peonies, foxgloves, geraniums, and a diverse range of vibrant summer flowers and plants.

## RHS BADMINTON FLOWER SHOW

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Have you booked your tickets yet for the RHS Badminton Flower Show? Set within the beautiful parkland of Badminton Estate, this brand-new show promises to be one of the highlights of the summer.

Highlights include award-winning Show Gardens, a special feature garden celebrating 75 years of The Archers, and a floral marquee filled with exceptional plants and specialist growers. There will also be a full programme of expert-led talks, over 70 trade stands, plus live music, great food and family-friendly activities across the showground.

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

# What's On

## Raising Funds for Ukraine

27 June 2pm-5pm, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville

I hope you have 27th June marked on your calendar and you will be able to enjoy an afternoon with us drinking tea/coffee, eating cake and listening to Winterbourne Wind Band as they play once again to help raise money for the people in Ukraine.

All the money raised will be going to The Helping Hand for Ukraine, a division of The Chernobyl Children's Life Line. Their chief executive, Dennis Vystavkin, has kindly sent me lots of information but I thought I would include this piece about an afternoon to lift spirits in Borodynka. Borodynka is in Ukraine, relatively close to the Belarus border, about 30 - 35 miles north west of Kyiv. The town was heavily affected by intense shelling during the 2022 Russian invasion because of its position on the main route to Kyiv.

Dennis writes, "In early November 2025, when the cold and rainy season was fast approaching and the air attacks intensified, we organised a small local autumn festival for many children, and their families, from surrounding villages. It was away from any potential air attack targets, on the grounds of one of the Therapy Centres we created and equipped in early 2024 in the village of Myrcha. We managed to purchase large tins of hot chocolate and marshmallows and we managed to buy some whipped cream in Poland. There was a convoy of three vans with our aid going direct to Borodynka in late October so they brought all the supplies for the Autumn Festival.

As part of the festival we organised an autumn costume competition where the costumes had to be made of items they could find in their garden. Separately there was a competition for the parents and grandmothers to make an autumn bouquet and an installation using items from their harvest. This was the first time from 2019 when the children from the local villages of Borodynka communities could join such activities."

How lucky are we? It brings a tear to my eye especially as I am writing this I can see enormous horse boxes pass by our window as they leave Badminton, and I know nearly a quarter of a million people have been able to freely enjoy their time at the Horse Trials.

If you would like your spirits lifted I hope we will be able to help, from 2pm - 5pm on the 27th June at Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville GL9 1HD

You don't need a ticket - just turn up and bring your friends. If you want to be guaranteed a seat you will need to bring your own chair too!

*Badminton Village Hall is also booked and we will relocate, as we did last year, should it be wet.*

*The Spreadborough Family*



### Middlewick House Open Gardens

6-7 June 2026  
10am to 4.30pm

In aid of Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust  
By kind permission of Nick & 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.

*Tickets must be bought in advance!*

Full details at  
<https://middlewickhouseopengarden.com/>

### St Mary's Church Fire Service

As mentioned in this month's editorial, on the 17th May, St Mary's in Acton Turville held a Fire Service. Under sunny skies, the congregation gathered around a fire pit as the Reverend Richard Thomson led the service to celebrate Ascension and Pentecost. With music, hymns, cheer, laughter and prayer, it really was a most uplifting event which will hopefully become a firm fixture in the church calendar.



## BADMINTON AND LITTLE BADMINTON GARDEN COMPETITION UPDATE

As announced in last month's Local Talk Back, residents of Badminton and Little Badminton are being encouraged to showcase their gardening talents by entering the 2026 Badminton Estate Garden Competition, which is taking place ahead of the inaugural RHS Badminton Flower Show.

The competition has been designed to bring the local community together through gardening and creativity, with entries welcomed from all ages and experience levels. From well-kept front gardens to imaginative displays using pots, hanging baskets and planters, all approaches are encouraged.

Judging will take place from approximately 11.30am onwards on Tuesday 9 June 2026. The panel will include award-winning garden designer Jo Thompson, who has designed The Archers 75th Anniversary Garden for the RHS Badminton Flower Show 2026, alongside Richard Preest, former Head Gardener at Badminton Estate.

The Duchess of Beaufort will attend on the day, helping to celebrate the competition and its place within the wider RHS Badminton programme.

Prizes will be awarded separately for both Badminton and Little Badminton:

1st Place - Best Kept Garden Overall

2nd Place - Second Best Kept Garden

3rd Place - Highly Commended

The overall first prize winner will receive two tickets to the RHS Badminton Flower Show, valid for attendance on any day, while runners-up will receive vouchers and other prizes.

The Estate Team is encouraging residents to take part and support community involvement across the villages.

For further information, please contact the Estate Office at [estateoffice@badmintonestate.com](mailto:estateoffice@badmintonestate.com)



### *From the Archives*

*Thanks go to Maureen Goldstone (nee Clark) for this month's wonderful picture which we received via Pam Bubb. It was taken on a very sunny day in the early fifties and shows residents of Little Badminton getting ready to set off for the Hawkesbury Carnival.*



*Their float is called "The Little Scammel Tribe", Mr Scammel being the local farmer, and that little girl in the bottom left-hand corner with such a lovely smile is none other than Maureen.*

*Thank you Maureen and Pam for sharing the picture with us.*

# The Language Under the Language

*What our local dialect reveals about where we really come from*

By Simon Long, Acton Turville

I caught myself saying it the other day. I was in the village shop, someone asked how I was, and without thinking I said, "Not bad, mind."

Mind. That little word, tucked onto the end of a sentence like a full stop with something to say. It doesn't mean anything, exactly. It doesn't change the facts. But it does change the *feeling*. For me, it says: I belong here. Or at least I want to. Amanda heard me say it and raised an eyebrow. "You're going native," she said.

She may be right. We've been here just under five years now. That's long enough to know where the potholes are but not long enough to use local phrases without a slight self-consciousness, the way you might try a word in a foreign language and glance sideways to see if anyone noticed. Mind you, I've been keeping my eyes and ears pricked. Naturally, being the sort of person I am, I couldn't just listen. I had to look it up. What I've found, inevitably, because this seems to happen every time I look into anything around here, is that the words people use in our cherished corner of South Gloucestershire are far older, far stranger, and far more interesting than most of us realise.

We live on a sort of verbal fault line, and I don't think most of us realise it. Whether you're in Acton Turville, Badminton, or Little Badminton, you're sitting in the same fascinating spot. Bristol is twelve miles to the west, with its own way of talking, its "cheers drive" and its "gert lush." Rural Gloucestershire stretches north and east, with a deeper, quieter Cotswold dialect that hasn't changed much in centuries. Meanwhile, just over the hedgerows is Wiltshire, with its own variations. People in Wiltshire say "somewhen" instead of "sometime," which, when you think about it, makes considerably more sense. Our villages sit at the junction of three dialects, the way they sit at the junction of old roads. Just as those roads tell you something about why these places are here, the language tells you something about who we are.

The way people speak across the West Country today can be traced straight back to *West Saxon*, one of the main dialects of Old English. This was the language of King Alfred's court. It was the language of King Ina, whose sanctuary laws I wrote about last month. In the early medieval period, West Saxon was the dialect of the educated and the powerful, the equivalent of Received Pronunciation. Most of the surviving Old English literature we have is written in it. If Winchester had remained the capital of England instead of London, our local accent would *be* the Queen's English. What a thought!

Think about that next time someone on the television treats a West Country accent as comedy relief.

The evidence is hiding right before us. In the grammar, for a start. The old West Country way of saying the verb "to be" goes: *I be, thee bist, he be, we be, they be*. That isn't bad English, it's old English. That's how the verb was conjugated before the standardisers got to it. When someone around here says "I be going down the field," they're not making a grammatical error. They're speaking a form of English that predates Shakespeare by half a millennium. I find that extraordinary. The people who grew up with these words have been carrying a piece of linguistic history their whole lives, as naturally as breathing.

Then there are the pronouns. In West Country speech, "her" is used for "she" and "he" for "him." There's a wonderful Somerset expression, "*hark at he driving the pigs home*," which means someone is snoring. "Hark at" means "listen to," and it's common right across this region. "Ark at ee!" is the same phrase, just with the vowels worn down by a few centuries of use, the way the steps of an old church get worn smooth by feet.

Once you start listening for these words, you hear them everywhere. Their origins are remarkable.

**"Gert"**, as in "gert lush," doesn't come from slang. It comes from the Middle English *girt* or *gret*, a variant of "great." When someone in Bristol says something is "gert lush," they're using a word that's been in continuous use since medieval times. It's not a corruption of English. It's a preservation of it.

**"Thick"** or **"thick there"**, meaning "that" or "this," as in "we went down to *thick* field." It sounds peculiar to outsiders like Yours Truly. It's pure Old English, an old word for pointing at things that the rest of the country let slip but the West Country kept, like a family heirloom nobody else wanted.

**"Daps"**: plimsolls, trainers, whatever you want to call them. Try using this word outside of South Gloucestershire and Bristol and you'll be met with a puzzled expression (guilty!). Nobody seems entirely sure where it comes from, which somehow makes it even more local.

**"Scrumpling"**: stealing apples from someone else's tree. Related to "scrumpy," this one has roots that come directly from farming life. In an area where every other farm had an orchard, stealing apples wasn't a crime so much as a local sport. The word carries an entire rural economy inside it.

Cont'd over

## The Language Under the Language (cont'd)

And then there's the Bristol "L". This one arrived not from a book, but from Tim and Iris in the Acton Turville shop, just the other morning. We were chatting and they mentioned how people in Bristol say "ideal" instead of "idea." I've no doubt you'd hear the same conversation over a coffee in the newly reopened Badminton shop. These words belong to the whole area, not just one village.

Across Bristol and parts of Somerset and Wiltshire, people add an L sound to the end of words that finish with a vowel. "Idea" becomes "ideal." "Area" becomes "areal." "Window" becomes "windle." It turns out linguists have studied it for decades. But here's the part that intrigued me most when I first came across it: **Bristol itself used to be called Bristow.** The L on the end? That was added by the locals. The city renamed itself, by accident, through the sheer force of its own accent.

An entire city, one of the great trading ports of the medieval world, carrying a spelling error caused by the way its own people talked. I had to look it up. That tells you everything about the difference between living inside a dialect and studying it from the outside.

More poignantly, in the mid-nineteenth century, a man named Richard Webster Huntley sat down and began compiling a dictionary of local Cotswold words. He was meticulous, walking from village to village, listening, chatting and writing down what he heard. Sadly, he died before the glossary was published. He was already recording a language he feared was disappearing. That was a hundred and seventy years ago.

The words he captured were ones his grandparents had used without thinking. Words for weather, for livestock, for the particular quality of light on a winter afternoon, for the feeling of mud between your toes. Words that had no equivalent in standard English because they described things that only mattered if you lived here and worked this land. Some of them survive. Many don't.

The Dialect and Heritage Project at the University of Leeds notes that West Country English has long been "looked down on." The accent of comedy yokels, Wurzel Gummidge, the butt of jokes. Generations of children were taught to speak "properly," which meant speaking like someone from somewhere else. The deepest, richest dialect is now mostly heard from people over seventy. When they go, the words go with them.

I've started listening more carefully. In the Fox & Hounds. At coffee mornings. Walking around the Open Gardens at Badminton House, where you overhear fragments of conversation drifting across the herbaceous borders. I've noticed something that I suspect the locals have always known without ever having to put it into words. The dialect isn't gone. It's just gone a little quiet. It surfaces in particular moments: when someone is telling a story, when they're relaxed, when they're among their own. The self-consciousness drops and the older language rises, briefly, like water finding its level. It's a privilege to hear it.

"Mind" at the end of a sentence. A "where's that to?" when something's been misplaced. The occasional "gert" deployed with a grin. These aren't fossils. They're alive. They're just waiting for the right company and context to find their voice.

I've written recently about the layers under this village. The Saxon name. The sanctuary. The stones folded into cottages. But language is the deepest layer of all. You can rebuild a church. You can pave over a sanctuary. But once a word disappears from the last mouth that speaks it, it's gone in a way that stones can never be gone. No archaeologist can dig it up. No official record captures it. It simply stops existing.

Unless someone writes it down. Unless someone remembers.

So, here's my request, and it's a humble one. I'm the newcomer here. I don't have grandparents who farmed these fields or parents who walked these lanes to school. But some of you do. And I've learned, especially recently, just how generous this community is with its welcome. I celebrated my 60th birthday at Badminton Village Hall a few weeks ago, surrounded by people I didn't know five years ago and now can't imagine life without. That kind of belonging doesn't come from how long you've been here. It comes from the people who let you in. So, if your parents or grandparents used words and phrases that you don't hear anymore, for the weather, for animals, for the fields, for the way things feel, I'd love to know what they were. Please write them down and share them, for posterity. It doesn't matter if you're not sure of the spelling. Nobody is. That's part of the charm.

Because the language under the language is still here. Quiet. Patient. Waiting for someone to listen.

It's magical.

*What words did your family use that nobody says anymore? A phrase, a name for something, a way of describing the weather that only makes sense if you've lived here? Write to the editor or find me in the Fox & Hounds. I'll be the one listening a bit too carefully.*

## MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2026



With the dust now settled on the 77<sup>th</sup> MARS Badminton Horse Trials, Local Talk Back looks back on an event which saw the record books rewritten as Ros Canter and her mount Lordships Graffalo became the first combination to win the Badminton title three times.

The gates to Badminton Park opened on the Wednesday. It's traditionally a relatively quiet day, but this year there seemed to be far more visitors than usual wending their way into the car parks. It was great to see so many people watching the LeMieux Grassroots Championship, giving the riders plenty of encouragement on some of the trickier sections of the cross country course, especially the combination of fences around the lake. Wednesday, and Thursday too, always provide a great opportunity to walk the course, getting up close to the jumps and taking in the general ambience of the event. Everything looked absolutely splendid bathed in warm sunshine, and after several hours spent walking and shopping, it was nice to sit back and spend more time just people-watching.

Competition kicked off on Thursday with two days of dressage, and by the time it concluded on Friday, the leaderboard was quite an international affair, with riders from the UK, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia and Brazil filling the top six places. Making a dream start, Ros Canter found herself with a sound lead over the chasing pack which was headed by the American Tiana Coudray, who now spends much of her time based in Swindon, and Belgian rider Lara de Liedekerke-Meier, who first competed at Badminton in 2014. Despite entering three horses this year, world number one Harry Meade found himself outside the top ten. As ever, Ros Canter was very quick to heap praise on her mount, universally known as Walter, and even at such an early stage, it was looking like Badminton 2026 was hers to lose.

Earlier in the week, weather forecasts had predicted the arrival of rain for cross country day (in fact, they'd predicted the rain to start on Thursday!), but it was still dry when the first riders set off and would remain that way for the rest of the event. That was good news for Ros, removing some of the unpredictability that a wet course would inevitably introduce, and she made the most of the situation by posting a clear round, one of 34 riders (out of 45 who completed the course) to do so. By the end of the cross country phase, the leaderboard was looking rather less cosmopolitan than it had 24 hours previously, with Harry Meade now second (from 11<sup>th</sup> after the dressage) on Annaghmor Valoner and Sarah Bullimore improving by a very respectable 16 places to third on Corimiro. Katie Magee on Treworra was fourth too, making it an all-British lock-out at the top of the table. Just the show jumping to go.

It was 2.45pm before the arena welcomed the first of the top twenty riders, who would set off in reverse order. That had the potential to set up a nail-biting finale, with an unprecedented hat-trick of wins for Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo at stake, but in reality the result was never really in doubt. Horse and rider had looked imperious since the start of the competition, and anyone betting on a different pairing to lift the silverware deserved to be shirtless by the end of day. And that's how it turned out. Ros Canter played it safe, picking up nothing more serious than a couple of time penalties on the way to a clear round, ensuring a place in the record books for her and Walter. Australian Tim Price on Falco was a popular second, with Harry Meade dropping down to third after having a single fence down.

The 2026 Badminton Horse Trials will be remembered as the year when Ros Canter and Lordships Graffalo cemented their place in Badminton history with a performance that verged on perfection across all three disciplines. As always, Ros was humble in victory, heaping praise on Walter, her team and all those around her who had, in her words, "made my dreams come true", but watching her smooth, relaxed riding style it was clear that this was a rider with rare talent who deserves all the plaudits for what is a quite incredible achievement. Congratulations Ros and Walter.

***Turn the page to see our Badminton 2026 picture gallery***

Images of the MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2026



The cross-country course looked magnificent this year with the usual combination of new fences as well as some old favourites such as the Wiltshire Brewer Drays, which has been a feature of Badminton, in one form or another, for so many years.

On the left, Ros Canter and Walter take the plaudits on their lap of honour.



*Images of the MARS Badminton Horse Trials 2026*



There was an amazing atmosphere in the arena as Ros Canter jumped a clear round (below) to make Badminton history on Lordships Graffalo, aka Walter. Things didn't go so well for some other competitors, such as Emily Hyslop-Webb (above) who had a wild ride on the cross-country course.

We're indebted to Gary Morris, Gill Carter and the Badminton Horse Trials team for the great pictures.





# Church Matters

## June 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

It would be fascinating if it were not so scary, to see how the closure of one small strait miles away from our world is able to control the destinies of so many economies.

Unemployment, poverty, possibly even starvation, can result from one waterway being blocked.

One effect on life at the Vicarage has been the swift expansion of the vegetable patch. I am not suggesting for a minute that lettuces or tomatoes will be in short supply this year, but it has reminded me more of the vulnerability of our food supply. And as they are just about the only thing I am able to grow, apart from spinach, potatoes, and onions, we will definitely have a good supply in a month or two and they appease my reaction of fear, to the situation. A situation, which by the time you read this article, I hope very much will have been resolved!

Of course, our world is so interconnected now that no one economy is an island unto itself, nor is one household, nor one village. We may continue to harbour the illusion that we are independent and don't need each other, but the truth of the matter is, that we do need each other. And that message is at the heart of the gospel.

Love, friendship, respect and community are at the heart of the Christian faith.

With my best wishes for this month of June

Rev Richard Thomson, vicar.

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

01454 219236

07717791858

### Church Services for June 2026

| Date                               | Time    | Parish           | Service                | Minister                      |
|------------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 1  | 9.30am  | Lasborough       | Holy Communion         | Rev P Cheeseman               |
|                                    | 10.00am | Hawkesbury       | Morning Prayer         | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 11.15am | Didmarton        | Matins                 | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 6.00pm  | Acton Turville   | Evening Prayer with HC | Rev R Thomson                 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 2 | 9.30am  | Lasborough       | Holy Communion BCP     | Rev P Cheeseman               |
|                                    | 9.30am  | Leighterton      | Holy Communion BCP     | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 11.15am | Little Badminton | Matins                 | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 6.00pm  | Hawkesbury       | Sung Eucharist         | Rev R Thomson                 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June<br>Trinity 3 | 9.00am  | Didmarton        | Holy Communion BCP     | Rev J Swanton                 |
|                                    | 10.00am | Hawkesbury       | Family Service         | Debbie Young                  |
|                                    | 11.15am | Little Badminton | Matins                 | Rev J Swanton                 |
|                                    | 6.00pm  | Acton Turville   | Evening Prayer         | M Butler                      |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 4 | 9.30am  | Lasborough       | Holy Communion CW      | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 11.15am | Sopworth         | Matins                 | Rev R Thomson                 |
|                                    | 6.00pm  | Hawkesbury       | Choral FOSM Evensong   | Preacher – Dean of Gloucester |

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

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026. 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 which can be viewed on the Parish Council's website. Other matters dealt with at the May meeting included:

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

District Councillor Reports. Cllr Romaine highlighted a number of issues which parishioners should be aware of. One was a proposal put forward by South Glos Council to delegate responsibility for delivering some tasks currently undertaken by the council to Parish Councils. For Acton Turville, this primarily involves cutting the grass in a number of public spaces. Under the proposals, a small increase would be made to the annual precept (which is the part of the Council Tax that goes to funding each Parish Council). It would then be down to each Parish Council to use these funds to pay someone to carry out the relevant work going forward. Our concern is that this contracting model could be expanded to provide additional services, placing an unacceptable burden on the Parish Council. We will feed our views back as part of the consultation process.

The state of our local roads remains an issue and we will continue to press our local councillors to ensure rectification work is carried out in a timely manner and to a suitable standard.

Railway Works. A call had been received from Network Rail regarding works to be carried out on the line over June and July in Acton Turville. Residents are due to receive letters informing them of what this might entail, but to date the Parish Council have yet to be provided with any further detail. Network Rail are apparently also looking to hold a meeting at Trinity School to ensure residents are kept informed. We will pass on information as soon as we hear anything.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ 7.00pm**

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

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Vice Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772,

Sally Smith 218510, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: [clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk) Website: <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>

## 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 !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the May quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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**emily@qigongwithemilyking.com**

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# HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY to Bet Goddard



Bet was born in Badminton, one of ten children of William and Emma Brown who lived at Mount Pleasant. She celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on 3rd May.

Bet lived in Cornwall for a time before moving back to Acton Turville and then Badminton. She worked for a time at Badminton House for the 11th Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

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