

# Local Talk Back

MAY 2025

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

ISSUE 559

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Bluebells in Hinnegar.  
*Picture by the Editor*



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

# EDITORIAL MAY 2025

Welcome to the May edition of Local Talk Back. The build up to the Badminton Horse Trials is always an exciting time, and seeing the various structures gradually rise up across the park brings home just what a huge undertaking the event represents. Of course what we see is just the tip of the iceberg, and the work that goes into, for example, managing the huge volumes of traffic that the event generates before, during and after the horse trials have finished can easily go unrecognised. Ensuring everything moves freely with the minimum of delays and hold-ups relies on the involvement of numerous groups, from the police to the attendants who direct individual cars to their parking spaces, with everyone understanding their roles and knowing what they need to do to make it all work. Part of the planning process includes developing alternative arrangements to cope with unplanned events like a road traffic accident on one of the main roads leading to the site, but it's invariably something totally unforeseen that causes an issue. For instance, another local attraction held a far smaller event recently that brought neighbouring villages to a complete standstill for several hours. The reason? Well, it probably didn't help that they stopped sending out paper tickets. Instead, they emailed "e-tickets" which they scanned as you drove onto the site. Unfortunately it would appear that they overlooked the poor quality of some phone signals in rural areas which can be, well, let's say sub-optimal. Long queues quickly developed as frustrated punters held their phones above their heads, desperately trying to get a signal and retrieve their tickets. Hopefully they'll have a suitable Plan B that they can follow for their next event.

Elsewhere in this issue of Talk Back you can read about some old Badminton programmes that were kindly donated to us by Lee Butcher. As we leafed through them, it was fascinating to see how some aspects of the horse trials had developed over the years, but equally how others had remained very much the same. Clearly, the scale of the overall event has grown exponentially with far greater levels of commercial involvement and support, but the sporting side of the horse trails remain much closer to what is described in the 1956 programme. Even some parts of the course appear to be largely unchanged. As always, we shall look forward to spending time watching the competition, enjoying the trade stalls and soaking up the atmosphere. Hopefully the sun will shine, but if not, we shall invoke our own Plan B and take waterproofs and wellies. And print our tickets.

The Horse Trials are not the only event on the horizon as you can see from our What's On pages. One event we're really pleased to see returning to the calendar is the St Mary's church fete in Acton Turville, which includes a flower festival and open gardens. Lots of work has gone into organising it (I think the committee are still working on their traffic management plan though) and there's been a great response from villagers who are willing to open their gardens to public scrutiny. The primary aim is to raise money for much-needed repairs to the historic bellcote (the turret that houses the bell) which sits on the roof of the church and provides one of its most distinctive features. It's rumoured to have originally formed part of a pre-Norman sanctuary that once stood in the village, so it's lasted well (and is probably now out of warranty). The flower festival takes place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. It should be a very special event.

Talking of things church-related, the Badminton Benefice are putting on a Festival of Music over the summer and into the autumn which it is hoped will see all the churches in the benefice host different types of musical events. The first one takes place at Hawkesbury on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May where a concert is being held in St Mary's church. What makes this one extra-special is you can be part in the performance. Can't sing? That doesn't matter. A workshop has been arranged during the afternoon where the emphasis will be on getting involved with like-minded individuals rather than critiquing your singing ability. Turn up, join in, take pride in what you've achieved. The concert will also feature children from local schools so there should be something for everyone.

And to finish off the church notices, you may remember that we showed pictures last year of the wild flower garden that was created in the churchyard at Little Badminton. We're really pleased to see that the Parochial Council are repeating the exercise this year, and we'll be visiting regularly to check on progress. The effect last year was quite remarkable with swathes of vibrant colours brightening up the churchyard. Make sure you call in and see for yourself. We think you'll be impressed.

To everyone involved in organising local events, whether it's planting a wildflower meadow or putting on a world-class equestrian extravaganza, we wish you every success.

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 JUNE EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025.

THANK YOU.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### May 2025

Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Horse Trials
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Castle Combe Circuit Car Boot Sale, 9am – 2pm
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Quiz Night, Fox & Hounds
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Steam Fair, Castle Combe
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Bolt 5k & 10k Races, Badminton Estate
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Benefice Festival of Music, St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Royal British Legion meeting, Beaufort Arms, Hawkesbury
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Badminton Youth Club, Memorial Hall, 6.30pm-8pm

#### June 2025

Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> & Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Mary's Flower Festival & Open Gardens

### DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

*We are very grateful this month to*

*Mr & Mrs Adrian Packer from Burton*

*for their kind donation to Local Talk Back.*

*Thank you.*

*In addition, £12.30 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*

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

#### 100 Club

#### WINNERS FOR APRIL 2025

Anne Beesley  
Dave Burchell  
Chris Farrell

***Congratulations!***



The next meeting of the Royal British Legion Badminton & Hawkesbury Branch will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm. The venue is The Beaufort Arms at Hawkesbury. Everyone welcome, both members and non-members.

*Please contact Local Talk Back for further details.*

**Come to BADMINTON YOUTH CLUB!**

**THURSDAYS**  
6:30pm - 8pm  
Badminton Memorial Hall

Help make it what you would like it to be!

£2 each week

Tuck available

Play badminton in Badminton!

LEGO CORNER

Fun Crafting Activities

**Future dates:**  
May 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

\*Parents or Carers will need to sign a consent form\*

Our Youth Club Leader is Fully DBS Checked!

Local Talk Back is printed by

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

Tel: 01454 852255 or email: [info@sprint-print.co.uk](mailto:info@sprint-print.co.uk)

## Anyone for Tennis?

It was great to see people making use of the tennis court at Acton Turville during the recent spell of good weather, providing a welcome reminder that summer will soon be upon us. The court, which is run by the Acton Turville Tennis Club, is available for anyone to use - you just need to book a slot, turn up and play, it's as simple as that.



Bookings are made via the club's website - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ActonTurvilleTennisClub>.

For non-members, it's pay-to-play, with courts costing just £5 for one hour. Alternatively, if you're a regular player, why not consider joining the tennis club? Membership costs £30 for individuals or £50 for a family which gives you free use of the court for the whole year. See the website for full details on how to join.


The Acton Turville Tennis Club, which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), has been managing the court since 2020. All the money it receives through membership subscriptions and people paying-to-play goes towards the upkeep of the court, ensuring this brilliant facility is maintained to the highest standard and available throughout the year. The club also organises events aimed at getting new players



into the sport, with summer coaching sessions for everyone from schoolchildren to older members of the community who may never have picked up a racket in their lives. You can even book lessons with a qualified tennis coach. It really does offer something for everyone. Look out for news of forthcoming events on the website and the Acton Turville Connect Facebook page.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Ian Jarvis on 0755 1270939.

## ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL UPDATE



**ACTON TURVILLE SOCIAL**  
**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
Quizmaster: Ben Holt  
FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
FOX AND HOUNDS 7:30PM – 10:00PM  
BRING A TEAM OR JOIN A TEAM  
£5 a head  
Sign Up With:  
Mel, Karen, or Caroline on  
[ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com](mailto:ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com)



**First Aiders Required**  
**for**  
**Acton Turville Social Events**  
  
Contact  
Mel, Karen, or Caroline on  
[ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com](mailto:ActonTurvilleSocial@Gmail.com)

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (note the day!)

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 normally to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the Didmarton Village Hall (this month's Thursday showing is an exception). 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 14<sup>th</sup> May

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

I am writing as the beautifully warm spell of weather we had at the end of March/ beginning of April has just come to an end. I was heartened to hear the local BBC weather man say yesterday evening that, 'Summer isn't over, it hasn't even started yet'. Let's hope he's correct and Saturday 5th July will be a perfect day for this year's Fundraiser for Ukraine, by 'Winterbourne Wind Band', in our garden at Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville. Badminton Village Hall is booked, just in case!

We hope you will be able to join us. No tickets needed - just turn up. I'm sure you will appreciate that help is needed, as much if not more than it has been, to help innocent victims of the ongoing struggles in Ukraine. The money we raise will once again go to 'The Helping Hand for Ukraine', a branch of Chernobyl Children's Life Line. The Charity was started over 30 years ago, after the Chernobyl Disaster of the 26th April 1986, to help support the children of Chernobyl which is in the Northern region of Ukraine. During this time, they have expanded and diversified their operation so that whilst still caring for the children, they now include support for whole families, special care centres, orphanages and schools. Current smaller projects are providing nappies and baby milk, daily vitamin tablets, items of personal hygiene supplies for girls and women, and medical equipment and aids to the elderly. On a larger scale they are helping to build and equip safe houses for families fleeing to safer parts of Ukraine, as well as permanent homes for these people, and building basements under schools for children who may be there to stay safe for many hours each day. They are also helping Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Every penny we raise will be put to good use.

I hope you will be able to join us on the 5th July. We are looking forward to seeing you.

*Chris Spreadborough*





## Hunter's Lodge, Acton Turville

*The recent appearance of a For Sale sign prompted a discussion about the history of the property in Acton Turville known as Hunters Lodge. Whilst we can't verify the estate agent's claim about the property's "17th century origins", a quick delve into the Talk Back archives produced some fascinating information about the history of the house, including a series of pictures that show how its appearance has changed over the past 100+ years or so.*



Hunters Lodge was originally built as a pair of semi-detached houses, located in the centre of the village, close to the well and backing on to the churchyard of St Mary's. The exact date when the property that we see today was built is unknown but we do know that, by the middle of the 19th century, one half of it had been converted to incorporate a shop. The shop passed through several hands before being acquired by the Ralph family in the 1920s, who would go on to run it well into the 1940s at which point the shop closed its doors for good and Hunters Lodge reverted to a dwelling.

On first glance, it might appear that the building itself has undergone considerable change, but look closer and you'll see that the alterations have been almost entirely limited to the roofline, and the main structure of the house remains remarkably original. Although there are no dates on any of the pictures, there are some clues to at least suggest the order in which they were taken. For instance, on the picture below left, the words "C Ralph, Grocer" are written above the door, meaning it must date from the 1920s onward as that's when the Ralph family took on the shop. Then in the picture top right, the building in the distance is the Fox & Hounds. Parked outside, it's just possible to make out a horse and cart, presumably unloading fresh supplies of ale, so it would seem likely that this picture predates the one below by several decades. That would mean that the roofline started with the straight version seen above before acquiring the single eyebrow seen below left. The final picture, below right, shows how the building looks today, sporting eye brows over both first-floor windows and a reshaped roof that is now tiled rather than thatched. Perhaps these changes occurred when it was converted into a single dwelling.

We hope it soon finds new owners who cherish it and respect its history as much as the previous owners clearly did.





## *From the Archives*

*In last month's Talk Back, we published some photos of the infamous beach party held at the Fox & Hounds in the 1980s, when the pub was managed by Nick and Christoff. The pictures generated a lot of comments, and prompted several people to reminisce about how much the pub had changed over the years. We were asked if we had any information about previous landlords and, after a bit of digging, managed to unearth this article written by Sally Smith which was originally published back in November 2005. There are no dates to say when the various changes occurred, but if the retirement of long-time landlord Harry Crook coincided with the first edition of Talk Back, which was 1975, and he was landlord for 30 years, he must have taken on the pub shortly after the end of the war in 1945. So, can anyone else add any more dates to this essential and fascinating part of local history?*

### **THE FOX & HOUNDS – The Last 30 years**

In the very first edition of Local Talk-Back is the story of the retirement of Harry Crook who retired after 30 years as landlord of The Fox and Hounds. In the following 30 years the pub has seen seven landlords or partnerships. They are as follows-

- Richard and Judy Whythe – Judy has fond memories of the local characters and the many friends she made in the village.
- John and Peggy Hickson – Peggy renamed the restaurant “Peggy’s Parlour”. You may remember the coach outings to a Bristol Night Club to see their daughter in cabaret. John and Peggy also helped organise the Silver Jubilee Party with ‘the famous pig’. Peggy went on to become Mayor of Malmesbury.
- Brian and Shirley Hedge – The local farmers enjoyed meeting up in the lounge bar and on Friday nights there was often live music in the main bar. Brian and Shirley bought, or shared in, a racehorse, which was named Acton Turville. One of their grandchildren, Alex Crockett, is currently a professional rugby player for the Bath Rugby Club and he is a regular in the first team.
- Terry and Brenda O’Brien – Brenda was a good cook and brought a ‘Cordon bleu’ menu to The Fox.
- Nick and Christoff – Nick and Christoff, who was French, made their mark on the pub with another change of menu and a complete re-decoration to bring a Bistro Restaurant to Acton Turville. They are also remembered for covering the main bar floor with sand, bringing in the patio chairs and umbrellas and holding a ‘Beach Party’ in the winter.
- Chico and Pat Ceccarelli – Chico and Pat enlarged the pub by making the courtyard in to part of the bar and converting the bottle store into the Stable Restaurant. By organising theme nights they brought us dishes from a variety of countries including Chico’s native Italy.
- Mary Harrington and Tracy Mitchell – Sisters Mary and Tracy are landladies of The Fox and Hounds since taking over 18 months ago. They grew up in the village, daughters of Bob and June Salt. There are now many organisations holding their meetings at the pub. Mary and Tracy enjoy hosting local charity events, one of which was a Summer Ball held in a marquee in the car park. Mary runs the bar and Tracy the kitchen. Perhaps Mary and Tracy will be the ones to follow Harry Crook with a 30-year stint in the pub!

With so many village pubs closing, we are very lucky to still have ours. A big ‘thank you’ to all who have kept it going over the past 30 years.

*Sally*

## From the Archives

You'd be surprised to learn what we have in the Talk Back archives. As well as the expected back issues and large collection of photographs, we often receive material that people think we might find interesting. One such offer came from our good friend Lee Butcher who had come across some old programmes from the Badminton Horse Trials and wondered if we could make use of them. The programmes, the earliest of which dates back to 1956, make for some fascinating reading and highlight just how much the event has been transformed, culminating in the world class event we see today. Needless to say, the programmes have taken their place in our archives!

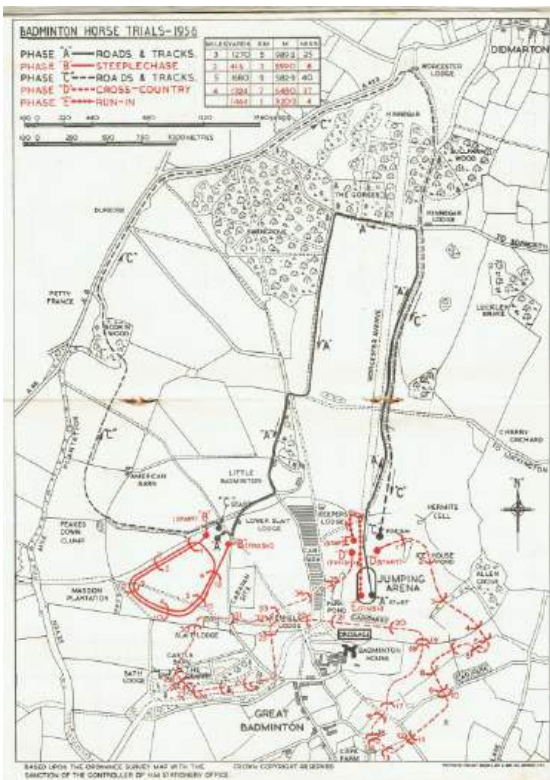
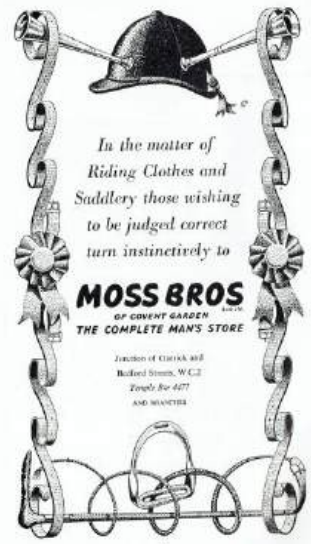
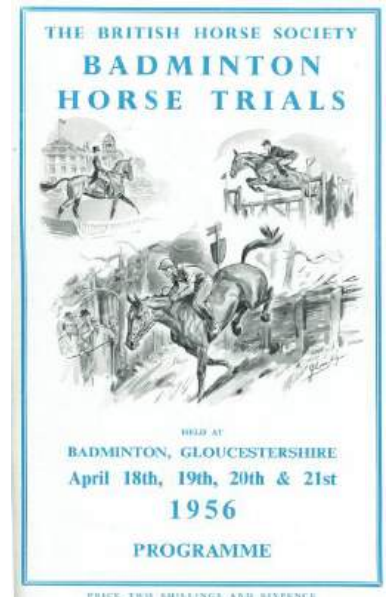
The 1956 programme (right) is a surprisingly chunky affair, running to almost 100 pages and containing the names of the 58 horses and riders plus a map of the course and descriptions of the 35 fences. There are plenty of adverts too – apparently, “in the matter of riding clothes and saddlery, those wishing to be judged correct turn instinctively to Moss Bros, the complete man's store.” Maybe that's where the winner of the 1956 event headed to spend the £150 they had been awarded for coming first, which equates to almost £4000 in today's money. Compare that to 2024, when the overall winner walked away with a far more generous cheque for £117,600...

The winner in 1956 was Frank Weldon on his mount Kilbarry, who would go on to be the first back-to-back winners in the event's history.

Fast forward to 1976, Badminton's Silver Jubilee. Moss Bros has pulled its advert and instead we have the likes of Porsche and Garrard & Co (the Crown Jewellers) advertising their wares, the latter offering a rather fetching, limited edition silver salver to celebrate Badminton's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With just 25

pieces produced, it could be yours for £500. It's not recorded whether Lucinda Prior-Palmer, achieving the second of her six victories at Badminton, invested half of her £1000 winnings in a salver.

We're used to commercial aspects creeping into all forms of professional sport these days, and Badminton is no exception with, for example, the fences assuming the names of the organisations who pay to sponsor them. That wasn't the case in 1976, when we still had names such as the Pheasant Feeder, the Sunken Road and the Normandy Bank. There was one exception. Fence 35 was the Whitbread Bar, complete with mock pub sign and a frontage designed to resemble a bar. This wasn't a new development though. Colonel Bill Whitbread hunted with the Duke of Beaufort's hounds, and his company had been sponsoring the horse trials since 1962. It was their injection of money that played a major part in the increased prize money available to competitors.



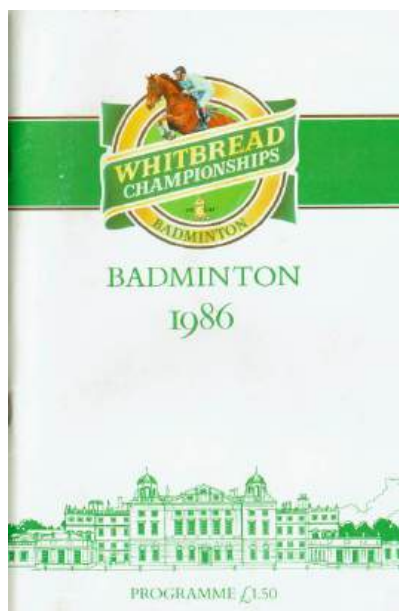
Map from the 1956 programme

*Cont'd over*



## From the Archives (cont'd)

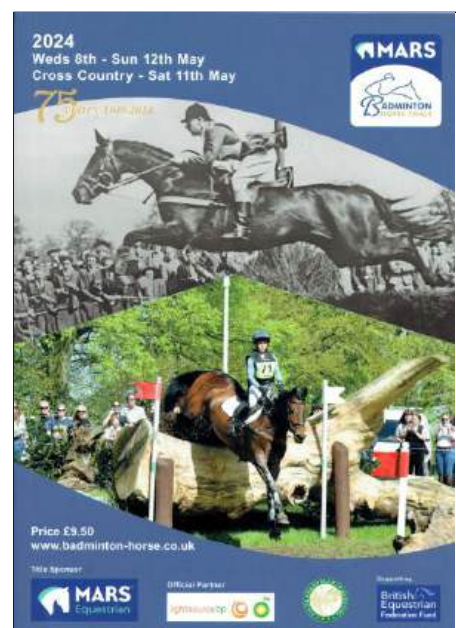
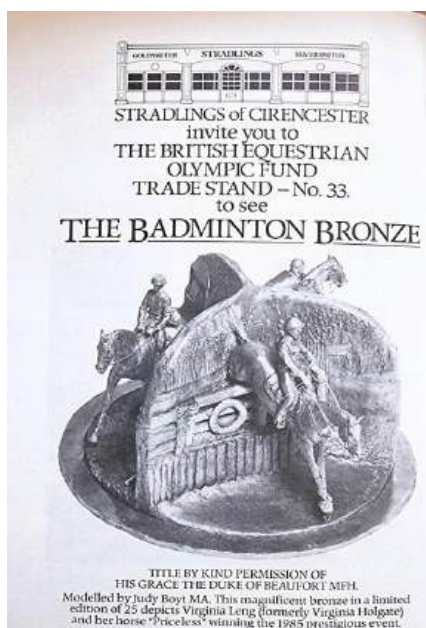
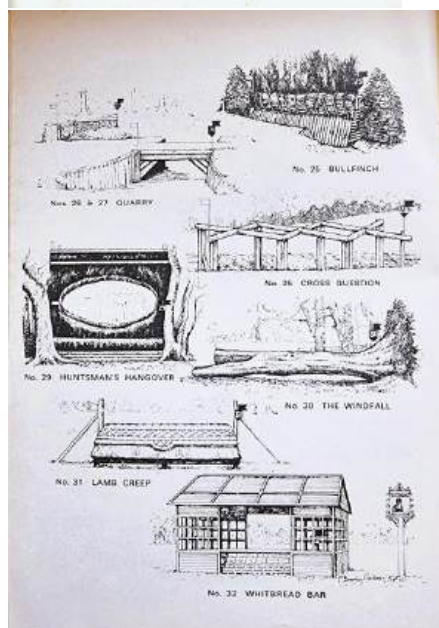
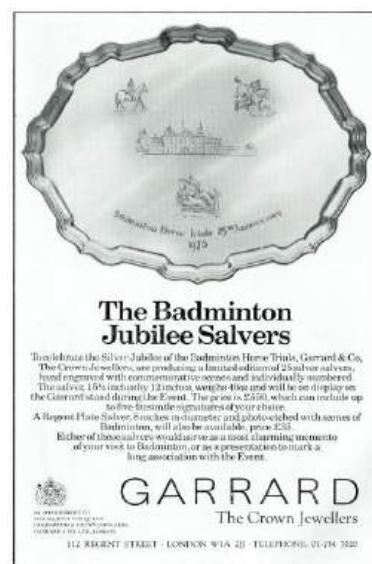
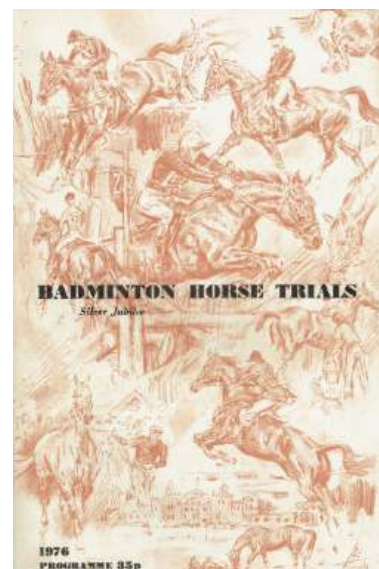
If you want proof of the way things were heading, look no further than the programme from 1986 (below), when the front cover announces the event as The Badminton Whitbread Championships. First prize is up to £6000 (£18,000 in today's money), and we have ever-more elaborate fences called The Whitbread Barrels, the Whitbread Chevrons and the Whitbread Drays. There's still an opportunity to snap up a nice limited-edition memento too, but now it's a bronze depiction of local-favourite Virginia Leng winning Badminton in 1985 on the wonderful Priceless. On the subject of local interest, there's even an advert for the forthcoming Badminton Air Day. Amongst the articles and information in the programme is a piece entitled "The Psychology Behind This Year's Cross Country Course" which describes how the course designers try to vary the course from year to year, and also attempt to create a course that is suitable for both the top professionals as well as the more novice riders. It looks at each fence in turn and shows the different routes that can be taken, depending on levels of skill and bravery. Ian Stark would run out winner in 1986 but he wouldn't be able to defend his title in 1987 when the horse trials



were cancelled due to bad weather. He made up for that in 1988 when his horses came first and second, the only time that such a feat has been achieved at Badminton.

As we leaf through the superbly-produced 146-pages of the 2024 Badminton programme, we realise that progress never stops. It can be nice to look back to simpler times, but it's also great to appreciate what a very dedicated group of people create every year. And it's right on our doorstep.

I wonder if there'll be any limited edition pieces on offer this year?





## *Badminton House Open Gardens*



Forecasting what the weather's going to do in April is never going to be easy, so a collective sigh of relief must have been breathed across the Badminton Estate when the first of their Open Garden events at the end of the month coincided with a very welcome spell of warm, summery weather.

The sunshine definitely drew in the crowds, and by the time the Talk Back team arrived, the car park was already filling up. Thankfully the gardens are plenty big enough to cope with the number of visitors, and despite the popularity of the event, it never felt crowded.

As always, there were stalls selling everything from plants, flowers and gardening tools, to ice cream, coffee and cakes, all of which seemed to be doing a roaring trade. We grabbed a cake and headed straight into the gardens.





## *Badminton House Open Gardens*



As per normal, tulips featured strongly in this, the first of the three open garden events planned for 2025, and the swathes of naturally-planted blooms were a particular favourite with the visitors who vied for the best spots to get the perfect pictures. Tulips also added a sea of colour on the east side of the house, where they featured prominently in the formal beds, but it was the wisteria growing against the walls of the orangery that caught our eye.

A short walk from the main house is the walled garden where, after a good look around the greenhouse, we found a bench to sit down and enjoy some people watching. It was the perfect end to a most enjoyable day.





## Badminton Benefice Festival of Music 2025



On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, the Badminton Benefice are launching their Festival of Music with a very special event at St Mary's Church in Hawkesbury. Called 'Come & Sing', it begins at 1pm with a workshop where participants will practice singing a variety of modern musical pieces in preparation for a concert which begins at 4pm. The event is open to anyone and everyone, and what's more it's absolutely free. You'll need to sign up to the workshop at [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com). No previous experience is necessary, just be prepared to enjoy the experience and make the most of meeting up with like-minded individuals. Entry to the concert is also free – there are no tickets, all you need to do is turn up and enjoy the afternoon where performers will include the Hawkesbury Choir, the Cirencester Singers, and children from the primary schools in Hawkesbury, Leighterton and Acton Turville.

The Badminton Benefice Festival of Music will be taking place over the summer and autumn, and the aim is to feature a musical event in every parish

in the Benefice, including those in Acton Turville and Badminton. The organisers are hoping that members of all the parish communities will want to support each other's events.

The Festival is the brainchild of Benefice Music Director Ben Humphries, and is partly designed to get people visiting each other's churches across the benefice. All of the concerts will be free of charge, except the final one in November, which will be a grand affair at Great Badminton. A further aim of the initiative is to get schoolchildren singing, so the involvement of the schools in this first event is very special. Expect the standards to be high, as Amy Garry, co-organiser of the Festival, visited Trinity School in Acton Turville after Easter to put on a free singing workshop which was apparently a great success!

For more details, visit <https://www.badmintonbenefice.com/festival-of-music>

We do hope Local Talk Back readers support this event. A lot of effort has gone into organising it, and it deserves to be a success. We can't think of a better way to spend a summer's afternoon.

## St Mary's Church Flower Festival & Open Gardens, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025



We mentioned in last month's Talk Back that 2025 sees the return of the St Mary's church fete, in the form of a Flower Festival & Open Gardens event to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. The organisers report that preparations are progressing well, with 12 villagers signed up to welcome visitors to their open gardens.

Plans for the flower displays at St Mary's Church are also coming together nicely, and the children from Trinity School have been working hard on their creations. Tea and coffee will be on sale at the church. If you think you might be able to help in any way, either by volunteering on the day, or baking something to go with the teas, please contact Eileen Whittock at [eileenwhittock@btinternet.com](mailto:eileenwhittock@btinternet.com) or speak to Iris at the Acton Turville Stores.

Advance tickets for the flower festival and open gardens can be purchased from The Stores or you can purchase them on the day at the church. The cost is just £5, with all proceeds going towards essential work to repair the church's historic bellcote. Please make every effort to support this fantastic occasion and very worthy cause, and don't forget to come along to the family service which will take place immediately after the flower festival at 4pm on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone will be most welcome. Wouldn't it be great to see this event make a permanent return to the calendar?

*Thank You!*



# Church Matters

## May 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all

It is great to see so many people coming back to church after what feels like a dearth since Covid. We sometimes forget that religion is a like a handrail, something to hold on to, to keep us settled and securely bound to the Christian way of life. Religion literally means to 'hold on', 'ligio' from which the word ligament comes, in Italian meaning faithful or loyal.

Religion is a bit like one of those handrails that are placed beside steps or inclines into buildings like churches or libraries. They are something to hold on to, which will help us along. The words and actions of our worship are just that. A handrail to help us get along, spiritually.

The late Queen Elizabeth said that for her, religion was the backcloth to her life. It was a steady handrail that she held to, which undoubtedly helped her to be a secure and stable building block for the modern world. I have no doubt that His Majesty feels the same way. We all go through ups and downs in life, and we all need something steady to rely on, to help us through. Matins may not be the most exciting service on earth; Holy Communion may feel a bit intimidating and Evening prayer may be gently reflective, but our services all offer space in which to reflect on our lives, in the light of God's love.

Someone said that God is not always there for us. But, I think it is more true to say that God is always there, but we are not always there for God. Our churches reflect a tradition of spiritual love and are a gift from the past to the present. We are fortunate to still have living churches in our villages. And it is great that people are re-gaining their appreciation of what this tradition can give them.

One last thing. The Bishop of Gloucester is our visiting preacher at our Horse Trials service at 10am on 11<sup>th</sup> May, at Great Badminton church. I hope you will find time to attend this special event.

With my best wishes,

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 May 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4 <sup>th</sup> May 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	D Hewitt
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	D Young; RT preaching
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
11 <sup>th</sup> May 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.00am	Great Badminton	Benefice Matins	Preacher Bishop of Gloucester
18 <sup>th</sup> May 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	L Tomlinson and D Young
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Matthew Butler
25 <sup>th</sup> May 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW+APCM	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	APCM (5.30) Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Rogation Compline	Robert Bryant-Pearson

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

# Sudoku

May'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 !!

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

## NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the March quizzes:

### 'Easy'

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

### 'Not so Easy'

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

## ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> April. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council's website <https://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org/documents/minutes>. Matters discussed included:

**Planning.** One planning application has been received, seeking to create four parking spaces to the rear of numbers 1 and 2 Burton Road. The spaces will be accessed from The Street, across land which forms part of the Hollybush Farm site. The Parish Council support this application, which will hopefully reduce the number of cars parking on the pavement adjacent to the Fox & Hounds car park, creating a blind spot for cars as they exit.

The Parish Council discussed how grants received as part of the Hollybush Farm development process (so-called S106 payments) could best be used to benefit the village within the strict criteria that apply to such grants. It was agreed that priority should be given to replacing and maintaining some of the aging equipment in the play area, but any other requests to spend the funds elsewhere would be considered. To date, no requests have been received by the Parish Council.

**Provision of Footpath on Burton Road.** The Parish Council continues to push to have the pedestrian pavement alongside the Burton Road extended to provide a safe walkway along the whole length from the M4 bridge to Acton Turville. At the April meeting, Councillor Adrian Rush stated that finances for such an undertaking were unlikely to be released in the current financial climate, in which case the Parish Council will be seeking a formal response from South Glos Council justifying that decision.

**Village Spring Clean.** Thanks to everyone who turned up to support the village Spring Clean on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, it was great to see so many familiar faces helping to make the village look smart and tidy. Thanks too to the South Glos Street Care team for supporting the event as always,

**Date of next meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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](https://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)



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## ANZAC Day 2025 at Leighterton



Every year, the village of Leighterton marks ANZAC day with a service of remembrance to honour the 24 members of the Australian Flying Corps who are buried in the small cemetery on the edge of the village. The airmen lost their lives at the end of the First World War, not in conflict but whilst learning to fly at the small grass airfield that used to exist just a mile or two away. Very little remains of the airfield, just a couple of derelict buildings, but the site of the old main admin block, on the road heading to Nailsworth, is home to the Aerodrome Garage, and for many years you could enjoy a cup of tea at the adjoining Aerodrome Café, which was built on the concrete slab that was once the floor of the Officer's Mess.

This year's service, led by the Reverend Richard Thomson, was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, and the people of Leighton came out as usual to pay their respects to the airmen buried so far from home. As the sun shone and the band played, local schoolchildren placed sprigs of rosemary on each of the graves before representatives from the Australian High Commission stepped forward to lay their wreaths and remember their fallen. It was a very fitting yet sobering occasion.



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