

Local Talk Back

MAY 2026

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

ISSUE 570



ENGLAND'S GREEN & PLEASANT LAND, WITH EXTRA GARLIC
PICTURE BY YVONNE NETTLES, LITTLE BADMINTON



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

EDITORIAL MAY 2026

Hands up who went to the Badminton House Open Gardens? Although, thinking about it, it might be easier to ask who didn't go. Judging by the number of visitors, the prospect of walking around such beautiful gardens on a lovely, sunny day is clearly one that appeals to a lot of people. Thankfully the grounds of Badminton House are large enough to ensure there was no crowding, but I suspect it'll take a while for the man selling ice creams to recover from the experience – he must have been absolutely exhausted by the time he hung up his scoop after serving his final helping of Marshfield's finest.

Next on the list of events for Badminton is of course the horse trials. Many people, from the organisers and competitors to spectators and the Marshfield ice cream man, will be anxiously looking at the forecast to see what the weather might have in store for that week. Last year the weather behaved perfectly. Fingers crossed for more of the same this year.

I'm still trying to deal with the effects of this year's early Easter and unexpectedly sunny Bank Holiday weekend. My body seems to assume that Easter marks the start of summer, so when I go out and get hit with that icy wind I'm confused and have to remind myself that we're actually still in April. When summer does eventually arrive, one of the highlights for many will be the RHS Badminton Flower Show, taking place in July. It's always nice to see something new added to the calendar. The RHS of course have been organising flower shows at different locations for many years. Each one has its own unique character and, whilst we've seen plenty of teasers about the Badminton show, nobody really knows what to expect on the day. One popular attraction at all the RHS events is the area given over to show gardens, where individuals and groups have the opportunity to inspire us with their creativity. A quick look on the RHS Badminton website shows just how diverse some of the designs will be, ranging from the traditional to the much more thought-provoking offerings. Something for everyone, as they say. In addition to the main show, don't forget the Estate are organising a Best Kept Garden competition for Badminton and Little Badminton. We go to press before the closing date for entries, but a recent walk around the area revealed a good number of residents already beavering away in their front gardens in a flurry of garden tools and fertiliser. We really hope the competition is a success, it would be great to see lots of people getting involved and joining in the fun.

Moving away from Badminton, something else to look forward to is the Music in Country Churches initiative. You might remember last year when the Badminton Benefice organised a series of musical events under the Festival of Music banner, which saw workshops, exhibitions and recitals taking place in many of our local churches. The response was overwhelmingly positive, giving the organisers a hard act to follow, but it looks like this year's offering could be just as special. Taking place in St Mary's church in Hawkesbury, it's one of just twelve concerts staged across the whole country by the charity Music In Country Churches, and will feature the brilliant Arcangelo New Ensemblists performing a 90-minute programme entitled Mr Handel & His Merry Musicians. It's a major coup to have this event taking place in one of our local churches, so don't miss out on the opportunity. The date to put in your diary is Friday the 19th of June. There are full details elsewhere in this issue of Talk Back.

Meanwhile, in Acton Turville, the Spreadborough family are once again putting on a concert for Ukraine. This has become something of a fixture in the calendar, and one that deserves your support for so many reasons. So, on the 27th June - grab a chair, head to Portcullis Lodge, spend the afternoon listening to a most diverse range of music splendidly delivered by the Winterbourne Wind Band, and show your support for a wonderful and important cause.

Sometimes it's the simple things that give the greatest pleasure.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

Items for Local Talk Back email to: localtalkback1975@gmail.com Tel: 01454 218267

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JUNE EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH MAY 2026.

THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May 2026

Fri 1 st	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am - noon
Wed 6 th – Sun 10 th	Badminton Horse Trials
Mon 11 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 13 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Thurs 14 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 16 th	The Badminton Bolt, Badminton Estate, from 9am
Sun 17 th	Fire Service, St Mary's Church, Acton Turville, 6pm
Tues 19 th	Chipping Sodbury Music Society presents Dominic Alldis Trio, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 22 nd	Open Gardens, Camers, Chipping Sodbury, 2pm – 5.30pm
Fri 29 th	Acton Turville Social, Quiz Night, Fox & Hounds, 7.30pm
Sun 31 st	Shabby Sheep Pop-Up Bookshop, Sherston Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

June 2026

Fri 5 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Mon 8 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 10 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Fri 19 th	Music In Country Churches, St Mary's, Hawkesbury, 6.30pm
Sat 27 th	Concert for Ukraine, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville, 2pm



Coffee Morning

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

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

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

In addition, £8.90 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 APRIL 2026

Clive Jones

Sarah Dunn

Sally Smith

Congratulations!

Thank You!

A big thank you to Jenny Wajtknecht for all the lovely crochet items she has produced, including the hundreds of red poppies for Remembrance Day. The ones on the Post Box always bring a smile.

Thank you Jenny

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WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Thursday 14th May 2026

SPECIAL SHOWING — TURNER AND CONSTABLE EXHIBITION

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of their births, this unmissable new documentary explores Turner and Constable's intertwined lives and legacies alongside the groundbreaking Tate exhibition.

Two of Britain's greatest painters, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were also the greatest of rivals. Born within a year of each other, both used landscape painting to reflect the changing world around them. Now, these two greats are reuniting. Tate Britain is bringing these two greats together for a groundbreaking exhibition, in London from November 2025 to April 2026, and Exhibition on Screen once again has exclusive and privileged access to bring their extraordinary art and remarkable stories to the big screen in March so that you can enjoy both film and exhibition together. Discover unexpected sides to both artists with intimate views of sketchbooks and personal items and insights from leading experts

Turner's blazing sunsets and sublime scenes from his travels and Constable's idealised depictions of beloved places from home whipped the public of the time into a frenzy of enthusiasm. Constable represents the very best of the old school of realism and pastoral nostalgia; Turner, an exciting new way of depicting emotion and dreamlike impressions. Critics compared their starkly different styles to a clash of 'fire and water'. Don't miss this opportunity to see these greats side-by-side, as they so often were in life, on the big screen for the first time.

Tickets will be £7.50 – all welcome and bar as usual

Please tell all your friends!

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



& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 13th May

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

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



Acton Turville Social – Village Party



Since announcing that Acton Turville Social would not be organising a Summer Party this year, we've received numerous calls from people, asking what can be done to reverse that decision. Although we just do not have the funds in our budget to host the type of event we've held in recent years, we have agreed to look at options for organising something simpler that would still see the village brought together. As soon as we have any further news, we will announce it in Local Talk Back and on the Acton Turville Connect Facebook page.

In the meantime, we have a quiz night booked for the 29th May at the Fox & Hounds at 7.30 pm. In addition, the regular coffee mornings are once again being held on the 1st Friday of each month between 10am and noon. Do join us.

We are most grateful to the Fox & Hounds for their support.

Mel, Karen, Caroline
Acton Turville Social

What's On

Raising Funds for Ukraine

We would like to invite you to join us on Saturday 27th June, in the garden of our home, Portcullis Lodge, Acton Turville (or Badminton Village Hall if it's wet) to listen to 'Winterbourne Wind Band', as they play to help us raise money to support the people who are suffering in Ukraine.

All the money we raise will go to 'The Helping Hand for Ukraine,' a division of The Chernobyl Children's Life Line. The charity was set up over 30 years ago to provide support for the children who continue to be affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Chernobyl is in the Northern region of Ukraine about 60 miles north of Kiev - an area now needing our help even more as it is being badly affected by the current conflict. The charity has no political affiliation. It works with a network of like-minded associates, including Social Workers, Local Village Councils, Teachers, Doctors and many other professionals to deliver support to the people where it is needed. Their only interest is to help the children, and their families, by being there for them in their time of need.

You may have seen on the news that last winter was particularly bad with very heavy snow and temperatures down to -26°C in the area where the charity works. Daily massive airstrikes also meant long periods without electricity and damage to water and sewage infrastructures. It took a hard toll on children, their families, the elderly and disabled and pretty much anyone affected. Making a cup of tea became a real challenge as many couldn't even walk to the well due to deep snow. They were provided with firewood, by the charity, so that they could melt snow on the stove top. In a joint partnership with partners in Borodyanka a residence centre was also set up, in a tent, as a Beacon of Hope. It offered space to warm up, get a warm drink and some hot food and company. Chains of lights were also placed in a corner of the tent as 'lights of hope'!

My friend Lana will also be joining us with her craft stall. She sells items that she has made and also beautiful bead work made by her sister who still lives in Ukraine. Just to clarify all the money that Lana takes is hers and she will send it back to Ukraine. It is not included in our total.

If you would like to help us, to help the people in Ukraine, please join us on Saturday 27th June.

You would be very welcome, no tickets required, just turn up. It would help if you could bring your own chair!

The Spreadborough Family



⚡ The Bolt at Badminton is Back! ⚡

Join us for our 4th year as we raise money for Trinity C of E Primary School in Acton Turville.

Organised by the Friends of School (FOS), last year the event saw 350 runners compete and raised over a staggering £9000 for the school. All funds raised are used to positively enhance the children's education and provide additional opportunities for them.

This year the event will see:

- A 5k or 10k run around the Badminton Estate
- New for 2026: 1.5k Mini Bolt - starting at 10am to allow you time to run with your little ones before challenging yourself further
- DB Max chip timed
- Warm up ran by Pure Gym, Yate
- Medals for all
- Family fun in the race village
- Free parking
- Onsite catering
- and lots more!



This is a fabulous, family-friendly event, that is enjoyed by all - so please do use the QR code or visit <https://race-nation.co.uk/register/the-bolt> to sign-up now.

If you are unable to take part as a participant but would still like to support the event, we would love for you to come along and cheer in the race village.

We are also looking to fill some additional volunteer roles - if this is something that you would be interested in helping with, please email enquiries@theboltatbadminton.co.uk by no later than Friday 8th May 2026.

Pictures of Badminton



Ragged Castle. Badminton.



We had some very positive responses to the pictures of bygone Badminton that we published last month, so thought you might like to see a few more. Once again, thanks to the lady who dropped them off with us.

We had to include the one of the orangery at Badminton (top left), after admiring it at the recent open gardens with the wisteria in full bloom. Remarkably, little has changed over the years. Moving clockwise, we have a picture of the Centenary Hall, shortly after completion in 1920 (it would be significantly extended in 1975). The two pictures at the bottom of the page were taken inside the hall, with Queen Mary enjoying a performance by some of the local children during one of her stays at Badminton House. We've not been able to pinpoint the property in the next picture, which is just referred to as "Old House, Badminton" on the print. The building is full of distinctive features so we're hoping someone will be able to provide the answer. And finally, Ragged Castle. It's still hard to believe that this folly, situated in Hinnegar Woods, was inhabited until the early 1960s, despite there being no gas, no electricity and no running water. The only modern amenity was a well!



The Sanctuary In Our Midst

What if a Saxon sanctuary once stood at the heart of our village, and never really left?

Dear friends, hello again.

I should probably begin with a small warning. This is what happens when you give a mildly obsessive person a topic and a library card, particularly when that topic turns out to be something we've all been walking past for years without quite realising what it is.

Last month, I mentioned a curious line buried in the historical record: that somewhere here in Acton Turville stood "an ancient building, erected by one of the Saxon kings for a sanctuary." It was one of those details that seems, at first glance, mildly interesting in the way all local history is mildly interesting, until you stop and think about it for a moment and realise what it's actually saying. A Saxon king. A sanctuary. Here. On this patch of ground we now associate more readily with dog walks, passing tractors and whether the Fox is doing pie night.

I asked if anyone knew more, and what followed was not an avalanche of academic responses (thankfully), but something much better. Conversations. A quiet word in the shop. A folded photocopy pressed into my hand with the conspiratorial air of someone passing on state secrets. And, most productively of all, an evening in the Fox & Hounds where theories about the sanctuary flowed almost as freely as the Thatcher's.

The prevailing view, delivered with the calm certainty of people who have been here long enough to know things properly, was that the sanctuary stood somewhere near the village well. Not exactly there, mind you, "somewhere in the vicinity," as one person put it, which in village terms can mean anything from a few feet to half a mile. Someone else recalled that when the road was dug up some fifty years ago, indications of old stone walls were uncovered beneath the surface. But then, emerging from the comforting hubbub of Fox pub banter, came the best theory of the evening, offered with a raised glass and impeccable timing: "The sanctuary's still here. You're standing in it."

Much as I liked that idea, I scurried home and continued digging anyway.

The first solid thread came from Samuel Rudder, whose *New History of Gloucestershire* was published in 1779. Rudder was not given to flights of fancy. He actually set foot in the places he wrote about. Significantly, he was writing at a time when the building was apparently still standing. His description is disarmingly matter of fact: "In the middle of the place stands a small stone building... remarkable... for its having been a sanctuary... dedicated to the Virgin Mary... supposed to have been built by one of our Saxon kings."

It's difficult to overstate how extraordinary that is. A small stone building, in the middle of the village, built by a Saxon king and still there in 1779. Visible, tangible, entirely unremarkable to the people walking past it at the time, and yet now so completely absent from our everyday awareness that most of us, myself included until recently, had no idea it had ever existed. If Rudder is right, then we haven't just lost a building. We've quietly mislaid a piece of our own story.

Rudder goes on to explain what "sanctuary" meant in Saxon law, drawing on the statutes of King Ina, who ruled the West Saxons in the late 7th and early 8th centuries. The principle was simple and, by modern standards, rather generous. If you were in serious trouble, and I mean proper trouble, not overdue-library-book or speeding-fine-in-Burton trouble, you could reach a sanctuary and claim protection. Once there, you were beyond the reach of the law. You were to be fed. You were to be safe. You had thirty paces in every direction in which no one could touch you.

It's an oddly moving idea. Somewhere on this hilltop, where we now exchange nods about the weather and wonder whether we remembered to put the bins out, there once existed a space in which the normal rules were suspended in favour of mercy. Someone fleeing across the fields could arrive here, cross an invisible threshold, and simply be safe.

Once I had discovered Rudder, the trail began to widen, and the gin bottle began to slowly empty.

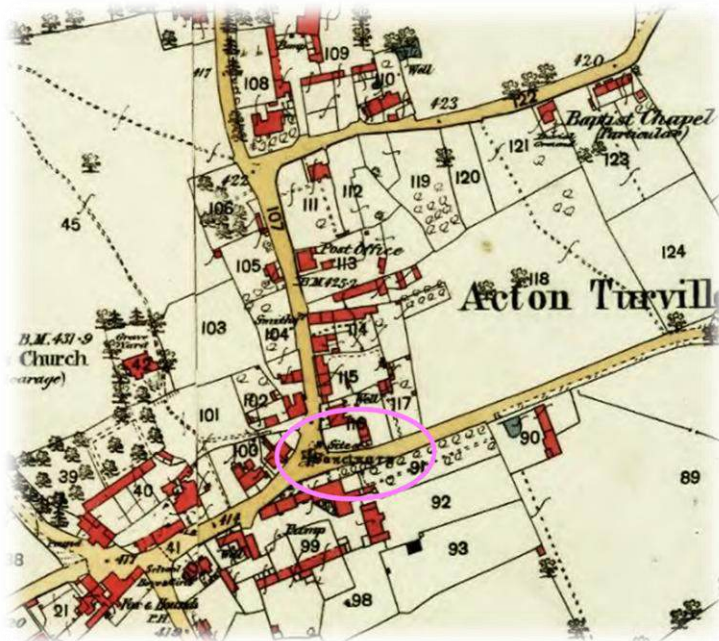
Nineteenth-century gazetteers mention the sanctuary in passing, as though it were an established and entirely uncontroversial feature of the village. Even modern conservation notes, in their understated way, acknowledge that the well marks the approximate site. But the moment it truly came alive for me was when I stumbled across a drawing by Philip Crocker, an antiquarian surveyor working in the early 1800s. It shows a small, sturdy building—thick stone walls, a pitched roof, a simple doorway with a faintly ecclesiastical air.



Cont'd over

The Sanctuary In Our Midst (cont'd)

Seeing it rendered like that—something someone had stood in front of and carefully drawn—shifted it from abstraction into reality. This wasn't just something that had been written about. It had been there. People had passed it, perhaps without a second thought, in the same way we pass the well or the pub today.



The question of where exactly it stood turns out to be both clearer and more intriguing than expected. An Ordnance Survey map from around 1880, produced by people whose professional reputation depends on putting things in precisely the right place, marks the "Site of Sanctuary" just south of the heart of the village centre, close to but not exactly at the well, and very much in that same stretch between the well and the Fox & Hounds. Which makes those recollections of buried stone walls during roadworks feel rather less like folklore and rather more like memory.

But the detail I keep coming back to is this: a later parish account suggests that parts of the original building were not lost at all, but reused, incorporated into two cottages. Not preserved behind glass or cordoned off for inspection, but quietly folded into the fabric of everyday life. If that is true, then fragments of a Saxon sanctuary stones that once marked out a place of refuge are

still here, doing what village stones have always done: keeping the weather out, holding roofs up, and minding their own business.

I found myself standing by the well the other evening with Coco our canine companion, as the light did that soft, indecisive thing it does between day and night. Nothing much was happening. A dog walker passed near the pub. A tractor moved steadily along the lane. Somewhere, a gate closed with that familiar wooden thud.

And yet it felt, briefly, as though the ground had shifted ever so slightly beneath the surface of the ordinary.

A thousand years ago, give or take, someone stood very close to that spot and decided it mattered. Not just as a place to live or farm, but as a place to offer protection. They built something that outlasted their language, their laws, their entire way of understanding the world.

And then, over time, it was absorbed. Stone into cottage. Memory into map. Presence into something quieter.

Not lost. Just... folded in.

Until, one evening in the Fox & Hounds, someone says, "Did you know there used to be a sanctuary here?" and the whole thing begins again.

Perhaps that's what I've come to appreciate most about living here. The history doesn't disappear. It settles. It waits. It lingers in odd corners and half-remembered stories, in things we pass every day without quite seeing until, suddenly, we do.

Next time you walk past the well, it might be worth pausing for a moment. Not just because the traffic can be a bit ambitious at that corner, but because you are standing very close to a place where, once upon a time, the world made space for mercy. Where people arrived in fear and found safety. Where, for thirty paces in every direction, the usual rules gave way, just a little, to something kinder.

We've been walking past it for years.

Most of us had no idea. I certainly didn't.

But if you stand there for a moment now, you may find it feels just slightly different. Not dramatically so. Nothing you could point to.

Just a faint sense that this ordinary patch of ground has been carrying something rather extraordinary all along.

And, in its own quiet way, still is.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

New website launch for Badminton Parish Council

As part of a National rollout of updated digital standards, we have been working to ensure that the Parish Council website is secure and accessible, whilst simultaneously looking for opportunities to improve how we can use it to serve our community. As part of this, our website domain name and contact email addresses have now changed to GOV.UK.

You can find the new Badminton Parish Council website at:

<https://www.badmintonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

The website also includes a Community Noticeboard. If you would like the Parish Council to promote any local news and events, please get in touch.

We are still adding content to the website, but hope you will find what we have done so far interesting and informative.

We would love to hear your feedback and any ideas you may have for further improvements – please contact us at clerk@badmintonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Camers Garden, Old Sodbury NGS Open Day



Friday 22nd May 2pm – 5.30pm

Garden Entry £7 (all proceeds in aid of NGS charities)

Refreshments in aid of St Johns Church,
Old Sodbury

Entry via Chapel Lane

Further information www.camers.org

Badminton Stores Opens on the High Street

On a sunny Friday in April, local residents and staff watched on as the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort officially opened Badminton Stores. Located on the High Street in Badminton, the event saw a much-valued part of the local community return to its traditional home.

Now open to the public seven days a week (8:30am – 5:00pm), Badminton Stores offers a range of locally sourced produce and essential goods. Visitors can also enjoy fresh coffee, sandwiches, cakes, and more, creating a welcoming space for both residents and those passing through the village.

Announcing the opening of Badminton Stores, the Estate said: "This opening reflects a wider commitment to supporting rural communities and local businesses, while reintroducing an essential service to Badminton High Street.

We warmly invite you to visit during our first full week, pop in to say hello, enjoy a coffee, and take a look around.

We are proud to bring a shop back to Badminton and to continue the support of our local community."

A colorful advertisement for 'The Shabby Sheep Bookshop' pop-up. At the top, there's a banner with colorful bunting. Below it, the text 'THE SHABBY SHEEP BOOKSHOP' is written in a stylized font, with a sheep illustration. A red box says 'FREE ENTRY'. The main title 'POP-UP BOOKSHOP' is in large green letters. Below that, there's an illustration of a bookshelf with various books and potted plants. A banner says 'HUGE DISCOUNTS from on-line and high street prices.' The date and time are 'Sunday 31st May 2026 10am to 4pm'. The location is 'Sherston Village Hall (Large Hall), High Street, Sherston, Wiltshire, SN16 0LQ.' There are several stacks of books with labels: 'Over 3000 Titles NEW BOOKS', 'Pre-loved Books', 'Fiction Books', 'Non-Fiction Books', 'Children's Books', 'Antique/Vintage Books SIGNED EDITIONS', 'First Editions', 'Rare/Special Edition', 'Terrariums', 'Bookmarks', 'Bookish Gifts', and 'FREE Tea/Coffee'. At the bottom, a banner says '10% DISCOUNT when you spend £10 or more.'

The Countryside Around Us



Photos taken on an afternoon trip around our local countryside by Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton



The Generational Kitchen

Welcome to The Generational Kitchen — a place for all those precious recipes handed down with love. The ones scribbled on envelopes, dictated down the phone, treasured in tattered recipe books.



Del's Rice Salad*

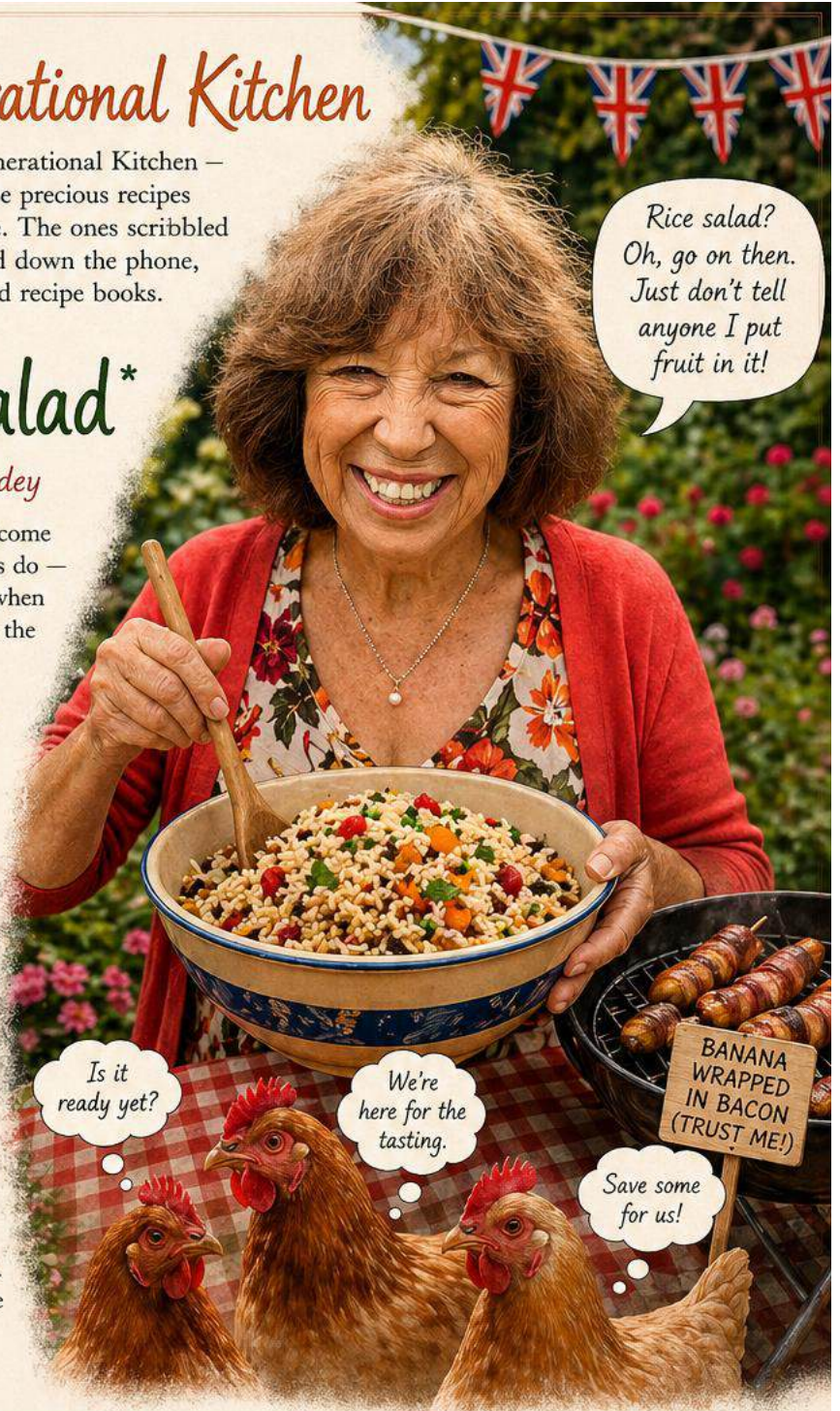
From the kitchen of Anne Wadey

With the sun finally putting in a much welcome appearance, thoughts turn — as they always do — to al fresco dining. That hopeful moment when we all collectively decide that this might be the year the British summer behaves itself.

Every year, we'd gather for a family BBQ at my parents' house in Dorset. We were lucky — Mum had a beautiful garden, the sort that didn't just happen but was gently persuaded into existence through patience, skill, and the occasional firm word. It was her pride and joy, and the perfect setting for long, lazy afternoons that somehow turned into evenings.

The food was, of course, central to proceedings. Mum made the most lip-smacking salads, served alongside her marinated pork and sausages, and — somewhat surprisingly — banana wrapped in bacon. Yes, really. And before you dismiss it entirely... it worked. Miraculously.

This rice salad was always part of the spread. It's fresh, colourful, and just the right balance of sweet and savoury — the sort of dish that quietly gets finished while everyone is distracted by the barbecue.



Rice salad?
Oh, go on then.
Just don't tell
anyone I put
fruit in it!

Is it
ready yet?

We're
here for the
tasting.

Save some
for us!

Ingredients ♥

- 560g basmati & wild rice
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 170g dried apricots, chopped
- 110g currants
- 50g toasted flaked almonds
- 4 tbsp parsley, chopped

Dressing ♥

- 1 tsp rock salt, crushed
- 1 clove garlic, pounded together with the salt
- 1 tsp mustard powder
- 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 6 tbsp olive oil

Method ♥

1. Cook the rice according to the packet instructions.
2. While the rice is cooking, do your chopping and lightly toast the almonds.
3. Mix all the dressing ingredients together.
4. Drain the rice and, while still warm, pour over the dressing so it absorbs all the flavour.
5. Once cool, add the remaining ingredients and give everything a gentle stir.

* My mum was the chief practice nurse at our local surgery — a job she loved. Del was one of the nurses in her team, and the two became great friends. Quite how this recipe became known as Del's rather than Mum's is now lost to time, though I suspect modesty may have played a part. Sadly, I can't ask them — I imagine they're both now comparing notes somewhere, possibly over a BBQ, and almost certainly insisting the dressing needs "just a little more garlic."



Bringing families together, one slightly scandalous ingredient at a time.



ST MARY'S ACTON TURVILLE - FIRE SERVICE SUNDAY 17TH MAY, 6PM

Following the success of the Flower Festival, the Harvest café and the Christmas services, St Mary's is trying out a new service for May. Our plan is to have four services a year that attract families and everyone in the community to the church. St Mary's is set in such a beautiful green oasis in the centre of the village, kept tidy and luscious by a small army led by the ever-dependable Ian and Alistair. The church has been successful in winning a grant to move to electric heating and away from a 40-year-old, unreliable oil boiler. Once the church is fully on electricity then we intend to expand its ability to cater for different services and a range of uses.

This May, St Mary's will be putting on a Fire Service to celebrate Ascension and Pentecost in an unconventional way. There will be a Fire Pit to represent the Holy Spirit, and hot chocolate and marshmallows (as yet without a biblical reference but give us time!)

Our lovely Christine has worked hard to put together some beautiful music. As these will be new to some of us, there is a session on 10th May to practice these songs. Everyone is welcome, even if it is only to have a good sing-a-long and a cup of tea.



6pm is when the fire will be lit, followed by a short musical family service and then back outside for hot chocolate and marshmallows and a chance to chat to neighbours on (fingers crossed) a beautiful evening.

ST MARY'S, HAWKESBURY - MUSIC IN COUNTRY CHURCHES CONCERT FRIDAY 19TH JUNE, 6.30PM

We are delighted to announce that St Mary's Hawkesbury has been chosen by the distinguished music charity, Music in Country Churches (Patron: His Majesty The King) as one of its venues for its prestigious concert series this year.



This nationwide music charity carefully chooses churches of exceptional historical importance and interest for its concert series, so it is a great honour for St Mary's Hawkesbury to have been selected.

This year, Music in Country Churches will stage just twelve concerts in eleven churches in eleven counties. St Mary's will be the only one in Gloucestershire, with the others staged in County Durham, Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Oxfordshire, Devon, East Sussex, Somerset, and Norfolk.

Programme

The 90-minute concert programme, entitled Mr Handel and His Merry Musicians, has been devised by the Arcangelo New Ensemblists, who will perform it at St Mary's Hawkesbury on Friday 19th June at 6.30pm. It will include a 20-minute interval.

The programme will explore works composed for the brilliant orchestral musicians who played in Handel's orchestra at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. The music by Handel, Castrucci, Corbett, Sammartini and Haym will show the dazzling virtuosity of the ensemble, which includes violin, viola, cello, bassoon, and harpsichord.

Car Parking, Bar & Facilities

The adjacent free car park will be open from 5.15pm. The pay bar in a marquee in the churchyard will serve fine wines, beer, and soft drinks from 5.30pm until 6.30pm, and again during the interval. On-site toilet facilities will include disabled access. We are hoping for glorious summer weather to make the most of the wonderful setting, indoors and outdoors.

Tickets are now on sale at £15, £20, and £30. (Free admission for the disabled and under-18s).

LIMITED AVAILABILITY – BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

*This event is expected to sell out, so to book your tickets now, please visit
www.musicincountrychurches.org.uk*

Church Matters

May 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

With Badminton Horse Trials almost upon us, I want to share with you this poem, which is called the Horse. It was read at Ian Adsetts' funeral on 7th April. Many of you will have known Ian, who was well known and lived in Didmarton. He had a passion for horses.

I think it is a very beautiful poem, because it really captures the wonder of horses, who are so powerful, yet so noble and gentle.

THE HORSE

*Where in this wide world can
man find nobility without pride,
friendship without envy or beauty without vanity?
Here, where grace is laced with muscle, and
strength by gentleness confined.*

*He serves without servility;
he has fought without enmity.
There is nothing so powerful,
nothing less violent, there is nothing so quick,
nothing more patient.
England's past has been borne on
his back. All our history is his
industry; we are his heirs; he
our inheritance.*

Perhaps if a certain president who is causing so many problems in our world, were to swap his love for golf with horses, history right now might now be written with a more gentle stroke.

With my best wishes for this month of May,

Rev Richard Thomson, vicar.

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236

07717791858

Church Services for May 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
3 rd May Easter 5	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
10 th May Easter 6	10.00am	Great Badminton	Horse Trials Service Benefice	Rev R Thomson
17 th May Easter 7	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Great Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	4.00pm	Leighterton	Blessing of Pet Service	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson and M Butler
24 th May Pentecost	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
31 st May Trinity Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Oldbury on the Hill	Matin	Rev R Thomson

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 13th April 2026. Matters discussed included:

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

District Councillor Reports. Cllr Romaine provided an update on a number of issues previously raised by the Parish Council, although, as no full Council meeting had been held at South Glos, progress was limited. In response to an email from a parishioner regarding pot holes, Cllr Romaine recognised the frustration but reported that, despite funding issues, action to improve the state of the local roads was being prioritised by South Glos.

Cotswold Warden Report. The Cotswold Warden for Acton Turville and Badminton, Hugo Thorman, introduced himself and provided a brief overview of the warden's role. This was primarily to walk the public footpaths within his designated area and ensure they remain in good condition, carrying out minor tasks where appropriate to keep them clear. He pointed out that the task could perhaps be better performed by someone living more local than him, and suggested that anyone who might like to take on the role should initially contact the Parish Council.

Proposed Uses for S106 Funds. A number of parishioners suggested how the so-called S106 funds, which will be payable by the developers of the Hollybush Farm site, may be used. The Parish Council thanks everyone who submitted proposals. We are initially studying the proposals to establish whether they satisfy the S106 criteria, which is primarily to provide recreational facilities aimed at young people. A further update will be provided once we have completed our review.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th May 2026 @ 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 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

Email: clerk@actonturville-pc.gov.uk Website: <https://www.actonturville-pc.gov.uk/>

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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the April quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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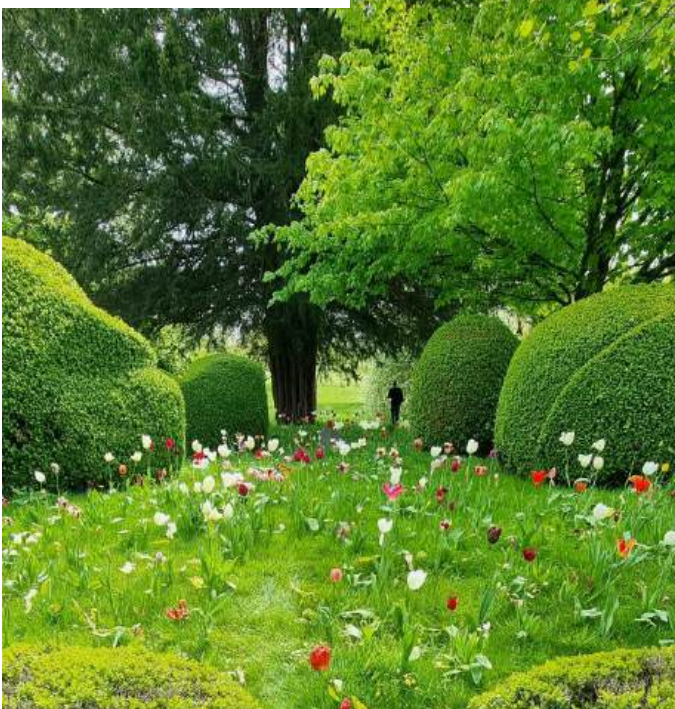
Picture Gallery



Once again, the first Badminton House Open Gardens event of the year was blessed with beautiful weather, attracting a bumper crowd which created a vibrant atmosphere, especially around the many and varied stalls in the courtyard.

The gardens were pristine as always, with the waves of naturally-planted tulips in particular drawing crowds eager to photograph the colourful displays. The collection of botanical illustrations commissioned in 1703 by Mary Somerset, the first Duchess of Beaufort, also drew an appreciative audience, as did the talks by the garden teams in the main and walled gardens.

It was great to see so many people enjoying a relaxing day in such perfect surroundings. Our thanks go to everyone whose hard work and dedication made the day so special.



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