

Local Talk Back

50th Anniversary Edition 1975 – 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

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

ISSUE 565



Autumnal Sunshine at Westonbirt.

Picture by the Editor



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

EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to the 50th anniversary edition of Local Talk Back. That's quite an achievement isn't it? It was November 1975 when the team produced the first edition. Edited by Ray Bird, typed, copied and stapled by Liz Barnes, the Swangrove Farm secretary at the Badminton Estate office, and delivered by hand to all the residents of Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville, those first copies were greeted with open arms. At last, here was a comprehensive compendium of what was happening in our villages, along with news items, announcements, reports from various groups, and articles on a wide range of subjects which the editorial team thought people would enjoy.

I'm sure someone doing a PhD in social history could deduce an awful lot from the 564 issues that have subsequently been produced. As we sat around the dining table and leafed our way through the contents of the Talk Back archives, it was quite fascinating to witness how much life in our villages had evolved. 50 years ago, even 30 years ago, Talk Back was full of news about all the events that were taking place locally. Numerous groups were organising all sorts of social activities throughout the year, from slide shows to coffee mornings, bonfires to dances, darts matches to skittles tournaments, and they were holding them in venues including the Badminton Village Hall and Social Club, the Fox & Hounds, even Badminton House (although the bonfire tended to be outdoors). People were constantly raising funds for good causes, and local sports teams were involved in a whole range of pursuits. Basically, everybody was going out and doing stuff, and they were telling Talk Back all about it.

And then, for some reason, they weren't. With no explanation, the events that we'd been reading about for years, decades even, started to disappear from the pages of Talk Back. Some, such as the annual bonfire, probably fell victim to increasing insurance costs and new rules on health and safety, but how about the others? Had numbers dwindled to the point where they were not sustainable? Was the venue no longer available? Did the people organising the events move away? Or was it simply a case that times changed and what they were offering was no longer what people wanted?

There's much debate in the media just now asking similar questions (at a national level, not just about our villages!), with everyone trying to explain why less and less people are going out to socialise these days. Some suggest it's down to the current cost-of-living crisis, whilst others point the finger at lockdown, when people apparently realised they could do without a social life and have never gone back to their old ways. A more plausible explanation might be technology. Back in the seventies, people were much more likely to go out because the alternative was staying at home watching Panorama or The Golden Shot with Hughie Green on a TV the size of a matchbox. Now, in the comfort of your own home, you are surrounded by technology that gives you limitless entertainment. The youngsters can spend all night playing computer games while the rest of the household relax in front of a screen that wouldn't look out of place in a cinema, giving access to channels on every subject known to mankind. You can sit and chat on-line to friends and family in every corner of the world, or delve into the internet to work out how to reset the digital clock on your Nissan Micra. The way we live our lives now is definitely very different to the world we read about in the older issues of Local Talk Back, that's for sure, but that just makes the efforts of groups such as Acton Turville Social and the organisers of the Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club, who work so hard to put on social events that everyone can enjoy, even more special.

Local Talk Back has come a very long way in the 50 years since Ray Bird set the ball rolling in 1975. As the number of reports on local events declined, the effort was diverted into producing articles on a range of subjects including local (and not so local) history, days out, even driving back from the Middle East in an MG. Technology allowed the team to change the look and feel of Local Talk Back, and every month we are proud of the product our loyal distributors drop through your letterboxes. Talk Back will continue to focus on local news and events, but to do that we rely on people sending us information about those events, and ideally something to say how they went. We are also always on the look-out for contributions on subjects that might interest our readers. We know there are plenty of people doing fascinating things, going to amazing places and taking some great photographs, and we really appreciate it when people send in material for us to share.

Local Talk Back remains very much for the community, by the community, and together we hope to keep it going for many more years to come. To everyone who has been part of the journey so far, a very, very big thank you.

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 DECEMBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH NOVEMBER 2025.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 2025

- Wed 5th Didmarton Bonfire & Fireworks Display 7pm
- Fri 7th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Sun 9th Remembrance Parade and Service, Badminton Church, Parade 10.35am, Service 11am
- Mon 10th Acton Turville Parish Council meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
- Tues 11th Service of Remembrance, St Marys, Acton Turville 10.45am
- Tues 11th Chipping Sodbury Music Society, Aglica Trio, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Wed 12th Senior Citizens Lunch, Fox & Hounds
- Fri 14th Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
- Fri 21st Acton Turville Social Bingo Night, Fox & Hounds, 7.30pm
- Sat 22nd Christmas Craft Workshop, Badminton Estate, 9.30am – 5pm
- Thurs 27th Christmas Cooking Demonstration, Badminton Estate, 6.30pm – 9.30pm
- Fri 28th / Sat 29th Luxury Wreath Making, Badminton Estate, 4pm – 9pm
- Sun 30th Shabby Sheep Pop-Up Bookshop, Grittleton Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

December 2025

- Tues 2nd Chipping Sodbury Music Society, Serenata Guitar Trio, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 7.30pm
- Fri 3rd Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
- Sun 7th Advent Choral Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville
- Mon 8th Acton Turville Parish Council meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
- Wed 10th Senior Citizens Lunch, Fox & Hounds
- Thurs 11th School Carol Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville, 5.30pm
- Fri 12th Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
- Sat 13th Christmas by Candlelight, Badminton House, 6.30pm – 9pm
- Sat 20th Community Police Van, Fox & Hounds car park, 4pm-5pm
- Sun 21st Village Carol Service, St Marys, Acton Turville, 6pm
- Wed 24th Christingle Service, St Mary's, Acton Turville, 4.30pm

Please check with venues before setting off

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We received kind donations this month from:

R G & P G Wood

Dr Stephen Gregson

Sue Hope

Acton Turville Parish Council

In addition, £21.00 was generously donated in the shop collection boxes.

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

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

To donate by cheque, please make payable to LOCAL TALK BACK and send to:

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

Thank you!



Local Talk Back is always on the lookout for additional material. Maybe you have an interesting story to tell, an event to report on, or would like to be involved with production of the newsletter? If you think you can help, why not get in touch?

localtalkback1975@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you!



ACTON TURVILLE TENNIS CLUB

The Acton Turville Tennis Club is holding its Annual General Meeting on TUESDAY 25th November at 8.00pm. Any members who wish to attend should contact the secretary at actonturvilletennisclub@gmail.com

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Tel: 01454 852255 or email: info@sprint-print.co.uk

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 14th November 2025

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

Members are allowed to bring guests to the film shows, which will continue to be held on the 2nd 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



Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 12th November

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

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



BADMINTON ESTATE

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

This Christmas, we are pleased to present a series of exclusive events at Badminton. From festive workshops and cooking demonstrations to enchanting candlelight concerts, there is something for everyone. Whether enjoyed in the company of family and friends or bestowed as a thoughtful gift, these experiences promise to create lasting memories.

Christmas Craft Workshop - 22nd November

Christmas Cooking Demonstration - 27th November

Luxury Wreath Making - 28th & 29th November

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

13TH DECEMBER 2025, 6.30PM – 9PM

The Bristol Ensemble presents an evening of festive Christmas classics, celebrating the joy and warmth of the season through music. Step into the magic of Christmas in The North Hall at the historic Badminton House becomes the setting for an unforgettable evening of seasonal favourites. Illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight, the acclaimed Bristol Ensemble will fill the air with melodies that capture the spirit of this most wonderful time of year.

Spaces are limited, book early to secure your place and celebrate at Badminton.

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



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

By the time this issue of Local Talk Back reaches you, St Mary's in Acton Turville should once again be free of scaffolding, providing a completely unhindered view of the recently-refurbished church bell and historic bellcote in all their glory. It was a pleasure to work with a team of such skilled craftsmen who clearly took great pride in their work, and we are confident that the repairs will last for many, many years to come.

Now that the work on the bell and bellcote is complete, the church parochial council can turn their attention to a long-running issue that, although not something that could compromise the integrity of the building, is essential to ensure the church's long-term future as a place of worship, namely heating. The church currently relies on an antiquated oil-powered boiler that is located in a dark pit beneath the church and has to be accessed via a somewhat precarious ladder every time it needs to be reset or the water tank refilled (which is quite often). As well as the risk that people will injure themselves when they climb down to work on the boiler, the use of fossil fuels also goes against the green energy mandate that the church have issued which is part of their path towards net zero.

The modern way to heat churches is with highly-efficient electric under-pew heaters that are designed to heat the person, not the building. After much form-filling and preparatory work, St Mary's has now officially been awarded a grant to replace the oil boiler and move to the new electric heaters, but there is still more work to do. In particular, the heaters require a

dedicated 3-phase power supply to be installed by National Grid which won't be cheap. We also need to fund removal of the old boiler and oil tank. In total, the shortfall is in the region of £7000, some of which will come from additional grants with the rest being generated via a range of fund-raising activities.

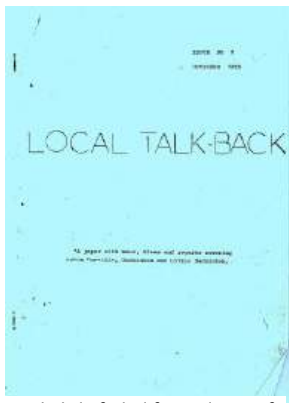
As a consequence of the planned work, there may be a period when the church is without heating all together. If that proves to be the case, we'll let people know beforehand so they can come prepared. Warm clothes and blankets may well be the order of the day!

We were so grateful to everyone who made September's harvest service such a great success, and as we move towards Christmas we have some further events which we hope you will support. Details will be published in the December issue of Local Talk Back.



Local Talk Back

50 Years Old and Still Going Strong



A slightly faded first edition of
Local Talk-Back from Nov 75

This month, Local Talk Back is celebrating its 50th anniversary, which we think is a perfectly good reason to head to the archives and indulge in a bit of nostalgia. So where to start? How about the beginning? Talk Back's roots can be traced back to a "What's On" listing initiated by John Davis, the manager of Swangrove Farm, who captured all the various sporting events, meetings, social functions and church services that were taking place in the community, printed them on a single side of A4 and dropped them through the letterboxes of each household in Badminton, free of charge. It proved very popular, and soon people were relying on it to keep them up to date with everything that was happening in the area. It was Ray Bird who suggested taking the concept to the next level by providing reports on the events once they had taken place as well as updates from the various groups that operated locally. While John supported the idea, his farm management commitments meant he couldn't spare the time to take it on himself. Ray Bird had thus talked himself into becoming the editor of Local Talk Back, and it was his name that appeared at the foot of the editorial when the first edition was published in November 1975.

Over the intervening 50 years, Local Talk Back has changed greatly, but it retains its underlying promise of being produced for the community, by the community. It has teetered on the edge on more than one occasion, but it has always bounced back and continued to adapt to our changing world. We thought it would be interesting to take a look through some of the 564 issues in the Talk Back archives to see how the magazine had evolved, and to keep it simple, chose our "significant birthday" issues. For some readers it will be a reminder of events that still feel quite recent, for others it will be a look back at times that seem so long ago. We hope you enjoy it, whatever your perspective.

ISSUE 1. November 1975

The first issue of Talk Back that dropped through letterboxes in November 1975 comprised four sheets of A4, typed, copied and stapled together by Liz Barnes in the Swangrove Farm office. It was typed on a traditional typewriter, and the words "Local Talk-Back" applied to the cover using one of those plastic stencils that you could buy from places like WH Smiths. Ray's editorial outlined the aspirations for the publication: as well as a comprehensive diary of forthcoming events, there would be monthly reports on sporting events and updates from groups such as the WI, the Cubs and the Brownies. He was also keen to hear from older members of the community who he hoped would be able to recount stories from days gone by. There would be no charge for the newsletter. Instead, funding would come from an annual "Dance", proceeds from which would cover the cost of printing and publishing.

The main article concerned the retirement of Harry Crook, landlord of the Fox & Hounds in Acton Turville, who was leaving after 30 years in the role (he took over on the 6th December 1945). As a token of their affection, friends and pub regulars held a collection and used the proceeds to buy him a shooting stick and a tea trolley which were presented by Mr Reg Preest. Harry didn't go far – he subsequently bought a house in the village. The other main news stories were the opening of Trinity School by His Grace the Duke of Beaufort and a report on the Annual Harvest Festival which raised a very respectable £130 for the St Mary's churchyard fund.

Talking of fundraising, "10 local ladies assisted by one gent" completed a 12-mile sponsored walk, raising £111.08p for the annual Badminton & Acton Turville children's Christmas party. The walkers followed a route that took them as far as Didmarton and Sopworth before returning to the Fox & Hounds, no doubt for some well-earned refreshments.

Elsewhere in the first issue was a report by Mike Earl on the Badminton & District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Mike was pleased to report that the branch was flourishing, with 49 members and excellent turnouts at both the 1974 Remembrance Day and 1975 ANZAC Day parades. At the AGM, chaired by His Grace the Duke of Beaufort in October, finances were assessed to be "quite satisfactory", and there was more good news when the Rev Tom Gibson announced that he'd secured the services of the Stinchcomb Silver Band to lead the 1975 Remembrance Day parade.

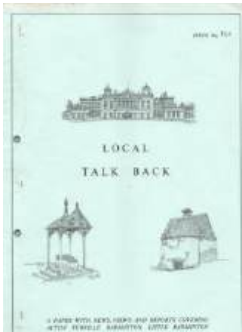
Mike's wife Jean provided an equally comprehensive report on behalf of the 1st Acton Turville Brownies which reflected on their year's activities, highlights being a visit to Longleat (which thankfully passed off with "no mishaps") and a presentation of Cycling Proficiency certificates by Lady Caroline Somerset to ten Brownies which was recorded for prosperity by the local press. The presentation would turn out to be the final event held at the old school prior to its move to the Trinity site.

Cont'd Over

50 Years Old and Still Going Strong (cont'd)

That just left space for the results of the 300 Club Draw (top prize of £15 being won by Pam Bubb from Acton Turville), the sports and social calendar for November and a series of sports reports. These covered the Crib League and the exploits of the Badminton team, who showed they meant business by signing up for the Sodbury District league, and darts, where the Fox & Hounds team had made a great start to the season in the Badminton & District league Division A. It was hoped to provide reports on local skittles and football teams if someone could be coerced into producing them.

ISSUE 121. November 1985



Ten years in and starting to look much more professional

Jump forward ten years to November 1985 and what has changed? Well Local Talk Back has expanded to ten pages, and the front cover incorporates the pencil drawings of local landmarks that still grace the cover to this day. It is still produced on a typewriter, and the drawings on the front cover are the closest it gets to incorporating photographs. However it is now jam packed with news and events. Our villages appear to be a riot of activity!

Most apparent is the amount of fund-raising going on. Some of that is for Local Talk Back which, it would appear, had found itself in something of a financial pickle. £340 was needed to cover its debts and more was needed to put it on a stable financial footing. Readers were very quick to rally round with a number of kind benefactors coming forward to help. Collecting boxes were placed in the local shops and Ruth & Terry Witchard organised a skittles evening at the Badminton Club that raised a very useful £120, leaving the deficit at a much more

manageable £100. Clearly those annual fund-raising dances weren't the money-spinners they'd hoped for.

There's not enough space here to mention all the other fund-raising events but (deep breath), Jean Earl was collecting postage stamps to help a child suffering from Leukaemia, daughter Selena had successfully completed a parachute jump in aid of the Bradford football stadium disaster appeal, St Mary's held a harvest festival and whist drive for their churchyard fund, and Trinity School sold cakes and held a raffle to raise £80 for Oxfam who were helping survivors of an earthquake in Mexico. Then there was the Donkey Derby organised by the Acton Turville Village Association which raised enough money to cover the cost of August's Senior Citizens' coach trip, a jumble sale, organised by Sheila Fry, that raised over £400 for the CLIC charity (and where the star prize in the raffle was ten gallons of petrol), and a presentation by the Duchess of Beaufort who handed over a cheque to Dr Gareth Reece of the Bath Royal United Hospital, on behalf of the Badminton Cancer Committee who had worked tirelessly throughout the year to meet their £1000 target by organising jumble sales, wine & cheese parties and skittles competitions. Phew. That's quite a list.

Perhaps the effort being put into fundraising had distracted villagers from their other activities, and the sports reports are now limited to the Badminton Crib Team who have made their "usual slow start" to the season. Whist has been added to the sporting calendar, but there's no mention of football, darts or skittles. Maybe nobody had been coerced into producing regular reports. Two new groups had appeared though – the Valentine Club and the Acton Turville Villagers Association, both of whom would be involved in organising social events, albeit for different groups, for many years to come.

Finally, Maurice Greening reported on a dead lime tree that had recently been felled in St Mary's churchyard. The tree stood some 85 feet high, but the space available to drop it in was just 25 feet, meaning it had to be dismembered and lowered piece by piece to avoid damaging headstones or demolishing the historic church. Eventually it came down, whereupon it was discovered that someone had drilled a hole in the trunk and poured in a quantity of mercury. Experts who examined the tree estimated it to be 165 years old, and believed the mercury had been added between 40 and 100 years ago. Maurice therefore concluded that whoever did it probably wanted to stunt its growth to ensure it didn't become a danger to the church. Considering it grew to be 85 feet high, their plan might have not been successful. Maybe they needed more mercury.

ISSUE 241. November 1995

Having overcome the financial woes which were causing so much concern ten years previously, Talk Back is up to 14 pages, although admittedly three of those are blank and one is the front cover. It's still produced on a typewriter and stapled together by Liz Barnes in the estate farm office, and it's still devoid of photos, although a couple of adverts have crept in, most prominently for Judy Bennett, the mobile chiropodist. And there is now a regular editorial penned by Kathleen Gentry. In fact, she'd been writing the editorials for most of the past ten years, her first being at the start of 1986, and would go on write them for seventeen more. Kathleen was a natural writer. Whether the subject was aeroplanes (especially Concorde, which held a special place in her heart), the Horse Trials, wildlife, or days gone by in our local villages, her editorials were a highlight of our monthly newsletter.

Cont'd Over

50 Years Old and Still Going Strong (cont'd)

People still say how much they enjoyed her editorials. And rightly so. Her November 1995 editorial started with a reference to the current warm spell before seamlessly slipping into stories about her school days, when lessons were evidently a lot less regimented than they are today, then ice skating. Her editorials were nothing if not varied.

There remains plenty going on in 1995, and it's great to see that the Valentine Club is still going strong. Affiliated to the church, the club was set up in 1980 by a group of local ladies who sought to put on events for like-minded women. Think of it as a sort of local WI. There were trips out, talks, presentations and demonstrations on a wide range of subject, and every Christmas they organised a lunch for the older members of the community. Their November 1995 report said how much they had enjoyed a couple of recent slide shows, one on villages in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Avon, the other on something a bit larger: Africa. We said the range of subjects was wide. As well as the aforementioned lunch for senior citizens, they were organising a dance, to be held at the Badminton Village Hall, on the 11th November. Music was to be provided by The Cadillacs, the theme was "Winter Beach Party", and fancy dress was optional. Tickets? £6.50, which, when you consider that included a ploughman's supper, sounds like pretty good value. The Valentine Club would run until 2009.

Fundraising still features, with much of the focus on aspirations to build a Children's Adventure Playground in Badminton. Wayne & Lesley Rees from Drewett's Stores are running with this one, but it looks like it's been tough going – their raffle at the village club raised £36, and £110 was donated into collecting jars at the shop, but plans to publish a book which would be sold at the horse trials failed at the eleventh hour. They'd need to raise significantly more money to meet their target and qualify for available grants, but they were battling on and had organised a jumble sale on the 4th November at 2.30pm. Tickets for this one were only 20p, including a free cup of tea. The organisers hoped to "see us there", although the advert didn't actually say where "there" was. Not to be outdone, Acton Turville had its own plans to create a playing field for the village, and were busy thinking up ways to raise funds. So far, they'd come up with a coffee morning, a skittles evening, a raffle and some carol singing, and the Fox & Hounds were getting into the spirit of things by generously donating 25% of the cost of every meal eaten in the pub.

Sporting reports are on the wane in 1995. No crib, no snooker, no darts, and the only football report is from Trinity School, although that just says they need funds to refurbish their caravan and makes no mention of how their season is going!

ISSUE 348. November 2005

It's our 30th Anniversary and Local Talk Back is pulling out all the stops with 18 pages and a free copy of Issue 1 for all readers. Editorial duties are being performed by The Three Country Girls – Yvonne Nettles, Sally Smith and the much-missed Sandra Broomsgrove. Liz Barnes continues to produce it in the estate farm office, but the magazine now has a more professional look with a good selection of adverts, including the Fox & Hounds and LB Computer Services who are still with us 20 years later. Still no photos, but there are a lot more articles which look like they've been produced on home computers. There's one from Ray Bird, recalling the first 30 years of Talk Back, and another on Trinity School which was also celebrating its own 30th anniversary. Sally Smith was responsible for producing a comprehensive summary of the landlords that had run the Fox & Hounds since Harry Crook's retirement in 1975, while Conrad Jones wrote a piece on the restoration programme that was about to commence at St Mary's church, affecting both the church and the churchyard. The main external task was to be the re-surfacing of the drive and car park, but before that could take place, an archaeological investigation was required to see what might be lurking under a suspicious-looking depression in the north east corner of the car park. I wonder what they found?

It's great to see that the Valentine Club are still sending in their reports, and still raising funds for the annual Senior Citizen's Christmas Party. Slide shows evidently remained popular as they'd recently held a slide show on the changing face of Chipping Sodbury. It showed how many of the shops on the High Street had changed over the years, and explained how some of the original shop signs remained hidden underneath the modern ones you see today. Progress was nicely captured in the following words: "Once many of the shops supplied food and vital necessities for everyday living, tailoring services for your clothing and harnesses and other tack for your horse. Now the collection of shops includes estate agents, gift shops and salons where you can be pampered from head to toe." That's indeed progress for you.

Fundraising continues to feature, but now we're down to one jumble sale for the Girl Guides. There's only one sports report too. At least it's good news, with many of the eight Badminton-based skittles teams starting the season in great form and finding themselves either at the top or near the top of their respective leagues. One or two teams seem to be struggling but it's early days yet. The Sports & Social calendar for November 2005 does at least include dates for Whist and Crib drives so it's good to see they're still going strong, but that's it on the sporting front.

Cont'd Over

50 Years Old and Still Going Strong (cont'd)

ISSUE 457. November 2015



Local Talk Back's first picture cover

By November 2015, there was a picture on the front and pictures inside, but it was still black and white. The pictures first appeared in June 2012 with the honour of being the first Talk Back cover star going to HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Well, it was her Diamond Jubilee after all. The pictures in November 2015's edition were taken on the set of the film *Sky West & Crooked* and sent in by a gentleman called David Owen who had watched some of the filming while he was still at school. Starring Hayley Mills and directed by her father John Mills, much of the film was shot in Little Badminton, with quite a few locals appearing as extras. It doesn't look like David Owen passed that particular audition, but he was lucky enough to meet the Mills family who he says were very friendly.

The editorial was produced once again by the Three Country Girls. They'd ventured to Sherston where, when not sampling cakes in the Angel Tea Rooms, had admired the very creative entrants in the local Scarecrow Trail which was raising money for local good causes. This prompted them to consider how much had been raised in our own villages over the years and think about the number of deserving causes had been helped by peoples' generosity. Tens of thousands, if not more, was their guess.

As well as the *Sky West & Crooked* article, there was another instalment of Phyllis Salmon's autobiography, capturing the various facets of her fascinating life in Badminton. By the time of November's instalment, it was the 1940s, the country was at war with Germany and Queen Mary was staying at Badminton House, away from the horrors of life in the capital. Phyllis had a way of describing the everyday details that brought her story to life and described a period that seems so far off to the majority of us. In total there were 33 instalments over nearly three years, and they were always worth a read.

So, what of today? Well in June 2017, Local Talk Back underwent a major relaunch. After 40 years, it was agreed that the task of producing and printing the newsletter (especially the printing bit, which was still being done on an old hand-operated ink roller copier) could no longer be undertaken by the estate office - they just didn't have the capacity. For 16 months, Dick and Belinda Elford manfully stood in and printed the newsletter in their home, but eventually the inevitable decision was taken. Local Talk Back had to stand on its own two feet, be entirely self-funded and printed commercially. What had we done? There was a good team of volunteers to manage the transition, and there were also some significant opportunities to be grasped, primarily the opportunity to introduce colour into the publication and adopt more creative formats, but it was still a huge leap to take. Thankfully Talk Back survived, and we now have a settled format with an established team at the helm.



June 2017, the first Talk Back to feature colour

Publishing details of forthcoming events remains our bread and butter, and we always welcome reports and pictures from any events that are held locally. As groups like the Valentine Club and the Acton Turville Villagers Association have called it a day, new groups have emerged to fill the void, such as the Acton Turville Social group, the Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club and the Rural Cinema in Didmarton. Fundraising still goes on, but not to the same extent as during the halcyon days of the eighties and nineties, and while we still get regular updates from Trinity School and the church, there's not so much from the Brownies and Guides. Sports reports have dried up completely. To fill the void, we publish more articles on subjects that we think will be of interest to our readers, some created in house and others sent in by regular or not so regular contributors, on places that have been visited, events that have taken place, or local history. And when we are getting close to the wire and still have a worrying space to fill, we look in the archives and see what we can find.

Local Talk Back has changed a lot since it first appeared 50 years ago. It looks very different due to technologies that we could never have dreamt of in 1975, allowing us to produce a magazine packed with pictures and colour in the comfort of our homes, but the changes also reflect how much our way of life has moved on. Some of my favourite articles in Talk Back appeared in the early editions, when members of the community would write about their memories of the "old days". They recalled events that happened maybe 50, 60, even 70 years earlier, which, even when the articles were first published, must have seemed like another age.

It's perhaps sobering to realise that, whilst for many of us the events described in the early editions of Talk Back feel like recent memories, to others they too are describing the "old days"! Time moves on, and so does Local Talk Back. Let's hope it's got many years ahead of it.

The Local Talk Back Team

WHAT'S ON

Fireworks display & Bonfire

DIDMARTON

WEDNESDAY
5TH
NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 6PM FIREWORKS 7PM

£6 Adults £2 Under 16s

BURGERS, HOTDOGS, BAR, MULLED WINE, CAKES, TOMBOLA, FREE PARKING
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Save the Date - Friday 12th December
Fireside Carols @ the Fox & Hounds!

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
REMEMBRANCE EVENTS
2025**

The Badminton and Hawkesbury Branch of the Royal British Legion and Trinity School are holding a Remembrance Parade on Tuesday 11th November at St Mary's Church Acton Turville, from 1045hrs.

All villagers are welcome to attend. There will be tea, coffee and cake afterwards at the Fox and Hounds, Acton Turville by kind permission of Mark.

If anyone can kindly make a cake or some brownies, please let Alastair or Emmie Gilbert know. Thank you.

The Badminton Remembrance Service is on Sunday 9th November. We will form up at 1035hrs at Badminton Club, then set-off at 1040hrs for the church. Everyone is welcome to join. Please be in the Church by 1050hrs.

If you require any more information call Alastair Gilbert on 01454 218314 or 07751915770.

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Local Talk Back – A Personal Perspective

by Yvonne Nettles, Little Badminton

Elsewhere in this month's Local Talk Back you'll find what the editorial team discovered when they looked through the archives and charted the magazine's development from the very first issue back in 1975 to the present day. As I turned the pages of all those back-issues, it occurred to me that 2025 marks a milestone for me too, as it's almost 25 years since I first started contributing to Talk Back. How time flies! This article is therefore a personal perspective on the changes that I have seen, in both Local Talk Back and local village life, through the various contributions I made over those near two-and-a-half decades.

By way of introduction, I'd like to share with you the first words written in the very first Badminton Parish Magazine in 1907. The author was the Reverend Frederick Tower and he would write every month about the happenings of the village and its people.

"A Parish Magazine can be a very useful piece of machinery.....one cannot help feeling the need of some printed publication in which to put down items of interest – past – present – or future with a view to recording them, or drawing attention to them, or enlisting support for them as the case may be.

People look for news of the Parish in it and that has the effect of drawing people together and making them feel that they have common interest in the affairs – religious, social or otherwise of the village in which they live"
Rev Frederick Tower

Within the pages of the previous 564 issues there is a vast amount of history of the three villages and the people who have lived in them. Most of those pages were not put together by the editor at the time, but were passed by hand or sent in, via letter or email, by the people in our communities, past residents and anyone who had a story to tell. The story that travelled the furthest was from an Australian lady who had visited Badminton and whose family had Badminton cows at their Australian farm!

Many articles sent in were reports about visits to various countries, gardens, open houses, sport venues, or objects and places of interest that that the writer thought other readers may like to see for themselves. This is how the Local Talk Back has always kept going, and we hope, by continuing to share your stories and your memories, it will keep the magazine going for more years. We look forward to your contributions.

Back to my story, which begins in 2001. Liz Barnes was the Swangrove Farm secretary at the Badminton Estate office. Liz put the magazine together from all the articles sent to her, and she was asking for more input from readers to fill the pages. I often read small articles of statistics, poems and snippets of useless but funny information, and being a hoarder, copied and kept these in a notebook. I started to send Liz articles under the heading of 'Notebook Miscellany'. The first being 'The Secretary's Prayer' which I found in my office drawer when I first started work. The first few lines were:

Help me to have the memory of an Elephant, or at least one three months long. By some small miracle let me be able to do all things at once, answer four telephones at the same time and type a letter that "must go today" even though I know it won't be signed until tomorrow.

Cont'd over

Local Talk Back – A Personal Perspective (cont'd)

I also enclosed the 1881 census results for Badminton, Little Badminton and Acton Turville. Perhaps I will repeat that one along with some other local census' in the New Year.

Over the following months and years, I sent in many more articles. The following paragraphs give a taste of just a small selection of them.

One day, I visited a shop in Christmas Steps in Bristol which was selling pages of very old newspapers. I bought two of them as they were about the Beaufort family. I included them in the Talk Back. One was 'Festivities at Badminton 1845'. The Duke's son the Marquis of Worcester had his 'coming of age' birthday with days of parties and festivities in the house and wider village. Special Guest was HRH the Duke of Cambridge. One part of the festivities was a carcass of an ox being conveyed to Cherry Orchard by three oxen to be roasted. Every part of the week was explained in the paper. The second story was the infant Marquis of Worcester (later the 10th Duke of Beaufort) being brought by carriage from Badminton station. The horses were taken from the carriage and the stable men pulled the carriage carrying the infant into the village. All the cottagers and tenants were out to welcome him.

On a visit to the Gloucester Records Office, I came across a book of Parish magazines written by the village vicar from 1907 to 1920. They gave such a fascinating insight into what village life was like in those days, especially over the war years when so many local men were lost in combat. I was able to photograph the pages, so I sent them in and they were published in the Talk Back.

Sally Smith and I were taken to the Badminton archives by the archivist Margaret Richards and that is where we discovered all the details of the visit to Badminton by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1908. The 9th Duchess of Beaufort had made a scrap book which included swatches of material as chosen for the new marquee and awning ordered for the occasion. The King had opened the Royal Edward Dock in Avonmouth in July 1908 and had stopped his train at Badminton Station on his way back to London. They spent about two hours at Badminton House.

I found poems to print in the Talk Back by gaining permission from the copyright owners. The Minutes of the Badminton Village Club was a source for the stories of the local people who went to war and those who never came back.

Kath Gentry had been writing the Talk Back editorials for many years. Sadly, in 2003, not long after standing down, she passed away. Liz asked for someone to take over that roll. Sally and I were very friendly with Sandra Broomsgrove, who had been researching a lot of the history of Acton Turville. We talked about the editorial and came to the conclusion that we could do it between the three of us. We were all local 'girls', growing up in Acton Turville, Little Badminton and Burton. We called ourselves 'The Three Country Girls' hoping to be anonymous; that lasted all of one month. We found it very easy to work together. We would get together each month and usually Sandra would start talking about the weather or some other subject that caught her attention, and we were off. You never knew what you would get but we had a lot of feedback about the subjects we covered, prompting many people to then send us their own stories or memories. We started going 'out-and-about' to a new café, a hotel for lunch, a garden centre, wherever we could, then we wrote about our experiences and encouraged others to go to those places. We went as far as Bristol and discovered the history of Castle Park and the Corn Exchange, and even completed a tour of Gromit statues that were on display around the city. The most unusual place we visited was Steve King's farm at Knockdown to see his robotic milking parlour. We were fascinated by the cows that would come out of the machine's gate and go back round to go in again. They were after the lovely food that was given them while they were being milked. It was obviously better than they got outside so they tried their luck!

Cont'd over

Local Talk Back - A Personal Perspective (cont'd)

But the computer was ahead of them knowing they were not due for milking for a while yet. We also went to Tortworth to see the 1,000-year-old tree and have lunch in the farm shop. We did the editorials from 2003 until 2019 when Ian took over.

The very first colour pictures in the Talk Back were taken by me at a Spanish fiesta. I ended up printing 400 pages of coloured photos on my home printer to go in the LTB because it looked so much better in colour.

The covers of the Local Talk Back were usually yellow, orange, green, pink and blue. But between Liz and myself we made a change for one issue only. The first picture on the cover was of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, as it was her Diamond Jubilee on 6th February 2012. We thought we should have a more special colour and that was Lilac. The cover papers were more expensive so they were kindly sponsored by Badminton Village Club. From then on there were pictures on the covers of Talk Back which were mostly from black and white postcards of Badminton, Acton Turville and surrounding area. Other photos were used as necessary.

In 2016 Liz was going to be away from work for a while and so other ways of producing the Talk Back had to be found. Dick and Belinda Elford had already been collating and stapling the Talk Backs together so they agreed that they would take the Local Talk Back's printer to their own house to print them there. I would put the magazine pages together on my computer and send to send to them for printing. Although Liz came back to work she was not able to produce the magazines so we carried on as we were for another 18 months.

I found a book in my mother-in-law's house that had been written by her sister Phyllis Salman. It was the story of her life from a child in Badminton until she got married. She wrote all about the life in the village. She called the book 'My Royal Connections'. Queen Mary was staying at Badminton House during the Second World War and had four bodyguards with her. Phyllis married one of them, hence the title of the book. I serialised the book in Local Talk Back - it did go on for quite a long time! Another book serialised by a reader was 'At War in a Police Station', which was based in Acton Turville.

The Badminton Estate had, to this point been providing the paper, inks and doing the accounts for the Local Talk Back. In mid-2017 they felt it was time that the community took over the magazine permanently. We put out a call for suggestions, for helpers, how we should proceed with a similar magazine. It was obvious that it would have to be printed professionally. Sally and I visited printers and found that Sprint Print in Yate was the best for us. We also needed funding, to have enough to cover the extra costs. More adverts were needed. We were lucky that there was money from the Badminton Estate, and various other groups and individuals were generous. A group came together to make decisions on how we would design the magazine and who would do what to make it all go smoothly.

Prue Moss became our treasurer and Judy Hallimond took care of the adverts. Both of those jobs are now done by Pauline Henson. Dick and Belinda would pick up the finished magazines from Sprint Print and distribute them as usual to the helpers that are always behind the scenes delivering to every door in the villages, for whom who we are very thankful. I would carry on putting the magazine pages together and filling in pages when needed. Bev Nicholls was part of the team and was available to put the magazine together when needed. Sally, Sandra and I carried on with the editorials. The decision was made to always have a photo on the cover and to include the three pencil drawings (one each month) by Karen Morgan, of Badminton House, Acton Turville Well and Little Badminton Dovecote.

I should mention here that Dick and Belinda Elford received individual Community Awards from South Gloucestershire Council for their many years of voluntary help with the Local Talk Back. And when putting the magazine together month after month became difficult, when I was often finishing up at 2 or 3 in the morning, a call for help was answered by Ian Carter who took over the whole magazine, including the editorial. I appreciate everything he does with the Talkback and I'm sure that he needs help now to fill all those pages.

EARLY MEMORIES OF ACTON TURVILLE

By Les Edmonds, first published in Local Talk Back Feb 2010

I was born just under five years after World War I ended, and started school in 1928 at Acton Turville Church of England School, where Miss Cox was the teacher, assisted by Sylvia Peters. We used slate boards and chalk when we first started writing. The R101 Airship flew over the village, we were all allowed out of school to see it. It was a rigid aluminium construction with "gas bags" inside. People, either passengers or crew, could be clearly seen in the gondola, waving as we gathered in the playground. There were three shops in Acton Turville. The Post Office which also sold sweets and cigarettes etc - Mr & Mrs Pullen ran this shop. Mr Pullen did not like farthings if he was serving, and if he was offered farthings for a "penny worth" of sweets he would complain that they were not legal tender. He would eventually give in and supply the sweets, much to our relief. The second shop was a grocer, run by Sarah Ralph. This was situated next to the roadway to the church. It is now residential and is a listed building. Her daughter Rosa played the organ and was in the church choir. She could be heard above everybody else!! The third was Bell's, a grocer and general stores. The shop had several uses, or at least the premises did. One evening a week, at the side door, it became a dentist. Mr Loxton's extractions were 2/6d (12½p). Fillings were 3/6s (17½p) without having to make appointments. Father had all his teeth out, and a set of dentures. I don't know how much they were in those days (1933/34), but I cannot recall that he ever had to get them repaired or replaced in his lifetime. Once a week, Spears, a pork butcher from Bath, delivered pork pies, chitterling, Bath chops and pork sausages for sale in the shop, if one was not quick off the mark they would be sold out. Mr Bell was the local undertaker, and his premises for his carpentry business were located in the garden area. When grandfather died, we found the invoice for his funeral, it was under £10. That was in the 1930s.

The main industry in the village was farming. There were five farms, all leading out to The Street. R Harding at the Limes, H Broomsgrove in the Barton opposite the garage, R Smith on Littleton Drew Lane, W Minty opposite the Well, and R Birmingham on the corner opposite the Fox & Hounds. Many of the cow sheds have now been converted into residential properties. The garage was there supplying petrol at 1/- (5p) a gallon, dispensed by hand pumps. They also recharged the accumulators for those with battery operated wireless sets. Wireless? It was wires everywhere! There was a main battery, a grid battery, accumulator and aerial, and an earth – all wires!! Alfie Kidd the blacksmith was opposite the garage, shoeing horses and repairing farm machinery. There was a bank, National Provincial, near the station. It has long been closed and converted to residential. The station was quite a busy place. Trains plied between Swindon and Bristol (Temple Meads) in both directions, stopping at all the stations en-route to collect/deliver bulk milk (in churns) and newspapers. Express trains ran between Paddington and South Wales, and an arrangement was made by GWR and the Duke of Beaufort for certain trains to stop at Badminton in both directions as one of the conditions to build the railway line. There were goods trains as well, bringing in coal and parcels etc. There were several coal merchants who brought coal by the truck load, either from Coalpit Heath or the Forest of Dean. When it was bagged up, it was sold round the villages at 2/- (20p) a chit.

Mr Mitchell was area policeman. He patrolled this on his pushbike. He was followed by PC Keane, and then PC Clutterbuck as they moved on. There was no street lighting in the village, except for the two roads leading to the station platforms. These were lit by gas generated in the field on the Badminton side of the station using carbide and water in a custom-built building (if it is still there). It was used to light the approach roads, the station and gas fires in the waiting room. Several bakers sold bread etc. Hurley's from Castle Combe, Pinnell's from Badminton, Thompson's from Sherston and Curnock's from Hawkesbury Upton. The latter delivered in a car made by Alldays & Onions in Canada in the early 1900s. Most houses had a water supply, which was purified, if that's the right word, by an iodized additive. It didn't taste too good at times.

I moved to Badminton Church of England School at the age of nine. Miss Aust who lived in Acton Turville was our teacher. She was on the Cunard Liner Queen Mary on its maiden voyage. It took about three days and was the Blue Riband for the fastest time crossing the Atlantic in a liner. Aeroplanes were about, but not for carrying too many passengers, mostly for Royal Mail Services, and were called Imperial Airways. Usually biplanes with fixed undercarriages. They flew from Croydon to Ireland then on to New York for re-fuelling purposes. On her return, Miss Aust told the school of her experiences. Her journey on the Queen Mary and the New York skyline, her visit to Niagara Falls, the Canadian Pacific railway journey, and her visit to Vancouver Island plus the Rocky Mountains. These days that takes about a week to ten days, it took over a month in those days.

The shops in Badminton were A Davis shoe shop in the Limes, Drewett's Off Licence and grocers, the Post Office a few doors away and Pinnell's who sold almost everything. In the Portcullis was the Village Club where members enjoyed their lunch time and evening drinks. Also the surgery where one could see the Doctor. His prescriptions were self-dispensed as there were very few tablets available then.

Les Edmonds

WHAT'S ON

Chipping Sodbury Music Society

Forthcoming Events



AGLICA TRIO - HARP, FLUTE, VIOLA

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - 7:30pm

Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The Aglica Trio, winners of the Supernova Chamber Competition 2024, present a varied programme with music by Claude Debussy, Jacques Ibert, Barbara Strozzi, Hilary Tann, and music that was written especially for them. The three nationalities of the trio are represented in the programme: Wales, Poland and Belgium.

SERENATA GUITAR TRIO

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 - 7:30pm

Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The Serenata Guitar Trio present a widely varied programme of works ranging from the Baroque of England and Italy, the Classical charm of Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, the expressive atmosphere of France and Latin America, plus a selection of Christmas music for the Festive Season.

For full details and to purchase tickets, visit the Chipping Sodbury Music Society website at

<https://csmusicsociety.co.uk/>

Village Agent Update

Hi, I'm Andy Hiscox and I'm the newly-appointed Village Agent in Cotswold Edge, covering Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury. Over the coming months I'll be providing details of some of the services which may be of interest to villagers such as those shown below. As a Village Agent, my aim is to promote wellbeing, reduce social isolation and provide help to enable people to remain independent at home. The support I provide is a free and completely confidential service, delivered on a one-to-one basis. If you think I can help, don't hesitate to contact me.



VILLAGE AGENT

Covering Wickwar, Hawkesbury Upton, Little Badminton, Acton Turville, Badminton, Horton & Little Sodbury



Free confidential one to one support



Help to connect with others



Signposting to information and professional services



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Help with financial concerns (including claiming of benefits)



Advice on transport to medical appointments



HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

- You can reach your local Village Agent by:
- 07795442272 Call, Text or WhatsApp
 - Emailing andy@wern.org.uk
 - Or by visiting wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents

This service is available for anyone over 18 years old



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Trinity School Update

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 2nd October, we celebrated the harvest festival with a collective worship filled with beautiful readings, stories and songs performed by each class. It was lovely to welcome so many families to join us and we thank you very much for all your donations. This year, we have teamed up with St Marys Church in the village and Karen Smith very kindly took the donations to the Bristol and South Gloucestershire food bank.

She said that they were very grateful as they were running low on stock.

For information about the food bank, visit <https://nbsq.foodbank.org.uk/>



50th Anniversary Celebrations



On Friday, 26th September, we celebrated the 50th

anniversary of Trinity CE Primary School. It was wonderful to welcome members of our school community past and present to spend an afternoon at school. We had a former headteacher, former teachers and teaching assistants, former pupils and former parents and carers. They were joined by current parents, carers, staff and governors.

Those who attended were invited to share some memories and to try to capture what it is like to be part of this community in three words. Here is a selection of the responses; friendship, inclusion, community, welcomed, affirmed, family, caring, fun, happy, homely, secure, warmth, lucky, belonging, kindness, togetherness, rewarding, safe, privilege.

Even though these responses spanned the decades, and represented different eras, it is heartwarming to know that the essence of our wonderful school remains the same.



New Playground Equipment

On the 10th of October our brand-new playground equipment was opened for business! Each class had an opportunity to explore and have fun. The children were delighted and are thoroughly enjoying an additional space to have adventures in the playground.

We would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to our school FOS who generously donated over £6,000 towards the cost. All your hard work to fundraise for our school is appreciated so much.



Church Matters

November 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

I was telling the pupils of a local school how when Gareth Southgate took over the running of the England's men's team, he discovered that he had a problem with England's penalty taking. The national team were not the best at taking penalty shoot outs, if you remember. He looked into it and realised, that it was partly their failure to believe in the country they were playing for.

This may sound strange to some of us, but apparently, there are many people who do not have a strong sense of what being English is about. They had a good sense of what their clubs meant and their history and symbols, but little about England. He therefore taught them about The Battle of Hastings in 1066, the Houses of Parliament, the Crown, the BBC, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Shakespeare, The Archbishop of Canterbury and other national symbols. This enabled them to believe in something when all the world's eyes were on them as they stepped up to take a penalty.

It led me to reflect that if the England men's football team needed to have faith in their country, to overcome their fear when taking penalties, then how much more faith **do we all** need to overcome the fears of everyday life. In order to live freely and happily.

Faith in something less than God, is simply an idol and will be revealed for the emptiness it contains. Faith in God, is about believing that there is a Presence in the universe, and beyond, that cares about us and listens to us. And for many religions, has revealed Him/herself to us.

Faith is about connecting with that Presence and surrendering one's ego and letting the grace of that Presence flow into our lives and through us. That is what we mean by the word God.

According to the Old Testament, God had a name – Yahweh, which means 'I am who I am'. The ground of Being.

May we all find a way to connect with this Holy and Eternal Presence.

With my best wishes,

Rev Richard Thomson, (vicar)

Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Home:01454 606854/ Mob:07717791858

Church Services for November 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2 nd November All Saints Day	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Remembrance Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	All Souls Service	Rev R Thomson
9 th November Remembrance Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	10.45am	Hawkesbury & Sopworth	Remembrance Parade	Lay Led
	10.50am	Great Badminton	Remembrance Service	Rev R Thomson
11 th November	10.50am	Leighterton & Acton Turville	Remembrance Parade	Lay Led
16 th November 2 nd Before Advent	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Preacher, the Dean of Gloucester
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Debbie Young
23 rd November Christ the King	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Great Badminton	El Gubi Service	Rev R Thomson and Preacher, Rev Jackie Colburn
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Leighterton	Taize Service	Robert Bryant-Pearson
30 th November Advent Sunday	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
	5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Advent Procession of Light, Benefice Service	Rev R Thomson

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council last met on Monday the 13th October. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council's website <https://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org/documents/minutes>. Matters discussed included:

Planning. No new planning applications received since the previous meeting.

Dog Fouling. The Parish Council is disappointed to note that dog fouling continues to be an issue, particularly along Littleton Drew Lane approaching the school. We remain in conversation with the Police and local Dog Warden to decide how best to deal with the matter, and reiterate that owners of any dogs found to be responsible can be prosecuted.

Village Tidy Up and Litter Pick. Many thanks as always to all those who helped make the latest village tidy-up such a success. Villagers met at the Fox & Hounds to collect litter pickers and gardening implements before disappearing in all directions, ensuring our village once again looked its best.

Community Police Van. The next visit from the Community Police van will be Saturday 20th December between 4pm and 5pm at the Fox & Hounds Car Park. Why not come along and meet the local team?

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th November 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 Website: www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org

Sudoku

November'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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the October quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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Exercise the Hounds. Picture by Peter Tiddis, Little Broomfield



Spring Chores at St Mary's. Photograph by Simon Long, Acton Turville



Bury Bee Amongst The Thistles. Photograph by Paul Jones, Acton Turville



The Clocktower. Broomfield Church Grounds July 2020



Trees at Westwood at casting spring shadow. Photo: Chris Brown agent, Acton Turville



Waiting for the Sunshine. Pic by the Editor



Acton Turville, Broomfield Church. St Mary's. Photograph by Simon Long, Acton Turville



Reindeer getting ready for Christmas. Acton Turville



Winner of the Broomfield Horse Trials 2020. Photograph by Simon Long, Acton Turville



Church of St. Mary's. Photograph by Simon Long, Acton Turville



The Kibbory. By kind permission of St Peter's Hospice

Every month, our good friend Christine Bennett posts Local Talk Back on the Acton Turville Info website:

<https://www.actonturville.info/talkback/>

The cover pictures make for a great display on the website, so here we've selected some of our favourites from the past few years. Thanks so much to everyone who sends in pictures, and thanks too to Christine for maintaining the web page.

Merry Christmas from Local Talk Back



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