

# Local Talk Back

SEPTEMBER 2023

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

ISSUE 541

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Harvest Home

Photograph: Simon Long, Acton Turville



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

# EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2023

It's sad to read that Wilko is likely to be the next familiar name to disappear from our high streets isn't it? Those most acutely impacted by the announcement will naturally be the 12500 people employed by the company for whom these will be deeply worrying times, but for me it's the loss of another old-school retailer who stocked all those bits and pieces which were invaluable when you needed them. My regret is not so much the loss of convenience, more the realisation that the shops on our high streets are becoming less and less varied and more and more uniform.

Some of my earliest retail experiences occurred in a shop called Smiths. It was the local ironmongers that I'd go into with my father whenever he was working on his latest project around the house. Inside, the shop was large, dark and seemingly devoid of colour, with different areas dedicated to all sorts of hardware. One section sold nails, and I remember the big tubs of every imaginable type of nail that littered the floor. Dad would approach the shop assistant, recognisable from his standard-issue brown storeman's coat which blended beautifully with the rest of the shop's drab interior, tell him what he wanted and in no time at all he'd be clutching in his hand a brown paper bag full of the very nails he'd come in for. We'd then move on to the next department, engage with someone who looked unerringly like a clone of the previous shop assistant, and the process would begin again. Back home, the tools would come out and in no time at all we'd have a new breakfast bar, serving hatch or wood-panelled feature wall.

The fate of Smiths the Ironmongers was sealed with the announcement that our neighbourhood was to be greatly enhanced with the construction of a modern, cutting-edge "shopping centre" (the term "shopping mall" was still several decades away). Unfortunately, Smith's business model didn't fit in with the aspirations of the shopping centre. With the storeman's coats hung on their hooks one last time, the bulldozers rumbled in and Smiths, along with many other local shops, was flattened. In their places we had a range of bright, shiny shops including Fine Fare and Safeway. They sold fresh fish, so we no longer needed a separate fishmonger, although admittedly the ranges were limited to the most popular variety and you couldn't have your fish prepared the way the fishmonger did it because, two weeks' earlier, the lad manning the fish counter had been pulling pints behind the bar in the local pub when the closest he got to fish was selling a pot of whelks or a packet of Prawn Cocktail-flavoured crisps. Ron's Car Parts lost out to Halfords, Chalmers sports shop to Sports Scene, Mr Randall the chemist to Boots, and we now all headed to John Menzies for our copies of Look-In and Shoot magazines, sealing the fate of Clutterbucks the newsagent.

In time of course, the concept of the local shopping centre started to look decidedly old school and the flavour of the day became the out-of-town shopping mall. As these prospered, the local shopping centres started to struggle, and those units that were not boarded up became homes for a combination of charity shops, coffee shops, vape shops and Pound Shops. Now we hear that the out-of-town outlets are struggling to compete with on-line retailers who have none of the overheads that come with a physical shopfront. Lockdown has also been responsible for a major shift to on-line shopping for groceries which are now just a mouse-click away.

So what does the future of retail hold? As someone who enjoys wandering around shops and aimlessly browsing in the hope that I'll find something of interest, I get little pleasure from shopping on-line. You can never replicate the sensation you get from picking up something, scrutinising it from all angles and judging whether it's exactly what you're looking for (and that's just the fruit and veg in Tesco's), but equally it's frustrating when you go all the way to the out-of-town hardware superstore only to find they no longer stock the extra-long nails you need to complete that serving hatch. Maybe, just maybe, the way to revive our shopping centres is with a return to the small, specialist retailers that existed all those years ago. Maybe we can put the pleasure back into the shopping experience. I'm going to start by using our local shops in Badminton and Acton Turville more often, and investigating the Forbidden Fruit and Veg stall. I wonder if Wayne sells nails?

Until the next time

*IAN CARTER*

Items for Local Talk Back email to: [localtalkback1975@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkback1975@gmail.com) Tel: 01454 218267

To advertise in Local Talk Back, please email Pauline on: [LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com](mailto:LocalTalkBackAds@gmail.com)

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

THANK YOU.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**September**

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Botanical Clay Impressions, Badminton Estate.
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Gardens, Badminton House
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ride & Stride for Churches. See July LTB for more details.
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Detectival, Badminton Estate
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Church Tea Party, Badminton Village Hall.
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group, Badminton Village Hall
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sicilian Summer Feast, Badminton House
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Didmarton Rural Cinema – What’s Love Got To Do With It (cert 12A)
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Botanical Monoprinting, Badminton Estate, Worcester Lodge
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group, Badminton Village Hall
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	Macmillan Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds

**October**

Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Autumn Tidy-Up
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wine Tasting, Badminton House

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

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

**ST. MARY’S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE**

**100 Club**

WINNERS FOR AUGUST 2023

AP Hope  
 Louise Brazier  
 Sue Butler

**Congratulations!**

**DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

*We received one anonymous donation this month for which we are most grateful. In addition, £8.33 was very kindly donated in the local shop boxes.*

*Thank you!*

*We very much 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 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**

*We would like to say a big thank you to all our friends, neighbours and colleagues for all their help and kindness shown to us during the last eight months and in particular during Colin's ill health. We are both making good progress and hope to catch up with you all as soon as we are able.*

*With our best wishes,*

*Colin and Sue Radford-Hancock.*

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# NEWS NEWS NEWS

## New Children's Play Area Opens in Badminton



### BADMINTON ESTATE

*Badminton Estate are pleased to announce the new play area in the village is open and ready to be enjoyed!*

*The play area has been designed to cater for families with young children and follows consultation with local residents. We respectfully remind people that dogs are not permitted on the Village Playing Field. Anyone driving to use the play equipment please park in the Memorial Hall car park.*

*The Duke and Duchess of Beaufort hope that the new play area is a welcome addition for the villagers.*



## BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

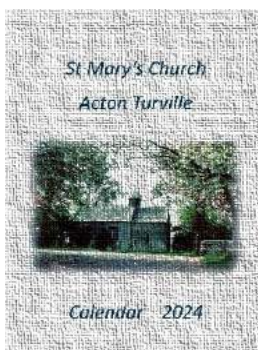
*Sunday 3rd September 2023*

*10am to 4pm*

The gardens at Badminton House will be open to visitors for the third and final time this year on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September between 10am and 4pm. We've really enjoyed our visits to the gardens this year, with something new to see each time. As usual there will be a good selection of food and plant stalls plus cream teas served in the Badminton Old Kitchen. For more information and to book tickets, visit:

[www.badmintonestate.com](http://www.badmintonestate.com)

## St Mary's Church Calendar 2024



So often we hear boasts about how, in our village of Acton Turville, we have a school, a pub, a shop and post office and a village church. Some of those things which are said to make up quintessential English Village life. Frequently, this is used as a selling point when houses come on the market (all we appear to lack is a village Green and duck pond!). However, in these really difficult times we often forget that the church needs funds for its maintenance and this usually falls to a small group of committed parishioners and some additional small donations.

To try to help, this year, a calendar is being produced. Please put away thoughts of "Calendar Girls", for the moment at least! It will feature views of the church and the village and as the materials have all been donated, EVERY PENNY RAISED WILL GO TO THE CHURCH.

The calendar will be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> October and more information will be in next month's Local Talk Back. So please start thinking about ordering your copy – and how many copies you need for friends and family too? You can support our church and perhaps provide the answer to Christmas present dilemma at the same time!

# WHAT'S ON



## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

### WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

(2022, Cert 12A) – Comedy, Romance

Starring: Lily James, Shazad Latif, Emma Thompson

Director: Shekhar Kapur

How do you find lasting love in today's world? For dating app addict Zoe (Lily James), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour Kaz (Shazad Latif), the answer is an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach...

**Doors open at 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm**

**Tickets £5, cash bar**

*Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can ensure that sufficient seating is available*

[jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)

## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£12.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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

**FOX**  
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

01454 218224



You are invited to a

## TEA PARTY

10<sup>th</sup> September 2023,  
4:00-6:00 pm

Village Hall  
Badminton

Tea  
Cakes  
Raffle  
Face Painting  
Proceeds in support of the Church.



## Coffee Morning

at the Fox & Hounds

Friday, 29th September 2023

10.30 a.m.

All welcome for coffee, cake & chat  
to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support

All donations of cakes and prizes for  
the raffle and tombola gratefully received

**FOX**  
& HOUNDS INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

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**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

Registered Charity





# FROM THE ARCHIVES

45 Years Ago - September 1978



The first paragraph of Les Rochester's editorial for September 1978 sounds spookily familiar:

"Autumn drawing near already, but this year again we feel cheated by the lack of a long, settled spell of real summer weather. I feel that we would prefer this year's type of weather pattern to the 1976 heat wave if it were in our power to choose."

Personally I think I'd prefer the summer of 2022 to this year's disappointing effort, but 1976 was something else with its incessant heat and water shortages. I wouldn't want to go through that again in a hurry.

Evidently the summer of 1978 wasn't a complete wash-out, and the coach trip organised by Mrs Smith and the Silver Linings club to Weston-Super-Mare enjoyed some more traditional summer sunshine. What part of the trip do you think came in for particular praise by the

editor? The golden sands? Strolling on the promenade? No, it was the section of the M5 between Almondsbury and the Clevedon turn-off, with Les pondering whether there can be a more scenic stretch of motorway anywhere in Britain. He did concede though that the presence of "speeding cars and towering transports" sometimes limited opportunities to take in the view!

As usual there were reports on various events taking place in our villages. Last month you might recall the exciting news that Acton Turville had reached the semi-finals of the Best Kept Village in Avon competition. Did the hard work, care and attention meted out by local residents pay off, and were their efforts rewarded with top prize of a cup and a tree which can now be seen growing in a prominent position within the village? Sadly not. The ever-positive Ian Harrington remained upbeat and said villagers should be proud of their achievement in getting as far as they did. He even had a good feeling about Acton Turville's chances in future years, albeit one based on a slightly strange but undeniable logic:

"The fact also arises that while other villages are growing in size every year, Acton Turville is a conservation area and restricted to building past its perimeter, which means in time we must win this competition as we will be the only small village left."

Unfortunately Ian's theory could never be proven due to the abolition of the County of Avon in 1996 and hence the demise of the Best Kept Village competition.

More successful was the church fete held at Stonelea by kind permission of Colonel and Mrs Hope which raised in excess of £280 for church funds. A short note in Talk Back thanked everyone for their efforts in both organising and supporting the event and expressed gratitude for the money raised for such a good cause. People locally still talk warmly about the events held in Colonel and Mrs Hope's lovely gardens. They clearly made quite an impression.

Something else that made a rather different impression was the Fancy Dress Football match played between Didmarton and Badminton on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. Reading between the lines it's just possible to detect a hint of bias (and sarcasm) in Ray Bird's report, which suggests that it was only some questionable refereeing decisions that allowed Didmarton to rescue a draw with two goals in the dying seconds of the match. Ray reported that "Badminton outclassed their opponents with Charley Crewe as always complaining bitterly about everything and everybody" and quoted a Didmarton fan who conceded that "Badminton players treated us to a feast of skills and talent here today, whereas our lot were like Farmer Tuck's mushrooms, all over the field!" Sounds like everyone enjoyed themselves!! An update on Didmarton's ensuing libel action will be printed next month...

Moving on (quickly), under a heading of "Do You Remember", the September 1978 Talk Back contained another interesting snippet:

"Looking down the railway line from the railway bridge you will see a power line cable. Some years ago, a light aircraft from Hullavington, following the railway line, flew so low that it caught one leg of its undercarriage in the cable. The cable was OK but the leg with one wheel attached dropped off. RAF Hullavington were contacted and the machine later made a "belly landing" without too much damage. Low flying aircraft were frequent when speeds were nearer 100mph"

And finally, you might recall over the past few months we've been following numerous developments with the local disco. From its humble beginnings as Merlin's Disco, it transformed itself into The Captain Apache Roadshow Disco, run by Nicky Capp and Adrian Knight. Well it would appear that Nicky has spun his last disc and Adrian is going it alone. Will there be any more news next month? That depends on several factors, most pressingly whether we can find a copy of the October 1978 edition of Local Talk Back.

*Cont'd over*

*From the Archives (cont'd)*

*20 Years Ago - September 2003*

Once again there was no Local Talk Back in September due to on-going production difficulties which meant the newsletter was appearing every other month. We therefore jump ahead ten years to September 2013 – don't worry, we can get back to 2003 next month.

*10 Years Ago - September 2013*



That imposing property on the cover of September 2013's edition of Local Talk Back is Station House in Acton Turville, which, as the name suggests, was once home to the Station Master in charge of the adjacent Badminton Station. Badminton Station closed in April 1968, and the house is now a private residence.

Our review of September 1978's Talk Back started with a weather reference, and guess what we find in the September 2013 editorial? Yes, another reference to the weather, but this time it's saying what an "amazing" year it's been, full of barbeques and summer clothes. The weather wasn't universally popular, at least not with the local bumble bee population who appeared to have been keeling over at an alarming rate with the remains of 50 of the furry creatures being found in one place. The editorial team hoped readers might be able to explain the phenomenon.

The big local news was the launch of Badminton village's very own webpage. Under the heading "Badminton Goes Digital", Wayne Rees, the designer and developer of the [www.BadmintonVillage.com](http://www.BadmintonVillage.com) website talked about the main features and aims of the recently-launched initiative. He then explained how he hoped to further develop it over the coming months. A lot of effort evidently went into creating it and gathering content such as the history of Badminton House, the horse trials, the Beaufort Hunt, an on-line version of Local Talk Back and "even a page about the history of Drewett's Stores", so it's a shame that the web address no longer appears to be live. Maybe it's been superseded by a Facebook page. The article also makes reference to a website for Acton Turville which is similarly no longer current. It's sometimes hard to keep up with the way he publish information on-line isn't it?

As usual there were plenty of people having fun in our villages. In Acton Turville, the group set up to raise money to build a children's playground had put on a very successful Village Fayre back in July, raising an incredible sum of £1388 on the day. There was lots going on with stalls selling food, drink and handmade crafts, a tombola, face painting and welly boot throwing. M&M Builders even generously sponsored a bouncy castle for the kids. The Luncheon Club were having fun too, with their August meeting at the Fox & Hounds featuring a barbeque, Pimms and entertainment from singer Richie C. Perhaps sensibly, they decided against the bouncy castle.

More events were promised in the coming months including the ever-popular Harvest Festival auction to be held at the Badminton Club after the service at Great Badminton Church. There was also the return of the Badminton Craft Evenings which were restarting after their summer break, promising cardmaking, scrapbooking, doll making and knitting. As you'll see from Yvonne Nettle's article in the centre of this month's Local Talk Back the club's still going strong, but we'd love it if readers could send in memories of the craft evenings..

We mentioned last month that Talk Back was serialising the memoirs of Phyllis Salmon who lived for many years at Badminton, having moved there in 1925 when her father became a herdsman on the Badminton Estate. Part 2 of her story appeared in September, recalling her earliest memories of the local villages and her many encounters with the Duke and Duchess who she admired greatly. Phyllis recounts a visit from the Estate Agent:

"When we first came to Badminton we were only in the house a fortnight when mother had a visit from the Estate Agent. He called to say they were going to alter the house because they didn't allow mixed families to live in a two-bedroom house. They were coming to turn the large bedroom into two, and make the sitting room more private by making a hallway from the front door to the living room. It made a much nicer house. There were two beds put in the girls' room and one in the boys' – at this time there were three boys and three girls, but it wasn't long before mother had another baby, for she had one every year until there were ten of us."

That sounds cosy.

Our look back to September 2013 wouldn't be complete if we didn't recognise the achievements of Swangrove Farms and herdsman Alan Orton. They had the distinction of winning the highly prestigious Lily Hill Cup that has been awarded since 1920 to the Jersey herd judged to be the best in the country at the annual NMR/RABDF Gold Cup event. Congratulations Alan!

# J J'S GARDENING BLOG



We've had enough rain to make our forward plan to move towards a gravel garden, full of mainly grey leaved Mediterranean plants. Examples such as eryngium bourgatii, limonium gmelinii (sea lavender), for instance, euphorbia.....

It doesn't have to be the whole garden. It could start as an area of exotics, not bananas, but olive trees, eucomis sparkling burgundy, the top of a pineapple, melianthus, echinaceas (the cone flower), herbs, verbascums, succulents such as sempervivums, verbenahastata, various grasses.

The success of this idea, like most things, is in the preparation of the ground.

Clear the area of weeds and grass leaving pristine soil, which should be forked over.

Order enough pea gravel, or similar to cover the area to a depth of 5 cms or more.

Before you spread the gravel PLANT the plants. Then put the gravel around each plant carefully, so no soil is showing. It is not necessary to water them in. Stand back and enjoy.

A person who successfully made a gravel garden was Beth Chatto in Essex, a very dry county. So if you are having a break in that direction the garden is well worth a visit.

## Jobs for This Month

Keep dead heading.

It is time to cut hedges, lavender and topiary. Cut edges around borders. Feed houseplants following instructions on the pack.

Cut to the ground the old canes of summer-fruiting raspberries, leaving two or three greenish replacements per station to be tied in to a support.

Tidy up and cut back anything which is potentially covering up where spring bulbs grow.

## Tips for Planting

Do not plant tulips until after we've had some frost, which protects them from fire blight.

A nice late season plant is Actea, with dark ferny foliage and pink or white bottle brush blooms.

A dahlia which caught my attention is called Honka Fragile.

## Sudoku

September'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 !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

### Answers to the August quizzes:

#### 'Easy'

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

#### 'Not so Easy'

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



## A Daytrip to Lundy

Several years ago, a good friend suggested a group of us should celebrate his birthday with a trip to Lundy, the small island off the North Devon coast famous for its colonies of Puffins. The crossing between Ilfracombe and Lundy took two hours. It was made on the MS Oldenburg, a German-built vessel with pleasing lines which was launched back in 1958. After a long day exploring the island, we were glad to get back on the ship for the journey to Ilfracombe as the weather had taken a distinct turn for the worse. I learned something very interesting on the return journey, namely how far ship design has progressed since 1958. My abiding memory is holding on for dear life to a pillar for the whole of the two-hour journey, which ended up taking four hours as the 60-year-old ship struggled to make headway against the heavy seas and exhibited the sea-keeping characteristics of a cork. Watching *The Cruel Sea* with Jack Hawkins still gives me flashbacks. I was therefore taken by our much-missed friend Kath Gentry's recollections of a trip to Lundy which she described in her editorial for the September 1987 edition of Local Talk Back. We hope you enjoy her story as much as we did!

From a child I have dreamed of visiting Lundy Island, and seeing the puffins. My opportunity came towards the end of June. Full of high hopes, I made the 2 hour journey on the M/S "Oldenburg". So far, so good - in fact, lovely! On arrival, however, it soon became clear, that though I longed to see Lundy, she had no such wish to show herself to me. After braving a somewhat scary disembarkation and reaching the tiny beach it was obvious that the only way was up. The higher we climbed up the cliff path, the thicker the fog, 'til at the top, visibility was practically nil. My friend and I visited the "De Marisco" Tavern, which is Pub, Restaurant, Post Office and General Store, only to find that 2 thirds of the other 189 passengers had the same idea. Not much room.

We had come to see Lundy, so with hope in our hearts that the fog would lift, we set out to walk the foot-path that runs round the edge of the island. A bad decision. Not too many yards on, down came the rain, in needles. The hood attached to my mac is a bit large, so before too long, my hair was clinging to my scalp like wet sea-weed.

We had about 4½ more hours to spend so we strode on. At the half-way wall I decided - no more! I had just skirted a rather evil-looking bog, and water was "squidging" between my toes and up through my light shoes, so I turned back.

Eventually the church tower loomed out of the mist, and - gratefully - I made my way there. The door stood wide open; in the porch there were 7 out of the 8 original bells. They had been removed from the tower for safety's sake. Inside, I found several fellow-sufferers who had taken refuge. It was quiet and dry and I was so thankful to sit and relax for a time. There were fresh flowers at the altar - though services are held only once a month. The Vicar of Appledore makes the journey - weather permitting!

Much later I went back to the "De Marisco", had a cup of coffee and bought and posted picture postcards home. Lundy has its own postal system and stamps. (The only puffins I saw were on the stamps and cards.)

Soon it was time to make our way back down that steep path to where the boat would take us back to the "Oldenburg". The foghorn was still booming out its melancholy warning - as it had all day.

My heart sank when I saw how high it was to the deck of the ship. Two stalwart sailors leaned down towards me. "Give us your hands me han'some", said one, and with their help and a gentle shove from the boatman I was hauled aboard with flattering ease. We were soon on our way home.

Would I go again? You bet - tomorrow if possible.

I'm a glutton for punishment.

Kathleen Gentry



## RODMARTON MANOR



Rodmarton Manor is off the A433 between Tetbury and Cirencester. The house and gardens are only open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2pm to 5pm and on Bank Holidays. It is only open until the end of September. It was lucky that the Wednesday we chose to visit was hot and sunny, one lovely day amongst a week of showers.



Rodmarton Manor is one of the last great houses to be built and furnished by hand with local materials. When Claud and Margaret Biddulph were going to build their house, they wanted one that would excel architecturally, would provide employment for many people and be a focal point for the village. They wanted to support and revive rural crafts and show the craftsmanship of the Arts and Craft Movement both in the building and the furniture. The stone came from a nearby quarry, being transported on their own railway line. Timber was mostly felled on the estate and a saw pit dug. The work was done mainly by local people such as the Rodmarton blacksmith, the estate plumber and local carpenters. The furniture was made specially for the house, much of it in Rodmarton workshops.

The rooms and their furniture did not disappoint. Every piece of furniture is made to the highest quality and design. Seats that could be changed to tables. The ornaments, lamps and carpets were all beautifully made by the best craftsmen. It was hard to know what to look at first and wasn't easy to leave each room, there was so much to take in.

The garden is equally stunning. The 8-acre Cotswold garden was designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today. There are plenty of places to sit and admire the view of gardens and look out over open farmland to the Marlborough Downs. Each part of the garden has a different theme. Terraces, topiary, leisure gardens, walled garden to name a few. You only see one of the gardens at a time and never know what you will find around the next corner.



**The garden opens for the snowdrop display of at least 150 different kinds. The main display is Jan/Feb, dates to be confirmed.**





## THE BADMINTON CRAFT GROUP

After a summer break the Badminton Craft Group will be meeting again every two weeks from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 – 9.30pm. That will be in the Jubilee Room of Badminton Village Hall. Entry through the kitchen door at the back. Anyone is welcome to join us, just come along on the night or ring Heather 01454 218617 for more information. Sometimes everyone does their own craft, at other times there is a group project, and we expect to have some demonstrations by more professionals. On the first night we will be joined by Old Sodbury W.I. for a social evening.

As Worcester Lodge has been in the limelight recently with a series of concerts and other events, we thought we would add our groups own memories of our visits to this grand building. Hilary Peters was living in Worcester Lodge at the time. She contacted us and offered to come along to show us some unusual crafts, one being 'stick weaving', which we had never heard of and couldn't all get to grips with. The craft goes back hundreds of years and was used to make woollen items of clothing and household goods.

Hilary then invited us to visit her at Worcester Lodge for an early evening tea party, which we had in the Grand Room above the arch.



Hilary (6<sup>th</sup> from right) sadly passed away in 2022. She was a fascinating lady who loved all crafts. As well as showing the small craftwork like we would make, she would bring into her garden those who could show their skills in stonework, woodcraft, metal work etc. It was a privilege to have known her.



# Church Matters

## September 2023 Letter from the Vicar

Dear all,

How often do we stop and marvel at the reality of the world. That it exists, that we exist.

God tells Moses that His name is "I am". Yahweh - Existence.

We are here and we exist, one day who knows, maybe we might not exist.

Or maybe existence will look very different for us.

But for now we exist. And we can stop and think about that. We are here and we exist now, right now in this very moment. Of this we can be sure. But on what does this existence depend?

Well we would not exist if we had not been brought into being, or were not alive.

So where does life itself originate? What brought us into being? You might say, our parents brought us into being. But then what about them? What brought them into being? Their parents, you might say. And so on, all the way back to the first human being. The scientist will tell us, that we evolved in Africa in our current form, within the last 200,000 years. And 'Homo erectus' evolved from some sort of ape that came from other mammals 85m years ago. And about 530 million years ago it is thought that fish evolved from sea squirts, which are thought to be the first creature that had a spine. And with which we share more than 80% of our DNA!

They came from something very basic, the Chordata, which comes from the tadpole larvae, and eventually from single cell organisms. And that comes from microscopic organisms which were present in the rocks that formed this planet about 3.7 billion years ago. This organic matter, given oxygen and sunlight, burst into life till now. It is an amazing story!

So.....we know quite a bit about why we are here. And this suffices for many people.

But not for me. It still does not answer the question, why is the world here? Not bodily, I get that. But spiritually. Why is there a world? What is it for? On what does its existence depend?

That is why I am forced into theology and philosophy. There is more to this universe than just material reality. There is truth, there is meaning and there is love.

With my best wishes,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

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

01454 219236

## Church Services for September 2023

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
3 <sup>rd</sup> September Trinity 13	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion (Common Worship)	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Sung Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
10 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 14	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
17 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 11	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service with Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
24 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 13	9.30am	Lasborough	HC (Common Worship) + PCC	Rev R Thomson
	11.00am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Leighterton	Harvest Evensong	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Churchwarden

All readings and updates of services on website [badmintonbenefice.com](http://badmintonbenefice.com)

# ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

*Please!* No Dogs are allowed on the playing field or in the play area.

All gates must be kept shut. No vehicles are allowed in or on the playing field except by permission of the Parish Council. Please put all litter in the bins provided.

*Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you.*

## SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT

Items discussed at August's meeting included:

Playing Field Maintenance - Once again a big thank you to the mowing team who have kept the playing field and play area looking immaculate this year, despite the challenges thrown up by the unseasonal weather. One piece of equipment (the sprung rabbit) has recently been removed for a re-fresh but will soon be back, ensuring the play area continues to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the younger children to play in. Anyone wishing to use the playing field for an event please contact the Clerk for a permission form. This is now a standard requirement to comply with our insurers.

Community Speed Watch - The speed of traffic through our village remains an issue and the Parish Council is looking at measures to monitor and reduce it. We are very grateful to the Community Speed Watch Team who are frequently seen around the village, identifying vehicles travelling in excess of the 20mph limit and forwarding relevant details to the authorities. As always, they would welcome new members. Please contact the Parish Council if you can help.

Planning - The Parish Council has received no updates on Badminton Estate's proposed development of Hollybush Farm since South Glos Council approved their planning application with conditions in February. We will keep parishioners informed as and when we receive any news.

Village Tidy-Up - The date for the next Autumn Tidy-Up will be Saturday 14th October. Details below. Everyone welcome.

Raised Beds - The area around the Parish Noticeboard has now been improved with the addition of two new raised beds/planting areas which have been built by a local stone waller. We are also very grateful to Toby and Mel who recently did a great job of weeding the planted area opposite the Fox & Hounds. Your efforts made a huge difference - thank you.

Pot Holes - The Parish Council has expressed concern about the poor state of the local roads with the relevant authority and await their response. In particular, we have requested that urgent attention be paid to the area around The Well and on the Burton Road.

### Parish Councillors:

Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Sally Smith 218510, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 219129  
Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

*Next Meeting: Monday 11 September 2023 @ 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.  
Details on Parish Notice Board/Website*

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

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

## THE ACTON TURVILLE AUTUMN TIDY-UP

The Annual Acton Turville Autumn Tidy-Up will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Can you help keep our lovely village looking green, clean and tidy?

If you can, join us at the Fox & Hounds car park between 10 and 11am.

Bags, gloves and pickers will be provided to help with litter clearing, or bring your gardening tools if you fancy getting stuck into something more horticultural. Everyone welcome!

*Any questions?*

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## Picture Gallery



12 months ago, Manor Farm at Alderton found itself in the media spotlight with appearances on BBC Breakfast News, BBC Points West and in the local press. The focus of the media's attention was the 24 acres of sunflowers that had been planted on the farm, creating a swathe of colour that became a major talking point. The decision to plant the unusual crop was taken by tenant farmers Jefferey and Victoria Lippiatt, along with daughter Emma Noy and husband Jason, and was prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine which had a huge impact on the global production of sunflower oil. After a successful harvest in 2022, Manor Farm decided to once again plant several acres with sunflowers. Emma explained: "We planted 24 acres of sunflowers in 2022 and this year it's 10 acres. The sunflowers will be harvested in October for oil or bird seed. They are relatively easy to grow and are truly beautiful. We have been opening to the public, and with the sale of flowers and bird seed from last year's crop we are raising charity money for Great Ormond Street Hospital." You can find lots more information at [www.manorfarmalderton.co.uk](http://www.manorfarmalderton.co.uk)



The wet weather has made life even more difficult than usual for our local farmers who were praying for some dry weather to harvest their more conventional crops. As the sun came out, the heavy machinery was pressed into action and the crops were gathered. Thanks to Yvonne Nettles for the pictures.

