

Local Talk Back

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

ISSUE 563



HAPPY MEMORIES OF A GREAT SUMMER. PICTURE BY THE EDITOR



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

EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2025

I've always tended to think of the apple trees growing in our garden as decorative rather than productive. Each year we get a pleasant display of blossom, then one of them produces a clutch of small apples which never get larger than marbles while the rest of the trees seemingly put their energy into producing leaves. This year it's different though. This year we've got more apples than Tesco, and not just from the one tree. All of them are over-burdened with fruit. I'd like to think it was all down to my flourishing horticultural skills, but the reality is 2025 is proving to be a bountiful year for fruit of all kind.

Apparently we can thank an unusually warm and sunny spring that resulted in unprecedented levels of blossom before the bee community sportingly pitched in with some heightened activity on the pollination front. After that, all we needed was a sustained period of warm weather, and guess what? Bingo. Fruit everywhere. Not only that, but this year's crops have been appearing earlier than normal and the fruit is sweeter.

Something I didn't expect to see was the fruit growing in a colleague's garden in Bath. He'd planted a fruit tree in the middle of his lawn a decade or so ago, and it in that time it had grown into quite a handsome plant, albeit one that had never borne a single fruit. This year, the branches were struggling to support the weight of a bumper crop, but what were they? Crab apples? Quinces? No, it was a peach tree. I don't think I've ever seen peaches growing in someone's garden before. Reading up on it, it sounds like you need quite special conditions for them to bear fruit, but all he'd done with this one was feed it once a year and try not to run it over with the mower when he was cutting the grass. He reckoned he'd already picked in excess of 150 fruits with more to come. His wife was running short of peach-themed recipes though, and with the freezer already full of peach crumble, peach cheesecake and peach pie, he'd been forced to draw the line when she suggested pork on a bed of peaches or gammon with peach segments. Needless to say, I came home with enough peaches to last until Christmas.

Sadly I've still not spotted any fruit growing on the lime trees in St Mary's churchyard...

The weather has definitely been a constant topic of conversation this year. In the middle of this month's Talk Back you can read about a flight Yvonne Nettles made in a light aircraft piloted by her 24-year-old nephew Josh (I was probably still trying to master control of a car at 24). The flight took Yvonne out over our local villages where she could see Mike Bird in his combine harvester, then further afield for a bit of sight-seeing. Yvonne loved every minute, but was shocked to see how parched so much of the countryside looked, reminding her of the long, hot summer of 1976 when weeks went by with temperatures resolutely stuck in the 30s and rain was but a distant memory. I had my own flashback to '76 when I visited the reservoir at Cheddar a couple of weeks ago. Unlike the huge lakes at Chew Valley, the Cheddar reservoir is man-made and relatively small. It takes about an hour to saunter around the 2¼-mile footpath that encircles it, and most days you can watch as members of the local sailing club negotiate the wildlife as they glide across the surface. This time there were no sailing boats to be seen, and precious little water. Being man-made, it was easy to see the high-water mark and judge how much the level had fallen below that. At one end, it looked like the tide had gone out with an expanse of gravel and aquatic plants that resembled seaweed. It's going to take some filling, that's for sure, but, as with most things, it's remarkable how quickly they bounce back. Looking at the weather forecast, the start of that recovery process might not be far away!

Summer's not over yet though, and there's still plenty to look forward to, including one last chance to see the open gardens at Badminton House at the beginning of September. They looked spectacular when we attended the two previous open garden events held this year, which is an amazing achievement considering the aforementioned weather. Something else we've enjoyed over the summer has been the Festival of Music organised by the Badminton Benefice, with some highly original events taking place at various local churches. The festival draws to a close with a concert at St Andrew's in Leighterton when, from 5,30pm on the 28th of September, you'll be able to appreciate an evening of English song. A week earlier on the 21st of September, from 3pm, St Mary's in Acton Turville are holding their Harvest Festival. With coffee, cake, music and singing, it's a perfect opportunity to meet up with friends at this idyllic setting. Make sure you come over and say hello. I'll be on the stall stacked high with a selection of cut-price apples and peaches.

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 OCTOBER EDITION OF LOCAL TALK BACK BY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

September 2025

Fri 5th Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
 Sun 7th Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
 Mon 8th Acton Turville Parish Council Meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
 Wed 10th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
 Sun 14th Castle Combe Circuit Car Boot Sale, 9am – 2pm
 Fri 19th Didmorton Film Club, Didmorton Village Hall
 Sat 20th/ Churchyard Tidy-Up, St Mary's (date TBC). More info on
 Sun 21st What's On page.
 Sun 21st Harvest Festival, St Mary's, Acton Turville, from 3pm
 Sun 28th Badminton Benefice Festival of Music, St Andrew's,
 Leighterton, 5.30pm
 Sun 28th Shabby Sheep Pop-Up Bookshop, Sherston 10am-4pm

October 2025

Fri 3rd Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds
 Fri 10th Didmorton Film Club, Didmorton Village Hall
 Wed 8th Luncheon Club, Fox & Hounds
 Mon 13th Acton Turville Parish Council meeting, Trinity School, 7pm
 Sun 19th Castle Combe Circuit Car Boot Sale, 9am – 2pm
 Sun 24th Whisky Tasting, Badminton House, 7pm – 9pm

Please check with venues before setting off

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We received one anonymous donation this month. Thank you.

In addition, £12.90 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!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR AUGUST 2025

Alan Cummings
 Stephanie Spreadborough
 Connor Brazier

Congratulations!



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!



The next meeting of the Royal British Legion Badminton & Hawkesbury Branch will be held on Tuesday 16th September at 7.00pm. The venue is the Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville.

Everyone welcome, both members and non-members. Please contact Local Talk Back for further details.

Local Talk Back is printed by

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

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

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 19th September 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



Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 10th September

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

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



The Shabby Sheep Book Shop

The Shabby Sheep Book Shop will be looking to host bi-monthly Pop-Up Bookshops in the local area, with the first event kicking off on:

**Sunday 28th September 2025,
10am to 4pm
at Sherston Village Hall.**

With more than 3000 titles to browse, including fiction and non-fiction across all genres and for all ages, our pop-up bookshops really will offer something for everyone.

All our books are in fabulous condition regardless of whether they are brand new or pre-loved, and all are being sold at heavily discounted rates. We'll also be offering many special editions, as well as signed, antique, vintage and collectable books.

We're sure you'll find your next read or three, and if that's not reason enough to visit, there will also be:

**Free Tea/Coffee
Free Kids Bookmark Crafts**

For more information, please contact Jo via email:
shabbysheepshop@btinternet.com

www.shabbysheepshop.co.uk

WHAT'S ON



BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDEN DAYS – SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

The private gardens at Badminton House will be open to the public for the final time this year on Sunday, 7th September. There is a great variety of plants to view, from the formal beds on the east side of the house, designed by Russell Page, to the South Garden with its water squares, hedges, beds and borders. Make sure you visit the Walled Garden too - a short stroll from the house through the park, it is home to the Badminton House kitchen garden and provides fruit and vegetables as well as cut flowers for much of the year.

The exhibition *A Garden of Botanical Art* will also be on display in the Old Hall, with a selection of prints available to buy in the shop, whilst outside in the courtyard you'll be able to browse stalls selling everything from specialist plants and flowers to a wide range of food and drink.

Admission

Open from 10am - 4pm with last entry at 3pm

Adults £10 pre-sale or £14 on the gate.

Seniors (60+) £7.50 pre-sale or £11 on the gate.

Carers and children under 12 go FREE.

WHISKY TASTING WITH DISTILLED EVENTS – 24TH OCTOBER 2025

Whether you are a seasoned enthusiast or new to the wonderful world of single malt Scotch whisky, this very special tasting at Badminton House is one not to be missed.

As our guest during the evening, you will enjoy six classic single malt whiskies, representing a range of flavour profiles from different regions in Scotland. The drams will be served with paired foods such as Scottish smoked salmon, cured meats and beautifully paired cheeses.

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

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 8th September 2025 @ 7.00pm
Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Village Tidy-Up. The 2025 Autumn Tidy-Up will be on Saturday 11th October, meeting at the Fox & Hounds car park from 10am. Why not join us for a spot of litter picking, or give the planted areas some end-of-season TLC. Your help really does make a difference and keeps our village looking special.

Email: actonturvillepc@aol.com **Website:** www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org



ST MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

Churchyard Tidy-Up

The graveyard behind the church is beginning to look a bit overgrown, so we're looking for a group of willing volunteers who can help us tidy it up.

Date to be confirmed, but it's likely to be Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st September, weather permitting. If you can help, please contact Alastair Gilbert or Local Talk Back. If you can bring a strimmer, some shears, a scythe or just a pair of scissors, even better!!

Badminton Youth Club

Come to BADMINTON YOUTH CLUB!

THURSDAYS
6:30pm - 8pm
Badminton Memorial Hall

Help make it what you would like it to be!

See you in September!

£2 each week

Come along and have a say in how your Youth Club evolves.

Play badminton in Badminton!

Fun Crafting Activities

LEGO CORNER

Parents or Carers will need to sign a consent form

Our Youth Club Leader is Fully DBS Checked!

FROM WILTSHIRE TO NEW YORK ON CONCORDE.

Elsewhere in this edition of Local Talk Back, you can read about Yvonne Nettles' recent flight in a single-engined aircraft, taking off from The Cotswold Airport at Kemble before heading over our local villages and surrounding area. It's not the first time we've had aircraft-related stories in Talk Back, and over the years, both Yvonne and former editor Kath Gentry wrote about the trips they took on Concorde.

Back in those days, it was quite common for groups and organisations to charter the aircraft from British Airways for pleasure flights. These flights became extremely popular, offering passengers both the supersonic experience and a taste of the luxury that went with it at a price that was far below the cost of a ticket on one of the aircraft's scheduled services. It is estimated that, by the late 1990s, British Airways was flying as many as 300 charter flights a year, ranging from pleasure trips around the Bay of Biscay to luxury holidays that would include a flight to New York on Concorde then, after a few days taking in the sights, a return crossing on the QE2. Those with sufficient means could even embark on a round-the-world tour, spending a few days in an exotic resort before hopping back on Concorde and flying to the next destination.

As might be expected when considering the costs involved in chartering a supersonic airliner, most of these flights were arranged by the major tour operators, but there were exceptions.

Stephen Bath was the joint managing director of a small travel agency based in Salisbury called Bath Travel, and in the mid-nineties he recognised the potential for running charter flights on Concorde. However, he had devised a unique selling point: his flights would use local airports, not the major hubs from which Concorde normally operated.

It was his father who spotted that the newly-extended runway at Hurn Airport in Bournemouth would be long enough to accommodate Concorde, so on April 21 1996, 100 people were taken to Heathrow by coach and given a 20-minute flight on a Bath Travel-chartered Concorde back to Bournemouth. Another 100 passengers (numbers being restricted due to the length of the runway) took off later for a champagne lunch over the Atlantic before landing at Heathrow. Although just 200 people had the trip of a lifetime that day, many others shared in the experience when more than 25,000 flocked to the area to see Concorde arrive and depart, including 5,000 on the airport site itself. Stephen was onto a winner.

While Bournemouth Airport's runway might have been long enough to cope with a half-full, partially-fuelled Concorde, a longer runway would be needed for a full-capacity Concorde to take off for New York, so Stephen started looking around for suitable candidates. The ideal choice was the military airfield at Boscombe Down, just a few miles outside Salisbury, but getting permission to use that facility would be difficult - the MOD rarely opened the airfield to the public, let alone a plane full of excited tourists. Stephen takes up the story:

"I rang the MOD and was quite keen not to talk to a junior member of staff who would say no straight away, so I spoke to the most senior person I could and immediately, to my delight they said they would move heaven and earth to make it happen. Because everyone in the aviation business loves and admires Concorde."

"As the base was totally private, we had to sort out our own check-in. So I drove to the Boscombe Down area to take a look around. I went to see owner of The Inn at High Post and asked if we could use his pub as a check-in, and he said yes."

A return ticket from London to New York cost around £6,000, so when Stephen put together his package it was an instant sell out. The trip included a flight from Salisbury to New York on Concorde, four days in New York with a sight-seeing tour, then a return journey home on the QE2 for £2,895.



An unlikely combination – Concorde visits the diminutive Hurn Airport, near Bournemouth.



Concorde's visit to Hurn Airport attracted 25,000 onlookers, with 5000 making it inside the airport for a closer look.

Cont'd over

FROM WILTSHIRE TO NEW YORK ON CONCORDE (CONT'D)

The Concorde flight took off on August 12th, the BA staff dressed in their blue and red uniforms stood behind the bar at the Inn at High Post, a black-tie pianist, surrounded by candles welcomed travellers to the pub and a coach was waiting to whisk passengers through the gates of Boscombe Down, straight on to the plane.

For security reasons no photographs were allowed to be taken but at the last minute the trip was nearly abandoned as temperatures began to rise. Stephen explained:

"Security took longer than usual and the coach had to fight its way through the media pack that had gathered to capture the moment. As the temperatures rose throughout that sunny Wednesday morning, the captain radioed us to say if we don't take off in the next half an hour, the plane's engines would be too hot to take off. Jet engines like cold air coming in the front, and when it gets too hot it reduces the power, so we got away with it by about 30 minutes!"

In total, Bath Travel organised 44 Concorde flights and flew 4,400 passengers to places such as Paris, Nice, Venice and Tenerife. 440 of those passengers flew from Boscombe Down, most of the remainder flew from Bournemouth, but at least one charter took off from Exeter airport. When asked why he thought so many people held such a fascination for Concorde, and why it attracted huge crowds whenever it flew, Stephen Bath replied:

"First of all, it's a tremendous pride in British achievement, to build such an extraordinarily complex and technically capable aircraft. People were also attracted by the beauty of seeing this little sportscar of a plane – it was really quite small – and to hear that noise of the Olympus engines and see the smoke and hear the sound."

Sadly Concorde flies no more, and it's sad to think we will never see that sleek dart-like shape soar above us again. Those who flew on it will cherish the memories, but some will be left to wonder just how a small travel agency based in Salisbury came to charter a supersonic airliner and operate it from airports in Wiltshire.



Original Bath Travel flyer, offering Concorde experiences from Exeter, Bournemouth and Salisbury.

Chipping Sodbury Music Society

Chipping Sodbury Music Society started in 1947 as Downleaze Music Club, founded by a small group of music lovers, listening to music on the radio or "long playing" records in each other's houses. The group attended concerts when they could, but as time went on felt they wanted to do more – promoting concerts themselves. The club grew in number with the success of their efforts to appreciate good music leading to having to book larger venues for their meetings.

In the 1960's the club became Chipping Sodbury Music Society, promoting concerts and concert visits in a season, moving to Chipping Sodbury Town Hall to accommodate their growing audiences. The expertise and talents of the musicians playing in the concerts has helped the Society to go from strength to strength.

Today, Chipping Sodbury Music Society promotes seven concerts each season with musicians of such mastery and finesse that they are both nationally and internationally renowned. The musicians like playing in an intimate setting with a close, appreciative audience. Young musicians at the start of their career, usually supported by The Countess of Munster Musical Trust, play one concert in each season.

The variety and style of all the concerts are chosen to appeal to the widest possible audience.

Membership is £85 for seven concerts, tickets on the door are £18, tickets on Ticket Source are the same with a small extra fee. School-aged children and young people still attending school are free.

Our 2025-2026 season starts in October. Come, hear and enjoy wonderful music played by musicians of considerable talent in a pleasing setting. You will be very welcome.

Visit us on www.csmusicsociety.co.uk

Deb Willington, secretary to Chipping Sodbury Music Society



From the Archives

Amongst the local news items published in the June 2003 edition of *Local Talk Back*, was an article about something that had taken place on the other side of the world, in the hills, mountains and glaciers of Patagonia and Chile to be precise. It was a story by Anne Beesley from Acton Turville, who had just completed an amazing trek to raise funds for a very worthy cause – Cancer Research UK. Anne recently came across some of the pictures she took on her adventure which we're delighted to publish below, along with the original article from June 2003. She's very modest about her fund-raising efforts (having previously walked the Great Wall of China just two years earlier to raise money for the same cause), but we greatly admire her achievements, and thank her for letting us publish the pictures.



ANNE'S TREK OF PATAGONIA/CHILE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Originally published June 2003

Many thanks to everyone who kindly sponsored my trek for Cancer research UK. I raised £3088.00 with your help.

It was a very long journey to reach the first campsite. I left Acton Turville on Sunday noon 16th March – to Heathrow – Madrid – overnight stop at Santiago in Chile. Monday night – flight. Tuesday morning to Punta Arenas – then six hour “coach” ride to the Torres del Paine National Park, arriving 10.30pm. Wednesday early start for first trek of nine hours of “gentle undulations” as our guide told us! – to reach our second campsite by Pehue Lake. Thursday another nine hour trek – scramble – climb to the grey Glacier – able to see icebergs on the lake and an amazing view of the glacier.

Having had two lovely sunny days – Friday was a ten hour climb to the French Valley in the heart of the Paine Mountains in the rain and wind – but was fantastic scenery – with a few “footbridges” to cross over the raging rivers. Next two days back to the sunshine. Saturday a long trek of nearly ten hours over the mountains to the final campsite at the foothills of the Torres del Paine – three huge granite towers. Our ultimate challenge proved to be an eleven-hour trek – climb over huge boulders. How I longed to have long legs! Especially for the last 1000 metres. But we all finished and were rewarded with a fantastic view.

Anne





Acton Turville Social Village Party 2025

In 12 months, Acton Turville Social has held a quiz, bingo, dog racing, coffee mornings and carol singing, culminating on the 16th August with our 3rd summer party. So a busy year!

We want to say thank you to our village "put-up-and-clean-up" team who help us every year, with special thanks to Toby and Nick!

Our entertainment on the night was the amazing Lindsey Moon from Melksham and the fantastic Tunehead band led by Bob on saxophone. It was fun!

Our raffle prizes mainly came from local businesses. So thank you Route One, Homefire, the Fox & Hounds and Badminton Estate. Not forgetting Sally and Di who managed to sell half a book of tickets.

Our next thank you goes to Alex Bethune and his team for the marquees. Last but not least Rupert and Lee for some last minute assistance.

It was lovely to see so many from the village. Thank you Acton Turville for supporting us !



FLYING HIGH - MY FLIGHT & JOSH'S STORY BY YVONNE NETTLES



My first flight on a single engine plane was 36 years ago. My good friends Sally and John had organised a surprise birthday flight from Badminton airfield. Within 15 minutes of knowing about it Pat and I were chauffeured to the airstrip where the Estate farm manager, John Davis, was waiting to take us up in the small plane he used for the parachute club. It was a beautiful sunny August evening and the flight path took us over the Wiltshire countryside, including Nettleton, Burton and Chippenham – the places I lived and worked.

It was a lovely flight with incredible scenery but I thought “if I’d had a long time to think about it, rather than minutes, I may have been too worried to be in plane with one engine”.

So here I am all these years later ‘back down to earth’ from a flight on another single-engined plane. But this time the pilot was my 24 year-old nephew Josh.

Pat had arranged this as a birthday surprise, and had given me every kind of reason, including something to do with ‘a wing-walking girl’ to get me to Kemble airfield at a certain time. Unforeseen circumstances meant we had to go a day later, which was lucky, as the weather was much calmer and sunny rather than windy.

I was feeling quite calm as I had seen so many videos of Josh flying his mum, dad and other family members around the country. The plane is quite small and getting in involved climbing on to the wing and getting in through the window space. (the windows open upwards like bat wings).

Our flight took us over Nettleton and Burton, the old family homes, then to Acton Turville and Badminton, flying two loops around each one (not the upside down kind!). I wanted to get some photos of the harvesting on the Plain at Badminton where Mike Bird was out in the combine harvester.

We flew over Bath with good views of the rugby ground, the weir and the Royal Crescent but had to avoid the centre of Bristol as the balloon fiesta was on so we missed flying over the Suspension Bridge. We had lovely views going out over the River Severn with the two Severn bridges. We gave the Welsh coast a miss as there was quite a lot of low cloud that side of the river, lower than us.

After an hour we landed back at Kemble. It was absolutely fantastic – “Why hadn’t I gone up in the plane before, and when can I do it again” were my thoughts.

It may be a while though, as Josh has given up his job to do a four month or so Commercial Pilot Training course at Gloucester airport with the aim of eventually flying the big passenger planes. Obviously, before that comes a lot of exams and various flight tests.



Cont'd over

FLYING HIGH CONT'D

A few weeks ago Josh passed his first exam of the CPL course – multi engine. Four days after our flight he was flying a twin-engined Diamond DA42 from Gloucester to Oxford and back, then a few days later Gloucester to Southend. After he achieves this Commercial Pilot's Licence he will be allowed for the first time to be paid to take people on flights but only in the level of planes that he's been examined on.

His next step will be to look for a job with one of the passenger airlines who will then give him the training necessary to fly the big planes. I wish him so much luck for this as he's dreamed of this since he was at school.

THE JOURNEY TO GET TO THIS POINT

If asked what made Josh want to fly planes he will say 'blame Nan' – (my Mum Pearl). His Nan loved planes, talked a lot about them and told him the story of her first flight at the age of 16 from a field in West Kington. The pilot was Jim Packer who owned Burton garage at the time. She also paid for a flight in a small plane for her, Josh and his dad where the pilot would let you take the controls for a while.

When Josh left school, he already knew he wanted to be a pilot and was fully aware that it would cost a lot of money. It would be a long term plan. The fast route could cost up to £130,000. He turned down a place at university as that would put him back 4 years. He got a job in Bristol Tesco in the bakery where he could work weekends and nights, meaning he could go flying in the week as funds allowed. He went to the Bristol and Wessex Airplane Club where he could use their planes. They shared the runway with Bristol Airport so from his first flying lesson he was taking off and landing between the Easy Jets, his plane being the size of the jets wheel!

After 11 hours of training Josh had to fly solo from the airport and even do a qualifying cross country solo landing and taking off from three different airports. After just over 45 hours flying time, Josh gained his Private Pilot's Licence. He was 19. It was then theory tests and hour-building - up to 150 hours to take the next course. It was a slow route to his goal. He left Tesco for a job in IT, always saving up for the next flights. Once he had his licence he put messages out to the flying community, asking if there were pilots in the South West willing to buy a share in a plane. With four shares they were able to buy a plane which is kept at Kemble (Cotswold) airport. There are now eight part-owners so a lot of upgrading has been done.

AN AERIAL VIEW OF
LITTLE BADMINTON




TWIN ENGINE DA42



BADMINTON PLAIN - Aerial view of Mike Bird combining the field in the morning and transferring corn to the trailer in the afternoon. Reuben Alvis is driving the tractor. The combine and trailer are both still moving throughout the process.



Gvonne Nettles


 Badminton Benefice
 Festival of Music 2025

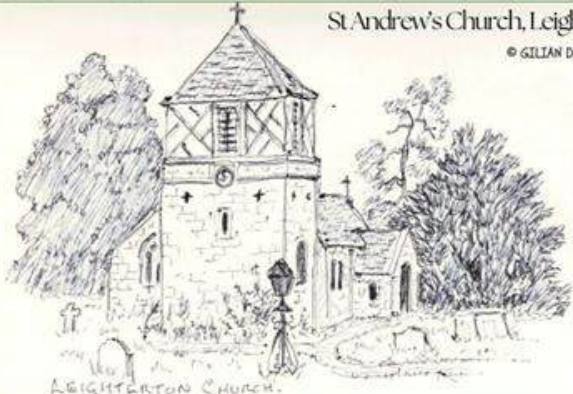
YOUTH MUSIC

HARVEST HOME

An Evening of English Song
 Vocals - Andrew Hopwood
 Piano - Ben Humphries

Free entry with a collection in support of Youth Music and Leighterton Church

St Andrew's Church, Leighterton
© GILIAN DAVISON 2025



LEIGHTERTON CHURCH

Experience a rich tapestry of 20th-century English art song, with music by Finzi, Vaughan Williams, Quilter, Butterworth, Britten, Howells, Gurney, and Warlock. This varied programme blends pastoral beauty, lyrical romance, and lively character, all performed in the intimate and historic setting of St Andrew's Church.

**28
SEPT
2025**

AT
 ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
 LEIGHTERTON

CONCERT BEGINS 5.30PM

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.BADMINTONBENEFICE.COM

Music and Cafe

ST MARYS CHURCH
 ACTON TURVILLE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

21ST
 SEPTEMBER

3pm cafe
 4pm short service

BRING A FRIEND,
 BRING A CAKE
 OR
 A DONATION TO THE
 FOODBANK

Songs from Trinity Primary
 Harvest Assembly

Informal family service



The Forbidden Fruit & Veg season has arrived

Locally grown, freshly harvested, organic veg boxes from our walled garden

Small - £10 Medium - £15 Large - £20






Collection on Wednesdays from Kennel Drive, Badminton
 Or have it delivered for £3
Sign up 5 friends and get a free veg box
Order 5 boxes and get your 6th box free!

Find us at the following
Farmer's markets
10am-1.30pm
 +44 7711 271492 (WhatsApp) forbiddenfruitandveg@gmail.com

Sherston (Thursday)
 Chipping Sodbury (Saturday)
 Marshfield Post Office (every other Friday)



**Scan to order
 your veg box**

We always welcome regular or occasional volunteers who wish to explore organic growing at our market garden!

Church Matters

September 2025 Letter from the Vicar

Dear All,

I hope many of you have or will soon be able to get away for a short break or holiday. It is good to have a change of scenery and to let go of the normal trappings of everyday life.

There was an interesting poem by Malcolm Guite who was Chaplain and Fellow of Girton College Cambridge, a Poet and musician, who speaks about holidays having a great deal to teach us about spirituality. From the moment of departure, we leave all our belongings behind, save the few clothes, books and wash bag which we need. Being free of possessiveness is an important principle of spirituality.

Letting go of everything can of course be a struggle as we may depend on our routines and the safety net of our belongings and everyday comforts around us, but it can also be a liberation. As we are freed from needing and relying on a particular chair in our sitting room, or our TV or computer which keep us connected to the world around us. Letting go of everything that we rely on, is a first step.

Then, and there is only room here for two similarities, there is the going out of our comfort zone, to somewhere new or different, where the landscape is foreign, maybe the language too, where the food tastes different, or the food we eat is not in our control. There is a vulnerability about travelling, a stepping out into the unknown, on a plane, a train, a new road upon which to travel. All this is spiritually awakening. St Bernard of Clairvaux said 'no spiritual house can stand except on the foundation of humility'. And being vulnerable and out of our comfort zone, does usually make us humble, as we lose the everyday arrogance of being able to control our environment. (unless we are one of those people who think that everyone should speak English, and have the same ways as we do!) Throwing ourselves on the mercy of God is the traditional religious language for such an experience. This crops up again and again in the psalms: 'Put your trust in the Lord', ie stop relying on who and what you know, let go into the arms of God.

I hope your holiday has nourished your spiritual growth,

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 September 2025

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
7 th September Trinity 12	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay Led
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Mr M Butler
14 th September Trinity 13	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
21 st September St Matthew	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family Service – Pet Service	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	4.00pm	Acton Turville	Harvest Tea Party and Songs	Rev R Thomson
28 th September Trinity 15	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com



Grab a Crabapple for a Jelly Good Cause!

This September, Tracklements, an award-winning condiment maker based near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, is encouraging the local community to don their wellies, take a walk in the countryside and start collecting crabapples for a terrific cause!

Tracklements are partnering with Sherston Primary School to collect crabapples to make English Crabapple Jelly. 50p for every kilogram of crabapples donated is given to the school, as well as a further 25p from the sale of every jar sold nationwide. Running for over 20 years, the project has raised almost £15,000.

As a certified B Corp, Tracklements is committed to using business as a force for good, the crabapple project is a perfect example of this ethos in action. Not only does it raise vital funds for Sherston Primary School, it's also a great way to teach Sherston's young people about the provenance of their food by showing them the process from tree to jar, as well as using fruit which may otherwise go to waste. Look out for this year's label, which will feature the winning design drawn by one of the school children.

A forager's delight, crabapples are small, "wild" apples which, whilst hard and inedible raw, make an exquisite, jewel-coloured jelly. Associated with love and marriage crabapple trees can often be found nestled in British hedgerows.

All you need to do is drop them off at Tracklements, Whitewalls, Easton Grey, SN16 ORD (01666 827044, open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday) between 1st and 30th September.

If crabappling isn't your thing but you still want to help the school, buying a jar of this scrumptious jelly gives the school a donation while you enjoy it with sausages or roast pork!

To view the full range and find out more about the project, visit www.tracklements.co.uk.

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the July quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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Days Out - The Bristol Zoo Project

The Bristol Zoo Project is located just off the M5 near Cribbs Causeway. It opened in 2003 as The Wild Place, operating until 2020 as a sister site to the original Bristol Zoo in Clifton, before being rebranded as the Bristol Zoo Project when the old zoo closed. Its most popular attraction is Bear Wood, where you can watch animals including bears, wolves, lynx and wolverines explore their large enclosures. Local Talk Back spent an enjoyable day there recently - we hope you like the pictures from Yvonne Nettles and Gill Carter.

Clockwise from top right:

Like all the animals in Bear Wood, Wolverines were once native to the forests of Britain.

The wolves share an enclosure with the bears.

This chap seems to be enjoying the sunshine.

Bathtime for the bears, being watched by an inquisitive bird!



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