

Local Talk Back

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

ISSUE 574



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE...
PICTURE BY GILL CARTER, ACTON TURVILLE



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

EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2026

You don't need me to point out you that the way we communicate has changed greatly over recent years, and the number of people getting their news from printed magazines and newspapers, or keeping friends and family abreast of developments via letters and postcards, continues to decline. More and more of us consume information electronically, and the days when the paperboy would drop off a national paper in the morning and a local paper in the evening seem a long time ago. On the face of it, it's great that there are now so many ways to get your message across, but what if you have something important to say? What format do you choose? How do you make sure everyone who needs to know receives the message?

Such a situation arose recently in Acton Turville, when the developer tasked with building new houses on the Littleton Drew Road needed to dig a Very Deep Hole, so requested permission to close the road. For a month. Approval was granted, and the outcome was announced by the planning authority with a notice in - the Western Daily Press. Perhaps unsurprisingly, few residents got the message, and by the time the full implications of the closure sunk in, it was too late to do anything, leaving a significant number of villagers rather miffed.

It's ultimately disappointing when a large organisation has such a communications breakdown, but at the same time it's not always easy to get it right, is it? Several years ago I smirked when the parish council told me how important it was to post up-to-date information on the village noticeboard. People don't rely on the noticeboard, do they, but in reality, in a small village, that's exactly where a lot of people still look to find out what's going on. Local Facebook pages are another vital source of information, as are WhatsApp groups, but you can't get away from the fact that the proliferation of social media platforms that are supposed to make it easier to communicate are sometimes having the opposite effect, with no single option that reaches everyone across every age demographic. Despite the multitude of options that technology has given us, it feels like the only way to guarantee you will reach everyone is to physically drop something through every letterbox.

What we don't need social media to tell us is how hot the weather is for this time of year. It was therefore a surprise to walk into Morrisons, wearing shorts and a t-shirt, to be confronted by a display of....mince pies!! Let me check my notes – yes, it was the 24th of August and the shop was gearing up for Christmas. If they're playing Christmas music next time I go in, I promise to boycott them. It's not all bad news though as the mince pies were every bit as good as last year. I might have to stock up.

As you'll see from this month's Talk Back, the fine weather has once again tempted the Talk Back team to get out and about and visit various shows, events and attractions. Summer is the time when we'd traditionally be looking at the weather forecast, worrying about the threats of heavy rain, erring on the side of caution and staying at home, but this year it's been the heat that has been the deciding factor. The RHS show was probably the peak of what many of us could tolerate, but a couple of other events came close, such as the steam fair at Welland which you can read about in this issue. That event presented a perfect storm. It was hot, it was dusty, the air was so thick with smoke and soot from all the steam engines that you could taste it, and your senses were overloaded with all the smells and sounds that only machines powered by steam can create. It was like being transported back 100 years when people were slaving away in coal mines or in the boiler room of a ship, the sort of scene captured so evocatively by artists like Terence Cuneo or David Shepherd. Thankfully I was brought back to reality thanks to a strategically-placed ice cream van who served up the most welcome 99 I've ever had, otherwise I dread to think what might have happened.

Finally a quick word to say how great it is to see both the Badminton Stores and the Fox & Hounds flourishing since they came under the control of the Badminton Estate. Under the expert guidance of Allen Hill, they're re-establishing themselves at the heart of the community. The stores now have a courtyard bar which on a warm, sunny evening earlier this month held its first highly successful community event. The Fox & Hounds has not been spared the party atmosphere either, with themed nights featuring Rum & Reggae and Sausage & Cider. Local Talk Back is unable to comment on rumours that the next one will have a mince pie theme, but we live in hope.

It really is good to see some life being injected into our villages. Long may it last!

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 2026.
THANK YOU.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

September 2026

Fri 4 th	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Sun 6 th	Badminton House Open Gardens, 10am – 4pm
Wed 9 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch
Fri 11 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sat 12 th	St Mary's Church, Acton Turville, "Clean The Church" day, 10.30am onwards. Please help!
Sun 13 th	Charity Walk for Motor Neurone Disease, Badminton Estate, 12-noon for 1pm start
Mon 14 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Fri 18 th – Sun 20 th	Heritage Open Days, Badminton House
Sun 20 th	Relish Running: Badminton Marathon, Half, 10k, 5k & Fun Run, Worcester Lodge, 10am – 5pm
Sun 20 th	Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, Acton Turville, from 3pm
Sat 26 th	Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival, St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury, 11am – 4pm
Sun 27 th	Shabby Sheep Pop-Up Bookshop, Sherston Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

October 2026

Fri 2 nd	Acton Turville Social Coffee Morning, Fox & Hounds, 10am
Sun 4 th	Inside Outside Art Exhibition, St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury, 11am – 5pm
Fri 9 th	Didmarton Film Club, Didmarton Village Hall
Sun 11 th	Car Boot Sale, Castle Combe Circuit, 9am – 2pm
Mon 12 th	Acton Turville Parish Council, Trinity School, 7pm
Wed 14 th	Fox & Hounds Senior Citizen's Lunch

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received one anonymous donation this month, for which we are most grateful.

In addition, £22.35 was very generously donated in the shop collection boxes.

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

There are Local Talk Back collection boxes in Acton Turville Stores and 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!



Badminton Estate was delighted to host a special one-day plant sale on 18 July 2026 in support of Horatio's Garden, which improves the lives of people with spinal injuries by creating and expertly staffing transformative gardens in NHS rehabilitation centres.

The sale gave visitors the opportunity to purchase herbaceous plants from The Julia Rausing Garden, the largest garden ever created at an RHS show, which was unveiled at the inaugural RHS Badminton Flower Show.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone who attended, the sale raised more than £24,000 for Horatio's Garden.

Badminton Estate would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the sale, the dedicated volunteers, the team at Crocus and Horatio's Garden, and all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.



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

Next coffee morning – Friday 4th September

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

WHAT'S ON



DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 11th September 2026

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 INN

Acton Turville, nr Badminton
GL9 1HW

01454 218224

Fox & Hounds Senior Citizens Lunch

Wednesday 9th September

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

£13.00 per head

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



THE SHABBY SHEEP BOOK SHOP **FREE ENTRY**

POP-UP BOOKSHOP

HUGE DISCOUNTS from on-line and high street prices.

Sunday 27th September 2026
10am to 4pm
Sherston Village Hall, High Street,
Sherston, SN16 0LQ

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BADMINTON ESTATE

BADMINTON HOUSE OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 10.00AM – 4.00PM

The final Open Gardens event at Badminton House takes place on Sunday 6th September. Enjoy the colours of the season as you wander through beautifully cultivated gardens filled with a wide range of vibrant late summer blooms.

BADMINTON HOUSE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

FRIDAY 18TH TO SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Enjoy a guided tour through some of the house's most impressive rooms and collections, including the North Hall, Oak Room, Hallway, Large Dining Room, Billiard Room, East Room, Ballroom, and the Servants Quarters.

Throughout the tour, guests will be guided through the history of Badminton House, with stories and insights to Badminton's rich heritage.

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

Church News

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE



OUR LOVELY CHURCH HAS NOW BEEN FITTED OUT WITH ELECTRIC HEATERS UNDER THE PEWS, SO YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO DETERMINE YOUR OWN WARMTH AND THE CHURCH WILL SAVE MONEY. WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, AND SO WE AIM TO HAVE A MASSIVE CLEANUP ON SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER FROM 10.30AM. THIS COULD BE COMPLETED SWIFTLY IF WE HAD AN ARMY OF SUPER, KIND VOLUNTEERS ON THE DAY. IT WILL REQUIRE SOME LADDER WORK TO DUST THE BEAMS, CHANDELIERS AND TO CLEAN THE WINDOWS. AND A VACUUM CLEANER OR TWO. AND SOME DUSTERS, POLISH & BROOMS.

PLEASE WILL YOU HELP?

A GOODLY SELECTION OF REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.
SEE YOU ON 12TH!

EILEEN STEPHENS

ST MARY'S, HAWKESBURY



Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival

Mysterious Ways

Saturday 26th September (11am-4pm)
at St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury GL9 1BN

*Join us for a day of author talks & readings
with plenty of tea and cake!*



Tickets £10 via QR code, www.hulitfest.com
or HULFMysteriousWays.eventbrite.co.uk



YOUR INVITATION TO "MYSTERIOUS WAYS"

Not many villages have their own lit fest, and we're lucky that so many interesting authors, poets, performers and other guest speakers are keen to come and entertain us!

Join them on **the last Saturday of September** to enjoy an action-packed programme on this event's special theme, "Mysterious Ways". We hope we can encourage you to buy a ticket and help us keep HULF running, for the benefit of our community.

HULF will also make a significant donation to the Friends of St Mary's for the upkeep of our historic parish church.

Inside Outside

An exhibition of art works by serving prisoners at HMP Erlestoke

Sunday 4th October (11am-5pm)
at St Mary's, Hawkesbury GL9 1BN

Sister Wendy said, "We are not born human, we become human,
and the way we become human is through art".

Come and celebrate the therapeutic and rehabilitative place that art has in prisons,
as learners seek to recalibrate, reform and have respite from the monotony and brutality of life behind bars.

Free admission – Everyone welcome

Village Agent Update

By Andy Hiscox, Village Agent for the West of England Rural Network (WERN)

Serving the communities of the Cotswold Edge

Hi, I'm Andy Hiscox and I'm the Village Agent in Cotswold Edge, covering Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury. 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. Today I am looking at shining the spotlight on claiming Attendance Allowance. This is a UK benefit for people who have reached state pension age and have a disability or health condition that means they need help with personal care or supervision.



Key facts

- Attendance Allowance is not means-tested. Your income, pension and savings generally do not affect whether you can receive it.
- You normally need to have needed help for at least 6 months before qualifying.
- You do not have to have a particular diagnosis. What matters is how your condition affects your need for care or supervision.
- You don't necessarily need someone providing personal care. The important issue is whether you need help or supervision.
- It can cover needs such as help with washing, dressing, eating, getting in and out of bed, taking medication, using the toilet, or staying safe.
- There is no requirement to have a carer living with you.
- It is generally paid tax-free.
- It can potentially lead to additional entitlement to Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction, depending on your circumstances.
- It does not normally cover mobility needs alone; the focus is on care and/or supervision.
- If you live in a care home, you can usually still receive Attendance Allowance if you pay the full cost yourself. It is normally not payable where your local authority is paying for your care.
- You generally cannot receive Attendance Allowance if you're already receiving Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Adult Disability Payment, or Armed Forces Independence Payment.

Should you wish to check your eligibility for Attendance Allowance or need assistance with completing the necessary forms I can assist you with this should you need any help.

The Village Agent Service can make a real difference to the rural communities they support by working with local residents and agencies. For more information on the Village Agent Service please visit

<https://www.wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents>

Or alternatively please contact me on:

Mobile: 07795442272

Email: andy@wern.org.uk



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Taking A Trip Down Memory Lane

Your memories. Our communities. The stories worth keeping.

Local Talk Back is introducing a monthly feature called **Down Memory Lane**, and we need the help of you, our readers, to make it happen. Specifically, we want you to share short memories and anecdotes about life in our villages. Not necessarily ancient history, and definitely not just nostalgia, more the little human stories that somehow never make it into the official record.

Who was the teacher you never forgot? Where did you go on your first date? What local shop or character do you still miss? What's the funniest thing you remember happening in the village? What was the worst winter? Where did children disappear to when their parents thought they were somewhere else?

We want to make it as simple as possible for anyone to contribute, so we're not looking for you to submit articles, just send us anything from a few sentences to a photograph and a scribbled memory. If you like you can even just give us a ring and tell us about it. We're happy to knock your contributions into shape (and remove anything that could potentially land the Local Talk Back editorial team in prison), but we want this to come from you, we want to use your words. If you'd rather we didn't use your name, that's fine too!

There must be hundreds of lovely, funny, poignant and occasionally ridiculous stories about this area that currently exist only in people's heads or chats down the pub, and unless someone asks, they eventually disappear. We're hoping Down Memory Lane might be a gentle way to capture some of those stories.

So, let's start with shops. What shops do you remember? Do you recall what they sold? How about the names of the people who worked there? And do you have any memories of particular events which have stayed with you all these years, known only to you?

You can email them to us at localtalkback1975@gmail.com or call Simon Long on 07876 397543.



Motor Neurone Disease Charity Walk *Sunday 13th September, Badminton House*



Gloucestershire's Walk to D'Feet MND

**Sunday 13th September 2026, Badminton House,
Gloucestershire GL9 1DB**

Come and join our annual walk to defeat MND fundraising and social event at Badminton House. Arrive and register from 12 noon with the walk starting at 1pm.



Entry £10 donation which includes t-shirt



Contact Peter.Mills@mndassociation.org to register



Registered Charity no. 294354



Motor neurone disease (MND) is a neurological condition that affects the nerves controlling movement. In simple terms, motor neurone disease damages the nerves (motor neurones) that send messages from the brain to the muscles. When these nerves stop working, the muscles gradually weaken which can affect how a person walks, talks, eats, drinks and breathes.

Symptoms vary from person to person and usually get worse over time, but support, treatment and equipment can help people live as well as possible.

On Sunday the 13th September, the Gloucestershire branch of Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) will host a 'Walk to D'Feet MND' event around the grounds of Badminton Estate.

With a choice of three planned routes, the event aims to raise money and support people who have motor neurone disease. By taking part in this event, you can make a real difference in the fight against this cruel disease, and help MNDA provide the vital support services and fund research to find a cure.

Six Thousand Years of Neighbours

I thought I was walking Coco. It turns out I was following ancient footsteps.

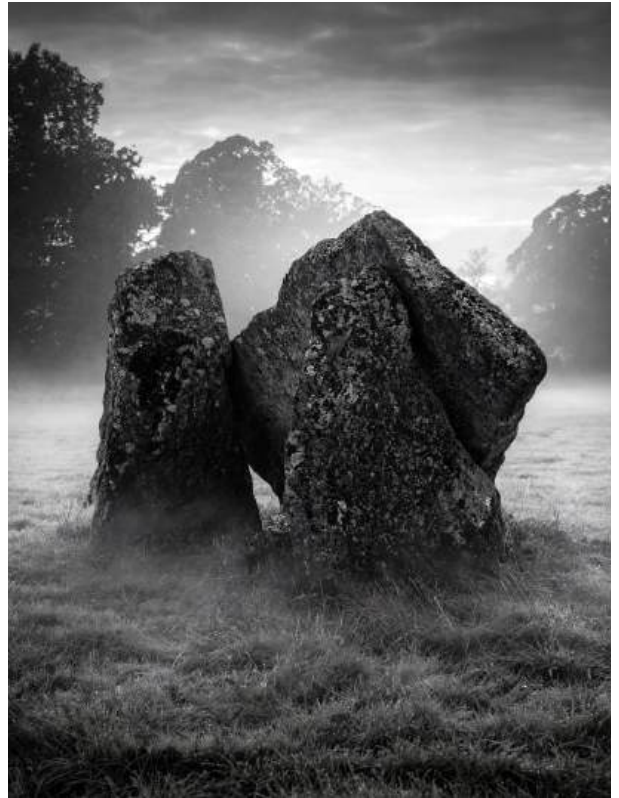
Dear friends, hello again.

There is a stone doorway standing in a field near Burton and Nettleton villages. It is close to six thousand years old, it weighs several tonnes, and it opens onto absolutely nothing at all. Coco and I have walked past it many times. It was only recently that I decided to investigate why it is there.

What follows is what happens when you give a mildly obsessive person a pair of walking boots, a stack of old archaeological reports and a nagging suspicion that these fields harbour hidden secrets.

For centuries folk have walked past those three stones, leaning together comfortably like silent sentinels. They are just one example of the patchwork history that characterises this land we call home. A low rise in a field that turns out to be a long barrow; faint terraces catching the evening light across Badminton Park; the tranquil field at Little Badminton with its remarkable dovecote — casual bookmarks of our landscape. The sort of thing you notice vaguely while wondering whether the Fox & Hounds is doing a curry night or whether the green bins are out.

Back to those three stones at Lugbury. They form a false portal, an impressive doorway that leads nowhere, with more than a hint of the Egyptian pyramids about it. Hidden beneath them, under the grassy protection of the long mound, a story lurks, frozen in time. Early farmers once placed the bones of their dead here in around 3700 BC, rearranging them over generations so that individual lives were enshrined in a shared ancestry. The barrow belongs to the Cotswold-Severn tradition that once spread across these hills and beyond the Severn. At Hazleton North, for example, a tomb hewn from the same tradition up in the north Cotswolds, ancient DNA revealed five generations of a single extended family, linked through the male line, with women marrying in from outside.



In those distant days, the dead were not buried and left. They were tended, revisited, handled again by children and grandchildren who knew exactly whose bones they were. Like living relics.

A short walk away, meanwhile, just beyond Badminton Park, lies Giant's Cave. Another long barrow, it too held successive burials in side chambers. Imagine those seventeenth-century versions of detectorists, peering into the stone-lined spaces, deciding they must be the work of giants, and giving the place the name it carries to this day.

Two thousand years on, the same ground was being put to a very different use. Sodbury Camp sits on the escarpment above Old Sodbury with double ramparts and ditches that still enclose nearly ten hectares. From the inner bank the land drops gently away towards the Frome valley. Whether it was a permanent settlement, a place of refuge or a grandiose statement of power, it formed part of a chain of hillforts punctuating the Cotswold edge like a necklace.

Between the big monuments the quieter evidence of everyday life is still there if you look closely enough. The "Celtic" field systems that once covered large parts of Badminton Park and ran on towards Luckington survive as lynchets, low terraces created by generations of ploughing sloping land. Some still stand nearly a metre high. They tend to reveal themselves in low sunlight. Take a stroll there, an hour or so before sunset, and the field offers a glimpse of three thousand years of ploughing the earth.

The Romans, unsurprisingly, left clearer traces. The Fosse Way continues to this day to run, straight as an arrow, through our county. Wander through the parkland at Badminton, and you're walking over the buried remains of a substantial late-Roman villa. Local villagers, coming across scatters of pottery and roofing stone, had long suspected something extraordinary lay in the soil below. A geophysical survey and partial excavation from 2003 onwards revealed a complex that included a well-preserved geometric mosaic, dated to around AD 360–380, along with painted plaster and underfloor heating.

Cont'd over

Six Thousand Years of Neighbours (cont'd)

The villa stood among those older Celtic fields, prospered for a while, only to be abandoned as Roman administration faded. The mosaic settled into a subterranean slumber, only to be awoken and then returned to its tomb — a time capsule lying quietly in our midst.

Not everyone who trod the woodland paths and trade routes around here came in peace. In 577 the West Saxons, led by Ceawlin, met a British force on the slopes near Dyrham. Remarkably, they killed not one but three kings in a single afternoon, taking Gloucester, Cirencester and Bath along the way. The older hillfort on Hinton Hill still overlooks the ground where this seismic shift in power took place. Fast forward eleven centuries and the Beaufort family, staunch royal supporters during the Civil War, made Badminton their principal English seat after Raglan Castle was ruined. The majestic park we know today was laid out directly on top of it all — the Celtic fields, the lynchets, the sleeping Roman villa.

Not all that is worth seeing here is prehistoric. Nestling in the grounds at Little Badminton are the earthworks of a sunken medieval village. Nearby, rather modestly, stands a beautiful late-medieval dovecote. It's Grade II listed and widely regarded as one of the finest early examples in the country, all the better for its recent restoration work. A stone's throw away, the ancient church of St Michael and All Angels, begun in the early thirteenth century, continues to watch over the place. In Acton Turville, the twelfth-century church of St Mary tolls its bell and offers its timeless embrace to the local community. Down the road, at nearby Littleton Drew, fragments of a ninth-century cross-shaft are built into the church porch beside a thirteenth-century font. Nobody built any of this to impress us. They built it out of a profound sense of respect and belonging, from one century to another.

Royalty has passed through here more than once, too. In August 1535 Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, on their West Country progress, stayed at nearby Little Sodbury Manor. Four and a half centuries later, in December 1981, Queen Elizabeth II and her cortege, stranded by a sudden blizzard on the A46 near Old Sodbury en route from Gatcombe Park to Windsor Castle, took refuge at the Cross Hands Hotel. I wonder if Her Majesty treated the stunned locals to a round of drinks?



What continues to intrigue me is how much of this is still here, in the fields, along the lanes, under our feet, within touching distance. The long barrows, the hillfort, the faint lynchets, the villa under the grass, the dovecote, the churches — all part of the rich history of our community and landscape. A golden thread connecting Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Littleton Drew and the people, traditions and cultures that have shaped where we live. There's something deeply moving about stopping in the middle of all that and realising you are part of it.

The other evening, I was wandering through Badminton Woods with Coco. Dusk was falling, the shadows were lengthening, the rooks were roosting overhead. Nothing dramatic was

happening. A tractor moved along the lane near Castle Barn. Somewhere a gate closed with that familiar wooden thud and a hound barked mournfully in the distance. Suddenly I just stopped, transfixed.

I was overwhelmed by a sense of time standing still, a camera shutter's click capturing the moment. "How many others have travelled along these ancient paths?" I mused. "Who else across the centuries has stood on this very patch of land and decided it mattered?" I wondered. They farmed it, defended it, buried their dead in it, built in it, and then, in the inevitable way of these things, were themselves folded back into it.

Next time you walk these lanes, stop for a moment. Not because anything is going to announce itself with horns, arrows or musket-fire, but because you are moving through a place that has been known, worked, fought over and commemorated for more than six thousand years.

In centuries to come, our time will be an era people hark back to. Things we consider routine, acceptable, part of life and death, will be considered remarkable. Let's make it worth their curiosity and a heritage to be genuinely proud of.

Simon Long, Acton Turville

The Coaching Club at Badminton



The Coaching Club is no stranger to Badminton, having appointed Charles Henry Somerset, the 8th Duke of Beaufort, as its first President way back in 1871. Since then, the club has regarded its regular visits to Badminton as something of a homecoming, and the sight of the immaculately-presented carriages, each drawn by a team of four equally immaculately presented horses, created a stirring vision as they transported their passengers across the Badminton Estate.

After assembling to the front of Badminton House, the six carriages processed to Worcester Lodge, making their way through Hinnegar Woods where low-hanging branches presented passengers with an unexpected challenge that all thankfully negotiated safely. With light refreshments consumed, it was back through the Hinnegar obstacle course to afternoon tea in Badminton House.

Words and pictures really can't convey the perfection of the event. Our friend said it brought a tear to her eye, which we think sums it up rather well.

Our sincere thanks go to Katie Harris from the Estate Office for inviting Talk Back to this wonderful event, to all members of the Coaching Club for making us feel so welcome, and to Gill Carter for the great pictures.

Heavy Horses at Rangeworthy



After the perfection of the Coaching Club came the splendour of heavy horses, courtesy of the Oakfield Farm Heavy Horse Open Day. Located near Rangeworthy, this annual event is fast becoming a firm favourite with us here at Talk Back, offering a wide range of attractions in a relaxed, friendly setting. There really was something for all the family, with an interesting and varied range of stalls, bouncy castles for the kids and a fun dog show (which definitely lived up to its name!).

It was the heavy horses which were the undoubted stars of the show though. They looked immaculate in the show ring, with their coats shining and their mains plaited to impress the judges in the in-hand showing competition, and they looked superb in the fields where they were used to demonstrate a wide range of vintage farm machinery. The sight of these huge, powerful animals emerging from the dust, beautifully harnessed and with their feathers flying, really was a sight to behold and took you back to another age. Watch out for it next year, you won't be disappointed.

Pictures courtesy of Gill Carter



Picture Gallery



Nestled in the shadows of the Malvern Hills, the steam fair at Welland has been an annual fixture in the calendar since 1964. The show seems to get bigger every year, and the non-stop action sometimes makes it difficult to take it all in, especially in the baking temperatures that this year's event experienced. We hope you enjoy our pictures, which can only give a small idea of what there was to see.



Church Matters

September 2026 Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

Is there intelligent Life in the universe beyond our solar system? This is a fascinating question which has intrigued scientists for the last 60 years at least.

The new thinking seems to be that if there is Life, there is no reason why it should have followed the biological patterns that occurred here on earth, through evolution. For example, there is no reason why intelligent Life might not have an entirely different form than a physical body! Indeed, if life had developed an intelligent form through air, or water, then it could take the form of a sea, or some sort of airborne cloud.

But were there to be Life on a planet orbiting a star, in a galaxy thousands of light years away, a good theological question is would our God be their God? I cannot help thinking about this and comparing it to the colonization by European countries of large parts of the world, and taking our religion with us. Sometimes evangelizing indigenous peoples in a manner utterly lacking any vestige of humility. And being very ignorant of the way that others understand and respond to the One we call God. No doubt, there would be those who would argue that we have a responsibility to evangelise other intelligent forms of life. But hopefully, there might be some who would prefer to listen and perceive what spirituality might be present amongst alien forms of life. As well as to share what we believe.

But, would it not be interesting to learn what spirituality other intelligent forms of life have! And what stories, rituals, morality and laws stem from their belief systems. I write this as we gaze up to heaven in expectation of a solar eclipse. And in a summer of clear skies, with reasonable visibility of stars, one wonders what more miracles God has to reveal to us as we expand our knowledge of this amazing creation.

With my best wishes for a happy September, especially to those beginning at a new educational establishment.

May the years at your new school/university be happy ones.

Rev Richard Thomson

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236 / 07717791858

Church Services for September 2026

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
6 th September	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 with HC BCP	Rev R Thomson
13 th September	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	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
20 th September	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Family Service with Baptism	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young - Talk
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3.00pm	Acton Turville	Harvest Service	Rev R Thomson
27 th September	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW + PCC	Rev R Thomson
	6.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

See Benefice website for readings: badmintonbenefice.com

ACTON TURVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Acton Turville Parish Council will be on:

Monday 14th September 2026 @ 7.00pm

Venue: Trinity School, Acton Turville.

Updates from the September meeting will appear in the October issue of Local Talk Back.

Police Support Officer. We were sorry to hear that our local Police Community Support Officer, Cheryl Dibble, will shortly be moving to another area. Cheryl has been our PCSO for more than two years in which time she has worked hard to support the local community, regularly providing a visible police presence in the village with the "Mobile Police Station" (Police Van!) and chatting with villagers about a wide range of subjects. The Parish Council always appreciated the reports that Cheryl provided at our monthly meetings, and her willingness to openly discuss any concerns we might have had. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council remains keen to see a Neighbourhood Watch scheme established for Acton Turville and would very much like to hear from volunteers who can help set one up and run it. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance if you think you might be able to assist, or would like to discuss what is involved.

Contact details for Parish Councillors are as follow:

Chair: Ian Carter 07789 057168, Vice Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772,

Sally Smith 07789 414606, Mark Studden 07885 791314, Melanie Greggain 07878 636674

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 01249 650052

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

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the August quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

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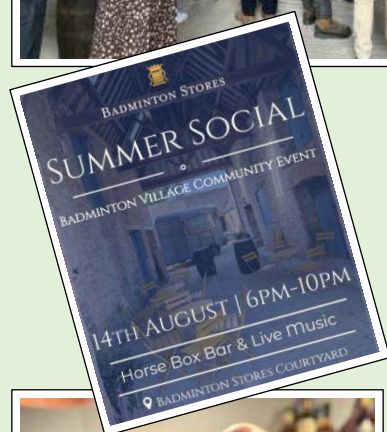
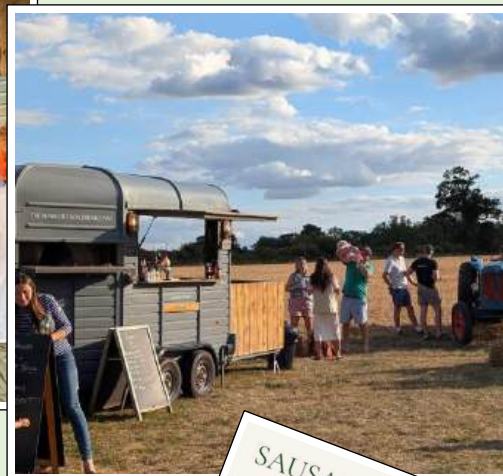
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SCENES OF SUMMER IN ACTON TURVILLE AND BADMINTON



The communities of Badminton and Acton Turville certainly made the most of some wonderful weather and equally fine hospitality at a series of events which took place over the summer at the Badminton Stores and Fox & Hounds pub. It was great to see so many villagers coming out and enjoying the atmosphere at the events which were organised by Allen Hill and his team.

Make sure you keep an eye on Local Talk Back for news about further events later in the year!

Photos courtesy of the Badminton Estate and Simon Long



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