

Local Talk Back

DECEMBER 2021

ISSUE 522

Merry Christmas from Local Talk Back



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



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

EDITORIAL DECEMBER 2021

I was reading recently about the potential demise of the charity collecting tin. Apparently we're rapidly becoming a cashless society where even the smallest purchases are made electronically using credit or debit cards. As a result, those charities which rely on us to drop a handful of loose change into a bucket as we emerge from the supermarket are being badly hit. This was brought home to me recently when I answered the door to Alastair Gilbert who was collecting on behalf of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Day appeal. Once we'd finished exchanging the usual pleasantries it dawned on me that I didn't have any cash in the house at all. After searching all possible options, the best I could do was a handful of small-denomination foreign coins left over from distant holidays abroad and a collection of football coins that had been given away with petrol to coincide with the 1996 European Championships. Spotting several duplicates I did consider dropping those into the collecting tin, but Alastair's a big bloke so I didn't fancy the consequences of getting caught. I mumbled an apology and promised to be carrying cash next time I saw him (rumours that I've been avoiding him ever since are exaggerated).

Many larger charities have responded to the lack of cash by encouraging us to donate via direct debit instead. They like that because it gives them a more regular and consistent income which in turn allows them to plan and budget. I'm sure they also rely on the fact that some people sign the direct debit form with the intention of cancelling it as soon as they get home, but for one reason or another never get round to it and pay in perpetuity. I dread to think how much Gill and I have sent to support homeless Peruvian donkeys over the years, even though we only signed up to stop the man with a clipboard and sad eyes from bothering us.

It turns out it's the smaller charities who are being hit hardest by the move away from cash, and as many of those are the charities who work to support local good causes, the consequences can be felt close to home. There's also a knock-on effect. A person holding a collecting bucket gives a charity a human face. Sit someone outside Tesco's with a gaggle of friendly-looking rescue greyhounds and the chances are people will chat to them, learn about the good work being performed by the charity, slip a healthy donation into the collecting bucket and walk away with a positive impression of the charity. Confronting someone with a direct debit form somehow doesn't have the same attraction. I don't know what the answer is, but I'm making sure I have a handful of loose change handy in case of future callers.

Of course, at this time of year you can justifiably expect some of those "future callers" to be carol singers. Carol singers are traditionally depicted in films as a group of adults who cheerily and very tunefully deliver a medley of Christmas favourites (the exception being in *The Muppet Christmas Carol* film). You can also guarantee that at least one person (or a small green frog) will be holding a lantern, and snow will be falling. My memories of carol singers are slightly different and involve groups of pre-teens going from house to house with a rather limited repertoire comprising nothing more than the first two lines of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" for which they would expect payment (in cash). Thankfully those sorts of practices seem to be a thing of the past, and in their place we have groups such as The Lions Club who bring Santa round on a float, and children from the local schools who deliver carols in a much more traditional (and heart warming) format. To save your embarrassment, I recommend making sure you have something to put into their buckets or next year they'll be round with direct debit forms.

So, that's it for another year. Talk Back is very much a team effort and I want to thank everyone who plays their part in producing, supporting and delivering the newsletter every month. A special mention must go to our dear friend Prue Moss who is stepping down as treasurer after many years spent holding the purse strings. Thanks for keeping us on the straight and narrow Prue. That just leave space to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2022!

Until the next time

IAN CARTER

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF LOCAL TALK BACK WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2022.
 PLEASE SEND IN ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION BY 15TH JANUARY.

LIST OF BUSINESSES ADVERTISING IN LOCAL TALK BACK THIS MONTH

**(if using these advertisers please tell them that you
saw it here in the Local Talk Back)**

- 4 COUNTIES OIL TANKS
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- COACHSTYLE MOT TESTING STATION
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- EasyMove.com - Property Auctions
- FARM SHOP AT HAWKESBURY
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- PRIOR & COMPANY - Building & Renovations
- PUMPKINS NURSERY
- VILLAGE LINK – Community transport

DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

We have received the following donations this month for which we are most grateful:

Dr and Mrs R Hartley - £20

Mrs B Hope - £20

Anonymous - £20

In addition, £14.60 was very generously 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**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACTON TURVILLE

100 Club

WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Joanna Dickson Leach

Doreen Shortall

Fred Hope

Congratulations!

**Happy Birthday to
Ian Burbidge
who celebrated his 80th birthday
on the 18 November**



**Love from
Carol and family**



LOCAL TALK BACK ON-LINE

Did you know Local Talk Back is just a click away?

Copies are available from the Acton Turville Information website at the following address:

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

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.
Thank you.***

NOVEMBER 2021

Playing Field

The grass cutting season is now over and will be starting again in the new year. Help is still needed for volunteers to cut the grass in the Spring. If you are considering joining our team of volunteers, or just need more information, please contact a Councillor or the Clerk

Village Autumn "Tidy-Up"

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who kindly volunteered on Saturday 23 October for the Autumn Tidy Up. Various areas were weeded, including the Lavender bed which has been dug up ready to be re-planted in the Spring. Other activities such as cutting back overgrown vegetation and the removal of litter also took place. It is hoped to continue these events twice a year to keep our village looking neat and tidy.

Annual Precept

Councillors have agreed unanimously that the Annual Precept received from South Gloucestershire Council for the next financial year (2022/23) shall not be increased.

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who placed wreaths and decorated the Village Well for Remembrance Day, the 11th November. It is much appreciated.

Parish Councillors:

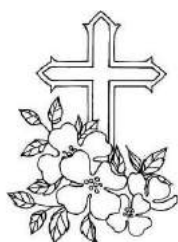
Chair: Sybil Haddrell 218772, Sally Smith 218510, Vice Chair: Ian Carter 219129

Claire Broomsgrove 218433, Mark Studden 07885 791314

Next Meeting: Monday 13 December 2021 @ 7 pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, Acton Turville.
Details on website and Parish Notice Board

Parish Clerk: Sue Radford-Hancock Tel: 218675

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



MARJORIE MILLS

We were saddened to hear that Marjorie Mills, who worked for many years in the Badminton Estate office, passed away at the beginning of November. Before moving to a retirement home in Chippenham, Marjorie lived in Little Badminton and still had many good friends in the village. Her funeral took place in Great Badminton church. Our sincere condolences go out to Marjorie's Family.

NEWS



We hope you like this month's cover. It looks great doesn't it? What's even more remarkable is it's actually life-size! Sophie Cullinane, Community Fundraiser with St Peter's Hospice in Bristol, explained that the wonderfully-named Knitvity was hand knitted by Anne, Eileen, Julia, Alison, Pat and Jean who had all worked together at St Teresa's School, Bristol. "It was created in memory of their friend and colleague Christine Walsh, to raise funds for St Peter's

Hospice who cared for her in her last days. So far over £100,000 has been raised by displaying the Knitvity and selling Christmas Cards with the image on". If you want to see the Knitvity for yourself and help support this very worthwhile cause, it will be on display at Cribbs Causeway from the 25th November - 24th December 2021.

Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Wednesday 8th December

Live Music from Richie C!

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£10.00 per head

Everyone welcome!

Luncheon Club returns in the New Year
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

FOX
& HOUNDS INN

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&
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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Sending Gifts

Reminder of Last Posting Dates for Christmas Delivery

1st Class - Tuesday 21 December

2nd Class - Saturday 18 December

FROM ICE CREAMS TO COACHES

BY RAY BIRD, ACTON TURVILLE

Whether it was to make a shopping trip to Yate or Malmesbury, or going on an outing further afield, many of you at some time will have probably used the services of Coachstyle of Horsedown Garage, near Burton. Prior to it being Coachstyle, some of you may remember it as Flint's coaches. This article traces the history of how it all began, as told to Ray Bird by the late Bob Flint.

The foundation of the business was started by Bob's father Humphrey James (Jim) in the early 1920s. Jim was a bit of an entrepreneur of his day and had his finger in a number of pies where there was a "shilling to be made". These included starting a haulage business with a 30 cwt Chevrolet truck in which he collected the milk churns from the surrounding farms, some of which he processed himself from his home at Horsedown Cottage in Burton, and started a local daily milk round. As well as the milk round, he made ice-cream that he also sold around the local villages from a motor cycle and sidecar. I remember being told of this service coming around Badminton. That business ceased with the onset of WW2. After keeping the milk he required for his own use, the remaining churns would be taken to Badminton railway station for transporting to a milk processing plant at Wotton Bassett. Spotting a business opportunity, he soon supplemented the work he was getting collecting milk churns from the local farms by transporting their livestock to market using several cattle trucks that he purchased specially for the job.



The late Bob Flint, proudly standing in front of one of his coaches.

While all the aforementioned exploits were helping put coffers in the kitty, the backbone of his business from the beginning had been transporting people from A to B, starting with a private car taxi service. For larger groups of passengers that needed to be transported, such as local ladies to their WI meetings at Castle Combe, Jim got his brother who was a carpenter, to build a wooden body to fix on the back of his Chevrolet truck, complete with a hook-on step at the rear.

In 1926 Jim got his first County Council contract, when, following the closure of Littleton Drew School, he was hired to convey the children from there to Grittleton Village School. The following year he purchased his first coach, a Crossley, and so the first steps of the Horsedown Coach business that we know today began, albeit in those early days the depot was little more than a barren piece of ground with a small workshop on it. As time went on two more coaches were added to the fleet. At first these were mainly being used for private hire purposes, and contracts from the government to take workers from around the region to building sites, aerodromes and other military bases during WW2. After the war things began to gradually change. Although the daily transportation of school children and workers remained the firms daily "bread and butter", gradually the pleasure industry was becoming more popular, and so day trips to seaside places such as Weston-super-Mare and Weymouth, as well as mystery tours, became an increasing part of the business. These trips regularly included on the way home a scheduled pub stop, followed a bit further along the road by an unscheduled stop on the side of the road by a wood or tall hedgerow, where like a speeded-up Benny Hill TV sketch, a hasty retreat was made from the coach with the ladies disappearing behind trees and bushes on one side of the road and the gents on the other. With all back on board and accounted for the coach would be en-route once more, the day invariably ending with a good old-fashioned sing-song.

In 1980 Jim died and the business passed to his son Bob. In his latter years, perhaps understandably, Jim had been happy to take things a bit easy and let the business just plod on, so when Bob took over there were still only three coaches. Bob had been a driver there since 1949 and knew the business well, so under his control the company embarked on a period of expansion. The fleet eventually grew to a total of ten coaches, with 5-6 full time drivers and another 4-5 part time, plus a mechanic to look after the vehicles.

To warrant the extra coaches and staff he undertook more outings. These included more long weekends away where passengers stayed in pre-booked hotels or B&Bs, and even longer holiday trips such as a 7-day tour of Scotland. Some of our older residents will remember that it was often Bob himself or Dennis Wright (the latter having worked for Jim, and then Bob, for nearly 50 years) who were the drivers that took them on those longer trips.



In 1995 Bob retired, and the business was taken on by Coachstyle. Bob sadly passed away earlier this year, but the memories and legacy of Flint's Coaches live on.

Footnote - if you have any interesting memories of going on an outing with Flint's coaches, then please let us know.



The changing face of bus travel. Above, an old Crossley bus similar to one operated by Flint's Coaches, and right, a picture showing one of today's Coachstyle buses heading through Acton Turville on its way to Yate.

Sudoku

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the November quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Church Matters

December 2021 Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

Every so often you find that something that you have has become limiting. Like a tractor that was perfect ten years ago, it had attachments that harrowed, cut, chopped down trees, sheared hedges and so on, it was like magic.

But then you realise that you are living in a different world, and you know that other farmers are able to communicate with satellites, take readings and measurements, shave hours off laborious tractor driving. And you wonder why you can't do those things. Then you realise that your beloved old tractor is no longer helping you, but rather limiting. So you go out and buy a new one and life becomes much simpler and more can be achieved.

That is what happened to our old website, Badmintonchurches.com. Ben Humphries our organist and videographer has built us a new website based on google, that means we can do things that simply were not possible with the old one.

Now the calendar of services can be seen as before, but without having to be entered in separately. Our live twitter page can be watched, our weekly videos of services can be assessed through, emails can be sent and all this has been made possible by setting aside the old and getting in the new.

You may wonder what all this has to do with December. And the answer is that in this time of Advent, we are awaiting someone completely new entering our world. Someone who we will wonder how we ever managed without him before, someone who will breathe life into old bones and give us new sight so that we can see everything with new eyes. Someone above all, who will know right from wrong and will help us to see clearly what is of God and what is not.

It is like setting an old tractor aside, with all its limitations, and getting a new one that makes so much more possible and achievable.

Jesus the Son is coming. Are you ready to receive Him? Are you setting aside time to pray, to read your Bible, to attend church? He is standing at the door knocking, will you open the door and let him in? He will make everything so much better in your life, of that you can be sure.

With my best wishes,

Richard Thomson

Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Rd. Badminton GL9 1EU

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236 Mobile 077 177 91858

Christmas Carols for Gloucestershire's Countryside

Local countryside charity CPRE Gloucestershire is holding its first ever Carol Concert at the beautiful Church of Holy Innocents at Highnam on Tuesday 14 December from 6pm.

Traditional carols, the Cadenza Choir, poems and readings will make this a very special event.

The Concert will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies to give that truly Christmassy feel.

Tickets are just £10 for adults, £5 for children, and can be purchased from

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carol-concert-tickets-191746548087>

Thanks to very generous sponsorship from Savills, every ticket bought will help this feisty local charity achieve its ambitions in 2022, from an ambitious hedgerow planting project across Gloucestershire to wellness walks in the countryside for local residents.



The countryside charity
Gloucestershire

Church Matters

Badminton Benefice Rota for December 2021/January 2022					
Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service	
	5 th December	9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 3.00pm	Lasborough Hawkesbury Didmarton Acton Turville	Matins Parish Communion Matins Evensong	Lay Led RT RT RT
	12 th December	9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 5.00pm	Lasborough Leighterton Little Badminton Hawkesbury	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Matins Evensong	P Cheeseman RT RT RT
	18 th December	6.00pm	Didmarton	Carol Service	RT
	19 th December	11.15am 5.00pm 3.00pm 6.00pm	Sopworth Hawkesbury Acton Turville Westonbirt	Matins FOSM Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service	RT Rev John Hunnisett RT P Cheeseman
	23 rd December	4.00pm	Acton Turville	Christingle	RT
	24 th December	4.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm	Hawkesbury Leighterton Lasborough Sopworth Didmarton	Festival of Light Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service Midnight Mass	RT RT Wulstan Perks Revs. Maslen RT
	25 th December	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am	Hawkesbury Lasborough Great Badminton	HC CW HC CW Christmas Morning Service	Rev Rob Axford RT RT
	26 th December		No Services		
	2 nd January	9.30am 11.15am 3.00pm	Hawkesbury Didmarton Acton Turville	Holy Communion Matins Evensong with HC	RT RT RT
	9 th January	11.15am 3.00pm	Didmarton Acton Turville	Matins Evensong with HC	RT RT
	16 th January	11.15am 9.30am 8.30am 3.00pm	Little Badminton Hawkesbury Didmarton Acton Turville	Matins Evensong Holy Communion Evensong	RT RT RT RT
Epiphany 3	23 rd January	11.15am 5.00pm	Little Badminton Hawkesbury	Matins Evensong	RT RT
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	30 th January	8.30am 11.15am	Didmarton Hawkesbury	Holy Communion Matins	RT RT



St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

It's Christmas time, and we can celebrate, as a village, in our lovely church once more.



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 19th December at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Stay for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.



The Christingle Service will be held on Thursday 23rd December at 4.30pm. Children are especially welcome.



Both services will be led by Rev Richard Thomson.

The Year in Pictures



The December issue of Local Talk Back traditionally includes something of a retrospective, looking back over the shoulder to remind us of the events we covered during the year. Weather-wise, 2021 started with sunshine, but that was soon swept away with frost, snow and rain. Lots of rain. In February, we sent Yvonne Nettles to investigate reports of a new river system that had appeared in Little Badminton. Her picture on the left confirmed the rumours may well have been true.

By March, the rains had subsided and the local wildlife was beginning to emerge from its winter slumber. Ray Bird put some food out for the animals and was amazed when he saw an inquisitive fox enjoying a light lunch right outside his kitchen window. His pictures of the fox were a big hit with many of our readers, and rightly so.

Things warmed up in April, just in time for the first of the Badminton House open garden events which this year included the pretty gardens at Well Cottage. This would be the first of three open days, raising welcome funds for worthwhile causes. And by the time Yvonne Nettles snapped these two riders in May making the most of our beautiful countryside, summer was in full swing and we were all looking forward to some much needed sunshine.



The Year in Pictures

Unfortunately the summer of 2021 won't go down in the record books as being a classic. The general consensus is it was a bit lacklustre, but you wouldn't know that from the pictures that appeared in Talk Back.

We go back to June for our next picture, although it looks more suited to Halloween. It shows a hedge cloaked in webs formed by ermine moth caterpillars. The webs protect the caterpillars from predators while they strip the leaves from the hedge. More pictures below from Yvonne Nettles show the fireworks that filled the sky when the Badminton Estate hosted a firework competition in July. Let's hope they return in 2022.

Schoolchildren have had their education particularly impacted by COVID restrictions, so in August we were delighted to publish the pictures sent in by Hannah Ewers Ward marking Year Six's last day at Trinity School. The school really made an effort to make the day special.

And finally, in September, the Church held a very successful Tea Party at the Badminton Memorial Hall. It was a perfect day, with an excellent turnout of over 100 people, a very popular raffle and plenty of cake. Jake Olver kindly provided Talk Back with a set of pictures that captured the event for posterity.



J J'S GARDENING BLOG



Generally in this area we garden on alkaline soil, which makes the task of growing acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons, camellias and many magnolias very labour intensive. The results will probably be short lived too. Magnolia Stellata which is slow growing with either white or pink flowers is possible, where "possible" means being kind; give it a feed of compost every now and again and maybe some Sequestrene.

When I have been out walking, I have noticed substantial patches of bracken growing here and there. In case you do not know what this looks like, it is very attractive as it dies down, like a tall fern with lovely bronze/orange foliage, whilst in the summer it is green.

This is not a plant to have in your garden, it spreads like wildfire so leave it in the wild. If you are out walking, there is a patch along the vineyard road, another on the road linking Alderton to Acton Turville. However, bracken thrives in acid soil so it is possible that you may have an area in your garden which would make a good planting spot for a Camellia. If you have a Camellia, make sure to water it through the winter or the flower buds will drop off. If you want to find out if you have just the place, you can do some research with a soil testing kit from any garden centre or nursery. Even have a chemistry moment with the children. Another indicator is what colour hydrangeas you have growing in the soil, typically pink for us and blue for those with acid soil. If you want blue, keep it in a pot and water it with rainwater, a bit of a faff.

Thinking of a Fern?

You may get garden vouchers for Christmas, so lots of fun deciding what plants to buy with them. If you have a hankering for an Australian Tree Fern, which looks rather like a soft leaved palm tree, buy a trunk to the finished height you would like (rather expensive) without leafy fronds, as they are incredibly slow growing.

Jobs for This Month

Dig up gladioli corms, rub off any bulblets which would flower eventually, and store in the shed in a cake tin. Rake up fallen leaves to stop paths getting slippery, and either store them in a chicken wire enclosure to rot, when they will reduce by about three quarters or add them to your compost container.

Net over your brassicas before the pigeons snack on them.

If you haven't already, plant your tulips to follow on from your daffodils. Instructions on the pack! Tulips originate from places like Turkey, so should be planted deep to keep them away from the cold as much as possible.

Cut off Hellebore leaves. If you don't do this now, it will be very difficult to do so as the new young flowers will be in the way!

If you are cutting anything back, just bear in mind that plants with thorns are very tough. So do not worry.

And Finally

Happy Christmas!

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND VEG MARKET GARDEN

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER A £10 OR £15 ORGANIC VEG BOX,
TO BE COLLECTED WEEKLY FROM THE SMALL HOUSE BOX FROM 11 AM
AT THE BLUE IRON GATES TO KENNEL DRIVE, BADMINTON?

AND/OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC VEG GROWING
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& HOUNDS INN

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Bookings now being taken for Christmas

Ask at the Bar for the Christmas Menu & Booking Form

Christmas Menu available from 1st December



TAKEAWAYS lunchtimes/evenings
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Luncheon Club

2nd Wednesday of every month
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Bir el Gubi Memorial Service

by Jake Olver

On Sunday 28th November, members of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association gathered in large number at St Michael & All Angels in Badminton to attend the annual el Gubi memorial service. This year's service took place almost 80 years to the day after a most fateful engagement at Bir el Gubi that took place on 19th November 1941 in the Libyan campaign of World War 2.

One by one, the names of the 234 members of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars who died while serving with the Regiment, or who appear on the War Office Roll of Honour, were read out by Colonel John Penley OBE, TD Honorary Colonel of the present RGH Army Reserve squadron, now part of the Wessex Yeomanry. The pictures below, taken by photographer Alexandra Wharton, perfectly capture the atmosphere of this very special event.

We will remember them

