

# Local Talk Back

FEBRUARY 2022

ISSUE 523



It's going to be a lovely day. Photo by Chris Farrell, Acton Turville



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

# EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 2022

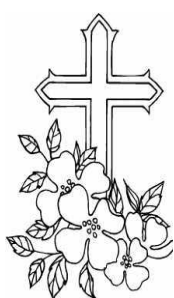
Hands up who remembers the Queen's Silver Jubilee. That's interesting, quite a few arms aloft. The Silver Jubilee was in 1977, 45 years ago. According to a quick Google search, approximately 45% of people alive in the UK today were born prior to 1977, so yes, we'd expect to see just under half of you with your hands up. You can put them down now. Right, next question. Who was around the day Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the Throne on the death of her father, King George the VI? Hmm, not so many. That was back in 1952, on the 6<sup>th</sup> February: it would be another four months before her Coronation. Google tells me that 15% of the current UK population was born prior to 1952 which means for a remarkable 85% of us, Queen Elizabeth II is the only Head of State we have ever known. I think that deserves celebrating, don't you?

As far as I can see, there's not a great deal happening on the 6<sup>th</sup> February. There's a suggestion that churches may hold services or ring their bells to mark the occasion, but it looks like the country's saving itself for the main events which are occurring in June. Many of those will be in or around London, including a birthday Trooping the Colour and a Party at the Palace, where "some of the world's biggest entertainment stars" (their words) will come together to celebrate key moments from Her Majesty's reign. My money's on Ant and Dec being involved in some way. I was also intrigued to see that the Queen would be attending the Cazoo Derby at Epsom which conjured up a worrying image of massed ranks of people playing The National Anthem on children's musical whistles. Thankfully Cazoo is the name of the sponsor. Panic averted.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June sees the Big Jubilee Lunch, which for me brings back memories from 1977 of flags, bunting, trestle tables and a mountain of sandwiches as our neighbourhood put on its very own street party. The 2022 Big Jubilee Lunch isn't so much an event but a series of events, with communities putting on parties for the purpose of bringing everybody together in a spirit of fun and friendship. I know there are plans underway to organise village parties locally, and you'll find details of the event being held in Acton Turville on the What's On page. Why not let us know what you'll be doing to celebrate the Jubilee. We'd love to hear from you.

Until the next time

IAN CARTER



## In Memoriam

### ANDY CAPP

All of us here at Local Talk Back were greatly saddened to hear that Andy Capp had passed away. He was just 57 years old. Andy grew up in Burton but had lived in Badminton since meeting his wife Rachel. We send our condolences to Rachel, children Jade and Bradley and to Andy's sisters Heather and Hazel. Rest in peace Andy.

### RITA HAZZARD

We were very sorry to receive the news late last year that Rita Hazzard had passed away. Rita and her late husband Jack, who died in 2020, were a devoted couple who had been married for over 60 years. They lived all their married life in Acton Turville, with over 50 of those years spent in Chapel Lane.

We send our deepest sympathy to Fiona and the rest of the family and friends.



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

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

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

THANK YOU.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

#### **February**

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> – Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> - No Time to Die (12A) at the Rural Cinema, Didmarton Village Hall

*See What's On page for full details*

#### **Forthcoming events**

#### **March**

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> - Beaufort Hunt Point-to-Point

#### **April**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> - Badminton House Open Gardens

#### **May**

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> - Sun 8<sup>th</sup> - Badminton Horse Trials

Sat 28<sup>th</sup>/Sun 29<sup>th</sup> – Castle Combe Steam Fair

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

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

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

*Mr N Williamson £30*

*Great Badminton Parish Council £160*

*Mrs J Earl £20*

*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 DECEMBER 2021

**Hannah Griffin**

**Pauline Hewitt**

**John Ridd**

WINNERS FOR JANUARY 2022

**Matthew Butler**

**Adrian Sainsbury**

**Eileen Whitlock**

*Congratulations!*

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# 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.*

## JANUARY 2022

### Playing Field

Additional volunteers would be appreciated to help in the Spring to maintain the field and play area. Please contact a Councillor or the Clerk for further information.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

We regret to report anti-social behaviour has again occurred both in the playing field and the area around the Parish Council noticeboard. This will not be tolerated. Anyone seen damaging the play equipment or the plants/troughs in front of the noticeboard will be reported. Additional Police presence has been requested in order to deter these incidents happening again.

### Burglaries

There have been a number of burglaries reported in the area. We would ask that everyone remains vigilant and to those with security lighting, make sure they are in good order. If you see anything suspicious ring the Police on 101 or in the event of an emergency dial 999.

### Parish Councillors:

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

Next Meeting: Monday 14 February 2022 @ 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](mailto:actonturvillepc@aol.com) Website: [www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org](http://www.actonturvilleparishcouncil.org)

## **J J'S GARDENING BLOG**



A few thoughts on growing some plants for picking and taking indoors. Berries, crab apple branches, cornus, quite a choice with coloured stems from dark maroon, yellow, green and orange. Even something like heuchera leaves also in various colours, for a small arrangement. How about a shrub? Physocarpus diabolus is very striking with its dark red leaves.

When cutting something to put in a vase, if possible do so in the twilight and steep in a bucket of water overnight. They will then last much longer.

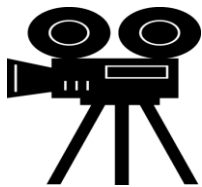
You can make a small wreath out of some Rosemary when it is quite pliable, perhaps for Easter.

Allium, grasses and seed pods, see what you can find. There's so much to choose from.

# WHAT'S ON

## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Didmarton Village Hall, Friday 18th February 2022



### NO TIME TO DIE

(2021, 12A) – Drama

Starring: Daniel Craig, Rami Malek, Lea Seydoux

In 'No Time To Die', James Bond's mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist turns out to be far more treacherous than expected, leading Bond onto the trail of a mysterious villain armed with dangerous new technology.

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

**Tickets £5, cash bar**

*Please let us know in advance if you intend attending so we can arrange tables and chairs*

[jennybody@btconnect.com](mailto:jennybody@btconnect.com)

## Fox & Hounds Luncheon Club

*Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February*

Tea/Coffee on arrival

Two Course Lunch (main course + dessert)

Coffee to finish

£10.00 per head

**Everyone welcome!**

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



Acton Turville, nr Badminton  
GL9 1HW

**01454 218224**



## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



### **Save the date!**

In hearty celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, an Acton Turville village fête will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm in the village playing field.

There will be plenty of activities and entertainment for people of all ages to enjoy, including: live music, a marquee with seating, communal high tea/picnic, bouncy castle, face painting, refreshments, ice cream and traditional games. More activities are being lined up so watch this space!

If you'd like to help volunteer on the day or share an idea, please email at  
**[actonturvilleconnect@outlook.com](mailto:actonturvilleconnect@outlook.com)**

## BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2022

They're back! It's great to hear that the Badminton Horse Trials will return in 2022, running from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> May with the Cross Country taking place on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

***Please note that this year, entry is strictly by advance ticket only. No admission or parking tickets will be available on the day.***

The good news is the Badminton box office is now open and you can purchase your tickets on-line by visiting [www.badminton-horse.co.uk](http://www.badminton-horse.co.uk), via telephone on 01454 218375, or by calling into the Horse Trials Office. As always, the most sought-after grandstand seats sell quickly, so please make sure you do not miss out on these either.

*We've really missed the horse trials.  
It's great to see them back!*



## **EULOGY FOR MARJORIE MILLS (BEAVINGTON)**

**In December's Local Talk Back we reported the sad passing of Marjorie Mills. Marjorie lived almost her entire life in Badminton and Little Badminton, working for many years in the Estate Office. She was a much loved and active member of our community who will be greatly missed. As a fitting tribute, we would like to publish the eulogy delivered at her funeral by her nephew, Nick Beavington.**

My name is Nick Beavington. I am the only nephew of Marjorie Mills. It is my privilege to stand before you today and talk about my favorite Aunt. I am heart broken by the loss of my Aunt but honored to have the opportunity to reflect on her life with you today.

Marjorie was born In Badminton on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1924 to Albert and Beatrice Beavington, a sister to Maurice and Fred. She attended Badminton School and lived in Badminton and Little Badminton for over ninety years. After she finished school in Badminton she went to work as a dresser for the mother of the 10th Duke of Beaufort, Louise, until her passing. She then went to work for the Ministry of Food at the Buffer Depot at Acton Turville until 1946. For a time during the war years she was an Air Raid Patrol Warden. She would go out on her bike around the village and blow a whistle when there was notification of a raid and check for any windows that were not blacked out so they would not be a target for the Bombers. When the raid was over she would once again ride her bike around the village, blowing her whistle to indicate that everything was clear.

She told many stories of the war years in Badminton, about Queen Mary staying at the big house, the soldiers that were stationed there, and the monologues she recited for entertainment. Well into her nineties she could still recite those monologues that she told as a girl, and would chuckle when done and say "Not bad eh?"

When the Buffer Depot closed she started work at the Estate Office where she worked until she retired in her late seventies, contributing well over 50 years loyal service to the Badminton Estate. Raymond Mills showed up at the Estate Office one day to do some business. From that day forward they were a couple - he was the love of her life. She married Raymond in 1969 and they lived happily until his passing. They frequently travelled to Italy, Austria and Switzerland. Even after his death she waited for him to come home to the house in Little Badminton and then when she moved to Fairways Home in Chippenham she was always waiting for him to pick her up and take her home.

For numerous years Aunty Marje made an outstanding contribution to Village life and various organizations in Badminton and Little Badminton. She was sympathetic and encouraging in a heartfelt way to the general life of residents within these villages. She gave her entire life to the surrounding area.

Her knowledge, expertise in fundraising, and her voluntary commitment entailed hundreds of hours of service.

She played the game of Badminton in the village Memorial Hall and encouraged members to improve their game by running the Monday Badminton Club. She was both Church Warden and Treasurer for the Badminton Church, doing bookkeeping and overseeing fundraising initiatives which resulted in the complete refurbishment of Little Badminton Church.

Marjorie organized a 50-year school reunion in three weeks when nearly 100 former pupils of the old Badminton School met with their former Headmaster Norman Gibbons.

On April 2nd 2007 she received a special award from South Gloucestershire Council, nominated by Badminton Parish Council, for long service to Badminton and Little Badminton.

Her final move was from Little Badminton to Fairways Care Home in Chippenham.

A big move for her - away from the home and the community she loved, her garden, her rose bushes and of course Tom the cat. She also had lost her ability to drive her car safely.

Rest in Peace Aunty Marje, you will always be loved and cherished. Raymond has returned from fishing and you are going home.

# Claiming financial compensation when the lights go out.

*By Mark Studden, Acton Turville*

Was your weekend without electricity on Saturday 27th November and Sunday 28th November? For those who answer "Yes", I'm sure you'll agree being left without power for almost 30 hours during the depths of winter was a cold, dark, unpleasant and uncomfortable experience. Compared to some people in more remote parts of the country we had it relatively easy, but it remains hugely frustrating when we find ourselves in such a situation due to no fault of our own. At such times our primary focus should be on keeping ourselves safe and warm, as well as checking on elderly and vulnerable members of the community to see if we can do anything to help them. But when things return to normal and power is restored, you might consider what responsibilities the power supply companies have in such situations.

The companies in the UK who distribute electricity over cables and wires to our homes have an obligation under law to ensure their services meet certain standards, and they are required to pay compensation when they fail to deliver a service which meets those standards. This is to encourage them to invest adequately in the infrastructure - transformers, cables and poles and so on - so that the public can rely upon the delivery of power to their homes and businesses. These companies are not the ones you actually *pay* for your electricity, they are the ones whose responsibility it is to *deliver* the electricity safely and reliably to your home. In our area, that company is called Western Power Distribution. which is part of a larger company called National Grid plc.

You can read what their obligations are at the Citizen's Advice website, here:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/problems-with-your-energy-supply/get-compensation-if-you-have-a-power-cut/>

As well as defining the minimum levels of service companies such as Western Power must provide, the website also sets out what compensation they should pay you as a customer should those standards not be met, such as happened back in November.

So, what should you do if you believe you are eligible for compensation? Firstly you need to visit the Western Power website and head to the section marked "Complaints";

<https://www.westernpower.co.uk/contact-us/contacting-western-power/complaints>

Fill in your name and address details, and your email address, then write your complaint in the 'Complaint Details' text box.

In the case of the November incident, I set out my claim as follows:

*"I have recently suffered a complete power outage that lasted from 8:16 a.m. on Saturday 27th November until approx. 1:30 p.m. on Sunday 28th November.*

*I believe, having consulted the Citizen's Advice website on this issue, that I am entitled to compensation in lieu of this failure.*

*The Citizen's Advice website tells me that I must make a claim for compensation within 3 months using your complaints procedure, and so this message is my claim in that respect.*

*Please advise me if I need to do anything further to make a claim for compensation."*

Based on my own experience, a few days later you should receive a reply by email setting out what financial compensation they are intending to give you.

Judging from my own claim, you should be awarded a modest but worthwhile amount in compensation for your recent inconvenience and any losses you might have incurred such as to the contents of your freezer or the need to buy emergency lighting.

We can hope, as well, that having to pay out claims like this will focus attention on the need to invest in robust infrastructure to keep our power supply reliable, even after inclement weather.

# THE ORIGIN OF OUR VILLAGE NAMES

By Ray Bird, Acton Turville

## ACTON TURVILLE

**ACTON** - An old English word meaning "a farmstead or settlement by the Oak trees."

AC meaning Oak, TON meaning Farmstead or Settlement

**TURVILLE** - was added in Norman Times, it being named after the Tuberville family who were Lords of Manor following the Norman Conquest of 1066. The Tuberville's are thought to have been Knights that assisted in William the Conqueror's invading army.

The earliest references I found for them being Lords of the Manor was for a Robert Tuberville in c1160. Occasional references of the family were then found through to the death of Richard de Tuberville in 1287. There is reference to him having a son and heir, also named Richard, but by 1314 a John de Rivere had become Lord of the Manor. The reason for the sudden change is uncertain, but a Thomas de Tuberville was found to have been a traitor to this country, having assisted the commander of an invading French fleet on an attack on England in 1293. Whether he was connected to the Acton Turville family is unknown. It might just be a co-incidence, but datewise it does fit within the period that the Tuberville family ceased to be the Lords of the Manor.

Over the years in documents and maps the name of the village been spelled in many ways. The earliest version that I have found was a reference written by the well-respected historian, the late Percy Couzens from Chipping Sodbury, who wrote that the village may have been called AUGUSTINE AC, and was where an historical meeting may have taken place between the Venerable Bede and Church elders in c603AD.

Other names since have included ACTUNE in a Saxon charter of 972 AD and ACHETONE in the Domesday book of 1086. Post Domesday book names have included - AKETON TUBERVILLE, AICKTON TURVIT, ACTON TURFIELD and ACTON TUBERVILLE.

The first found reference for it having been shortened to TURVILLE was from a document dated between 1214-1225 for a Stephen of AKETON TURVILLE. The earliest found for its entire current spelling of ACTON TURVILLE was on a map of 1799, although I am sure there were earlier references.

## BADMINTON - (GREAT & LITTLE)

Not so easy to find the origin of this name, with no old English meaning found of either the 'BAD' or the 'MIN' in the name. As stated elsewhere - 'TON' meant settlement or farmstead.

According to many historians it should have been BADMARTON. - 'MAR' - being the old Saxon word for 'on or near a boundary', it then being on the Hwicci/West Saxon border (now Glos/Wilts border), as were some other local border villages such as Didmarton and Tormarton. In fact, in the Church parish marriage records for 1583 & 1585 it is spelled BADMARTON.

Some historians say the name BADMINTON means "The Farm of the Beadmund people"

There are older references. In a Saxon charter of 972AD it is spelled BADMYNCTON. Other names have included MADMINTURE in the Domesday book of 1086, and post Domesday book - MADMINTON.

The earliest reference I found for its current spelling of BADMINTON was for 1619.

### 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 11AM  
AT THE BLUE IRON GATES TO KENNEL DRIVE, BADMINTON?  
AND/OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC VEG GROWING  
WITH AN EXPERIENCED GROWER IN ONE OF BADMINTON'S WALLED GARDENS,  
AS AN OCCASIONAL OR REGULAR VOLUNTEER?

IF SO, CONTACT US;  
FORBIDDENFRUIT&VEG@GMAIL.COM  
OR  
07985 465 432



# FLIGHT FROM THE EAST

## DRIVING BACK TO THE UK FROM KUWAIT IN 1969

*By Peter Moss, Acton Turville*

### PART 4. ISTANBUL TO NAPLES

*When we left Peter Moss back in November, he had successfully navigated his trusty MGB from Kuwait, where he had been working for a Japanese oil company as a Civil Engineer, all the way to the city of Istanbul in Turkey. This marked the point where he would leave Asia and head into Europe, a continent still very much recovering from the effects of the Second World War.*

I very much enjoyed my short stay in Istanbul but all good things come to an end and it was time to press on through Europe. There was a route choice to be made.

I could either take a more direct Northern route through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, or drive down to Athens and take the ferry to Brindisi in Italy. I chose the latter route, even though it was longer. I love Italy.

Leaving Istanbul I crossed the Greek –Turkish border and drove on a hilly tree lined road to Kavala, an attractive fishing village with a Roman aqueduct and citadel. I spent the night at the Hotel Astir. From there I passed through Thessalonika and Katerini and then by a toll road to Lamia. At Lamia I left the main road and continued on a winding mountain road to Delphi, my objective for the night. I got lost on the way and arrived at about 9pm, spending the night in a pension.

Delphi is a fascinating place, full of classical Greek remains, and was of course the home of the Delphic oracle.

In the morning I visited the main sites, the Rotunda, the Stadium and the museum and then pressed on to Athens over a fairly interesting mountain road, booking into an Hotel on arrival.

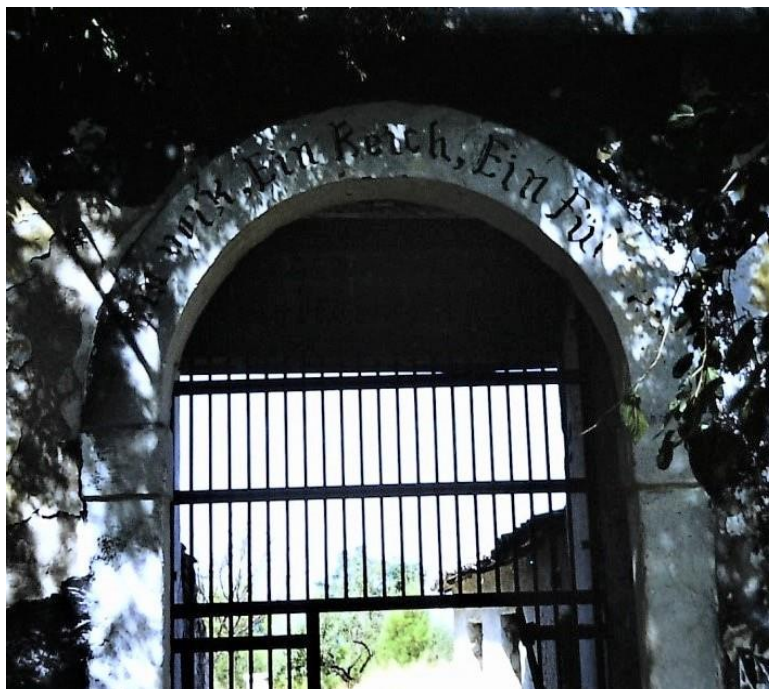
I needed to book a crossing to Brindisi in Italy so I drove to Piraeus, the port area of Athens. The most reputable shipping company, Hellenic Mediterranean Lines, had no available space for over a week, so I booked a crossing with another

company, on the MV APHRODITE, sailing in three days time.

I then explored the main historical sites of Athens, ascending to the Acropolis before lunch and the seeing the parliament and other state buildings. I climbed up Mount Lycabettus for a splendid panoramic view in the evening.

I had two days to gainfully employ before my ship

sailed. Leaving Athens early I drove to Mycenae, where I inspected the famous Beehive tombs and other classical remains. I then drove on to Nauplia, an attractive town, where I spent the night in the Hotel Emporikon. After a good swim I climbed the Acropolis, where there is a splendid Venetian castle.



*Gateway in Nauplia still displaying its "Ein Volk, Ein Reich" inscription from the Second World War.*

**CONTINUED OVER**

## FLIGHT FROM THE EAST Continued

In the morning I climbed the smaller hill in Nauplia and was fascinated to find two gateways in the castle there, with symbols from two successive invaders. The first gate bore the Venetian lion, whereas the second bore the much more recent inscription 'Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer'. In Greece in the 1960s there were still many raw traces of the second world war. After the second war Greece was immersed in a civil war until 1949, so there was much to recover from. Before returning to Athens I visited Corinth, having lunch there and exploring old Corinth.

I then turned back towards Piraeus. On the way I had to cross the Corinth canal and, quite by chance, the APHRODITE was passing underneath. I ran out of petrol at this point (the gauge was defective) so I had a good photo opportunity.

My ship was to leave quite early next morning so I thought it better to spend the night in Piraeus, rather than central Athens. The selection of hotels was very much Hobson's choice and I booked into the rather sleazy hotel LUX. In my innocence I had not realised that this was the sort of hotel where the clientele booked their rooms by the hour, rather than by the night. I locked my bedroom door to protect my virtue, but the activities of other guests gave me a disturbed night.

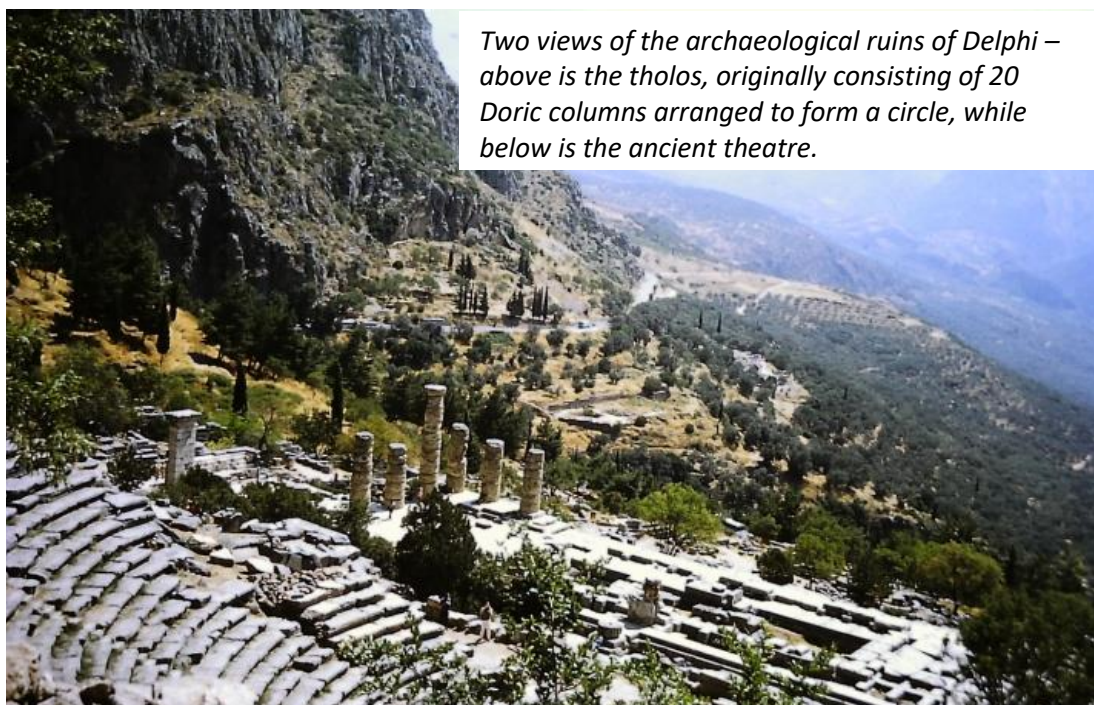
I left early the next morning and, following customs formalities, boarded the APHRODITE. The ship was an old British ship, formerly the MV LEINSTER, which had been repainted and rather crudely converted into a car ferry. She sailed at 14.00 and I spent a rather uncomfortable night on deck or in the saloon.

We reached Brindisi at about 13.30 the following day.

As an aside, I had travelled in Greece several times in the early 1960s and found the ferries historically interesting. A trip from Piraeus to Crete in 1963 was made on a ship built in Glasgow in 1908. It had reciprocating steam engines and I enjoyed a trip to the engine room.



*Two views of the archaeological ruins of Delphi – above is the tholos, originally consisting of 20 Doric columns arranged to form a circle, while below is the ancient theatre.*





Of more concern was a trip from Piraeus to Istanbul in 1960 on the MV ISMIR. The ship was not that old but had obviously been refitted recently. I enquired why and the answer was not reassuring. The ISMIR had collided with a liberty ship and sunk. It had then been salvaged and refurbished. I made sure that I had a life jacket nearby.

The unloading ramp in Brindisi was so bad that it tore off my exhaust system in unloading. After a less than comfortable night this was the last straw. Remembering that I was in Italy, I jumped up and down and became very excited.



*MV Aphrodite carefully navigates the Corinth canal, while below, the much-photographed Parthenon, built on the Athenian Acropolis.*



This had the desired effect and one of the dockyard welders stuck the exhaust system together again. He did a fairly crude job but at least it got me home. I then spent the night in Brindisi. To quote from my diary 'a really rather attractive town-friendly natives!' What could I have meant?

From Brindisi I drove to Taranto. Taranto is famous as the place where the Fleet Air Arm, with their Fairey Swordfishes, savaged the Italian fleet in 1943. There are no traces of this now. I continued through Matera and Potenza. The country round Potenza is fascinating with attractive hilltop villages and there have until recently been the most primitive cave dwellings. I was sad that my time did not permit a more thorough exploration. Driving on from there I was overtaken and stopped by a Carabinieri. I had a fairly clear conscience but it is always worrying to be stopped by a foreign policeman. I was very defensive. It soon became clear that he was just curious about this strange Englishman in a car with Arab plates and wanted a chat. Sadly there was a language barrier and I remember his final comments 'quando in Italia parlo Italiano.' I responded with 'arrividerci', to display my fluent knowledge of Italian. He came to attention and saluted and we parted with broad smiles. I then joined the Salerno-Napoli autosrada.

Arriving in Naples I booked into the Hotel Eden. My diary records that my bed collapsed and this may have coloured my view of Naples. Despite this I found Naples a fascinating if rather sleazy sort of city, far removed in character from Northern cities like Turin and Milan. It has a fine

setting on the bay of Naples.

My time was limited and I should like to spend more time in Naples but I visited the Galleria of Umberto, the Palazzo Nuovo and explored other areas of interest. Then I set off on the autostrada to Rome.

# Church Matters

## **February 2022 Letter from the Vicar**

Dear Friends,

There is a form of Christian spirituality which is based on the community which was formed by Ignatius of Loyola. He was a 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish nobleman who wounded in a war, found himself recuperating with no other form of entertainment or reading on the book shelves, turned to the lives of the saints. He discovered that after reading these books and reflecting on them, he had a strange kind of joy, which he did not have when reading books of military adventure and derring-do. The Jesuit community which grew up based upon his spirituality continues to this day with a spirituality which uses the imagination, to come close to God.

The exercises which his method of spirituality is based upon, is imaginative. It is based upon Biblical stories, which you have to imagine yourself present at. So, for example you might read the story of the feeding of the five thousand, and imagine that you are in the crowd, and experience the event for yourself. You might imagine seeing the little boy go up to Jesus with just two loaves and five fish and hear the disciples say to Jesus, "what is this amongst so many?" You might watch Jesus turn this meagre amount into an avalanche of food that feeds the crowd with twelve basketfuls left over.

It is interesting to see where your mind takes you, and what you feel when you are really present in your imagination, at the event.

There is a very good book written forty years ago, called "God of Surprises" by Gerard Hughes. It is a spiritual classic and well worth reading. He is a Jesuit and the book is all about this fascinating method. You can get it on ebay for £2.00.

With my best wishes,

Richard Thomson

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

Benefice website: [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

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## **Badminton Benefice Rota for February 2022**

Sunday	Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4th before Lent	6th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	RT
		11.15am	Didmarton	Matins	RT
		3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong with HC	RT
3rd before Lent of Christ	13th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
		9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	RT
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	RT
		5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT
2nd before Lent	20th Feb	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	RT
		9.30am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Lay led
		11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	RT
		3.00pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	RT
Sun next before Lent	27th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	RT
		11.00am	Leighterton	Matins	Rev J Wilson
		11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	RT
		5.00pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	RT
Ash Wednesday	Wed 2nd March	9.30am	Hawkesbury	HC with ashing	RT



## St Mary's Church, Acton Turville

A big thank you to all those lovely volunteers who gallantly cleaned the church and provided flowers on the altar. It has been such an on/off year for the church, culminating in the heart-breaking cancellation of Christmas services, yet again. The new rota for cleaning and for flower arranging has been distributed. Please contact me if changes are required.

I am in dire need of more volunteers; there are a couple of months (July and December) where the church may yet be mucky and defoliated. And it is probable that some of the current volunteers will wish to retire, having provided support for more years than they care to remember. Surely we can find a few energetic young (this means under 70 years old!) people who are busting to exhibit some sense of community spirit. The cleaning consists of dusting, vacuuming and polishing (if the brass looks unhappy) twice, and the flower arranging consists of popping a small bunch of whatever into two brass vases on the altar, once. What could be more enticing? And you get to do it in a building of considerable age, cultural significance and beauty.

And I would like someone else to take over the supervision of the rota, as I am far too old and grumpy to keep going. Help!

And the parochial parish council would like to recruit more members. At present there are two. The entire congregation has already served time on the pcc, so I am hoping to engage new recruits. I am not necessarily expecting to be overwhelmed by your eagerness to volunteer – all previous pleas have resulted in a gloriously empty inbox, and I don't like shocks at my age – but it is evident that there is a breach into which someone may be willing to step. Please!

Eileen Stephens

eileen\_stephens@gmx.com

### Sudoku

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

#### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

#### 'Easy'

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

#### Not so Easy'

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



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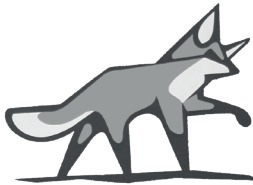


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## *Picture Gallery*

Much like my new freezer, the first half of winter was virtually frost free this year. That changed as we moved into 2022, and the early-morning chore of scraping ice from windscreens has become all too common. With the frost has come some wonderful photo opportunities for those brave souls up and about to see the sun spread a colourful glow over the frozen countryside. This month we commend Claire Broomsgrove, Pat Nettles and Chris Farrell for their artistic flair and thank them for sending in such fantastic images. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did.

