

# THE DYDDI DIGEST

April 2025—595

The Spring Edition—For the Tiggers!





## RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – Sorry not yet available

Food Waste— Sorry not yet available

[www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi](http://www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi)

## DIARY DATES

1st— April Fools Day

**2nd—WOW**

**11th— Didmarton Film Club >**

**16th—WOW**

18th—Good Friday

20th— Easter Sunday

21st—National Tea Day

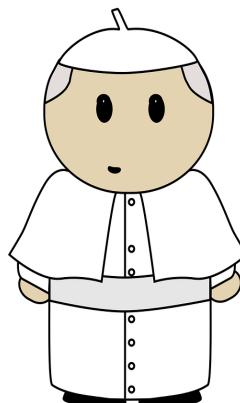
23rd—Great British Beef Week

23rd—St George's Day

26th—International Sculpture Day

**30th—WOW**

30th—Guide Dog Day



## A QUICK RE-CAP ON THE ORIGINS OF EASTER

Easter's timing is linked to the spring equinox, a time when ancient cultures celebrated the renewal of life and the return of warmer days. Many of these celebrations were pagan in origin, often honoring gods and goddesses of fertility, rebirth, and renewal, such as the Saxon goddess Eostre (or Ostara), from whom the name "Easter" is believed to derive. Symbols associated with these pre-Christian celebrations, like eggs and rabbits (which are symbols of fertility), became integrated into Easter traditions.



## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Phoenix, Tetbury Surgery – 01666 502303

Police – to report incidents – 101

Tolsey Surgery, Sherston – 01666 840270

Tetbury Hospital – 01666 502336

Oldbury Garage – 01454 537016

Dyddi Editor – 07833 433337 /

editor@dyddi.co.uk

Parish Council, John Hammond – 01454 238373

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS – didhallbookings@gmail.com



## BABYSITTING CONTACTS

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Francesca Goodwill - 07483 839082/07972783679

Esmé Kay 07850 247096

Chloe Wallace 07984 922717

## EASTER HUMOUR

Why did the Easter egg hide? - Because it was a little chicken!

Why don't you ever tell an Easter egg a secret? - Because it might crack up!

What do you call a line of hares hopping backward? A receding hare-line!

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?  
Bugs Bunny!



## MY BIT!

Thank you for all the compliments regarding the March cover. While I can take none of the credit for such a beautiful painting I can however, introduce you to the talented local artist of the piece on page 17.

Toll roads seem to be coming quite a thing at the moment and it seems according to page 15 that we have one potentially opening very close by. Any thoughts on this would be most welcome for the May edition.

A big thank you to Sarah Tubbs who has picked up the spare delivery slots. The Dyddi Delivery Troup is now at 100% once more!

**Make a financial donation—DVHC Committee 30-91-99 02319866**

**All editorial contributions should be sent before the 15th of each month—anyone can offer a contribution, go on, express your inner writer even more on online:- [www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi](http://www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi)**

Roxzanne Fox-Roberts / [editor@dyddi.co.uk](mailto:editor@dyddi.co.uk)



**Taken from what is thought to be the 7<sup>th</sup> century origin of Didmarton's name Dyddimaertun, believed to mean the boundary (maere) farm (tun) of a Mr Dyddi**

## **Trevor Bailey 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Trevor Bailey moved, with Shelagh, to Didmarton from Blagdon in 1986 and lived amongst the community of Chapel Walk until Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Trevor was a Somerset lad who would often tell stories against himself of events that had occurred. His earliest that he would admit to was his introduction to 'natch' or 'scrumpy' the apple drink of Somerset which can render giants incapable. Older fellow workers plied him with a few small tastings and when he woke up he vowed never to touch cider again. He held to his word.

Leaving home Trevor joined the Army and specialised in the mechanised branch. His driving instruction seemed to consist of taking a lorry clockwise around a large triangle fifty times. Having conquered the necessary skills with throttle, brake, steering, clutch and gear he then had to apply his new knowledge to the same circuit in an anti-clockwise direction fifty times. Trevor passed his driving test.

After the Army Trevor joined the police in Bristol. On-line there is a short clip of Trevor tackling a demonstrator who was too close to a member of the royal family.

In 1986 Trevor had been working for the AA for some time, a job which he clearly relished. Trevor enjoyed meeting people whom he helped and would recount having the car of the Governor of The Falkland Islands on his trailer and Rex Hunt himself in the cab. Both seemed to have made a good impression on each other.

Then there was the wayward wreck. Trevor had winched a rusty hulk on to his relay lorry, struggling to find a strong enough part of the chassis to hook on. Before he could fit the chocks there was a metallic tearing sound and the remains set off back down the ramp. Down the ramp and into the brick wall behind which promptly collapsed. Beyond the wall were a number of shiny, new cars now with brick dents. And then the guard dogs came through the gap to defend their master's territory... It was a year before Trevor could bring himself to tell this tale to the other members of the 'Ten o'clock Club' in the Kings Arms.

Trevor was a keen allotmenteer with an unrivalled ability to grow onions. Always generous, he donated one hour's digging instruction to an Auction of Promises, with both ground and spade provided. It raised £4 from the appreciative audience.

He quietly contributed to the community, with improvements to the Village Hall, refurbishing the card tables, bar management in The Kings Arms, putting up street signs for Chapel Walk and helping on Bonfire Nights. Indeed, Trevor was always willing to help anyone who needed an extra pair of hands or some advice on motoring matters. We all miss him.

D.M.



The March draw took place at the Film Night held on March 14th in the Village Hall  
The prize winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> prize £20 Esme Kay

2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15 Pam Murphy

3<sup>rd</sup> prize £15 Molly Townsend

4<sup>th</sup> prize £10 Pat Ind

**Sue Cook and Sue Hammond**

## **HELP SUPPORT THE 100 CLUB AND OUR VILLAGE WE NEED YOU!**

It's now time to renew your 100 Club membership for 2025/26. Please pay by bank transfer if possible and include your name and address. The details are the same as last year.

Lloyds Bank - Didmarton 100 Club—Sort Code 30-91-99—Account Number 77225368

You can also pay by cheque/cash. Please drop the completed form with your cheque/cash into Sue Cook at 54 The Street or to Sue Hammond at 6 Bertha's Field.

Also, our team of collectors will be making house to house collections during April and will accept cash or cheque.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT.**

For those of you who are new to the village, the 100 Club raises money to support village activities and helps towards the running costs of the Village Hall, a tremendous village asset used for a variety of classes, meetings and village events.

The annual subscription is just £12. you can have more than 1 subscription per person or household. The subscriptions are split between the DVHCC and a series of cash prizes to members selected through monthly draws which take place at a variety of village events.

**YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT SO PLEASE JOIN NOW!**

**Sue & Sue**

*Continued over>*

## DIDMARTON 100 CLUB

### 2025/26 Membership Renewal

(for payment by Cash or Cheque)

I/We would like to join/renew membership of Didmarton 100 Club and enclose cash/cheque for £12 (made payable to Didmarton 100 Club), being the subscription for 2025/26.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For help/queries please contact

Sue Cook 238222 or Sue Hammond 238373

### COULD YOU BE A DIDMARTON PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Do you care about your community and want to make a difference? Didmarton Parish Council is looking for a new councillor to help shape the future of our village. This is a fantastic opportunity to represent local residents, influence decisions, and support projects that benefit our community.

#### **Who Can Apply?**

You must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, Commonwealth citizen, or EU citizen
- have lived, worked, or owned property in or within 3 miles of the parish for at least 12 months

No prior experience is needed—just a passion for the community!

#### **Interested?**

Find out more by contacting the Parish Clerk at [didmartonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:didmartonclerk@gmail.com). The closing date for applications is Sunday 20th April.

Join us and help make a difference!

SAVE THE DATE

# VE DAY 80

2025

MONDAY, MAY 5TH

4 PM

Bank Holiday Monday  
May 5th

Just like last years  
D DAY 80, the Village  
shall be celebrating the  
end of World War 2.



DVHCC are organising  
an afternoon and evening  
of fun and partying at  
Didmarton Village Hall.

We are planning cream  
teas at 4pm,  
a bouncy castle for the  
youngsters, videos,  
music, a bar, fun games,  
evening food and a  
bonfire beacon at dusk.

Keep an eye out for  
more news but  
SAVE THE DATE  
to end your bank  
holiday with a fiesta.

DVHCC





# Badminton Horse Trials

7th - 11th May 2025

Opportunity for local residents  
to enjoy late shopping  
on Thursday and Friday.

Entry to the grounds  
between 4pm - 6pm

£10 per person

Accompanying children 12 and under have free admission

Advance booking only

Please call the Box Office  
on 01454 218375 to book

**SAVE the DATE - APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Monday from 2 - 5pm  
RORY'S WELL fundraiser at  
MATARA, Kingscote ([www.matara.co.uk](http://www.matara.co.uk))**



- Explore the open gardens - why not bring a picnic?
- Crafts, tea, & cake will be available in the Palm House



The charity was established in 2014 by Karen & Tony Evans in memory of their son, Rory. As some of you may remember, Rory was a pupil at KLB. He died tragically in a car accident, days after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2013.

Rory's Well works to supply clean water, help people to farm regeneratively, and teach beekeeping, largely in the Barri Chiefdom of Sierra Leone which borders the Gola Rainforest. The aim is to empower local people '*helping those in need to help themselves in a truly sustainable way*'. The charity is proud to say that 95% of all funds go directly to Sierra Leone. Please see [www.roryswell.org](http://www.roryswell.org) for more information.

**Please do come along to enjoy Matara and support this event if you can.**

Philippa Satchwell



Forestry England

# Silk Wood Community Planting Project

at Westonbirt Arboretum



## Public Volunteering Day

**Saturday 17th May 11am - 3pm**

Come and help the Silk Wood Community Planting Project restore our ancient woodland with a day of tree care.

We will be carrying out a variety of maintenance tasks including mulching around the trees, checking and re-applying their guards and surveying their health. Suitable for adults and families with children over 7.

This event has limited capacity so please book your place on our website.

Find out more:  
[forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/  
silk-wood-volunteering-day](https://forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/silk-wood-volunteering-day)

# TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

## GOOD SHED HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL



**April 5** **Music for Miniatures:** music for babies where there is no need to sit still and dancing is encouraged! Enjoy 45 minutes of live classical music with your little ones, ages 0-4. Tickets adults £6, Children £4, under 1 free. 1030

**April 6** **Chris Treglown Awards:** An exciting concert featuring 14 up and coming singers from the world of musical theatre and opera competing for the Chris Treglown Memorial prize. Tickets £12.50 in advance. 7pm

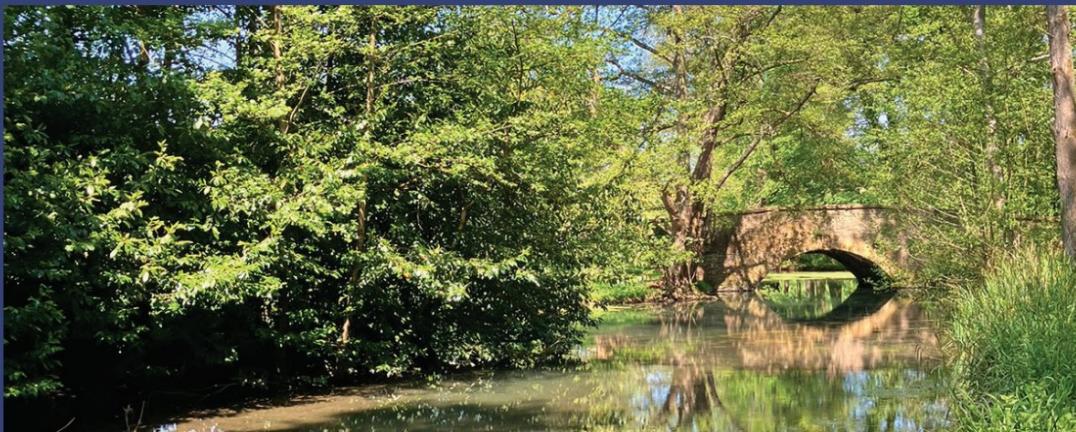
**April 10** **National Theatre Live Screening:** Stanley Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove, starring Steve Coogan. The story of a rogue US general who tries to start a nuclear war! Tickets £15 in advance. 7.30

**April 12** **Faeland:** Timeless folk meets contemporary Indie with echoes of Jodie Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac but in unique and original formats. Tickets in advance £12.50. 7.30

**April 26** **The Remi Harris Hot Club Jazz Trio:** A spellbinding evening of Gypsy Jazz and Blues inspired by legends like Django Reinhardt, Peter Green, Wes Montgomery, Jimi Hendrix, and Joe Pass. Tickets in advance £15. 7.30

**Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts, exhibitions and talks and to book tickets**

[www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk](http://www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk)



## **Estcourt Park, Shipton Moyne**

**By kind permission of Juddmonte Farms**

Start/Finish in the field near the church, Church Lane, Shipton Moyne, GL8 8PW.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Walkers and runners to start between 10am and 11am.

**The entry fee includes one hog roast  
and all accompaniments, or a vegetarian option:**

**£20.00 per adult**

**£15.00 per child 16 and under**

**Under 5's FREE**

Well behaved dogs on leads, are welcome too.

- Very rare opportunity to see glorious Estcourt Park by either running or walking through their beautiful private grounds.
- 2 route options available – 5 miles and 7 miles.
- All monies raised will go towards a new X-Ray machine.
- Live entertainment by Route 44.
- Great day out with family and friends.
- Route map and directions.
- Hog Roast served 12pm – 2.30pm.
- Bar open 12pm onwards to purchase wine and beer plus tea/coffee and homemade cakes.
- Free car parking.

**Numbers are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

### **How to enter**

Visit [www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk) or  
scan the QR code.

**Scan me**



# April 1975—As 'Twas—April 2025

(This magazine has been published every month since No. 1 in October 1975.)

## 'Didmarton's own newspaper – the first 50 years – Part Two'

Is it a newspaper or a magazine? It's a mix of village news and magazine articles.

Is it a 'Village' or 'Parish' magazine? It's a Village publication, started by residents, distributed free throughout the Parish and in the local area. It is not a 'Parish magazine' as the historical meaning has it – published by the local Vicar, often since Victorian times, with an official notice of Church services, births, baptisms, weddings and funerals, although some of that information is conveyed via Dd.

Where does it rate in the longevity and rarity charts?

Impossible to pin down at the moment as The British Library online facility has been hacked. However, it gains rarity points by being: free at the point of delivery, monthly, continuous for 50 years, from one village rather than a conglomerate, edited by a resident, supported by village bodies rather than national charities and, the really unique point, in and of Didmarton, a parish of just 350 souls.

On-line searches reveal a few Village magazines and quite a number of Parish or Church magazines with lengthy histories but many are quarterly or compiled across relatively large geographical areas or have a cover price. Dd appears to be almost unique by most categories of measurement. And it came Runner-Up in a national competition for village magazines back in the 90s. Say no more.

## 1975 - Dd50 – 2025

Preparations for a celebration of the first fifty years of 'DYDDI digest' have begun.

The DVH&CC meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February launched the logo 'Dd50' and the fixture of a day of celebration on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. A Gathering of Villagers on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March began the raising of ideas from the Community of Didmarton. They are listed elsewhere and if any reader has additional suggestions – please get in touch. Dd is delivered to every home in Didmarton and has been the voice and record of its residents since October 1975. Everyone can have their say and make an input – see the contact details in the box below – or speak to any member of the DVH&CC.

### PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? - AN APPEAL TO ALL READERS, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

If you have more early memories of Dd, its inception and the people involved -

Please make contact.

[davidamichel@icloud.com](mailto:davidamichel@icloud.com) 07590 500888 (text) 01454 238431 (ans.)

# SPECIAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT ON SPEEDING THROUGH VILLAGE



After years of concerns over speeding through the village, we have taken the urgent yet necessary action of introducing a toll road on the main route through Didmarton. From August 1st, all vehicles will be required to stop at a new toll booth and pay a fee based on their speed. The fees are as follows:

**Under 30mph**—Free passage.

**30-40mph**—£2

**40-50mph** - £5

**50mph+** - £10

Residents of Didmarton will be issued with a special "Local Resident Pass," windscreen sticker, allowing them to bypass the toll booths.

Parish council spokesperson commented, *"We've tried everything to curb speeding in the village, Nothing has worked. This toll system should make people think twice before putting their foot down."*

The proceeds from the toll will be used for a variety of village projects, including repairing the potholes and improving the surface on the Village Hall drive.

Reactions have been mixed, with some drivers outraged at the new charges, while the local pub, The King's Arms, is delighted, according to the landlord, they intend to offer a 'Toll Dodger's Special' for anyone caught over the limit.

However, not everyone is convinced. One frustrated commuter, who wished to remain anonymous, fumed, *"It's outrageous! Next, they'll be charging us for breathing in the fresh air."*

Installation of the toll booth is set to begin next month, and is certain to cause maximum inconvenience to all.

Please contact your local councillor if you have any concerns.



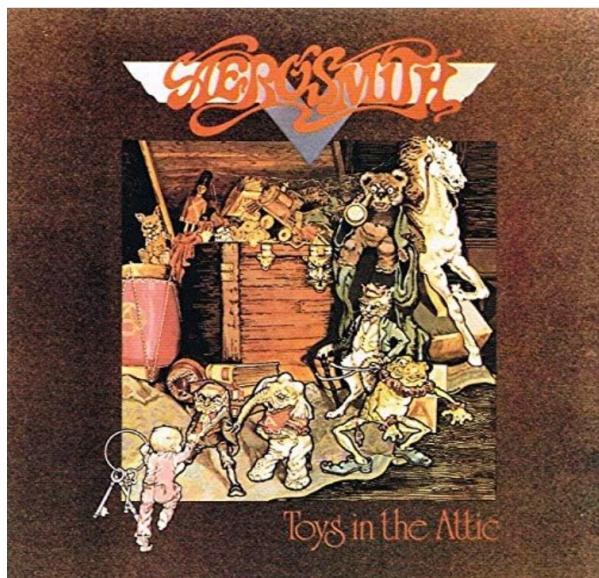
## AEROSMITH—TOYS IN THE ATTIC

One of my favourite all time bands and a great Album which introduced 'Walk this Way' to mainstream audiences when, in 1986 it was covered by Run DMC in collaboration with Aerosmith and became a huge crossover hit, blending hip-hop with rock in a way that had never been done before. It also brought Aerosmith back into the public eye and secured them a whole host of hits, including 'Don't Want to Miss a Thing' in the 1998 film 'Armageddon'.

Released on April 8, 1975, *Toys in the Attic* is the third studio album by the now legendary rock band and is considered a milestone in their career. The album showcases the band's unique blend of hard rock, blues, and the raw energy that would come to define their sound. It was a crucial turning point, propelling them into the mainstream and cementing their status as one of the biggest rock bands of the 1970s. The album also includes the melodic and 'Sweet Emotion' notable for its infectious bassline.

The album's production, handled by Jack Douglas, helped to enhance the raw, gritty sound that Aerosmith was known for. Douglas encouraged the band to experiment with their sound, resulting in an album that's filled with high-energy rockers and a few more introspective moments. Tracks like "Big Ten Inch Record" and "Uncle Salty" showcase the band's playful and sometimes risqué side, while "You See Me Crying" reveals a more vulnerable side to their songwriting.

In the years since its release, *Toys in the Attic* has become a staple in classic rock. Its influence extends far beyond Aerosmith's discography, inspiring countless artists and contributing to the evolution of rock music. A true testament to the band's talent, *Toys in the Attic* remains a landmark in rock history—in my opinion!



## MEET THE ARTIST BEHIND LAST MONTHS COVER

I received so many compliments on last month's cover, that I thought it was only fair to introduce you to the lady who really deserves the compliments—Malmesbury artist Liz Messent.

Liz works predominantly in oils. As well as original animal pieces she is also a well respected pet-portrait artist—from horses to hamsters, she has painted them all! Here's what she had to say.

"I focus on capturing the emotions of my animal subjects, their inner beauty and individuality that make them unique to themselves. I am intrigued by the way light hits a form and I am always fascinated by how a few carefully placed brush strokes can make a one dimensional form spring into life.

As I mostly paint animals, who are notoriously bad sitters! I prefer to paint from photographs. ideally I like to meet them in person to better understand their personality and quirks, no two are ever the same and this is what I try to bring to my painting.

What many people don't realise is that oils take a long time to dry, so if you do commission a pet portrait, while the actual painting will take 2 to 4 (ideally like 6) weeks to paint, due to letting it dry between layers, something to bear in mind is you are buying a painting as a gift."



And about our lovely front cover? "I love painting hares, they are such spiritual animals that are entwined in this island's folklore. I thought this pose was unusual and loved the way that although he's concentrating on his foot he is still so aware of what is going on around him."

Thank you Liz for a stunning cover.

[messentliz@gmail.com](mailto:messentliz@gmail.com) / 07883 028629

[www.lizmessent-art.co.uk](http://www.lizmessent-art.co.uk)

## THE FEOFFEES—THE SEVEN & THE THIRTEEN

**The what?" I hear you ask!** They are a charitable body of seven individuals, supported by 'The Thirteen'—a group designated to succeed them upon their death or retirement—who have served Tetbury since 1633. Originally appointed as lords of the manor in trust for the town, their role stems from the Tripartite Deed, an agreement made by the townspeople to purchase the manor, advowson, and tolls from George, Lord Berkeley, and his mother. Tetbury itself is an ancient manorial borough, founded by the de Braose family and later passing to the Berkeley family through marriage in the 15th century. The term "feoffee" itself comes from an old English word meaning a trustee or a person entrusted with land or property. The original Feoffees were responsible for overseeing various charitable activities, including distributing alms to the poor, supporting local schools, and helping fund community improvements. Their work was central to the town's civic life, as they managed not only the charitable estates but also assisted in maintaining Tetbury's public welfare.

In the centuries since their establishment, the role of the Feoffees has adapted to the changing needs of the town. Today, while much of the land and property once under their stewardship has been sold or redistributed, the Feoffees remain a vital force within Tetbury. They continue to manage funds and provide support for local projects, focusing on community well-being, education, and charity. The Feoffees also oversee a number of historic buildings, including the Tetbury Almshouses—homes for the elderly and those in need—which have been a cornerstone of their charitable work for centuries.

In addition to their charitable work, the Feoffees also serve as a reminder of the long-standing tradition of community involvement in Tetbury. The Feoffees' actions are a testament to the importance of looking after one's neighbours and ensuring that the most vulnerable members of society are not forgotten. Their legacy stretches back to a time when village life was simpler, but their ethos is still just as relevant today—promoting the values of generosity, support, and care for one another.

Read more <https://thefoeffeesoftetbury.co.uk>





# SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting

**Tuesday 1st April**

Speaker is Dr Hugh Vaux on

Capability Brown

## Cuttings

At our March meeting, Tricia Lawrence gave us an entertaining and beautifully illustrated talk about her passion for plants. Tricia has gardened since her mid-teens in gardens of all shapes and sizes, culminating in downsizing to her current patch. As her many visitors during Sherston Open Gardens will confirm, Tricia's walled garden is delightful in June but her slides showed her skills at creating colour in all seasons. All the more impressive because she started from scratch with a plan in her head, a few inherited plants and the experience to know what would thrive in different conditions.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, our AGM is to be followed by the postponed talk from January on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Member, Hugh Vaux has studied at length this gardening genius of the 18<sup>th</sup> century who ushered in a sweeping, informal landscape style which was continued by his 'successor', Humphrey Repton. Before he and Sue moved to Sherston, Hugh was part of the Kent Gardens Trust and has delivered talks and contributed to books on both garden design legends.

## Clippings

Club meetings will remain throughout 2024 on the first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, jobs in the garden for the month and friendly chat over homemade refreshments.

New members are always welcome. Cost (for now) is £15 single, £25 joint, U18's free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on the [sherston.net](http://sherston.net) website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at [sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com)



*Sweeping views of Capability Brown-inspired landscape at Bowood Gardens*

## 2025 PROGRAMME of TALKS

March 4th - 'Year Round Interest in a Small Garden' by Tricia Lawrence.

April 1st. - AGM and postponed talk on Capability Brown by Hugh Vaux

May 6th. - 'A Year at Spring Cottage' by writer and broadcaster, Val Bourne

**May 8th. TRIP TO MORTON HALL. WORCESTERSHIRE FOR TULIP FESTIVAL**

June 3rd. 'Looking after the Legacy of Rodmorton Manor' by John Biddulph

July 1st. - 'Gardening with Climate Change' by Sally Morgan.

September 2nd. - 'Gravel Gardening with Low Maintenance Plants' by Derry Watkins.

October 7th - 'Confessions of a Plant Freak' by Nick Macer.

November 4th. - 'Gardening with Wildlife' by Dede Liss.

December 2nd. - Christmas Decoration Demonstration with Julia Armstrong.

And it doesn't end there! We already have several talks booked for 2026, including Care of Houseplants, Beauty of Salvias, Woodchester Park and Late Summer Colour in the Borders.

## **INTERNATIONAL WEIRD EASTER!**

**Finland – Witches and Bonfires**—In Finland, children dress up as witches and go door to door, much like Halloween, offering blessings in exchange for treats. Meanwhile, bonfires are lit to scare away evil spirits.

**Bermuda – Kite Flying Festival**—Good Friday in Bermuda is celebrated with a vibrant kite-flying festival. Legend has it that a teacher used a kite to explain Jesus' ascension to his students, and the tradition stuck.

**France – The Giant Omelette of Bessières**—Every Easter Monday in Bessières, France, locals cook a gigantic omelette using over 15,000 eggs. The tradition supposedly started when Napoleon and his army visited the town, and he ordered a massive omelette to be made for his troops.

**Australia – The Easter Bilby vs. The Easter Bunny**—In Australia, the Easter Bunny is seen as a pest because rabbits have wreaked havoc on local wildlife. Instead, they have the **Easter Bilby**—a small, endangered marsupial with long ears. Chocolate bilbies are sold instead of bunnies to raise awareness for conservation.

**Greece – The Rocket War of Chios**—In the Greek town of Vrontados, two rival churches celebrate Easter with an all-out **rocket war**. They fire thousands of homemade rockets at each other's bell towers while trying to ring the bell. (Yes, this is real.)

**Verges, Spain – The Dance of Death**—On Maundy Thursday, people in the Spanish town of Verges dress as **skeletons** and perform the "Danza de la Muerte" (Dance of Death), reenacting scenes from medieval plagues. It's a pretty spooky way to get into the Easter spirit.

## DELICIOUS WAYS TO USE WILD GARLIC

Spring is the perfect time to forage for wild garlic, a fragrant and versatile ingredient that thrives in UK woodlands from March to May. If you've got your hands on a bunch, here are five simple and delicious ways to make the most of it.

**Wild Garlic Pesto** - Swap out basil for wild garlic in a classic pesto recipe. Blend wild garlic leaves with toasted nuts (pine nuts, almonds, or walnuts), Parmesan, lemon juice, and olive oil for a punchy, garlicky sauce. Stir it into pasta, spread it on toast, or drizzle it over roasted vegetables.



**Wild Garlic Butter** - Mix finely chopped wild garlic with softened butter, a pinch of sea salt, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Roll it into a log, chill, and slice as needed. It's perfect melted over steak, fish, or new potatoes, or simply spread on warm bread.

**Wild Garlic Soup** - Sauté onions and potatoes in butter, then add chopped wild garlic and vegetable stock. Simmer until the potatoes are soft, then blend for a velvety green soup. Finish with a swirl of cream and some crispy croutons.

**Wild Garlic Bread** - Elevate homemade garlic bread by mixing chopped wild garlic into butter and spreading it on a baguette before baking. For extra flavour, add grated cheese on top and grill until golden and bubbling.

**Wild Garlic Frittata** - Whisk eggs with a splash of milk, salt, and pepper, then stir in chopped wild garlic and any other favourite ingredients like cheese, mushrooms, or smoked salmon. Cook gently in a frying pan until set, then finish under the grill for a deliciously easy meal.



**Wild Garlic Oil** - Blitz wild garlic leaves with olive oil and a pinch of salt, then strain through a fine sieve or muslin cloth. This vibrant green oil is perfect for drizzling over salads, soups, pasta, or even dipping crusty bread into. It also makes a fantastic finishing touch for risottos or roasted vegetables.

BT14–Apr25 **Dd Brain Teaser** HC 8 10

Given the initials and number  
of letters, for what do they  
stand?

Answers to BT13 *B-M Betting Shop* BAGS

*Gold Leaf Turf Accountant Nipping Press* C 7

*Stitched Spine T Sticky Bias Binding Silk* A 6

*Winning Recording D Sundial Telephone* C 5

*Radio Watch Rev Counter C Plug Socket*

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M 9

T 9

H 10

S 9

SCOTTISH HISTORY

E C 9 6

S B 5 4

G W M R 7 5 8 4



## SUDOKO

For the uninitiated: to solve each puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

**EASY !!**

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

**NOT SO EASY !!**

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

Answers to the March quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



## VICARS LETTER

Dear all,

The tendency to think that bad things happen to bad people and that we are safe because we are good is a tempting mistake to make.

There may well be a link between how good we are and our good fortune, but that is different from assuming that we are good. And therefore, we are safe. We are all in need of forgiveness, none of us are perfect.

Repentance is a key aspect of the Christian faith. It does not mean that we should continually be beating ourselves up, but it does mean that we turn around from those things which are harmful to ourselves or others.

The Greek word for repentance is 'Metanoia', to 'turn around'. You might argue that most people need to 'turn around', because most of us are inherently self-centered.

It is true as a contemporary spiritual writer called Richard Rohr says, that what many of us are in love with, is not God, or someone else, but ourselves.

Today we remember that in this season of Lent, Christians are called to repentance. So I leave this question with you, for what do you need to turn around from? What reveals most spectacularly your lack of love for God, or for others?

With my best wishes,

Richard

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

01454 606854

Apr-25 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
6th April	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>				
Lent	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP + APCM	Rev R Thomson
13th April	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
			Meet at the pond for procession to church and	
	4pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
18th April	12 noon	Little Badminton	Good Friday Liturgy	Rev R Thomson
<b>Good Friday</b>	1.45pm	Hawkesbury	Readings and music	Rev R Thomson
	2.30pm	Hawkesbury	Walk up the knoll to the Cross	Rev R Thomson
20th April	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
<b>Easter Day</b>	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev Steve Abbott
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
	1100am	Leighterton	Family Service	Robert Bryant-Pearson
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins + HC	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Matthew Butler
27th April	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Debbie



# DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## The Blessing of Easter

To many people Easter means little more than a welcome holiday, with Spring flowers and hopefully warmer weather. In fact it is so much more. It is the celebration of the glorious work of almighty God and the most important event that affects all mankind. It centres around the person of our Lord Jesus Christ and is a declaration of the accomplishment of his mission for which he came from God into the world, which was to accomplish the loving plan of his father to rescue, redeem and reconcile us from the lost condition of sin which affects us all and alienates us from our great creator, God.

The cross of Calvary on which Jesus died for us on Good Friday was not a tragedy but a triumph for it achieved God's will in Jesus' death and resurrection overcoming sin, Satan and death. It was on the cross where Jesus satisfied both the justice and the mercy of God toward people like us.

Because almighty God is a righteous, holy and just God that our righteousness has to be removed if we are to enter his full presence. God's Justice demands a price for our sin, so in his love and compassion toward us he sent his holy son Jesus, who being without sin was the only one to pay the price for our forgiveness on behalf of those who would receive him and the forgiveness he offers. Peter 3:18 says "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."

So Jesus Christ at Easter gave his life on our behalf to satisfy God's just wrath against sin and exercise God's mercy toward us "For God so loved the world he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." He came not to condemn us but that we might be saved from the just punishment for our sin.

Easter bears witness to this glorious life transforming truth that Jesus having died rose again by the power of God, testifying that God has accepted his sacrifice for us. Then having revealed himself to many by infallible proofs Jesus was exalted back to God's right hand in heaven. Well might Jesus exclaim from the cross "It is finished", for he had accomplished his mission for man. There is nothing we can add to or replace his work with, but we must acknowledge and accept personally with humility and love.

How has the love of God in Jesus impacted your life? Do you acknowledge you deserve God's wrath and will you call out to him for mercy to you in Jesus and by repentance and faith receive him? The Bible says "To as many as received him to them gave he the power to become Children of God" John 1:12.

May you know the joy of the glorious message of Easter, that whatever the weather you may bask in the sunshine of God's love for you this Easter and then when God calls enter the glory of his presence for Eternity.

Happy Easter

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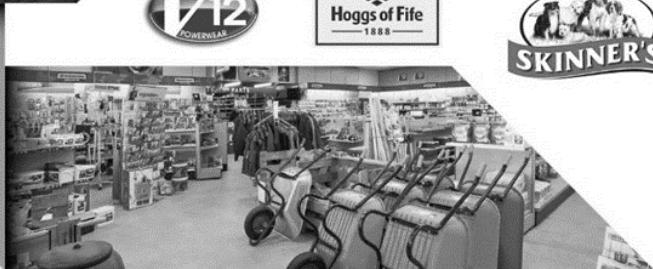
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