



THE **DYDDI** DIGEST

December — 589



## RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – 6th & 20th November

Food Waste— 13th & 30th December

2024 Calendar now on line

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

## DIARY DATES

2nd National Mutt Day

5th International Volunteer Day

5th Krampus Day

**7th Didmarton Christmas Fayre**

9th National Pastry Day

**11th WOW (see p6)**

14th Monkey Day

**15th Carol Service at St Lawrence's  
Didmarton**

21st Winter Solstice

23rd Festivus

25th Christmas Day / Hanukkah



## POPPIY APPEAL

I would like to thank Helen and Julie for helping me with the poppies this year, we raised **£269.81**, so thank you Didmarton for your support.

Lynda.



## 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

Elizabeth Darbyshire – 07702 693100

Henry Yandell - 07719 304445

Francesca Goodwill - 07483 839082/07972783679

Esmé Kay 07850 247096

Chloe Wallace 07984 922717

A black rectangular sign with the number "100" in large white circles. Below "100" is the word "CLUB" in a smaller white font. The sign is surrounded by a decorative border of red and yellow circles connected by black lines, resembling a string of Christmas lights.

The November draw took place on November 2nd at the Bonfire Night held at The Village Hall. The prize winners were:-

**1st Prize** £20 Laurence Edwards

**2nd Prize** £15 Ed Hardy

**3rd Prize** £15 Mike Hlywood

**4th Prize** £10 Helen Russell

**Sue and Sue**

A cartoon illustration showing the top of Santa's head and his red Santa hat. He has a white beard and white hair. The hat has a white pom-pom at the end of the red ribbon.

## PENNY FOR THE DYDDI?

No, I have no idea why the Polar bears are in a forest, but it looks cold and they are wearing hats so I am sure they are OK!

Before we launch in to Christmas; for those who are unaware, our Dyddi is supported by a fabulous network of volunteers but it costs around £300 a month to print. The committee do a great job in trying to get advertisers on board, so if you have a local business please do ask about advertising. Alternatively, if you can help, a small standing order of £2 or £5 a month from a few more villagers would be hugely appreciated and support both the Dyddi and the village hall.

**DVHC Committee 30-91-99 02319866**

To those of you who are not fans of the festive season, I issue my apologies, I have, as you would expect piled as much Festivus / Christmas / Yule / Hanukka spirit in to this issue as I possibly can. So whatever you call you mid-winter celebration make it a good one and a kind one.

**All 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)**

## CAROL SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE'S DIDMARTON

Sunday 15th December 2024 at 6pm.

All welcome. Refreshments after-

## FESTIVUS?

Festivus is a wacky holiday popularized in a 1997 “Seinfeld” episode. Billed as “Festivus for the rest of us,” the holiday is celebrated by the Costanza clan on Decwmber 23rd as an all-inclusive, secular alternative to Christmas consumerism.



**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**

# SAVE THE DATE

DIDMARTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR 2024

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

1-5pm Didmarton Village Hall

*Keep an eye on Dyddi chat and Didmarton online  
for news and updates*



MANY OF OUR AMAZING STALL HOLDERS FROM LAST  
YEAR ARE RETURNING BUT WE STILL HAVE A FEW PITCHES  
AVAILABLE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A STALL PLEASE CONTACT  
EMMA 07850247096



## DIDMARTON BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Yet another wonderful turnout for the annual bonfire night. People come from far and wide for our perfect setting. We had a lovely mild and dry evening, the fire

went up and the fire work display was amazing thanks to the 1016, Sherstons Pyrotechnics. They did their usual professional job. We give them £200 for their efforts and they donate that to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Again, I must thank all the army of fabulous helpers who make the evening run smoothly, it really couldn't happen without you.

For those who couldn't manage to pay because the card readers wouldn't talk to the bank the DVHCC bank details are:- Sort 30-91-99 Account 02319866

Thank you in advance.

**Helen Russell**

## WHY WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY—W.O.W

Why we decided to meet up every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Our dear friend Jean Glew ran a club called 'Mature Adults of Didmarton' known as The MAD Club! For many years with 25/35 members coming from as far afield as Minchinhampton. Jean always served delicious home cooked full Afternoon Tea and various entertainments at all our meetings without fail, she was a treasure and a marvellous cook.

Unfortunately she became ill, then Covid happened- so everything came to a halt as it did more or less everywhere. Eventually it was thought to be a good idea to start a much simpler meeting/ club/gathering, so we thought the Pub would be an ideal venue to meet up warm, comfortable the right size and whatever drink one required, and no washing up. A no brainer! We chatter and laugh and choose what to drink depending on how thirsty.

Anyone and all are welcome, we meet between 3/5pm but you can pop in for 10 minutes if you like. All Welcome - give it a try if you have time and want some company or a drink. Dates are always in the Dyddi. Next meeting is December 11th, the only one because of Christmas. Or perhaps see you in the New Year.

**Marguerite**



## SPEEDWATCH OCTOBER

Our last speed watch sessions took place from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. We were able to complete all 10 planned sessions which is very good for this time of the year, please see summary below

We saw an increase in the traffic passing through, especially in the afternoon, probably due to the Autumn colours at the Arboretum.

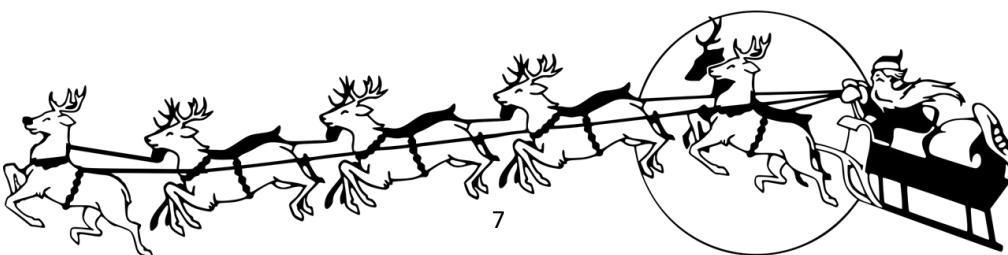
Increased traffic usually means slower speeds through the village but we still recorded 10 doing 40mph or above including one at 52mph.



During December and January we will be reducing our number of sessions to 5 during our speed watch weeks due to the weather and afternoon light.

**Sue Hammond & the speed watch team**

Date & Time	Site	Pos ID's	Highest Speed & Time	Comments	Total Vehs
21st @ 8:15 to 8:50	Village Hall	8	43mph@8:40hrs	5 @ 40mph and above	75
21st @ 17:00 to 17:30	St Lawrence	7	39mph@17:19hrs		233
22nd @8:35 to 9:00	St Lawrence	1	39mph@8:38hrs		139
22nd @16:30 t0 17:00	Village Hall	1	36mph@16:47hrs		157
23 rd @ 8:00:to 8:30	St Lawrence	5	38mph@8:25hrs		217
23rd @ 17:15 to 27:45	Village Hall	2	39mph@17:41hrs		225
24th @ 10:30 to 11:00	Village Hall	2	38mph@10:37hrs		172
24th @ 16:45 t0 17:15	St Lawrence	6	44mph@17:09hrs	one above 40mph	108
25th @ 8:00 to 8:30	Village Hall	9	<b>52mph@8:23hrs</b>	3 @ 40mph and above	71
25th @ 15:15 to 15:45	Village Hall	4	49mph@15:25hrs	one above 40mph	175
<b>Totals</b>		<b>45</b>			<b>1572</b>



## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - NOVEMBER

**Cotswold District Council:** There was no full council meeting this month but at Overview and Scrutiny we reviewed the waste collection implementation (see below) and the draft budget with the medium-term financial strategy. The latter caused me great concern as it shows CDC reserves running out in 2025/26 and a significant budget gap with an associated borrowing requirement in 2026/27. The Chief Financial Officer highlighted this was a worst-case scenario and is dependent on any new settlement from the government, but it may need the administration to take drastic action to avoid issues. Presently they are forecasting around £4m to cover the capital cost of replacement bin lorry fleet, but are working to mitigate this by spreading the need for a wholesale replacement in one hit. However, 5 years ago the reserves stood at £13.4m with a further £7m in property, and they are forecast to be completely depleted in the next few years.

While there have certainly been issues created by the previous government's sporadic settlement, much of the over spend is self-inflicted – this includes the costs for breaking up and the in-sourcing of Publica service company resources (enduring impact of c£400k per year plus project costs), and they have just announced the arrival of two new communications roles costing a combined £250,000pa.

**Bins:** At Overview and Scrutiny Cllr Evamy gave a verbal update, with the Ubico management contributing. When the new rounds were introduced the Ubico management failed to inform their employees that instead of finishing work mid-afternoon, they would be required complete a full day. This obviously caused individuals urgent issues with childcare and other commitments, but management were shocked that a significant number of staff suddenly went off 'sick'! The management also failed to tell workers that they had fitted tracking technology in the trucks. It has taken many weeks to rectify these issues that could so easily have been avoided with sensible advance dialogue with the crews. Both Cllr Evamy and Ubico have offered unreserved apologies for the inconvenience caused to residents.

The good news is that most issues have been resolved, and the new rounds will save £500k per year for a modest outlay of £91k (including the £75k they forgot to put in the budget!).

*Please continue to report missed collections to me as well as the official route at CDC - if I hear nothing, I will be delighted!*

**Roads:** My attempt to get recompense for a damaged tyre appears to be over. The local magistrates court has 'set aside' my claim on a technicality and I don't have the knowledge on how to overcome the required information. I have tried to get some legal representation but have been unable to get a law firm to help. So, GCC's expensive lawyers have once again been successful in fending off a perfectly valid claim for modest recompense. I do wonder how much more it has cost the taxpayer in legal fees versus refunding my burst trye!

Pothole season is now in full swing, and I reported several holes the area, including a huge, repeat offender near Cherington lake – another example of wasting taxpayer's money by dropping blobs of cold tarmac rather than fixing the cause, which in this case is spring water constantly flowing across the road. It was quickly fixed, with... more blobs of cold tar!

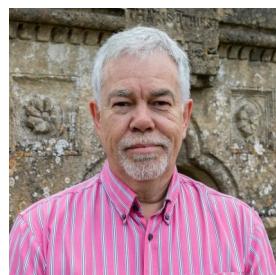
**Family Farm Tax:** Whatever your feelings on the recent budget, the 'APR' change means that inheritance tax of 20% will effectively apply on the full value of farms and rural estates above £1m. In my rural, agricultural ward, farming food for the nation does not pay the bills. Most farmers have to find creative ways to stay afloat, by doing two or more jobs or starting up a sideline business as they make stupidly little income from farming, even though they work long, lonely hours. Farmers tend to be asset-rich and cash poor. Farming is not a popular vocation due to the low pay, difficult work and increasing risk of having crops ruined by extreme weather. Farming is like nursing, it is a vocation, often handed down from father to child. If they cannot afford to pass their business down to relatives, the family farm as we know it will die out, along with all the localised knowledge - every farm is unique having different topography, soils, weather exposure etc. and food security will decline. Family farmers are caretakers of our landscapes, the countryside would look completely different without them. Or perhaps we could build houses!

### **Councillor Tony Slater**

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930





# DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

IS NOW

## DIDMARTON FILM CLUB

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### YOU NEED TO BE ON THE LIST!

We are changing our licence provider. We will be able to show any film, at any time from DVD or other media or streaming. However, we are not allowed to publicly advertise the film. We are not allowed to charge entry.

Didmarton Village Hall and Community Committee will purchase 'blanket' licence for the year.

If you would like to join **Didmarton Film Club** please send your name, email and mobile number to [Jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:Jenny.body1@gmail.com)

Club members will be advised of the film name and time each month as currently happened. We plan to continue showings on the 2nd Friday of each month. All attending are expected to make a donation (£5) for each show. Guests are welcome. The bar will run as usual.

The parish magazines will only confirm that a film will be shown and **not** the name of the film.

Further, if you would like to be a member of the **Film Selection Committee**, please email send to [Jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:Jenny.body1@gmail.com) separately.

If there is a particular film you would like to see please email send to [Jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:Jenny.body1@gmail.com) at any time.

# TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER



**Dec 1** **Roy Howat Piano Recital:** The internationally acclaimed pianist gives us an evening of music by Chopin, Chabrier, Debussy and Faure. He has made a speciality of the French piano repertoire, playing around the world. 6.30. Tickets £24 in advance (£14 under 25s)

**Dec 4** **A Winter's Tale:** Join Ratty and friends with the Last Baguette's Christmas special! Ideal for 2+ and their grown-ups. 10am/11am. Tickets £7 in advance. (Under 1s free.)

**Dec 7/8** **Christmas Fair:** A chance to find the perfect Christmas present made by local artisans – everything from pottery to knitwear, jams and chutneys and original prints and much more. 10.30-5 Admission free

**Dec 13** **Comedy Club:** Comedy Christmas Crackers Paul F Taylor, Stephanie Laing and Danny Deegan bring you a night of festive comedy. 8pm. Tickets in advance £13.50 (under 25s £10)

**Dec 14** **Johnny Coppin:** is back with All On a Winter's Night – his ever popular seasonal concert featuring new releases as well as perennial favourites. 7.30. Tickets in advance £20 (u16 £10)

**Dec 21** **Kim Cypher and her Band:** Join them for a jazzy Christmas special – a mixture of Latin, Blues, swing, funky groove and festive favourites. 7.30. Tickets in advance £18

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:

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

New  
Extended Route!



# Tetbury's Santa Dash!



A fantastic fun event for all the family in aid of Tetbury Hospital.

Come along dressed in your favourite festive attire, we'll supply you with a complimentary Santa hat and then you can choose to walk, run, hop, skip or jump the loop around the town.

Start and finish at the Market House, where there will be mince pies and mulled wine on your return!

Sunday 15th December 2024 at 11am

To buy your tickets go to our events page at  
[www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk)

An event organised by The Friends of Tetbury Hospital and proudly sponsored by Hunter French Tetbury.



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



## A POLITICALLY CORRECT CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves".

"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labour conditions at the North Pole

were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,

Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear

That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid

Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,

Rudolf was suing over unauthorised use of his nose

And had gone on Jeremy Kyle, in front of the nation,

Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd never had a notion

That making a choice could cause so much commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,

Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.

Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot.

Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.

Nothing for just girls, or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.

Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.

Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.

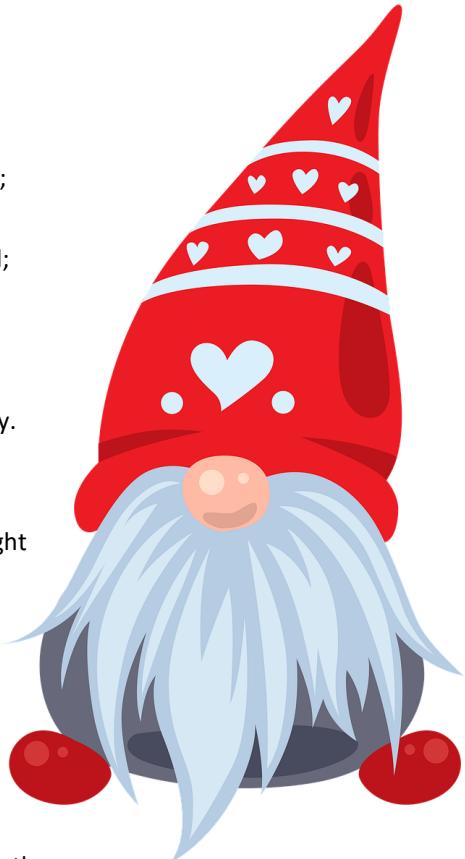


*Continued over>*

No rugby, no football...someone could get hurt;  
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;  
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.  
So Santa just stood there, dishevelled, perplexed;  
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,  
But you've got to be careful with that word today.  
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;  
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.  
Something special was needed, a gift that he might  
Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
Each group of people, every religion;  
Every ethnicity, every hue,  
Everyone, everywhere...even you.  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...  
May you and your loved ones, enjoy peace on Earth.



## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS—THE YULE LOG

The original Nordic and Germanic invaders – Angles, Saxons, and Jutes – were not Christian, but were still engaged in winter solstice celebrations around the 25th December. This was the festival known as Yule, still celebrated by Neo-Pagans across the world, and remembered indirectly by those indulging in a Yule Log this Christmas.

The Yule log was burned in honor of the sun god and to ensure the sun's return after the solstice. Lighting the log symbolized the triumph of light over darkness.

As Christianity spread through Europe, many pagan customs, including the Yule log, were adopted into Christmas celebrations. The log burning became a Christian symbol of Christ's light bringing warmth and renewal to the world.

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS— HOLLY

In ancient Celtic traditions, holly was considered a sacred plant. It symbolized protection and eternal life due to its evergreen leaves that remained vibrant even in the harshest winters.

Druids believed holly warded off evil spirits, and it was often brought indoors for protection and good luck

In Pagan lore holly was associated with the Holly King, a mythical figure who ruled over the darker half of the year. During the winter solstice, the Holly King was thought to battle the Oak King, who represented the lighter half of the year.

This cycle symbolized the renewal of life as the days began to grow longer after the solstice.

**Interesting holly fact**— Scientists recently discovered that holly trees adjust their spiky armour in response to hungry animals and changing environments. They can produce some prickly leaves to fend off nibblers while others remain smooth.

**Knock, knock!**

Who's there?

Holly.

Holly who?

Holly – days are here again!

**What's the most popular Christmas wine?**

'I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

**Why do Christmas trees like the past so much?**

Because the present's beneath them.

**What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?**

You get tinselitis!

**Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?**

Their days are numbered!

**What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?**

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!



**A Wonderful Harvest Festival Celebration** On the final day of term, Sherston Primary School celebrated our annual Harvest Festival, a joyful gathering held at the local church. It was a memorable event, as children, staff, parents, and community members came together to mark this season of giving and gratitude. The children gave impressive performances, singing heartfelt songs, reciting poetry, and sharing insights about our chosen charity, the Malmesbury and District Food Bank. They took pride in explaining how the food bank supports local families and why it's such an essential service within our community.

A special thanks to Judith Parkyn, who captured the beautiful moments of the festival with her photography, helping us to remember this occasion for years to come. We're also deeply grateful to the church for hosting us, and to all the parents for their generous donations of food items, which we've passed on to the food bank. This festival was truly a testament to the power of community, reminding us all of the values of togetherness and kindness that we cherish here at Sherston Primary.

**Inspiring a Love for English** At Sherston Primary School, we're proud of our innovative and engaging English curriculum, which has consistently led to outstanding results. Wherever possible, our teachers anchor their lessons to a quality text, sparking childrens' curiosity and helping them connect with the subject matter in a deeper way. This approach encourages creativity and imagination, as children dive into storytelling, explore poetry, and develop their voices as writers.

Our recent end-of-year results speak volumes: they've all surpassed the national standard, with a 100% pass rate in the phonics screening check—a fantastic achievement! These results reflect not only the dedication of our staff but also their ability to make English a subject that is both challenging and enjoyable. By making learning fun, we ensure that each child at Sherston Primary discovers the joy of language and storytelling, which will serve them well for years to come.

**Our Welcoming ELSA Room** One of the special features at Sherston Primary School is our ELSA room, a space where children can find the support they need to discuss any worries or challenges they're facing. ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support

Assistant, a program designed to help children understand and manage their emotions, boosting their resilience and self-confidence in the process. Our trained ELSA staff member works closely with our children, providing a listening ear and guiding them through tailored activities that encourage emotional growth and understanding. This year, our ELSA room received a warm and cosy makeover, thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Sherston School. Their donation helped us to enhance the space with comfortable seating, calming décor, and sensory materials that make children feel at ease. We are incredibly grateful to the Friends of Sherston School for helping us create such a supportive environment—one where children feel confident and safe to express themselves. This room reflects our commitment to the well-being of every child, providing them with a safe space to be heard and understood.



Harvest Festival

# YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

An American doctor called Dr Mark Hyman frequently posts (in my opinion) very interesting articles on Instagram which are worth reading and a regular podcast, also worth listening to. The following was from a recent posting.

It would appear that many of us as we grow older start to breath through our mouth whilst we are sleeping. This is doing more damage than we think and impacts how much oxygen we take in. It also has an affect on our oral health and over time it can even change our facial structure. A book called "Jaws: A Hidden Epidemic" looks how mouth breathing and "soft diets" have led to issues in craniofacial development. Studies go onto show that our airways function is impaired leading to sleep apnea, (which obesity can also cause).

Nasal breathing isn't just about comfort, it's about function. When we breath through our nose we filter out pathogens via the nasal microbiome (seems this microbiome is needed everywhere).

The increase of oxygen uptake is 20% more than mouth breathing.

Nasal breathing also supports optimal sinus function which goes on to help regulate airflow and pressure.

Mouth breathing over time can go on to change our facial structure. As the jaw isn't properly engaged during mouth breathing, it can be shifted backwards causing a recessed chin. Droopy eyes can start to appear due to less stimulation and proper use of the upper facial muscles and sinuses. When the tongue isn't resting on the roof of the mouth, narrower dental arches happen leading to crowded teeth and misaligned bites.

The harder the food, the stronger jaws are. Chewing tough food helps develop the jaw, align teeth and avoid braces and orthodontic intervention. Chewing activates growth signals in the jawbone.

Try taping your mouth before sleep just a little tape vertically NOT HORIZONTALLY and see if it makes a difference, you may need to try it several times before you get used to nose breathing.

Ruth X

# CHINESE MEDICINE A FESTIVE APPROACH

As the festive season approaches and we make plans to celebrate with friends and family it is inevitable that some of us may overindulge. So here are a few Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) remedies that might help.

## **Herbal Remedies**

Huo Xiang Zheng Qi San: A classic herbal formula that helps with nausea, indigestion, and the feeling of heaviness, commonly caused by overindulgence.

Chrysanthemum Tea (Ju Hua): Known for its cooling properties, it helps detoxify the liver and relieve headaches.

Kudzu Root (Ge Gen): Used to alleviate hangover symptoms like headaches and dizziness, and it promotes the breakdown of alcohol.

Ginger Tea (Sheng Jiang): Warms the stomach, eases nausea, and improves digestion.

## **Acupressure and Acupuncture**

He Gu (LI-4): Located on the hand, this point is used to relieve headaches and promote overall detoxification.

Zu San Li (ST-36): Found below the knee, it supports digestion and boosts energy.

Tai Chong (LV-3): Located on the foot, this liver meridian point aids in detoxifying the liver and relieving tension.

## **Dietary Recommendations**

Pear Juice: Pears are believed to reduce the effects of alcohol and protect the liver.

Warm Water with Honey and Lemon: Combines hydration with energy-boosting natural sugars and liver-supporting vitamin C.

There are thousands of 'hangover cures' out there and while TCM can provide relief, its effectiveness depends on the individual's constitution and the severity of the hangover. Just remember, enjoy yourself but look after your body, you only have the one and no hangover cure is a substitute for hydration, rest, and moderation in alcohol consumption. Exercise according to your body's requirements and indeed restrictions, eat well and help your body heal when it needs it, in all, treat the whole you, body, mind & spirit (not that kind!).

Stuart has 25 years experience of working in the fields of health, fitness, sport and outdoor education. He **embraces both the ancient arts and contemporary science** providing a truly holistic approach to wellbeing for body, spirit & mind. Any questions? [07986 003602](tel:07986003602) or [stuart@pulse4life.co.uk](mailto:stuart@pulse4life.co.uk)

# December 2014 AS 'TWAS 10 YEARS AGO

## Didmarton as it is recorded in the 'DYDDI digest'

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

Very much a breather between Bonfire Night and Christmas the December edition delighted in the success of linking with Hallowe'en and a good night and gathering on the field on 31<sup>st</sup> October. David Russell had again created a magnificent bonfire, Helen Russell and Jeff Eadon had fired up the village BBQ, watched by Adrian Jarvis who was happily responsible for a beer barrel and the beer had been provided by the Kings Arms and Holford Arms. Sarah Bugg was helping the children with witches' costumes and Gina Ellis and Henry Murdock were on standby for first-aiding. Sarah Barrett was thanked for the clearing up efforts after the evening and the whole event had been overseen by DCC members. £700 surplus was achieved on the night.

Reports from Didmarton Football Club were not quite so successful and may be left to history, and a Bingo Night by the MAD Club had relied on the support of non-residents.

Nevertheless, the MAD (Mature Adults of Didmarton) Club was going strongly with events already booked monthly well into 2015: A lunch out, a demonstration from The Cupcake Company of Tetbury, a Beetle Drive, an evening with 'The Ukulele Man'; Poems, Anecdotes and Ditties from Paul Evans, Horse Racing, and a talk on the wild flowers of the Cotswolds taking the club through to July with more being organised for the months of Autumn.

Gardeners were encouraged to get digging in training for any over indulgences during the Christmas festivities but would have been relieved to accept useful advice for days of inclement weather: Sit in an armchair with liquid refreshment and browse through gardening books and seed catalogues.

Two reflective quotations echoed this advice: 1 "You actually burn more calories off sleeping than you do watching television." 2 "If walking is good for your health then postmen should be immortal."

-The above 'digest' of a previous edition is taken from the Village Archive of Dd-



# SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting

**Tuesday 3rd December**

Francis Burroughes on "The Victorian Head Gardener"

## Cuttings

Guest speaker at our November meeting was Sally Oates who talked about her allotment in Tetbury which she had rescued from a state of weed-strewn abandonment some four years ago. She now grows an impressive array of seasonal vegetables and companion flowers for all her family. Regular composting and relentlessly digging out pernicious bind-weed appear to underline her success.

At our December meeting, we're delighted to welcome Francis Burroughes, a well-known name on the West Country speaker circuit. He is well-placed to deliver his talk as his father started his career in horticulture as a gardener's boy on a large estate before the First World War. Francis will describe life on a Victorian country estate, a way of life which has now vanished. We'll hear how to mow a lawn properly with a horse-drawn mower, how to grow grapes, and why William Robinson's butler served his master a pear on a silver tray!

Being December, our members and guests will also enjoy festive fizz, mulled wine and mince pies.

## 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 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)



*December speaker, Francis E Burroughes BEM*

## Community

They're in! We've planted an assortment of narcissi bulbs around the gates at each end of the village and also updated the Post Office and Jubilee troughs with seasonal planting and spring tulips.

*Continued over>*

## Calendar

### 2025 PROGRAMME of TALKS (as final as we can make it a year ahead!)

January 7th - 'Capability Brown' by Hugh Vaux plus 'Our Summer Garden Photos'

February 4th. - 'Diary of a Seed Saver' by Adam Alexander.

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

April 1st. - AGM

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

**May 8th. TRIP TO MORETON HALL. WORCESTERSHIRE.**

June 3rd. 'Looking after the Legacy of Rodmarton 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.

FINALLY, our committee would like to thank all our members for their loyal support in 2024.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2025 AND ANOTHER YEAR OF HAPPY GARDENING!

### **CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS—WHY DOES SANTA WEAR RED**

The English folk figure "Father Christmas" originally wore green robes which eventually turned red over time. This was mainly due to St Nicholas, whose legend modern portrayals of Father Christmas are based on, often appearing in paintings and illustrations wearing red-coloured robes.

The Dutch character Sinterklaas also wore red and white was brought to America by Dutch immigrants in the 19th century.

Thomas Nast's drawings of Santa for Harper's Weekly in the 1860s and 1880s helped establish the modern image of Santa. Nast's 1881 image of Santa in a red suit became something of an official portrait.

In the 1930s, Swedish artist Haddon Sundblom's drawings of a rotund Santa in a red coat for Coca-Cola ads helped cement the image of Santa in red

# JJ'S GARDENING BLOG

Before the weather gets too wet underfoot, it is a good moment to plan vistas. Paths will look longer and more distant if they become narrower as they recede. They also encourage one to walk boldly onward, whilst a curved path will encourage one to linger and notice things. Perhaps plant something at the end of the path, make a destination for the path. A wonderful coloured acer. What a show there has been of them at the roadside at Westonbirt.

So does the path need better drainage? Is it wide enough? Does this path have a wheelbarrow going up and down it? Local stone as a surface will always marry with the stone of the house. Gravel can be easy to lay, but needs weeding often and is an attractive colour. Hard wearing stone such as granite can be a bit gloomy but if you are wanting a pattern using setts, it becomes charming. There are quite a few different coloured stones to choose from, one to avoid is white which looks like a memorial to me.

What garden furniture to choose, which immediately makes one want to linger? Where is it going to be stored?

Is this the time to add water? Perhaps at a place to linger with a seat and a cup of tea?

Going off at a tangent. When some kind person asks what you would like for Christmas, do have an answer from your wish list at the ready, they are unlikely to ask again!



## THE DYDDI DIGEST TEASER NO.10

### The Dd Brain Teaser No.10

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

EUROPEAN LANDMARKS

E T 9 5

R o G 4 2 9

B G 11 4

A d T 3 2 8

T M 3 10

BOXES

C 9

C 6

A 3

S 4

C 9

LEGS

T 5

C 7

E 6

D L 5 4

T 6

BOUNDARIES

R 5

B 7

Coastline 9

F o S R 4 2 3 4

H 10

BRIDGES

P o W 6 2 5

T 5

S H 6 7

G G 6 4

N 5

*Answers to Dd B T No 9*

*C Suit Glasses Legal Pastry Cold*

*R Car Electric Fire Central Heating*

*The Sun Skin W Gloves Hat Scarf*

*Hand Electric Blanket F Union Flag*

*Old Glory Tricolor Hammer And Sickle*

*Stones S Tomato Horseradish*

*Bechamel Custard Pepper*

# SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9

**EASY !!**

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

**NOT SO EASY !!**

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

Answers to the November quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



## VICARS LETTER - NOVEMBER

Dear Friends,

If you like candles and liturgical processions, then I would encourage you to attend the Advent candlelit service at Hawkesbury church on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. It is quite the event. Pretty much a copy of the service at Salisbury Cathedral which is so well known and reported annually.

As we think about Christmas, could we perhaps spare a thought for those who fear the loneliness this season can bring them, the bereaved and the isolated. Every carol service begins with the bidding prayer for those 'who are unloved ...or know not the love of Christ'. They must be in our prayers, this and every Christmas.

It is tragic that the name of 'Jesus' has been so closely connected with a small group of cult-like Christians who think they are the 'real McCoy'. When in reality, the holy name of 'Jesus' and the title 'Christ' are words that should warm the soul of the whole world.

Whether or not one has a personal relationship with Our Lord, the holy names should immediately fill one with a deep sense of hope and joy. Just as the festival which is named after him, 'Christ-mas' – fills us with the spiritual feeling of joy.

So, this Christmas, may our thoughts be holy and may we welcome the spirit of Christ into our lives, whether in church or not.

With my best wishes this Festive season,

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

**Dec-24 Church services** [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Minister</b>
1st December	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	D Hewitt
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	M Butler
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Advent service	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Leighterton	Patronal Evening Prayer	R Bryant Pearson
8th December	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	11am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
15th December	1115am	Sopworth	Matins + HC	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Carol service	Rev R Thomson
	10am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Didmarton	Carol service	A Brassey
	6pm	Westonbirt	Carol service	Rev P Cheeseman
20th December	6pm	Leighterton	Carol service	Rev R Thomson
Friday	7PM	Great Badminton	Carol service (B'fort Hunt)	Rev J Wilson
22nd December	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins withg HC	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Carol service (FOSM)	Rev R Thomson
24th December	4pm	Hawkesbury	Nativity service	Lay led
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Acton Turville	Christingle service	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Lasborough	Carol service	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Sopworth	Carol service	tbc
	11.30pm	Didmarton	Midnight Mass BCP	Rev R Thomson
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
Christmas Day	1115 am	Great	Christmas Day service	Rev R Thomson
29th Dec	No services		Leighterton	
Christmas 1				

Matins on line 9.30am Thursdays:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463304014?pwd=QlJxMWNpelArMUDjV242cUpnV3Nydz09>

## I NEVER KNEW....

A fear of Christmas is called Christougeniatiikophobia, and it's an extreme fear that can cause anxiety and panic when Christmas approaches.

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## JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME

Unfortunately in the commercialism and traditions of the season, the purpose and joy in the coming of Jesus Christ into the world can be lost. Jesus himself speaking in St John's Gospel, Chapter 6 vs38-40 gives us the reason for Joy in celebrating his birth, saying "I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me"

In this we are reminded of his divinity, for he was born not of human pro-creation, but was born into the womb of Mary by the Spirit of God from Heaven, so we can rejoice that in Jesus, God was manifest to the world.

In coming he came with authority from God and in loving obedience to his father's will. Jesus reveals to us the purpose of his coming, which was to accomplish his father's will, which he tells us is "That everyone who sees the son (Jesus) and believes on him should have everlasting life". It is God the fathers desire that we place our faith in Jesus, who came to give his life as a ransom for many, because all we like sheep have gone astray from God and turned to his own way. In order to save us Jesus came to seek and pay the price for our sin by giving his life as ransom by his death on the cross that we might receive forgiveness for our sin and be reconciled to God by our faith in him.

It is the father's will that Jesus retains all who come to him in true faith, by importing to the free gift of God's grace, which is eternal life and returns us to his father God, which he says he "will lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day".

What joy we receive when we realise and respond to the saviour Jesus, for as the angel from heaven announced at his birth, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sin".

May you experience the true joy which Jesus brings, which is the reason for the season and will last into eternity as you place your trust in him!

Royston Pick

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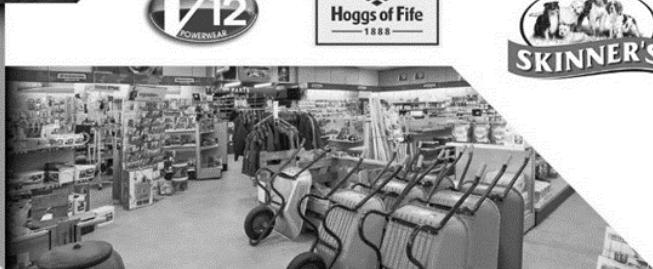
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