



the **DYDDI** digest

January 579

Didmarton's local magazine incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth



Rubbish Dates

All Bins: 1st, 15th & 29th February

Food Waste: 8th & 22nd February

Download Dates

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Diary Dates

1st Black History Month

2nd Groundhog Day

4th World Cancer Day

4th Yorkshire Pudding Day

7th Welcome on Wednesday

9th Didmarton Rural Cinema

10th Lunar New Year

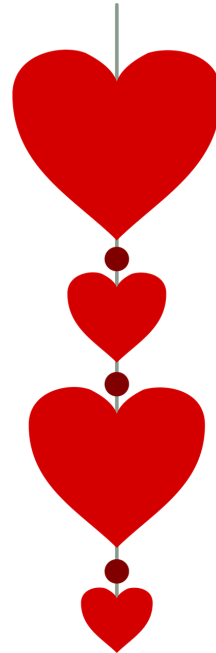
13th Shrove Tuesday

14th Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day

21st Welcome on Wednesday

22nd National Chili Day

29th LEAP YEAR



Local Places to Stay

Didmarton - Self-contained 1 bedroom annex with parking for one car.

Contact Emma 07702 693100 (Photos <https://abnb.me/ZmWzKKHPiBb> please call to book).

Didmarton - The Kings Arms, 01454 238245 <https://butcombe.com/the-kings-arms-gloucestershire/>

**To include your property email details to
editor@dyddi.co.uk**

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

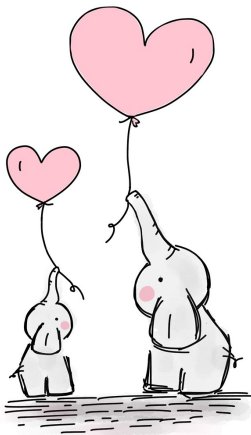
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New Year's Resolutions Not
Going as planned?

Don't look back look forward

**Slow progress is better
than no progress**



LEAP INTO LENT WITH LOVE

Well, February is rather exciting, probably more so for some than others, who due to Ash Wednesday falling on the 14th may have a rather less indulgent Valentines Day than normal. Not to worry, as we all know love, actually, is around us. As this year is a leap year, it is a wide held tradition that on the 29th women are allowed to propose to men. I'll just leave that one hanging, figuratively of course.

HELP WANTED

Although everyone involved does try, it is not always possible to get the Dyddi delivered by the 1st of each month. This can be due to my workload priorities, the printers being busy or our wonderful band of volunteer distributors being otherwise engaged when they take delivery. It happens, but you could help.

HOW?—Deliveries

Although best efforts are made to ensure every household receives a copy, this is not always the case outside of Didmarton, Leighterton and Boxwell, where we have stalwart distributors. We also need volunteers to do the following 2 areas:-

Knockdown— 12 drops / Oldbury on the Hill—8 drops

It's not a huge area but it would be a huge help

HOW? - Content

Could you do a book review once a month? Could you offer a seasonal recipe of the month? A puzzle? Facts on village life past and present? Anything at all that will add variety to the Dyddi. Even if it is every other month and you would prefer to remain anonymous, it would be so wonderful to see more local contributions to our local magazine.

HOW?—Donate or Advertise

The Dyddi is free and relies on advertisers and donations. If you have a local business and enjoy the Dyddi all contributions are welcome.

If you can help in any way please contact me on the email below, your help will be appreciated.

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

Roxzanne Fox-Roberts / editor@dyddi.co.uk

DIDMARTON'S FIRST CHRISTMAS FAIR

Didmarton's first Christmas Fair was held at the village hall on Saturday 2nd of December.

We had set ourselves quite a task in finding stalls holders, promoting the event and pulling things together at rather short notice.

But in true village spirit everyone came together to make it a great success.

It was the coldest day of the year, with temperatures stuck below freezing all day, but that did not put off our stall holders or visitors. A special mention to Mike Eldridge who bravely spent all day outside in the freezing cold manning the BBQ.

So many people helped out on the day, sorry if we don't mention you all by name. We are so lucky to have such a giving village. A special thank you goes to Sarah Nightingale, Jess Eldridge, Rachel Yandell and Emma Derbyshire who helped with the children's entertainment and Santa's grotto.

Henry did a fine job of manning the bar and Jo, Susie, Helen, Rachel and Emma kept the tea and cakes flowing. It goes without saying a very special thank you goes out to Santa himself who did a wonderful job of listening to our children's hopes for Christmas.

The atmosphere was helped by the talented musicians we have living amongst us. We are most grateful to Tim Jones, Paul Whitbread & Jon Brodrribb and Brian Cook who kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon. We had lots of compliments on the entertainment so thank you so much.

The village hall was bustling and felt really festive with 20 stalls from a wide range of artisan traders, crafters and local businesses.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. We look forward to planning next year's fair and incorporating lessons learned from this year. For a start, we will begin planning much earlier than eight weeks before the event!

If you have any feedback you would like to share or would like to be on the committee for this event next year please contact me or Alan.

Emma Kay & Alan Townsend





DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Friday 9th February

The Great Escaper (2023) Drama

Based on a true story. In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.



Cert: 12A – **Run time:** 1 hr. 37 min.

Rotten Tomatoes audience rating: 88%

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, John Standing

Director: *Oliver Parker*

Doors open at 6.30pm for the Bar with Film starting at 7.30pm

If you can let us know if you're coming beforehand as it helps with chairs

Glenda Jackson 1936—2023

This was Glenda Jackson's last film following her death in June 2023 at the age of 87 following a brief illness. Double Oscar winning actress and former MP, described by Michael Caine as "one of our greatest movie actresses" she was one of the few performers to achieve the American Triple Crown of Acting, having won two Academy Awards, three Emmy Awards and a Tony Award.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- Feb 4** **Voodoo Room:** Join us to celebrate the music of Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Cream with the Voodoo Room trio. Tickets £18 in advance. 6pm
- Feb 7** **Playtime:** Join Ratty and her friends for an introduction to theatre for pre-schoolers and their families. You can all enjoy story-telling, music and puppetry. £5 a child. 10-11
- Feb 9** **Miss Sasha Blaze:** Join our favourite drag queen for a night of comedy and cabaret. You can sing along to songs from Abba to Shirley Bassey. Tickets £14 in advance. 8pm
- Feb 17** **The Ben Holder Quartet:** One of the most exciting jazz violinists in the UK and his quartet will be playing music from the jazz hits of the 20s and 30s. Tickets £15.50 in advance. 7.30 £15
- Feb 24** **The Big Brunch Band:** Based in Ashton Keynes the band are a 20+ mix of big band, Latin, film themes and pop. Tickets £15 in advance. 7.30

To buy tickets and for more information about other events such as talks, cinema and exhibitions please visit our website:

www.shed-arts.co.uk

A NOTE FROM TETBURY GOODS SHED

If you don't already know about Tetbury Goods Shed then let me give you a bit of background!

As its name suggests it was originally a train shed on the old Tetbury Branch line, which closed in the 1960s. It was nearly derelict when in the 1990s our current king, then the Prince of Wales, set up a meeting which resulted in the town acquiring the land and building and – after nearly 20 years of hard work and fundraising – it was reborn as the Tetbury Goods Shed Community Arts Centre and opened by His Royal Highness in 2016.

It is now one of the jewels of Tetbury, putting on a wide range of events from classical music, jazz, folk and tribute bands to comedy club, children's music and theatre, and films, talks and exhibitions. In February alone you can hear music ranging from Jimmy Hendricks to Cream with the Voodoo Room, listen to Ben Holder's Jazz Quartet, see drag queen Miss Sacha Blaze in a comedy cabaret, take your pre-school children to our Playtime or just spend a peaceful afternoon listening to music over tea and excellent cake from our Whistle Stop Café!

So why not come along – there's something for everyone and you can find more details on our website: www.shed-arts.co.uk



The January draw took place on January 10th at the WOW meeting held at the Kings Arms. The prize winners were:-

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|------------------|-----------|-----|---------------|
| 1st Prize | £20 | Pam Smith | 2nd Prize | £15 | Pip Hardy |
| 3rd Prize | £10 | Marguerite Whyte | 4th Prize | £10 | Tiff Brodribb |

Sue and Sue

Apologies—I am working on getting the 100 Club nearer the front. Just a reminder that renewals are fact approaching, more next month.

Learning in Reception Class

At Sherston, we believe in a vision that encapsulates the essence of our educational journey - "Learning, Caring and Achieving Together." These aren't just words; they are the guiding principles that define our school community. In our reception class, we strive to create an environment where curiosity is sparked, questions are encouraged, and discovery is celebrated. Learning is not a solitary journey; it's a collaborative effort between children, teachers, and parents. Our school is not just a place of education; it's a community that cares. We believe in fostering a sense of belonging, empathy, and kindness. Our dedicated staff and supportive parents work hand in hand to create a nurturing atmosphere where each child feels valued, safe, and loved. Our aim is to instil in our children the importance of caring for themselves, others, and the world around them. Every small step, every 'aha' moment, and every achievement, no matter how big or small, is a cause for celebration. By working together as a team - children, teachers, and parents - we create a foundation for success. Our goal is to empower each child to reach their full potential, setting them on a path to future



Continued over>

New Reception Space

We are delighted to be able to share the plans for our new EYFS space launching this September. Just scan the QR code to view our new Reception classroom.

If you would like to come for a 1:1 tour with our Headteacher Mr Towers please call 01666 840 237 or email admin@sherston.wilts.sch.uk to book an appointment.



Hawkesbury Youth Club



Tuesday Evenings
(7pm to 8.30pm)
at Hawkesbury Village
Hall.



For people aged 11 to 18,
£2 per session.



February Dates:

20th & 27th



For updates please follow our
social media, or email us:
hawkesyouth@gmail.com



[HawkesburyYouthGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyYouthGroup)



[hawkesburyyouthclub](https://www.instagram.com/hawkesburyyouthclub)

LEAP YEARS—WITHOUT PROPOSALS

As we know, our year is actually 365.24 days long, which is known as the Tropical Year (which obviously has no bearing on the weather we experience!) while our Common Year (normal) is 365 days and every 4 years we add up the .24 to give us a leap year in which we add an extra day to the underfunded February to make 29 days instead of 28 (a good reason to skip dry January and do it in February instead!). The Mathematicians amongst us will spot that we are 0.01 out, so how do we compensate?

Three Leap Year Rules

The year number must be divisible by four – except for end-of-century years, which must be divisible by 400. This means that the year 2000 was a leap year, although 1900 was not. 2024, 2028, 2032 and 2036 are all leap years.

Why These Rules?

Leap years began more than two millennia ago, when the scientific advisers to Roman emperor Julius Caesar spotted that the years were not properly aligning with the seasons. So in 45 BC, Caesar decreed there would be an extra day every four years to compensate.

The only problem was that this Julian calendar didn't fully take into account the slow drift that happened because that quarter of a day wasn't *exactly* a quarter but 0.24 of a day.

This may not sound significant, and it wasn't really noticed for centuries, until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII was advised that the alignment of the seasons and the time of year had really got out of whack – by 10 days to be precise.

So to compensate for this, the pope's astronomers worked out mathematically that from then on, every year divisible by four would stay as a leap year in addition to every end of century year divisible by 400 – so 1600 and 2000 were leap years for example but 1900 was not.

To deal with the 10 extra days they'd accumulated and catch up, the pope decided to drop 10 days from that year in October. So the day after 4 October 1582 was 15 October. Too bad if your birthday fell on one of the days in between!

ST VALENTINE'S DAY 14TH FEBRUARY

February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France, as an indication of our romantic interest.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

(Taken from History.com)

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

My dear mum always referred to stress as the silent killer and we are finding out more and more how true these words are. Stress will manifest in inflammation and lead to various ailments.

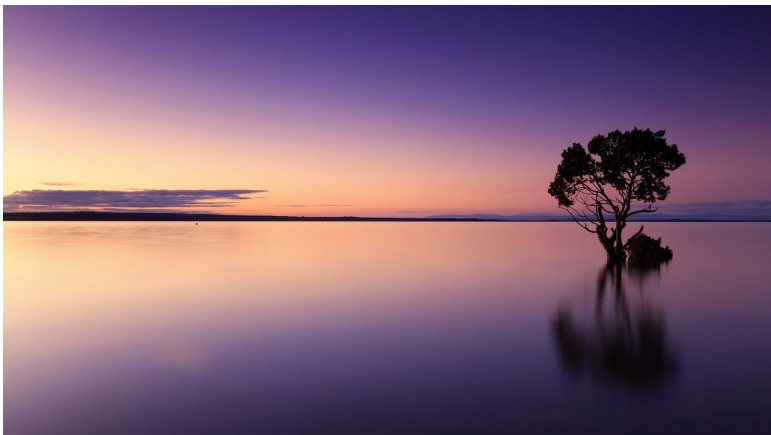
We all hold our stress in different parts of our bodies, some hold it in their necks, others in their backs or stomachs or face. When ever we have stress the fight or flight hormone Cortisol is released and can go onto to do untold damage to our bodies. Fibromyalgia is a condition which appears to be brought on by stress as can various types of arthritis. Our Microbiome can be destroyed leading to not only to digestive and stomach problems but also depression.

Stress needs to be managed and whilst we can't always avoid it, we can look at how we deal with it. Breath work, Mindfulness, Gratitude, nature, talking, therapy and friends are all ways to help manage the constant stress in our lives. Also thinking about the choices we make, does listening, watching or reading the news add to our stress? if so choose not to. Do we live according to our own values? Again, if not, then this will be adding a constant stress to our lives.

So if any of this resonates with you then have a close look at your life and review the choices you make and bring in some balance and reduce or even better get rid of the Cortisol that could be flooding your body and causing untold damage.

Here is to a stress free 2024!

Ruth x



I USED TO KNOW THAT

Stuff we Forgot from School, simplified.



Figuratively v Literally

Figuratively means metaphorically, and literally describes something **that actually** happened. If you say that a guitar solo literally blew your head off, your head should not be attached to your body.

Adjectives v Adverbs

Adjectives, such as big or smart, are words that describe nouns. Adverbs, such as quickly or very, are words that describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Nouns are naming words and verbs are doing words.

Averages—they're not all the same

The mean (average) of a data set is found by adding all numbers in the data set and then dividing by the number of values in the set. The median is the middle value when a data set is ordered from least to greatest. The mode is the number that occurs most often in a data set.

Pi—not the edible one— π

3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510 (someone has calculated Pi to 2 billion decimal places, clearly they need to get out more)

Pi exists as a fundamental constant (or irrational) in mathematics and appears in numerous formulas across various scientific and mathematical disciplines. Its primary purpose is to provide a standard for relating the circumference and diameter of a circle, and it also has applications in trigonometry, geometry, calculus, and physics. Its value is roughly $3 \frac{1}{7}$ (one seventh)

The Era of Charles III

What is King Charles' reign called? King Charles III's reign is known as the Carolean era. The reigns of Charles I from 1625 to 1649, and Charles II, from 1660 to 1685, were also named the Carolean eras. The name originates from the Latin name for Charles, Carolus.

Malmesbury Singers Concert

Thomas Mottershead
Musical Director

Celestial Journey

Passion & Requiem

Concert Ticket Price
£20 Adults
£5 Students/ Children

Available from:
<https://malmesburysingers.co.uk>
Via the Abbey or Choir Member
Tickets non refundable

Immerse yourself in a celestial choral journey. Franck's Les Sept Paroles delves into Christ's final words while Fauré's Requiem offers serene beauty. Malmesbury Singers, soloists, and chamber ensemble join forces for a transcendent night of passion and requiem.

Soprano
Rusnė Tušlaitė

Tenor
Osian Wyn Bowen

Baritone
Matthew Welch

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024
7:30 PM MALMESBURY ABBEY



IT'S CHILLI OUTSIDE

As my husband it s chilli freak, growing a minimum of three different types at one time, I thought, as Chilli day falls in February we should look at the Scovial Scale, a method to measure Chilli heat. (If you ever need any chillies please do ask, as well as fresh we have loads frozen and I fear they are taking over...)

What worries me most is that there is a chilli hotter than Weapon Grade Pepper Spray!!

Scoville Scale



The Origin of The Scoville Scale

Wilbur Scoville, a pharmacologist, invented the Scoville scale in 1912 to measure the pungency of peppers and chillies, generally related to their capsaicin content (the compound found in chillies responsible for their burning and irritant effect. In addition to the sensation of heat, capsaicin produces pain and is used in the study of pain. Again, we will leave this here!). To establish a chilli's rating, Scoville would prepare it in a solution, which was tested by five people. He increased its dilution until the sensation of heat

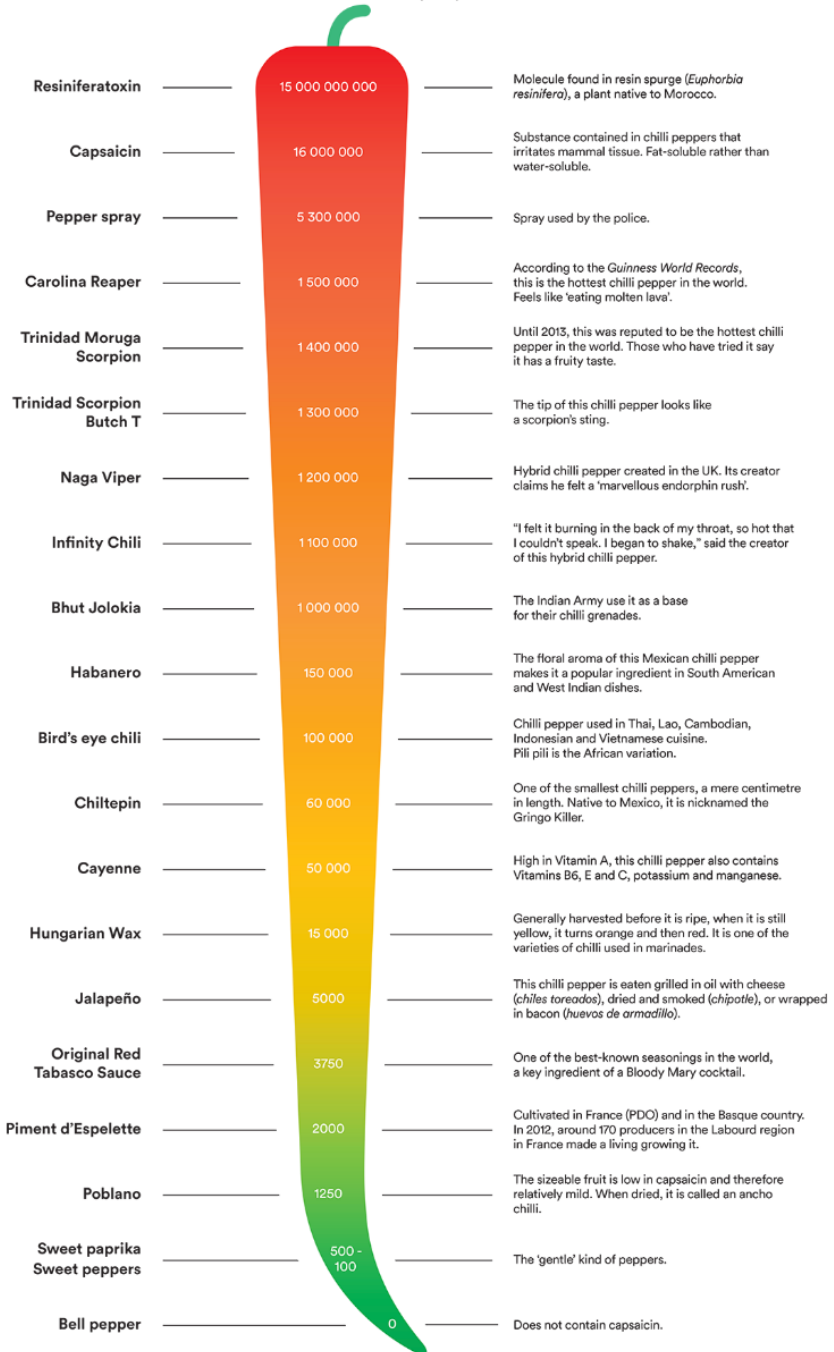
disappeared. The score on the scale represents the level of dilution required for the sensation of heat to disappear completely. The next page has a more detailed diagram.



Simplified Scoville scale

Average Scoville Heat Units (SHUs)

HARMFUL
DANGEROUS
EXPLOSIVE
VOLCANIC
TORRID
SCORCHING
FIERY
STRONG
HOT
SPICY
WARM
MILD
NEUTRAL





SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting
Tuesday 6th February 2024
Speaker is Hortico's
Piers Lavan

Cuttings

The New Year got off to a cracking start with a talk by Nicola Hope about creating a no-dig polyculture in the garden. Nicola was our first ever speaker in 2022 and she is an impassioned advocate of no digging. She used slides of her own and clients' gardens to illustrate the impressive results of this approach for both produce and companion flowering plants. Her enthusiasm has won us over, in terms of both the sustainability of the practice and the health benefits for aching backs.

Piers Lavan, co-owner of Hortico and college lecturer, is paying us a reciprocal visit at our next meeting on 6th February. He will talk knowledgeably about.....well, you've have to come along and find out because, as of copy deadline date, he hasn't confirmed his subject choice. It'll be good, whatever he decides!

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. Refreshments, plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, and jobs to do for the month (helpful, if you don't subscribe to Gardeners' World).

New members from Sherston and surrounding villages are always welcome. The cost remains the same as last year: £15 single, £25 joint, U18's free. For membership form and full programme contact our Secretary: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com Furthermore, all new members who join between January and March 2024 will have valid membership until April 2025, so it's a bargain!

Calendar 2024

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 6th February | Piers Lavan of Hortico Topic tbc |
| 5th March | 'Rosemary Verey, her legacy to C20th gardening' with Margie Hoffnung |
| 2nd April | 'Four Seasons Cotswold Style' with Mandy Bradshaw |
| 7th May | 'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends' with Andrew Tolman |
| 4 th June | 'Growing Clematis and other Climbers' with Andrew Jeanes |
| 12 th July (Friday) | Summer Social at The Garden House, Westonbirt (thanks, Clare & James Turner!) |
| August | No meeting but there will be a trip <u>TBC</u> |
| 3 rd September | 'Garden Design for Nature and Wellbeing' with Rachel Emous-Austin |
| 1 st October | 'Growing a Cut Flower Garden' with Rachel Golding Barrett |
| 3 rd December | 'The Victorian Gardener' (with a Christmas theme) with Francis Burroughes |

Visits to Highgrove, Lackham Campus of Wiltshire College and RHS Hampton Court are under discussion as well as NGS garden visits. More details to follow.

Concluding (with an evocative piece of travel writing to brighten up the February days!)

Huge, gnarled, ancient olives, the kind worthy of frescoes, lined up in groves that we drove through for days. I don't think I'd ever imagined what an olive tree could be till I saw them. Even the ones we walked through weeks later in northern Italy paled in comparison. As we travelled out to the Adriatic coast, and then into the Abruzzo mountains, I loved soaking up the changing greenery through the car window. Among it all was one plant that I will remember above the others: a rosemary plant that defied belief. It covered a wall 30 feet tall and 15 wide- an enormous living habitat for moths, butterflies and other pollinators. Each morning, we'd marvel as huge grasshoppers took flight before our eyes. I won't be able to plant rosemary again without thinking of those (sunny) Umbrian mornings. *.Alice Vincent, Gardens Illustrated 2024*

J.J's Gardening Blog

It's the time to wander around the garden and take stock of what you liked and what has got too big, what was a weakling etc and remember to jot down your thoughts in a gardening note book. If a particular plant was rather disappointing, was it overshadowed by another, did it need acid or alkaline soil, or was it a weak specimen and you have already given it a good deal of attention. Maybe it is a poor plant and not worth spending any more time on.

However let's dwell on some lovely primroses and primulas that are flowering now. What a joy they are. Snowdrops will soon follow. They grow easily in the Cotswolds and those properties with swathes of them are worth visiting. Look up details of these gardens and their opening times either in the Yellow Book or in the free gardening paper available in garden centres and nurseries.

Pot up lily bulbs. Sew sweet peas. Plan the vegetable rotations. Cover seed beds for spring vegetable sowing with cardboard to stop the soil becoming impacted and weed free.

There's always something to do. Do it now and it all becomes a small job, push it aside and it becomes a chore. Lots to look forward too.

I have seen the first early daffodils out at the war memorial in Hillesly.



SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | 9 | | 8 | | | | | 3 |
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Answers to the January quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

The roots of Sudoku can be traced back to an 18th-century Swiss mathematician's game called “Latin Squares.” According to an article from The Economist, this game laid the groundwork for the development of number puzzles. The concept of placing numbers in a grid was already in play during this time.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear All,

Easter is early this year which means that Ash Wednesday is on St. Valentine's Day, 14th of February. Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence and sorrow, whereas St Valentine's day is a day of celebration for love. So, this clash will undoubtedly make for interesting discussions in Vicarages up and down the country between husbands and wives. Most likely focusing on the question of which is the vicar's priority, the church, or the wife? (Not a problem I have, as I have learnt the correct answer!) But get the answer wrong, and the vicar could be making his own supper for the foreseeable.

But it is difficult if say, you have a designated **fast** day on a designated **feast** day, which takes precedence? The church prioritises some days as **red letter** days. These are days that are very important and were therefore printed in the calendar in red, rather than in black. St. Valentine is a **black** letter day, which is less important than Ash Wednesday which is a **red** letter day. So St Valentine is unfortunately for all those romanticists, well and truly trumped. Which means that many vicars could be in very real danger of making their own suppers on Feb 14th! But the upside is that their Lenten supper of bread and soup will I am sure, make them feel very virtuous.

On a more serious note, Ash Wednesday ushers in the 40 days of Lent which precedes Easter. It is a time of prayer and penitence (and soup!) - so I hope to see many of you in church as with me, you reflect on your life and our many weaknesses. And in so doing, prepare ourselves to celebrate the deep joys of our union with the risen Christ, this Easter.

May I remind those more ascetically-minded amongst you, that Sundays are always Feast days, so could be excluded from your Lenten fast. This is because every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection and therefore, in effect, a mini-Easter Day. I hope that that thought cheers the cockles of your heart, on a cold February day. So, soup in Lent but not on Sundays! And I have always thought that if someone has a special day of celebration in Lent, the fast can be set aside for that day, also.

Have a Happy February,

Richard

Priest in charge, Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com
revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 219236

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

| Feb-24 Parish Church services: | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Date | Time | Parish | Service | Minister |
| 4th February | 9.30am | Lasborough | Matins | Churchwarden led |
| | 9.30am | Hawkesbury | Parish Communion CW | Rev R Thomson |
| | 1115am | Didmarton | Matins | Rev R Thomson |
| | 3pm | Acton Turville | Evensong | Rev R Thomson |
| 11th February | 9.30am | Lasborough | Holy Communion BCP | P Cheeseman |
| | 9.30am | Leighterton | Holy Communion 1928 | Rev R Thomson |
| | 1115am | Little Badminton | Matins | Rev R Thomson |
| | 5pm | Hawkesbury | Evensong | Rev R Thomson |
| Feb 14th | | | Service of Communion | |
| Ash Wednesday | 9.30am | Hawkesbury | with Ashing | Rev R Thomson |
| 18th February | 8.30am | Didmarton | Holy Communion BCP | Rev R Thomson |
| | 10.00am | Hawkesbury | Family service | Rev R Thomson |
| | 1115am | Sopworth | Matins | Rev R Thomson |
| | 3pm | Acton Turville | Evensong | Rev R Thomson |
| 25th February | 9.30am | Lasborough | HC CW | Rev R Thomson |
| | 1115am | Little Badminton | Matins + HC | Rev R Thomson |
| | 5pm | Hawkesbury | Evensong | Rev L Maydew |
| Online | 9.30am every Thursday | Ask vicar for link | Matins | Rev R Thomson |
| Readings: | www.badmintonbenefice.com | | | |

Did you Know...

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

Top Tips

Fresh ingredients

Don't over-stir the batter

Hot pan

Flip— Cook the pancake on one side – it's cooked when it comes away from the pan when you give it a shake. Tip the pancake to the edge of the pan and three, two, one... flip. Remember to apply the same action as you would use when making a stir-fry with a wok – it's just about employing a confident flick of the wrist—good luck and enjoy,



True Love

At this time of year, there will be many sincere expressions of love forthcoming to our nearest and dearest, but none of them can be compared to the quality and reliability of God's love for us which is new every morning. Great is his faithfulness, whose love is true love, not that we loved God but that he first loved us and gave his son as a sacrifice for our sin. His love is demonstrated by Jesus' work on the cross on our behalf.

Speaking to believers the apostle John says "Behold what love the Father has bestowed upon us (those who are true believers in Jesus) that we should be called the Son's of God!"

In Jesus, God the Father is reaching out his hand of love to all who will receive it. We all need to experience this love God has provided for us in Jesus, for we have all turned our backs on him and lived in ways that disregard God's laws which reveal his loving for our lives. It is by our obedience to his law that we can return our love for him, seeking to fulfil his will in our lives. Jesus was able to say "I do always the will of God!" Because he has perfectly fulfilled the love of God he is able to be the only sacrifice for the sin of us who have broken his law.

When asked what the great commandment in the law was, Jesus replied "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind". Obedience to the law of itself will not save us from the wrath of God, but he now calls us to repent of sin and turn in faith to Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts who will enable us to walk in loving obedience to God's will in our lives.

Such a life of love for him here and now will prepare us for the day we leave this world and give an account of the life we have lived. Jesus said "not everyone who says to me 'Lord Lord' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my father in Heaven".

Are you living a life of loving obedience in response to his love to us in our lord Jesus Christ? Will you turn to love him repenting of sin and trusting Jesus to save and keep you in God's love today?

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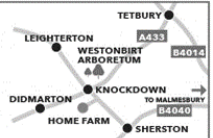
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