

THE DYDDI DIGEST

February 2025—593

The Pink Edition—For Romantics



Didmarton's local magazine incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth



RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – 14th & 28th February

Food Waste— 7th & 21st February

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

DIARY DATES

2nd—Groundhog Day

4th—World Cancer Day

5th—WOW

7th—Safer Internet Day

12th—Hug Day

13th—Kiss Day

14th—Valentine’s Day

15th—Slap Day

18th—Flirting Day

19th—WOW

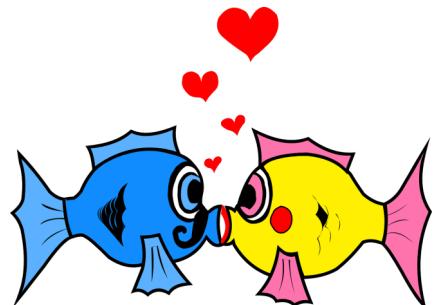
21st—Break-up Day

28th—First Day of Ramadan



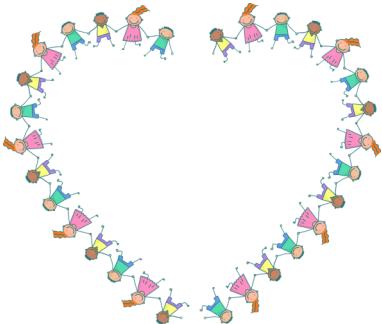
STRANGE VALENTINE’S FACTS

Many believe the X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn’t write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.



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

It is with much sadness that we let you know that our Mum, Jean Muggleton, passed away on 31 December 2024 following a short illness.

We grew up in the village and Mum lived there for 45 years and we think of Didmarton as our family home.

Mum was always grateful for all the friendship, help and support she received from everyone, particularly after our Dad passed away.

Thank you for all our happy memories.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

You may start to notice that we are referencing 1975 with rather more frequency than you might expect. This is because the Dyddi will be celebrating it's 50th birthday this year. I doubt there are very many parish magazines that can boast the same. It would be good to make this a memorable occasion, and I am sure the Parish Council will have lots of ideas. What about you? Any suggestions you may have on how to celebrate this amazing milestone are very much welcome, just drop me an email.

Deliveries

We are still looking for someone to take on a short local delivery round of 7 drop-off points, if you can help please let me know. If you do not get your copy and can't access it online, there are copies in the Kings Arms in Didmarton, The Royal Oak in Leighterton, The Holford in Knockdown & The Old Royal Ship in Luckington.

We are now also leaving copies in the local phone boxes.

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 online:- www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

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



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



Our grand Christmas draw took place at the 8th January at WOW held at the Kings Arms. The prize winners were:

1st prize £20 Vivian Clare

2nd prize £15 Ed Hardy

3rd prize £15 Celia Bedford

4th prize £10 Jane pollard

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

CAN YOU HELP LEIGHTERTON SCHOOL?

Dear All,

Leighterton school are hosting an Auction evening on the 7th March in Didmarton village hall. Tickets will be on sale soon but we were hoping for local supporters to make donations for the auction. We are looking for experiences or favours. If you can offer anything please get in touch with the ptfa email address:

leighterton.ptfa@gmail.com.

Ideas for consideration are a lawn mow, cricket lesson, boules lesson, voucher for a meal, home made loaf of bread, car wash, anything goes!

Thank you

Congratulations to Henrietta, Liam & big brother Freddy on the safe arrival of Robyn Marie Reily



SAVE THE CLOCK TOWER!

Sadly, this is not a reference to an imminent visit by Marty McFly and Doc Brown, but to raise village awareness of the parlous state of the clock tower at St Lawrence's.



Last year, some major maintenance was carried out to the workings of the 200-year-old clock. Upon completion of the work, it was discovered that the workings could not be reinstated because the dial of the clock was itself in need of considerable repair and this had not been obvious before.

Around the same time, the 400-year-old bell was silenced as the fixings which keep it hanging in the tower were deemed to be of insufficient strength to tolerate the swinging of the bell. The bell itself also needs repair work to restore the clarity of its bong!

We have already held some fundraising events and are in the process of applying for grants, but the total for these two jobs will be somewhere in the region of £20,000 plus VAT. As you can imagine, this is a terrifying amount of money, given that the church already has to find in excess of £11,000 every year to support its everyday running costs.

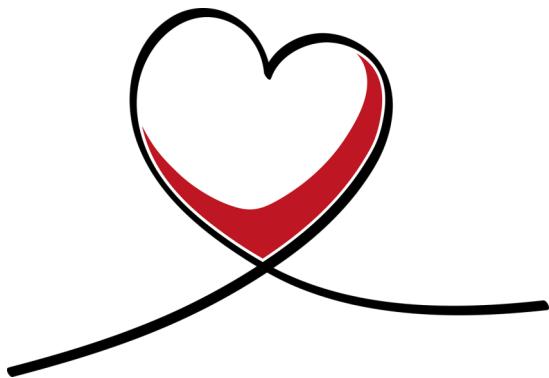
If you are missing seeing the time as you walk or drive through the village or hearing the bell when you are walking in the fields, please consider making a donation.

There is a fundraising campaign set up on Give a Little (<https://givealittle.co/c/HsUHZ7Cit00lTAGpmD0hs>). This QR code takes you straight there!



Thank you for any donations.

St Lawrence's PCC



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - DECEMBER

I hadn't planned to do a report for January as I thought it unlikely anything would happen over Christmas – but that hasn't quite been the case! You may have seen that the Government has decreed that local councils will have to merge into larger unitary authorities, perhaps with an elected mayor, and that the current system of County and District councils will no longer exist. Gloucestershire currently has a two-tier council structure made up of Gloucestershire County Council and beneath that, six district councils: Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury, the Cotswolds, and the Forest of Dean.

The Government's aim is to devolve more power to these new authorities, and in turn Parish Councils may be afforded additional responsibilities. In the short-term, legislation is being prepared to postpone the County elections in May so that councils can forge the relationships with their chosen partners. In Gloucestershire's case there are several options being considered – join the existing West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which covers Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and Northeast Somerset (BANES); it could look to form a new authority with either Swindon and Wiltshire; or linking with Herefordshire and Worcestershire to the north. Doing nothing is not an option, so I am glad to hear that GCC are on the front foot when choosing new partners. To me it makes more sense to take the last option and partner with other largely rural communities, and it would mean Gloucestershire would be the biggest and senior authority.

I have significant reservations that the reorganisation will give more powers locally, but my biggest concern is cost, and who will pay for the transition. The 'minor' insourcing project at CDC is likely costing £2-3m plus increased ongoing costs of £400k per year, so unpicking all the contracts and staffing implications associated with the full district and multiple County councils is likely to be astronomical! Needless to say, you and I will pay one way or another!

Cotswold District Council (CDC): The Cabinet have written to the Government to object to the changes, and more specifically the cancellation of the May elections.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC): I had the pleasure of showing Stephan Fifield around Grumbolds Ash – Stephan is the deputy leader of GCC and has taken over the local responsibilities of Stephen Hirst due to his ongoing health issues. We looked at the more serious ongoing issues with our local roads, including potholes, drainage, inappropriate speed limits. We also covered flooding, and other important issues in the parishes – these issues will all be fed back to the appropriate departments at GCC and will hopefully produce actions in the future. Stephan will attend future Parish meetings wherever possible.

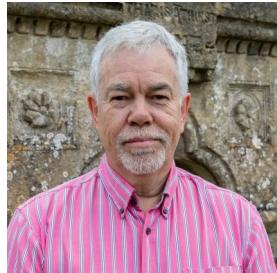
Litter: On a post-Christmas walk with my wife, we came across a discarded McDonalds meal bag. On opening it, we discovered a receipt from KFC with the date, time, and server. I passed this information on to the fly tipping officer at CDC who is now working with both food retailers to cross-reference the transactions with the vehicle details of the purchaser, which will hopefully lead to a fine of up to £500 for the person who dropped it! The message is simple – just take your rubbish home and dispose of it properly.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930



STRANGE VALENTINE'S FACTS

Physicians of the 1800s commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love.

Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for this holiday in the late 1800s.

In Japan, women are expected to give chocolate and other gifts to men on Valentine's Day. This tradition was started as a marketing campaign by Japanese chocolate companies.



“If one day the moon calls you by your name don't be surprised, because every night I tell her about you.”

—Shahrazad al-Khalij

February 1975—As 'Twas—February 2025

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

'Didmarton's own newspaper – the first 50 years – Part One'

'Diddy-Ditty' and 'DYDDI digest' were but twinkles in the eyes of a group of villagers early in 1975 who could have had no idea that 50 years after it was conceived the village magazine of Didmarton, Gloucestershire would have been delivered every month on nearing 600 occasions.

There was no Didmarton magazine in February 1975. Instead, anyone who was organising an event or giving notice of something which had occurred in the village, or to a resident, or in the locality, had to distribute the information on, often hand-written, notes pushed through relevant letter boxes. If it were to be a forthcoming event and they were hoping for support and a good turnout that meant about 180 letter boxes. On foot and in all weathers. Since 1975 only the Village Appraisal and the Village Questionnaire about the Village Hall have also travelled this well-trodden path around all the homes. The 'Diddy-Ditty' / 'DYDDI digest' was the solution to the problem of village communication*.

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

The Dd is hoping to track down and make contact with as many of its Editors and helpers as possible. Over the course of the last 50 years that is quite a number of people. Some are no longer with us, some are living abroad, many are elsewhere in the UK. If you are a previous Editor, or a member of their family, or someone who has helped** in its production and delivery, please would you make contact. If you are still in touch with someone who worked on or helped with Dd over the years please would you ask them to make contact. If you know of the whereabouts of any of the above but have lost contact please let Dd know – someone else may have more information. (D.P.A. - Please do not provide personal information about others without prior consent.)

** Collectors of Information, Editors, Compilers, Typists, Printers, Collators, Deliverers, Makers of tea and sustenance, etc.

CONTACT with this information – Email preferred

davidamichel@icloud.com 07590 500888 (text) 01454 238431 (ans.)

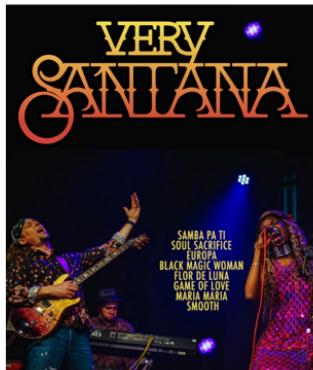
*The above 'digest' has been compiled from the memories and comments of villagers associated with the 'Diddy-Ditty' and 'DYDDI digest' mentioned and recorded in a number of issues held in the Village Archive of Dd.

"Recollections may vary." (Queen Elizabeth II)

TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY



Feb 1 **Very Santana:** An authentic re-creation of music from guitar master Carlos Santana and his band. The evening spans the entire musical legacy from early days to modern era hits like Smooth. Tickets £20 in advance. 7.30

Feb 7 **Swing from Paris:** Vintage jazz from this talented quartet re-captures the music of the 1930s and 40s. Tickets in advance £16/under 25s £10. 7.30.

Feb 15 **Classical Series:** Cellist Tim Posner and pianist Mishka Rushdie Momen play Beethoven, Faure, Liszt and Saint-Saens. Tickets in advance £24/under 25s £15. 7.30

Feb 26 **Playtime Theatre:** Join Ratty's band for cheesy tunes and fun theatre for 2-6 year olds from the Last Baguette Company. Tickets in advance adults £5, children over 1 £5 babies free. 10am

Feb 26 **Blue Wales – the Return of the Giants:** a film and talk by Hugh Pearson, producer of Blue Planet. Tickets in advance £8.50. 8pm

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

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk



PTFA

Auction of Promises

Call for Auction Lots!



We're excited to announce our upcoming Auction of Promises on
Friday 7th March 2025

We need your help to make it a success!

Do you have a skill, experience, or service you could offer as a promise?

We're looking for generous donations to be auctioned off, with all proceeds supporting:

Leighterton Primary School PTFA

We already have some fantastic promises, including:

Beekeeping Experience - Learn the art of beekeeping up close
Stay at the Bodkin House Hotel - A relaxing getaway for two
Cleaning Session - Let the experts take care of the hard work!

But we need more!

Whether it's a home-cooked meal, gardening help, a music lesson, or any unique experience, every promise counts.

How to get involved:

Simply email

leighterton.ptfa@gmail.com

to pledge your promise and make a difference.

Help us make this auction an event to remember

This event is kindly sponsored by
Hunter French Estate Agents



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

In March 2024 an ex-military friend and I took on The Great Tommy Sleep Out challenge in Sherston and raised around £1200 for The Royal British Legion. We crept into the woods in Pinkney (don 't worry we had permission!) slung up our "Bashas" and cooked up some dinner, I had steak, broccoli and a beer and Dan, for some inexplicable reason cooked the world's most disgusting boil in the bag fish!



The Great Tommy Sleep Out is a national award winning fundraising challenge designed to support veterans that are experiencing homelessness in the UK right now. During the month of March, volunteers sleep out beneath the stars and fundraise for veterans across the UK. The challenge doesn't replicate rough sleeping, but it does give you an idea of the situation far too many of the nation's heroes find themselves in.

Dan and I are going again this year but realise we'll be asking the same friends for sponsorship. The only way to truly raise funds would be to invite more people to join us.

So who's up for it?

Here's our plan, a plan that can involve the whole village. We are going to invite over 18s to join us for one night from 20:00 to 08:00 for a simple sleep out under the stars, in and out in 12 hours and leaving not trace behind us.

Scouts, Riaan will be organising something for you. Cubs, Candy and Rachel will be doing the same for you.

Families, mums, dads, kids and pets, please have your own back garden sleep out.

And finally, a no less important group who we will call "The Stay At Home Guard". If you are in any way unable to sleep out, simply sleep in, "Basha Out" on the floor or the sofa and stay involved too.

I'm talking with Lisa Cooksley-White, the CEO of RBLI and she loves the idea, we will be the first community to attempt this!

More information will follow next month but for now, save the date: FRIDAY MARCH 28th 2025 and give up your comfort and sleep out in March.

Continued over>

Be proud to raise vital funds to give homeless veterans a safe place to call home.

Contact Pat to register your interest, we don't know how big this is going to be!

Pat@starkecreative.co.uk and title your email "GTSO" please.



VALENTINE'S DAY—FLORAL FORTUNE TELLERS

There is a long history of 'love oracles', the custom of counting petals or pips to establish if the object of your affection loves you back is well known. One of the earliest examples comes from the 13th century poet Vogelweide, who described using finger lengths to measure a tall piece of grass while reciting "she will, she won', she will, she won't".

The daisy divination, popular to this day, was first recorded in 15th century Germany; folk names for the daisy in German still translate to oracle flower (orakelblume) or love bloom (liebesblume). The amorous French took this a little further and added thrilling detail. Their version *effeuiller la marguerite* (plucking the daisy) has the extra lines "he

loves me a little, a lot, scarcely, passionately, constantly, with all his heart, in marriage, not at all. Why the daisy was chosen as a love oracle may have something to do with its early arrival in February, the month of St Valentine's Day. Dandelions have also been historically used for divination across Europe. If a lover was separated from his betrothed and wanted to know if she missed him, he had to blow the dandelion clock in the direction of her house. If any of the seeds remained after one huge puff, his sweetheart was thinking of him.

"I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, and then all at once."

—John Green,
The Fault in Our Stars

RELEASED FEBRUARY 1975

PHYSICAL GRAFFITI BY LED ZEPPELIN

This sixth studio album by Led Zeppelin, is widely regarded as one of the greatest rock albums of all time (arguments later). Released on February 24, 1975, the album is a sprawling double LP that showcases the band's unparalleled versatility, creativity, and mastery of multiple musical styles.

The album comprises 15 tracks and includes both new material and songs that were left unfinished from previous recording sessions. This blend creates a diverse listening experience, ranging from hard rock anthems to acoustic ballads and blues-inspired grooves. Iconic tracks like "Kashmir," with its hypnotic riff and orchestral grandeur, and "Trampled Under Foot," driven by a funky clavinet groove, demonstrate the band's ability to explore uncharted musical territories. Other standout tracks include the epic "In My Time of Dying" and the delicate, folk-inspired "Bron-Yr-Aur."

The recording sessions for "Physical Graffiti" took place at the legendary Headley Grange, a remote country house in England, where the band's relaxed and collaborative environment helped inspire some of their most innovative work. Guitarist Jimmy Page's production, John Bonham's thunderous drumming, John Paul Jones's multi-instrumental brilliance, and Robert Plant's evocative vocals blend seamlessly, creating a timeless masterpiece.

The album's artwork is also notable (right), featuring a die-cut sleeve that reveals images through windows of a New York City brownstone, reflecting the eclectic and expansive nature of the music within.

"Physical Graffiti" was both a critical and commercial success, reaching the top of the charts in multiple countries and cementing Led Zeppelin's legacy as one of the most influential rock bands in history. Nearly five decades later, it remains a landmark achievement in the evolution of rock music.



THE HISTORY OF ST. VALENTINE'S

Ah, Valentine's Day, that glitter-drenched celebration of love, overpriced flowers and chocolate sales gone wild! But where did it all begin?

Ancient Origins: A Roman Party Gone Wild—It all started with the Romans, who seemed to have a knack for throwing bizarre festivals. Around mid-February, they celebrated *Lupercalia*, a fertility festival that involved animal sacrifices, public feasts, and—wait for it—men running around smacking women with strips of goat hide! Apparently, this was considered romantic back then.

The Saint(s) Valentine—Fast forward a bit, and we meet Valentine(s). Yes, plural. There were at least two (possibly three) Saint Valentines martyred by the Roman Empire. One legend claims Valentine was a priest who secretly married couples to save husbands from being drafted into war. Another tale says he cured a jailer's blind daughter and signed a letter to her, "Your Valentine." Romantic, sure, but also kind of risky considering he was beheaded shortly after.

Enter the Middle Ages: Love Is in the Air—By the Middle Ages, the holiday began to take a lovey-dovey turn. Chaucer, that poetic mischief-maker, linked Valentine's Day with romantic love in his writings, because nothing says "I love you" like some good old-fashioned medieval poetry. Soon, people began exchanging love notes, or "valentines," which were probably just as awkward as modern-day text messages.

Modern-Day Madness— Fast forward to the present, and Valentine's Day is now a billion-dollar industry. Florists, chocolatiers, and greeting card companies rejoice as couples scramble to find the perfect gift. Meanwhile, singles everywhere either celebrate their freedom or drown their sorrows in pizza and Netflix—no judgment.

Whether you're into roses or goat-hide whips (no judgment there either), enjoy the day your way!

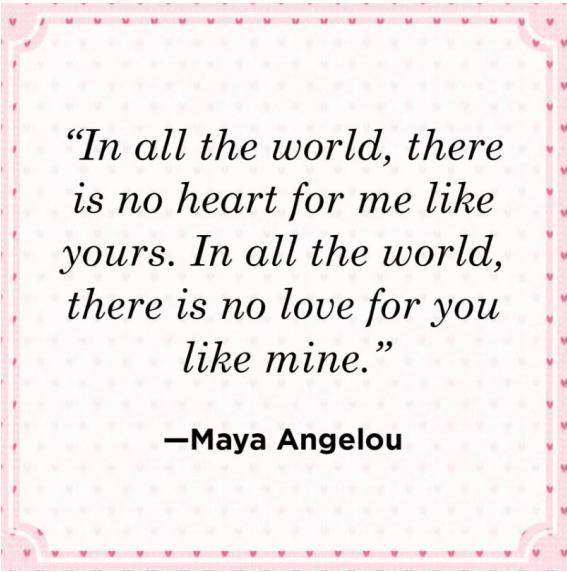


VALENTINE'S DAY—TOKENS OF LOVE

While flowers and chocolates dominate modern courtship, spare a thought for the young men of days gone by who would spend hours whittling love tokens for the objects of their affection. From the 16th to 19th centuries, wooden spoons, knitting sheaths and corset stays were all intricately carved and decorated with tender messages. They were designed to be used close to the body and only by the beneficiary—spoons for the mouth, corset stays next to the stomach and knitting sheaths fixed to a belt on the waist.

The practise of giving coins, from where we get the phrase 'love tokens', goes back even further. Inspired perhaps by the early medieval French practise of giving coins at weddings, *treizain*, the use of love tokens in Britain really gathered speed in the 17th and 18th centuries. An ardent suitor would bend a silver sixpence in half and give it to a loved one as a symbol of the strength and value of his affection. The coins became known as 'benders' and the expression 'go on a bender' derives from the time when a sixpence could fund a day's boozing in a tavern.

Other coins were sanded down and decorated with initials or a loving message. In the late 18th and 19th centuries 'leaden hearts' were engraved by convicts destined for Australia, a poignant souvenir to a loved one they would likely never see again. Other 'witches tokens' were made and sold by cunning local folk—coins decorated with hearts and initials and were thought to have been carried by women in the hope they would attract a husband.



"In all the world, there is no heart for me like yours. In all the world, there is no love for you like mine."

—Maya Angelou

Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

5 Habits that really work.

When you read this you may have tried your new year resolutions and found them pretty hard to stick to. These 5 habits that Dr. Rangan Chatterjee has from his new book "Make change that lasts" really spoke to me.

1. TAKE LESS OFFENCE. Understand where the emotional stress is coming from and realise it's coming from ourselves. Nothing is inherently offensive, if it was everyone would take offence. Something inside of us has been triggered so we take offence and this causes more impact on our stress.

2. STOP COMPLAINING. Every time we find ourselves complaining and feeling self-pity, stop, take time to look around, take a few deep breaths and give gratitude for something you have in your life. This really works rather than letting the self-pity or irritability take over and reach for comfort foods or drinks.

3. STOP TRYING TO ACHIEVE STATUS. We can get lost in our own importance and keeping busy gives us that status but isn't at all good for our stress levels. Each morning take a moment to think what is the most important thing I have to do today? by prioritising and making a decision this will help us to slow down.

4. REGRET. Regret is very unhelpful and can lead to guilt, fear or shame. Rates of perfection are rising rapidly and since 1989 to 2016 perfection rates and increased by 33%. It really doesn't help to look back on past mistakes with regret and guilt. Remember if we could have done better, we would have done and now we can and we will. Every single person is doing their best based on what was known at the current time of life. Ask yourself "is the belief I have, on whatever I'm regretful about in my past fair." We need to update our beliefs which is much more helpful than to judge and regret past behaviour.

5. DO SOMETHING HARD EVERY DAY. We know we are hard wired for comfort so we seek it. In the past our desire for comfort improved our lives, now it's harming us. Our bodies expect movement but a large number of us live sedentary lives which is actually killing us. We need to get out of our comfort zones, emotionally, mentally and physically and challenge ourselves to start reaping the benefits.

I hope these new habits speak to you too, maybe not all of them but which ever ones that do, then give them a go. You can listen to the podcast number 505 and get more details. Another podcast that would really help with number 1 TAKE LESS OFFENCE is Mel Robins and the "Let them" Theory - life changing!

Good luck x

2025—MAKE IT YOUR YEAR

Imagine waking up in 2025 pain-free, energized, and ready to thrive. Let's make it a reality! Chronic joint pains and ongoing health issues don't just affect your body; they also impact your confidence, energy, and enjoyment of life. As we age, these challenges can feel overwhelming, but they don't have to define you.

Over the past 20 years at Pulse4Life, I've helped hundreds of clients regain their mobility, energy, and joy in life. My unique and highly effective approach combines exercise therapy, acupuncture, and Chinese massage to target the root causes of discomfort and imbalance. Together, these techniques create a powerful synergy that heals from the inside out.

Why Choose Pulse4Life?

Proven Expertise: Over two decades of experience in holistic healing.

Customized Care: Completely bespoke programmes tailored to your specific needs.

Holistic Approach: A blend of exercise therapy, acupuncture, and Chinese massage for comprehensive results.

Sustainable Results: Achieve lasting benefits with a recommended 6-week course.

How My Programme Can Help You

My programme doesn't just alleviate pain; it helps you:

Increase flexibility and mobility.

Boost energy levels and overall vitality.

Improve sleep quality and mental clarity.

Relieve stress and promote relaxation.



Feel stronger, healthier, and more in control of your well-being.

Every person's journey is unique. That's why I work closely with you to design a plan tailored specifically to your goals and challenges. Whether your issues have developed over years or you're looking to prevent future discomfort, this programme will help you feel and perform your absolute best.

Start Your Journey Today—Don't wait for another year to pass by without taking action.

Together, we can transform your health and well-being. Message me today, and let's create a personalized plan that will help you thrive in 2025. No matter how long you've been struggling, it's never too late to reclaim your vitality and live the life you deserve. Any questions? [07986 003602](tel:07986003602) or stuart@pulse4life.co.uk



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting
Tuesday 4th February

Speaker is Adam Alexander on 'Diary of a Seed Saver'

Cuttings There was a rapid change of plans in January when member Hugh Vaux was sadly unable to deliver his talk on Capability Brown due to illness. (We shall be re-scheduling, hopefully adding it to our April meeting). Pat Jones stepped into the breach with a delightful presentation on planning her gardening year which was full of interesting tips and advice. Liz Cooper also proved her skill with a camera, showing slides of her own and members' colourful gardens from last summer.

Our 4th February meeting promises to be another fascinating insight into other people's passions. Adam Alexander is a filmmaker, writer and seed saver. In his own words: "My interest in discovering rare, endangered but above all, delicious vegetables from around the world began as the result of meeting a remarkable lady in a vegetable market in Donetsk, Ukraine in the late eighties whilst making a documentary series there." Based on his book, 'The Seed Detective', Adam will describe his journey of discovery and learning about the social and cultural relationships we have with what we grow and eat, based on his library of over 500 varieties of vegetables collected on his travels.

Clippings

Club meetings will remain throughout 2025 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 website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

2025 PROGRAMME of TALKS

- 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 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

THE DYDDI DIGEST TEASER NO.12—FEBRUARY 2025

BT12–Feb25 **Dd Brain Teaser**

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

T 7

M 8

S 8

D 6

HAND HELD DEVICES

S P 5 5

I B 9 7

R C 6 7

WORLD LANDMARKS

D P 6 4

E T 6 5

W S 6 5

S o L 6 2 7

MEASURING

P 9

T 4

S O H 6 5 5

R 4

G W o C 5 4 2 5

S 6

NATURAL WONDERS

S 11

W C o D 5 6 2 5

A C 6 5

M K 5 1 1

V F 8 5

U 5

G C 5 6

VANS

W 5

Answers to BT11 W Rain Thunderstorm

Mist Tornado Warm Front A Music Writing

Photography Storytelling Dark M Bug

Bridge Green Forest

A Thousand Years C Washington Canberra

Letters Cardiff Ionic H Bowler Scarf Tiara

Crash Helmet Mask



SUDOKO—JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Apologies, we didn't have a Sudoku last month due to a technical hitch. So here's a treat—double Sudoku!

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the January quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

“Once upon a time there was a boy who loved a girl, and her laughter was a question he wanted to spend his whole life answering.”

—Nicole Krauss

VICARS LETTER - FEBRUARY

Dear all,

Jane Austin wrote in her novel Persuasion, 'They had no conversation together, no intercourse but what the commonest polity required. Once so much to each other! Now nothing!'

Marriage is a hard road and as Jane Austin eludes, it is sad to see couples who once loved each other so much, barely be able to think of each other but with malice, undergirded by hurt.

We put so much on our understanding of marriage, it has to be romantic, it has to be strong, it has to be selfless and it has to be a deep and lasting friendship. Not all the time can every one of those principles be uppermost. At some times, one or the other will suffer.

I was preaching the other day about the crowning ceremony of the Easter orthodox church, and its symbolism. The crowns represent responsibility, victory and martyrdom. We may understand the idea of victory in winning the man/woman of our dreams and the responsibility of setting rules and patterns in our homes, but we do not often think of marriage as a martyrdom. But of course, it is. We die to self every time we live to the other, as St Paul suggested. And that should be a pattern of marriage, as much as the joy of loving someone, or the responsibility of sharing a home.

None of us are very good at it. As is often said in marriage preparation, we marry sinners, not saints. We should not set our expectations too high or we are destined to be disappointed. But if we can allow for faults and forgive sin, and work together to become better people, then there is hope for every marriage.

Keep warm this winter,

Richard

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

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 606854

Jan-24 Church services www.badmintonbenefice.com					
Day Presentation of Christ	Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2nd before Lent	2nd Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	D
		10am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	RT Conduct of Eton preaching
		1115am	Didmarton	Matins	RT Conduct of Eton preaching
		5pm	Acton Turville	HC BCP	Rev R Thomson
4th before Lent	9th Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
		9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
		1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
		5pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist CW	Rev R Thomson
3rd before Lent	16th Feb	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
		10am	Hawkesbury	Fam service	Lay led
		1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev G Stacey (Area Dean)
		5pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	M Butler
2nd before Lent	23rd Feb	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
		1115am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
		5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev Leigh Maydew
		6.30pm	Leighterton	Evening service	Robert Bryant Pearson

A SUMMERY OF RAMADAN

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and holds immense spiritual significance for Muslims worldwide. It is observed as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. Fasting, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, is obligatory for all healthy adult Muslims during this month. From dawn to sunset, they abstain from food, drink, smoking, and other physical needs to develop self-discipline and spiritual growth. The pre-dawn meal is called *suhoor*, and the fast is broken at sunset with *iftar*, often starting with dates and water, following the tradition of Prophet Muhammad.

Beyond fasting, Ramadan emphasizes acts of worship, such as reciting the Quran, engaging in supplication, and performing nightly prayers known as *Taraweeh*. It is also a time for self-improvement, fostering patience, gratitude, and empathy for those less fortunate. Charity is a central component, with Muslims giving *Zakat* (obligatory almsgiving) and *Sadaqah* (voluntary charity) to support the needy.

The sense of community is strengthened during Ramadan through shared meals and communal prayers. The month concludes with *Eid al-Fitr*, a joyous festival celebrating the end of fasting. Families and friends gather, share meals, exchange gifts, and express gratitude, marking the culmination of a spiritually enriching journey.



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Discover the Indispensable Knowledge

God has given us minds to assimilate knowledge and live lives according to the truth we discover; However, some knowledge is more important than others. In many cases mans minds have been blinded from seeing the essential truth that he who made us desires that we know.

This is the subject of Jesus' prayer to the Father for us (John 17 vs3), saying "This is the life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ who you have sent". Unfortunately, because of the disposition of man's heart many have not received the indispensable knowledge of God and are doomed to a lost eternity, for God holds us individually responsible for not seeing, because of the disposition of our hearts has never been yielded which has kept our eyes from seeing and knowing the true God before who we will one day bow.

Where can we discover this indispensable knowledge? It is found in the revelation which God has made of himself in his written word—The Bible and the living word of God, his son the Lord Jesus Christ, by which he speaks to us today!

The good news God wants us to know is not a man made gospel but it is God's gospel to you which he has made known from eternity and reveals to us in the Holy Scriptures, concerning his son the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us (John 3 vs 34) "He who God has sent speaketh the words of God, and he who believeth the son shall have everlasting life, but he who believeth not the son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him".

There are not many ways to find God, only one; by reading, knowing and responding to God's revelation of himself in his son the Lord Jesus, who came to pay the price to deliver us from the power of sin by his death on the cross and testifying of him by raising him from the dead. No one will ever be saved from the wrath to come apart from the word of the Bible, which is able to make you wise unto salvation and the spirit of God who reveals and applies the indispensable knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to our open hearts.

At the time of Jesus birth we read of Simeon who having seen the saviour, took him in his arms and full of joy said "Now let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation"

Have you responded to God's indispensable knowledge of God's revelation of himself in scripture and his son the Lord Jesus Christ?

Will you resolve to exercise your mind to assimilate this knowledge of God's revelation, by determining to read the Bible daily with an open and receptive heart? If so you will discover the indispensable knowledge of God, which will bring peace and lasting joy, filling you for eternity!

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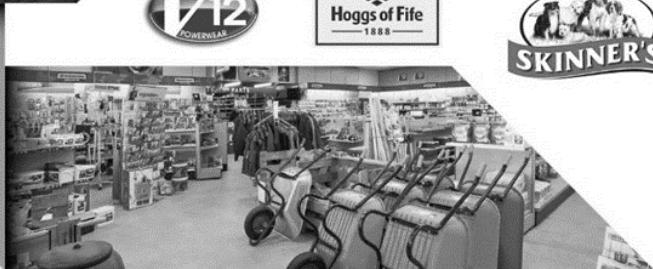
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