

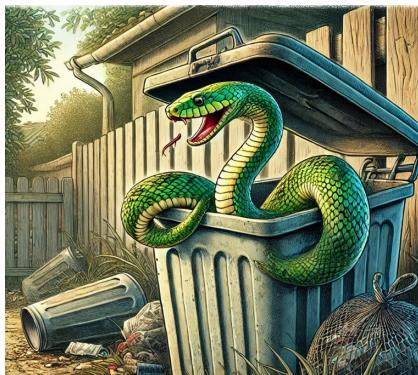
THE DYDDI DIGEST

January 2025—592

(The White Edition—for Collectors)



Didmarton's local magazine incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth



RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – MONDAY 6th January (No garden waste) 17th & 31st January

Food Waste— SATURDAY 11th January, 24th January

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

DIARY DATES

4th—World Hypnotism Day

8th—WOW

14th World Logic Day

18th National Thesaurus Day

19th World Snow Day

22nd—WOW

25th Burns Night

29th Lunar / Chinese New Year of the Snake



SNAKE FACTS

Snake's Tongue: Snakes use their forked tongue to "smell" their environment. They flick their tongue in and out to collect chemical particles from the air, which they then process in the Jacobsen's organ located on the roof of their mouth.

Cold-Blooded: Snakes are cold-blooded (ectothermic), meaning they rely on external heat sources to regulate their body temperature. They often bask in the sun to warm up and retreat to cool areas when they get too hot.

Shedding Skin: Snakes periodically shed their skin in a process called ecdysis. This happens as they grow, and they often shed their skin in one continuous piece, including their eye spectacles.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Phoenix, Tetbury Surgery – 01666 502303

Police – to report incidents – 101

Tolsey Surgery, Sherston – 01666 840270

Tetbury Hospital – 01666 502336

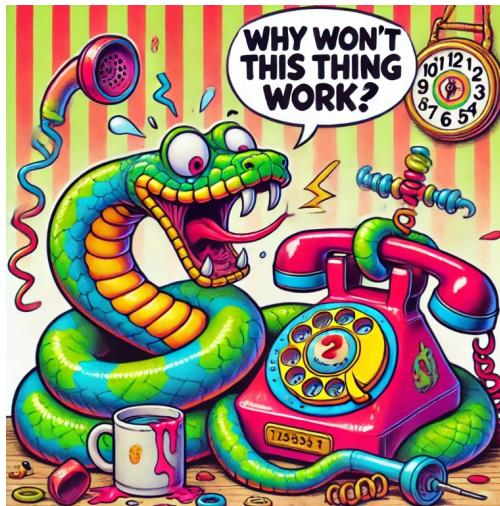
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Parish Council, John Hammond – 01454

238373



BABYSITTING CONTACTS

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SNAKE FACTS

No Eyelids: Snakes do not have eyelids. Instead, they have a transparent scale, or spectacle, that covers and protects their eyes. This scale is shed periodically, similar to their skin.

Flexible Jaws: Snakes can unhinge their jaws to consume prey much larger than their head. This allows them to swallow animals like rodents, birds, and even larger prey whole.

Sensory Pits: Some snakes, like pit vipers, have heat-sensing pits located between their eyes and nostrils. These allow them to detect the body heat of their prey, especially in low-light conditions.

Venomous but Not All: Not all snakes are venomous. Of the roughly 3,000 species of snakes, only around 600 are venomous, and even fewer are dangerous to humans.

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

NEW YEAR NEW BACK COVER

I was very sad that Didmarton's Kings Arms have declined the back cover this year as the local pub, not having it's support was a bit of a blow. On a more positive note, the space has been taken by Sophie and Will of the Royal Oak in Leighterton, do check out their first stunning back page, I am sure I speak for many when I thank them for their support. I also have to say my husband and I will most certainly be heading up there for Steak and Wine!

On the subject of advertisers, a huge thank you to Alan Townsend for tackling the job of bringing new people on board and keeping conversations going with our existing supporters. He and Mark Wallington produced a fabulous 'Advertisers Pack' and we hope to feature more from our advertisers in the future.

Another huge thank you to the wonderful Francis Barr, who has for the past 2 years been the main distributor for Didmarton but has now passed the Baton on to Susie Jones. Mike Felton has also retired from distribution, so if there is anyone who would like to pick up this baton please do let me know.

One last sad departure is from the editorial contributors, JJ's Gardening Blog is no more, I thank JJ on behalf of the Dyddi for the fabulous contributions over many years. So is there anyone out there who can share thoughts on what to do in the Garden each month? Maybe take a seasonal approach of what we should be eating each month?
Get in touch.

There are lots of Dyddi Celebrations to be had this year so keep on reading!

Wishing everyone a very joyous New Year.

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

All editorial contributions should be sent before the 15th of each month—anyone can offer a contribution, go on, express your inner writer even more on online:-

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

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





Our grand Christmas draw took place at the Christmas fair held on December 7th in the Village Hall.

1 st prize	£40	Sue Cook	2 nd prize	£30	Carol Mitchell
3 rd prize	£25	Chris & Harriet Jones	4 th prize	£25	Joe Turner
5 th prize	£20	Chris Barski	6 th prize	£15	Carol Tettmar
7 th prize	£15	Sarah Tubbs	8 th prize	£10	Sue Ellis
9 th prize	£10	John Pearce	10 th prize	£10	Geoff Barr

A big thank you to all our members for your support in 2024 and we hope that we can count on your continued support in the year ahead. Not everyone will win a prize but everyone who takes part is making a valuable contribution to our village.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

SNAKE FACTS

Diverse Habitats: Snakes are found in nearly every habitat on Earth, from deserts and forests to oceans. Sea snakes, for example, are highly adapted to life in the water.

Longest Snake: The reticulated python holds the record for the longest snake species, reaching lengths of over 30 feet (9 meters).

Snake Lifespan: The lifespan of snakes can vary greatly depending on the species. Some live just a few years, while others, like the ball python, can live for over 30 years in captivity.

SPEEDWATCH DECEMBER 2024



We were able to do another week of speed watching at the beginning of December.

We planned less than our usual number of sessions taking into account weather and light at this time of year. We suffered a little with muddy number plates making them difficult to read/record, especially at St Lawrence's.

By keeping up our regular presence in the village we hope that this goes some way to deterring people from speeding through the village.

Certainly the speeds being registered on the whole do seem to be getting lower.

A summary of our efforts is below.

Sue Hammond & the speed watch team

Date & Time	Site	Pos IDs	Highest Speed & Time	Total <u>Vehs</u>	Comments
2 Dec 8:00-8:30hrs	St Lawrence's	6	43mph @ 8:18hrs and 8:27hrs	230	One vehicle flagged as untaxed
3 Dec 8:30-9:00hrs	Village Hall	4	42mph @ 8:40hrs	N/R	One vehicle flagged as untaxed
4 Dec 10:30- 11:00hrs	St Lawrence's	0	43mph @ 10:50hrs	N/R	Muddy plates made positive ID difficult
5 Dec 8:30-9:00hrs	Village Hall	1	38mph @ 8:51hrs	81	One vehicle flagged as untaxed
5 Dec 14:30- 15:00hrs	St Lawrence's				Session washed out
6 Dec 8:15-8:45hrs	Village Hall	2	40mph @ 8:45hrs	143	
Totals		13			Possible that the “Vehicle Smart” app used to verify the registrations has not been updated

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - DECEMBER

Cotswold District Council: The full council meeting was rather dull with mainly procedural issues on the agenda, but it was enlivened by several questions from the opposition group of councillors with several points reported widely in the local press and social media. As well as specific questions on collections (see below), we also questioned how 'green' the recycling programme really is. Cardboard recycled in the Cotswolds is being sent to Malaysia raising concerns over the carbon footprint of sending the material more than 6,600 miles away. Paper and cardboard collected in the district is first processed at the Thamesdown recycling depot at Cricklade, and is then transported to Palm Paper in Norfolk where it is processed. But the cardboard is sent on to Muda Paper Mills in Malaysia to be made into new products according to the council's website.

We also challenged the costs associated with the recent CDC re-brand – the written response stated £20k had been spent (so far), but papers at the meeting showed £40k in total was earmarked. This is in addition to the £250k for new comms officers, which the leader stated was good value, despite often claiming a severe shortage of funds!

Bins: Collection issues have mostly been resolved, so my question at CDC related to the many complaints in my inbox concerning the untidy (and on occasion, dangerous) state that the crews leave the plethora of recycling bags and boxes after collection. I was told that the new public reporting system for collection issues will accommodate this problem, and any reports will be fed directly back to the crew concerned – the date for rollout of the system is TBC.

My follow up question raised the possibility of a review and simplification of the multiple recycling bags and boxes when the new waste contract is negotiated. I highlighted that the explosion of online shopping has rendered the blue cardboard sack unfit for purpose. I was assured by the new cabinet member that everything was up for review – I will watch developments closely.

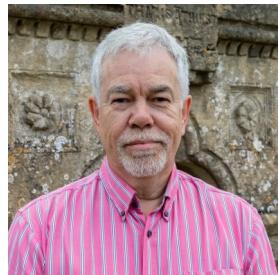
Family Farm Tax: The Conservative group at CDC showed our support for farmers by attending the council meeting in wellies! Several councillors also attended a rally in London where farmers across Gloucestershire protested the Government's plan to impose a 20 per cent inheritance tax on farms worth more than £1m.

Storms: Our district has recently been impacted by storms 'Bert' and 'Darragh' – Bert caused significant localised flooding, and Darragh's winds caused many fallen trees and blocked roads. The flooding is not helped by a lack of basic maintenance of drains and

and gulleys on our road network, and I have highlighted this again to Glos. Highways. I hope you have not been badly affected by the storms, and any damage is not too severe.

Housing: I will be attending the 'grand opening' in January of the mixed social/affordable housing development in Avening. When I was leading Avening PC we opposed the development on several grounds, but once approved I fought to make the homes as 'green' as possible. The designs were eventually improved, but they could have been much better for a small extra investment. However, we welcome the additional opportunity for locals to stay in the village and hope they are settling into their new homes.

I wish all my readers a prosperous New Year.



Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

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

SNAKE EYES WATCHING YOU!

The term "snake eyes" has two main origins:

Dice Gambling: The phrase "snake eyes" is most commonly associated with rolling two ones on a pair of dice in gambling. This is considered an unlucky roll, and the term likely comes from the appearance of the dice. The pips (dots) on the dice resemble the shape of a snake's eyes—two small, round, and black. The term "snake eyes" thus became a way of describing this unfavorable outcome in games like craps.

Snake's Appearance: In the context of snakes, the term "snake eyes" may refer to the distinctive, often eerie appearance of a snake's eyes. As mentioned earlier, many snakes have vertical slit pupils, which are quite different from the round pupils in humans and other animals. The dark, intense look of a snake's eyes, especially when they are partially dilated, can evoke a sense of mystery, danger, or even fear, which led to the association with the term "snake eyes" in various cultural contexts.

The combination of these two factors—the dice-related connotation of bad luck and the eerie, captivating appearance of a snake's eyes—has led to the widespread use of the term "snake eyes."

SHADY SNAKES WITH DOUBLE O CLEARANCE

If you were born in the Year of the Snake, congrats! You're basically the cool, mysterious one in the room who people can't quite figure out—and you like it that way. You're the James Bond of the zodiac: charming, sharp as a whip, and always five steps ahead. But let's be honest, sometimes you're also the "paranoid conspiracy theorist" of the group, overthinking everything from a text reply to whether your pizza delivery guy is plotting against you.

You're smooth, resourceful, and have a knack for solving problems. Lost in the wilderness? You'd turn a shoelace and a stick into a functioning GPS. But let's not gloss over your secretive side. You've got more locked drawers and hidden passwords than the Pentagon. This mystique is part of your charm, but it can also make your friends wonder if you're Batman by night.

When it comes to relationships, you're passionate, but let's face it—jealousy is your middle name. You'll eye your partner's phone like it owes you money. Still, your magnetism is undeniable, and people can't help but gravitate toward your hypnotic vibe.

So, to sum it up, if you're a Snake, you're smart, stylish, and just the right amount of shady. But try not to let your "trust no one" attitude scare off your fans—they really do like you (probably).

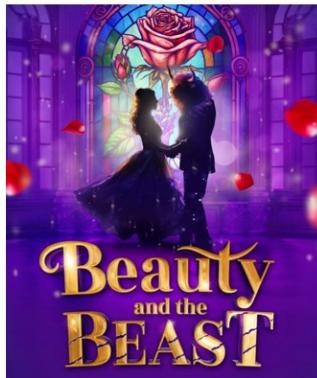
Years of the Snake include **2025, 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953...**



TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY AT THE GOODS SHED



Jan 4 **Beauty and the Beast:** Wonder Pantomimes bring this traditional favourite to the stage for two performances which will round off your Christmas celebrations! (oh yes it will!) 2pm and 6pm. Family ticket £35 Adult £12.50 Children £9.

Jan 10 **Totally Blondie:** Chloe is a stunning look-alike for Debbie Harry so come and relive her greatest hits with this wonderful backing group. 7.30 Tickets in advance £20

Jan 12 **The Andrews Massey Duo:** From The Roots. With flute and guitar this folk duo bring their own interpretation of traditional British folk music. 6pm. Tickets in advance £15. Table for 2 from £35.

Jan 18 **Classical series:** Harpsichordist and Flautist Tom Foster and Georgia Browne offer a glimpse into the musical world of Versailles in the time of Louis XIV and VI. Tickets £24 in advance. 7.30

Jan 25 **Cardiff Cotswold Opera Present Murder At The Opera:** an evening of music, mischief and murder as some one murders the top diva! Tickets £13.50 in advance. 7.30

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

WHAT'S WITH THE FRONT COVER?

I thought it might be interesting to reflect on some of the most influential artists of our time, over all genre's and the first thing that came to mind was the Beatles 'White Album'.

Released on November 22, 1968, *The White Album* by The Beatles remains one of the most iconic and influential records in music history. Officially titled *The Beatles*, it earned its nickname from its stark, minimalist white cover, designed by artist Richard Hamilton. This double album stands as a testament to the band's creative evolution, showcasing a broad range of styles and experimentation.

Spanning 30 tracks, *The White Album* captures the individualistic expressions of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. From the raw energy of "Helter Skelter" to the meditative "Blackbird," the satirical "Piggies," and the avant-garde sound collage of "Revolution 9," the album defies categorization. It highlights the tensions and collaboration within the group, as each member began to assert their own artistic identity.

Recorded during a tumultuous period, the album reflects the band's shifting dynamics and the social upheavals of the late 1960s. The result is a collection of diverse, groundbreaking tracks that continue to resonate with listeners, cementing *The White Album* as a timeless masterpiece in the history of music.

If you take a look on the next page, you can see how the chart looked when the album was released.



Top 40 Hits of November 1968

1	Hugh Montenegro	The Good, The Bad And The Ugly
2	Joe Cocker	With A Little Help From My Friends
3	Barry Ryan	Eloise
4	Isley Brothers	This Old Heart Of Mine
5	Mary Hopkin	Those Were The Days
6	Jimi Hendrix Experience	All Along The Watchtower
7	Bandwagon	Breaking Down The Walls Of Heartache
8	Marbles	Only One Woman
9	Jose Feliciano	Light My Fire
10	Turtles	Elenore
11	Leapy Lee	Little Arrows
12	Nina Simone	Ain't Got No / I Got Life / Do What You Gotta Do
13	Scaffold	Lily The Pink
14	Casuals	Jesamine
15	Beatles	Hey Jude
16	Engelbert Humperdinck	Les Bicyclettes De Belsize
17	Long John Baldry	Mexico
18	Hollies	Listen To Me
19	Tremeloes	My Little Lady
20	Jeannie C Riley	Harper Valley PTA
21	Val Doonican	If I Knew Then What I Know Now
22	Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell	You're All I Need To Get By
23	Lulu	I'm A Tiger
24	Malcolm Roberts	May I Have The Next Dream With You
25	Love Affair	A Day Without Love
26	Dave, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich	Wreck Of The Antionette
27	Locomotive	Rudi's In Love
28	Who	Magic Bus
29	Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band	I'm The Urban Spaceman
30	Dave Clark Five	Red Balloon
31	Union Gap	Lady Willpower
32	Mason Williams	Classical Gas
33	Des O'Connor	1-2-3 O'Leary
34	Betty Everett	It's In His Kiss
35	Aphrodite's Child	Rain And Tears
36	Marmalade	Wait For Me Mary-Anne
37	Billie Davis	I Want You To Be My Baby
38	Tom Jones	Help Yourself
39	Johnny Nash	Hold Me Tight
40	Cream	Sunshine Of Your Love

A SERIES OF FABULOUS EVENTS

This year, Badminton Estate hosted some unforgettable moments. The Badminton Horse Trials celebrated its 75th anniversary, a landmark occasion that brought together equestrian enthusiasts from near and far, highlighting Badminton's historical significance in both sport and the social calendar. Adding to the excitement, The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) announced the Estate as their new venue for 2026. We're thrilled to be selected as their venue for the Southwest and look forward to welcoming garden enthusiasts to Badminton next summer.

On-screen, Badminton Estate shone as both Netflix and the BBC chose a variety of locations for filming—watch out for familiar views in upcoming releases.

One of the year's standout moments was the Garden Open Days, paired with the unveiling of the exhibition "*A Garden of Botanical Art*" in the North Hall of Badminton House. This extraordinary display showcased the First Duchess of Beaufort, Mary Somerset's botanical artwork, beautifully displayed for the first time in 300 years. Prints of these artworks are now available in our new online shop. The June Open Day drew record-breaking crowds, with over 1,200 visitors enjoying the hard work of our talented gardeners. These events also raised significant funds for the Severn Area Rescue Association and the Church Restoration Fund.

We expanded our offerings this year with an array of workshops and classes, ranging from crafting to cooking, culminating in festive favourites like Whisky Tasting, Get Ready for Christmas Cooking, and Wreath Making—perfect ways to close out the year. Next year will feature the first-ever Classical Music Concert by Candlelight, an event set to be a wonderful addition to the event calendar.

Our venues also played host to meaningful celebrations. Worcester Lodge provided the perfect backdrop for a charming wedding and several elegant dinner parties. Meanwhile, the Didmarton Takeover saw locals gather for a historical talk by local historian Matthew Butler at the Lodge.

Our woodlands team has been busy managing ash dieback throughout the year and have replanted thousands of trees across the estate to restore Swangrove Woods. The outdoor learning school Bushcraft celebrated its successful first year, inspiring children to connect with and learn about nature.

For adrenaline junkies, Tough Mudder returned with its signature challenges, joined by Spartan Race, which added thrilling activities like spear throwing and fire jumping to the mix. Whilst the gentler 5k and 10k Bolt Run raised funds to support Acton Turville School.

Thank you everyone for attending any of our events and showing your support and we look forward to all that 2025 has in store. For details of What's On sign up to our Mailing List www.badmintonestate.com/sign-up-to-our-mailing-list/

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

Having listened to a Zoom presentation called "Reframing the exercise message" I thought I'd share it with you.

Despite all the different social media platforms for various different exercises, new gyms, clubs and new and different forms of exercise classes that we now have, it would appear that there are less people exercising now than ever before.

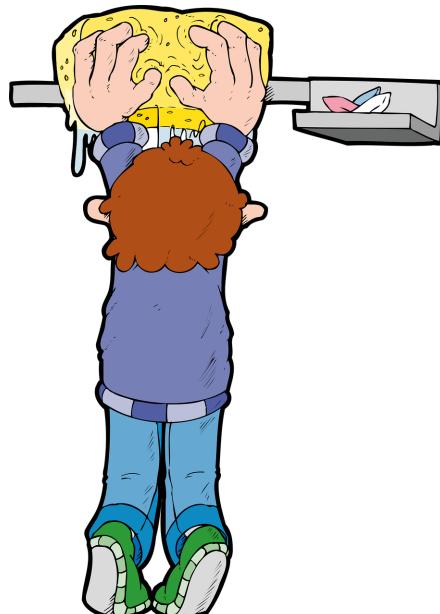
While walking would appear to be the best type of exercise/ movement as it uses muscle contractions which release molecules which act as transmitters to the brain. We do, however, need to move all day at different intensities, so actually the good old 'house wife' especially back in the day had the best form of exercise when hoovering, washing hanging out the washing, cleaning cupboards, high and low, washing floors and bathrooms.

If we stop and think about it there is different movement all the time - reaching, stretching, kneeling, crouching, walking etc. As a fitness professional I was led to believe that house work and gardening wasn't enough and we had to attend specific classes or sports to keep fit, there is an element of truth in this for younger people as it's also about the social side, but for older people keeping active around our homes, gardens and walking daily keeps us in check. Even when sitting down to watch a film and have a cuppa with a friend, moving is also important.

Inactivity is the 4th biggest killer. Sadly the over 60's are the biggest demographic for inactivity. Robots are now used for cutting the grass and hoovering and online shopping has taken over "going shopping." The digital revolution has changed our lives more than at any other time of evolution.

So the message: exercise and food are both medicine, walking, cleaning, gardening are all excellent ways of moving and if you want to join a class or club as well then you are on the right path.

Ruth



MOVE FOR YOUR MIND

Exercise has been proven not just to help you get into physical shape but also to improve cognitive ability and mental health. I see this everyday whether I am working with people on a 1:1 personal training session or in my group Fresh Air Fitness or Yoga classes. In simple terms that post exercise high comes from your body releasing endorphins, these natural mood lifters help reduce and combat anxiety. Physical exercise also lowers levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, which leads to a calmer mind.

Of all the classes I run, **Fresh Air Fitness** (an outdoor session) combines both movement and being connected to nature – perfect for both body and soul!

And then we have **Ashtanga Yoga**. Again Yoga is more than just a physical exercise—it's a holistic practice that nurtures the mind as much as the body. Whether you're seeking stress relief, mental clarity, or emotional balance, yoga offers a variety of mental health benefits.

Yoga emphasizes **conscious breathing and mindfulness**, which activate the body's relaxation response. This again helps to reduce cortisol levels, the hormone associated with stress and can alleviate feelings of anxiety.

Like all exercise, but probably more so in Yoga, you are **encouraging present-moment awareness**, which improves concentration and mental clarity. Practicing yoga or other exercise regularly can help calm the mental chatter, making it easier to focus on tasks at hand. The connection between breath and movement also fosters a sense of grounding and emotional stability, especially when trying to master a posture you find difficult.

Many yoga poses and **breathing techniques are designed to relax the nervous system, which can lead to better sleep**, which is essential for mental health and cognitive function.

So take control of your body, getting fitter and stronger is the best way to help you age better, not only do feel good about improving your physical shape but your brain and mind will thank you for it.

With 25 years experience of working in the fields of health, fitness, sport and outdoor education, I **embrace 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

January 1976 AS 'TWAS 49 YEARS AGO

Didmarton as it is recorded in the 'DYDDI digest'

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

The Editor of 'Diddy-Ditty' had asked residents about changing this magazine's name. In winter and without the benefit of e-mail few reply slips were returned: "Of the twelve, 8 said 'keep it as it is'. There were, however, 4 constructive ideas for alternatives: 'Didmarton Dotter' (Julie Crewe), 'Didmarton Life' (Pat Ainsworth), 'Didmarton Echo' (or 'Judmart'n Yucco' in the local dialect - Bert Davies), 'DidmartaNews' (Dawn Crewe). On balance, however, it would seem that 'Diddy Ditty' stays." Which is how it stayed for the remainder of 1976, becoming the 'DYDDI digest' from the following January. Later in the issue the Editor sought contributions: "The more people who contribute to it the better; letters, poems, articles, countryside observations - children's contributions particularly welcomed. It would be ideal, for instance, if every separate 'interest' in the village - such as Church, Autumn Leaves, Football Club, Chit-Chat Club, Darts, Parish Council, regularly sent in their own pieces for publication."

The 'Autumn Leaves' Christmas Party had been a great success. Held in The Manor 'by kind permission of Major and Mrs J Gunn', 22 residents had attended. In January the 'Chit-Chat Club' meeting was to be held at Pat Ind's home in King's Terrace; the Editor asking if 'in this year of equal rights the chaps will be allowed in'.

Bingo seems to have been popular; weekly on Friday nights at 8pm in the Reading Room. There were moves to start a Cricket Club but the 'Tennis Meeting' had received only 5 attendees at the Reading Room and "the next would be held on the court (behind the old School Lane) on 1st February at 10.30am". They must have been hardier folk in those days. Darts, Ladies and Gents teams, were going strong; as was the Football Club who were celebrating after beating Leightonton 16-0.

Didmarton's 'colourful character' was Bill Rice who had lived continuously at 47 The Street (Box Bush Cottage) since being born there on 4th September 1901. 'His first year's education was at the old school in the Manor yard and then, until he left school at 14, in the new school (both now having been demolished)'. Bill, with Arthur Rice and Tom Jones, had built the bus shelter in 1951 but with a diminishing service 'it does come in handy for those waiting for the pub to open - and for courting couples'. Bill could remember when The Kings Arms and Fox Cottage had bakeries and there were a butcher's shop and a saddlery in the village. In 1976, he and his wife, Rhoda (née Bouy), were still in good health and in Box Bush Cottage.

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



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting
Tuesday 7th January

Speaker is Hugh Vaux on Capability Brown +
Members' Photos

Cuttings At our December meeting, we had a very different speaker and topic to entertain us. Francis Burroughes BEM proved quite a find. As the son of a Victorian Head gardener who had worked for William Robinson of Gravetye Manor (now a famous hotel), Francis had information and anecdotes galore to share. There were old photos and gardening tools to pass round whilst his dry sense of humour and delivery kept us all amused. Mulled wine, bubbles and mince pies lifted the mood too!



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 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to gardeners and non-gardeners alike from the SGC committee.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Harvest Service at St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury, Friday 11th October, 2024

We were so proud to hear the Hawkesbury children singing their harvest song.

Who put the colours in the rainbow?

Who put the salt into the sea?

Who put the cold into the snowflake?

Who made you and me?

Who put the hump upon the camel?

Who put the neck on the giraffe?

Who put the tail upon the monkey?

Who made hyenas laugh?

Who made whales and snails and quails?

Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?

Who made bats and cats and rats?

Who made everything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine?

Who put the sparkle in the stars?

Who put the silver in the moonlight?

Who made Earth and Mars?

Who put the scent into the roses?

Who taught the honey bee to dance?

Who put the tree inside the acorn?

It surely can't be chance!

Who made seas and leaves and trees?

Who made snow and winds that blow?

Who made streams and rivers flow?

God made all of these!

THE DYDDI DIGEST TEASER NO.11—JANUARY 2025

BT11—Jan25 **Dd Brain Teaser**
Given the initials and number of letters, for what do they stand?

Answers to BT10

*E L Elizabeth Tower Rock of Gibraltar
Brandenburg Gate Arc de Triomphe The
Matterhorn B Cardboard Casket Ark Salt
Christmas L Table Crossed ~~Eleven~~ Daddy
Long Tripod B Rules Borders Coastline Four
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VICARS LETTER -JANUARY

Dear Friends,

When we are attacked by others, it is the hardest time of all to forgive them. It is only after a while has lapsed that we are sometimes given the grace to be able to forgive. I was struck by those words of Our Lord: 'Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven' (Matt 5.44/45).

Most of us are proud to carry on the ways of our parents. I often think to myself, how would my father react to this situation or that person? Indeed, more often than not, I find myself unconsciously acting out mannerisms or saying words that my father said to me. Of course, we have the freedom to recognise the bad things and cut them out, and to hold on to the good. We are not robots. But I am proud to act in a way that I know my father would have done, with his integrity and his courage. As well as his sense of fairness.

But what of our heavenly Father? Love our enemies? Pray for those who persecute us? That is a tall order. But if we are God's children, then it is perhaps our privilege to act out the ways of our heavenly Father, here on earth. And God does not stop the sun shining on the evil, nor the rain falling upon the fields of the unjust. God loves both sinner and saint.

And yet, this picture of an all-loving and forgiving God, must be set against stories of God's judgement and hatred of sin, hypocrisy and injustice. Whilst Jesus loved the penitent sinner, he hated evil and especially the self-righteousness and judgmentalism of the scribes and Pharisees. God's ways are the ways of forgiveness and healing, but there is no forgiveness without the hard buffer of judgement.

If we want to be the children of God, then let us in 2025 try harder to forgive and live His ways of love and forgiveness. As well as having the courage to recognize evil when we see it, especially in our own hearts.

Have a Happy New Year,

Richard

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

01454 606854

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	10am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
13th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	11am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist wit choir	Rev R Thomson
20th January	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson + L Thomlinson
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson Lay
20th January	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

Matins on line 9.30am Thursdays: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463304014?pwd=QJxMWNpelArMUDjV242cUpnV3Nydz09>

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinese New Year, or **Spring Festival** is the most important holiday in China, celebrated with family gatherings, customs, and festivities lasting up to 15 days. **Family Reunions:** The **reunion dinner** on New Year's Eve is the most significant meal, symbolizing family unity. Family members often travel long distances to gather together. **Cleaning & Decorating:** Homes are cleaned to remove bad luck, and decorations like **red lanterns** and **couplets** are put up to invite good fortune. Red is an auspicious color. **Red Envelopes** Money-filled red envelopes are given to children and younger relatives, symbolizing good luck and prosperity. **Fireworks & Firecrackers:** Fireworks and firecrackers are set off to scare away evil spirits and bring in good luck. **Dragon & Lion Dances:** Traditional **dragon and lion dances** are performed in public spaces to bring good fortune and drive away bad spirits. **Special Foods:** Foods like **dumplings**, **fish**, and **nian gao** (sweet rice cakes) are eaten, each symbolizing prosperity, wealth, and growth. **New Clothes:** People often wear new clothes, especially in red, to symbolize a fresh start and attract good fortune. **Ancestor Worship:** Many families offer food and incense to honor ancestors, seeking blessings for the new year. **Visiting Relatives:** During the holiday, people visit family and friends to exchange well-wishes and gifts. **Lantern Festival:** The 15th day marks the **Lantern Festival**, celebrated with lantern displays, performances, and the eating of **tang yuan** (sweet rice dumplings).

Chinese New Year is a time for family, prosperity, and good luck, with customs focused on renewal, honoring traditions, and enjoying time together.

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THE VITAL DIMENSION

As we commence a new year we would be wise to consider what may be missing in our life. Perhaps we've enjoyed success and pleasure which the world offers us, but these are temporary and fail to bring satisfaction, leaving us empty.

The vital missing piece is a new relationship with God which brings a lasting peace and joy into our lives. Through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose holy spirit comes to live in our heart.

The wise King Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes ch12 vs13 & 14 that having surveyed and tasted of the success the world offered it leaves us empty dissatisfied and full of regret at the end of life when we God's judgement of how we have spent our life and what we have done with his son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Solomon pleads with us to develop a lasting relationship now with God saying "Fear God and keep his commands, this is the whole of man". Our fear of God is to respond to him in awe and reverence and wonder, which will lead to a loving obedience to his commands. We cannot do this by our own endeavours for as sinners we fall short of his glory; however, the good news is that God's sinless Saviour Jesus Christ came to make possible a vital relationship for us by his death and resurrection when we recognise our missing relationship, repent of our sin of independence and self-satisfaction and turn our lives over in true faith and love to Jesus Christ. This is God's will for each of us which brings us a new vital dimension of a spiritual relationship with God which will bring satisfaction now and an eternal future for our lives. When God calls us to leave this temporary life and enter eternity.

Is this vital dimension of a spiritual relationship missing? If so, receive God's Gift of grace found only in Jesus Christ and discover the joy of fullness of a whole life which God desires for you.

This will bring a Happy New Year to you!

Royston Pick

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