

the **DYDDI** digest

July—584



Didmarton's local magazine incorporating  
Leigherton, Boxwell and Sopworth



## RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – 5th & 19th July **FRIDAY**

Food Waste— 12th & 26th July **FRIDAY**

2024 Calendar now on line

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

## DIARY DATES

1st— National Joke Day

2nd— World UFO Day

7th— World Chocolate Day

**10th— WOW**

**12th—Rural Cinema**

14th—Bastille Day

16th—National Cherry Day & World Snake Day

21st— Full Buck Moon

**24th—WOW**

**25th—The Woodlands of Worcester Lodge Tour**



## 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](mailto:editor@dyddi.co.uk)**

**A small contribution for inclusion is appreciated.**

## 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

### **A FREE VISIT TO WORCESTER LODGE**

BY KIND PERMISSION OF BADMINTON ESTATE.

Didmarton and surrounding villagers are invited to visit Worcester Lodge and enjoy its interior and exterior views for just a few hours on

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024—2pm—5pm**

Historian and Badminton House Guide Matthew Butler will conduct two short talks at 2.30pm and 3.30pm outlining some of the history of the property.

Cream Teas will be available at just £5.00

Please come and join us.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you must go out to all involved with the organisation of the D-Day celebrations last month. Fabulous atmosphere and delicious Fish 'n' Chips! It was wonderful to see it so well attended. Write-up and photos on pages 7 & 8.

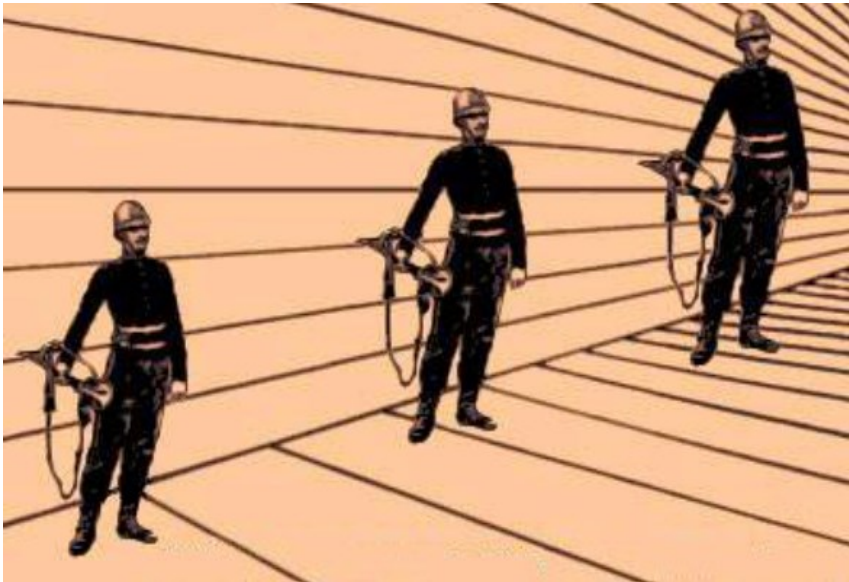
As an official Politics Free Zone, we will say nothing more about the General Election on the 4th July other than don't forget your photo ID when you go to vote!

All contributions should be sent before the **15th** of each month—anyone can offer a contribution, be it a story, notice or joke, all contributions are welcome.

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

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

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



**Which is Tallest?**



The June 100 Club draw took place on June 6th at the D Day 80 celebrations held in the Village Hall. To mark the occasion we have added an extra £20, making the prize money up to £80. The prize winners were:-

**1st Prize** £20 Mary Jane Wilkinson **2nd Prize** £15 Barbara Smith

**3rd Prize** £10 Sheena Robins **4th Prize** £10 Oli Kay

**D Day Prize** £20 Brian Cook

**Sue and Sue**

## LAYING THE TABLE FOR A FAMILY BBQ



Stolen from the internet, as you can see, not a professional job as all the glasses contain a white liquid, very disappointed.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

**CDC:** Local issues have been somewhat overridden by the announcement of a general election! The planned CDC cabinet meeting has been cancelled for a somewhat fuzzy related reason, and as a consequence the **Overview & Scrutiny** meeting was canned as the relevant reports were not produced for the cabinet. This means that I have been unable to follow up on the costs for the Publica transition. I did however attend a full briefing of the programme where the key players provided an update. I was reassured that the programme itself seems to be in good hands, but they didn't go close to discussing anything like costs – I will be discussing these with the Chief Financial Officer as soon as time permits. The (3 hour!) briefing soon descended into naval gazing (e.g. 45 minutes on whether the council should address residents as customers or citizens!) after the initial detail, so I slipped out quietly to avoid being bored into an early grave.

**Fetes and shows:** we are now in the peak season for village fetes and local shows, and I hope the weather is kind if you have one planned – they take a lot of organisation by volunteers so do support them if you can. The bank holiday events in Tetbury were a great success, and a sale at Chavenage House recently raised £3500 for charity. Fantastic! Fingers crossed also for my daughter's wedding at Cherington on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**Roads:** Complaints were made at the last full council about the length of time it has taken to fix the flood at the Tesco roundabout in Cirencester (the road is now open again), and also the lack of verge cutting, especially at roundabouts and junctions. The Highways website has a table of dates (Cirencester w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May; Avening 24<sup>th</sup> May for example), but as at the 1<sup>st</sup> June neither of these areas have been actioned. While 'no mow May' can be a good thing for bio-diversity, leaving the roads in a dangerous state is not acceptable.

CDC have finally completed installation of 2 EV chargers at the council offices, and have accepted a government grant of c£190k match funded to install others across the district (none in the south Cotswold area!), but parishes and towns can apply for their own grants if there is a need.

**River pollution:** I met with the area manager of Severn Trent at the Avening Sewage treatment plant, which turned out to be very informative and reassuring. The waste first goes through a settlement tank where non-biological solids are removed. It then splits and travels through three rotating mesh drums where it comes into contact with bacteria that digests all the nasties, before a further settlement tank to catch the spent bacteria.



The outflow then flows slowly through up to 5 reed beds to filter out any remaining solids. At the end of the journey the clean water collects in a sump where it is pumped into the stream. During the pumping operation the water is constantly and automatically monitored for quality, with the data being sent directly to HQ. There is a secondary route which kicks in during a storm surge so that the main plant isn't overwhelmed. The effluent is diverted into a much larger/deeper reed-bed (still seeded with the same bacteria) which is then ultimately pumped into the stream – it is still very safe but may contain a slightly raised level of ammonia and other chemicals. When this route outflows to the stream it generates one of the reports that first alarmed me and led to the meeting. Although we had 118 such instances, they are logged each time the pump is activated, so these could be several in a short space of time if there isn't much going through the system. However, by the time you read this the latest upgrade to the storm system should have been completed, where the reed bed is aerated to ensure the bacteria does as good a job as the main process – this will mean there will be no further 'sewage outflow' instances from Avening.

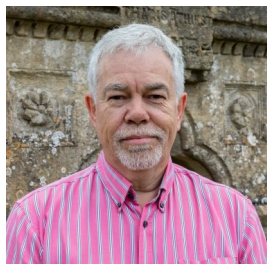
The Avening plant was experimental when it was installed some 30+ years ago and was over specified at the time, but it is still performing well and apparently, we have the best quality effluent in the whole Severn Trent area!

**Councillor Tony Slater**

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

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



## REMEMBER

**You will need photo ID in order to vote on 4th July.**

**<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>**

## D DAY 80 - HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

We must thank all those that attended the D Day 80 celebration and hope that everyone had a most enjoyable time.

We estimate that over 200 people attended the event on a gloriously sunny evening of Remembrance, with 176 Fish 'n Chip suppers sold.

Although the queues for food were quite time consuming everyone agreed that the freshly cooked meals were exceedingly good and we thank Ed and his team from POPPY & BOO caterers for their hard work – five hours of setting up, cooking, serving and cleaning down.

A few beverages were consumed during the evening (we ran out of ale and had to restock the white wine twice!) and a lot of conversation flowed amongst the villagers – some of whom had not met each other for some time.

We are grateful to the Cricket Club for providing the wonderful ambience of a village match in the background and congratulate them on their narrow victory in the last over.

We do hope that as many people as possible had a chance to look at the 'THEN & NOW' photos displayed around the walls of the hall by Mike Eldridge following his recent group tour of a few of the battlefields.

We are also grateful to the Reverend Richard Thomson who read the National Tribute at 21.15 just a few minutes before the lighting of the bonfire by David Russell.

There were too many helpers to name individually but multiple thanks go out to each and every one of you.

Please look out for our future events, all of which are designed to be fun and beneficial to all residents of Didmarton and surrounding areas.

**Didmarton Village Hall and  
Community Committee.**







## OWZAT?

Didmarton Cricket Club has had a strong start to the 2024 season, with back-to-back away victories at Grittleton and Corsley.

In the Grittleton match we had possibly our strongest fielding performance ever with some committed stops and safe hands all round - only one difficult dropped catch and very few byes! This was backed up by some excellent economic bowling with Chris Southwell returning 1 for 26, Marco Rowe 1 for 25, Olly Hathaway 1 for 16 and Todd Boucher with 2 for 11, but stand out performance was from our 16 year old debutant George Whitham who returned excellent figures of 3 for 15 from his 5 overs. Grittleton were bowled all out for 125. In response, Chris Southwell and yours truly put on an excellent opening stand of 66 which largely put the result beyond doubt. I fell for 29 but Chris went on to hit a magnificent 90 not out to win the game comfortably by 5 wickets. MOTM: George Whitham.

Next up was our long away trip to Corsley. On a beautiful day, Corsley batted first and some superb control up front from Freddy Barrett (0 for 12), Todd Boucher (0 for 30) and Marco Rowe (2 for 10) made sure they had a very slow start to their innings. This was backed up again by George Whitham (1 for 27 and Fergus Baird (2 for 58) and an excellent performance behind the stumps by 'keeper Paul Johnson. Corsley recovered well to post a competitive 166 with some strong hitting down the order in particular from their captain Matt Seviour who hit 56 not out. In response we managed the run chase to perfection. I managed to hit 50 not out, Martin Barrett hit 4 huge 6s in his 24, and Todd Boucher hit a really important 35 just as we were having a classic middle order wobble. Freddie Barrett and Alan Townsend held their nerve to get us over the winning line with 3 balls to spare to win by 2 wickets. MOTM: Todd Boucher.

So much work goes into running a cricket club, even a small friendlies-only one like ours, so I'd like to thank everyone involved, from the grounds team, the committee members, all the players and supporters!

Looks like we're set for a great season. We're always looking for more help so if you're interested to hear more, call me on 07369 239610.

**Andy Nightingale**







## DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Friday 12th July

Doors open at 6.30pm for cash bar

Film starts at 7.30pm

£5 entry

### The Colour Purple (2023) - Drama, Musical

**Cert:** 12A – **Run time:** 2hr 21min.

**Rotten Tomatoes audience rating:** 95%

**Starring:** Fantasia Barrino, Danielle Brooks, Colman Domingo, Taraji Henson

**Director:** Blitz Bazawule

A story of love and resilience based on the novel and the Broadway musical, THE COLOR PURPLE is a decades-spanning tale of one woman's journey to independence. Celie faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.

Please make contact if planning to attend to ensure enough seats put out!

(email or text)

[jenny.body1@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.body1@gmail.com)

07875 406637



# THE MUSICAL GARDEN

## CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

Children's Creative Arts Workshops combining drama, singing, drumming, dance, storytelling, yoga, nature crafting & cookery!

Children will spark their creative side with themed arts projects whilst nurturing their wellbeing and enjoying lots of outdoor play.

Small groups led by music & drama DBS trained teacher.

Based in the countryside location of Sopworth, your child will feel right at home, enabling them to explore, learn and make new friends.

With over 17 years teaching and leading creative arts in Independent schools, The Musical Garden brings together fully qualified and passionate staff.

Follow us on Instagram  
**@themusicalgardenwiltshire**



**The Musical Garden**  
Create. Nurture. Grow

**SUMMER CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS**

**Thursday 29th August- Tales of the Sea**

In our last workshop of the summer, we will dive underwater to explore tales of the sea. Expect lots of drumming, storytelling, sea shanties, shipwrecks & rock painting as we get creative inspired by coastal folklore.

9am-4pm  
Suitable for Ages 5-10  
£50 per day

The poster features a blue background with a yellow sun, a blue bird, and various sea-themed illustrations like a fish, a starfish, and a seashell.



**The Musical Garden**  
Create. Nurture. Grow

**SUMMER CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS**

**Tuesday 20th August- The Magic Tree**

Join us as we head outside and discover the hidden world of the magic tree and its slightly crazy and magical inhabitants. Children will take part in nature hunts, restore with Garden yoga, make minibeast masks, create soundscapes, devise with drama and of course have lots of outdoor play!

9am-4pm  
Suitable for Ages 5-10  
£50 per day

The poster has a yellow background with a blue bird, a red mushroom, a green tree, and a small house.



**The Musical Garden**  
Create. Nurture. Grow

**SUMMER CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS**

**Thursday 22nd August- The Dreaming**

In this exciting foot stomping workshop, we will make, bake, move and create, exploring Aboriginal dreaming stories. Expect lots of face paint, masks, art, dance, and storytelling as we head down under for a day of adventure.

9am-4pm  
Suitable for Ages 5-10  
£50 per day

FOR BOOKINGS & MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[WWW.TICKETTAILOR.COM/EVENTS/THEMUSICALGARDEN](http://WWW.TICKETTAILOR.COM/EVENTS/THEMUSICALGARDEN)  
OR CONTACT NICKI ON: 07919116075

The poster features a green background with a blue bird, a kangaroo, and footprints.

# TETBURY GOODS SHED

## ARTS CENTRE

### JULY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- July 3**      **Stroud String Ensemble:** A programme of English music performed by the group which includes the beautiful Ireland 'Downland Suite', the calm Walton Henry V Suite, and the uplifting Warlock Capriol Suite. A perfect selection of music for a summer's afternoon. 2-3pm. Tickets £3.50 in advance.
- July 13**      **Everything in the Garden:** Painswick garden director Dominic Hamilton will be talking about the Rococo Garden and will be joined by The Every Other Monday group of Stroud musicians to play flora-base choral music. 7.30. Tickets £10 (includes a discount on entry to the gardens)
- July 14**      **Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra:** A must-see concert for aspiring young musicians and part of our aim to host more young people's performances. 7.30. Tickets £5 free to under 18s
- July 19**      **Floyd UK:** To mark 50 years of The Dark Side of The Moon album a group of musicians come together to celebrate Pink Floyd's music accompanied by amazing visual effects! 7.30 Tickets: £20 in advance.
- July 27**      **Miyabi Duo:** The duo of Saki Kato and Hugh Millington play a variety of music for two guitars from new compositions to staples of the Spanish guitar repertoire. The duo are known for their collaboration with groups promoting musical workshops. 7.30 Tickets: £24, £15 for under 25s

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

**[www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk](http://www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk)**

## *"Pupils flourish at Luckington Community School"*

*Ofsted 2024*

In May, Ofsted visited Luckington Community School under a section 8 inspection. This involved two inspectors being in school for one day. The purpose of these visits are to judge whether the school continues to be a good school. Mrs Julie Gingell, Headteacher, said, "We are delighted to announce that we continue to be a good school. We were happy that the inspectors saw just how hard everyone in the community here works to make attending Luckington School so enriching both academically and in our extra-curricular offer day in and day out."

Highlights in the report include recognition of the positive relationships between all members of the school and high expectations for behaviour with pupils behaving exceptionally well. Inspectors identified an ambitious curriculum designed so everyone can fulfil their potential and very positive attitudes to learning. They also particularly noted that, "The school prioritises pupils' personal development".

The report also mentions how inclusive the school is. It identifies the school councils as one way they do this. The fact that all children are part of a council is not common and one which the inspection team were impressed by. The school has a school council, a playground council and an eco-council, which gives the pupils a voice in the running of the school.

Luckington School has an enviable number of after school clubs on offer for such a small setting. The school has after school clubs on four days, including gardening, outdoor learning, ball skills, musical theatre, Art, French and Young Engineers this term. "This is not always the case in schools", says Mrs Gingell, "We are lucky to have such dedicated staff and such an active Friends of Luckington School who fund much of this offer, making it accessible to all."

One pupil summed up the school to an inspector saying, "Luckington is a lovely small school where you know all the other children and everyone is your friend."

Mrs Gingell welcomes new families to have a personalised tour of the school during the school day with her, enabling visitors to see this ethos in action.

The full report can be found on the school's website; <https://www.luckingtonschool.co.uk/>



## YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

So it would seem the new name for inflammation in the aged is, INFLAMMAGEING as Dr. Paul Batman from my Fitness Professionals subscription explains.

This is a condition which is highlighted when high levels of blood inflammatory molecules lead to higher mortality rates and chronic diseases. Inflammation is a warning sign to us that during infection the immune system is activated and mobilised by releasing white blood cells that attack the irritant and clean up the infected area. Heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimers disease, diabetes and kidney disease are all consequences of this low-grade chronic inflammation that can be caused by high blood sugar levels, increased food intake, inactivity and oxidative stress and ageing.

In the aged, overweight, obese, inactive and unhealthy, inflamageing is always present and becomes progressively more difficult to control and neutralise with the cells always sensing they are being attacked. This causes the immune system to become overworked and unable to fight legitimate infections, potentially leading to chronic diseases. As the inflammation progresses it is possible that the immune system will begin to react against itself, as seen in autoimmune diseases such as Lupus, Graves' disease and Crohn's disease.

Low-grade systemic inflammation is associated with a decrease in insulin sensitivity, atherosclerosis and tumour growth, all of which have been termed "diseases of physical inactivity" and is regarded as a strong predictor of all cause mortality and cardiovascular disease in older populations.

Other factors that exacerbate the inflammatory process in the aged include smoking, increased number of fat cells, sedentary lifestyle, obesity poor diet and high blood pressure. There are three possible explanations as to why physical activity is a key player in reducing and controlling systemic low-level inflammation in the aged, these include a reduction in visceral fat, an increased production and release of anti-inflammatory cytokines from the contracting skeletal muscle as well as a reduction in the activity of the immune systems's white blood cells. It's not necessary to undertake high intensity exercise for the anti-inflammatory response to occur but movement of any sort is good. (150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week is the National Physical Activity Guidelines).

Resistance training also plays a significant role in reducing low-grade inflammation in the aged by increasing lean body mass and reducing fat mass both of which are central to maintaining a strong anti-inflammatory profile. The mental health of older adults has also been identified as a potential contributor to inflamageing molecules observed in those with mood disorders and anxiety, loneliness and depression.

I'm sure your will agree, all very interesting when we get to the nitty gritty reasons why we should be active, eating well and looking after ourselves.

## July 2014 AS 'T'WAS 10 YEARS AGO

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

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

The front cover for July 2014 was an invitation to the Leighterton School 'Good Ol' Fashion' Village Summer Fete on the 12th from 12-3pm. Attractions were to include Hook-a-duck, Coconut shy, Pony rides, Tug of War, Bouncy Castle, BBQ, Bar, Ice-creams, Cake stall, Baking and Vegetable Competitions, and admission was free.

The cover was a hint of much of the Summery contents - outdoor events and activities in the local area: Horton Flower Festival, Sherston Market, a Car Boot Sale at Castle Combe, Sherston's Boules Tournament and Carnival, and, looking forward, Hawkesbury Show in August, and the Didmarton Flower, Vegetable and Novelty Dog Show in September.

Sherston was buzzing - a sold out SherstonFest in June had 20 bands on 2 stages, dance workshops, kids choir, seniors tea and cakes, food from all compass points and the sun had shone. Hundreds of people had poured in to this 'mini Glastonbury'.

Down to earth in Didmarton and the AGM of the Parish Council in May had recorded it was dealing with blocked road drains in The Street, struggling with muddy roads from the Knockdown Quarry, and prioritising the resurfacing of St Arild's Road and the installation of dog waste bins. The 'gateway' signs at either end of the village were scheduled for July. A new noticeboard was due to be erected at the bus-stop, another green box for improved broadband connection would be placed opposite St Arild's Road and repairs to walling at Joyce's Pool were planned.

The AGM of the DCC on 4th June revealed an active year: the Chairman had reported on the continuing efforts by village residents to produce and deliver the Dd, the hirings and excellent cleanliness of the village hall, the continuing success of the 100 Club, fund raising for the new playground, including the 'Big Bike Ride', and the many villagers who had contributed to an active village life. Antonia Whitbread, Susie Jones, Steve Pollard, Margaret Winstone, Jean Glew, Andy Turner, Edward Hardy, Ruth Carnaby and Anna Jarvis were Users and Clubs Representatives to the DCC, assisted by a number of Co-optees and observed by the Rector, and Chair of the Parish Council, *ex-officio*.

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



## FRED PARSONS RECOLLECTIONS

### Businesses in Didmarton post war 1945 – early 1950s

Fred lived at 20 The Street (also known as Church View cottage) from birth to when he moved to Easton in Gordano in 1960. Unlike the present day where Didmarton has sadly become like other large villages with I believe only one shop (counting the garage at Knockdown as the shop) and one Pub - Fred recalls that when he was a schoolboy and in his early working years, you could do all your shopping for anything back then locally. So below he has written all the businesses he can recall which may stir up memories for senior citizen residents or their relatives:

Walking down into and along The Street from Duke of Beaufort estate end

On your Left Hand side:

Ansteys Farm  
-St Arilds Road  
Kings Arms pub  
Jefferies General Stores with Petrol Pumps (next door to pub)  
Ted Tanners General Stores  
-Chapel Walk  
Bill Phillips – Harness Makers  
Sparrows General Stores with Petrol Pumps  
-Next to Sundial House  
George Short – Blacksmith (adjacent to 20 The Street)  
Thompsons Farm

On your Right Hand side:

Bill and Charlie Clark – the Clark family were the village Undertakers. Charlie Clark made the coffins. His brother Bill Clark also worked in workshops near the congregational chapel making farm wagons.  
-Kings Terrace (now domestic houses but was site of Didmarton School)  
Mrs Ind's paper shop  
-School Lane  
Maurice Watts – Butcher (later became a Fish and Chip shop run by Frank and Cath Hallett)  
Post Office  
Horologist  
Rodways Farm – Laundry next door

## Cuttings

Another month, another Andrew. Our June speaker was Andrew Jeanes, International Sales & Marketing Manager with Guernsey Clematis who delivered a master class in how to select, grow and prune different groups of clematis. He recommended a new prize-winning variety, 'Guernsey Flute', with masses of beautiful, white flowers and easily maintained. When he discussed the importance of sterilizing secateurs and pruning snips, there were a few of us in the audience who realized we were guilty of slipping standards! There's always something to learn or remember at our meetings.



*Guernsey Clematis introduced their new 'Flute' on a recent trade stand*

## Community

We would welcome help running the Plant Stand on Boules Day, if you can spare some time. The bigger the rota, the less time each person has to give. Useful if your team is on a winning streak!

If you feel there are parts of the village that would benefit from an injection of colour, drop us a line.

Now that the new village gates are finally in position, the Blooming Sherston initiative will spring into action with autumn bulb planting at each site.

## Calendar 2024

August—No Meeting but possibly a garden visit tbc

3<sup>rd</sup> September—'Garden Design for Nature and Wellbeing' with Rachel Emous-Austin

1<sup>st</sup> October—'Growing a Cut Flower Garden' with Rachel Golding Barrett

3<sup>rd</sup> December—'The Victorian Gardener' (with Christmas theme) with Francis Burroughes

It's safe to say that the 2005 programme of talks and visits is shaping up well. Garden writer and broadcaster, Val Bourne, and plant expert, Derry Watkins, are just two of the speakers already booked. There will be something to suit all tastes and interests.

## J.J'S GARDENING BLOG

What a lovely show of flowers on the roses this spring/summer. I know some roses are packed with flowers and hardly any leaves, which is not very attractive, but my suggestion is not to panic give them a feed and some TLC. I believe it has been caused by that very cold two days we had. In several cases I have seen roses side by side where one has few leaves and the other giving the best show in a long time. It is part of the fun of growing things. You or nature, who does best. Maybe pick some roses and bring them inside add some alchemical mollis to the vase and enjoy the arrangement.

Fruit and vegetables you can start picking, beans, courgettes, lettuce, radishes. Harvest while vegetables are young and tender. Try and remember to plant seeds little and often, so there is always a tender morsel to pick. Try growing something new to you.

This is the main time to go garden visiting. Pick up a copy of the National Garden Scheme from any nursery or garden centre and go and explore. It is a handy book to have if you are holidaying in the UK.

Keep an eye on tree ties and other plant supports. You don't want ties to be cutting in to growth.

Any early flowering shrubs can be tidied up and remove to base two or three of the oldest branches, feed. This rejuvenates the shrub. Enjoy hydrangeas, this is their moment. Cut off old leaves of pulmonaria.

Plants that slugs and snails leave alone: most grey leaved plants, French marigolds, foxgloves, epimediums and other's.

Make time to sit and enjoy too.



## THE STORMING OF THE BASTILLE....

Picture it: Paris, July 14, 1789. The city is buzzing like a beehive in July. Louis XVI is off somewhere eating cake (or so the rumour goes), and the common folk are grumbling louder than a Frenchman deprived of his morning croissant. Things are tense. The economy is tanking, and there's a shortage of bread—basically, a French nightmare.

The Estates-General, a big political meeting that was supposed to fix things, ended up like every family gathering where politics are discussed: a total disaster. The Third Estate (representing the commoners) decided to take matters into their own hands and formed the National Assembly. They were like, "We're not going to take it!" Twisted Sister (The slightly deranged Rock Band) style.

Meanwhile, the Bastille—a massive, foreboding fortress that was part prison, part armoury, and part "Do Not Enter" zone—was sitting there like the ultimate symbol of royal oppression. The Bastille, by the way, had only seven prisoners, including one guy who thought he was Julius Caesar. Really.

Rumors were flying faster than a Parisian taxi driver: the king was planning a military crackdown on the National Assembly! So, what do the good people of Paris do? They grab their pitchforks and baguettes and head to the Bastille. They're ready for a revolution, or at least a dramatic protest.

A huge, angry crowd gathers outside the Bastille, led by folks who look suspiciously like they could also lead a parade. They demand the governor, Bernard-René de Launay, hand over the prison and the weapons. Launay, thinking "This is not in my job description," tries to stall but finally says "Non!"

After hours of back-and-forth, shouting, and some musket fire that was more confusing than an art-house film, the crowd manages to break in. They release the prisoners—who, to be honest, probably wondered why there was so much fuss—and parade Launay through the streets. Unfortunately for Launay, it's not a parade he wants to be in; he meets a very grim end.

The storming of the Bastille is celebrated as the moment the French Revolution really got rolling. It's like the ultimate underdog story: a bunch of regular people (and a few who thought they were ancient Roman emperors) taking down a symbol of royal tyranny. Vive la France, indeed!

And that, mes amis, is how a bunch of determined Parisians turned a fortress into a revolutionary icon, with a bit of drama, a lot of courage, and maybe just a hint of theatrical flair.



## SNAKE EYES WATCHING YOU!

**The adder** is a greyish snake, with a dark and very distinct zig-zag pattern down its back, and a red eye. Males tend to be more silvery-grey in colour, while females are more light or reddish-brown. Black (melanistic) forms are sometimes spotted. Adders are small, around 60 to 80cm and are mostly likely to be spotted in woodland, heathland and moorland habitat



**The grass snake** is usually greenish in colour - although this can vary. They have a yellow and black collar, pale belly, and dark markings down the sides. They are our longest snake and can grow up to 150 cm. They are usually spotted in wetlands and grasslands but can be seen in gardens too. They can be attracted to compost



Similar in appearance to the adder, **the smooth snake** can be distinguished by its more slender body, round pupil and less well-formed dark pattern on its back. It is usually grey or dark brown in colour and around 60-70 cm in length. The rare smooth snake can only be found at a few heathland sites in the UK



At first glance, **the slow worm** might be mistaken for a snake, but it's actually a legless lizard! The slow worm is much smaller than a snake, with smoother, golden-grey skin. The head is a similar width to the body and seems to flow seamlessly into it, whereas our snakes have a slightly broader head that looks more distinct from the body. On closer inspection, slow worms also have eyelids and can be seen blinking (snakes do not), and they can shed their tail if threatened.



## WHAT THE DOGGER DOES THAT MEAN?

As we live so close to the sea, I thought I would unravel the shipping forecast for you. This one is dedicated to a friend.

**Sea Areas:** The forecast covers 31 sea areas around the UK, each with a specific name—see diagram

**General Synopsis:** This is a summary of the weather systems affecting the sea areas, including the position and movement of high and low-pressure systems. For example, “Low 1006 moving northeast, filling 1012 by midday tomorrow.” This means a low-pressure system with a central pressure of 1006 millibars is moving northeast and will weaken to 1012 millibars by midday the next day.

Each sea area forecast includes:

**Wind:** Given in Beaufort scale (created by Sdmiral Sir Francis Beaufort) numbers (e.g., “Southwest 5 or 6”). This tells the wind direction and strength, with 5-6 indicating a moderate to fresh breeze.

**Weather:** Describes significant weather phenomena like rain, showers, fog, or thunder. For example, “Showers, rain later.”

**Visibility:** Described as “good,” “moderate,” “poor,” or “fog.” Good visibility is over five nautical miles, moderate is between two and five, poor is 1,000 meters to two nautical miles, and fog is less than 1,000 meters.

**Sea State:** Described using terms like “slight,” “moderate,” “rough,” “very rough,” “high,” or “phenomenal.” These terms correspond to wave heights, with “slight” being 0.5-1.25 meters and “phenomenal” being over 14 meters.

**Outlook:** Occasionally, the forecast includes a brief outlook for the following day or so, summarizing expected changes in conditions.

### Example Breakdown

If the forecast for “Dogger” says: “Southwest 5 or 6, showers, good,” it means:

**Wind:** Blowing from the southwest at a speed corresponding to a Beaufort scale 5 or 6 (17-27 knots or 20-31 mph).

**Weather:** Showers are expected.

**Visibility:** Generally good, meaning over five nautical miles. - So now you know!



## WINE-ING ON WITH THE SECRET SOMMELIER

The secret sommelier has sobered up and finished their cuppa in time to resume another foray into the world of vino....

1. Which Country produces the most Malbec?
2. Which grape has the thickest skin?
3. Which country produces the wine 'Pingus'?
4. Which more familiar grape variety is Wassburgunder?
5. What is the purpose of using egg whites in the process of wine making?
6. What is the above process called?
7. If a wine smells and tastes of grass, nettles and asparagus with a zingy lime. What grape variety are you drinking?
8. What is the sweet wine from Hungary, with sweetness measured in Puttonyos?
9. If a German wine is described as 'trocken' is it dry or sweet?



## THE DYDDI DIGEST TEASER NO.5

### The Dd Brain Teaser No.5

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

ODD ROAD ENDS

E 9

P 10

H 8

C 8

T 6

STEEPLE CHASING

T 7

S M R 5 4 9

S 9

B S 6 5

C 12

CABBAGES

R 3

S 5

S 10

D E 6 5

C 11

SEAFOOD

L S 5 4

C 7

P 8

S D 6 8

L 10

PEGS

T 4

C 7

S 6

T 5

T 6

### Answers to DdBT No.4 June24

W Wrist Of The Night Rolex Oyster  
Dog Still R Queen Elizabeth Stalin  
Yardstick Ho Chi Minh Metal K Front Door  
Car Watch Major Ivory T F Bread And  
Jam Roast Beef Pease Pudding Prawn  
Cocktail Bakewell Pudding I T K Stove  
Chopping Board Herbs Pinch Of Salt Oven  
Gloves

*(Compiled by David Michel)*

# SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

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

## EASY !!

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

## NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the June quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It was a great privilege to be invited to take part in various D Day services and events around the parishes last week. And great to see so many children from the schools involved also. Passing on a respect for those who have died for this country is SO important. We all take it for granted, but unless children learn to understand the sacrifice our forebears made for this country, then so many spiritual lessons will be lost.

It really worries me that we are not very good at passing on the traditions that we have been brought up with, to the next generation. And with that failure, goes much of what undergirds our way of life and spirituality. So often we sentimentalise the past and lament the passing of customs and traditions that have gone. When we should do all in our power to keep them going. A 'spirituality-adrift' society is what we have become. I am not blaming anyone in particular, though I do blame Tony Blair for liberalising so much of our commerce, especially on Sundays. Gone are the days when Church was not competing with rugby clubs and shopping. And the choirs were full and everyone joined in with the festal processions. And we all had the same day off! I was impressed just 20 years ago, that in Edinburgh rugby for kids did not start till the Sunday afternoon, just so that people could go to church in the morning!

We need our churches, our village halls and our community events. And in the countryside, they are more vital than ever, as we are so few. So well done those of you who were responsible for organising all those D Day events. And thank you.

Have a lovely July,

Richard

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

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

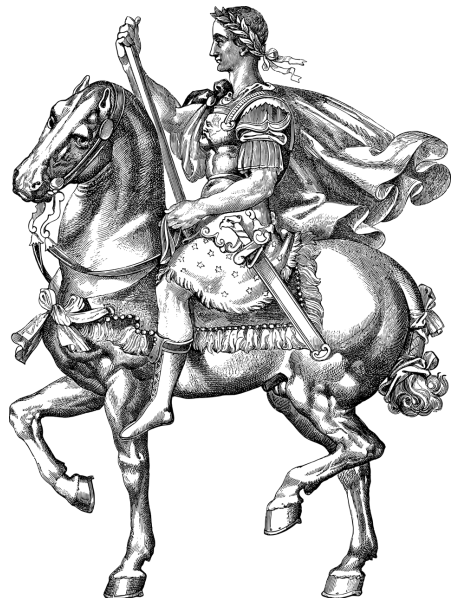
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
7th July	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	lay led
Trinity 6	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Family Service	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	LAY LED
14th July	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer book	P Cheeseman
Trinity 7	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer book	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
21st July	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev J Wilson
Mary Magdalene	1000 am	Hawkesbury	Pet service	H Cooke meth LP
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Lay led
28th July	9.30am	Lasborough	HC and Baptism	Rev J Hunnisett
Trinity 9	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev L Maydew (Meth Min)

## ABOUT JULY

July was named in honor of Julius Caesar. Quintilis, which was his birth month, was renamed July when he died. Quintilis means “fifth month” in Latin, which represents where this month originally fell in the Roman calendar. (If you think the story behind July is odd, check out why Tuesday is Tiw's Day.)

### Ceaser's at a Glance

Gaius Julius Caesar was a Roman general and statesman. A member of the First Triumvirate, Caesar led the Roman armies in the Gallic Wars before defeating his political rival Pompey in a civil war, and subsequently became dictator from 49 BC until his assassination in 44 BC .





## IN WHO ARE YOU TRUSTING?

We've all been inundated with claims and counter claims regarding election promises and who we should trust with running the country. Sadly some resorted to personal attacks seeking to sow doubts about others' characters. This is something social media is guilty of and is one of the things of which the Bible says 'God hates those who sow discord' instead of mercy and compassion rather than condemnation and doubt.

In whom can we exercise confidence? We need one who is worthy of our confidence, in whom we can trust to keep his promises and is reliable; But, the Bible says 'Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked' so 'Thus says the Lord, cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord'. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord. (Jer 17).

God calls to us today saying Trust Me!

He is worthy of our trust: He has proved it in the realm of nature:- We see the evidence in the majesty of the trees, the beauty of the flowers and his provision for our food.

Also he has proved worthy of our trust in the area of salvation:- Having promised from the beginning of time to send a saviour to redeem us from the curse of sin, he came in the person of his own son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to suffer and die, the just for unjust to bring us to God. He also has proved worthy of our trust for the future.

Having died for our sin, Jesus rose from death and has gone to prepare a place in Heaven for those who trust in him. He is the way, the truth and the life of God's kingdom.

In whom are you trusting? The false promises and hopes of the world which will fail us or the sure and certain hope which Jesus offers and calls us to saying—trust in me! Will you humbly submit your life to him by repenting of your sin and placing your faith in Jesus alone?

He says to you today, trust in me, I will not fail or forsake you. Will you trust your future to him today?

*Royston Pick*

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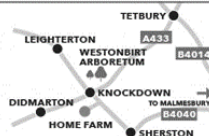
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