

the DYDDI digest

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

July 2023 – no. 572



The Jubilee or Coronation Garden? See p5

**Didmarton's local newspaper incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth**



Rubbish Dates

All Bins: 6th & 20th July

Food Waste: 13th & 27th July

2023 Collections Dates are now available for download on the website www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Diary Dates — July

WOW Dates 12th & 26th—see back cover.

1st—International Joke Day

2nd—World UFO Day & **Rod Stewart at Badminton**

3rd July—Full 'Buck' Moon

5th July—Ladies Night—see back cover / p8

13th July— Didmarton Walking Group p3

14th July—Rural Cinema—A Man Called Otto p11

16th—Ice-cream Day & **The Who at Badminton**

18th— Nelson Mandela International Day

29th—International Tiger Day

30th—International Friendship Day



What do you call a tiger who eats Ice-cream? - A cool cat

What do you call an alien with three eyes? An aliiien

What did the alienI think of the anti-gravity book? -
He couldn't put it down

Why did the tiger lose at poker? Because he was
playing with a cheetah

USEFUL 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

Bailey Jones - 01454 232985

Joe Turner - 01454 238235

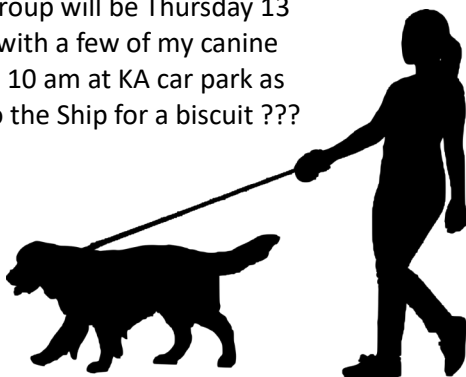
Henry Yandell - 07719 304445

Francesca Goodwill - 07483 839082/07972783679

DIDMARTON WALKING GROUP

The next outing of the walking group will be Thursday 13 July. Looking forward to walking with a few of my canine (and human) friends again. Meet 10 am at KA car park as per usual. Maybe a walk down to the Ship for a biscuit ???

Woof woof Martha



WE ARE NOW IN GLORIOUS COLOUR!

First and foremost a big thank you to the lovely Frances Barr who has kindly taken on distributing the Dyddi to all our equally wonderful delivery people in Didmarton. Although she will no doubt tell me that thanks are unnecessary in our next Monday Yoga session, it is a huge help so thank you & Namaste!

Check out page 15 and see what the Edwards' family are undertaking to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society, who vow to help end the devastation caused by dementia, through dedicated support and research into life-changing treatments.

It is important to remember that the Dyddi is here to inform, communicate and support our community, so if you are doing something amazing and want it included let me know, indeed contributions are welcomed on all subjects and goings on, it saves me a great deal of thinking and typing time!

I've included a rather unusual book review p22, non are particular modern (the newest is 2011 and the oldest 1953) but all should encourage us to challenge our norms and think about life in general, something lighter next month, maybe.... Again if you have recommendations please send them in.

All 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

CAN YOU HELP?

The church in Didmarton is looking for volunteers to help with mowing the churchyard. If you have a couple of hours to spare every 2-3 weeks and think you could help out, we would be so grateful to hear from you.

Please email oldmanorfarmhouse@btinternet.com

THE VILLAGE HALL GARDEN— JUBILEE OR CORONATION?



This is the result of a lot of hard work. Last Spring, this site was just a wilderness of docks and nettles and Jonathan Peevers spent many hours clearing and weed killing it. John and Trish Early donated the wild flower seeds which were beautiful last year and they have decided to show themselves again, looking stunning. The herbaceous plants have all been begged and donated by very kind villagers. They seem to like the awful soil because nothing has failed. All the flag stones have been recycled from the old

patio creating a central walk way. We have given our old bench for people to come and sit a while and enjoy the bees.

The fruit trees came from Jonathan and Clare Peevers and Sue and John Hammond. I know that we are getting two more trees when it is a little damper. Any contributions are still welcome.

I, originally thought to call it the Jubilee garden but, now that we have had the coronation I am wondering if that should be it's name. I would be interested to know of other people's thoughts.

Helen Russell



From CDC District Councillor—Tony Slater

Induction and Planning

Over the last few weeks I have been finishing my induction programme, with the planning session perhaps being the most important, as that is where I'll most likely be called upon by residents (I have already been called upon a couple of times to help). It's important to note that I must be completely neutral in these matters, and not pre-determine my decision until all the evidence is presented. I am allowed to discuss matters of fact with the planning officer, and can either agree with their decision or refer the application to the planning committee, but only where there are clear planning reasons to do so. Parish councils have an important role in this process, and must inform me as soon as possible where they think an application should/should not be agreed, together with the planning justification.

This process is illustrated by the recent decision by the CDC planning committee to refuse an application for a development in Tetbury that included a new doctor's surgery. This controversial application has been the subject of a great deal of debate on social media, but was ultimately decided purely on its planning merits.

The first full council meeting of the new term at CDC will take place on 19th July. In the meantime I was invited to join the committee looking at the benefits and issues of second homes and holiday rentals (E.g. AirB&B) in the Cotswolds, with the aim of forming clear policies and guidelines for renters and owners.

Parish Meetings

I'm looking forward to meeting my Parish Councils in the coming months, and if I'm not already booked in to your next meeting do let me know when and where it is.

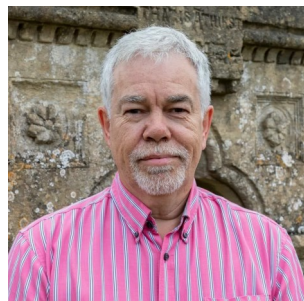
Badminton Concerts

By the time you read this, the repairs to the lane approaching the concert car parks should have been completed, and hopefully all the event planning will lead to a successful couple of weekends with as little disruption as possible – I understand that the capacity for both events has been significantly reduced, which will certainly alleviate some of our concerns.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening



Sopworth Plant Stall

The Sopworth village plant table may be small but it features a surprisingly diverse range of seasonal plants which are being regularly changed. It is now in its seventh year. Plants are donated and the money raised from their sale is divided between the Sopworth Church and Sopworth Village Hall. It is open 24/7 during the summer months and payment is made into the money box on a pro-bono trust basis.

Jinny Rawlings and Ann Buxton run the stall helped by Catherine Coverdale. It is located on the main street of Sopworth at the Didmarton end of the village between Bull Park Barn and Hollybush Barn.

We sincerely thank all those who have supported and continue to support the Sopworth Plant Table. Gifts of plants and of course purchases of plants are always welcomed.



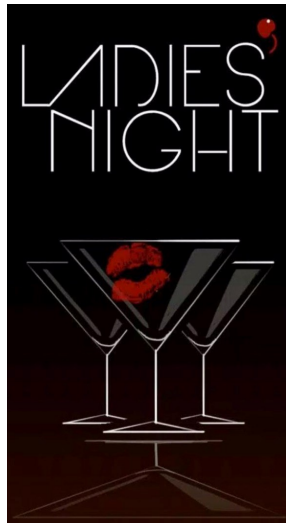
Thinking of trying Pilates?

I'm thinking of setting up another Pilates class for people new to Pilates or who have a little experience. I'm aware my existing classes may not suit people with the times so am looking at a Monday evening at 7pm in Didmarton Hall from September. (Start date would be the 6th September) Please get in touch if you would like to reserve your place or ask any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ruth

ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk



Kings Arms

Wednesday 5th July

Just rock up from 8pm onwards...all ladies invited, a great opportunity to catch up with friends old and new



The June 100 Club draw took place on June 13th at the DVHCC meeting in the Village Hall.

The prize winners were:-

1st Prize	£20	Emel Lansdell	2nd Prize	£15	David Russell
3rd Prize	£10	Tiffany Brodribb	4th Prize	£10	Stuart Tettmar

Sue and Sue

LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



The children in Ridge Class have just returned from their residential visit to Liddington. Our Year 5 and 6 children visited PGL and had an amazing time.

"Everyone was very excited as we came into school dragging our luggage. Two minibuses arrived and as we travelled we sang loudly. As soon as we arrived, we ate our lunch and met Tish, who would be the group leader for the stay. Tish showed everyone round and talked about the activities that would take place.

As soon as she finished speaking, the first activity began. We split into two groups and one group did a crate stack challenge, where we were shown how to put on a harness. These were checked carefully before we were allowed to begin. We were split into teams. One team stacked crates as high as they could while another team stood on the crates, working together so that more could be added to the pile. The third team were in control of the harnesses to



keep the first team safe. Each team took a turn at each role and once the time was up, the team standing on the crate stack kicked the crates down and were left dangling in the air in their harnesses. It was great fun.

Our next activity was a challenge course and we were taught how to use each piece of apparatus before trying it out. We were able to make these challenges harder for ourselves.

Once the afternoon activities were complete, we went to the canteen and had our first meal. There was a huge choice of food and a salad bar too. The food was great. After this, we were shown our rooms. We were all on the second floor, in rooms next to each other. We had bunk beds and we unpacked quickly before going back outside to play 'Capture the Flag'. (cont. over)

The next morning, we had to get up very early so we could have breakfast before starting the activities. We also had a room inspection and our leaders were impressed. Our first activity was the climbing wall. We wore harnesses again and climbed. Again, we were able to make the climb more challenging.

After this, we did raft building, which was a favourite for most of us. We got very wet as everyone fell off the raft we built.

In the afternoon, we swang on the giant swing, which was exhilarating and we did an archery competition. During the evening, we split into teams again and played 'Passport to the World' where we found questions about different countries to answer.

On the last morning, we had to pack before breakfast so it was an extra early start. Our first activity was a sensory trail and we all wore goggles so we could not see. We stood in a line and followed each other into the unknown. It was quite scary. The last activity was abseiling and this was amazing although it was very high.

The journey back was very quiet as we were all exhausted – but it was great fun.

If you would like to find out more, please have a look at our website at: www.leighterton.com or contact Claire, in our school office (01666 890273), to arrange a time to come and look round.





DIDMARTON'S RURAL CINEMA

Friday 14th July

Doors open at 6.30 for cash bar and film show starts at 7.30

A Man Called Otto (2023) – Drama

Cert: 15 – **Run time:** 2 hr. 06 min.

Rotten Tomatoes audience rating: 97%

Starring: Tom Hanks, Mariana Treviño

Director: *Marc Forster*

Based on the comical and moving no. 1 New York Times bestseller, *A Man Called Otto* tells the story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grumpy widower who is very set in his ways.



Trailer: <https://www.filmbankmedia.com/films/archive/details/33858-a-man-called-otto#/video>

£5 on the door – we now have a card machine!

Please advise if attending as helps for set up of chairs etc

TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY

- July 1** **Your Song – A Celebration of Sir Elton John:** Not a tribute band a live concert celebrating the songs of Sir Elton John, performed by singer-songwriter John Reilly and pianist and composer Lewis Nitkman. 7.30 Tickets £14.50
- July 2** **Red Priest:** A stunning programme of truly baroque classics, arranged and performed with Red Priest's trademark energy. Includes Bach, Vivaldi and Albioni. 6pm Tickets £20
- July 8** **Shanties at The Shed:** Come and join us for a jolly night of traditional and contemporary sea shanties led by Kate Raw. Lyrics are provided and the tunes are easy to pick up. 6.30 Admission free – al fresco performance!
- July 15** **Comedy Club:** This month featuring the talents of Karen Bayley, Steve Day and back by popular demand one of all-time favourite MC's Cerys Nelmes! 8pm. Tickets £12.50
- July 22** **Gareth Lockrane and the Tom Ball Trio:** an outstanding evening of jazz with one of the UK's best jazz flautist and the Tom Ball trio. 7.30 Tickets £15
- July 28** **Union of Strings:** acoustic folk-blues-rock duo of David John Lloyd and Chris Ongers offer a repertoire including Stereophonics, Paul Weller, The Foo Fighters, Prince and their own compositions. 7.30 Tickets £12.50

For further details of these and other events, including films and talks - and to book tickets please visit our website:

www.shed-arts.co.uk

CASINO NIGHT—18th November 2023

The Didmarton Village Hall Community Committee (DVHCC) in conjunction with the Didmarton Cricket Club (DCC) are organising a fun Casino Night in the village hall on Saturday 18th November this year.

If you have never been to one, here are the basics.

Everything is for fun – there is no real gambling.

The dress-code for this event is SMART.

The ticket price will include a buffet type meal half-way through the evening AND 'one thousand pounds' worth of valueless tokens to use on the tables.

There will be three Blackjack tables, Roulette, Craps and possibly a Big Six wheel.

Trained croupiers will guide people through the gaming process of each table.

If you run out of tokens you can purchase another '£1000' worth for just £10 any number of times.

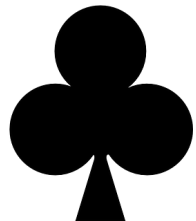
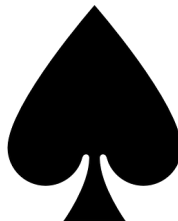
The winner will be the person with the largest 'cash' value of tokens (less any token purchases made throughout the evening) and may get a small prize.

There will be a raffle.

There will be a paying bar.

Numbers will be limited so when tickets become available it would be wise to get yours as soon as possible.

More information will follow but we would like to know of any residents interested in assisting in the organisation and running of the evening. If that is you, please contact anyone from the DVHCC/DCC or Alan Townsend by private messaging from contact details on the Dyddichat whatsapp group.



How Did The Card Suits Evolve?

Cultural Diversity & Localisation.

The idea of suit symbols may have originated with Chinese 'Money' cards. Why did countries change suits, decks, card size, and games as they adopted playing cards into their own culture?

The idea of suit symbols may have originated with Chinese 'Money' cards. However, the suits that made their way into Europe were probably an adaptation of the Islamic cups, swords, coins, and polo sticks. As Europeans didn't understand what the polo sticks were they reassigned them as batons and they became what we know today as the 'Latin' suit-signs. These were used in Spain and the Iberian peninsula and Italy until French card makers had a brilliant commercial coup of inventing the 'French' suit-signs which are much simpler to reproduce.

Meanwhile, by the end of the fifteenth century, playing cards had spread over most of Western Europe. The diverse cultural contexts and printing techniques led to a diversity of playing card types and styles. Stereotyped designs peculiar to particular regions evolved and became standard patterns. But the combinations of court hierarchy and suit symbols were not always stable or uniform. In some cases we see Kings mounted on horseback, in other cases seated on thrones. Some packs contained Queens and attendants, others preferred horsemen and foot soldiers. Some packs had additional trump cards or five suits. In some regions the suit signs were somewhat fluid and included everyday objects, animals, helmets, hunting equipment or flowers. Packs are known with suit symbols such as: roses, crowns, pennies and rings or bells, hearts, leaves and acorns.



As a third and final example, it is known from several sources that cards were exported at an early date from Germany to Italy, packed in barrels. Late 15th century German cardmakers produced Italian and Spanish-suited cards in the new technique of engraving, in an elaborate Gothic style, which were exported to foreign markets and influenced local production in those places.



**I'm taking on
Trek26
Cotswold Way
this summer**

**to help
beat
dementia.**

**ARTHUR, SIAN, AMY & BETH
(THE EDWARDS' FAMILY!)
ARE WALKING A MARATHON!!**

ON SATURDAY 15 JULY 2023

**TO RAISE MONEY FOR
THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY**

We would like to raise as much as possible for this charity and would be so grateful for your support.

If you would like to donate then you can use the link to our JustGiving page or via the QR code detailed below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/trek26cotswolds2023-wearefamily-sianedwards>



THANK YOU FOR ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE

TECH TALK

Genuine Artificial Intelligence - What is AI?



Artificial intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that deals with the creation of intelligent agents, which are systems that can reason, learn, and act autonomously. AI research has been highly successful in developing effective techniques for solving a wide range of problems, from game playing to medical diagnosis.

One of the most important recent advances in AI has been the development of deep learning, a type of machine learning that uses artificial neural networks to learn from data. Deep learning has been used to achieve state-of-the-art results in a wide range of tasks, including image recognition, natural language processing, and speech recognition.

AI is rapidly becoming a part of our everyday lives. We use AI-powered systems to help us with tasks such as online shopping, finding information, and controlling our homes. AI is also being used in a wide range of industries, including healthcare, finance, and manufacturing.

The future of AI is very promising. As AI systems become more powerful and sophisticated, they will be able to automate more and more tasks, freeing up humans to focus on more creative and strategic work. AI will also have a major impact on our society, changing the way we work, live, and interact with each other.

Here are some of the potential benefits of AI:

- AI can help us to solve some of the world's most pressing problems, such as climate change and poverty.
- AI can make our lives easier and more efficient. For example, AI-powered assistants can help us to book appointments, make travel arrangements, and manage our finances.

- AI can help us to learn and grow. For example, AI-powered tutors can provide personalized instruction to students.

However, there are also some potential risks associated with AI:

- AI could be used to create autonomous weapons systems that could kill without human intervention.
- AI could be used to manipulate people and spread misinformation.
- AI could lead to mass unemployment as machines become capable of doing more and more jobs.

It is important to carefully consider the potential benefits and risks of AI before it is widely adopted. However, there is no doubt that AI is a powerful technology with the potential to transform our world.

Here are some of the current and emerging applications of AI:

- **Natural language processing:** AI is being used to develop systems that can understand and generate human language. This is being used in a wide range of applications, such as machine translation, chatbots, and text analysis.
- **Computer vision:** AI is being used to develop systems that can see and understand the world around them. This is being used in a wide range of applications, such as self-driving cars, facial recognition, and medical imaging.
- **Machine learning:** AI is being used to develop systems that can learn from data. This is being used in a wide range of applications, such as fraud detection, spam filtering, and product recommendations.
- **Robotics:** AI is being used to develop robots that can interact with the world around them. This is being used in a wide range of applications, such as manufacturing, healthcare, and customer service.

AI is a rapidly developing field, and it is impossible to predict what the future holds. However, it is clear that AI has the potential to have a major impact on our world. It is important to be aware of the potential benefits and risks of AI, and to carefully consider how it should be used.

Written by Google Bard (yes really!)

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

I came across this in the paper a few weeks ago and thought it was well worth sharing although some of you may have already read it - but good to be reminded.

"The rise of 'digital dementia': how to protect yourself.

Stop saying, "I've got a terrible memory" We tend to believe that we are getting less sharp in midlife the the brain's neuroplasticity means we can keep learning at any stage in life. Self talk is the programme our brain will run on so if we keep telling ourselves "I'm no good at remembering now that I'm older" it will become a self fulfilling prophecy (like so many other thoughts) so replace that thought with a much more positive one such as "I'm quick to learn and remember things."

Paying attention in the first six seconds of hearing something. When we are told names or addresses or directions quite often we aren't really paying attention, so now think you have six seconds to remember what you are being told so pay attention. To help as well, repeat the information back, such as the name etc. Also repeat the persons name as you are saying goodbye.

Don't let smartphones do your remembering for you. Try to flex our memories - try to remember phone numbers, a grocery list and names. Use chunking - breaking numbers or lists down in chunks to remember. Also read maps rather than just depending on Sat. Nav.

When you wake up decide what you want from your day. Choose where we put our energy and focus first thing helps us to prioritise our time and look after our mind and helps defend it from getting overwhelmed as the day progresses. So imagine telling someone at the end of the day what your day was like and how much you enjoyed it and the positive outcomes of the day.

Boost your episodic memory - spend five minutes before bed reviewing your day. Practice recalling what you did on waking, what you ate and who you saw and interacted with and if you are caught on a loop of specific thoughts, then write these things down so you can clear your mind so your brain can recover and rest.

Improve your focus - imagine your attention as a spotlight. As we get older our ability to filter out distraction worsens, so use the practice of imagining your attention as a spotlight and where you shine it is your focus. "The art of memory is the art of focus."

... Of course it's remembering to do all of the above!

Ruth x

JJ.'S GARDENING BLOG

Now is the month to sit in the garden and enjoy it. All the seed sowing, potting on and nurturing is done. Go and visit some gardens. What new to you plants have you seen? Just check that if it is a 'must have' plant that you have the right situation for it or be prepared to give it extra attention, which may be sunlight, soil/water etc. What about alstromerias? Will grow in sun or dappled shade from mid May until October A variety in the Inticancha series, growing to about 40cms. One which has flowers somewhere between purple and indigo caught my eye. There are others like Summer Breeze with gold flowers and are a metre tall x 50cm wide. An excellent weed suppressor too.

A much gentler family are Dianthus/carnation family, which come in sizes from rockery to one foot tall with grey leaves and tolerant if you forget to water them occasionally. Similarly erigeron, the low growing daisy flowered plant. Another lovely plant in the permanent geranium family is called Bill Wallis. I had overlooked this little gem until I positioned it about two foot off the ground and looked it in the eye. If you do this when the evening is shortening and the light is softer, the colour of the flowers is gorgeous. It also has a lax habit (that sounds rather rude) but in this instance it means it falls and gently leans through other plants. If you lost your olive trees this winter, here is a suggestion. It will have to live in the garden or bonsaid in a large pot. A grey leaved, weeping pear. It is grafted onto a trunk which determine its final height. Absolutely hardy.

Remove any flower stalks on the rhubarb as low down as possible, and mulch with compost etc. Find a space for cordon fruit trees: apple/pears. Plums on dwarf root stock. All these will be in pots now, but will be bare root and cheaper in the winter.

Lettuce, parsley, find a place for them. Gooseberry shrubs, a thornless one is Nibbler, or another desert one which can be eaten straight from the bush when ripe and reddish. Autumn raspberries, delicious. The birds don't eat these. Have a vegetable zone, from a large to a small container: cut and come again lettuce.

The herbaceous geraniums will benefit from a trim and feed after their first flowering which will encourage a second flush of blooms. The roses climbing up people's house walls are so good this year. What has been noticeable is that some of them have very few leaves. Since this is happening here and there, one rose looking rather leafless next to one in show condition. I am guessing that some of them just caught that freezing two or three days we had. Give them a good feed. And talk to them.

Quite a few plants on sale tables outside cottages, many benefit village charities. Help them if you can.

Don't forget the deckchair.

SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the June quizzes:

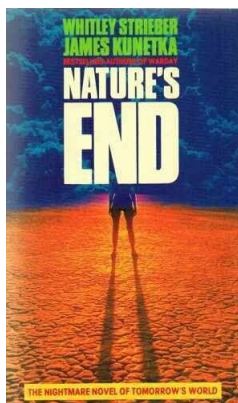
‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

BOOKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

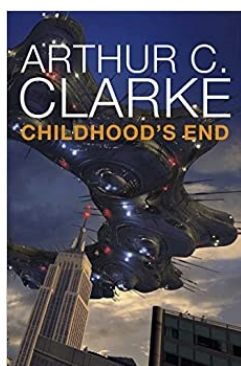


Nature's End By James Kunetka, Whitley Strieber

As we approach 2025 in which it is set, it describes the effects of climate change, food shortages, the collapse of China (rather than the Soviet) and the disparity of wealth. The advances in anti-aging technology aren't quite right, yet (ah well!). The internet is referred to as the Datanet. Other little details -- like devices and programs sharing information about your location and identity -- are certainly true. It also describes hope with details and concepts challenge the imagination. A stunning and relevant read, watch out for the Blocking Highs!

The Second Messiah by Glenn Meade

For two thousand years, wars have been fought, dynasties founded and great empires built on the message at the heart of Christianity - that Jesus Christ is the one true messiah. But in modern-day Jerusalem, archaeologist Jack Cane makes a shocking discovery. A discovery that not only threatens to destroy the charismatic new Pope, but one that could shatter two thousand years of faith and challenge the very foundations of the western world.



Childhoods End by Arthus C Clarke

Earth has become a Utopia, guided by a strange unseen people from space whose powers have eradicated war, cruelty, poverty and racial inequality. When the 'Overlords' finally reveal themselves, their horrific form makes little impression. Then comes the sign that they have been waiting for. A child begins to dream strangely - and develops remarkable powers. Soon this happens to every child - and the truth of the Overlords' mission is finally revealed to the human race. A classic of the science fiction genre, Childhood's End is an intelligent, beautifully written exploration of what it means to be human

VICAR'S LETTER July 2023

Dear Parishioners,

It is that time of year when schools break up for the summer holidays and hopefully enjoy some time together. Like Christmas this can cause potential difficulties for some. Not only in terms of where one goes, but one is going to spend it with.

The great decision where to go and what to do, is always a source of much discussion in our household. And it nearly always ends up with the same result. However, this year we are doing things a bit differently. We are not all doing the same thing. Some are going to Scotland, some are staying at home, and going abroad later, and others have been abroad with friends and so just have to just fit in!

It is good to do things together, and it is also important to have family time, especially when children are young, but as they grow older so their needs and demands change. I suppose we then must learn to adapt and try new ways of being together. Endings nearly always lead to new beginnings, which are different from the old. And not necessarily worse.

We have just been celebrating the Birth of John the Baptist. His birth marked the end of the Old Covenant (Testament) with Israel and the start of the new.

In that vein, I hope some of you will be able to enjoy the musical offerings that are on our doorstep this summer. Though they tend to be more the old music, rather than the new, there is deep joy for many people in hearing old favourites and seeing once again musicians who have been playing for over 40 years. But my children play me music of new musicians all the time, but it is more enjoyable to hear the classics of my youth. God is good, and we are called to live in his abundance and love....both those things of the past and those to come.

Have a lovely July wherever you choose to be and whatever you choose to be doing and with whom you happen to be.

My best wishes,

Rev Richard Thomson

Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Rd. Badminton GL9 1EU

Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

Tel. 01454 219236

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

CHURCH SERVICES

Jul-23 All Readings and updates of services on website: badmintonbenefice.com

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2nd July Thomas the Apostle	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	lay led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion with Baptism	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Sopworth	Evening Prayer	LAY LED
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
9th July Trinity 5	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion Prayer book	P Cheeseman
	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion Prayer book	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
16th July Trinity 6	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	1000 am	Hawkesbury	Family service Father's Day sunday theme	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
23rd July Mary Magdalene	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins with HC	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
30th July Trinity 8	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
		1115 St Arild's, Oldbury	Matins	Rev R Thomson

Ride & Stride for Churches

Join us on the **9th September** to visit the beautiful churches and chapels around our local area, by bike, foot, horse, or whatever takes your fancy. Some of our churches will be open and offering tea/squash and biscuits.

For you to choose and plan your own adventure, leaflets will be left in the stores throughout the Benefice, suggesting routes of various lengths, to take in the churches. Alternatively, join the Vicar leaving from St Arild's Oldbury-on-the-Hill, Didmarton, at **10:15am**.

The purpose of the event is to have some fun, getting the community involved in a church sponsored event, at the same time seeing the wonderful heritage of our local churches.

Funds can be collected via Justgiving, or by sponsorship forms, which can be found in the village stores, along with the routes, or on the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT) Ride & Stride web site.

For more information, please visit: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>



DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Invitation



There are many invitations offered to us in life, but none so important & fulfilling as that which is offered to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. He fully understands our situation & great need for help.

It is with love & compassion he invites us saying “Come to me all you who are weary & heavy laden & I will give you rest”. He with his infinite wisdom & power is able to comfort & sustain all who come to him & “Cast our heavy burdens on the Lord”, & know his promise to sustain us & be our guide through the anxieties & turmoils of life.

This is an invitation Jesus first makes as he himself experienced the situations life brings to us, he sent his Holy Spirit that first Whit-Sunday to be a comforter & guide to us. By the work of the spirit of Jesus, this invitation is being spread throughout all the world & to us personally, for each of us are in need of our Lord & Saviour.

We may or may not be those who are weary & heavy laden with physical or material things in life, but all of us need to recognise the heavy burden & consequence which sin has placed upon our lives, & our need for “rest for our Soul” which cannot be achieved by the things of life however hard we try or successful we might be., but only by responding to the one who is the maker & giver of life. It is by recognising our need & coming in repentance for sin to the saviour who invites us to come to him that he might lift our heavy burden & grant forgiveness & peace with God. In responding to him as our saviour he becomes our teacher & guide through life into eternity.

Will you accept his invitation or allow it to pass you by until it is too late? He says “Come to me all who labour & are heavy laden & I will give rest for your soul”.

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