



THE DYDDI DIGEST

MARCH 2025—594

The Mad Edition—For the eccentrics

Didmarton's local magazine incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth



RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – 14th & 28th March

Food Waste— 7th & 21st March

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

DIARY DATES

1st—National Pig Day

3rd—British Pie WEEK!

5th— Ash Wednesday

5th—WOW

14th—Pi Day

14th—Film Club >

17th—St Patricks Day

19th—WOW

20th—Spring Equinox / Alien Abductions Day

21st—Red Nose Day (Comic Relief)

23rd National Poetry Day

28th—Extra Film Club—Van Gogh's Poets & Lovers—From the National Gallery (p8)



WHY HARES BOX



Hares box because love is complicated. In spring, during mating season, female hares (does) aren't immediately impressed by the males (bucks) chasing them. Instead of swiping left, they throw paws—literally. If a buck gets too pushy, the doe stands on her hind legs and starts boxing him like a tiny, furry Muhammad Ali. This isn't just self-defense; it also tests if he's strong and persistent enough to be a good mate. Sometimes, males box each other for dominance. So, next time you see hares boxing it out, just know—it's nature's version of *The Bachelorette*, but with more fur.

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



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF PIE—PART 1

Pie has been around so long that if ancient Egyptians had Instagram, they'd probably be posting #PieLife pics next to their pyramids. They were the OG pie makers, stuffing crusts with honey and meats (because apparently, dessert wasn't a thing yet). Then the Greeks came along, like, *"What if we made this crust actually edible?"* The Romans took that and ran with it, shoving everything from seafood to who-knows-what inside.

Fast forward to medieval Europe, where pies were basically medieval Hot Pockets—mostly meat-filled and questionably sanitary. Then some genius decided, *"Hey, what if we put fruit in this?"* and boom— you can have a main and a pudding as pie!

So, while no single person invented pie, humanity has spent thousands of years perfecting the art of eating way too much of it.



OPEN MEETING TO DISCUSS
THE DYDDI DIGEST 50TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday 8th March 11.30am

Didmarton Village Hall—All Welcome

1975 **Dd50** 2025

On Saturday, 4th October, 2025 the 'DYDDI digest' will be 50 years old. This achievement is a rarity amongst Village magazines in England as it has been published every month, in fair weather and foul, good times and bad, especially during the Pandemic for, soon, half a century.
"Age cannot wither it, nor custom stale its infinite variety." (ack. W.S.)

**Also raising funds for the Village Hall Road
Drop in for a WONDERFUL BRUNCH
you are welcome even if you are not staying for the
meeting**

Grab a Bacon / Sausage Bap or a Muffin, some Bircher, along with Teas, Coffee or Juice

FRONT COVER CREDIT—Liz Messent Art—www.lizmessent-art.co.uk

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

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



VE DAY 80

Thursday May 8th 2025 will mark 80 years since the end of World War Two and the fall of The Third Reich, just 8 days after Hitler committed suicide in his bunker under the Reich Chancellery in Berlin.

An estimated 2.5 million Russian troops had overrun the German capital and both Hitler and his newly wedded wife, Eva Braun were determined not to be captured and suffer the same fate as the Italian Dictator Mussolini and his mistress, Carla Petacci, they were executed by Italian partisans just a few days before.

Along with others, Goebbels and Martin Bormann set fire to their bodies and buried them in a shallow grave nearby - according to eyewitness testaments. The Russians later exhumed the remains and took them to Magdeburg in East Germany where they stayed until finally being destroyed in 1970 by the KGB.

The casualties from 1939 to 1945 will never be accurately known but an estimated total of 70–85 million deaths were caused by the conflict, representing about 3% of the estimated global population at the time. Of that figure roughly half were from the Soviet Union and China, who were then recognised as allies in the conflict against the Axis of Germany, Italy and Japan.

To mark of the end of six years of slaughter brought about by the Nazi party, the British Government is asking that on the



Bank Holiday Monday 5th May,

towns and villages across the country hold 80th celebrations similar to those held for D Day 80 last year.

Our event will start at around 6.00pm with a bonfire beacon to be lit just after dark at 9.30pm.

Planning for the event is ongoing so please **SAVE the DATE** and keep a look out for details in the April issue of our Dyddi Digest.



The February draw took place on February 6th at Toddler Group held at The Village Hall . The prize winners were:

1 st prize	£20	Tiffany Brodribb	2 nd prize	£15	June Carver
3 rd prize	£15	Marina Chittle	4 th prize	£10	Bobbie Middleton

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

HELP SUPPORT THE 100 CLUB

It's that time of the year again

For those of you who are already members of the 100 Club it's time to renew your membership for 2025/26. Please pay by Bank Transfer if possible, including your name and address. The details are the same as last year.

Lloyds Bank 100 Club Account sort code: 30-91-99 account number: 77225368

If you would prefer to renew by cheque or cash the renewal form is below. Please drop the completed form with your cheque/money into Sue Cook at 54 The Street or to Sue Hammond at 6, Bertha's Field. As in previous years our team of collectors will be making their usual house to house collection during April and will accept cash or a cheque.

It's been another successful year for the 100 Club. We've increased our normal monthly prize draw to £60 (4 prizes) and, along with a special bumper draw at Christmas, have given out £880 in prize money. We've also handed £925 to the DVHCC to help fund community projects.

Thank you for your continued support. We really do appreciate it.

For those of you who are not members or are new to the village and don't know what the 100 Club is then please read on..... The 100 Club exists to support village activities run by the DVHCC. The annual subscription is £12 (£1 a month) You're welcome to have more than 1 subscription per person or household and can even include the name of your pet.

Continued over>

The subscriptions are split between the DVHCC and a series of cash prizes to members selected through monthly draws which take place at a variety of village events. Please help to support our village by joining the 100 Club. Remember you have to be in it to win it!

Sue & Sue

DIDMARTON 100 CLUB

2025/26 Membership Renewal

(for payment by Cash or Cheque)

I/We would like to join/renew membership of Didmarton 100 Club and enclose cash/cheque for £12 (made payable to Didmarton 100 Club), being the subscription for 2025/26.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

For help/queries please contact

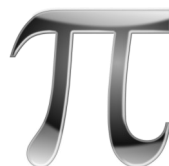
Sue Cook 238222 or Sue Hammond 238373

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PIE—PART 2

Nobody *invented* Pi (π) because it's a mathematical constant that exists in nature, like gravity or the fact that toast always lands butter-side down. However, people have been discovering and refining its value for thousands of years.

The ancient Egyptians and Babylonians had rough estimates of π over 4,000 years ago. The Greek mathematician Archimedes (c. 250 BCE) was one of the first to calculate it methodically using polygons. Then came the Chinese, Indian, and Persian mathematicians, each refining the number further.

Nowadays, computers calculate π to trillions of digits—because apparently, someone out there really hates round numbers.



SPEED WATCH SUMMARY

FEBRUARY



We were able to complete all of the planned sessions. Whilst the numbers caught speeding relatively low we have yet again recorded a significant number over 40mph.

We were fortunate on Friday afternoon to be joined by PCSO Maina from the Neighbourhood Police Team in Cirencester. Out of the 6 people we caught speeding, he pulled 2 over for a “friendly chat” whilst other traffic seemed to be driving through at the slowest we’ve ever seen.

Date & Time	Site	Pos IDs	Highest Speed & Time	Comments	Total Vehicles
Mon 27 Jan 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	3	38mph at 8:46		146
Mon 27 Jan 15:15 to 15:45	St Lawrence	3	39mph at 15:20		79
Tue 28 Jan 8:15 to 8:45	Village Hall	4	42mph at 8:47	1 flagged as Untaxed	252
Tue 28 Jan 15:30 to 16:00	Village Hall	5	42mph at 15:40	2 others at 40 mph	106
Wed 29 Jan 15:00 to 15:30	Village Hall	2	40mph at 15:05		176
Thu 30 Jan 8:30 to 9:00	St Lawrence	1	43mph at 8:44		167
Thu 30 Jan 15:15 15:45	Village Hall	5	47mph at 15:24	3 at 40+mph between 15:22 and 15:28	190
Fri 31 Jan 14:30 15:00	Village Hall	6	43mph at 14:51	Also 1 at 42mph at 14:49	173
Totals		29			1289

Continued over>

STOP LIME DOWN—COMMITTEE REPORT

Goss Croft Hall was full to standing room only on February 3 night for the meeting hosted by the Stop Lime Down steering committee – just as in Sherston Hall 2 days previous. Many in the audience have been aware of the Lime Down Solar proposal, but the details outlined by the speakers, Sir Mike Pitt* and Prof Richard Skeffington*, left them stunned, shocked and outraged. Some were even in tears as they took on the enormity of the project on their doorstep.

The meeting was one of four in the week hosted by Stop Lime Down to update local residents on the solar scheme and to explain how to tackle the consultation feedback questionnaire. Sir Mike set out the timetable explaining that we are at the second consultation stage in Q1 2025 where Lime Down developers are holding local meetings to brief residents and to take feedback from them. It will also be an opportunity to ask them questions. Then follows the developers' formal application to the Planning Inspectorate and then a lengthy examination of the application before it is either recommended or rejected by the Planning Inspector to the Secretary of State. However, of most concern to all is that the Secretary of State has recently approved schemes that Planning have rejected. It is his (Milliband's) prerogative but alarming just the same.

Of even bigger concern to residents attending was Richard Skeffington's presentation regarding the solar panels themselves – up to 4.5m high, that is the size of a double-decker bus and a huge banner was displayed to bring this height to life. Panels, usually static, are planned to be tracking, moving with the sun with accompanying noise. And will any hedges grow 4.5m high to screen them?

Other noise worries will be from conversion units, 130 in the scheme, each the size of 7 shipping containers, with cooling fans creating noise, hum and water run-off. On top of this will be 33 kV substations, 25 of them 4m high and 3x 132kV substations 7m high covering 9000m² but nothing compared with the huge battery storage unit at Hullavington, 13m high covering 42,500 m².

Further shock was evident at the description of the construction – 2 years – and the destruction of hedgerows as tracks are widened, with subsequent compaction and contamination of soil, as up to 104 HGV are visiting the site daily, let alone 500 workers on site in buses and cars. Questions were raised as to the suitability of our country lanes for this influx. Richard also briefed the meeting on the cable routes between the 5 sites and the link to Melksham (as wide as a football pitch) and pondered whether once the cables are in place there would be additional solar panel development to capitalise on the installation. He mentioned the flooding issue caused by so much concrete and hard surfaces affecting the delicate nature of the Gauzebrook and the Avon, recently experienced in local flooding after storm Bert.

A number of residents were quick to raise their concerns at the end of the presentation. What about safeguarding food production on our good agricultural land? What will happen to the sites after decommissioning – further development on a brownfield site? How can MP's be lobbied to turn against such irresponsible developments? Is solar suitable? - no, the UK is the second lowest country in the world suitable for solar energy. Why not rooftops, not on land? Who gains from this development? - well the landowners, eventually, but the overall profit will go abroad and the electricity to the general grid, not locally. Tourism and landscape were flagged as an issue as the sites will be seen from a distance – Chipping Sodbury to Minety and in clear view of Malmesbury.

Understandably there were many more questions to be answered but the meeting was brought to a close by Hugh Roche who encouraged, nay exhorted anyone with concerns to attend the Lime Down meetings in February, ask questions and then list their concerns on their feedback questionnaire – to 'have your say', and who knows, make a vital difference.

*Sir Mike Pitt – former Chair and Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate

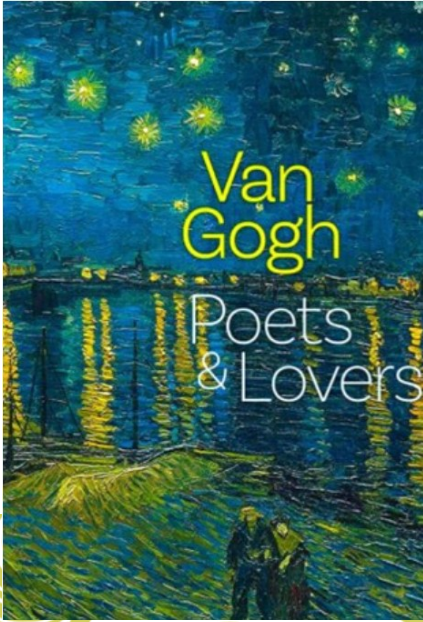
*Professor Richard Skeffington – Environmental scientist and hydrology expert

A packed hall at Goss Croft with the yellow banner showing the height of the proposed panels



EXTRA EVENT

Friday March 28th



This film is a chance to reexamine and better understand this iconic artist. Focusing on his unique creative process, *Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers* explores the artist's years in the south of France, where he revolutionised his style. Van Gogh became consumed with a passion for storytelling in his art, turning the world around him into vibrant, idealised spaces and symbolic characters.

Running Time: 1h 30

14th—Film Club as normal

28th—Van Gogh, Poets & Lovers from the National Gallery

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

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

Exceptionally we will be charging £7.50 for this.

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

GOODS SHED HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH



March 1

Comedy Club: Spring-Time Comedy Goodness features stand-up comedian James Cook, Bristolian Dani Johns and Jack Campbell for an evening of mirth and merriment. Tickets in advance £13.50. 8pm

March 8

The Importance of Being Earnest: The first of our partnerships with the National Theatre brings a specially filmed production of Oscar Wilde's classic play. Tickets in advance £15. 7.30

March 16

Charlie Hooper-Williams: The pianist weaves together music and visuals with the help of Otto, his computer co-performer, to produce stunning visual which mirror the music. Tickets in advance £13. 6pm

March 26

Playtime Theatre: The Last Baguette Company brings your 2–6-year-olds cheesy tunes from Ratty's band to sing along to in a fun theatre session. Tickets in advance parents £5, children £5 (babies free). 10am

March 29

Coco Tomita & Simon Callaghan: Celebrated Japanese violinist Coco joins with pianist Simon in an evening of Debussy, Prokofiev and Beethoven. Tickets in advance £24. 7.30

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

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk



PTFA

Auction of Promises

Call for Auction Lots!



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

We need your help to make it a success!

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

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

Leighterton Primary School PTFA

We already have some fantastic promises, including:

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

But we need more!

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

How to get involved:

Simply email

leighterton.ptfa@gmail.com

to pledge your promise and make a difference.

Help us make this auction an event to remember



This event is kindly sponsored by
Hunter French Estate Agents



March 1975—As 'Twas—March 2025

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

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

In conversations between village activists there was agreement that “We can't go on like this.” Slips of paper with information for villagers were proliferating and it would be better to provide a central clearing system. The idea of a village newspaper was conceived, with volunteers chasing contributions and organising the editing and printing. Fairly soon a number of Didmarton residents found themselves involved.

Pre-dating word-processors, computers, email and the like the earliest issues used typewriter, scissors, glue, white chalk and a photo copier. An item of news or information or witty thought would be typed up, checked and then cut to size. Contributions could then be moved around on A4 paper and when all looked good – glued in place. Easy really. But then would come the late item which ‘simply must go in’. And under the photocopier the sharp cut edges to items would show up as faint lines. Occasionally, when all was done and ready for a print run the proof reading would reveal typos, mistakes or hidden detail. Out would come the chalk to rub on and convince the photocopier there really was nothing to be seen here.

Once copied each would be carefully folded to A5 size, stapled if more than four pages, stacked and counted out ready for delivery, all by hand. More ‘willing’ volunteers would deliver to each home in the village. Then almost before they could catch breath the next copy date would come round and it all started again.

So, is it a newspaper or a magazine? And what's the difference? Both descriptors have been used on the front cover, sometimes in the same issue. Well, the document has never restricted itself to just news. But then, neither do our national ‘newspapers’ with articles on lifestyle, cookery, motoring and so forth. So, the DYDDI digest follows our national tradition of ‘a slight muddle but it works’.

To add to the mysteries – is it a ‘Village’ or ‘Parish’ magazine, and approaching 50 years how does it rate in the longevity chart?

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

If you have more early memories of Dd, its inception and the people involved -

Please make contact.

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

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

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

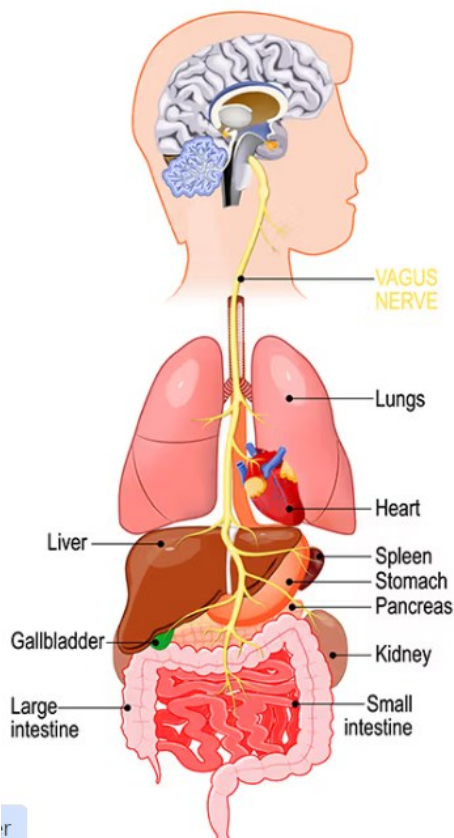
This month I want to write about our vagus nerve which starts in the brain and then travels down to the lungs, heart, intestines, gut and muscles. The vagus nerve is connected to our parasympathetic and sympathetic network. The parasympathetic is responsible for rest and digest and feed and breed whilst the sympathetic is fight and flight. It also has a physical effect on swallowing, sweating, digestion and speech, along with heart rate and other bodily functions

The vagus nerve is compromised when there is stress in the body and it stops working properly. The 4 top stressful things that affect the vagus nerve are: everyday stress such as finance, relationship, running children around. Psychological stress such as past traumas which stop you seeing the world in the best light. Physical stress through accidents or operations which stop you moving so well. Biochemistry stress where we are taking in toxins through our food and lifestyle.

Our vagus nerve is integral to our overall health, including our microbiom (gut health), inflammation, so if you feel you need to stimulate your vagus nerve try the following: Massage behind the ear where a branch of the vagus nerve travels close to that area, you can also gently tug down on the ear which will also stimulates the vagus nerve. Another tool is to massage the side of the neck which can calm down your heartbeat if in fight or flight response. Also, do some gentle tapping on your thymus point which is midpoint of your chest. Use your index and middle finger for 20 seconds whilst being aware of your breath. These can all help with focus and energy and self regulate when you are not quite feeling yourself.

By having the knowledge how to help ourselves we can avoid certain medications which help one problem but set off another.

Ruth x



RELEASED MARCH 1975—YOUNG AMERICANS BY DAVID BOWIE

Released in 1975, David Bowie's *Young Americans* marked a radical departure from glam rock, embracing American R&B, soul, and funk. Dubbed his "Plastic Soul" phase, the album reflected Bowie's admiration for Philadelphia soul, recorded at Sigma Sound Studios, a hub for the genre. Influenced by artists like The O'Jays and Gamble and Huff's signature sound, Bowie immersed himself in a new musical landscape, eager to reinvent himself once more.

The title track, *Young Americans*, captures this transformation with its punchy saxophone, Luther Vandross' backing vocals, and a groovy rhythm. The song paints a vivid portrait of youthful ambition and American cultural identity, combining social commentary with infectious energy. The album blends smooth ballads like *Win* and *Can You Hear Me* with funk-driven tracks like *Fascination* and *Right*, showcasing Bowie's newfound vocal warmth and sensuality. *Somebody Up There Likes Me* further expands on the album's themes, with its sweeping arrangement and Bowie's impassioned delivery.

A standout moment is *Fame*, a collaboration with John Lennon and guitarist Carlos Alomar. Born from a jam session, the song critiques the music industry and the trappings of celebrity. Lennon's presence is felt both in his distinctive backing vocals and his contribution to the song's biting lyrics. *Fame* became Bowie's first U.S. No. 1 hit, proving his ability to adapt and thrive in new musical directions. Another notable track, *Across the Universe*, is a reimagining of The Beatles' classic, featuring Lennon himself on guitar and backing vocals, further cementing the album's transatlantic influences.

Initially met with mixed reviews, *Young Americans* has since been recognized as a pivotal record, proving Bowie's ability to evolve. It paved the way for the experimental *Station to Station* (1976) and influenced his Berlin Trilogy. The album's fusion of rock, soul, and funk highlighted Bowie's versatility, expanding his musical identity beyond the confines of his glam rock past. By embracing American soul, Bowie honored the genre while reshaping it in his own image, leaving a lasting impact on both rock and R&B. Today, *Young Americans* stands as a testament to his fearless reinvention, a defining chapter in his ever-shifting career.



CHICKEN & HAM TANGLE PIE

Left over roast chicken, ham or gammon? Try a non-traditional chicken and ham pie with a light filo topping, making it a healthier option to heavy pastry. This said, I tend to go heavier on the crème fraiche and stir in a little mustard for extra zing! I don't measure anything, but I have included measurements here.



2 tsp sunflower oil (I use Rapeseed) / 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped / 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed / 1 medium leek, trimmed and cut into thin slices / 100ml white wine (my hand gets heavy here!) / 150ml water / 1 chicken stock cube / 1kg cooked chicken / 100g sliced smoked ham or gammon / 2 tbsp plain flour / 300g half-fat crème fraiche / freshly ground black pepper / 3 (or more!) sheets filo pastry, each about 38 x 30cm / 1½–2½ tsp sunflower or rapeseed oil

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan over a low heat and add the onion and crushed garlic. Fry gently for 5 minutes until the onion is softened, but not coloured, stirring occasionally. Add the leek and cook for 1 minute more, stirring constantly.

Pour over the white wine and 100ml of the water. Dissolve the stock cube in the pan by squishing it with a wooden spoon. Keep simmering on a high heat and stir constantly until the liquid has reduced by about half, then remove the pan from the heat.

Strip off the skin from the chicken and tear the meat off the bones and into bite-sized pieces. Place them in a large bowl. Cut the ham into strips about 1.5cm wide and add them to the bowl. Sprinkle the flour on top and toss lightly together.

Add the onion and stock mixture, the rest of the water and the crème fraiche. Season with lots of freshly ground black pepper and stir all the ingredients together until just combined. Spoon into a 1.5-litre pie dish. Preheat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6.

Pile the filo sheets on the work surface, one on top of the other, and divide into 9 rectangles, cutting through all the layers. Put the oil into a small bowl.

One at a time, brush each pastry rectangle lightly with a little oil and very loosely scrunch it up. You'll need to just dip the tip of the pastry brush in the oil to make sure the oil lasts for all the pastry. Place the scrunched-up filo on top of the filling, putting the pieces close together until the surface of the pie is completely covered.

Bake the pie for 30–35 minutes or until the pastry is crisp and golden brown and the filling is bubbling.

THE SPRING EQUINOX: A MOMENT OF BALANCE

The Spring Equinox, also known as the Vernal Equinox, marks a significant moment in the Earth's annual journey around the Sun. Occurring around March 20 or 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and September 22 or 23 in the Southern Hemisphere, it signifies the transition from winter to spring. This astronomical event is characterized by nearly equal lengths of day and night, symbolizing balance and renewal.

The Science Behind the Equinox -The term “equinox” comes from the Latin words *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night), indicating that day and night are approximately equal in duration. This occurs because the Earth's axial tilt of 23.5 degrees positions the Sun directly above the Equator, distributing sunlight evenly across both hemispheres. After the Spring Equinox, the Northern Hemisphere begins to tilt closer toward the Sun, leading to longer days and warmer temperatures.

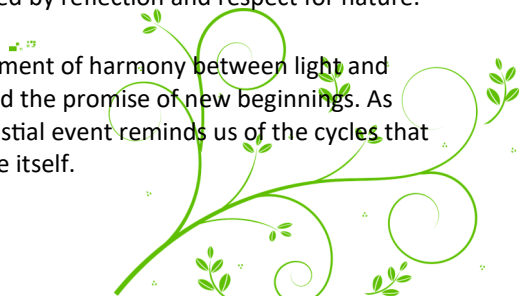
From a scientific perspective, the equinox is an essential marker in the solar calendar, helping to define the seasons. It is one of two equinoxes in the year, the other being the Autumnal Equinox, which occurs around September 22 or 23 in the Northern Hemisphere. These equinoxes serve as points of balance between the Winter and Summer Solstices, which represent the shortest and longest days of the year, respectively.

Cultural and Historical Significance Throughout history, the Spring Equinox has been celebrated in various cultures and traditions worldwide. Many ancient civilizations built monuments aligned with the Sun's position during this celestial event. Notable examples include:

Stonehenge (United Kingdom): This prehistoric site is thought to have been used for tracking solar and lunar cycles. **Chichen Itza (Mexico):** The Mayan pyramid **El Castillo** was constructed so that during the equinox, the shadow cast by the setting sun creates the illusion of a serpent slithering down the pyramid's steps. **Angkor Wat (Cambodia):** This temple complex aligns with the equinox sunrise, reflecting the Khmer civilization's astronomical knowledge.

Many cultures also observe festivals and rituals during this period. Nowruz, the Persian New Year, coincides with the equinox and symbolizes rebirth and renewal. Similarly, in Japan, Shunbun no Hi is a national holiday marked by reflection and respect for nature.

From all perspectives, the Spring Equinox is a moment of harmony between light and darkness, marking the arrival of warmer days and the promise of new beginnings. As nature awakens from winter's slumber, this celestial event reminds us of the cycles that govern our world and the balance inherent in life itself.





SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting
Tuesday 4th March
Speaker is Tricia Lawrence
Year-Round Interest in a Small Garden

Cuttings

At our February meeting, we welcomed a most entertaining speaker who combined enormous enthusiasm with extensive knowledge. Adam Alexander (aka The Seed Detective) has more experience of sourcing and growing vegetables from seed than you can shake a gardening stake at. He was generous with both his time and packets of his own seeds which members could buy for a small fee at the end. Let's hope we get close to the quality and quantity of his healthy crops.

On 4th March, we're delighted that member, Tricia Lawrence, will be sharing her experiences of creating a delightful walled garden in the village. Tricia had to barrow everything (plants, compost and detritus) through the house to develop the garden when she moved in several years ago. Her skill at planning for year-round colour and interest has impressed hundreds of visitors during Sherston Open Gardens in June.

Clippings

Club meetings will remain throughout 2025 on the first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, jobs in the garden for the month and friendly chat over homemade refreshments.

New members are always welcome. Cost (for now) 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

Community

Daffodils are starting to poke up all over the place where our committee planted last year – in the troughs outside the Post Office, by the Jubilee Tree and beneath the welcome gates on the outskirts. It won't be long before they are followed by splashes of richly coloured tulips from April onwards.

Calendar

Our first, jolly 2025 coach trip will be on 8th May. Morton Hall's stunning tulip displays have received widespread media attention, including a feature on BBC Gardener's World in 2024. Now in its sixth year, there are over 100 varieties to drool over in pots, raised beds and borders. There may still be a few seats left on the coach so it's worth asking at the meeting or contacting our Secretary direct.

Continued over>

2025 PROGRAMME of TALKS

- March 4th - 'Year Round Interest in a Small Garden' by Tricia Lawrence.
April 1st. - AGM and postponed talk on Capability Brown by Hugh Vaux
May 6th. - 'A Year at Spring Cottage' by writer and broadcaster, Val Bourne
May 8th. TRIP TO MORTON HALL. WORCESTERSHIRE FOR TULIP FESTIVAL
June 3rd. 'Looking after the Legacy of Rodmarton 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.



A corner of the stunning gardens at Morton Hall near Redditch, Worcs.

MAGICAL HARES

Hares have long been a part of folklore and mythology across many cultures, often symbolizing mystery, transformation, and agility. Here are some key examples of hares in folklore:

1. The Trickster Hare

In many African and Native American myths, the hare appears as a clever trickster. The West African folklore character Br'er Rabbit, popularized in the American South, is based on traditional African hare stories where the animal uses wit to outsmart predators and rivals.

2. The Moon Hare

Several cultures associate hares with the moon. In Chinese mythology, the Jade Rabbit lives on the moon, pounding herbs for the elixir of life. Similarly, in Japanese folklore, the "Moon Rabbit" is said to be seen in the moon's patterns, grinding rice for mochi.

3. The Sacred Hare in Celtic Tradition

The Celts viewed hares as mystical creatures, often linked to the Otherworld. They believed hares had prophetic abilities and that harming one could bring misfortune. Some legends suggest that witches could transform into hares to escape hunters.

4. The Easter Bunny Connection

The Easter Bunny has roots in Germanic and Anglo-Saxon folklore, where the hare was linked to Ēostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. This connection likely influenced the modern tradition of the Easter Bunny delivering eggs.

5. The White Hare of England

In British folklore, white hares were thought to be ghosts or transformed spirits, often appearing as omens or supernatural guides. Some tales claim they were the spirits of wronged women seeking justice.

6. Hares & Pie / Pi

While Hares can eat tough, fibrous plants that many other animals avoid, they don't eat pies. Also they have no idea how to use the mathematical function of Pi



BT13–Mar25 Dd Brain Teaser
Given the initials and number of letters, for what do they stand?

*Answers to BT12 WL: Eiffel Tower Statue of
Liberty Parthenon Sydney Opera House Great
Wall of China NW: White Cliffs of Dover Mount
Kilimanjaro Victoria Falls Uluru Grand Canyon V:
White Transit Morrison Sprinter Diemen HHD:
Smart Phone Immersion Blender Remote Control
Drawer Pull Wooden Spoon M: Tape Rule Scales
Speedometer Atomic Clock*

BOOK-MAKING

B S 7 4

G L 4 4

T A 4 10

N P 7 5

S S 8 5

TAPES

S 6

B B 4 7

S 4

W 7

R 9

DIALS

S 7

T 9

R 5

W 5

R C 3 7

CONNECTORS

P 4

S 6

I 8

S 7

T 6

MARKS

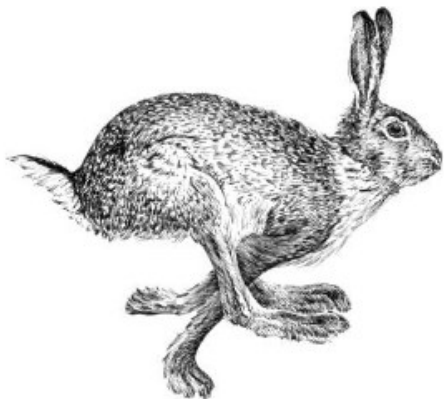
S 5

F 11

S 5

S 4

D 11



SUDOKO—MARCH

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

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

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

Here's π to 100 decimal places:

**3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510 5820974944
5923078164 0628620899 8628034825 3421170679**



Memorizing this will impress your maths teacher—or make people question your life choices.

VICARS LETTER - MARCH

Dear all,

The news coming from across 'the pond' seems to me to be increasingly non-Christian. Talk of evicting immigrants, the displacement of whole populations, annexing territory, withdrawing aid – are the sort of things you might expect from someone without a Christian moral compass. Certainly, they are not something you would consider to be Christian actions. And yet we are told, a large proportion of Christians backed the new administration.

I was interested to read that the incoming President had rejected comments made by the Bishop of Washington in her sermon, when she asked him to be kind to those on the edge. The following week the Primate of ECUSA (The Episcopal Church of United States of America) was in the same church in Washington, giving her backing to the Bishop of Washington.

But one wonders if this is all a big act. Is this all a big show? To show that the USA has teeth. It too can be selfish, uncooperative and divisive. But to what end? Meantime, many fear for the morality of the systems which govern so much of international life, and ask whether they are in danger.

And into this we remember Jesus. He taught that that we should turn the other cheek and care for others without partiality, as in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The man robbed and left for dead is our brother and sister, whether she looks like us, is from the same place as us, or even speaks our language. How then does cutting USAID, the biggest donor programme in the world, compare with that teaching? People have died as a result of that Aid being cut. Or forcibly moving people out off their land. Though of course, they did that in 1830, with the 'Indian Removal Act'. But this is a form of theft, is it not? Unless they go voluntarily (as pigs may fly). And yet who can not be happy if a just peace is restored in Ukraine, so that could be good.

Time may tell, but from a Christian point of view, the American Administration is walking a dangerously un-Christian path. I hope by the time you read this letter, things will be considerably better than they are today (mid-Feb).

With best wishes,

Richard

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

01454 606854

Mar-24 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
2nd March	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
Sunday before Lent	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	D Young and Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
March 5th Ash Wednesday	tbc	Hawkesbury	Service of Communion with Ashing	Rev R Thomson
9th March	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
Lent 1	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist with Litany	Rev R Thomson
16th March	9.00 am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
Lent 2	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	L Thomlinson and D Young
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson
23rd March	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev G Stacey Area Dean
Lent 3	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev G Stacey Area Dean
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	I. MacFadyan
30th March	1115am	Hawkesbury	Matins	Rev R Thomson
Mothering Sunday				

MARTIN'S TOUR FOR CHARITY

Hi, I'm Martin Weaver—As you read this, I will have already started on my toughest cycling challenge yet! An event, that involves cycling mainly off road from the Northern most tip of New Zealand to the Southernmost tip of New Zealand, whilst carrying everything I need and camping every night.

The event - **The Tour Aotearoa** is a 3000km cycling odyssey, with around 100,000 ft of ascent, following a set route and taking no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days.

I started on the 22nd February and I'm aiming to complete this ride in around 24 days

Whilst doing this ride, I am also aiming to raise £4500 for a local charity - <https://www.healsmalmesbury.co.uk/> to send 21 Local children from disadvantaged backgrounds on a summer camp.

This camp enables the children and young people to do activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to experience and help them thrive into adulthood.

If you would like to support me and give these young people a chance to have a once in a lifetime experience, please donate here.

<https://localgiving.org/fundraising/TA-Bike-packing-challenge>

Many thanks for your support



DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



I Looked and Behold a Lamb

No doubt that his Spring we will have the joy of seeing the young lambs frolicking in the fields enjoying the sunshine, but there is a greater joy given to those who have eyes to see this lamb of whom the apostle John speaks in Revelation 14v51. He had been given the immense privilege of a glimpse into heaven itself, where he saw the glorious sight of a lamb upon the throne of heaven.

He sees the lamb being the focus of attention of all heaven, receiving the worship of the host of heaven and the Christians who have been redeemed from the Earth.

Who is this lamb? He is the one to whom John the Baptist draws attention to, when he sees Jesus coming saying "Behold the lamb of god, who takes away the sin of the world."

The young lambs in the fields around Jerusalem were full of joy for they did not realise the future that awaited many of them as offerings for sin in the temple sacrifices. However, Jesus Christ knew exactly what awaited him as a lamb of God appointed to lay down his life for our sin. He did not seek to avoid it, for this was his purpose in coming into the world and so, with joy he set his face to go to Jerusalem and on the cross lay down his life on behalf of all who will acknowledge and accept his offer of forgiveness for our sin.

As God's lamb, only Jesus could pay the price for our sin for only he was without sin! Because he was sinless he was able to give his life on behalf of sinners like us.

It is no use looking to the leaders of nations to deliver salvation for us and future hope, as Psalm 146vs3-5 reminds us "They will pass away and their words with them". But everyone "who looks to the son (God's lamb) for salvation and believes in him shall have eternal life", John 6v14

What a wonderful future we have to look forward to when we have received the atonement of God's lamb for our sin. We can spend eternity worshipping in the heavenly temple of the Lord God Almighty and the lamb who is the light and the glory of God's lamb! And radiates his light to all heaven.

Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev21) and are you rejoicing now that His blood was shed for the remission of your sin? If we are, although our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day as we behold the lamb exalted on his throne, like a new born lamb in the joy of daily fellowship with Jesus.

Will you behold the Lamb of God who gave himself as a sacrifice for your sin and by repentance and faith receive him as God's gift of Grace to you from the cross of Jesus Christ?

Royston Pick

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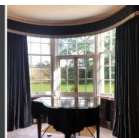
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