

the DYDDI digest

May—582



Didmarton's local magazine incorporating
Leigherton, Boxwell and Sopworth



RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – 9th & 23rd May

Food Waste—2nd, 16th & 30th May

2024 Calendar now on line

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

DIARY DATES

1st WOW WEDNESDAY

1st May Day / Beltane

4th Star Wars Day

(May the 4th be with you)

8th Badminton Horse Trials

15th WOW WEDNESDAY

17th Rural Cinema

18th World Whiskey Day

20th Whit Monday / World Bee Day

(still makes me laugh—sorry!)

29th WOW WEDNESDAY

30th National Creativity Day



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

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

SAVE THE DATE

On Wednesday 12th June, Nicola Coldstream will be coming to the Village Hall to give an illustrated talk about her fascinating book, Churches of Gloucestershire.

There will be a cash bar, which will open at 6.30pm and the talk will begin at 7pm.

Tickets are £10 and are available online now at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search for Nicola Coldstream). There is a small booking fee.

A few tickets will be available at the door.

It will also be possible to buy a copy of the book on the night.

All funds raised will go towards the repair of the clock and bell fixings at St Lawrence's.

We hope to see you there

MAY DAY!

Well, this a rather nostalgic Dyddi with David's lovely look back to Dyddi's past and Fred Parsons school days recollections. Fred is a long time supporter of the Dyddi and I am looking forward to sharing more of his memories in the coming months (he also puts up with my inability to post his copy on time every month—sorry Fred, I'm hoping there will be some improvement).

I have some other contributions to include in next months edition, so please do keep sending in your photos, stories and ideas; otherwise, it will just be me droning on about Yoga, ancient beliefs and horses with the occasional non-sensical bit thrown in (which will probably still happen!)—your fate is in your hands!

Apologies, I often need to screenshot items for the Dyddi, and after an update my lap-top decided all screenshots would be grey—not helpful. Rather than messing with the print drivers I used a different lap-top which doesn't have the same clarity, so apologies if anything is not as sharp as it should be.

All 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



Thought for the Month by Local Resident Agent A

Democracy owes its existence to credible opposition

A MESSAGE FROM VAL

By the time you read this I will have left The Old Rectory and a new family will be settling in.

I know you will give a warm welcome to Nina and Ian Daniels and their sons Rory and Archie.

I am sad to leave Didmarton after 8 very happy years but the time has come for me to downsize.

I'm only 3 miles away at Sherston so I very much hope I shall still see all my Dyddi friends, and Charlie says the same.

Thank you for being such a friendly, supportive and caring village.

Val Marriott

5 Carriers Close

Sherston SN16 0PG

THANK YOU

Milford House
Didmarton

Darling Doris RIP

We would like to thank all the kind villagers who sent us lovely cards and flowers when Doris died recently.

We were very touched by the kindness and would like to thank everyone.

Also thank you to the many people who sent me Get Well wishes during my present illness. Thank you, it is so kind

Lots of love
Trish and John x

(Apologies to all, this should have been in last months)





The March draw took place at the WOW meeting held on April 3rd in the Kings Arms. Congratulations to the four winners.

1st Prize £20 Bobbie Midleton **2nd Prize** £15 Penny & Gary Fulford

3rd Prize £10 John Hammond **4th Prize** £10 Sarah Bugg

Sue and Sue

This was the last draw of our 23/24 100 club year. Thanks to everyone for your support and even if you weren't one of our winners this year you have raised money to support the various projects undertaken by the DVHCC in the village.

Many thanks to our team of collectors who give up their time to call and collect your subscriptions. We are very grateful for your help.

If you would still like to join for the 24/25 year payment by bank transfer is preferred.

Account details are: Didmarton 100 Club

Lloyds Bank Sort code 30-91-99

Account number 77225368

Please include your name as reference.

Or take cash or cheque to

Sue Cook - 54 The Street or Sue Hammond – 6 Bertha's Field by May 6th at the VERY LATEST.

Please make cheques payable to Didmarton 100 Club.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and here's to a successful winning year ahead for many of you.

Sue & Sue

SPEEDWATCH MARCH 2024—
SUMMARY

Our last speed watch week took place between March 18th and 22nd.

We were able to do all 9 of our planned sessions. For 3 of these the numbers speeding were very low and this should be something to be pleased about. However the 15 vehicles recorded as doing 40+ is quite concerning.

I was also told that the police van was in the village last week and it’s good to see



Date	Total Pos ID	Highest Speed & Time	Comments
18/03 am	2	42mph @ 8:26	
18/03 pm	8	48mph @16:48	also one @ 44mph
19/03 am	5	43mph @8:46	also one @ 42mph
19/03 pm	7	41mph @18:00	
20/30 am	2	40mph @ 8:34	
20/03 pm	1	39mph	
21/03 am	6	2X40mph @ 11:25 & 1126	
21/03 pm	5	47mph @17:18	also one @ 45mph
22/03 pm	6	48mph @ 16:48	also 41, 42 & 43mph
Total	42		15 @ 40+ mph



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

CDC: There was a rare outbreak of harmony at the March Full Council meeting, with nothing too controversial; Measures were put in place to adopt the government's new policies for empty properties, second and holiday homes. There will be exceptions and safeguards for specific events such as protracted probate cases, but in a nutshell these properties will be liable for a 100% surcharge on council tax payments. GCC and the Police Authority will receive the biggest share of the additional income, but CDC plan to add their portion to the Affordable Housing fund.

Another initiative that received unanimous support was the reintroduction of the CDC Unsung Hero award. This is in line with King Charles's aim of encouraging volunteering in our communities. There will be 4 awards per full council meeting, and nominations are welcome from individuals and parishes.

Overview & Scrutiny: There was no O&S meeting this month as the reports were not ready.

Roads continue to be a big issue in the county and seem to be getting worse. Last summer I reported a stretch of lane from Cherington to the A433 – there were too many issues to report individually, and I insisted that an engineer looked at the whole stretch, and many holes were duly repaired. Having driven the lane again recently and nearly losing another tyre, I went back and counted 64 defects! However, Highways responded 'no fault found'. Needless to say, I will be pursuing this accordingly. Regarding my own case of vehicle damage, I have now logged a County Court small claim, which GCC intend to defend. GCC Highways have recently published the list of 150 roads that will be resurfaced in the next budgetary year – sadly there are very few in the south Cotswolds, and zero in the Grumbolds Ash area! The Cabinet approved increases to car parking charges in the district, and have ended free parking on Sundays on most sites including Church St. in Tetbury.

River pollution is a big national topic currently, and I took the opportunity to look at the statistics for our little stream in Avening. We have a small sewage processing unit for the village which uses reed beds to purify the output, but I was staggered to see that there were **118 sewage spill incidents** (these are occurrences when raw sewage is pumped into the stream) in the last year. I have contacted Severn Trent to arrange a site visit for them to explain these terrible statistics and what they are doing to stop them.

Continued over>

Annual Parish Meetings are usually held in May – I'll be at most of these for Grumbold's Ash parishes so do pop along and say hello, or ask me a question.

Additional updates and information for Parish Coubcils can be found on the village hall website in the Dyddi Section.

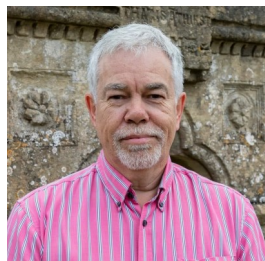
www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening

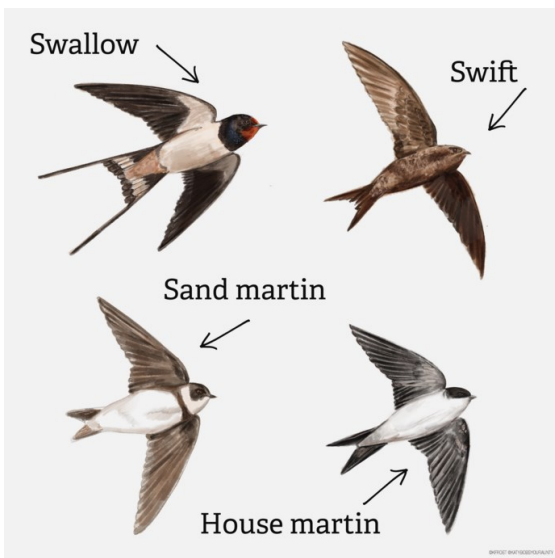
email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930



HOW TO TELL OUR SUMMER VISITORS APART

The swift is dark brown all over, often appearing black against the sky, with a small, pale patch on its throat. They're larger than swallows and martins, with long curving wings that make them look a bit like a boomerang when in the air. Swifts are very sociable and can often be spotted in groups wheeling over roofs and

calling to each other with high-pitched screams. Unlike swallows and martins, swifts are almost never seen perching. They spend most of their lives flying – even sleeping, eating and drinking on the wing – only ever landing to nest.



Key features to tell a swift from a swallow or martin are the dark underside (swallows and martins have pale bellies), the proportionately longer wings and the screaming call.



DIDMARTON RURAL CINEMA

Friday 17th May

Doors open at 6.30pm for cash bar

Film starts at 7.30pm

£5 entry



The Miracle Club (2023) - Comedy, Drama

Cert: 12A – **Run time:** 1 hr. 30 min.

Rotten Tomatoes audience rating: 83%

Starring: Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, Maggie Smith

Director: *Thaddeus O'Sullivan*

Three close friends who have never left the outskirts of Dublin (much less Ireland) get the journey of a lifetime — a visit to Lourdes, the picturesque French town and place of miracles.

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

(email or text) jenny.body1@gmail.com 07875 406637

D DAY 80 - Thursday June 6th

Didmarton Village Hall & Playing Fields from 6pm

Plans are progressing for this village celebration to commemorate the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation 80 years ago.

National **FISH AND CHIP DAY** has been moved forward to this day in recognition of its role on the day of the invasion. The significance was that invading soldiers penetrating inland, on spotting soldiers ahead of them (or behind bushes) would shout 'FISH' and if the response was not 'CHIPS' they would possibly be the enemy!

We have arranged for **POPPY & BOO**, outside caterers, to provide Fish and Chips from 18.30. To gauge numbers for food sales on the evening, food and drink tickets are now on sale at £10 for adults, £5 for ages 6 to 12 with 5 and under getting fish fingers 'n chips for free. The ticket covers the cost of the food and one drink (glass of wine/pint of beer or soft drink) – so they are quite a bargain. Listen out for a knock on the door from ticket sellers! Or..... Private Message Alan Townsend, Emma Kay, or Helen Russell on the Dyddi chat Whatsapp

You can just turn up and buy food or drinks on the evening, but we do encourage people to get their ticket if they want to guarantee a fish supper.

The Cricket Club are arranging a friendly/local match for the evening starting at 18.00. Please come along – you may get a chance to join in!

There will be games for young and old to enjoy – whether it be taking part or cheering on.

A BOUNCY CASTLE arrives late afternoon to keep the energetic younger element occupied well into the evening.

At the bar will be wines, ales, ciders and lagers as well as soft drinks of various sorts.

In the hall we hope to be showing video footage from the era or maybe live streaming what is happening at other events around the country.

Music from the 1940's will be playing – if you can Jive or Lindy Hop then feel free to give us a demonstration.

BONFIRE/BEACON IS BEING LIT AT 21.30p.m. just after darkness falls.

Come & join us—THIS EVENT CAN NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN

FRED PARSONS RECOLLECTIONS

School mates at Didmarton School 1937 and their work

Fred was born in 1929 at Church View Cottage – now 20 The Street. His parents were Charlie and Ellen Gertrude Parsons. Two brothers – Albert (Bert) and Reginald (Reg). He married Ella (Kington, from Sopworth, born 1937) on 20th August 1960. He was 31, Ella 22. Two children - Jacqueline and Michael.

Fred will be writing another article about shops and businesses in Didmarton (you could do all of your shopping for anything back then locally), this is about his school mates.

From the photo of Didmarton School 1937, Fred has named all the people in the photo he can remember along with a few recollections about them.

From left to right: Front Row

Jim Sawyer. Jim left the village in 1938 to live in Bristol. His sister Joan Sawyer worked in the war at the air ministry at Westonbirt.

Tom Maisey. Tom's dad worked at Les King's farm at Knockdown.

Godfrey Jarvis, (sister Nellie Jarvis and brother Sam Jarvis also in the picture). Godfrey worked at Kingsmead with hunting horses. Kingsmead was a land army hospital in WW2.

Harold Baker. Moved away from the village whilst still at school.

Tony Dixon. He worked with horses in Didmarton at the stables behind the Reading Room. Was known locally as a bit of a character.

John Hopkins. He went on to run his own farm but unfortunately later died in a car accident at a T Junction. His dad Jack was known as "Nash" Hopkins, as was his dad before him. They worked on Arthur Smiths farm in Sopworth.

Fred Parsons. Fred left Didmarton school in Easter 1943 and went to work at Newman Henders factory at Woodchester – working on munitions production in the remaining war years. He left there and worked for Colonel Stanley maintaining the gardens for 3 years, then moved onto working for Jack Anstee at Didmarton Farm doing all manner of work on the farm. Jack unfortunately died of TB, and his wife and son Pat Anstee (one of Fred's schoolmates) ran the farm until they moved away to Henley on Thames. Dennis Russell took over the farm from the Anstees but it wasn't the same for Fred and he decided to leave. He then started work for John Laings on a contract in Chippenham. Fred spent most of his working life with Laings working on a variety of contracts around the South West and South Wales. After he got married to Ella, they left Didmarton and moved to Easton in Gordano near Bristol in 1960 where he still lives now. At the time there was Anstees Farm,

Continued over>

Thompsons Farm, Rodways Farm all in Didmarton – now the farmhouses all private houses so perhaps the land taken back by Beaufort Estate.

Pat Anstee.

Geoff Sparrow. Geoff did a 7 year apprenticeship as a Metallurgist. Known locally as “Spadge” Sparrow. Geoff’s Dad owned the garage on The Street. His sister Betty and Brother Harold both moved to London as teachers.

Second Row

Mary Snell. Mary moved to Sherston after school.

Duggie Partridge. Did an apprenticeship as painter and decorator. Fred met him years later when working on Redcliffe Flats in Bristol. Duggie’s dad also worked with the horses at Kingsmead.

Nellie Jarvis.

Doreen Rice. She worked in service on the farm in Didmarton next to St Lawrence Church where Fred’s dad worked. Farm and barns now private houses.

Vera Baker. Fred said there were 23 people by the name of Baker in the village and 21 of them were related.

Margaret Hopkins. John Hopkin’s sister. She lives now in Hawkesbury Upton

Lucy Hopkins. was Margeret’s sister.

Doris Watts. She was Maurice Watts, the Didmarton Butcher’s youngest daughter. She worked in the horse racing industry and travelled around the country. After the Butchers closed, that became a Fish and Chip shop run by Frank and Cath Hallett. It’s a private house now – next door was the Post Office.

Mary Baker – Vera Bakers sister.

Third Row

Betty Clark. Jim White was her husband when they were married. They lived near Woodchester. The Clark family were the village Undertakers – her Dad was Charlie Clark who made the coffins. His brother Bill Clark worked in workshops near the congregational chapel making farm wagons.

Dorothy Snell. Mary Snell’s sister.

Dorothy Carr. Dorothy was the youngest of what was a big family of Carrs. Dorothy was courting Ernie Rice and he was called up. Dorothy didn’t want to get married until he came back from active service which happily he did so they were married and had two daughters. Some of the Rice family lived in Didmarton Reading Rooms. That was originally a cottage, then a school, then the Reading Rooms for many years but is now a private house.

Sam Jarvis. Did seven years apprenticeship as a Toolmaker at Newman Henders. Sam was a great sportsman – played cricket for Didmarton and another team at Nailsworth.

Harry Cox. He worked in the building trade in Tetbury.

Continued over>

Reg Parsons. Fred's brother – did 7 years apprenticeship at Bristol Aeroplane Company. He finished this in October 1948 but unfortunately was killed in a motorbike accident in March 1949.

Molly Hatherall. John Hatherell's sisters Molly and Betty went to school with Fred. Molly was a whist partner with Fred and they travelled all over locally playing in whist drives in the winter. John was killed in a farming accident sawing wood.

Jim Clark. He worked on a farm out near Kemble.

Fred Wallen. Worked on farm at Knockdown.

Stan Baker. Worked in building trade – moved to Malmesbury.

Kath Smart. Worked at Newman Henders with Fred in the war. Newman Henders were a major employer locally in the war and following 50s-60s. They ran a bus to collect workers – during the war everybody had to walk to the main road but after it would come into the village once petrol rationing eased.

Sheila Bradner.

Fourth Row

Miss Price – one of the teachers. Very strict woman.

Lily Rice.

Joan Weaver. Farmers daughter who married a farmers son in Luckington.

Fred Cox. Was a farmer all his working life. Also Albert Cox and Fred Cox and two sisters – quite a big family. Fred used to see Maggie Cox in the pub sometimes – she'd have half a pint of beer which was sixpence, or maybe a whiskey which was a shilling.

Monty Hewer. Family moved to Iron Acton, but unfortunately was killed in an accident due to carbon monoxide poisoning.
(36-39—doesn't recall their names)

Back Row

Doreen Farmiloe. Her father worked on Badminton Estate.

Vera Niblet. Lived in cottages past the congregation chapel.

Pamela Legge. Her father worked at Hullavington aerodrome. Died in an accident involving a primus stove.

Elsie Snell

Phillip Stokes – Head Master. Lived in last house at Chapel Walk.

Gladys Snell

Gwen Baker

Ginger Wallen. (brother of Fred Wallen). He was a lorry driver.

Queenie Baker. Married a DI in the metropolitan police.

Miss Johnstone – last of the three teachers (3 classes in the school)

Do you recall any of the characters from Fred's class? We would love to have your recollections if you do.

FRED PARSONS—CLASS OF 1937

We will have more from Fred on the rest of the class of 1937 in future editions. If you recognise anyone or have any memories to share please email to me at editor@dyddi.co.uk



On-site wraparound care at Sherston CE Primary from September 2024

We are delighted to announce that starting from September 2024, we will be introducing our own wraparound care service on the school premises. This service will extend the school day, allowing children to stay on site until 6:00pm.

While we are still in the process of finalising all the details, we wanted to provide some important information to our local communities about this offering:

Staffing: We are incredibly fortunate to have highly experienced current members of staff, Miss Linda and Mrs Ormiston on board to oversee the sessions.

Days/Timings: The sessions will take place Monday through Thursday, starting from 3:10pm until 6:00pm.

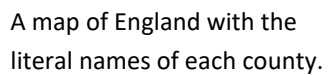
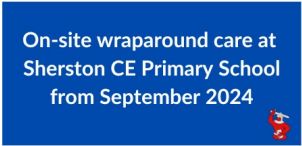
Cost: The exact cost will be determined in the coming months. The rationale behind developing this service is to provide an alternative for parents who may find it challenging to justify the expense of other after-school programs. We appreciate the understanding and support of The Camp in this regard and we will continue to promote their provision as an alternative.

Structure: The program will consist of two sessions. During the first session, children will have the opportunity to participate in the various clubs offered at the school. Additionally, we plan to organise outings to the local park, allowing children to engage in outdoor play with their peers—an activity we're sure many of them will be excited for. The second session will include a packed lunch-style meal for the children, which will be included in the cost. There will be a separate fee for either both sessions or just the second session, should a child be transitioning from one of our paid clubs.

Who is this for? While this service is primarily aimed at our working parents, it is for anyone to utilise. We want to support our community as much as possible. If an extra few hours in the afternoon allows you time to complete your weekly shop, visit your own parents, get on top of your 'life admin', or just put your feet up then this service is for you.

Continued over>

keep



I cannot vouch for its accuracy
or date!



YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

We know that with lower levels of fitness we are more susceptible to higher mortality rates along with higher rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, Type 2 diabetes, stroke and hypertension, along with other diseases. We also know that if we are involved in an exercise program then if looking at health insurance we can be given a discount.

Fitness can be as simple as going for a good walk every day (a power walk would be better than a preamble). Add a session in the gym or a class a couple of times a week, unless you have the self discipline to do a session at home, (notwithstanding that the support, gossip and general chat and buzz of a group is also great for mental health) then we really are making progress. Children will follow examples, so if we are out running or walking then generally our children will follow which is also good for theirs and our mental health as well as our physical health.

Unfortunately as we get older and we try to improve our health, results are slower and require more effort but this doesn't mean we should give up or not even try. As I have often said, we need to take responsibility and also use food as medicine, the Tsunami is already happening in our hospitals so unless we are happy to wait or pay privately, we better start looking after ourselves in mind, body and soul.



DON'T FORGET

Thursday 2nd May 2pm - 4pm

Dementia afternoon tea at ours
- 49 The Street

Raising much needed funds for
Dementia, come and have a cuppa
and a piece of cake and support
this worthy charity.

Thank You

Ruth

MAY 1994 AS 'T WAS 30 YEARS AGO

Didmarton as it is recorded in the 'DYDDI digest'

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

"Letter to the Editor Community Spirit? 1st April 1994

"Is no one else interested in the petty bureaucracy of the Boundaries Commission? I was the only one to turn up at the village hall for the meeting regarding the proposed moving of the Diddle (Dd No. 223). I waited from 11.am to 2.30 but remained alone. Undaunted I formed a Committee of One (the best kind) and decided the only course would be to adjourn until the same day next year, when I hope the response may be more encouraging. G.O.G."

Meanwhile, it was all change at the Kings Arms where the 'new team, including pub cat, Leonard,' had been welcomed by numerous visitors. 'Death watch beetle and woodworm' had been removed from attic floors and further refurbishment awaited planning permission. "We would like in our redecoration of the bar to include items that reflect old Didmarton and would be most grateful for anything that is no longer required or you may wish to loan." (The 'redecoration' actually became the back bar, including the medieval roof and dartboard.)

'Tesco - Computers for Schools Scheme' had, on receipt of 2000 vouchers, provided a BBC computer to Leighterton School. The PTFA were asking for more vouchers 'for another computer'. The school would also be saying farewell to Mrs. M Aldridge "retiring at the end of this term after teaching at Leighterton for 20 years."

'Forthcoming Attractions' were to include a Barn Dance, to be held in the new Village Hall which had opened on 19th March, an Auction of Promises, and a Family Sports Day and Dog Show.

'War Memorial' - "In 1922 a Mr. W.H.P. Blacking proposed ... that a war memorial be erected in St.Michael's (now a private home) to replace the round one in St Lawrence's. If the Church will give us permission to move it to St Lawrence's, I say move it, clean it up and get it re-lettered. Then we can have a War Memorial to be proud of. Charley Crewe."

DCC meetings were to be moved to the first Tuesday of each month "to allow time for a brief resumé of business to appear in the next month's Dd." The DCC AGM would be held on the 24th May.

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



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting & AGM

Tuesday 7th May

Speaker is Andrew Tolman

Stumperies, Ferns & Shady Friends

Cuttings

We were treated to a visual feast at our April meeting. Our guest speaker was Mandy Bradshaw, aka The Chatty Gardener, who gamely persisted in resolving technical issues with her presentation whilst we rattled through our AGM proceedings. Mandy has taken hundreds of images in all seasons of the Cotswold gardens she has written about for regional and national magazines (and for her own range of greeting cards). We all made a mental note of our favourites to visit for inspiration and enjoyment.



North Cerney House garden, one of the



Our guest speaker on 7th May is Andrew Tolman who has worked for country houses & estates in Wiltshire and neighbouring counties. His expertise spans a wide range of horticultural know-how from garden consultation, restoration, design & build and specialist renovation pruning of fruit, topiary & ornamental hedges. His particular passions are snowdrops, ferns, shade and woodland plants which he will share with us at the meeting. Highly recommended as we haven't covered the topic of shade-lovers so far.

Member Liz Cooper will also announce the results of our Spring Bulb photographic competition. Get your entries in quick if you haven't already done so!

Clippings

Club meetings will remain throughout 2024 on the first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments, plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, and jobs to do for the month.

New members from Sherston and surrounding villages are always welcome. The cost remains the same as last year: £15 single, £25 Joint, U18s free

For membership form and full programme contact our Secretary:
sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com Furthermore, all new members who join between January and March 2024 will have valid membership until April 2025.

Sherston Gardening Club now has a web presence on the sherston.net website and can be found in the drop down menu. It will be updated with the monthly newsletter, programme and information about meetings and visits. Big thanks to Adrienne Jackson and Compass Graphics for their help.

Community

The Post Office and Jubilee tree troughs have been brightening up some overcast spring days. Both will soon be replanted with summer-flowering perennials including lemon Echinaceae and blue Salvias. Let us know of any other parts of the village that would benefit from an injection of colour.

Calendar 2024

- 7th May 'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends' with Andrew Tolman
Judging by Liz Cooper of our Spring Bulb Photographic Competition
- 15th May Horticultural tour of Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College (more details later)
- 4th June 'Growing Clematis and other Climbers' with Andrew Jeanes
- 12th July (Fri) Summer Social at The Garden House, Westonbirt
- August No Meeting but possibly a garden visit tbc
- 3rd Sept 'Garden Design for Nature and Wellbeing' with Rachel Emous-Austin
- 1st October 'Growing a Cut Flower Garden' with Rachel Golding Barrett
- 3rd December 'The Victorian Gardener' (with Christmas theme) with Francis Burroughes





JJ'S GARDENING BLOG

The young new leaves are unfurling with that lovely bright green. It makes one want to dash out and add new plants, be calm, be calm, they will do much better if you can resist this temptation.

Seedlings and young plants, including perennials will catch up and be much stronger plants. Use up your energy by doing a hand weed followed by a top dressing of whatever organic matter you have to hand. Always leave a gap around stems of existing plants. Lastly, dig a trench for growing beans about two feet deep, loosen the bottom of the trench with a garden fork and mix in some organic matter. Erect your bean poles, either in lines, or for a smaller family, a wigwam style would be suitable. Give this trench a couple of weeks to settle, then plant away.

Plant some early potatoes, burying them just under the compost, as the shoots grow cover with more compost and if cold weather is forecast, cover the young plants with garden fleece. You should have a delicious crop to harvest by early July.

Sow some tomato plants so that they can be ready to go outside once it is warm enough. Remember crop rotation to keep soil healthy.

Feed roses,

WHAT IS BELTANE?

Beltane, celebrated on May 1st, is a major festival with roots in ancient Celtic tradition. Marking the midway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice, it heralds the height of spring and the coming of summer, focusing on themes of fertility, fire, and renewal.

Origins and Significance

The festival is believed to have ancient origins, with links to Celtic cultures across Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The word "Beltane" is thought to derive from the Irish "Bealtaine," meaning "bright fire," referencing the central role that fire plays in the celebration. This name also connects to Belenus, a Celtic god associated with the sun and healing, whose festival was celebrated around the same time.

Fire Rituals

Fire is central to Beltane celebrations. Historically, large communal bonfires were lit to mark the occasion, believed to bring protection and purification. In many Celtic cultures, herds of cattle would be driven between two fires to cleanse them and ensure their fertility for the coming season. People might also leap over the fires for good luck and to symbolize the transition from spring to summer.

Maypole and Fertility

Another well-known tradition is the Maypole dance. The Maypole, often a tall wooden pole adorned with ribbons and flowers, represents fertility and the union of male and female energies. Dancers, holding onto the ribbons, weave in and out, creating intricate patterns symbolizing unity and interconnectedness. This communal dance is often accompanied by music, reinforcing the festive atmosphere.

Nature and Flora

Beltane is a time to celebrate the natural world in its burgeoning glory. Flowers, especially hawthorn (also known as the May bush), play a significant role in the festivities. In some traditions, people gather to create garlands and wreaths, which are used to decorate homes, doors, and even animals. This emphasis on flowers and greenery underscores the festival's connection to fertility and new life.

Romantic Connections and the May Queen

Beltane has long been associated with romantic and marital unions. In Celtic cultures, couples might use this time to make commitments to each other, which might last for a year and a day, effectively serving as a form of trial marriage. This concept of temporary marriage was known as "handfasting." Additionally, many celebrations feature a "May Queen," a young woman chosen to symbolize the beauty and fertility of the season, often crowned with flowers and paraded through the village.

WINE-ING ON

The Kinda Secret Sommelier –oops!

1. Which grape makes wine that sometimes has the aroma of diesel or petrol (sounds delightful!).
2. Near which river is hermitage wine produced?
3. What is an Amarone.
4. On the banks of which lake are Valpolicella wine grapes grown?
5. Which Austrian white grape variety is also grown in New Zealand?
6. Which grape variety is grown the most in New Zealand?
7. How many years does a Cru Reserva Rioja stay in the barrel before bottling?
8. What Greek white wine has pine resin added?
9. What does 'Terroir' mean?

April Answers

1. Cabernet Sauvignon 2. 8,000 3. USA 4. Cooper 5. Chardonnay 6. Sauvignon Blanc 7. Tuscany 8. Nebbiolo 8. Tempranillo 9. Cava

Types of *Wine Glasses* Guide



THE DYDDI DIGEST TEASER NO.3

The Dd Brain Teaser No.3

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

LIGHTS

C 6

B 6

T 8

F 10

A B 6 8

GLASS

S 10

S 6

P 5

D G 6 7

M 8

CONTAINERS

D 7

J B 7 3

E C 3 6

C B 3 4

V F 6 5

COMPUTERS

C 10

LT 3 3

H B 5 5

E 6

D B 4 4

TABLES

C 4

T 5

T M 5 8

P 8

K 7

Answers to DdBT No.2 L Gaelic / German Cornish Middle English Rude Magyar S Fish And Chips Kipper Cocoa The Last Supper Nightcap P Emulsion/Eggshell Oils Watercolours Top Coat Warpaint W Bull Park Sherwood Forest Sycamore Veneer Birnam P Tissue/Toilet Crepe Hammered Vellum Foolscap Manchester Guardian
(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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the April quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful Easter, with egg hunts, full Churches and much happiness. The story of the risen Christ at Easter is something which fills many of us with deep joy. It is difficult to explain, but Easter reaches deep inside us with its message of hope.

Horse Trials are almost upon us, and the office are very kindly letting the church have the use of a small marquee Wednesday to Friday to provide tea and coffee to travel-weary visitors and a friendly welcome. This little marquee becomes (ironically) the lost peoples tent on the Saturday!

And then we have our main Benefice service on Sunday in Great Badminton Church at 10 o'clock. With the Dean of Gloucester preaching and the Master of the Horse reading the lesson. To which you are all invited, of course.

With my best wishes for a happy May,

Richard

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

revrichardthomson@gmail.com

01454 606854

May-24 Sunday Parish church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
5th may Easter 5	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
12th May HORSE TRIALS	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	10:00 AM	Great Badminton	Horse Trials Service	Rev R Thomson Preacher: The Dean of Gloucester
19th MAY PENTECOST	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
26th MAY TRINITY SUNDAY	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
Readings:		www.badmintonbenefice.com		

DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



IF ONLY YOU HAD KNOWN.....

...The things that make for peace, but they are hidden from you!

Jesus spoke these words with tears as he saw the disaster that awaited those who reject the peace he had come to bring.

There may be things we regret having done or failed to do while we had the opportunity but now it's too late to change the result.

Many at the end of life will regret having rejected Jesus during life as they appear before His great throne of judgement and recognise him as he is today, the King who reigns and will have to answer to him for our rejection of him. Their cry will be "If only I had known and had responded while I had opportunity", but then it will be too late; However, it isn't too late today to wake up to the good news of Jesus which God has made known to us.

The coming of Jesus and his mission was not an emergency measure, but the cross on which he died was the pulpit from which God declares His love for us (St Augustine).

Because we are alienated from God by our sinful nature, Jesus came to redeem us by taking on himself the punishment for us on the cross. Having died, he rose again gaining victory over sin, death and hell. God has testified to this truth by his ascension back to the glory of heaven and the throne of God, enthroned as king and lord of all.

He has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers and opening the eyes of people today to know the love of God for us and the coming back again of Jesus to receive believers into his eternal kingdom.

What must we do now to respond to this good news and be ready for our departure from this earthly life? The bible says "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved". We need to cry out from our heart "Lord Jesus save me!" As we repent of our sin and turn to him in faith he will forgive and come into our lives by the Holy Spirit.

It is only by knowing and responding to this truth of God that we can know and receive the peace of God and peace with God which Jesus came to bring us and prepare us for eternity.

What will you do with this truth? Will you humble yourself and call on the name of the Lord today to be saved? King David wrote "You have made known to me the way of life and will make me full of joy with thy countenance (Acts 2:28) May it be true of you that you have come to know the peace and joy which only Jesus can bring

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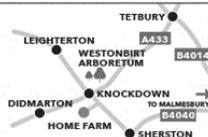
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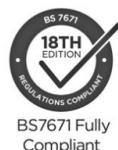
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Graham loves the local community and is always partial to a game of darts. His passion is providing excellent standards of service and building a great relationship with you all!

His aim is to make The King's Arms the best it can be, with lots of summer events, good food, outstanding beer, and great service always!

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