

# THE DYDDI DIGEST

May 2025—596

The Victory Edition—For the Fallen

**V E-Day 80 years  
1945–2025**



## RUBBISH DATES

All Bins – Friday 9th & 23rd May

Food Waste – Friday 2nd, 16th & 30th May

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

## DIARY DATES

5th—May Day Bank Holiday VE Day Celebrations.

8th—World Red Cross Day

**15th—FILM CLUB >>**

17th—Whiskey Day

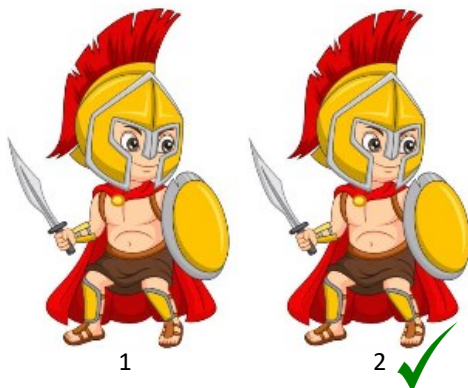
20th—Rescue Dog Day

20th—World Bee Day

26th—Spring Bank Holiday

30th—National Creativity Day

**7th June—Family Film—Paddington 3**



“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”



Winston Churchill, on the Battle of Britain, House of Commons, 20 August 1940

## 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



## BABYSITTING CONTACTS

Elizabeth Darbyshire – 07702 693100

Henry Yandell - 07719 304445

Francesca Goodwill - 07483 839082/07972783679

Esmé Kay 07850 247096

Chloe Wallace 07984 922717

## DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Didmarton Parish Council has responsibility for the village defibrillator which, until recently, was situated in a heated cabinet on the wall between the telephone box and the bus shelter.

Unfortunately, the defibrillator suffered from water damage at this location as there was no guttering on the sloping roof above the cabinet. The defibrillator has been repaired and with the support of Firat at The King's Arms Pub and, Tim Edwards, Group Property Manager of Butcombe Inns, the cabinet and defibrillator have been relocated inside the bus shelter which gives it great protection from our wet weather.

This was undertaken at no charge to the parish, and the parish council wants to publicly extend its gratitude to Firat and Tim for their assistance and support of the local community.

Many thanks

Simon Hale, Clerk to Didmarton Parish Council



## MAY THE 5TH BE WITH YOU

Welcome to the May edition—where the flowers are blooming, the lambs are frolicking, and half the village is trying to remember how to dance around a maypole without causing a minor incident. This month we're celebrating the joys of spring the traditional way: with May Day merriment, stories of ribbons, revelry, and the occasional near-miss with a flying Morris dancer.

But it's not all flower crowns and folk tunes—we're also marking VE Day 80, reflecting on the courage and community spirit that defined the end of World War II in Europe. And what better way to honour that era than with a look at the high-kicking, foot-flicking world of the Jive? Yes, it's back, and it's bouncier than ever, give it a try on the 5th at the Village Hall VE Celebrations (Starting 4pm) 6pm—7pm with Gail & John from Just Jive. Whether you're a dancefloor dynamo or a strictly-from-the-sidelines observer, we promise a toe-tapping VE 80 event and I hope a decent read.

So whether you're in it for the history, the hilarity, or just hoping to spot yourself in next month's village photos, put the kettle on, grab a biscuit (or three), and enjoy this month's celebration of all things May and VE.

Note—The Councillors report is available online as this month's copy had to go to print earlier due to the Easter Holidays.

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

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

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



VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE DAY) MAY 1945  
DIDMARTON VILLAGE CELEBRATION



VE DAY 80



2025

MONDAY, MAY 5TH

4 PM

ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY MAY 5TH  
DIDMARTON VILLAGE WILL CELEBRATE THE 80TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURRENDER OF ALL  
GERMAN ARMED FORCES AND THUS, THE  
END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN EUROPE.



VERY FEW OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE WAR AND TOOK  
PART IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE CONFLICT ARE STILL  
WITH US, BUT WE SHOULD REMEMBER THEM WITH  
GRATEFUL THANKFULNESS FOR THE EIGHT  
DECADES OF RELATIVE PEACE THAT WE, IN EUROPE, HAVE  
ENJOYED SINCE THEN.

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AT THE VILLAGE HALL



# ORDER OF EVENTS

## 4PM - FLAG RAISING



SERVING CREAM TEAS  
(PAYMENT BY CASH OR CARD)



### FREE ENTRY INCLUDES:

KIDS BOUNCY CASTLE & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC AND VIDEO OF THE TIMES

KIDS OUTDOOR GAMES

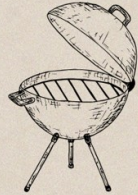
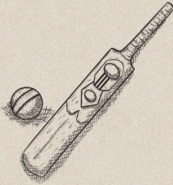
SAND PIT FOR VERY YOUNG ONES

ROUNDERS MATCH

CRICKET PAIRS GAME

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS

FACE PAINTING & CRAFT

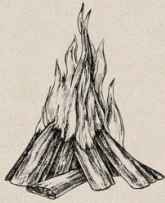


## 5PM – BAR & BBQ OPENS

(PAYMENT BY CASH OR CARD)

- BBQ SET UP

- BBQ TICKET STUB SALES



## 6PM – 7PM – JUST JIVE

WITH GAIL AND JOHN

EXPERIENCED PAIR OF DANCE INSTRUCTORS FROM SWINDON WILL DEMONSTRATE THE IMPRESSIVE ART OF ROCK N ROLL/JIVE WHICH WAS ALL THE RAGE DURING AND AFTER THE WAR. AS A TREAT THEY WILL ALSO INVITE EVERYONE FOR A FREE MINI LESSON AND WALK YOU THROUGH THE FIRST EASY STEPS – ALL THAT YOU NEED FOR AN EXCITING WAY TO ENJOY THE MUSIC OF THE DAY.

## 7PM - FORTIES AND FIFTIES MUSIC AND FILM

8.15PM - A SHORT PRAYER FROM REVEREND RICHARD THOMSON

8.30PM - BONFIRE LIGHTING AND SPARKLERS.

ALL ACTIVITIES FREE OF CHARGE EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED





# Public Consultation: Didmarton War Memorial Renovation

Didmarton Parish Council is seeking local views on a proposed renovation of the **Didmarton War Memorial**. Any renovations would be undertaken by an experienced stonemason or memorial conservator.

The proposed project aims to:

- **Undertake a specialist cleaning process**, using appropriate conservation methods to gently remove dirt and biological growth without damaging the stone.
- **Recarve and repaint inscriptions, and the names of the fallen**, to ensure they remain clearly legible and to preserve the memorial's historical significance.

We welcome your thoughts on this important restoration. Do you support the work? Do you have any concerns or suggestions? Would you be prepared to make a donation towards the work?

Please share your views by Sunday 27th April 2025 via email to the Clerk to the Parish Council at [didmartonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:didmartonclerk@gmail.com)

Your feedback will help ensure the memorial continues to honour those who served, and who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Simon Hale, Clerk to the Parish Council



“The mood of Britain is wisely and rightly averse from every form of shallow or premature exultation. This is no time for boasts or glowing prophecies, but there is this – a year ago our position looked forlorn, and well nigh desperate, to all eyes but our own. Today we may say aloud before an awe-struck world, 'We are still masters of our fate. We still are captain of our souls.'”



Winston Churchill, House of Commons, 9 September 1941



The April 100 Club Draw took place at the DVHCC meeting held on April 1st in the Village Hall. The winners were

1<sup>st</sup> prize £20 Jenny Hunt

2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15 Ian Burbidge

3<sup>rd</sup> prize £15 Trish Earley

4<sup>th</sup> prize £10 Adrian Jarvis

**Sue Cook and Sue Hammond**

This was the last draw of our 24/25 100 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 Susie, Amanda, Nick, Janet and Lynda who give up their time to call and collect your subscriptions. We are very grateful for their help.

If you would like to join for the 25/26 year there is still time!

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.

Please make cheques payable to Didmarton 100 Club.

**Payment needs to be made by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the very latest.**

Our first draw for 25/26 will take place at the VE Day celebrations on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Sue & Sue



## SPEEDWATCH MARCH 2025



We managed to do 8 sessions during the week.

With 38 speeding through the village this must be the highest we have recorded for a while, especially with 12 of those doing 40 or above along with 3 showing no tax or MOT.

We also had a Police presence for a short while on one day during our speed watch sessions. The Police also made a separate visit on their own volition this part week. The Police have subsequently made two separate visits to the village, one at the Village Hall end with their speed gun and one at St Lawrence's with the mobile camera van.

So it's good that our efforts are getting wider attention and support.

Sue and the Speed watch team

Date & Time	Site	Pos IDs	Highest Speed & Time	Total Vehs	Comments
10/3 8:15 to 8:45	Village Hall	6	<b>42mph @ 8:30</b>	106	Also 40mph @ 8:27
10/3 17:17:00 to 17:30	Village Hall	5	<b>49mph @ 17:06</b>	238	Also 41mph @ 17:07 and No Tax or MOT
11/3 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	2	<b>41mph @ 8:40</b>	166	
11/3 16:15 to 16:45	St Lawrence	3	<b>46mph @ 16:37</b>	212	
12/3 8:00 to 8:30	St Lawrence	3	37mph @ 8:04	136	One vehicle flagged as No Tax or MOT
12/3 16:45 to 17:15	Village Hall	3	<b>41mph @ 17:05</b>	284	One vehicle flagged as No Tax or MOT
13/3 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	6	<b>41mph @ 8:42</b>	122	Also 40mph @ 8:41
14/3 15:15 to 17:45	Village Hall	10	<b>43mph @ 17:18</b>	118	Also 41mph @ 17:19 and 40mph @ 17:37
<b>Totals</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>1382</b>	<b>12 vehicles more than 40 mph</b>

## **Dd50**

### **A Gathering of 50 Ideas on 8<sup>th</sup> March**

The following are the suggestions supported by representatives of the community at the Open Meeting.

#### **Most Support:**

Celebrate villagers of 50 years residency, and those born or married in 1975

Display Dd archive of 50 issues

Special Edition of DYDDI digest

Cream Teas

Guest speaker / celebrity

Treasure Hunt

Time Line

Clubs' histories

#### **Strong support:**

Children's competitions

Thank deliverers

Music concert

Photographs of Villagers

Bouncy castle

Drinks voucher

Child entertainer

BBC tv/radio

Live music

Fairground

Fete

Pictures/music by decade

Quiz night

Bar

Evening meal

Cake & Fizz

#### **Also suggested:**

Reprint Millenium Book

Classic Car rally

Special Events poster

Talent Show

Music Quiz

School competitions

Children's Bingo

Film

Power Point

Video Time Line

Significant events

Decorate the Hall

Alcohol-free bar

Fish & Chips

Celebrate Editors

Front cover design competition|

A Presentation

Interviews

Charley Crewe

Whole Community

Young People

Young musicians

'Points West'

MP

Editor's holiday

Want to help?

More ideas?

Contact the DVH&CC or David Michel



# Badminton Horse Trials

7th - 11th May 2025

Opportunity for local residents  
to enjoy late shopping  
on Thursday and Friday.

Entry to the grounds  
between 4pm - 6pm

£10 per person

Accompanying children 12 and under have free admission

Advance booking only

Please call the Box Office  
on 01454 218375 to book



Forestry England

# **Silk Wood Community Planting Project**

at Westonbirt Arboretum

## **Public Volunteering Day**

**Saturday 17th May 11am - 3pm**

Come and help the Silk Wood Community Planting Project restore our ancient woodland with a day of tree care.

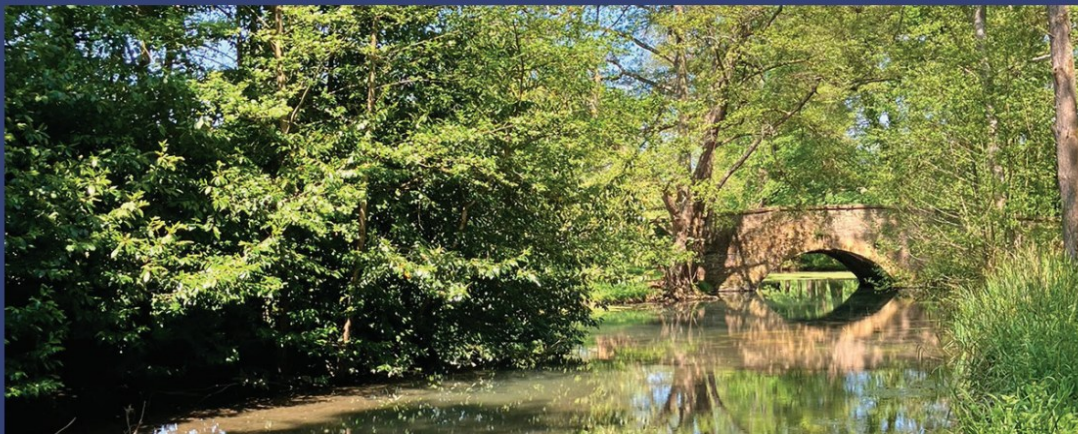
We will be carrying out a variety of maintenance tasks including mulching around the trees, checking and re-applying their guards and surveying their health. Suitable for adults and families with children over 7.

This event has limited capacity so please book your place on our website.

**Find out more:**

**[forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/  
silk-wood-volunteering-day](https://forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/silk-wood-volunteering-day)**



**Estcourt Park, Shipton Moyne****By kind permission of Juddmonte Farms**

Start/Finish in the field near the church. Church Lane, Shipton Moyne, GL8 8PW.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Walkers and runners to start between 10am and 11am.

**The entry fee includes one hog roast  
and all accompaniments, or a vegetarian option:****£20.00 per adult****£15.00 per child 16 and under****Under 5's FREE**

Well behaved dogs on leads, are welcome too.

- Very rare opportunity to see glorious Estcourt Park by either running or walking through their beautiful private grounds.
- 2 route options available – 5 miles and 7 miles.
- All monies raised will go towards a new X-Ray machine.
- Live entertainment by Route 44.
- Great day out with family and friends.
- Route map and directions.
- Hog Roast served 12pm – 2.30pm.
- Bar open 12pm onwards to purchase wine and beer plus tea/coffee and homemade cakes.
- Free car parking.

**Numbers are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.**Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR****How to enter**Visit [www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftetburyhospital.co.uk) or  
scan the QR code.**Scan me**



# Badminton Benefice Festival of Music 2025



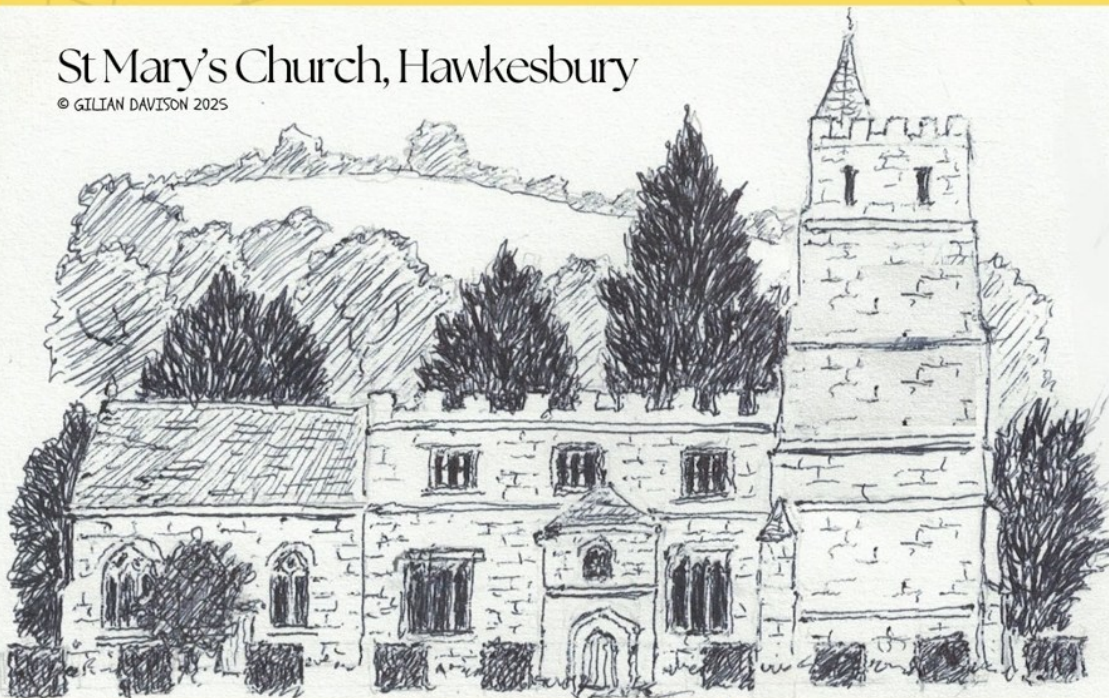
# COME & SING!

In Partnership with VOICES TOGETHER

**Free entry** with a collection in support of Youth Music and Hawkesbury Church

## St Mary's Church, Hawkesbury

© GILIAN DAVISON 2025



**Participants at 1pm:** everyone is welcome to attend our workshop. We will sing a variety of modern music and have the chance to meet other singers. To sign up go to [www.badmintonbenefice.com](http://www.badmintonbenefice.com)

**Concert at 4pm:** if you would prefer to just enjoy our performance, come and be part of our audience! Free entry and no ticket required.

### PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

- HAWKESBURY CHOIR
- CIRENCESTER SINGERS
- HAWKESBURY CE VC PRIMARY
- TRINITY CE VC PRIMARY
- LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY

18  
MAY  
2025

AT  
ST MARY'S CHURCH  
HAWKESBURY



# TETBURY GOODS SHED

## A R T S C E N T R E

### GOODS SHED HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY



- May 2                      Deeper Purple: The band deliver the most authentic tribute to the giants of classic rock that have influenced generations of musicians and music fans for over 50 years. Tickets £22 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 10                    Red Priest: Following their last, sold-out, appearance at the Goods Shed, be prepared for another stunning programme of classics arranged in their own unique way. Tickets £24 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 17                    Drawing Class with Claire Sanders; Whether you are looking to hone your skills, re-ignite old enthusiasms, or have a go at something new, you will come away feeling refreshed and inspired. Tickets £20. 10am
- May 17                    The Haar: This folk band of high-level improvisers produce ever-changing musical soundscapes, while Molly Donnery lets her sublime vocals flow to stunning effect. Tickets £16 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 24                    Julie July Band Acoustic: With over a decade of gigging and recording experience, Julie July Band make their debut performance at Tetbury Goods Shed. Tickets £14.50 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 28                    Playtime Theatre; A play-along theatre adventure for 2-6-year-olds and their grown-ups. This month: "A Woodland Wonder" – join Ratty as she learns about the environment. Tickets £5 under 1s free. 10am

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

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

# April 1975—As 'Twas—May 2025

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

## 'Didmarton's own newspaper – the first 50 years – Part Four'

How has the 'DYDDI digest' lasted 50 years? Why Didmarton? How do we feel about it? What effect does it have? Simple questions with complicated answers.

The Dd has the effect of binding our community together, in two ways. The familiarity of its arrival each month reaffirms that Didmarton is where we have chosen to live and that the Dd is part of our life here, whether we write for it, read it, or not. The other binding effect is, as with many local newspapers, diminishing with time. We don't now avidly grasp it on arrival to see what is going on in the village and what someone has said. Many reasons are put forward for this change with fingers frequently pointed at 'social media'.

'Why Didmarton' is more difficult to pin down. The 1970s was a decade of change and development after the wonderful turmoil of the 60s. New ideas were in the air and many were seeking self-determination. The stars aligned to put Terry Chatham and Charley Crewe in the same place at the same time – and Dd was born. The fertile ground of a caring and active community nurtured the new arrival.

The Dd has achieved 50 years because of three groups of people: one group of more than a hundred, the others of fewer than 50. Firstly, the contributors: without those willing to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard there simply would be nothing to make up a Dd. Secondly, the editors who acts as focal point, gives the energy, and the hours, to bring the Dd into daylight every month; and, thirdly the deliverers who carry it to every home. Many others also have played their part either within the village or, in the case of printing, without.

Feelings about Dd run the gamut from our armchair critics who know exactly what the editor should be doing, and say so, but are strangely unable to actually make any other contribution, to Charley Crewe and Steve Walker, without whose guidance and contributions the Dd would probably have faded away decades ago. Does the Dd have a future? Well, dear reader, that is as this is, in your hands.

## 1975 - Dd50 – 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

Preparations for a celebration of the first fifty years of 'DYDDI digest' have begun.

### 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](mailto:davidamichel@icloud.com) 07590 500888 (text) 01454 238431 (ans.)



## WINGS—VENUS AND MARS—RELEASE MAY 27TH '75

Released in May 1975, *Venus and Mars* was the fourth studio album by Wings, the band led by Paul McCartney after The Beatles. Coming off the success of the previous album *Band on the Run*, expectations were sky-high—and *Venus and Mars* (mostly) didn't disappoint.

Blending rock, pop, and a touch of space-age whimsy, the album showcases McCartney's talent for catchy melodies and clever arrangements. From the explosive opener "Venus and Mars/Rock Show" to the dreamy "Listen to What the Man Said," the album ranges from stadium-ready anthems to more introspective tracks.

**But was it any good??**, *Venus and Mars* was considered a solid follow-up to *Band on the Run*, but opinions were (and still are) a bit mixed.

### The Good:

"Venus and Mars/Rock Show" is a killer opener—playful, punchy, and tailor-made for stadium gigs.

"Listen to What the Man Said" was a huge hit—topping charts in the US and showcasing McCartney's knack for feel-good pop.

The band was tight—this was the first album with Wings' most stable lineup, and it shows.

There's a spacey, fun vibe running through it that gives it character and a sense of adventure.

### The Meh:

Some critics found the album a bit disjointed, with too many short songs or ideas stitched together that didn't fully land.

Compared to *Band on the Run*, which felt cohesive and confident, *Venus and Mars* can feel like a collection of cool sketches rather than a full masterpiece.

A few tracks—like "Magneto and Titanium Man"—are quirky but not everyone's cup of tea.

### So....

It's a very enjoyable listen—especially if you're into McCartney's post-Beatles work. Not quite a classic, but definitely a worthy spin. A bit of a cosmic joyride, with a few bumps along the way.



## YOUR MIND AND BODY MATTERS

I've been reflecting over the last couple of months about how my friends and I are at the stage in life where we talk about health problems and sadly have lost people close to us and have friends who are in hospital.

Friends are also telling me they have been diagnosed with pre diabetes or have actually have it, it seems now that diabetes and dementia can be linked.

I know I have mentioned before that our health and wellbeing are our responsibility; but again and even more so I want to highlight it. We all need resilience and self discipline both of which work together mentally and physically to help us to be the best we can be. Whilst I was shocked to be told I need to go on statins, I refused, as my good cholesterol was the high reading and no-one could tell me why, once the HDL is over the ideal number it stops being good. However after reading about Tim Spectre (of Zoe) and how he has been diagnosed with high cholesterol and advised to go on statins (because of genetics), I too have decided to go on them especially as it would seem they can possibly help ward off Dementia which my mother had, although our life styles are / were completely different.

We need to take the exercise - walking daily, look after our bones by doing some weight loading to prevent osteoporosis, do a little exercise such as HIIT (high intensity interval training) such as running on the spot, jumping jacks, skipping daily or at least five minutes daily. We can do HIIT as well to get our heart rate up which is essential but also our recovery must be good.

Keep our blood pressure within the given statistics for our age. Try and look after our cholesterol and blood sugars which means cutting out processed foods and cutting back on fats such as cheese and cream. So we need to take an interest in our wellbeing and be responsible rather than wait until we've been give an unwanted diagnoses, which is a bit like saying after the horse has bolted. It's not easy I know, as we are tempted by easy and quick foods and snacks - who isn't, especially after the beautiful weather we've had recently, a glass of something with a few nibbles while sitting in the garden or pub garden instead of going to the gym or for a walk but we owe to ourselves and loved ones. **Prevention rather than cure.**



# SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting  
**Tuesday 6th May**

Speaker is Val Bourne, award-winning  
gardening writer

## Cuttings

At our April meeting, member Hugh Vaux provided a fascinating insight into the life and work of gardening genius, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Hugh described how Brown became the UK's most famous landscape designer of the 18th century, his nickname coming from his fondness for describing country estates as having great 'capabilities' for improvement. He designed vast landscapes as a setting for mansions such as Bowood, Stowe and Blenheim which were surrounded by woodland, parkland dotted with trees, serpentine-shaped lakes, temples and bridges. Hugh is a former member of the Kent Gardens Trust and has delivered talks and contributed to books on Capability Brown. We were delighted to give him the opportunity to do it again!



*Part of Spring Cottage, home of our May speaker,  
Val Bourne*

At our May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, we're pleased to welcome Val Bourne to talk about 'A Year at Spring Cottage', her Cotswold house near Bourton-on-the Water. Val is quite a legend in gardening circles, having won many awards for her writing in books, newspapers and magazines. As a self-confessed plantaholic, she maintains her windswept cottage garden without chemicals and still finds time to judge flower trials and sit on RHS committees. We're grateful to be fitted into her busy schedule!

## 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. There has been a small increase in fees from 1<sup>st</sup> April (the first in three years) so the new cost is £20 single, £35 joint, U18's free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on the [sherston.net](http://sherston.net) website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at [sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com)

*Continued over>*

## Community

Tulips have emerged in both village troughs, taking over from the earlier daffodils and narcissi. It won't be long before we get ready to plant dahlias and other summer-flowering plants to keep up year-round colour (that's the aim, anyway).

## Calendar

### 2025 PROGRAMME of TALKS

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.

Finalising 2026 Calendar which will be available soon to see.

## THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY: DIGGING FOR VICTORY

When war came to Britain in 1939, the battle wasn't only fought on the front lines—it was also waged in the fields. With so many men called up to fight, the country faced a food shortage, and that's where the Women's Land Army (WLA) stepped in.

Nicknamed the "Land Girls", thousands of women—many of them from towns and cities—swapped heels for wellies and took on the tough, muddy work of farming. From milking cows and driving tractors to planting crops and mending fences, they kept the countryside going and food on the nation's tables.

It wasn't glamorous. The work was hard, the weather was worse, and the uniforms left a lot to be desired. But the Land Girls rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in—proving that when duty called, they could handle pitchforks just as well as parachutes.

By the end of the war, over 200,000 women had served in the WLA. Though they didn't wear medals, their contribution was vital—and muddy boots or not, they left a lasting mark on both agriculture and women's history.





## JIVE TALKIN' - A TALE OF SWING, SOLDIERS & SEQUINS

If dances had personalities, the Jive would be that excitable friend who turns up late to the party, kicks off their shoes, and drags everyone onto the dance floor whether they want to or not. Born in the swing-soaked dance halls of 1930s America, the Jive is the fizzy offspring of the Lindy Hop, Jitterbug, and one too many cups of strong coffee (or Martinis).

Originally danced by African American communities to big band jazz, it soon caught on with the wider public—particularly once American GIs brought it across the pond during WWII. British crowds, ever so slightly alarmed by all the flinging and flipping, gave it a nice cup of tea, slowed it down just a smidge, and made it a bit more “proper.” The result? A bouncy, brilliant blend of rhythm and decorum.

By the 1950s, the Jive had become the dance of choice for rebellious teenagers and Elvis-impersonating enthusiasts. It shimmied and kicked its way through the rock and roll era before being whisked off into the glamorous world of ballroom competitions, where it was told to stand up straight and behave.

Nowadays, the Jive lives a double life. On one hand, it's a highly stylised Latin (yeah—Latin!) ballroom dance, full of sharp flicks, quick footwork, and judges shouting “MORE ENERGY!” On the other, it's still that cheeky, joyfully chaotic celebration of music and movement that makes you want to leap about the living room like a caffeinated Meerkat.

So whether you're swinging with a partner or jiving solo in your kitchen, remember: it's not about perfection—it's about bounce, beat, and having a jolly good boogie..

**Final Footnote:** Remember, the Jive may look effortless on *Strictly*, but attempting it at home may result in mild exhaustion, flailing limbs, and an enthusiastic pet joining in. You've been warned.

**Surviving a Jive (Try it on the 5th!)** —Or: *How to Dance Without Needing an Ice Pack Afterwards...*

**Bounce, Don't Pounce** – It's high-energy, not high-impact. Keep it light on your feet unless you fancy new knees. **Flicks, Not Kicks** – You're doing Jive, not karate. Your dance partner will thank you. **Smile Through the Chaos** – Even if your feet forget the steps, just grin like you meant to do it.

## BT15–May25 Dd Brain Teaser

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

*Answers to BT14 F April Jester Monster  
Raving Loony Gooseberry Clown T-V  
Monitor Monocular Telescope Heliograph  
Semaphore S H Edinburgh Castle Scara  
Brae General Wade's Military Rd Highland  
Clearances Broch B Carrier Airbag  
Cabin Compostable Swag P Cat  
Goldfish Snake Hamster Cockapoodle*

## CATHEDRALS/ABBEYS

G 10

B 4

W 11

S D 2 6

Y M 4 7

## SPIRITS

G 3

W 6

O 4

P 11

M 10

## FAMOUS PLAYS

H 6

W F G 7 3 5

T S 3 7

L B I A 4 4 2 5

T C 3 8

MATS

B 4

C 7

D 4

G 3

T 5

## PHONE PARTS

S 6

B 7

C 6

D 4

S C 3 4





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

### EASY !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the April quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



## VICARS LETTER

Dear all,

It is great to see so many people coming back to church after what feels like a death since Covid. We sometimes forget that religion is like a handrail, something to hold on to, to keep us settled and securely bound to the Christian way of life. Religion Literally means to 'hold on', 'ligio' from which the word ligament comes, in Italian meaning faithful or loyal.

Religion is a bit like one of those handrails that are placed beside steps or inclines into buildings like churches or libraries. They are something to hold on to, which will help us along. The words and actions of our worship are just that. A handrail to help us get along, spiritually.

The late Queen Elizabeth said that for her, religion was the backcloth to her life. It was a steady handrail that she held to, which undoubtedly helped her to be a secure and stable building block for the modern world. I have no doubt that His Majesty feels the same way.

We all go through ups and downs in life, and we all need something steady to rely on, to help us through. Matins may not be the most exciting service on earth; Holy Communion may feel a bit intimidating and Evening prayer may be gently reflective, but our services all offer space in which to reflect on our lives, in the light of God's love.

Someone said that God is not always there for us. But, I think it is more true to say that God is always there, but we are not always there for God.

Our churches reflect a tradition of spiritual love and are a gift from the past to the present. We are fortunate to still have living churches in our villages. And it is great that people are re-gaining their appreciation of what this tradition can give them.

One last thing, The Bishop of Gloucester is our visiting preacher at our Horse Trials service at 10am on 11<sup>th</sup> May, at Great Badminton church. I hope you will find time to attend this special event.

With my best wishes,

Rev Richard Thomson

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

01454 606854



May-25 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4th May	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	D Hewitt
3rd Sunday of Easter	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	D Young; RT preaching
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
11th May				
4th Sunday of Easter	10am	Great Badminton	Benefice Matins	Preacher Bishop of Gloucester
18th May	9.00am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
5th Sunday of Easter				
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	L Tomlinson and D young
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Matthew Butler
25th May	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW +APCM	Rev R Thomson
6th Sunday of Easter				
	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	APCM (5.30) Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Rogation Compline	Robert Bryant-Pearson

## MAY-DAY ANCIENT MERRIMENT!

Long before it was a bank holidays or a slightly wobbly maypole dance, May Day was an ancient celebration of seasonal joy and a good excuse to wear flowers in your hair. The roots of May Day stretch back to pagan festivals celebrating the arrival of summer—or at least the hope that it might stop raining soon. In pre-Christian Britain, the festival of Beltane was marked with bonfires, rituals, and a general appreciation for warmer weather, fertility (of both the soil *and* the villagers), and the promise of crops to come.

Fast forward to the medieval era, and May Day had blossomed into a joyful public holiday. People would rise at dawn to gather flowers and greenery, decorate their homes, and crown a May Queen—usually the prettiest young lady in the village, whether she liked it or not. The iconic maypole, around which dancers weaved colourful ribbons, symbolised growth and renewal (and provided an excellent opportunity for accidental entanglement).

In some places, a mysterious figure called the Green Man appeared—usually a chap in leaves who looked like a hedge had come to life. He represented the spirit of nature and was a popular addition to the festivities, though likely terrifying for small children and hungover Morris dancers.

Although May Day’s popularity waned for a time—especially when Puritans decided it was all a bit too joyful—it made a cheerful comeback in the 19th century, and today it lives on in village greens, primary school performances, and the occasional awkward maypole mishap. So this May Day, if you see people skipping around in white trousers and jingling bells, don’t be alarmed—it’s just tradition. Ancient, slightly eccentric, and still blooming strong.

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## **O Lord Open my Eyes! - Help me see the new life and hope**

We can see it in the glorious Spring he has given us to enjoy. We rejoice as we behold the new life he brings forth in his design of nature; we see the barren hedges come forth to life with leaves and the trees burst into bud and blossom and the satisfaction it gives to see the seeds we bury in good soil in hope, shoot up having died to itself come to new life with a glorious flower and plant out of what appeared dead—but do we recognise the design and handiwork of God in this new life he brings?

Jesus spoke of the new life and hope the world would to those who believe as a result of his death, burial and resurrection. He predicted that after three days dead he would spring forth to new life. Which was seen and witnessed by the many who were present, their eyes were open then. Are your eyes open to the resurrection of life he offers to you today? This work of our Lord is a picture of the unfolding plan of God in Jesus for a glorious new resurrection life and hope after death.

Also, we can see this new life and hope in the ascension of Jesus to Heaven. It was while they were looking the disciples saw the Lord Jesus lifted up from the world to take up his new rightful place of honour at his father's right hand in glory. It is important that we see and believe, for it offers us the hope of new life with Jesus in his eternal kingdom.

Have you seen and believed? Jesus shows himself alive today in the book of revelation I vs18 we see him in his scended glory saying "I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore".

Jesus has promised to return and lift believers out of the graves and lift us up to be with himself. Jesus said "The day is coming when all in the graves will hear this voice, those that have done good (ie believed and received his new nature of goodness) to the resurrection of condemnation" St John 5 vs28.

Having seen and witnessed the ascension of Jesus, it brought a new commitment by the disciples who saw it and caused them to wait in prayer for the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon them a few days later.

Are your eyes open to this wonderful new life and hope which Jesus offers you today? And will you receive it by repentance and faith in Jesus? If you haven't will you pray "O Lord open my eyes!"

*Royston Pick*

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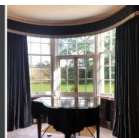
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