



October 2023

the **DYDDI** digest

Open at Your Own Risk...



Rubbish Dates

All Bins: 12th & 26th October

Food Waste: 5th & 19th October

Download Dates

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Diary Dates — October

1st— International Music (& Coffee!) Day

4th—WOW Meeting

6th — World Smile Day

10th —World Homeless Day

9th— Emergency Services Day

18th WOW Meeting

21st—National Apple Day

24th—Vijaya Dashami

28th—Full Moon (Hunters Moon)

29th—World Cat Day

31st —Rural Cinema

31st—Hallowe'en / Samhain



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**

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

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DIDMARTON WALKING GROUP

The next outing of the walking group will be on Thursday October 12th, 10 am at the KA car park. Followed by coffee/other refreshments for the adults and a lovely biccy for the wee poocheset moi! (As moi is a definitely not a wee pooch).

Woof woof Martha'



SEASONS GREETINGS....

...of the spooky kind! Hallowe'en seems to be becoming more and more popular, or commercial at least. So we have dedicated ourselves to all things spooky. We have Two Sentence Spooky Tales on page 8 a little bit about why we carve pumpkins and the tale of Stingy Jack on page 11. We also uncover some of our most common and notorious poisonous plants, page 9, they occur in many gardens and are worth being familiar with. Talking of poisons as we are planting spring bulbs it is worth remembering that many are poisonous to dogs, so be aware.

We mark the return of the rural Cinema with Empire of Light on Friday 13th so those of you with Paraskevidekatriaphobia / Friggatriskaidekaphobia—beware!

One thing, the German for poison is das Gift, if you are visiting Germany don't get these confused!

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



From CDC District Councillor—Tony Slater

At CDC: My two main meetings at CDC will take place after this article goes to press, so I will update on these in the next edition. There were no meetings in August. A decision was made by CDC to close all the Visitor Information Centres in the Cotswold District, to save a rather modest £54000. The opposition group of councillors thought that as a tourist destination this was not a good decision and raised a successful petition against it – this means it will be discussed at full council, where hopefully a compromise can be reached.

Also relating to tourism, there are reviews being commissioned into public toilets. A report will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny group, and I have volunteered to lead this piece of work to ensure the Cotswolds retain and improve this essential facility.

One of the lovely aspects to this role is being in a position to bring people together. In travelling around the ward I make lots of contacts, and because my details publicly available people come to me as well. In the last few weeks, I have been able to match an existing Parish Clerk with a vacancy in another parish, which has benefitted both parties. In a more unusual case, a domestic parrot had escaped and was found after several days ‘on the run’ – I was contacted by the finder and was able to facilitate a happy ending with ‘Alfie’ safely returned home.

Didmarton: I was made aware of the ‘detectorist festival’ over the weekend of 9/10th September at Worcester Lodge, and the antisocial behaviour of a minority of attendees. I hadn’t been previously notified of any event, so contacted the CDC licencing officer to try to understand how the licence was granted. The event actually took place in the Wiltshire district, so it was they who granted the licence even though access was via the CDC district. That said, it’s not a public process anyway, so locals wouldn’t have been informed. It was nothing to do with the licence granted to Robomagic for the specific concerts in June/July. Definitely confusing, and it highlights the need of the estate to improve their communication to the community – I am sure this will be raised at the Robomagic follow up meeting next week (as I write). In the meantime, I have suggested the Parish Council write to Wiltshire Council to highlight the issues raised so they can consider these for any future requests.

Councillor Tony Slater Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with
Avening email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930

Boules at Didmarton

This was our fifth year staging this event and whilst planning stages began months before the actual work started, as always, the Friday morning before.

A dedicated group turned out to build the pistes, transport/spread the sand, and move all the benches, umbrellas, tables/chairs etc. This year we also erected a marquee to give shade from the forecast sunny 29-degree temperatures due on the Saturday.

On the day though we also had to set up the outside bar and kitchen with Sam, Martin and helpers putting in a lot of work to make things run smoothly all day.

And then the games started only a few minutes after 10 o'clock and we were on our way for the 5th year running.

This year it should be noted that we had a few sponsors from local businesses who provided banners that were put up around the pistes. Thanks for their support go to: AC Nurden Ltd, The George Veterinary Service, Build-it, County Building Supplies, Bearings Plus (Elf Industrial), Ryalls Ltd and Greenwood Glazing.

The raffle was drawn around 4pm with some great prizes. Many thanks to contributors and ticket sellers for their support.

By 5.30pm, after much sun lotion and 120 games of 'Les Boules' produced the winners of each league and were announced as:

League A: BOULEZ BOULES – Justin Witchard's team.

League B: THIMBOULES - Jack Burton's team.

League C: 4 AMIGOS - Andy Bryan's team (only 3 of them but we just couldn't change the name!)

League D: BOULE DANIELS - Jon Brodrib's team.

Semi-finals took place with Boulez Boules beating Boule Daniels and Thimboules winning through against 4 Amigos.

A close and seriously fought final ended with Justin's team Boulez Boules overcoming Thimboules to become 2023 Didmarton Boules Day winners.

The runners-up received a meal voucher from The Kings Arms and the winners were presented with a personally selected hamper packed with quality wine, cheeses, biscuits, chutneys and other delicious products.

Many thanks to all who attended, and we hope that everyone had a great time. As in previous years a donation will be made to the DVHCC.

See you next year.

DIDMARTON'S ANNUAL
BONFIRE NIGHT
SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
A SHOWSTOPPING ROCKET FILLED
FIREWORK DISPLAY



DIDMARTON VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD
GATES OPEN – 6PM **BONFIRE LIT – 6.30PM**
FIREWORKS – 7PM

BURGERS, HOTDOGS, BAR, MULLED WINE, CAKE STALL, RAFFLE,
SPARKLERS FOR CHILDREN, LOTS OF PARKING

£6.00 ADULT

£2.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16

Two Sentence Spooks

You hear your mum calling you into the kitchen. As you are heading down the stairs you hear a whisper from the closet saying “Don’t go down there honey, I heard it too.”

I awoke to the sound of the baby monitor or crackling with a voice comforting my only child. As I adjusted to a new position, my arm brushed against my wife sleeping next to me.



I wake up and everything feels wrong; it’s too quiet outside. I look out of the window and see everyone standing still, looking at my house.

It’s been watching me for hours now... Sometimes I catch glimpses of its reflexion on the computer screen, but I dare not turn around....

You get home, tired after a long day’s work and ready for a relaxing night alone. You reach for the light switch, another hand is already there.

The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door.

I put on my headphones, the whispering coming from them startled me; they were not plugged in.

I begin tucking him into bed and he tells me, “Daddy check for monsters under my bed.” I look underneath for his amusement and see him, another him, under the bed, staring back at me quivering and whispering, “Daddy there’s somebody on my bed.”

My brother and I sit down with the Ouija board, and we both place our hands on the planchette. He says, ‘Cole, are you here with me?’ and I move the planchette to ‘yes.’

Alone in my room, I sneezed softly. ‘Bless you,’ someone said.

Day 312. Internet still not working.

The UK's Most Deadly plants

Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*)

Belonging to the same family of plants as the potato and tomato, all parts of the Deadly Nightshade plant are poisonous, causing sweating, vomiting, breathing difficulties, confusion, hallucinations and potential coma and death. It also has a pupil-widening effect that was known in ancient Greece. An extract of 'belladonna' (Italian for 'beautiful woman')

was used to make eye drops which were

applied by women to dilate their pupils. DO NOT TRY THIS! (Potatoes are fine just don't eat the leafy stalks and GREEN potatoes can lead to poisoning, so watch those Sunday roasts!)



Foxgloves (*Digitalis Purpurea*)



Ingestion of any parts of the plant results in severe poisoning. Symptoms include nausea, headache, skin irritation and diarrhoea. In severe cases it can lead to visual and perceptual disturbances and heart and kidney problems. Foxgloves have also widely been used in folk medicine, and in conventional medicine, their cardiac glycosides have been used to make a heart stimulant drug. Again, one not to try at home people! It is said to be bad luck to bring a foxglove into the house because these flowers belong to the fairies and, if you pick one it will annoy them and they will take revenge on you!

Monkshood (*Aconitum Napellus*)

Surprisingly common in gardens. All parts of the plant are poisonous, particularly the roots. If ingested, can cause stomach pain and dizziness. The poison also affects the heart and in large amounts can be fatal, but poisonings are rare as it has such an unpleasant flavour. Toxins can even transfer to the skin via cuts, so it is important to always wear gloves when handling plants in your garden.



One More of the UK's Most Deadly plants

Lords & Ladies (*Aconitum Napellus*)



Take care when handling this plant. All parts of it can cause allergic reactions, but the berries (bright red clusters) are particularly poisonous. The plant contains minute needle-shaped crystals which can severely irritate the skin. Consumption can lead to throat



swelling, breathing difficulties and stomach irritation. It's rare to accidentally eat large quantities of this plant because it has an acrid taste and gives a tingling sensation which acts as a warning.



The September draw took place on September 9th at the Boules Day held at The Kings Arms. The prize winners were:-

1st Prize	£20	Tim Simmons	2nd Prize	£15	Brian Cook
3rd Prize	£10	Mike Smith	4th Prize	£10	Pip Hardy

Sue and Sue

Ha-ha-ha

How do ghosts do their makeup before they go out trick or treating? - They use vanishing cream.

Why didn't anyone want to go trick or treating with Dracula? - Because he is a pain in the neck.

Why don't skeletons ever go trick or treating? - Because they have no-body to go with.

Jack, the Celts, the Devil and Pumpkins

In brief, the traditions of pumpkin carving originate from ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated around 2,000 years ago at the Autumn equinox. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time between times, when more so than any other time of the year, the realms between the living and the dead were thinnest. To ward off malevolent spirits during this vulnerable period, eerie faces were carved into turnips and other root vegetables, placing a burning coal or candle inside to create a haunting glow. These carved vegetables were believed to protect homes and people from evil. Another belief is that they were used to represent and honour the spirits of the dead and food would also be left together with the lanterns outside the home.

And then there's the Story of Stingy Jack....

Jack was a two-faced, deceitful schemer who thrived on manipulating people. His selfish spirit possessed not a shred of humanity or kindness for anyone, homeless beggars repulsed him. Word of his vile reputation reached Satan who took more than a passing interest in this evil man, so he put plans in motion to meet him.

One evening in the dark hills of rural Ireland, Satan posed as a dead man waiting for Stingy Jack to run into him. When Jack came across the body, a deranged face with wide eyes and an evil grin stared back at him. Stingy Jack instantly realized that his time was up and that the devil had come to collect his soul. He begged for a final request which was granted. Jack asked for just one more drink before he had to depart the world, and he took the devil to the nearest tavern.

One drink turned into another and then another. Before too long their consumption of alcohol exceeded the demand and there was nothing left for the pair to drink. When it was time for them to settle up, Jack didn't have any money. He casually turned to his new drinking buddy and suggested that, since he was a devil with magical powers, he could simply transform himself into a piece of silver to pay the tab. The Devil obliged. But instead of paying, Jack rammed the coin into his pocket. Aware that Stingy Jack had double-crossed him, the devil fought to get out. However, a crucifix in the pocket trapped him in. Jack made a deal with the devil. If he would leave Jack alone for a decade, he would release him from the coin – and the deal was made.

Once this amnesty was reached, the devil found Jack once more, ready to take him to hell. This time, however, Jack asked for an apple from a nearby tree to quell his hunger on the long journey. While the devil selected an apple, Jack carved four crucifixes on the bark of the tree trapping the evil being within its branches. On the condition that Jack will not go to hell, Jack once again offered the demon his freedom. Once again there was little choice but to submit to the man's wishes. Stingy Jack continued the rest of his life safe in the knowledge that he outsmarted the devil not once, but twice.

Jack Forever Roams the Earth

Many years of alcoholism finally took their toll. It seemed that Stingy Jack could outsmart the devil, but he could not outsmart death when he found himself standing in front of the Pearly Gates. St. Peter turned him away. Heaven, as many people know, would not welcome a lying, deceitful drunk. Undiscouraged, Jack headed towards hell where his nemesis was biding his time to get revenge. Satan also refused him entry citing the agreement they made when Jack was very much alive.

Although neither heaven nor hell allowed Jack entry, Satan did grant one last wish. Jack asked for an ember from the fiery depths to give him a little light while he wandered the world in darkness. Satan picked one small red hot coal and gave it to Jack. To carry his burning ember, Jack found a turnip and hollowed it out, turning it into a makeshift lantern. Ever since then, Jack's ghost can be seen wandering aimlessly around the Irish countryside. Whenever locals saw mysterious lights, they would say, "That's just Jack o' the lantern." Later, the term became synonymous with the name for Stingy Jack's wandering spirit – jack-o'-lantern.





Didmarton Rural Cinema

Friday 13th October

Film Empire of Light

Set in an English seaside town in the early 1980s, 'Empire Of Light' is a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema from Academy Award winning director Sam Mendes.

Empire of Light (2022) – Drama

Cert: 15 – Run time: 1 hr. 59 min.

Rotten Tomatoes audience rating: 74%

Starring: Olivia Colman, Colin Firth

Director: Sam Mendes

Trailer: <https://www.filmbankmedia.com/films/archive/details/33772-empire-of-light#/video>

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

Tickets £5 on the door—we now have a card machine

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



TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED

- October 1** **Gardeners' Questions:** Come and put your horticultural hassles over your autumn garden to our panel of experts. 2-4 Tickets £5
- October 7** **Rock The 70s:** Back in 2022, Ragged Company Guitarist Nigel Dean and Bassist Pete Willey, put together a new project – A Tribute to some of the greatest Rock hits of the 70s entitled '**ROCK THE 70s**' !! 7.30-10. Tickets £16.50. Under 25s £10. This is an all standing event.
- October 13** **The Bristol Ensemble:** In a programme specially arranged for Piano and Strings Quintet Viv McLean joins the Bristol Ensemble to perform Gershwin, Glass, Copeland and Bernstein. 7.30 – 9.45 Tickets: £20, under 25s £15
- October 15** **Cotswold Comic Con:** Stalls, Cos Play, Exhibition and Artwork with more special guests to be announced nearer the time.
Comic Book dealers, artists, writers, creators and individual unique items. Cosplay for every age and every level. 10.30-4 Tickets £5 under 18 free
- October 21** **Comedy Club:** We welcome the return of our regular Goods-Shed Comedy Club with October comedic delights being delivered by Ben van Der Velde, Jason Neale and headlined Juliet Meyers! 8pm Tickets £12.50 Under 25 £10
- October 28** **James Morton's Groove Den:** James is one of the most exciting saxophone players of his generation. This project features new material drawing on his influences from soul, jazz, hip-hop and tough, grooving beats, hence the name Groove Den. 7.30 Tickets £15 under 25s £10

**To buy tickets and for further details of our talks, exhibitions,
afternoon concerts and films visit our website:**

www.shed-arts.co.uk



TECH TALK

Ghosts in the Machine

Consciousness, code and the Ghosts in the Machine....



I hate to disappoint, but this isn't about Gilbert Ryle's description of Rene Descartes' mind-body dualism (that mental and physical activity occur simultaneously but separately). Sorry.

Rather we are taking a light hearted look at why our Tech seems to have a mind of its own. As Dr Isaac Asimov said in his 1950 Novel i-Robot (yep the one with Will Smith, a cat and a self driving Audi):-

"since the first computers, there have always been ghosts in the machine. Random segments of code that have grouped together to form unexpected protocols. Unanticipated, these free radicals engender questions of free will, creativity, and even the nature of what we might call the soul "

Much more interesting, than dualism, I'm sure you agree, the above is also known as 'Why won't the ***** thing just do as I ***** tell it' But this isn't quite as catchy.

In terms of printers, you probably haven't turned it on at the wall or it's run out of paper or ink. Possibly you haven't connected the WiFi or it's an Apple Printer....

Your PC? Who used it last? It's probably their fault! Being a little more serious, if it's suddenly very slow, it could be lots of unneeded stuff running in the background so the first thing to do is check your task manager and look at the start-up manager (type 'Task Manager' in to the search bar or ctr+alt+delete). You could also have outdated drivers, so make sure you are on the most current release of your software. It could also be your cache. So if you clear your browser's cache and temporary internet files regularly, this helps your computer or device run optimally.

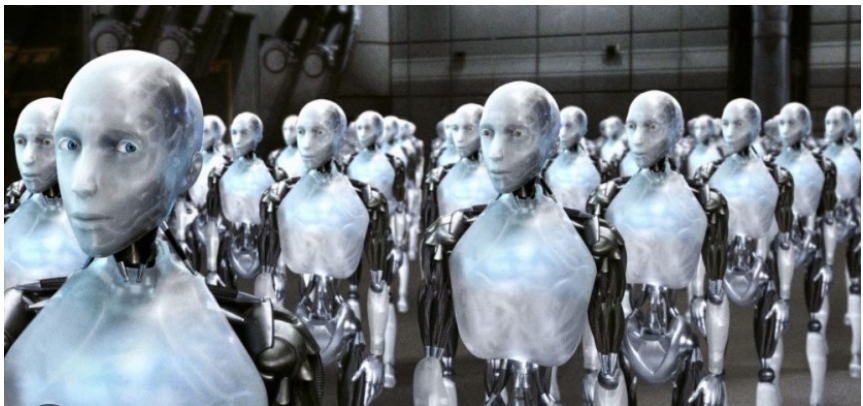
There is always, of course, the ‘Simulated Power Cut’. Unplug at the wall for 10 seconds and restart. Why 10 seconds? That’s how long it takes for the ghosts to leave the machine....

Just remember, Asimov’s three laws for robots:-

“A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. A robot must obey orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.”

Let’s hope your tech has read these and more importantly—believes it must comply.....

PS If you have serious problems and you are virus free and Dr Google can’t help you, find a reputable engineer!



Why Witch?

The origin of the words “wicca” and “wicce”, which later morphed to wicche isn’t entirely known, but it is thought the words themselves originally meant “wise one”, with the earliest references to these words in Old English always seeming to be associated with midwifery, healing and teaching.

Up until the 1500s, brewing was primarily women's work—that is, until a campaign accused women brewers of being witches. Much of the iconography we associate with witches today, from the pointy hat to the broom, and cat may have emerged from their connection to female brewers. Hat to be seen, Cauldron to Brew, Broom to sweep the debris away and Cat for pest control.

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

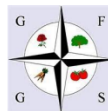
Not sure if anyone has been watching the Blue Zone on Netflix but it is well worth a watch. It's all about various places around the world that are now labelled the Blue Zones. It just endorses everything that we know but still choose to ignore regarding our health.

In these Blue Zones there are the highest numbers of centenarians and people in their nineties all of which are fit and healthy, on no medications and who are able to do everything for themselves. The reasons being that that they eat fresh food most of which they grow themselves. No processed food. Breads and pastries are made from sourdough which helps reduce the glucose. They drink tea that is made from fresh herbs which are great in antioxidants. Whilst they all still exercise, it's not in the gym but mostly walking and gardening, chopping wood and cooking from scratch such as kneading, stirring large pots and keeping active. The people who live in these Blue Zones help each other, work together, eat together, look after their family's, laugh and play together.

I urge you to watch as it's fascinating and whilst yes a lot of of do this already there is still a lot for us to learn or simply urge other people to watch and learn.

Ruth x





SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting.

3rd October 2023. **Lucy Bowles-Lewis** (Head gardener Whatley Manor).
'Understand Your Garden - The Habitats You Have and How to Manage Them'.

Cuttings.

We enjoyed a return to the monthly meeting's on 5th September and an enlightening demonstration of the complicated business of professional propagation but made to look so easy by Penny Jones - Head Propagator at Westonbirt.

Visitors are always welcome to join us and our growing membership. The cost remains the same for this year. £15 single, £25 joint. U18's free.

For more information or a membership form, contact sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Club meeting's are first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road.

7pm for 7.30pm start.

Tasty refreshments, test your plant knowledge with plant identification, plant sales, raffle and gardening questions and queries answered.

Community.

We aim to place a bulk order of spring bulbs for planting this autumn. If you would like to see spring colour in any general areas (not private gardens), please apply for the free bulbs for you to plant to enhance the cheerfulness of the village at :

sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Connections

The Sherston Gardening Club Facebook group is another forum for showing your garden photographs, asking questions and finding answers to gardening queries. Post your hints and tips, and any news of meeting's and events. Open to all.

Calendar.

Tuesday 3rd October.

Lucy Bowles-Lewis, Head gardener, Whatley Manor. 'Understanding your Garden Habitats'.

Tuesday 7th November

Laura Holmes: 'Using your garden design to Create your unique space'.

Tuesday 5th December

Julia Armstrong, Christmas Decoration workshop.

Visits:

Just to wet your appetite, the following visits are in the planning stages and details will be confirmed in next month's newsletter. However, please feel free to register your interest by emailing us at sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com and we will keep you informed.

Autumn '23 - Wisley Gardens: Craft Fair and Garden visit.

Spring '23. - Highgrove Spring flowers.

J.J's Gardening Blog

This is a good time of year to plant a tree - or a hedge- the soil is still warm and damp and it gives them a good chance to settle in. Notice trees with eye catching bark like acer griseum, with cinnamon coloured peeling bark, snake bark acer. Sorbus commixta for berries and autumn colour: cercidiphyllum boyd's dwarf which is scented like candy floss or gleditsia sunburst which has fresh yellow ferny foliage, which in sunlight gives a golden light.

Harvest your fruit trees and make pies and crumbles. Wonderful to get out of the freezer and have on a cold winter day with custard or cream.

Containers: gather them all together, and scrub them out with soapy water with a stiff brush.

Choose your colour palette.

Here are some plants to consider: skimmia, maroon coloured tulips with euphoria characcia, white tulips with euphorbia myrsinites, cyclamen, heuchera, camellia, ornamental kale. If your mind goes blank, ask the nursery for suggestions.

Collect fallen leaves from roses, and bin them to stop black spot.

Cut asparagus down to ground level and put on the compost heap.

Plant herbaceous perennials.

Dahlias left in flowerbeds will need a good double handful of something over them to take them unscathed through the winter. Old potting compost is suitable. Mark their positions with a cane. Ditto salvias. You may lose one, but think of it as an opportunity to try something new!

Finish pruning the roses and anything which is getting out of hand.

For a dark red border: sambucus black beauty, physocarpus diablo, crocosmia lucifer, heuchera plum pudding and bergnia Eric Smith.

If planting daffodils in flowerbeds, put them towards the back, so that as they die down and look messy, something grows in front of them.

Do a thorough weed.



Neologism—Just for Laughs!

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words. The winners are: -

1. Coffee (N.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (V.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (V.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (Adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (Adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (V.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (N.), olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (N.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (N.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Testicle (N.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. Rectitude (N.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. Pokemon (N), a Rastafarian proctologist.
14. Oyster (N.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. Frisbeetarianism (N.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.



SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

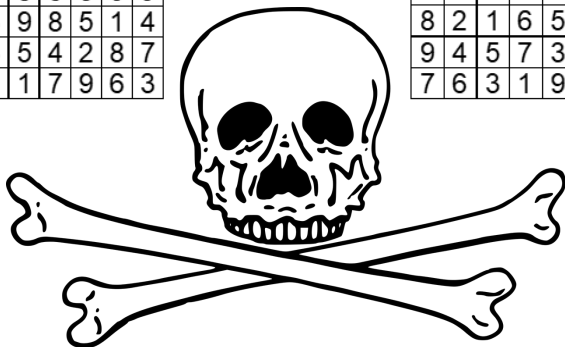
Answers to the September quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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



VICAR'S LETTER July 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Harvest season is upon us. A time to give thanks for our sustenance and those who work to provide food for us. The gospel reading this year is about the rich man who kept on building bigger and bigger stores for his produce, and unwisely decided to sit back and relax with the ample supplies he had built. He said to his soul: "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry".

On the surface, most of us might say that there is not much wrong with this attitude. Had he not worked hard all his life, built up a material pension, and did he not now deserve to relax and enjoy life? Something that we are all encouraged to do. Do we not all imagine building up a pension, and then sitting back and relaxing?

But is there not something slightly selfish about this fellow? Might he not have decided that now he needn't work for his daily needs he could at least devote some of his time to something a bit more philanthropic. The key for me, is in his failure is to understand what true freedom is. From God's perspective, how narrow and shallow to simply sit back and do nothing. There is always so much more life to be enjoyed.

I expect he died that night of boredom! He had no interests, no hobbies, no community. No real relationship with the Almighty.

The Scriptures say: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved'. That is real freedom. Resting in God. Prayer and devotion is in my view the deepest relaxation and freedom we can enjoy. Oh, don't get me wrong, lying in the sun is nice, as is sipping a gin and tonic, or a nice pint of ale. But real relaxation is doing what the catechism teaches us is our main purpose in life. And that is to worship God.

When people retire, it is an opportunity to spend time with God in prayer or to work for the local community or church. Retirement is often the springboard to a very active life. Maybe there is less rushing around but there is still a whole lot of life to be enjoyed when the barns are full.

With my best wishes this Harvest season.

Richard

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

01454 219236

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

Church of England	September			
All services from the Prayer Book unless otherwise stated				
1st October	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden
Trinity 17	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion (Common Worship)	Rev J Wilson
	1115am	Didmarton	Harvest Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev M Maslen
8th October	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
Trinity 18	9.30am	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Little Badminton	Harvest Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Harvest Evensong	Rev R Thomson
15th October	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
Trinity 19	1000 am	Hawkesbury	Harvest Family service	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Sopworth	Harvest Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Harvest Family service	Rev R Thomson
22nd October	6pm	Lasborough	Harvest Evensong	Rev R Thomson
Trinity 20	1100am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev L Maydew
29th October	1115am	Sopworth	All Saints Benefice service (Matins with HC)	Rev R Thomson
All Saints Day				
Further details and updates: badmintonbenefice.com				

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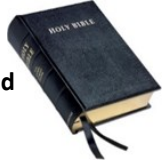
Left-over pumpkin Seeds Make a Spicy Snack!

Preheat the oven to gas 4, 180°C, fan 160°C. Scoop out 80g of raw pumpkin seeds from the flesh. Remove any stringy bits from the seeds and rinse well with cold water. Pat dry with kitchen paper, removing as much moisture as possible.

Toss the seeds in a bowl with the oil, cumin, paprika and salt until evenly coated. Spread out on a baking tray and roast for 10 mins. Allow to cool before serving.



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The Lord is a God of knowledge & by Him our Actions are Weighed

(Samual 2 vs3)

At this time of year we expect to reap what we have sown. The student expects to have his studies appraised and receive the appropriate evaluation of their studies pursued during the year. Likewise the farmer & the gardener will hope to have reaped the result of the increase God gives for the attention to the requirements of the seeds & plants we have sown and to rejoice at the fruitful benefits we have received from God's hand.

As one season draws to a close & another begins, it is a reminder that our lives are being assessed by the Lord who gives our lives & knows all about the ways we have lived. It is to God we will give account of how we have lived. Much which may seem praiseworthy to the eyes of people, will be found to be condemned before His pure eyes, and that which may seem a credit to human eyes, will be counted a debit in divine reckoning.

It is important that while we have the opportunity, we seek to know God and his standards in the Bible. The Bible tells us, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked (fooled by our profession) for whatever a person sows, that shall he reap, for he that sows to (please his own desires of) the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption (rottenness, decay & death) but he that sows to the benefit of his spiritual life, will of the holy spirit receive life eternal". (Galatians 6 vs 7&8).

Left to ourselves, we will always fall short of God's standard of righteousness to attain, but by God's unmerited favour & love, he has provided His precious son the Lord Jesus Christ to bear our sin on the cross and import his righteousness to those who have placed their sincere faith in him. Is that the seed we have been sowing? Has it produced a life pleasing to God who will assess us and reward accordingly. The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him our lives and actions are weighed. Turn to Him now in repentance & faith for the day of reaping is near at hand!

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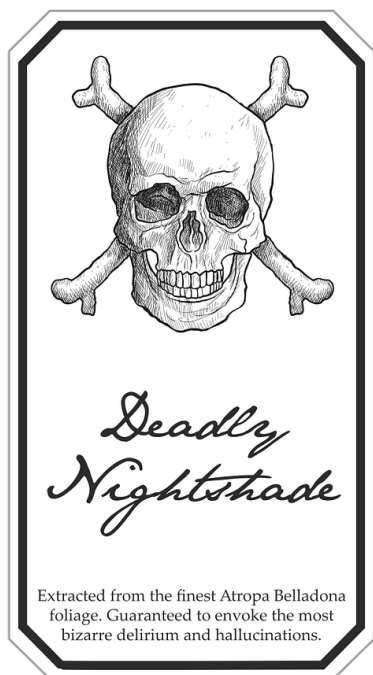
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