

# the DYDDI digest

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

November 2020 – no.542



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Didmarton's Remembrance Service 11.15am  
Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Great Badminton church 10.50am  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Festival of Remembrance Hawkesbury church 7pm

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



## DIDMARTON RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Thursdays: 5<sup>th</sup> & Thu 19<sup>th</sup> Food waste bin only

Thursdays: 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> All rubbish & recycling

ALSO SEE PAGE 26 – For the latest details on recycling your Soft Plastic (anything scrunchable upable), in Stina's Going Green column.

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## NOVEMBER DIARY DATES

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> is of course, Guy Fawkes and bonfire night. If someone had said this time last year there wouldn't be *any* big jolly firework displays and gatherings in 2020, you'd never have been able to consider why. One year later... A damp Roman Candle on the patio this year will have to suffice.



Remembrance Sunday is the 8<sup>th</sup>. There is always the moving and unmissable service on BBC1 from 10am, usually with film footage from wars as a poignant reminder of what so many have done for the free lives we have today. I am unsure how the Cenotaph ceremony will be in these distanced times – and indeed, local ceremonies – but below is a Something that we *can* do.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Didmarton Walking Group. Page 28

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## LEST WE FORGET



A chum mentioned an internet round robin from the RAF Brize Norton community support group. 'During lockdown we all put rainbows in our windows. Due to Remembrance Parades being cancelled why don't we all colour a poppy picture in, and put them in our windows?' A simple, touching and terrific idea.

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## SAVE THE DATE – village hall fundraiser

Ruth Carnaby is holding a coffee morning fundraiser for village hall funds, which due to the Covid-19 lockdown, are substantially lacking. It's on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am at her house in Chapel Walk.

Due to number restrictions please email [ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk](mailto:ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk) or phone 01454 238733 to book in your preferred time. Thank you!

and THANK YOU to everyone who supported a very different Macmillan coffee morning this year. We still managed to raise £255.



Ruth Carnaby

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Phoenix, Tetbury surgery – 01666 502303  
Police – to report incidents - 101  
Tolsey Surgery, Sherston – 01666 840270  
Tetbury Hospital – 01666 502336  
King's Arms pub – 01454 238245  
Oldbury Garage – 01454 537016  
Leighterton School – 01666 890273  
Village hall bookings - 01454 238450  
Dyddi Digest editor – 01454 238576  
DVHCC Chairman, Ed Hardy – 01454 238006  
Parish council, John Hammond – 01454 238373



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

1<sup>st</sup> – Imogen Neilson  
4<sup>th</sup> – Oliver Hewitt  
9<sup>th</sup> – Guy Bond  
10<sup>th</sup> – Edie Neilson  
16<sup>th</sup> – Emily Tubbs  
20<sup>th</sup> – Bailey Jones  
27<sup>th</sup> – Evie Jones  
27<sup>th</sup> – Lucy Peevers



## BABYSITTING CONTACTS

Bailey Jones - 01454 232985  
Lewis Jones - 01454 238113  
Flora Scutt - 01454 219258  
Joe Turner - 01454 238235



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**DYD YOU KNOW?** You can see the Dyddi Digest in glorious technicolour! Go to Didmarton's Village Hall website & click on the Dyddi picture. The Snoopy & Charlie Brown picture theme this month celebrates the 26<sup>th</sup> November birthday of the late Charles Schulz, creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip. A couple of related questions: what breed of dog is Snoopy, and what's the name of the little yellow bird? Answers page 30.

## SAM JARVIS 18.12.1928-29.09.2020

When we moved to Didmarton in 1981 we were fortunate to inherit Doreen and Sam Jarvis to help in the house and garden respectively. They had both worked for the previous owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins, and they were conscientious and hard workers - Sam's three hours' work each day invariably turned into three and a half! They both did a huge amount for the village, and the church in particular. Sam was a church warden for many years, he also wound the clock every day, mowed the churchyard, sang in the choir (when there was one!), rang the bell and laid up for Communion, amongst many other things.

Sam's main job was as a toolmaker at McVoys in Nailsworth, where he remained until 1990, and then he spent three years working for TNT before he retired aged 65. Very sadly this coincided with the untimely death of Doreen, so they were never able to enjoy their retirement together, for which they had worked so hard. Sam continued to work for us, and the last job he did was to complete the rebuilding of the second side of one of our fields. As this is the county boundary, I often used to joke with him saying that he was making Gloucestershire a little bit larger, or Wiltshire a little bit smaller! Sam finally gave up working for us just before his eightieth birthday, at which time he was delighted to receive a long hand written card from the Prince of Wales, thanking him for all he had done for the church. A few years earlier he was honoured to be presented with Maundy money from Her Majesty the Queen.

A keen sportsman in his younger days, Sam played cricket for the village, football for Shortwood and in later years turning to bowls. He was always a big racing fan, regularly attending meetings at Bath and Cheltenham, as well as being a keen betting man, one of his most recent small bets being on a 60-1 winner!

A true gentleman, Sam will be much missed. He leaves two sons and three grandchildren.

Penny Pope

## LOOKING FOR DIDMARTONIANS PAST

I am trying to find the whereabouts of two past Didmarton residents, Derek and Sylvia Williams, whose dad was known as Nanny Williams. He was a shepherd who worked either for the Tucks or the Hatheralls. I'm not sure where they lived. I'm also trying to trace Trevor Robins. He lived at 4 St Arild's Road, and his father worked on the farm of Mr Thompson.

Hopefully someone may recall where they went. I can be contacted at [shortton@live.com](mailto:shortton@live.com) Many thanks.

Tony Short



## EVERY REASON TO SUPPORT OUR DYDDI DIGEST ADVERTISERS

Perhaps the best thing that has come out of the Covid lockdown is just how much localness, community, our neighbours, really, really matter. When we're restricted in our out-and-about, those people and services that are so under our noses we (oddly) forget them, have become utterly essential.

However, more than this: I am absolutely thrilled to say that with just one exception, every Dyddi Digest advertiser is continuing their support in 2021. Oh my wow! One more reason to shop local! So in the manner of Mrs Betty Better-Late-Than-Never, and also, as a reminder of all those Dyddi advertisers who provide those services we can't live without:

**Ind Heating and Plumbing.** Who doesn't just plain LOVE their boiler in the winter months? Look after it – and all your plumbing pipework.

**TH Whites** Anything, everything outdoor: get the lawnmower serviced before the spring rush. Stock up on birdfood, replace bent, broken and lost garden tools. Prepare for outdoor chills with snugly waterproof clothing and wellies.

**R&B Vehicle Services** (with new premises coming soon!) because servicing, MOTs, oil changes, all just keep coming round.

**The George Vets** Furry, feathery and fetlocked friends made us in lockdown love them even more. Carry on taking care of them, it's good for you too.

**Steve Thompson's firewood and chimney services** All types of firewood and coal delivered free, and Steve will make that chimney a little safer by sweeping it before all those roaring log fires in the chilly winter depths.

**Jo Read** is another firewood supplier, again, free delivery and stacking.

**Powered Spaces** Shorter days, darker earlier; get everything electrical in-and-outdoor tiptop. Also providing vehicle charging, wifi/networking installation.

**Green Man** The domestic job beyond most of us - proper carpet, floor and upholstery cleaning, and to boot, using eco-friendly products. Great website too!

**Lucy Tom Interiors, gifts & café** Need an hour or so just to be somewhere lovely? Coffee, cake and lookaround in the best smelling (all the candles!), best looking gift shop for miles around, and solve get some early present buying too.

**Creative Hairdressing** Lockdown taught us how much an unkempt birdsnest of a hairdo makes you feel just not quite *right*. Keep your equilibrium and feel-good by regular visits to Tetbury's longest running business.

And finally, our very own **Kings Arms** Thank goodness for a darned fine local, with the hosts with the most - Mark and Paula. They need our support, and by gum, they deserve it..

*Carole, ed.*



## SEE PAGE 31 FOR DETAILS OF A NEW COVID TESTING CENTRE AT FRENCHAY

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### DIDMARTON SPEED WATCH UPDATE

They're back; yes, our speed camera prevention signs are here again. Gloucestershire County Council have returned our signs after removing them, it would seem, without any real justification a few months ago. The bracket fixings were missing, presumably damaged when they were ripped down, but our local parish council have kindly purchased more brackets at a cost of over £40. In addition to this, our group has conducted 18 sessions since August catching a total of 201 speeding motorists. This is on top of a couple of recent visits from the police camera van who has also caught and fined several dozens of drivers.



Sarah Nightingale is running a competition for Didmorton children to design speed prevention signs. The closing date is 5<sup>th</sup> December. Interested? Contact Sarah on 07816 914434, and your child's artwork could be on display for all to see – and slow the speeding traffic, too!

*Sean White*



Here are the 100 draws for August, September and October. We are now up to date and will continue with one draw a month hereon. *Sue Cook & Sue Hammond*

#### August 2020

1 <sup>st</sup> £20 Marjory Buckley	2 <sup>nd</sup> £15 Malcolm & Jenny Jordan
3 <sup>rd</sup> £10 Sean White	4 <sup>th</sup> £10 Bill Bowers-Broadbent

#### September 2020

1 <sup>st</sup> £20 Pam Smith	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize £15 Andy Nightingale
3 <sup>rd</sup> £10 Archie Body	4 <sup>th</sup> £10 Nic Holden

#### October 2020

1 <sup>st</sup> £20 Peter Littlejohn	2 <sup>nd</sup> £15 Shelagh Bailey
3 <sup>rd</sup> £10 June Carver	4 <sup>th</sup> £10 Laura White

LATEST NEWS FROM  
THE CHAIRMAN OF DIDMARTON'S VILLAGE HALL &  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Further to our donations appeal last month I am able to confirm we have received a number of contributions and a huge thank you goes out to all of you for these. The monies will go some way towards replenishing income lost from hall bookings but please, please, if you were thinking about giving and have not done do get in touch, 01454 238006, edsamelia@icloud.com The message remains the same. We are substantially down on income but our fixed expenditures remain high.

Moving forward I can report the village hall is open for bookings (01454 238450) Hirers will need to be Covid compliant and in reality, we have a very small number of groups who feel confident enough to book. I can confirm that our experience is similar to a number of village halls in the county.

Our new website is almost ready and we will post a comms on the Didmarton WhatsApp and Facebook when it is all systems go.

Ed Hardy

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### WENDY OXFORD, 1942-2020

It is with deep sadness we let you know about the passing of Wendy on 17<sup>th</sup> October. After a fall a few days earlier, she was confined to bed at her home at Minchinhampton but her passing was unexpected and a shock to us all.

Although she lived at Willesley, she was very much involved with activities in Didmarton, spearheading the move by the Ladies Darts team to the Kings Arms from the Holford Inn. She was then Captain for over forty years only giving up when a shoulder injury forced her to stop playing, though she still came to every game and supported the team even when circumstances necessitated her moving to live at Minchinhampton near her daughter.

It was only last year when she stopped driving at night that she could no longer take part although she still managed the daytime journey to Didmarton to take part in MAD Club of which she was one of the founder members. Her sausage rolls were legendary!

All her friends in the MAD Club and the Ladies Darts league will miss her deeply. We have all lost a lovely lady and I have lost one of my oldest friends. I am just grateful that she was home amongst family at the end and not alone in a hospital bed as unfortunately seems to be the fate of so many of our elderly people in these difficult times.

Jean Glew

## DIDMARTON'S CRICKET CLUB BOULES DAY 2020

The second competition took place on a fine sunny Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 5th at the King's Arms. Strict Covid-19 rules were in place to keep all safe. The day before we set out the pitch in the car park, moving vehicles for the timber pitch frame, and 3 tonnes of grit sand were shovelled and spread evenly. Barriers positioned too, for distancing rules to.

On the day, teams started the final preparation just a little late and didn't really get playing until 10.30am as the setting out of signs, one way systems and advice on Covid-19 rules took longer than anticipated. The playing area and judges were off limits to all except players and umpires so that a maximum of 28 people were within an area of some 200m squared or more, keeping us within Government guidelines. In all other areas the King's Arms Covid-19 precautions were in place. Being four teams short of the anticipated 24, the planned timings went haywire and some changes had to be made to the order of play. After a little confusion the umpires got their heads around it, with all teams having to play back to back matches at some stage. Lots of noise and laughter from some teams, especially the Songbirds and Cabin Boys, but all teams made a serious effort to win.

The league matches finished early, so the umpires decided to fit in a quarter final, unlike last year. The top two in each league entered a knockout stage. They were: Total Boules Up, Win or Booze, Gentlemen, Players, After 7 Club, Brossac, Batleggs and Cracked Backn Creaky Knees. This led to semis, and then the nailbiting final between Batleggs and The After 7 Club. Batleggs were 10 - 7 up before the last end, but the After 7s pulled off a dramatic finish with 4 scoring Boules taking them to the winning 11 points.

The burger bar was busy all morning, and with the afternoon Tea and Cake stall (plus raffle tickets) an impressive sum of £1,000 was raised. The Cricket Club Committee voted to donate £100 to the DVHCC for their fund raising appeal.

A big thank you to every one of the helper team - too many to name but you know who you are. Photographs speak for themselves with a collection at the Kings Arms. Do add your own but we cannot guarantee their return! (more p. 20)

There can be little doubt that the resurrection of the Cricket Club in the last 2 or 3 years is a valuable village asset in more ways than just something that a few do on a Sunday a dozen or so times a year. It builds community spirit, enables long-standing residents and newcomers to get together, and provides a platform for younger members to improve in the sport and their social skills. It provides an additional support group for all other events held by the DVHCC in its efforts to



continue fundraising for the benefit of the entire community. We would like more youngsters to join - boys *and* girls; the future of ladies cricket is looking better every year. Please encourage the young (and young at heart) to join the winter nets we shall be holding from January next year. *Alan Townsend*

### DIDMARTON CRICKET CLUB – end of the season

Following two months of cricket, the season comes to its inevitable close! With nights drawing in and rain falling more frequently, cricket once again takes a back seat for the next 6 months. This year's playing record stands at 7 played, 2 won 2, 5 lost. 2 matches were called off either due to the weather or the opposition being unable to raise a team. Of note, excepting the matches with Broughton Gifford and Grittleton, all other losses could and frankly should have been wins having come down to the very last over on two occasions, and the wicket playing an unnecessary and undue role in the match versus Siddington.



Playing stats will follow in December, but stand out moments from the season are aplenty. A talented group of younger players; Guy, Dan, Dom, Archie and Harry (T) lead the way. I, in particular, hope all will stay involved in the coming years to drive the club's older fraternity forward. Please note that Harry (R) at age 19 is now considered a veteran!

The increased number of members has shaken things up in a hugely positive way, added a breath of fresh air and some necessary depth to the squad; players such as Charlie, Paul, Tony, Andy B, Will and Issie stand out from this group.

The emergence of a serious bowling line up, which I hope one day we'll be able to put onto the field en masse, will be a massive threat to opposition with the likes of Charlie, Guy, Todd, Ed, Andy (definitely Andy B not Andy N!), Ali, Harry, Dan, Chris all coming to the fore this season. The major area for improvement lies in the batting with only Chris and Harry scoring half centuries in competitive matches this season. There's more work to be done in winter nets, though slightly quicker wickets and outfielders may have played a part in this.

Finally, I would like to thank not just players, but as importantly, the Committee, who have worked tirelessly on and off the field to enable cricket to happen in these uncertain times. Whether working on the pitch, organising and delivering fundraising activities, or simply making the matches happen: all have contributed much time and effort in this underplayed space and should rightly be applauded. Many thanks all, and AGM next - at some point. United We Conquer!

*Rich Williams*

## VICAR'S LETTER

November 2020



Dear Parishioners,

As we move towards winter it is quite a thought to think that this month is the equivalent to the month of May in relation to the Solstice. The lowest point of the sun in the sky is 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> December and in the summer, the highest is around the same time in June. And yet we know those dates are just the beginning of the cold and hot periods in our climate. So whilst the cold is just getting going, the sun is beginning its long climb back up the sky. This thought always fills me with a sense of optimism in the middle of January! Of course keeping a few hens makes one very aware of the amount of light in the day, as egg production goes up in line with the light.

Not only the amount of light, but the story of the birth and key events of the life of our Lord also gets going. Christmas, then Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January), Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, then lent Holy Week and Easter. By Easter time, we see daffodils everywhere and spring is here. Marking time is part of the joy of the Christian year, and remembering that secular time is transient and passing, whilst eternal time is forever here and now. The presence of the Lord is now and for all time. God is omnipresent, meaning He is present at all times, in all places. May we enter this winter knowing that spring is on its way, and that we are eternally in God's 'now'. Let us rejoice and be glad in the seasons.

With my best wishes

Richard (Rev Richard Thomson) Contact details: Priest in charge, Withymoor Vicarage, Old Down Road, Badminton GL9 1EU 01454 219236 mobile: 077177 91858 [www.badmintonchurch.org.uk](http://www.badmintonchurch.org.uk) email: [revrichardthomson@gmail.com](mailto:revrichardthomson@gmail.com)

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the *DYDDI* digest, founded in October 1975 is published each month  
on behalf of Didmarton Village Hall and Community Committee.

The editor reserves the right to refuse and editorial or advertising content.  
Contact Carole, the editor on 01454 238576, email [dyddi@btinternet.com](mailto:dyddi@btinternet.com) or  
Deliver any editorial/copy to 7 Chapel Walk, Didmarton.

Please note, copy/advertising deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

### A LITTLE BIT SMALLER

Whilst straitened times continue, and we try and limit village funds expenditure ,  
the Dyddi may at times be just a few pages smaller, but will try it's very best to  
be as jam-packed as always.

# CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

DON'T FORGET - FACE COVERINGS AT ALL SERVICES

Services conducted by Rev. Richard Thomson unless otherwise stated

- 1<sup>st</sup> LASBOROUGH 9.30am Matins HAWKESBURY 9.30am CWHC  
DIDMARTON 11.15am Remembrance Matins  
ACTON TURVILLE 3pm Evensong
- 8<sup>th</sup> LASBOROUGH 9.30am HCBCP LEIGHTERTON 9.30am CWHC  
SOPWORTH 9.30am Act of Remembrance  
GREAT BADMINTON 10.50am Remembrance Service
- 15<sup>th</sup> DIDMARTON 9.30am BCPHC HAWKESBURY 9.30am Morning prayer  
ACTON TURVILLE 3pm Evensong
- 22<sup>nd</sup> LASBOROUGH 9.30am CWHC LITTLE BADMINTON 11.15am Matins HC  
HAWKESBURY 5pm Evensong
- 29<sup>th</sup> LASBOROUGH 9.30am BCPHC DIDMARTON 11.15am Matins  
HAWKESBURY 5pm Advent Service

### Wednesday Services at Hawkesbury church

\*Monday\* 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Festival 6pm 4<sup>th</sup> HC 9.30am

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Matins 9.30am and Festival of Remembrance, Lay led 7pm

18<sup>th</sup> Matins 9.30am 25<sup>th</sup> Matins 9.30am

2<sup>nd</sup> December HC 9.30am

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THE RURAL RULES - Mr Rural has received the postal package from his mother (October Dyddi), which is currently assuaging his limp wristed & regular grievances. However, Reginald, is aware of editorial reductions (see previous page) in these fiscally tricky times, and is able to restrict his offerings for the time being. (pnew, ed.) However, we hope to be at liberty to reveal the contents of his postal package next month. ed.

## LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Since coming back to school after the lockdown, our children have loved coming in to see each other and the teaching team here at Leighterton. They tell us that it is really exciting to be back in class, and love seeing their friends every day. They also state they are going to make the most of every single day now as they appreciate their opportunities more now that they realise things can be very different.

The teaching team have planned many activities involving the children working together as a team and this has been a real focus throughout the school. Many new children have joined us in all classes and after being away for so long, it is important to get to know each other again and make even more new friends.



Our youngest children (Apsemore class) worked together to build a shelter using sticks. They had to make it strong and large enough for them all to fit in. Carrying branches safely, putting them onto a lintel, then tying them using elastic bands or string, they had to ensure they did not move and were stable. They all helped to cover the structure with tarpaulins so they would not get wet if it rained. They loved sitting inside it, and then listened to a story in there.

The children in Bowldown class (KS1) wanted to move people around our school field in a 'taxi'. They made this with a tarpaulin and rope and attached the rope so they could pull the tarpaulin along. When there was someone in the 'taxi' sitting on the tarpaulin, it was tricky for one person to pull it along but when a team of people all worked together and everyone contributed at the same time, the 'taxi' moved well. They really enjoyed taking turns to move each other around.



Like to find out more or look around Leighterton Primary School? You are very welcome to contact us on 01666 890273 and we will be delighted to show you round. Further information on - [www.leighterton.com](http://www.leighterton.com)

*Meryl Hatfield*

## NATUREHOOD WATCH This month – crabs, hips & fallen trees

In last month's column, I pondered the what-ares of crab apples, and said I'd ask big brother: he of 50 years green fingered experience, he who uses Latin, (why say daffodil when Amaryllidoideae narcissae will suffice?), he who just knows how it grows. "Crab apples? An apple which grows sideways, isn't it?" Haha-not. Storm Alex brought down a few trees and big branches around the village last month. It got me thinking: why do some trees bend, and others break? Along with obviouses like insect infestation, malnutrition, relentlessly soggy soil, or a compromised root system (not being able to spread deep and wide enough for stability), I found this out (apologies if you knew): a tree can prune itself! If it's not getting enough nourishment, it will shed branches to make itself smaller, or form a cavity inside the trunk. Now *there's* a good reason to hug a tree!

I also heard a while ago, and can't find confirmation of it, that an older tree can make itself hollow to permit it to sway and move with the wind rather than snap and crack. True? False?

Hips, haws or heps: which do you prefer? We're talking dog rose hips, by the way, scarlet jewels with itching powder seeds inside. We'd smash them and then shove this mess down the back of each other's Ladybird school jumpers back in the 1970s.



They are the rose's 'accessory fruit' a fruit in which the flesh is derived not from the flower ovary (as per usual, I think we assume) but from some outer tissue. Accessory fruits include apples, pears, strawberries, so they're not alien monsters to be a'feared, even if they can also be termed fake, spurious or pseudo fruit (though not sure I'd like to eat a Spurious Salad).

Anyway, rose hips are incredibly high in vitamin C, and along with old recipes for syrups and jellies, there are modern things like macerating them in vodka (a la sloe gin), and using them in herbal tea – red zinger is a common trade description. And not that I'd like to recommend it, but you can, apparently, eat them – minding the hairy seeds with their notorious itchy qualities.

How we value the richness and beauty of the woodlands and walks right on our doorstep. Over the page is a bit of history and some incredible photos of something you too can go-see and wonder at when out for a wonderful wander, without having to drive miles/pay an entrance fee/join a queue. I am hoping to continue discovering more about the various follies, features, buildings - no matter how tumbledown! - around our villages (if you missed Steve's Diddle piece last month, with added snakes, do get in touch). Meantime, pto... *ed.*



## THE RAGGED CASTLE

You could drive past this folly a thousand times and be unaware of it just a scant few metres away. No matter, here are a few photos, a little history, and Steve Walker's brilliant and life threatening childhood memories of the Ragged Castle.

Down in Hinnegar woods, in a patch known as the Gorses a mile south west of Didmarton is the folly known as Ragged Castle. Built circa 1750, it sits atop a little mound overlooking the long straight road to Little Badminton. If you're not sure where this is, this is how the landscape is today – see above left. However, go back a hundred years or so and it's rather easier to get your bearings... I *think* the trees that are the formal, topiarised firs are actually still there, having gone feral and bushy now, but you really can get a sense of the symmetry and gentle grandiosity there. Just east (to the right) of Ragged is a deep pit, was this the area quarried for Ragged's stone?



In the book *Didmarton: A Ramble Through History* (one of the authors, a certain S. Walker – read on), there is a little mention:

'The now derelict 'castle' stands shrouded by woodland approx. ½ west of Hinnegar and Stratford Lodge. There are two versions of how it came to be built: The Didmarton version: a bet was struck between the then (4<sup>th</sup>) Duke of Beaufort and the Earl of Worcester (his son) that the Duke could not build a castle with the stone that was left over from Worcester Lodge. His Grace won the bet by building the small mock castle

The Badminton version: the castle was built to use up left over stone (or rubble) from a defunct quarry.

Though the roof has long since fallen away, the walls still remain, but these too are crumbling. The castle was lived in until the 1960's (its last resident was given to firing airguns at youngsters struggling to climb the hill opposite. Fortunately, she was a pretty rotten shot!)

Historic England describe it such: 'Ragged Castle or Keeper's Lodge, Badminton Park. Folly Castle. Set on a motte at end of a main drive from Badminton House, c1750 by Thomas Wright of Durham. Largely hidden by trees. Shell of structure is in poor condition. Interior has been lost'. ('motte' – raised area of ground)

Derelict Places website has some clear and pretty up to date photos if you'd like a look inside and out. It also states 'at the end of a grand drive, with a motte and some out-buildings, it was used as an estate house. Although it had no running water, gas or electricity this tiny dwelling was at one time home to the Hort family, mother & father *and* 5 children! The main living area was on two floors, but is only 14 by 12 feet! It was last inhabited by Miss Hester Pert in 1958.'



This ties in chronologically with Steve's article, and also pads out a photo piece I found after a good googling: see page 29 for this. I would be thrilled to bits for any more memories, photos, information on the castle – please get in touch,

01454 238576, dyddi@btinternet.com Meantime, take it away Steve (over the page), and thank you very much.





## RAGGED CASTLE – The Final Tenant

For any who don't know, Worcester Lodge was built in 1746 by Charles, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort, designed by renowned architect William Kent to stand as a gatehouse to The Estate. Local legend has it that Charles and his son (later 5<sup>th</sup> Duke) Henry, struck a bet that the latter could not build a castle with the remnant stone from the Lodge. Clever Henry built the tiny Ragged Castle, thereby winning the bet. My earliest recollection of Ragged is of a well kept, stunningly beautiful little house in the trees.

The last person to occupy Ragged was a Miss Pirt who was, shall we say, rather eccentric. My mother, never one to mince her words, referred to her as The Crazy Lady. Following the death of her father she lived alone in this tiny isolated property. No electricity, no running water, no indoor plumbing.

Miss Pirt kept herself very much to herself. Very occasionally she would walk up to Didmarton carrying her wicker shopping basket. Her dress sense would nowadays be described as eclectic! She would be avoided by most people as she had a habit of, without warning or obvious reason, suddenly ranting and raving at the nearest object, human or otherwise.

My first encounter was age nine, chasing a football from St Arilds onto the main road. I picked the ball up and turned to hoof it as Miss Pirt walked in front of me. She launched into a meltdown a few yards away. I'm sure she didn't swear but, in modern terms, Tourette's would spring to mind. To this day I have no idea if I was the target or trigger. Seven years on, I was cycling to Badminton Youth Club via Ragged. As I climbed the hill opposite I heard the unmistakable sound of an air rifle being fired followed by the whoosh of a projectile passing me. Rumour had it Miss Pirt was prone to taking pot-shots. However, I never heard of her hitting anyone and she failed to bag me despite half a dozen attempts. She became increasingly detached and was rumoured to be taken away periodically for 'treatment'. One day she was taken away and never returned.

Ragged gradually succumbed to the forest. The roof caved in, the building deteriorated rapidly, outbuildings disappeared and – the final insult – the stunning wrought iron spiral staircase was stolen.

It's now a Grade 2\* listed building under the watchful eye of Historic England. By the way, Worcester Lodge stone was dressed and built by the very finest craftsmen. A very few of those stones were always visible in the walls of Ragged. The remainder of the stonework is of much lesser quality. The difference is quite striking. Take a look, perhaps?

*Steve Walker*



# SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

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

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

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

EASY

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

Answers to  
October's quizzes

...AND NOT SO EASY!

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

## WURZIT TO?

Looking not dissimilar to an old school satchel with a black keyhole lock, this wurzit is not something you'd be able to put your homework in. You *will* have seen it, I'm sure, and yet wur iz it to? Last month's square whatever was the green metal BT (or some techno provider) box opposite the bus stop shelter in The Street.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

This month's birthday illustrator is Oliver Hewitt, who has created a lovely autumn artwork of leaves, not forgetting one perfect acorn. Many happy returns of the day, Oliver, and everyone else celebrating this month.



## AN ANAGRAM A-Z – sportsmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century\*

26 anagrams, one per letter of the alphabet. Not in alphabetical order, and by Christian names. There is no Q or Y answer, so 2 other letters have 2 entries.

\*NOTE – 4 answers are from the 20<sup>th</sup> century

LONE SIMILES (6,5)  
I TORE AFTER KIND (7,7)  
LO SKINT NECK (4,7)  
ADAPT A YEM (4,5)  
BAN LOO AXIS (4,6)  
O FRESH MICRO (5,6)  
SO GROW DIET (5,5)  
SILVER LUNA ONION (6,1,8)  
SOLD NO EMPATHY (5,8)  
HARK NEARY (5,4)  
WARY YE NOONE (5,6)  
BONUS TAIL (5,4)  
SINGLY DIG A BREW (7,7)  
FORTH RED RUGGER (4,10)  
JILL IS PRIM (1,1,1,8)  
FROM A HA (2,5)  
SHRED THE PENNY (7,6)  
AMINO BATH (3,6)  
I GULPED I CHOKE (5, 8)  
PERU CROCHET (5,6)  
BETONY BARY (4,6)  
COVAT MINK PENNY (7,7)  
NINE DEAN DIZZIE (8,6)  
AN ERR FELLOW (4,7)  
ASSOCIATE BEN (9,3)  
JET BOOST NUNN (6,6)

**Answers to October's quiz, sportswomen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:** Simone Biles, Venus Williams, Beth Tweddle, Johanna Konta, Nicola Adams, Anna Kournikova, Pippa Funnell, Fallon Sherrock, Helen Glover, Tracy Edwards, Laura Trott, Caster Semenya, Geva Mentor, Ingrid Klimke, Maria Sharapova, Dina Asker Smith, Katarina Johnson Thompson, Olga Korbut, Rebecca Adlington, Ellie Simmonds, Zara Tindall, Laura Muir, Serena Williams, Victoria Pendleton, Charlotte Dujardin

## ACTION SHOTS FROM THE SECOND BOULES COMPETITION IN SEPTEMBER



**SOPHIE'S SURGERY** - keeping your chickens happy in winter (or, indeed, any other time. And yes, that really is a Parisian lady taking a chicken for a walk.)

Most fruit and veg (except potato peelings, onions and avocado) are safe for the hens to eat, and also make great toys, especially ones that roll. However, do get creative: read on.

Hang a cabbage, lettuce, broccoli or cucumber from a rope so they can jump up and rip off pieces. You can also string harder fruit and veg onto a piece of string and hang that for them too.

They will chase peas (or cranberries, etc.) if rolled across a flat surface, and berries, green beans and sprouts tossed into their bedding will give them a happy dig and scratch around. You can also put peas into one of those Kong-type hollow balls (they have a small opening where just one treat at a time falls out when it's pushed around). You may need to show them what to do!

Overripe bananas? Pack into an old rotting log for them to extract.

A pumpkin, squash or watermelon, broken open is fun for them to dig through. It also naturally attracts worms. Once they are used to broken squash etc., you can place whole ones in the yard for them to peck at.

Daub crunchy peanut butter onto items around their run, which will give them something to peck at and also provides them with extra protein (try this with cooked rice, cornmeal or porridge oats, too). Peanut butter can be smeared onto a hanging fire cone (extra treat, dip the peanutty fir cone in birdseed).

Pour yogurt into a plastic bag and make a small hole in the bottom. Hang it up and the chickens will try to catch each drip that falls. You can do the same thing with a punctured milk carton.

Meaty bones or a sunflower head (all those seeds) are fun for them to clean up.

Non food entertainments:

Old cds hung up cast interesting patterns on the ground, as well as moving in the wind. Dig up a clod of earth, with any grass and roots attached, for pecking, scratching and scraping through. Put tree stumps, branches and other things to perch on in the run, to give them a different perspective of life. And finally, a good old dustbath: a shallow tray with a layer of sand.

Sophie, vale vets





## DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*Our Lord in heaven – holy is your name*

This year has been full of things to remember as we will again this month. No doubt we will not forget the impact this year has had on our lives and others worldwide. With so many concerns filling our minds these days, where does the Lord God feature in our daily thoughts? We need to think beyond our current events to the God who has remained faithful and rewards those who place him at the centre of our lives. To some, it seems, they have little regard for the God who has made them and loves them, even misusing his holy name in their language. Such use reveals the depravity of heart as they break God's commandment, 'Do not take the name of the Lord in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain' Ex. 20v7. The name of the Lord is precious as it reminds us of his eternal power and the wonder of his love to us. We must follow and respect his name out of gratitude for what he has done for us, especially in sending his son the Lord Jesus Christ to die for us. There is no more important event to remember than this, for 'there is no other name given among men, by which we can be saved', Acts 4 v 12.

To misuse the Lord's holy name is to cast aside the very means of our salvation, only he is holy, without sin, and able to redeem us from our sins. Thanks to God that in Jesus we can know forgiveness, as we repent and seek him in faith.

Remembering with thanksgiving those who have laid down their lives for us, let us not forget Jesus' sacrifice for our eternal freedom. Our god reigns in heaven over all, and grants forgiveness and peace of mind and soul when we turn our lives over in faith. Know the help and hope which so many are desperately in need of today. May you experience this for yourself.

*Royston Pick*

\*\*\*\*\*

## GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

With the cold weather arriving your compost will break down much more slowly than in the warmer months. To encourage it, give it a weekly stir. Push a garden fork in as far as you can and twist it in wider and wider circles until you create a funnel shape in the compost which will allow air in but doesn't involve heavy lifting. Try and do this in several spots, and using something like a weed puller will also do the trick.

This time of year most of us find fallen leaves a problem. If you have a large garden then a leaf blower may be worth investing in but consider all your capabilities before deciding. If you struggle to lift heavy things then a lightweight



model eg, a Hyundai Cordless or one with shoulder straps is probably best. If you want to reach every bit of your garden then cordless is a better choice but remember, any leaves that can be swept onto the borders and flower beds will also act as a beneficial mulch and impede weed growth.

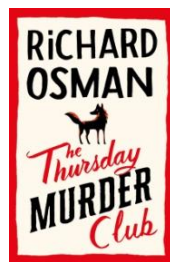
Make sure you clear slabs and paths though, as slippery leaves underfoot can be deadly as well as looking messy. Also bear in mind weather conditions, as blowers without a vacuum function struggle when the leaves are damp and build up inside the chute. Ones with a vacuum usually have a bag to collect the leaves and saves you having to carry piles of debris to the bin. It is much easier to just have to empty a bag.

Jean Glew

\*\*\*\*\*

### DIDMARTON BOOK REVIEW – *a surfeit of riches*

I've been struggling to find a book to really grab my attention lately but all of a sudden we seem to have a surfeit of riches, as they (was it Shakespeare?) say. All types and tastes are catered for this month. For historical buffs, Alison Weir's latest Six Tudor Queens, along with the final part of The Marquis House Trilogy by Alexandra Walsh for those who like a mystery with their history.



Although no longer with us M.C. Beaton's latest Agatha Raisin escapade is a usual joy and easy read for those who want something to go with their tea and biscuits. Agatha Christie fans probably know that the Christie estate gave Sophie Hannah the go ahead to write about Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and this is her fourth foray into the Belgian detective's world. The previous three books did not disappoint so I'm looking forward to starting this one, The Killings at Kingfisher Hill.

Curiosity got the better of me and I purchased the first novel by Richard Osman of Pointless TV fame. It has gone straight into the best seller lists so it'll be interesting to see if he's as talented a writer as he is at everything else. The book is about four friends in their seventies, who live in a retirement village and meet weekly to discuss unsolved murder cases. They suddenly find they have a real life murder right on their doorstep.

Unfortunately at the moment lymphoma is affecting my vision so I can't read as much and fast as I used to and I do appreciate the benefits of the audio versions of the Kindle books. For those of you who may have the same problems, it is only a couple of pounds more to add it to any book you download and once you get used to it, it is a real boon.

Jean Glew



# THE DYDDI PODCAST – People of Didmarton

This month – Mary-Jane Wilkinson

**PLACE OF BIRTH & EARLY YEARS** London. With my parents, older sister, Benny the lurcher and Harvey Nichols the cat, in Church Row, Hampstead. We had a little paved garden at the back where I was allowed to grow hollyhocks.

**EARLIEST & CHILDHOOD MEMORIES** watching the Queen's Coronation on a little rented TV in a darkened room. Walks on Hampstead Heath, and the local sweet shop in the High Street which was always known as the rubbish shop with its enormous gobstoppers and jewel coloured jelly sweeties, all sold in those days without any wrappers.

**EDUCATION & BEST TEACHER** Kindergarten in Hampstead, prep school in South Kensington, boarding schools in Kent and Wiltshire: my parents moved house twice before I was 14. Then, Florence and Paris for History of Art and languages.

**BEST TEACHER** Probably Miss Barker, a brilliant scientist who unfortunately refused to continue teaching us after someone tied her apron strings to the back of her chair.

**WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE?** Both boarding schools in beautiful old country houses with huge grounds; pity we didn't really appreciate it at the time, and I couldn't wait to leave and begin real life.

**WHICH MUSIC MARKED YOUR YOUTH? AND A SOCIAL OCCASION FROM THEN** Having grown up with classical music and musicals, the sounds of the 60s were electrifying. Party, party, party...

**FIRST JOB OR ACTIVITY** Shop assistant in Biba, part of the great 60's fashion explosion.

**PERSONAL EVENTS FROM YOUR TWENTIES**

A really fun job in a theatrical agency, then fashion PR, lots of friends, lots of clothes, lots of weddings and lots of laughter.

**WHAT WAS THE WORLD LIKE THEN?** So exciting and all in glorious technicolour

**WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO DIDMARTON?** Visiting the Arboretum before I was lucky enough to find a house here.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS?** An ancient village set beautifully within its landscape.

**WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE VILLAGE?** More and faster traffic unfortunately.

**DIDMARTON IN A SENTENCE** An exceptionally friendly and reassuring place to live.





**MEMORABLE PERSON/S** I'll never forget Whatsisname.

**FAVOURITE PLACE IN BRITAIN** Wherever is home.

**FAVOURITE PLACE TO TRAVEL** The Middle East, when you could. It was unbelievably beautiful and exotic, but now such a tragedy.

**ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** Your face is your fortune so use a good moisturiser.

**OF WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD?** Surviving.

**LAND, OR SEA, AND WHY?** The sea for swimming, but land because I miss my dog if he can't be with me.

\*\*\*\*\*

*CAROLE COOKS AGAIN – two quick wonders*

Golly, what a month in the Dyddi Heights kitchen, for two eureka moments.

Firstly, if you stick a whole, unripe, unpeeled avocado in the oven (roughly 180 degrees, 10-20 mins) it becomes ripe and importantly, not weird (I did try the microwave – don't). When 'riper', cut in half as usual, and there you go. No more waiting. And waiting.



Supermarket grissini – breadsticks – are mostly nasty aerated cardboard things. The more edible ones usually come at quite some price, and a fancy box. However, with very little preparation, you can make Nice Ones (without paying for said fancy box) These completely delicious sticks can be banged out in a couple of minutes, baked for 20 or so, and you are a culinary superstar.

**SESAME BREADSTICKS**

Mix (I used the KitchenAid with the whisk thingy) a generous tablespoon of tahini (stir it up in the jar first,) with about 140g self raising flour, sifted with a pinch of salt, and a tsp cream of tartar (I haven't tested them without this, it may be ok to omit). Whisk/beat together, adding just enough water to bring to a smooth dough. It comes together really easily and quickly, to a shiny doughball. Pinch off a walnut sized piece, place between your palms and roll your hands together letting the dough 'sausage' down. Turn it the other way up when one half is 'sausaged', and repeat. Plonk on baking parchment, 2cm apart. Bake at 160/170 degrees for 20 mins: turn them to cook their tummies halfway through. Don't be tempted to cook at a higher temperature, as they'll scorch.

You could add sesame seeds/poppy seeds when mixing together, or sprinkle over before baking, for extra munch. The tahini taste isn't too pronounced, but gives the most satisfying crunch texture. I did try making them based on olive oil and it's all just a bit too cakey and scone-gone-wrong.

*ed.*



**Going Green**  
Didmarton Eco Group

## A PLASTIC WORLD

350 million tonnes of plastic are produced annually, possibly more weight than humanity estimated at only 316 million tonnes! We are not entirely sure but think it may take plastic bags 20 years to decompose, plastic bottles up to 450, and fishing lines 600 years. The uncertainty is part of the problem.

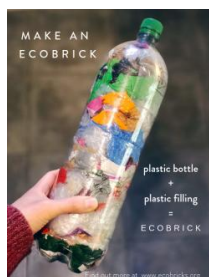
**The Plastic Sea** 8 million tonnes of it enter the ocean every year and make up to 75% of marine litter (it is estimated over 90% of seabirds have ingested plastic). The Island of Trash, aka the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a giant mix of plastics and microplastics: exposure to UV rays and the ocean environment cause plastic to break down into tiny fragments called microplastics, which have been found in fish consumed by humans.

**Plastic People** Chlorinated plastic releases toxic chemicals into the sea and soil, which can then seep into groundwater causing harm to those that drink it. Studies show plastic chemicals can act as endocrine disruptors, linked to health effects like cancer, birth defects, and developmental problems in children.

**Half of all plastics** are used just once and then disposed.

**What is Soft Plastic?** The thin stuff used in packaging fruit & veg, newly bought items and crisp packets: any you can scrunch up in your hand. One solution is let's try and do **something**. Our home recycling doesn't include soft plastic yet, so keep it separate and drop it at Tesco in Yate or Tetbury. The latter is smaller and sometimes overflowing so perhaps Yate is your best bet. I will investigate.

**Make Eco-Bricks!** Stuff and fill large plastic bottles with your used soft plastic to make a solid Eco Brick. There is a website to find who is collecting them as they can be used to build small buildings - see right. Details and your



local collection point are at [www.ecobricks.org](http://www.ecobricks.org)

**Long term** – Our Eco Group are working on arranging a soft plastic recycling bin at the back of the village hall.

**Short term** - Star Sarah! Until that bin is here, Sarah (Bertha's Field), has kindly offered to take our soft plastic to Yate's Tesco for a small fee. Contact her on 07816 914434

*Stina Richardson*

## THE WORLD, ME & STUFF – part 8, Portugal before the jungle

This November is a strange and interesting time for me and I need clarity of focus while preparing for my journey to Portugal to find somewhere to live as a base for my onward journey to the Americas and the jungle. I've decided on Portugal because a lot of alternative people are there, healing retreats abound and the land is lush and cooler in the north and tropical and hot in the south.

I plan to live in a house I build myself, using skills I've learnt in the last year, and to plant a garden using what I learned the year before. The house will be close to a vision I had in 2013. A round house, but not necessarily a roundhouse, built with natural materials only, well insulated so cool in summer, warm in winter, a central fire hearth, accommodation for four - including me, room to cook, and to make ceremony. The ethos is to live on the land, and the motto will be no drink, no drugs, just hugs and medicine. Energy medicine, plant medicine, all the healing modalities that I can find in my further journeys abroad.

The word 'abroad' used to mean anywhere further than your front doorstep. For me I don't yet have one so that's why I need this base, to grow into a healing retreat, and from there to grow roots in the community and become one. A place for healing, herbs, wild and cultivated foods and medicines and most importantly, energy healing. The love of the creators, gods, goddess, god, beings of light, of love, of truth. Whatever word you want to use is fine, source, peace, loving truth is my favourite.

It means that I choose decisions based on the loving truth of my instincts, the wisdom of my heart, the messages I receive from all around me in nature. I know some don't have a belief, or were raised a certain way and rebelled against it in either direction, whether to or away from church and dogma, to find their own way. Humanist, pagan, living old ways, new ways. For me, there is a truth that can be found and you will find out my route to that in next month's edition. I find not that nature is mute, but that we have stopped listening.

Lots of love and anyone wishing to contact me for can do so on 07874 883085 or email [jpwalker321@gmail.com](mailto:jpwalker321@gmail.com) for energy healing at a distance. I am a qualified and insured spiritual healer, a psychic and medium. I do readings too, looking at your energy from anywhere in the world and sending what you need and saying what you need to hear to find healing. My messages aren't from anyone in particular though, they are from source.

*Jon Walker*

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

the visual conundrums that Nature provides  
This month, horse chestnuts & kippers



Uncanny or what?

On the left (or is it the right?) are some conker tree leaves. On the right (or is it the left?) are a pair of



kippers. Impossible to tell. What we DO know is that you know your kipper is cooked when it's eyeballs look like conkers – the baby ones, admittedly. And those spines! Spot the difference NOT. So yup, kippers, conkers, same thing, same difference. Just don't play conkers with a fish.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE WALKING GROUP OF DIDMARTON

Dear walking pals, human and canine,

Our next group outing will be on Saturday 14th November when, weather permitting, we will walk towards Lower Stanbrook Farm, near Sherston and back through Sopworth. 10am start at the Kings Arms car park, with possibly coffee to follow. Accompanying pooches not essential. For details of walks around the village email [ladydaisygreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:ladydaisygreenwood@gmail.com). Woof woof!

Mad Martha (and Lady Daisy, now ret'd)

## TALKING OF WALKING...

If out and about near Badminton Park (the parkland horse trials area between Little and Great Badminton), do be aware it's now the breeding season (rut) for the red deer, running until the end of this month. Please don't try and be clever and get near them: the stags are bigger, heavier, faster than you, and you don't have spiked daggers growing on your head. During rutting, stags compete for the hinds attention in various displays of dominance: the bellowing, roaring noise they give is just part of this. They will fight other stags, incurring serious injury, even death. Best leave them be.





cont...

## RAGGED CASTLE

Extracts from a newspaper article dated 1958 'Lonely Little Woman in a Lamp-Lit Castle' (photo - "A hundred yards or so from the castle along (sic) a narrow winding path of lank vegetation is the well which supplies Mrs Pirt with her water')

'There are all kinds of castles.....but there's only one Ragged Castle –manned by a woman – and that, really isn't a castle at all!

...high up on the right-side bank we first

caught sight of an unevenly battlemented tower complete with slit windows. It could well be mistaken for something belonging to the days when knights were bold and barons were bad except that it was so ridiculously small'

'I soon discovered that it was inhabited by a most pleasant little woman, Miss Hester Pirt, aged 62, was at home. There was no gas, electricity, or piped water, no radio or television and no good sanitation. There are also no near neighbours for the Castle is sited on a comparatively lonely highway passing through vast forest plantations forming part of the Duke of Beaufort's estate. The Ragged Castle is a miniature affair perched high on a roadside bank and seems to be growing out of the woodland setting. The fronting tower, complete with its slit windows, is joined to the little square castle and the whole structure is of roughly dressed stone that came from a local quarry. In the main building there are two small windows – one up and one down.....entrance is by a very old wooden door heavily studded with hand-made iron nails. Here I found an almost obliterated date, and after some time, deciphered it as 1777'

'One of six children, of whole all survive, she has found great joy in attending to the needs of the aged and inform. In different parts of the country, where her father's work took him, she very soon found someone whose burden of illness could be lightened by a visit'

'No one is quite sure when the Ragged Castle was built: a traditional tale is told, with variations on the same theme, to the effect that it was the outcome of a wager by a former Duke. According to this source it came about when building the seven-mile wall around the Estate was discussed. The question arose as to whether the local quarry would yield sufficient stone for this purpose. Seemingly the Duke had no doubt and wagered that there would be enough not

only to complete the wall but to build a castle too! The size of the castle suggests that the wager was only just won.'



This article closes with 'if you know any more Ragged Castle stories please pass them on to L.T.B.' and yes, if you do have more Ragged info, either telephone 01454 238576 or send an email to [dyddi@btinternet.com](mailto:dyddi@btinternet.com)  
Thank you. *ed.*

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DIDMARTON DOGS QUIZ LAST MONTH Pepper, Kia (she's got 1 ear askew!), Teddy (Roosevelt's nickname), Brian, Alfie (character he's played), Martha (pop song Echo Beach by Martha & the Muffins), Lola (Kinks song, & Charlie & Lola children's tv programme), Sky, Duff, Cookie, Daisy (Daisy, Daisy song from years back), Stanley & Ollie (Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy), Bryn (Welsh opera singer & Welsh for hill), Archie (Queen's eighth great grandchild), Basil (pesto ingredients), Blue, Jules (Joules clothing & Jules Verne, Around the World in 80 Days author), Percy (Percy Pig sweets), Maisie (hidden within the letters of the clue 'ma-is-ie'), Dexter (dexterity), Bertie (Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria), Arlo (again, hidden in the clue letters – 'ar-lo'), Doris (Day), Hero (female dog, female of hero - heroine), Gertie (anagram – 'muddle' of I greet), Oakley (tree & Lee surname of Bruce & Brenda), Jade, Rufus (put the 'us' after 'ruf' – fur returned, ie read backwards), Tigga (Tigger, friend of Pooh), Rosie (cockney rhyming slang for tea, Rosie Lee), Phoebe (anagram – 'confused' of the letters 'hope be'), Ludo (letters CE – Chief Exec – removed from Cluedo letters), Dempsey (and Makepeace, tv drama from 1990s), Luna (lunar eclipse, 'unfinished', ie, one letter taken off), Buster (anagram – 'confused' – of letters of BT sure), Hector (to browbeat – hector – and Hector's House, children's tv programme from the 1970s), Kyra (hidden within the letters of the clue – 'ky ra'), Trevor (Trevor Macdonald newsreaders famous words for last (usually upbeat) feature of the 10 o'clock ITV news).

PAGE 3: Beagle, Woodstock.

## A NEW, LOCAL COVID TESTING CENTRE

This opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October at UWE - University of the West of England Frenchay campus, and provides more testing for local residents and students. The centre incorporates a drive-through facility (residents), and for students, a walk-through service. Managed by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) it reduces people with symptoms from having to travel further afield. It operates on a strictly appointment only basis: you must book through [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk), or call 119. **Anyone who turns up without an appointment will be turned away.**

Testing operates six days a week. Availability of appointments depends on the capacity of testing labs. If you have booked your test, you will be directed to enter the campus via the **North Entrance** off Filton Road (A4174). Directional signs will be in place from the M32 and Abbeywood roundabouts.

The test involves taking a swab of the nose and the back of the throat, which can be done by the person themselves (self-administered) or by someone else (assisted). Those being tested may experience some mild discomfort but it should not hurt.



*Jo Read* NPTC, RHS

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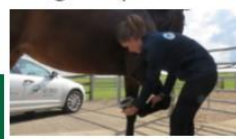


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