

the DYDDI digest

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

March 2021 – no. 546



DIDMARTON'S 100 CLUB
YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!
**Didmarton's local newspaper incorporating
Leighterton, Boxwell and Sopworth**



DIDMARTON RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DATES FOR MARCH

Thursdays 4th & 18th All rubbish & recycling
Thursdays 11th & 25th Food waste bin

IMPORTANT

PLEASE READ THE 100 CLUB FEATURE ON THE CENTRE PAGES

As the chief fundraiser for Didmarton, with little to nothing else happening, our village's 100 Club **IS VITAL** to our much-loved community. We may not be big, but we matter to us!

I ♥ MY MUM

MOTHERING SUNDAY

If ever there was a year for mothers to be celebrated and considered more than ever, these last 12 months have seen many, many of them at their multi-tasking best. Yes, we may have interpreted and reinvented the original Mothering Sunday (returning to one's place of baptism, your 'mother' church) and it's all become far too commercial, but maybe the 2021 Mothering Sunday this month – 14th - should be about giving every deserving, hardworking mum a bit more love, attention and TLC – if only for a day, though why keep it to just once a year?

CLOCKS CHANGE – HOORAY!

An hour forward on Sunday 28th. Phew. Got there.



Welcome!

...TO DIDMARTON

Hello! and a warm Didmarton'y welcome to Amanda and Will, who have just moved here into The Street. Let's hope you are able to soon see what goes on here – which is turning into a very long list of catch-ups...!

USEFUL 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
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

22nd – Summer Copeland Eccles

23rd – Katie Williams



BABYSITTING CONTACTS

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



Two well known figures with March birthdays pictorially celebrated this month. Alexander Bell (3rd, 1847) did many remarkable things beyond just (!) inventing the telephone. Have a read of his incredible life online. He considered the 'phone an intrusion on his real work as a scientist & engineer, & refused to have one in his study. Tell THAT to the children!!! The top photo depicts Bell placing the first New York to Chicago 'phone call. He is the author of 'when one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.'

Kenneth Grahame, (8th, 1859) creator of long-beloved *The Wind in the Willows*, worked for many years at The Bank of England, where, during a political incident, he was shot at three times – all bullets missed, thankfully.

Little quiz – answer p. 24 – what did A. Bell get for his 11th birthday from his father? And which character was shaped by Alistair, son of K. Grahame?

BOBBY NICOLLE

Sadly, Bobby Nicolle died peacefully at home on Wednesday 3rd February, a distinguished businessman and former Church Warden of St Lawrence's Church, Didmarton. He had many friends in the village. Beloved husband of Carolyn. Much loved father of Darcy, Fiona and Harry. Doting grandfather of Hugo, Esme, Cecily, Charlie and Milly. Devoted brother of Freddy, Rachel and the late Mary. There will be a private family funeral service.



ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE?

St. Lawrence's Church is currently closed for services due to the pandemic. Services have moved online and are available at www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice. Despite this very 21st century solution, our lovely old church still incurs running costs; it needs insuring, maintaining and for lighting and heating to be available when

needed. We also have a commitment to pay our Parish Share to the Diocese and our share of the cost of the online services.

Together these things total just over £700 per month. As you can imagine, with no congregation and no collection, meeting this is something of a challenge and so we are appealing to you all for your help.

Could you consider making a regular monthly donation, of whatever size, or might you be willing to make a one-off donation to church funds? If you would like further details of how to do either of these, please contact the PCC Treasurer, Susie Jones on oldmanorfarmhouse@btinternet.com.

Thank you.

Susie Jones

DON'T FORGET

If you missed the mention last month, we have a new village website. The site includes, amongst other things, information on village hall facilities, and you can see the Dyddi in full colour, too. We're also hoping to use the website as a way of keeping everyone up to date with village news, especially for those who aren't socially media'd.



ed.

WIN AN EGGCEPTIONALPRIZE IN THIS EGGCITING EASTER COMPETITION

Didmarton's Mark Wallington, who owns and runs the Eight Bells Picture Framing Gallery in Tetbury has come up with a terrific competition for all children here, with an even more terrific prize. Sadly, grown-ups can't apply....

Mark will supply the parents of those interested with an egg shaped piece of stiff cardboard, to be decorated however desired. Then, if parents send Mark a photo of the egg-work, he will choose the winner, before taking their work to be beautifully framed by the gallery, for them to keep.



Please get in touch with Mark on mark@8bg.co.uk to obtain your card. Closing date for entries – eggtries? – is the 25th of March.

COMPUTER + HOMESCHOOLING = CHAOS?



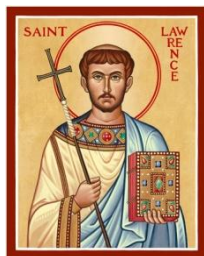
As a parent, are you frustrated and anxious about home schooling? And would you find it useful to have someone to share ideas with to support this task which has been handed to you?

I am a retired deputy head teacher now living in Didmarton. I taught French and German in secondary state schools and was Head of Student Careers Guidance & Counselling.

I can also support you with any technology issues you may have with iPad, iPhones, tablets and laptops etc. For example, is your device running slow? Do you have an anti virus program installed? All technology based solutions can be rectified remotely which respects the integrity of the current lockdown. Why not give me a try? Email me on tony@tonyleather.com

VILLAGE PANTOS & DIDMARTON ON THE TELLY DVDS

If you missed the notice in December's Dyddi, there are dvd copies of the drama group's productions of Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, and their revue to hire, and also a 2003 TV programme, Particular Parishes. The latter includes interviews with the late Sam Jarvis and Rev. Mulholland amongst others, and is well worth a watch. Some very interesting features, and filmed on the sunniest day ever, it seems. 01454 238576, dyddi@btinternet.com for a borrow. ed.



THE PAGEANT - § ARE YOU L SHAPED?

Does anyone remember Didmarton's pageant as celebration for St. Lawrence? It was held, I believe, late 1990s. I've recently had my paws on an article written about Didmarton, detailing the history of St. Lawrence, his influence on our village and the well opposite the church, and loads of other stuff. It's several pages long, but here's a wee edited excerpt

about our very own saint, and as usual, if you've anything to add about pageants, saints and L shaped living (?!), dyddi@btinternet.com. Thank you!

'Legend has it that St. Lawrence, travelling along what was probably even then a main road 1,300 - 1,400 years ago, came upon the well at Didmarton and blessed it, promising that it would never run dry. One imagines him, riding through what was probably a forest, coming upon the little well and refreshing himself after a tiring journey on his way to convert more Britons to Christianity.

One of the first Christians to set foot on our shores, he came with St. Augustine and 40 monks, landing on the Isle of Thanet in 597. Seven years later he succeeded his leader as Archbishop of Canterbury, the second man to hold the office. He was Archbishop for 15 years altogether.

The well at Didmarton – indeed, it has never run dry, and easily within living memory formed the village's principal water supply – is situated just opposite the original Parish Church, itself dedicated to St. Lawrence. It is near the source of the Avon. The association with the Saint is not confined to the church and the well either: many of the older buildings in the village were built, like St. Lawrence's Church, in the shape of the letter "L", apparently in honour of the village's patron.' Wilts and Gloucs Standard, 1956.

FOX § HOUNDS WEATHER VANES



Do you have, or know the whereabouts of, wooden weather vanes, styled as a fox and hounds? If so, please please could you get in touch? The recent Dyddi features on Ragged Castle have, brilliantly, given some family history to relatives of the Pirts, who were the last residents of the now derelict folly (thanks to all who have helped on this.) It seems that Arthur (father of well-known Hester) made wooden weather vanes, which were displayed at the front of Ragged Castle on the sloping lawn, to sell. There could well be one – some? – hidden away, or even better, still blowing in the wind on a roof. Do call if you know of any - 01454 238576 or email dyddi@btinternet.com Thank you very much.

ed.

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

At the first DVHCC meeting of the year it was agreed to remind users of the village hall playing area and field that they should comply with their personal Covid responsibilities when using such facilities, by putting up notices at the hall, village noticeboard and Facebook page. We all, of course, hope (at least some of) the restrictions will be released or modified as more of us get vaccinated but it is likely that many such restrictions will continue for the time being. Your continued co operation in these difficult times is appreciated.

Ed Hardy

DIDMARTON SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

As Covid restrictions continue, we are yet to conduct a session in this year, although the police camera van supports us when it can. Our children's competition, which included many village families designing speed prevention signs, recently went to the Parish Council for their consideration in funding. The council had some initial concerns but have now all supported this so we will update you on this in the April Dyddi. The safety of our residents and children are in the forefront of my speed watch group and we will continue to fight our cause.

Sean White



1970's FOOTIE MATCH AGAINST BADMINTON

Readers have been in touch with thoughts on who's who: Back row, L-R: David Buoy or Kenny Punter, Sarah Bugg, Jenny Hunt, Ros Bourne, Jean Riley. Front row, L-R: Charley Crewe,

John Talbot, Graham Webb, Pauline Scrivens, Kenny Crewe, Joanne Shepherd. I'm not able to confirm all of these identifications (tho' Ros Bourne is correct), but if you can help, do get in touch. Thank you. dyddi@btinternet.com ed.

BANANA UPDATE: Following February's piece on the mystery of the (mostly daily) dropped banana skin along Hollybush /Badminton Lane, and who is bananaman/woman, our local correspondent reports there is a slight cessation in number. However, another point: what happens to the skin? Is there a secret skin stealer? A nightly 'nana nabber? Watch this space.

ed.

LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Since we returned after Christmas we were only back for a day before lockdown restarted. It is really pretty around our school because there are daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses flowering. The trees have buds on them and we enjoy watching them grow.

It was fun coming back for the new term and although things are very different we soon got used to it. We work in bubbles, and lots of children are working at home. We miss our friends in different bubbles as we are staying separate so we stay safe. We do see our class every day whether they are at home or in school because we work online with Miss Bence, our teacher.

We did an experiment to see how dirty our hands were. We pressed our hands into a fresh slice of bread and put it into a plastic bag which we sealed. During the next two weeks, the bread started to go mouldy and had bacteria on them. We had a control piece so we knew the experiment was fair. Some children had lots of mould on their bread so their hands must have been dirty. In another investigation we put different food colour dyes into pot holders and water into another, as a control. We placed a pot of mini daffodils into each holder to see what would happen. We thought the flowers might change colour but they did not. The daffodils in the food colouring died and the control pot grew well.

When it snowed we made a snowman. Other bubbles made snowmen too but they were smaller than ours. We had to take care outside as it was very slippery. Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about springtime here:

Small seeds opening up in the flower bed,
Purple crocuses rising up from their winter nest,
Rainy skies moving on,
In the concrete playground, children play,
No more slippery snow for the children,
Grass swaying in the playing fields,
Time for cold winter air to move on,
Imagine a field full of happy children,
Minding their own business, the flowers gently grow,
Eating soft grass, the lambs in the fields around us, slowly get bigger.
By Libby and Evie

If you would like to find out more or look around Leighterton Primary School, you are very welcome to contact the school office on 01666 890273 and we will be delighted to show you round. For further information see our website, www.leighterton.com

Meryl Hatfield



YES, YOU DO KNOW
WHERE THIS IS!

This is Kenegar Lodge – so the postcard says. It has a Didmarton address, and many of you will have walked, driven, ran, cycled, ridden, past the corner setting often. As tempting as it is to say ‘wait until

April Dyddi’, that would be a little cruel. Turn to page 22 for more.

NATUREHOOD WATCH This month – brakes, clumps, & yardleys

Trees, all together, not a big enough collection to be a forest or even a wood; just what is the collective for a small group of trees? Nearby, we’ve examples of brakes (Sopworth, Luckley), various clumps (Duchess’s near Hinnegar, Egg near Badminton), Allen grove at Luckington. But what IS the difference? Here is the Naturehood Watch guide to Some Trees Standing Next To Each Other:



Boscage – a mass of trees or shrubs

Bosk – a small wooded area

Brake – overgrown area, dense undergrowth, a thicket

Brush – undergrowth & small trees

Clump – thick grouping of trees/bushes

Coppice/copse – thicket or grove of small trees/ shrubs, maintained by pruning

Covert – thicket in which game can hide

Grove – small wood/group of trees

Holt – wood or wooded hill

Hurst – wood or wooded rise

Spinney – small area of trees/bushes, esp for raising game birds

Stand - group of growing plants of a specified kind, especially trees.

Thicket – dense group of bushes or trees

Weald – heavily wooded area, and wild/uncultivated upland region

Woodlot – piece of woodland capable of production of forest products.

Yes, yes, yes, that’s all very well, but it begs the question, what is Didmarton’s little woody area, The Diddle? It just isn’t any of the above, is it? It’s just a diddle, The Diddle. Answers on a postcard.

Meantime, did you know that another name for a wood clearing or glade is a yardley? And a flower-filled clearing/glade/yardley is a spinkie-den. And...if you’ve ever sat lazily on a riverbank, in Gloucestershire parlance, you have partaken of bang-a-bonk. Honest.

ed.

VICAR'S LETTER

March 2021



Dear Parishioners,

We are now in the period of Lent. For those who have been isolating or shielding, what I am about to say may make no sense whatsoever.

Lent was inaugurated by our Lord going into the wilderness. The wilderness is a metaphor in the Bible for being with God. It is where God starts things, where Abraham is called and Hagar receives her angelic visitation, where Jesus begins his public ministry, where the people of Israel wander before arriving in Canaan.

It is a place of wildness and desolation, of emptiness and simplicity, of devils and physicality, of heat in the day and coldness at night. A place of temptations and rebellion. A place where you wander around, without any particular aim in mind, save that of speaking with God. It is not a place to go to seek comfort or company, entertainment or feasts. It is a wilderness, a desert and is where Jesus goes to prepare for his ministry, where He is tested to his core. To discover if his ministry will be about his worldly glory, or if it will be truly about God's call.

Lockdown has forced many into an uncomfortable solitude, gone the distractions of shopping, visiting friends and driving. Yet, lockdown has also been a busy time for some, staring into their screens and seeing many more people than usual.

And so Lent offers the opportunity to go into the wilderness. Perhaps this means turning off our computers, 'phones, TVs, holding fewer meetings, talking less, spending more time with God. I read the other day, foolish are those who forget they will die. So, make the most of the moment! Poetry, art, solitude, prayer – these are some of the ways to be in the wilderness.

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 email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

MARCH 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES - ALL ON YOUTUBE, 10AM

www.youtube.com/c/badmintonbenefice

7th, 3rd Sunday of Lent

from Didmarton church

14th, Lent 4th, Mothering Sunday

from Leighterton church

21st, 5th Sunday of Lent

from Acton Turville church

28th, Palm Sunday

from Lasborough church

Wednesday Services on zoom at 9.30am BCP Matins - Badminton Benefice

Meditation groups - please contact Rev. Thomson

GARDEN TIPS FOR MARCH

Now is a good time to rethink your borders. Shrubs are coming back into favour as they fill spaces without too much expense, offer year-round structure and interest, and something to show even when they lose their leaves. All spring shrubs need pruning as soon as they have flowered – take out about one in five of the oldest stems. Remove dead, diseased or crossing branches which will leave more space for perennials, bulbs and bedding plants. Decide on a colour scheme before plant buying – either just one colour or contrasting colours that are calm and romantic.



Grow-your-own season hasn't really started yet but you can still get those potato tubers chattering on your window sill (an eggbox tray is useful) until they begin to sprout. This is also a good time to order and plan what veg you are going to grow this year and make sure your ground is ready with a few good inches of manure or compost.

Garden Club events have been closed for a year now, but the online gardener has become available which means you can enjoy talks from expert gardeners countrywide without having to be a member of any club by going on www.floriferous-garden.com for lists of talks.

If you do run a club and are looking for speakers who are happy to do a talk online, you can go on the speakers list of the Garden Media Guild website, also on the RHS website for more information.

Jean Glew



A R T S C E N T R E

Go out while still in! The Goods Shed Wednesday night sessions on are available to watch on Facebook. Each week, a performer - classical, jazz, folk, drama – introduces their music before some of their video material is shown. So far, A Whole Lotta LED, pianist Clare Hammond, the Spitfire Sisters, James Morton's Pork Chop and actor Gerard Logan reading a children's story. The free sessions remain available after each performance.

The Shed hopes to welcome back many of the artists when open again, but this gives a taster of what is to come! Search Facebook for Shed Sessions and join them for a half hour of escapism! www.shed-arts.co.uk.



ANY OLD PHOTOS?

There must be hundreds of Didmarton photos stashed away from way back when to more recent times, that might need a dust off and display. If you have any that the Dyddi can show, who knows what memories might be stirred. Pop them in at 7 Chapel Walk (with name, address and any details of

what/who they show) or call Carole, 01454 238576. Thank you. *ed.*

THE WALKING GROUP OF DIDMARTON

Dear walking pals,

Sadly there no group walk this month again. However, we have have been very busy running - ambling in Mama's case - around logging and registering stone stiles for the CPRE Gloucestershire project.

We've logged twelve in the local area: 4 at Westonbirt (and 2 by the arboretum), 2 at Sopworth, Willesley has 2, and Saddlewood and Ozleworth, 1 apiece.

If you know of any stone stiles in the local area, do please let us know. Either email me (ladydaisygreenwood@gmail.com) or go to this link:

<https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>

Woof woof,

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

THERE'S MORE THAN YOU THINK!

Following on from the request to help the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) log all the stone stiles in the country, I can vouch for there being far more than you'd think, indeed, there were five just in one walk around fields and footpaths near Chavenage. Do keep your report any (location and photo, if at all possible.) to Margaret, details above. Thank you, you walking wonders! *ed.*



WONDERFULWALK WEBSITE

Fed-up with the same old walks? Walking in Gloucestershire is part of the Walking in England website, which has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, and also books of walks and contacts for other walking groups, and much more. Covering all English counties there are walks from ½ to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs. See www.walkinginengland.co.uk

John Harris

SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

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

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

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

EASY

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

...AND NOT SO EASY!

Answers to
February's quizzes

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

WURZIT TO?

Ooh, the editorial joy of reader frustration! Last month's Wurzit, which came with the bold belief that



nearly all villagers would have walked past it lots and lots, was a weather vane on top of one of the stone sheds at the main road end of Chapel Walk. I know it came with much head scratching, which is how it should be, shouldn't it? Ha! To solve this month's Wurzit, you'll need the help of Shank's Pony, though again, many will have strolled/cantered past over many a year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Just when we think spring will never arrive, Summer Copeland Eccles expunges any doubts. It's worth going on to the new Didmarton Village Hall website to see Summer's picture in its brilliant colours. Many thanks to her, and wishing everyone with a birthday this March a very happy celebration.





Our 100 Club year ends on 30th April and we are organising the collection for 2021/2022. Again, thanks to Amanda, Jackie, Janet, Nic and Susie in for playing their part in collecting subscriptions. And a big thank you to all current members, we hope we can count on your support in the coming year.

WHAT IS THE 100 CLUB? The setting up of a 100 Club in Didmarton was first proposed in the Dyddi by Cliff Jackson in March 1977 and followed a format established by Tetbury Lions Club. With a good village response Cliff set about organising collectors. At first money was collected weekly, later changing to quarterly and, much to the relief of our present collectors, is now collected annually. The first draw took place on 29th July 1977 in The King's Arms. Winners were Kit Young - £5, Keith Jackson £3 and Pauline Scrivens, £2. The cost was 10p a week, which increased to £12 a year in 1992, almost 30 years ago and must be one of the few things not to have seen a price increase in all that time. The money raised from subscriptions is split between providing prize money and giving a donation to the DVHCC to use for any projects that they see fit.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? £12 per person (or pet!) a year, collected annually.

WHAT CAN I WIN? A draw is held monthly and we try to do this at a village event if possible. Prizes are £20, £15, £10 and £10 and there is a special Christmas draw with up to 10 prizes. Prize money is reviewed every year and depends on how much money we raise so the more people that have joined the more money we collect and the more prize money is available to be won.

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen Didmarton Village Hall closed since March 2020 with many fundraising events not held. There have been several initiatives in the village over the past months and these have helped a great deal to raise some money but more is needed to help the DVHCC recover lost income. This is why your support for the 100 Club is so vital. It has been the main fund raiser for the past year and could possibly remain so for most of this year.

HOW DO I PAY MY SUBSCRIPTION? We are collecting your 2021/22 subscription in the coming weeks, which remains at £12. It can be paid in 3 different ways: Bank Transfer - with the wellbeing of our collectors and yourselves in mind, we are asking that as many of you as possible pay by Bank Transfer, especially if you

used this last year. Account details are: Didmarton 100 Club HSBC sort code 40-31-07 account number 41076272 please include your name and address as reference!

Cash or Cheque - If you are unable to do a bank transfer then please complete the form below and return with cash or cheque (payable to Didmarton 100 Club), in an envelope to your NEAREST collector:

Amanda Hathaway, Windways, The Street Jackie Crewe, 16 St. Arild's Road
Susie Jones, Old Manor Farmhouse Janet Bowers Broadbent, 35 The Street
Sue Cook, 54 The Street Nic Holden, 19 Chapel Walk
Sue Hammond, 6 Bertha's Field

To ensure you are in the May draw it would be helpful if payment could be made in March. If you are unable to pay by any of the above methods, please don't worry as we are hoping our collectors will be out and about during April knocking on doors to personally collect your money either as cash or a cheque. We hope those of you new to the village will consider joining the Club. If you would like more information contact Sue Cook on 238222 or Sue Hammond on 238373. Thank you everyone in anticipation of your much needed support. Sue & Sue



The February draw took place on 25th January on the playing field, observed, socially distanced of course, by three snowmen. The winners were:

1st £20 Paul Shave 2nd £15 Elaine Motley
3rd £10 Mike Hollywood 4th £10 David Michel

These winners are just the latest of a long line which we can trace back over the 44 years that our 100 Club has been in existence. Most people in the village have won at some time or another, and we have the records to prove this! Over the last ten years we have collected more than £14,000 with 50% (£7,000) given back in prize money, the Didmarton Village Hall and Community Committee (DVHCC) benefiting by the same amount. Given that the 100 Club is over 40 years old the overall total of subscriptions, prize money and valuable financial support to the DVHCC amounts to a very substantial sum of money.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS OUR BEST YEAR EVER.

It's just £12 and you could be one of our lucky winners!

OVERLEAF IS A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM IF PAYING BY CASH OR CHEQUE



SUPPORT THE DIDMARTON 100 CLUB

2021/22 Membership Renewal - for payment by cash or cheque
If you would like to join or renew Membership at £12 per individual, please cut out the completed form and return it, together with your payment in an envelope to your nearest collector. Thank you for your continued support.

I/We would like to join/renew membership of Didmarton 100 Club & enclose cash/cheque (made payable to Didmarton 100 Club), being the subscription for 2021/22.

Name/s _____

Address _____

For help/queries please contact Sue Cook 01454 238222
or Sue Hammond 01454 238373



12022021

Did you know that last month, on the 12th February, 2021, the date was a palindrome- which means you can read it right to left as well as left to right, and it's the same. However, it was also an ambigram, meaning it reads the same upside down.

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 or
Deliver any editorial/copy to 7 Chapel Walk, Didmarton.

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

LAST & FIRST QUIZ

Use the last letter of each clue answer as the first letter of the next, e.g. Dog - Gusset -
Topsy This month - famous names, either Christian name or surname, but not both
(with one exception) Answers on page 24

Married name of Margaret Hilda (8)
President George (9)
One Goodie, or a Henman (3)
Mary's friend (6)
Dum-de-dum-de-dum-de-dum family name (6)
The Sundance Kid (7)
Formally Richard (4)
Female Starmer actress (5)
Holds Excalibur (6)
She keeps the truth inside (4)
Elephant riding explorer (8)
Jeans maker and disciple (4)
An engine (4)
Joseph Biden's middle (9)
Were his shoes blue? (5)
Pet name of Sarah (5)
English soap and scent maker (7)
Not old singer Will! (5)
Famous goat who had a good life? (9)
At sea with an old man and a High street jeweller (6)
Female politician is a returning yam (6)
First man on the moon (9)
Is she amazing? (5)
We've had the second one since 1953... (9)
...and eight of these men (5)
Mrs Lennon... (4,3)
...and Stan and Hilda (5)
Wisdom in a man... (6)
...cut short gives you Mrs Major (5)
He was the first (4)
No longer flatus (7)
Famous for his energy and mass! (6)
Female singer simply the best (4)

WHEN WE COULD GO AWAY... My first trip abroad, Easter 1963



From Lincolnshire to Austria, aged 14, a school trip organised by art teacher Alan Holt, my first time out of Britain, cost £33 plus spending money. Clearest memories are meeting a duvet for the first time, really big mountains, schnapps, and Dachau.

I still have the obligatory black-and-white photograph taken alongside the coach before departure. Boys' haircuts were still 'DA' and the girls were trying back-

combing, clothing was a mix of totally inappropriate drainpipe trousers and bootlace ties, frilly petticoats and heels, and concerned parents' provision of Norwegian sweaters, gloves and scarves for the high mountain tops, much clean underwear 'for emergencies' and other items which never saw the light of day.

Overnight ferry from to Ostend without cabins or aircraft seats so I slept on a shelf. Onward to Belgium and Germany, where they drove on the wrong side, and our first night in a foreign bed in Koblenz. Mr. Holt called us to explain there were no blankets on the beds but we would enjoy the duvets. We did. Unheard of in Britain in 1963.

In the Munich suburbs our coach pulled over and Mr. Holt offered us a choice: we could stay on the coach with 'Johnny', our driver, who would not be getting out because of what the Nazis had done to his brother, but if we wanted or felt we should, see a concentration camp, here we were. It is a memory which, almost 60 years later, causes tears. We stood in the gas chamber, stood alongside the cradles which slid into the ovens. We looked at photographs: piles of hair, of shoes, gold teeth, suitcases, every conceivable part or possession of a human which might be valuable. We left quietly.

Badgastein, Austria, is high in the mountains, and a centre for ski-ing which we were offered. Ski-lift, ski techniques, alpine buildings and lots of snow - every experience was wonderful. But schnapps was something else. Taste buds still struggling to understand why beer had to be so bitter, this clear liquid in a shot glass could take our breath away. Along with mouth, throat and sense. Great stuff; but I've never touched it since.

Austria is a fascinating country to visit and with hindsight I can see that its terrain, demanding a close relationship from its inhabitants, its history in the middle of western Europe, including the post-war demarcation under four occupying powers, and its use of the German language, lends a more robust quality to its present standing compared with its similar neighbour, Switzerland.

Back to the memories: Innsbruck is surrounded by mountains stood well back to allow this cultural centre room to breathe. French toilets, an interesting experience as anyone could wish for, especially the hanging chains. Don't ask. Otherwise our return is a blur, except for the Full English at a transport caff just outside Dover. That's real living, at least in the eyes and stomach of a teenage boy, back from adventures. *David Michel*

THE DYDDI PODCAST – People of Didmarton

This month – Andy Howard

PLACE OF BIRTH & EARLY YEARS Paulton Hospital, Somerset. I was forcibly pulled out with forceps which explains an awful lot. I lived on The Mendips with Mum & Dad, in a Bungalow they built before I came along. I feel very lucky to say I had a wonderful childhood looking after our chickens, cows, sometimes attempting to ride the sheep, and reversing the tractor into walls.

EARLIEST MEMORY My Dad arriving home after a digger bucket fell on his foot. It was covered in blood, he'd driven home, and I hid near a bin. I was 3 years old.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES Farm and football. I had a pet sheep, Donald, who was rejected by his mum. I bottle fed him and he would just follow me around, including indoors. He hated brown bread, wouldn't touch the stuff. Donald was with us until he died of old age, and there's a tree growing in memory of him in the centre of the field. I named all the new lambs every year following themes like breakfast cereals. We had triplets called Snap, Crackle and Pop.

My love of football came early, thanks to Dad and Uncle Rich, who played at a good local level and let me win in the field with jumpers for goalposts. I still have one of the little trophies, which Eden won from me, although her victory was genuine. I wish Dad had given me a choice of which team to support, but unfortunately it had to be Everton. I remember being taken to Wembley and Goodison Park to watch them lose. This theme continued when I played football right through my childhood, winning friends rather than matches.



EDUCATION & BEST TEACHER Oakhill Primary School, Norton Hill Secondary for GCSEs and A-Levels, and Falmouth College of Arts for my degree. Mr Barlow, headmaster at Oakhill. Calm, caring, with a genuine love for the kids and school. He's kept in touch all through my education and career and still texts me.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE? Not bad. I enjoyed it mostly, and somehow seemed to get decent enough results to go on to the next stage. The things I remember most vividly revolve around football and music, which is no surprise.

WHICH MUSIC MARKED YOUR YOUTH? Britpop. Anything with guitars. Living down the road, I went to Glastonbury every year to watch them all. I started listening to Oasis when I was 13, they made me want to be a musician. For some unknown reason in the big Oasis v Blur battle I bought the Blur single. I'll never forgive myself.

A SOCIAL OCCASION FROM THEN Moles Club Battle of the Bands in Bath. We were four mates from school, I was on the bass guitar at that point. We hyped

ourselves up for weeks, had a lot of friends and family in the crowd...and won. We were surely on the cusp of greatness.

FIRST JOB OR ACTIVITY Boots the chemists in Bath. I started at the age of 16 and caught the bus in from Midsomer Norton on a Saturday morning. Raking in £3.15 an hour, I was considering retirement within five years.

PERSONAL EVENTS FROM YOUR TWENTIES I graduated from Falmouth College of Arts with a degree and so many happy memories, I got my first job at the BBC - a voluntary role - at Radio Bristol, and the latest incarnation of my band was signed to a record label and released an album. Busy.

WHAT WAS THE WORLD LIKE THEN? I suppose the biggest thing was the emergence of the internet and the beginnings of social media. Things like chat rooms, Myspace and online forums were changing the world.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO DIDMARTON? When my little family came together we decided to move out of Bristol and already had relations living in this area. After looking at houses all over the place we found this one. Perfect.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF DIDMARTON Having come from the city we couldn't believe we'd been lucky enough to find it. People were instantly warm and welcoming, and the pub was good. Lovely job.

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE VILLAGE? Not an awful lot, which is a good thing.

DIDMARTON IN ONE SENTENCE Friendly, pretty, there are horses everywhere, and people regularly give you vegetables.

MEMORABLE PERSON Paul & Gerald on Chapel Walk. Legends. They're an example to us all, and have kept Stanley in dog treats for 6 years.

FAVOURITE PLACE IN BRITAIN Liverpool. Brilliant city in both culture and spirit. I've visited countless times to watch Everton and have never ever tired of it. I've introduced my girls to it now too, and although I've had to apologise about the football, they love the place.

FAVOURITE PLACE TO TRAVEL TO Scandinavia. I've been to every country there and love the way of life and landscape. It genuinely feels different. Iceland, especially, is fascinating to me and I hope to go back one day.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE If something doesn't feel quite right, it's probably not.

OF WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD? My family - Sacha and Eden - and the life we've made together.

LAND, OR SEA, AND WHY? Land, but BY the sea. I find watching and listening to the ocean magical. Being ON it makes me feel sick, which has constantly annoyed me.

KENEGAR, HINNEGAR, STRATFORD, HOME

Apologies, the 'Kenegar' was rather a red herring: it was probably a typo on the postcard picture for what we know as Hinnegar, the woodland and also the pair of cottages down Hollybush or Badminton Lane. For those unsure where this is, it's a mile south of Didmarton, at the T junction (left to Sopworth, right to Badminton). Actually, the western one is Stratford Lodge, the eastern is the Hinnegar titled.



Am I right in assuming that the cottage was a gatekeepers lodge? The gentleman in the photo looks to be standing at the point of a gateway to the Sopworth back road: was there a toll to pay to get to our neighbouring village? If so, was it anything to do with there being a county boundary thereabouts?

Sadly, the beautiful thatched cottage is there no longer, hence any modern confusion if you're still struggling to get your bearings. More information straight from the horse's mouth. Over to down-there-resident, Steve Walker:

'The Walker family moved into Hinnegar Lodge in April 1973, so very soon, we will have had the enormous privilege of living here for 48 years. In that period we have had mail addressed to, numbers 1 and 2 Hinnegar Lodges, and for 1 and 2 Burnt (or Burned) Lodges.

As a child growing up in Didmarton these were the names given to the two 1927 replacements for the original thatched gatehouse cottage (as depicted on page XX and here) which burned down in, I believe 1916. Please note that the disaster date given in our book Didmarton: A Ramble Through History is a typo – oops).

This beautiful building reportedly burned down due to a chimney fire igniting the thatch which went from hero to zero in about 15 minutes. The very small box bush on the extreme right is probably the same – now huge – box which still stands in the corner of our Japanese garden. That would make it approx. 125 years old.

The 1927 cottages are now firmly known as Stratford and Hinnegar Lodges. To complicate matters the original was once referred to as Kenegar (presumably a

typo). Furthermore, the occupants, the Baily family, during the 1911 census called it Stratford Lodge.

Whatever you choose to call these cottages I am grateful and proud to call this one Home.

Steve Walker

AND IF YOU STILL CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT...

Stratford & Hinnegar Lodges today.





DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Are you looking forward to Easter? I suspect you are for a variety of reasons, but especially as we remember the significance of it. Our Lord Jesus lived in expectation of what would be the climax of the work for which he had come into

the world and accomplished that first Easter weekend. He knew the tremendous price demanded of him, yet he was willing to pay it for us.

In a few weeks time we will celebrate with thanksgiving what it can mean for us. Jesus summed up his mission to the disciples saying “the son of man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom for many”.

This ransom cost was so great that only the son of God would be able to pay it, so he came to make that payment for us. A ransom is the price that must be paid for the redemption of captives. We are all slaves to sin, having been ‘born in sin and shapen in iniquity’, only by the shedding of the life blood of God’s perfect lamb (Jesus Christ) could the ransom price be paid which could deliver us from sin’s consequence of death.

Jesus willingly suffered the agonies of the cross for us! The price he paid is sufficient for all and available for the many who will humbly avail themselves of God’s mercy and grace, by our personal faith in his finished work there.

This month let us remind ourselves afresh of the events which took place as Jesus set his face to journey to Jerusalem, and what awaited him there as St Matthew 20 v 18,19 make clear. Let us read and meditate on the four gospel accounts of his journey, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate his entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the adulation of the crowds.

However, their praise did not last long, which is sadly true of many today who overlook his act of love for us and the price of our ransom.

As we look forward to Easter may we so do with a sincere heart of repentance and faith, as we give ourselves afresh to him who gave himself to us. Thanks be to our God and saviour Jesus Christ.

14th March - Mothering Sunday, 28th March – Palm Sunday Royston Pick

ANSWERS, p. 3: Bell had a middle name for his birthday – Graham. Kenneth Grahame based Toad on his son, Alistair.

ANSWERS TO LAST & FIRST QUZ, p. 18 Thatcher, Roosevelt, Tim, Martha, Archer, Redford, Dick, Keira, Arthur, Ruth, Hannibal, Levi, Ivor, Robinette, Elvis, Sally, Yardley, Young, Geraldine, Ernest, Teresa, Armstrong, Grace, Elizabeth, Henry, Yoko Ono, Ogden, Norman, Norma, Adam, Melania, Albert, Tina



YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

Feeling the very best you can

This month - the importance of balance.

According to the American Heart Association Journal, balance is important for brain health, and we shou 20 seconds minimum is what we

should be aiming for. Struggling to balance up to or for longer than 20 seconds can be linked to an increased risk of small blood vessel damage and reduced cognitive function.

Balance plays a critical role in preventing falls and injuries. As we get older we become nervous of falling so our gait gets smaller and in time we begin to shuffle which in turn actually goes towards us falling. We need to take longer steps and practice balancing which will also help improve our posture.

Balance is essential for mind and body. I make it an exercise we do in all my classes and it's great to watch people improve. You don't need to go to a class to practice; there are ample opportunities such as on the phone, cleaning your teeth, having a casual chat or star gazing. Don't forget to engage your core (abdominal muscles and pelvic floor) and if you still have a little trouble, find something to focus on and slow your breathing down. Whilst it may seem challenging at the beginning, like any skill you practice it soon becomes easier.

Start by working on standing on one leg: with your feet hip distance apart, take a breath in and engage abdominals and pelvic floor (core). Lift one leg, and focus on a point straight ahead. Aim for 20 seconds.

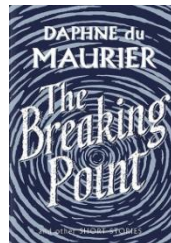
Once you've achieved this, bring in your arms, straighten one above your head and push the other backwards. Breathe in as you bring arms back and breathe out as you swap arms. Keep it going. Remember, slowly and use your breathing and core muscles.

Ruth Carnaby, Mind & Body Matters 01454 238957

DIDMARTON BOOK REVIEW

The Breaking Point by Daphne du Maurier

No, not a reference to the effects of lockdown, but a book of eight short-ish stories that you re-read as soon as you've finished. Each has a very different tenor and personality to it, all emote a Grimms Fairy Tale-ish character. If you've read Rebecca by du Maurier, you'll have a sense of how she dangles and plays with your credulity. It's an absolutely terrific read – do!





CAROLE COOKS AGAIN

I've dug out my Wagamama Japanese cookbook but fret not, no teppan yakitori deep fried panko tofu ramen, but instead, a wooah-wow dressing.

None of us can cook fragrant bowls involving 12 slices of chikuwa and a splash of shaoshing Just Like That for supper. However, with some hot rice, steamed veg and chunks hacked off yesterdays roast, anyone can drizzle a lipsmacking and delicious dressing made last week, over the top and feel a little more exotic. Suprisingly, several Waga dressings use ketchup, including their salad dressing (not sure about this one). This non-ketchup one is an all-round absolute star.

Gyoza sauce: crush a garlic clove with a little salt, chop in a red chilli (seeds too, if you like hotter zip). Put 25g white sugar in a mug, add 100ml malt (brown) vinegar. Microwave for 1 minute to dissolve. Stir in the garlic, chilli, 250ml light soy sauce and a tablespoon of sesame oil. Decant into a bottle/jar and keep in the fridge. Have with everything, it seems.

A fun two ingredient pud that anyone make? I like to think my mum invented this, along with the Victoria sponge and everything else delicious. Happy mothering Sunday to every mum, who of course, does make all the best food.

Quick mousse: make a jelly as usual, with just a little less than a pint of water. After it's been in the fridge for just an hour, pour a tin of evaporated milk (the small one, 150ml) into the cake mixer bowl and whisk flat out for about ten minutes when it will be a decent froth. Flop in the floppy jelly, whisk again until a uniform colour and flop yet again into the bowl. Fridge it until no longer floppy, I suppose. Very very nice with more evap. over the top, or, ideally, clotted cream. Mum used to make clotted cream on the Rayburn.... ed.

THE REALITIES OF RUSTIC RULINGS

Rural of Rumpshire (§ mother)

It is with deep pleasure that I am positioned to examine and consider olde countryside lore, sayings and proverbs. What do they mean? Where have they come from? And, most vitally, are they infectious?

This month's adage to analyse: Mad as a March hare

Reginald writes: Ha! Those overreared rascals with their flippy hops and misspelled name: It's h-a-i-r not h-a-r-e, I'll tell you for

put right by Reginald



nothing. This saying came about before the invention of that glory of what is now termed 'product'. 'Product' was invented by Harmony Hairspray in the 1970s (with an Oscar winning performance by the lady with the 'do) and now includes hair gel, mousse, oil, (though Vaseline always gives a pleasant rigidity to my side parting). Prior to all this 'product' lark, indeed, hairstyles in March always were, historically, a disaster. Beware the ides (again, a misspelling, of 'great winds'), of March. Mad as a March Hairdo, more like. R. St.J. Z Rural, esq.

Mrs Reasonetta Rural writes: Silly boy. The time to disown my own son gets nearer each month. March is breeding month for hares, that venerable variety of bunny. Would that the gentlemen of today display such elaborate and energetic courtships as Mr. Hare does, in pursuit of a lady's favours. Though I do concede that if Mr. R. Rural (Snr) had cavorted like a banshee when wooing my attentions, I'd have knocked his silly block off.

R.R.R. Rural (Mrs)



Going Green

Didmarton Eco Group

2021, A FRESH START

Eco Check List - No 3

Lockdown has put pressure on our countryside and parks. Litter is such a problem, the Government have issued campaigns and people are gathering to fight the cause. A Litter Army is growing. Andrew Wood, founder of UK Litterpicking Group said "I reckon around 100,000 people litter-pick across the UK weekly. That is an army. The reopening of the fast food outlets was when it got really bad and the sense of new found freedom meant some of the social norms went out of the window."

How long does litter last? Cigarette butts 1-5 yrs, fruit peel 2 yrs. Chewing gum 7 yrs, fast food packaging 10 yrs. Plastic bags 20 yrs, disposable cups - 30 yrs. Cans, 50 yrs, crisp packets - 80 yrs. Glass, 1 million yrs, plastic bottles – forever.

By recycling 50% of litter thrown on streets alone, the UK could save £40,547 a day - £14.8 million a year, so join the litter army. Get out with your gardening gloves, plastic bag and if you're really serious, invest in a bag hoop to keep the top open. York City Council have used the line 'Don't Be A Tosser' on one of its anti litter campaigns. They tell it like it is in Yorkshire. Also, sign up for the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean from 28th May to 13th June – www.keepbritaintidy.org/ You can also register your local school for the Eco Schools Green Flag award. And for more info, the Helping Hand Company - www.hhenvironmental.co.uk

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THE
KING'S ARMS

Happy Spring Time!

Well, what a winter! I can't remember ever being so cold over the last week or so. Of course normally, we would be serving hot meals and running around, with the log fire blazing.

I miss that, I miss the banter, the chats, the laughs and the news you all brought in to the pub. We, I speak for Paula here too, miss you all terribly.

Before I pass over to Paula for a few thoughts, I am now looking to warmer days, shorter nights, and re-opening the pub (sometime in May we think) in the hope that we enjoy some normality together. There have been many missed opportunities to celebrate birthdays, holidays, local events and also, sadly, some losses to remember.

These things we have to catch up with.

Paula here! I am keen to say that we will also be missing a second Mothering Sunday in March. So we should all consider, after so much separation, our mums, grandmothers, aunties and mummies to be, and what they have done for us all down the years. Bring on the day when we can all give our mums a guilt free hug!

Of course, Mothering Sunday was historically a day when children and girls in domestic service were given leave to visit mothers and families.

Until we can meet again, from Paula, Mark & Team
King's Arms; we send our love and hugs, xxxx

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