

the DYDDI digest

January—578

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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



Rubbish Dates

All Bins: 5th January (no garden waste) & 18th

Food Waste: 11th & 25th

Download Dates

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Diary Dates November

1st National Bloody Mary Day

4th World Braille Day

6th Epiphany

14th World logic Day

21st World Snow Day

23rd National Pie Day

25th Burns Night

28th National Lego Day

31st National Hot Chocolate Day



Mary I - Bloody Mary, Daughter of Henry VIII & his first wife Catherine of Aragon

Local Places to Stay

Didmarton - Self-contained 1 bedroom annex with parking for one car.

Contact Emma 07702 693100 (Photos <https://abnb.me/ZmWzKKHPiBb> please call to book).

Didmarton - The Kings Arms, 01454 238245 <https://butcombe.com/the-kings-arms-gloucestershire/>

**To include your property email details to
editor@dyddi.co.uk**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Phoenix, Tetbury Surgery – 01666 502303

Police – to report incidents – 101

Tolsey Surgery, Sherston – 01666 840270

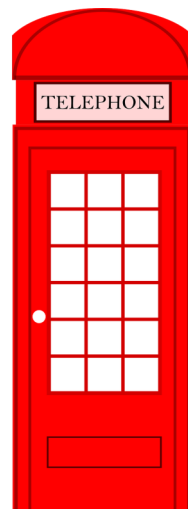
Tetbury Hospital – 01666 502336

Oldbury Garage – 01454 537016

Dyddi Editor – 07833 433337 / editor@dyddi.co.uk

Parish Council, John Hammond – 01454 238373

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS –
didhallbookings@gmail.com



Babysitting Contacts

Elizabeth Darbyshire – 07702 693100

Bailey Jones - 01454 232985

Henry Yandell - 07719 304445

Francesca Goodwill - 07483 839082/07972783679

Esmé Kay 07850247096

Christingle

The Matins service at 11.15 on 7th January will also be a Christingle service.

All are welcome to come along to celebrate this special Christmas service and receive their Christingle.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's 2024 and I have great news—now the Solstice is done the days are getting lighter earlier. I don't know about you but one of my pet hates is waking up while it is still dark!

Good luck with all those New Year Resolutions and don't beat yourself up if you slip, just dust yourself off and start again.

All contributions should be sent before the 15th of each month—anyone can offer a contribution, go on, express your inner writer even more on online:-

www.didmartonvillagehall.co.uk/#Dyddi

Roxzanne Fox-Roberts / editor@dyddi.co.uk

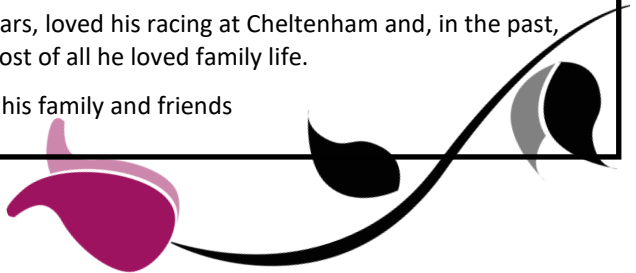
Condolences

It is with great sadness to say that Barrie Hunt passed away on the 9th Dec. Barrie leaves behind his wife, Jenny, daughter Debbie and son Jeremy. He has five wonderful grandchildren who he adored.

Barrie and Jenny have lived in the village for 40 years. In that time Barrie served on the PCC, the DCC as, both chairman and treasurer. Then, later he worked on the local footpaths.

He followed hounds for years, loved his racing at Cheltenham and, in the past, played a lot of golf, but, most of all he loved family life.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends



Parish Council Website

The Parish Council has a new website which can still be accessed through its original web name (url) of www.didmartonparishcouncil.co.uk

It is intended to be a more informative, up to date and engaging website and has a NEWS broadcast facility. This will be used to send messages from the parish council for issues such as planned road closures by Highways, crime updates and other local authority information bulletins which are relevant to Didmarton. **Please visit the parish council website and register your email for NEWS updates.**

GCC Highways have set-up a new faults reporting facility through a website called, 'Fix My Street'. It provides a simple process for online reporting of issues such as broken streetlights and potholes. If you **see it**, please **report it** using this facility. The more reports they receive, the quicker the issue will be addressed! The full web address is,

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

What3words is a useful website for obtaining accurate location information to assist with 'Fix My Street' reporting. Every 3 metre square in the world has been given a unique combination of three words.

<https://what3words.com>

Fix My Street and What3words are both also available as smartphone apps.

Simon Hale

Clerk to Didmarton Parish Council

didmartonclerk@gmail.com

New Year Around the World—USA

Millions of Americans gather around their television sets (or on the streets of Times Square, despite freezing temps) to watch the ball drop at the stroke of midnight each year. Kicking off in 1907 to ring in January 1908, *New York Times* owner Adolph Ochs created the event to draw attention to the *Times's* new headquarters, and it's been an annual spectacle and one of the most popular New Year's Eve celebrations ever since.



Our grand Christmas draw took place at the Christmas fair held on December 2nd^h in the Village Hall. The winners were:-

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1 st prize | £30 | Richard Tubbs |
| 2 nd prize | £25 | Sue Enright |
| 3 rd prize | £25 | Ed Glew |
| 4 th prize | £20 | Richard Bryant |
| 5 th prize | £20 | Tony & Wendy Leather |
| 6 th prize | £20 | Phil Robbins |
| 7 th prize | £20 | Kim Adams |
| 8 th prize | £15 | Jon Brodribb |
| 9 th prize | £15 | David Greenwood |
| 10 th prize | £15 | John Earley |
| 11 th Prize | £15 | Widget Hammond |

A big thank you to all our members for your support in 2023 and we hope that we can count on your continued support in the year ahead. Not everyone will win a prize but everyone who takes part is making a valuable contribution to our village.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

Hawkesbury Youth Club

Tuesday Evenings (7pm to 8.30pm)

at Hawkesbury Village Hall.

For young people aged 11 to 18, The first session is free!

then £2 per session afterwards



There's everything from board games, darts, arts and crafts, to basketball, badminton and pool.



Listen to music! Relax and chat with friends.



Enjoy sweet treats and cold drinks from our tuck shop.



Decembers Dates:

12th & 19th



[HawkesburyYouthGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyYouthGroup)



[hawkesburyyouthclub](https://www.instagram.com/hawkesburyyouthclub)



LEIGHTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had an amazing time, at Leighterton Primary School, in the run up to Christmas.

The whole school travelled to The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to watch the pantomime Mother Goose. Everyone was very excited as we set off, and for some children, it was the first time that they had travelled by coach. So many of us went that we needed two large coaches.

The pantomime was great fun and we had to shout out, "Oh no, it isn't!" quite a few times. Tweedy, the clown, was the star of the show and was very funny. He even flew and did tricks on the trapeze. We loved watching the dancing too. The costumes were amazing.

Ms Hatfield was very proud of us all when she was contacted by several different people afterwards to say that our behaviour had been excellent. When we arrived back at school, we all ate a picnic in our school hall and loved being together here too.

Later that week, the children in Apsemore, Barnhill and Boxwell Classes, who are the youngest children in school, performed their nativity play, "Grandma's Nativity Story". Our families loved watching this and they all felt proud of themselves for learning their words and singing and acting so beautifully.

We all ate our Christmas lunch together in our school hall and our teachers served us while we all sat together. It was fun sitting altogether to eat as we normally eat our lunch when our class is called in and not everyone is together.

The following day, we had a party lunch and ate party food as our school dinner. This was followed by our Christmas parties. Some of the games we played were in our classrooms and some were when we were together in the hall. It was amazing when Father Christmas called in to join our parties. He brought a present for each of us and had a chat about Christmas Day.

Continued over>

We ended the term with “Singing Around the Christmas Tree” and our families joined us for some magical carol singing before we broke up for the holiday.

We do have some spaces in some of our year groups and if you would like to find out more, please have a look at our website at: www.leighterton.com or contact Claire, in our school office (01666 890273), to arrange a convenient time to come and look round.



We all enjoyed a picnic when we came back from the theatre.

New Year Around the World—Brazil

In Brazil, people usually go to the beach since it's the summer. Immediately after midnight, you are supposed to jump seven waves while making seven wishes. The tradition is rooted in paying homage to Yemanjá, the goddess of water. Before you get in the water, you're supposed to wear all white, as it symbolizes purity.



Didmarton Rural Cinema

Friday 12th January 2024

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

2023—Drama

When Harold learns his friend Queenie is dying, he is moved to act. He leaves home, walking to the post box to send her a letter, until he realises a letter is not enough. In that moment Harold decides to keep walking, all the way to her hospice.

Cert: 12A – **Run time:** 1 hr. 48 min.

Rotten Tomatoes audience rating: 80%

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Earl Cave, Penelope Wilton

Director: Hettie McDonald

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

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



New Year Around the World—Spain

The Spanish start off their new year by eating 12 grapes, which symbolize each strike of the clock. The tradition of *las doce uvas de la suerte* started in the late 19th century and is believed to ward off evil while boosting your chances of a prosperous and lucky new year. However, this will work only if you manage to eat all of the grapes in a matter of seconds since they need to be gone by the time the clock finishes striking midnight.

New Year *Party*



THE
KING'S ARMS

FREE GLASS OF BUBBLEY AT MIDNIGHT

LIVE MUSIC FROM

Daniel Quinton

FREE ENTRY

9:30PM

THE ST, DIDMARTON, BADMINTON GL9 1DT



TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- Jan 13** **William Howard:** In concert with Matthew and Emma Denton for a programme of music by Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets £22.50 in advance £26 on the door, 7.30
- Jan 19** **The Beatles for Sale:** The Fab Four's music recreated as it was in their 60s heyday by a group who have worked with stars such as Mary Hopkins, Morrissey and Nancy Sinatra! Tickets £20. 7.30
- Jan 24** **Playtime:** Join Ratty and her friends for a gentle intro to theatre with storytelling, music, puppetry and games for pre-school children and their families. Tickets £5 a child. 10-11
- Jan 25** **Film: Oppenheimer** – the award-winning film comes to your local screen! Tickets £7.50 7.30
- Jan 27** **Paprika:** The UK's leading Balkan band fuse together eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and classical music and have played at Glastonbury and the Albert Hall! Tickets: £14.50 7.30

For more details of the above and for our talks, exhibitions and other events and to book tickets visit our website:

www.shed-arts.co.uk

Tetbury Goods Shed—The Bon Jovi Experience

When a tribute band is endorsed by the the band themselves then your expectations are set pretty high (*"The best Bon Jovi tribute band I've ever watched"* - Jon Bon Jovi). I have to say, we were not disappointed. The energy on stage was contagious, and the crowd was soon singing along (OK, most forgot the words to Blaze of Glory, you are forgiven!) and the more lively of us were rocking it out like we were teenagers—big mistake as the two guys below outclassed us spectacularly and I bet their knees were not creaking the day after!

Covering all the hits, such as Livin' on a Prayer, You Give Love a Bad Name , It's my Life, Always, etc., the set list was well put together and delivered set-perfect with tight and accurate musician-ship. Having seen the real Bon Jovi a fair few times our little group was suitably impressed.

Despite giving a full on performance on stage, after the show 'Jon' was gracious enough to mingle with the crowd and have photos taken with whomever requested them.

And the venue? If you haven't been go. It's a diamond of a venue. Smart clean and staffed by the friendliest set of volunteers one could hope to meet, which together with a great band adds up for a great night.



'Jon' with the two best rockers in the building—Marcus (16) and Josh (15) from the band Vcardgames. Marcus is lead guitar and vocals and Josh is on Drums. Fair to say they outclassed us all!



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

First Meeting of the Year
Tuesday 2nd January 2024:
No Dig Polyculture in Your Garden
Nicola Hope

Cuttings

At our last meeting, we made seasonal floral centerpieces, enjoyed mulled wine and mine pies, and rounded off the proceedings with a festive quiz. And that was the end of a successful 2023!

Proceedings open early in the New Year with a fascinating look at the virtues of a no-dig gardening approach (for which our backs will be grateful, at the very least!) Nicola has spoken to us before and is always interesting and thought-provoking.

Club meetings will remain throughout 2024 on the first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments, plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, and jobs to do for the month (which we're sure everyone always observes strictly).

New members from Sherston and surrounding villages are always welcome. The cost remains the same as last year: £15 single, £25 joint, U18's free. For membership form and full programme contact our Secretary: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com It's also worth pointing out that all new members who join between January and March 2024 will have valid membership until April 2025.

Calendar 2024

6th February	Piers Lavan of Hortico TBC.
5th March	'Rosemary Verey, her legacy to C20th gardening' with Margie Hoffnung
2nd April	'Four Seasons Cotswold Style' with Mandy Bradshaw
7th May	'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends' with Andrew Tolman
4th June	'Growing Clematis and other Climbers' with Andrew Jeanes
5th July (Friday)	Summer Social at The Garden House, Westonbirt (back by popular demand!)
August	No meeting but there will be a trip TBC
3rd September	'Garden Design for Nature and Wellbeing' with Rachel Emous-Austin
1st October	'Growing a Cut Flower Garden' with Rachel Golding Barrett
3rd December	'The Victorian Gardener' (a Christmas theme) with Francis Burroughes

Visits to Highgrove, Lackham Campus of Wiltshire College and RHS Hampton Court are under discussion as well as NGS garden visits. More details to follow.

HAPPY NEW GARDENING YEAR TO ALL OUR FANTASTIC MEMBERS!

YOUR MIND & BODY MATTERS

With the end of the year and another year beginning, by the nature of habit we look forward and take with us the memories we've made and then we look at what we want to do better, so let's have a look at the steps we can take towards achieving our goals and fulfilling the changes we want to see.

It's all about the choices we make, also these can have a ripple effect. Please remember we have to take ownership of our bodies and also, responsibility. We can no longer expect to be "fixed" by our Doctors as time is of the essence, with a lot of self-induced problems and the Doctors don't have the time or the budgets for what is on the cusp of a tsunami.

Food is medicine, exercise is vital as is sleep. Friends and relatives are important, research shows loneliness is the silent killer.

Don't put off looking after yourself any longer, as I've mentioned before you owe it to yourself and your family to be the best you can be! "Be the change you want to see"

Happy New Year.

Ruth x

New Year Around the World—India

In Bombay they make an effigy of an 'old man' that symbolized the old year and burn it at midnight. The burning symbolises the passing of grievances from the old year and makes space for a new year to be born.

In Gujarat the new year is celebrated as the day after Diwali. As per the Hindu Calendar, it falls on Shukla Paksha Pratipada in the Hindu month of Kartik. As per the Indian Calendar based on Lunar Cycle, Kartik is the first month of the year and the New Year in Gujarat falls on the first bright day of Kartik (Ekam).

Looking After You in 2024

Acupuncture

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Acupuncture is an ancient method of treating disharmony in the body by inserting very thin needles into the skin at various points to prompt the body to release natural chemicals to fight illness, disease, symptoms. It is proven to be safe and effective in promoting health and wellness in both body and mind. Acupuncture stimulates the body's nervous and immune systems to rebalance by moving the flow of energy (Qi) which may be stagnated causing pain, illness, disease. Treating such issues as:

Arthritis / Neck and Back Pain / Sports Injuries / Menstrual Cramps / Cancer and Treatment Side-Effects / Immune System Problems / Irritable Bowel Syndrome / Menopause / Repetitive Strain and Overuse Syndrome.

stuart@pulse4life.co.uk <https://stroudsportsclinic.cliniko.com/bookings#location>

Ashtanga Yoga—Didmarton

Ashtanga Yoga works on many levels to rebalance the body and reduce stress through a mindful sequence of exercise. It is often referred to as *Power Yoga*, going beyond the relaxation benefits of traditional styles. It offers a route to health and fitness which combines dynamic breathing and strong flowing movement. Following a routine of postures, the practitioner will build strength, unwind tight joints and loosen muscles. This in combination with dynamic breathing, build body heat and mindful focus, creating a total mind and body workout

<https://www.pulse4life.co.uk/ashtanga-yoga/> stuart@pulse4life.co.uk

Barre—Hawkesbury Upton

At our cozy home studio, each Barre class is carefully designed to engage your muscles through precise movements, using the ballet barre as a support to tone and strengthen your body. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced practitioner, our sessions cater to all fitness levels, offering modifications to suit individual needs

bea@bbbbarre.com

Continued over>

Circuit Training—Hawkesbury Upton

Circuit training is all about having a several different stations which may include strength work such as press-ups or weights. There may be aerobic stations such as shuttle runs or skipping or jumping jacks. Some stations may include sit ups and others abdominal exercises, I hope you get the picture. Each station is for a minute or maybe less or even more and then you move to another station. You may go around the circuit once twice or even three times but the beauty of the circuits is you can work as hard as you like and you can see improvement pretty quickly. It's fun and sociable and above all you are improving your overall fitness.

If classes don't appeal then think about functional fitness especially as we get older. Strength work, flexibility and gait work (the length of your stride) all of this can be done at home.

ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

Hatha Yoga Incorporating Vinyasa Flows—Didmarton

Hatha is a form of yoga that focuses on holding static poses. While gentle it can still be challenging. We also incorporate more dynamic vinyasa flows which move the body a little faster but always focussing on working with the breath. Session sometimes conclude with a time of meditation. The group is suitable for those with no experience of yoga, or those with a regular practice.

littlewrenyoga@gmail.com <https://littlewrenyoga.wixsite.com/my-site>

Pilates—Didmarton

I've now been teaching Pilates for nearly 20 years - Can't quite believe it. Pilates helps with our strength and flexibility and creates new habits of improving our posture and engaging our core muscles which in turn protects our backs. Pilates also ensures you use the correct muscles so attention is paid on alignment, breathing and carrying out the exercises slowly. I mix Pilates up a little by adding some weight work as well every now and then a little HIIT (high intensity interval training) all of which is beneficial. There is always a choice if there is a body part such as knees or shoulders that limit what can be done.

ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

Last but not least, looking after you.

Thinking about counselling?

Whilst the Festive season is joyous for many, for some it can feel a little empty or highlight tricky relationships. With the business of Christmas and New Year over, the first months of the following year can also feel tough. We should allow ourselves to seek support and to be able to talk. With online resources such as the Counselling Directory, Relate, the BACP and the UKCP (a google will take you to any of these sites), it is possible to discover more about the different types of counselling out there, and 'shop around' for a counsellor that feels the right fit.

It can feel daunting to enter into a space for talking that is just for you, but counselling can allow you to start to see the wood for the trees, with someone walking along beside you.

Amy Snowden

www.amysnowdencounselling.co.uk

New Year Around the World—Japan

People in Japan kick off the New Year by eating a warm bowl of soba noodles. The [tradition](#) dates back to the Kamakura period and is tied to a Buddhist temple giving out the noodles to the poor. Because the long thin noodles are firm yet easy to bite, it is believed eating them symbolizes a literal break away from the old year.

Other New Year's traditions have a wholesome focus. *Shōgatsu* (New Year) is usually celebrated with a visit to the local temple to exchange last year's lucky charms (*omamori*) for new ones. Afterward, people will feast on traditional New Year's foods, such as prawns (believed to bring a long life) and herring roe (to boost fertility).

FULL MOONS OF 2024



WOLF MOON

January 25th



SNOW MOON

February 24th



WORM MOON

March 25th



PINK MOON

April 24th



FLOWER MOON

May 23rd



STRAWBERRY MOON

June 22nd



BUCK MOON

July 21st



STURGEON MOON

August 19th



HARVEST MOON

September 18th



HUNTER'S MOON

October 17th



BEAVER MOON

November 15th



COLD MOON

December 15th

Follow me at [@alicethestarseedwitch](https://www.instagram.com/alicethestarseedwitch)

January 25th January—Wolf Moon

It's thought that January's moon was named the Wolf Moon as it was common to hear wolves howling at this time of year in some countries. It was believed that, in January, wolves howled because they were hungry and it was harder for them to hunt in winter. Now, it's known that wolves howl for a far wider variety of reasons.

It is thought that a wolf moon offers us greater opportunity for deep self-reflection.

Capricorn—December 22nd—January 19th

(from Latin: "Goat-Horned") in astrology, the 10th sign of the zodiac, considered as governing the period from about December 22 to about January 19. One explanation of the fishtail with which the goat is often represented is found in the Greek myth of Pan, who, to avoid the monster Typhon, jumped into the water just as he was changing into animal shape. The half above water assumed the shape of a goat while the lower half, the tail, assumed the shape of a fish.

In astronomy, Capricornus is a zodiacal constellation lying in the southern sky between Aquarius and Sagittarius, at about 21 hours right ascension and 20° south declination. Its stars are faint; Deneb Algedi (Arabic for "kid's tail") is the brightest star, with a magnitude of 2.9. Capricornus usually refers to the constellation, and Capricorn usually refers to the astrological sign.

The Night Sky—Where is Capricorn?



Capricornus can be seen in the UK southern sky throughout the summer months. It looks very much like a squashed-looking triangle. Some charts depict it as two triangles arranged along a long line. It lies along the ecliptic, which is the path the Sun appears to take across the sky throughout the year. The Moon and planets also appear to move roughly along the ecliptic.

TECH TALK

The Most Costly Phishing Attacks to Date

info@allaboutsites.co.uk



Facebook and Google

Between 2013 and 2015, [Facebook and Google were tricked out of \\$100 million](#) due to an extended phishing campaign. The phisher took advantage of the fact that both companies used Quanta, a Taiwan-based company, as a vendor. The attacker sent a series of fake invoices to the company that impersonated Quanta, which both Facebook and Google paid. Eventually, the scam was discovered, and Facebook and Google took action through the US legal system. The attacker was arrested and extradited from Lithuania, and, as a result of the legal proceedings, Facebook and Google were able to recover \$49.7 million of the \$100 million stolen from them.

Crelan Bank

Crelan Bank, in Belgium, was the victim of a business email compromise (BEC) scam that [cost the company approximately \\$75.8 million](#). This type of attack involves the phisher compromising the account of a high-level executive within a company and instructing their employees to transfer money to an account controlled by the attacker. The Crelan Bank phishing attack was discovered during an internal audit, and the organization was able to absorb the loss since it had sufficient internal reserves.

What is Phishing?

Phishing is a prevalent type of social engineering that aims to steal data from the message receiver. Typically, this data includes personal information, usernames and passwords, and/or financial information. Phishing is consistently named as one of the top 5 types of cybersecurity attacks.

Some Messaging Scams

Your Apple ID has been locked.
We have locked your Apple ID because our service has detected two unauthorized devices.

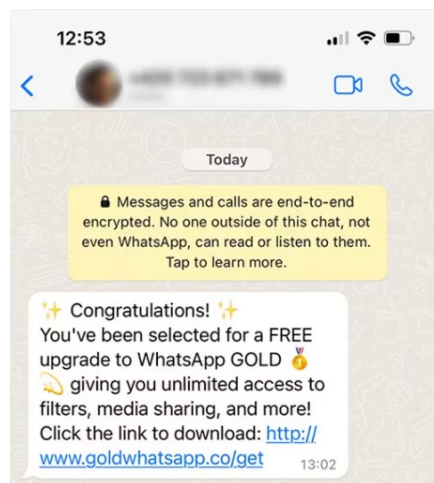
To unlock your account, you required verify your Apple ID .
Click the link below to unlock your Apple ID.

<http://s948425084.onlinehome.us/>

Your account will be automatically unlock, after finishing the verification.

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Hollyhill Industrial Estate,
Hollyhill, Cork, Irlanda.
All rights reserved.

RoyalMail: We attempted to **deliver** your **parcel** today and was unsuccessful, to **schedule a redelivery** visit: <https://royalmail-depot-gb.com/book>



Bloody Mary

I'm a bit worried this won't make the 1st of Jan, which is National Bloody Mary Day, so here's hoping!

Why is a Bloody Mary called a Bloody Mary?

Some stories suggest that the Bloody Mary was named after a server named Mary who worked at a saloon bar called The Bucket Of Blood in Chicago. Others claim it was named after Queen Mary Tudor of England. No one knows for sure.

Ingredients

large handful of ice

100ml [vodka](#)

500ml tomato juice

1 tbsp lemon juice, plus 2 slices to serve

few shakes Worcestershire sauce

few shakes Tabasco (smoked Tabasco is nice)

pinch celery salt

pinch black pepper

2 [celery sticks](#), to serve

Method

STEP 1

Place the ice in a large jug. Measure the vodka, tomato juice and lemon juice and pour it straight onto the ice.

STEP 2

Add 3 shakes of Worcestershire sauce and Tabasco (or more if you like it very spicy) and a pinch of celery salt and pepper. Stir until the outside of the jug feels cold, then strain the cocktail into 2 tall glasses.

STEP 3

Top up with fresh ice, add a celery stick and lemon slice to both glasses and enjoy.



The Real Bloody Mary—Mary I

Before Mary I, there had been other English queens who were the wives of the ruling king. However, Mary was the first 'Queen Regnant' - a queen who rules a country as the primary monarch rather than simply as a consort.

Mary was not only born at Greenwich Palace, but was also baptized there, in the Franciscan Observant Friars church (at the west end of the palace). Her parents, [Henry VIII](#) and [Catherine of Aragon](#), had married there seven years earlier.



Was Mary I really known as 'Bloody Mary'?

Following the death of Edward VI, there was a bid to place his Protestant cousin Lady Jane Grey on the throne of England. However, nine days after Jane's accession, Mary gathered enough support to ride to London and claim the throne. Jane and her husband Lord Dudley were both executed.

Mary was crowned on 1 October 1553, and quickly set about attempting to restore the Roman Catholic faith in England. One of her first acts was to marry Prince Philip of Spain (the future Philip II) in 1554. She pushed the marriage through a resistant parliament, as she was desperate to conceive a Catholic heir. Philip was given the title of 'King of England' and the pair effectively ruled together.

This was an unpopular move, but an uprising against Mary's rule in 1554 - known as the 'Wyatt Rebellion' - was quickly quashed. Mary's half-sister was subsequently imprisoned in the Tower of London for several months, but no conclusive evidence that she had been involved in the plot was found.

During Mary's five-year reign, around 280 Protestants were burned at the stake for refusing to convert to Catholicism, and a further 800 fled the country. This religious persecution earned her the notorious nickname 'Bloody Mary' among subsequent generations. Her legacy was further tainted by the loss of Calais - England's last lands in Europe - to the French during her reign.

Mary's reputation has become defined by her religious persecutions, yet this is partly as a result of later Tudor propaganda.

Although Mary thought herself pregnant on two occasions, both proved to be false alarms. As a result, she never conceived a Catholic heir, and the Crown eventually passed to her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth following her death in 1558.

Burns Night—25th January

Burns Night itself **marks the anniversary of Robert Burns' birth on 25 January 1759** and the traditional Burns supper is an evening event that celebrates his life and work. History can trace its origins back to nine of Burns' close friends who decided to get together to mark the fifth anniversary of their friend's death .



For those of you chasing down the Haggis and breaking open a bottle of the good stuff, here are the first three versus of the traditional 'Address to a Haggis'

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!
Aboon them a' yet tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace
As lang's me arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o'need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like ony ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin', rich!

SUDOKU by Neil Fozard

For the uninitiated

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

EASY!!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

New Year Around the World—Ireland

The Irish have several New Year's traditions, such as banging the outside walls of their houses with bread to keep away bad luck and evil spirits and starting the year with a spotless, freshly cleaned home. But one of the most well-known is setting an additional plate at the dinner table for any loved ones lost in the prior year.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear all,

The new year will undoubtedly bring challenges that we are barely aware of at the start of the year. And to get through these things, we all need to know that we have some way of keeping our feet on the ground. We need to have some idea of the way we are going, and of course, some understanding of what others are going through.

I imagine we all find different ways of connecting with all this. And whatever way it is, I would suggest it is something pretty close to prayer. Because when we are connecting with our deeper selves and not only our selves, but also with the needs of others, and **WITH GOD**, then we are praying. So to do it without God, is pretty close to doing it with God. Because it is an important part of what we do when we pray. And this is true not just for Christians but for people of other faiths and none.

But yes, prayer is more: there is the direct engagement with the Almighty, there is the poetry of the psalms; there are the sayings of Our Lord; there are other teachings, there are stories and poetry from Scripture. All filling our minds and souls with enthusiasm for life, appreciation of all that we are given, depth of thoughtfulness and challenge to make things happen. And then there is direct prayer or interceding for others.

This is in a way the theme of Epiphany (this season pretty much covers January), celebrating Christ as the Light of the world, and focusing upon the arrival of the three wise men. It is the light of Christ which I believe, gives the world the **BEST** guide and the **BEST** way of keeping our feet on the right ground.

May I wish you a very Epiphany and Happy New Year,

Have a good November,
Richard

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

01454 219236

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BADMINTON BENEFICE

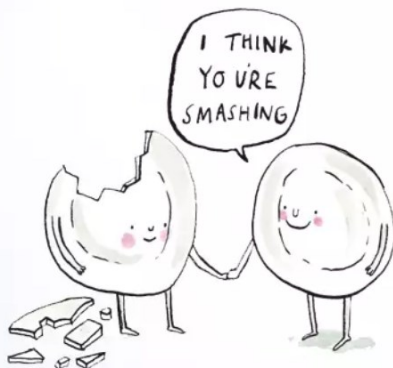
Jan-24 Church services www.badmintonbenefice.com

Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
7th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Churchwarden led
	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Parish Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Didmarton	Matins with Christingles	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
14th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	P Cheeseman
	11am	Leighterton	Holy Communion 1928	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
21st January	8.30am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service Theme Holy Com	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evensong	Rev R Thomson
28th January	9.30am	Lasborough	HC CW	Rev R Thomson
	11.15am	Little Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev R Thomson

Matins on line 9.30am Thursdays: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463304014?pwd=QlJxMWNpelArMUdjV242cUpnV3Nydz09>

New Year Around the World— Denmark

Chucking plates at your friends usually signals a conversation gone very wrong. In Denmark, however, New Year's Eve traditions like this bring your loved ones the best luck. Tradition has it that the more broken kitchenware you accumulate on your door step, the better off you'll be.



DIDMARTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



First Place

As we enter a New Year it is important that we examine ourselves as to what and where our priorities lie, and what our priorities should be for the future. For many of us there will be important issues that we will need to address for the coming days if the Lord should spare us, but it is important that we recognise what the first and greater priority must be, and set our sails for the future to accommodate it. Jesus tells us to “seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness” when we do, the other issues will be met.

Our first and overriding priority must be toward the God who made us and requires that we adhere to the plan he has set out, that our lives accomplish the very best for our future lives and our effect on others.

To this end God has given us the overarching commands for us to live by and by which he will judge our lives, in the 10 Commandments we find in Exodus 20. The considerations of them will reveal our past failure and need of help for the future.

Thou shalt have no other Gods before me

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in Vain

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

Honour thy father and thy mother

Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not commit adultery

Thou shalt not steal

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour

Thou shalt not covet

Thankfully God has sent his son who perfectly fulfilled the love of God and through his sacrifice on the cross enables us to know forgiveness. We cannot earn our own salvation but Jesus said “This is the work of God that you believe in him who he has sent” By repentance for sin and faith in Jesus he comes to reign in our hearts by his spirit and sets God's agenda for our future.

Will you allow God to have priority in your life this year? I pray you will!

Happy New Year.



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