

DYDDI

DIGEST

JANUARY - 2026 604



Didmarton's own magazine
Published monthly since 1975

DIARY DATES - January

WOW 7th

Epiphany 6th

Tres Reyes 6th (Spain)

Martin Luther King Day 19th

WOW 21st

Burns Night 25th

Holocaust Remembrance Day 27th

RUBBISH DATES

A few variations due to holidays

Food Waste

Saturday 10th

Friday 23rd

Recycling, Refuse & Garden

Monday 5th (no garden waste)

Friday 16th

Film Club

The next Didmarton Film Club showing will be on Friday 9th January

Doors open at 6.30pm for a cash bar and the showing starts at 7.30pm.

Due to licensing restrictions we cannot publicly advertise the Film Title.

Contact Jenny.body1@gmail.com for further details.

All welcome and donations (£5 typically) gratefully received.



100 CLUB

Our Grand Christmas draw took place at the WOW meeting held in The Kings Arms on December 10th

1st prize £40 Sue Cook
2nd prize £30 Doug Cuff
3rd prize £25 Mike Hollywood
4th prize £25 Jeremy Sinker
5th prize £20 Jim Hudson
6th prize £20 Vivienne Clare

7th prize £20 Oscar Neilson
8th prize £15 Sam Hardy
9th prize £15 Emma Brassey
10th prize £15 Kevin & Helen Ball
11th prize £10 Archie Body
12th prize £10 Laurence Edwards

A big thank you to all our members for your support in 2025 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. Which is greatly appreciated.

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

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

CONTACTS

Phoenix, Tetbury Surgery – 01666 502303

Tolsey Surgery, Sherston – 01666 840270

Tetbury Hospital – 01666 502336

Police – to report incidents – 101

Oldbury Garage – 01454 537016

Dyddi Editor – editor@dyddi.co.uk

Parish Council: John Hammond– 01454 238373

clerk@didmartonparishcouncil.gov.uk *Please note this is a new email address*

Village hall bookings : didhallbookings@gmail.com



BABYSITTING



Amelia Darbyshire – 07702 693100

Charlotte Goodwill - 07485 541461

Esmé Kay 07850 247096

Chloe Wallace 07984 922717

Daisy Nightingale 07816 914434

Please email the editor if you would like to add your name to the list.

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VALERIE'S WARTIME IN DIDMARTON.



January



In January it usually snowed, and my heart always leapt with excitement when my grandmother came in to call us, announcing, in her usual manner, "It's a white world." I couldn't wait to see the familiar landscape transformed into a fairyland of pure, virgin whiteness. When I was very small, it would sometimes be over the tops of my Wellington boots, and that, of course, was a legitimate reason for missing school, at least for the morning! Later on, a path would be cleared down the village road, everybody cheerfully wielding their shovels, intent on clearing their bit, and we could go to the grocer's shop for supplies, and, alas, to school. However, we had fun there building snowmen and hurling snowballs at each other.

Sometimes, it was too cold to snow, but ice would form on Joyce's Pool or Oldbury Pond, and we could slide and 'skate'. Nobody had real ice skates, but some used rollers instead, and home-made sledges - usually just a bare plank of wood - added to the fun.

If the temperature dropped quickly after heavy rain, trees, heavily laden with icicles, would come crashing down, blocking roads and pathways, and making people afraid to go out. Luckily, this only happened rarely.





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Sunday: 08:00-19:00

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DECEMBER 2025 Speed Watch Summary

We were able to do six out of our nine planned sessions, which is very good for this time of year. On other days we were beaten by rain or fog.

We were supported on Tuesday afternoon by a visit from the Cirencester Police, and it's good to know that they continue to appreciate our efforts.

Despite our continuing efforts we are still finding that quite a high number of vehicles are doing 40mph or above.

Day & Time	Site	Pos ID	Top Speed & Time	Total Vehs	Comments
Mon 1 Dec 8:15am to 8:45am	Village Hall	12	46 mph at 8:28am	145	Also 2 at 42mph, 1 at 43mph and 1 at 45mph
Tues 2 Dec 8:30am to 9:00am	Village Hall	6	49mph at 8:45am	146	Also 1 at 44mph and 1 at 42mph
Tu 2 Dec 15:00pm to 15:30pm	Village Hall	4	46mph at 15:24pm	153	Also 1 at 43mph
Weds 3 Dec 15:15 to 15:30	Village Hall	3	44mph at 15:30pm	155	
Fri 5 Dec 8:30am to 9:00am	Village Hall	6	41mph at 8:55am	144	Also 1 at 40mph
Sat 6 Dec 9:45am to 10:15am	Village Hall	5	2 at 40mph at 9:51am and 9:58am	73	
Totals		36		816	15 vehicles (37% of total speeding) above 40 mph

Editors note : A big thank you to all of the speed watch volunteers and to the Police who often turn up to support them. I know that many residents witness excess speeds from all sorts of vehicles travelling through the village. We can see a snapshot of speeding vehicles from the charts and it would seem that many drivers take very little notice of the speed limit. Is it about time that we had fixed speed cameras?





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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR (PRESENT & FUTURE) MEMBERS!

Cuttings

6TH January 2026 Talk on “Caring for Houseplants”

When it may be too cold or wet for gardening outside, we’re delighted that our first guest speaker of the year will be Kate Holtom of Fern & Ivy on “Caring for Houseplants”. Kate left her role as head of languages at a Swindon school in 2021. She opened up a plant shop in Cirencester, having developed an interest in horticulture during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Clippings

Club meetings will remain throughout 2025 on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August) at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Plant ID, plant sales, raffle, questions (hopefully answers) and friendly chat over homemade refreshments.

New members are always welcome. The annual fee is £20 single, £35 joint, U18's free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on the sherston.net website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com



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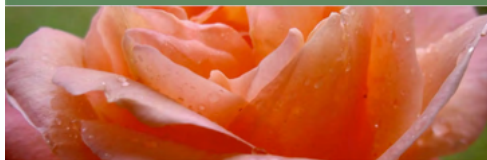


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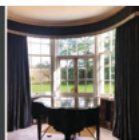
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BODYMATTERS

MITOCHONDRIA is a word that is being mentioned a lot and whilst we all have them and always have, we may not have paid enough attention to them unless you are a gym bunny or an athlete. Mitochondria are the cells that give us our energy and they will help give us longevity. After being sent yet another email saying how to improve my mitochondria by yet another supplement I thought it was well worth writing and reminding that you don't need to take another supplement, exercise including HIIT (high intensity interval training) along with a highly nutrient diet which means NO ULTRA PROCESSED FOODS!

A diet rich in antioxidants which will kill the free radicals so dark fruits and vegetables, green tea. Healthy fats such as olive oil, seeds, nuts, avocados, oily fish (not farmed), quality sleep - going to bed early and rising early rather than going to bed late and rising late. Intermittent fasting so giving your self an eight hour window to eat. Looking after the stress in your life, none of us can avoid stress but it's how to deal with it that matters as none of want the cortisol flooding our systems and making us ill with ulcers or even worse cancer so stress management. Avoid toxins, some of you may have seen PANORAMA: THE TRUTH ABOUT CHEMICALS BBC1 iplayer, definitely worth a watch and making some changes. Sunlight will also encourage your Mitochondria so especially first thing in the morning if you have a chance of 10 minutes in the morning sun - grab it!



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Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

January often arrives with a mix of emotions. For many it signals a fresh start, a moment to reset and look ahead. For others, the long nights and return to routine can feel lonely or heavy after the brightness of the festive season. This is exactly when the strength of our local community matters most.

I was delighted recently to become a Patron of The Churn Project in Cirencester, a charity that has been supporting people of all ages for many years. Whether someone is experiencing isolation, financial pressure, or a lack of confidence and wellbeing, The Churn provides practical help and, just as importantly, human connection. Last year, 1,762 people took part in its activities - an extraordinary testament to what community compassion can achieve. Walking into their building, you immediately feel the warmth and dignity that underpin their work.

The Long Table in Stroud and Cirencester is another wonderful example of that same spirit. I visited recently with my team, and it reinforced how powerful a shared meal can be. By offering dishes on a pay-as-you-can basis, The Long Table ensures that everyone - regardless of circumstances - can enjoy good food and conversation.

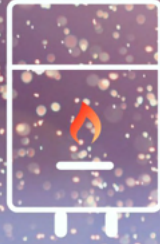
New ideas continue to emerge. The Barn Theatre is seeking initial funding for a Barn Bus pilot, which would use school-run vehicles during the day to help older residents travel safely to the theatre and enjoy social time in town. It's a simple but creative way to tackle isolation and expand access to the arts across Tetbury, Fairford, Lechlade and nearby villages.

All these initiatives remind us that wellbeing relies not only on services but on belonging and shared experience. As Parliament progresses the Mental Health Bill, I'll keep pressing for investment in community-led support that prevents crisis before it begins.

Warm wishes,
Roz



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Lime Down

Stop Lime Down Meetings full to the rafters at all sites.

Huge crowds packed Malmesbury Town Hall and village halls in the last week of November to get an update on the Lime Down project and to learn how to register their opinions to the Planning Inspectors

The timing of the meetings was appropriate so that people can complete their registration by the January 9 deadline and were encouraged to do so now before Christmas activities take over.

A summary of the project's timeline was given, showing that the project documents have been received by the Planning Inspectors who will take months in 2026 to examine the content. They will also be considering the views of residents and visitors who register and they will ensure that the most important issues are properly examined. The communities were encouraged to list the issues that most affect them from Lime Down. It could be traffic during construction. Malmesbury will bear the brunt of abnormal indivisible loads which, because it was belatedly discovered they could not pass under Kingway Bridge, will be routed from M4 J15 to Cirencester, forcing further alteration to that roundabout, through Crudwell, around Malmesbury, with further roundabout alterations, down through Corston to the site.

Other access routes for HGVs will be via small country lanes like via Grittleton and Burton

Or it may be noise – not just in construction from pile driving for 650,000 panels, but in operation from the hum of cooling fans from substations and battery storage.

Or it could just be the reaction to eighteen square miles of countryside being altered for ever, with 4.5 metre high panels all fenced off and the subsequent loss of public rights of way.

Flooding was a major concern raised by the audience in Corston who were dismayed to hear that this issue has not been properly addressed by Lime Down. Lime Down propose mitigation to protect their assets – but what about residents?

All audiences were dismayed to see again the sheer vast scale of the project but left determined to get their views across.

For those that missed the Village Hall meetings a summary of the presentation by Sir Mike Pitt and Richard Skeffington can be found on the Stop Lime Down site, www.StopLimeDown.com



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SUDOKU

December Sudoku

Neil Fozard

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

EASY !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the December quizzes:

‘Easy’

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

‘Not so Easy’

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

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

'Do not fear' are the first words that the angels say to the Shepherd.

At the start of this New Year we are aware of all the changes that might happen, the threats that worry us and the possibilities that life might throw at us, this year.

And I offer the suggestion that only love or hate, have the power necessary to give us the courage to overcome fear. And rather than speak about hate, I would like to speak about love.

Love is not a given for many people. And the ability to see beyond the fears that close in upon us, is not something everyone thinks that love can help with. But I do not understand how we can see beyond the boundaries of this life, or cope with the knowledge that literally anything can happen to us at anytime, without knowing we are loved unconditionally. And unconditional love is something we only very rarely experience. We do however all have access to it with God.

Our acceptance of God's love requires a religion or a social system of thought and belief, to support it and help it to grow. I am convinced, that whilst things like art, poetry, books, music, gardening, yoga etcetera, all play a huge and important part in the life of the soul, we still need God.

The thing which religion offers is Martin Buber's 'I-Thou' relationship, with God. Our soul needs music frequently - it soothes our restless spirit, and our soul soars when we pick up a paintbrush and respond to the visual world, our mind's imagination is fed by literature and our body stretched by yoga exercises - but I believe we also need something more intimate, a deeper union than can commonly be found in this world, a love which is 100%.

Maybe not everyone is so interested in the love which God offers. But to me, it is vital. And it is the most powerful tool we have, to live life courageously.

I wish you a very happy New Year, with best wishes...

Rev Richard Thomson, (vicar)

Jan-26 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
4th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
The Epiphany	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
11th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
The Baptism of Christ	9.30pm	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
18th January	9am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
2nd Sunday of Epiphany				Rev R Thomson, Debbie
	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Young-Talk
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	M Butler
25th January	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev J Hunnisett
Conversion of Paul	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian MacFadyen

YOUR DYDDI

The Dyddi Digest has been delivered free of charge for 50 years—thanks to our wonderful community. Your support at village fundraising events, along with kind donations, helps us keep the magazine going. Our local advertisers also play a big part in covering costs, and we keep advertising to a balanced level with a focus on supporting nearby businesses.

We love receiving articles for the Digest. Please send your piece by the 13th of the month. Around 250 words is ideal. If you're including illustrations, please allow space for them by reducing the word count. Our editorial team may gently edit submissions for clarity, length, and house style.

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