

DYDDI

DIGEST

FEBRUARY - 2026 605

Didmarton's own magazine
Published monthly since 1975

DIARY DATES - February

2nd Candlemas Day
14th Valentine's Day
17th Shrove Tuesday
17th Chinese New Year (Horse)
24th 4th Anniversary, Russian invasion Ukraine
28th Race Night - see ad on page 14

RUBBISH DATES

Food Waste

Every Friday

Recycling ,Refuse & Garden

Friday 13th and 27th

Film Club

The next Didmarton Film Club showing will be on Friday 6th February
Doors open at 6.30pm for a cash bar and the showing starts at 7.30pm.
Due to licensing restrictions we can only advise members of the Film Title.
For free membership contact
: jenny.body1@gmail.com

Please note all are welcome and donations (£5 typically) gratefully received.



The Village Hall and its Solar Panels

By now the Solar Panels for the village Hall should be in place.

There are 24 of them and they produce DC energy. But our systems need two 5kw Inverters which may give us options to add more panels in the future.

We have not opted for a battery for 2 reasons, the first being the cost. They are quite expensive! The second reason is that we use very little overnight electricity compared to what is expected to be generated during the day and so it makes sense to sell the excess back to the grid and just bear the overnight costs ourselves.

We do not know how much excess energy we will sell or what the selling price will be yet, but the “experts” have told us that earnings should be substantially more than our current (ha ha) costs.

The grant we have received together with a sum from our reserves enable us to make this investment. Investments, by their nature, expect a future return and we are confident that, within a couple of years the whole village will benefit from reduced costs of running the hall and playing field, so that more funds are available for other facilities to be added.

If you have some views on what those could or should be, then please let us know or attend one of our monthly meetings. Details can be obtained from any Committee member or by emailing alantownsend1950@gmail.com

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*

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BABYSITTING

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Charlotte Goodwill - 07485 541461

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Chloe Wallace 07984 922717

Daisy Nightingale 07816 914434

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



The January 100 Club draw took place on 5th January at the DVHCC meeting held at the Village Hall.

The prize winners were:

1st Prize £20 Peter Littlejohn

2nd Prize £15 Pip Hardy

3rd Prize £15 Karen Thomson

4th Prize £10 Emma Kay

Sue and Sue

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VALERIE'S WARTIME IN DIDMARTON.



February



My grandfather was full of old country sayings, and used to quote "February, fill the ditch, Black or white, we don't care which" when that month arrived, as it would either snow or rain for most of the time; but even before February, we were able to gather snowdrops, which grew in profuse numbers in a wooded stretch of land at the top of the village known as the Plantation. The land belonged to the occupants of Worcester Lodge, so we were careful to knock first and ask if we might pick them; a request that was never refused. My grandmother loved flowers and I was always eager to gather them for her as soon as they appeared.

I also loved the long yellow tassels of the hazel catkins, and the white furry "pussy willow" which started to sprout at this time of year. They form a charming background for daffodils, and also look good with the dark brown dried teasel heads.

On St. Valentine's Day, the birds are supposed to mate, and blackbirds and thrushes were in full song. Some of the smaller birds, such as the dunnoek and blue tit would also sing on bright, sunny days. By the end of the month, the elder and hawthorn leaves were beginning to come out in the hedgerows, and with the lengthening days, we knew that winter was nearly over.





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- Thursday - Steak Evening
- Friday - Fish Night
- Saturday - Burger Evening
- Sunday - Hearty Roasts
- Every Day - Breakfast and Brunch

Valentine's Day

Saturday 14th February at The King's Arms.

Enjoy a special evening menu and a relaxed night out.



Opening Hours

Monday-Thursday: 08:00-22:00, Friday-Saturday: 08:00-23:00

Sunday: 08:00-19:00

The King's Arms, The Street, Didmarton, Badminton GL5 1DT
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FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- February 1** **Sound Bath Experience:** Join Rosie from Rose Seeds Alchemy for a relaxing sound experience. Experience the powerful vibrations of the gong, accompanied by crystal singing bowls, drums and chimes. Tickets in advance £25. 7.15pm
- February 7** **James Morton's Groove Den:** Join saxophone player James and his band for an evening of soul, jazz, hip-hop and tough grooving beats. Tickets in advance £16.50. 7.30pm
- February 13** **Tango Calor and Dance Workshop:** Join us for a special Valentine's Day milonga – Latin music and dance night – with Bristol's own Tango Calor. The workshop at 7 will teach you to tango for the milonga. Tickets for both in advance £30, workshop £15, Milonga £18.50 7pm and 8pm
- February 21** **Fail Fail Fail Fail Win!** A fun family circus show for ages 3-10 with circus performers Mark and Loz. And you'll find it's okay to fail as long as you try! Tickets in advance £12 (family of four £40) 2pm
- February 28** **The Amy Experience.** Back to Black: A tribute to the often misunderstood and sadly missed Amy Winehouse. The show is modelled on her 2007 show 'I told You I was Trouble'. Tickets in advance £25. 7.30pm.

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk.



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BODYMATTERS

January arrives each year with a familiar wave of magazines, newspapers, and television programmes overflowing with advice on weight loss, fitness routines, and the latest “must-try” health trends. We live in a time when information has never been more accessible—what to eat, when to eat, how to exercise, and even how to breathe properly is laid out for us in endless detail. And yet, despite this abundance of guidance, we remain a nation that struggles with overeating, inactivity, and the ongoing challenge of self-discipline. It’s all too easy to slip into an ostrich-like mindset, burying our heads in the sand because avoidance feels simpler in the moment. Unfortunately, the consequences of that avoidance can become irreversible, leaving people with fewer choices and reduced ability to care for their health later on.

If you or someone you know is finding motivation difficult, pairing up with a friend or family member can make a world of difference. Supporting each other, checking in on daily movement, and being honest about how many “treats” are creeping in can create a sense of accountability. It’s also worth noticing whether your meals are mostly beige or bursting with the colours of a rainbow. A food diary can be surprisingly powerful, as can tracking alcohol intake and exercise. Writing things down turns vague intentions into something tangible, helping to spark new habits.

Change is possible for everyone, but it does require a genuine desire to shift old patterns—and a bit of discipline, which is often easier with someone by your side. As we grow older, the way we care for ourselves becomes even more important. Improvements in diet and activity levels can help reduce blood pressure, support better sleep, and even reverse certain health conditions. With so much to gain and nothing to lose, why not take on a personal challenge or encourage someone else to begin theirs.

Wishing you luck, encouragement, and the reminder that it’s never too late to start. And if you wander off track, don’t dwell—just gently guide yourself back as soon as you can.

Ruth x





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SUDOKU

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the January quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Roxzanne@AllaboutSites

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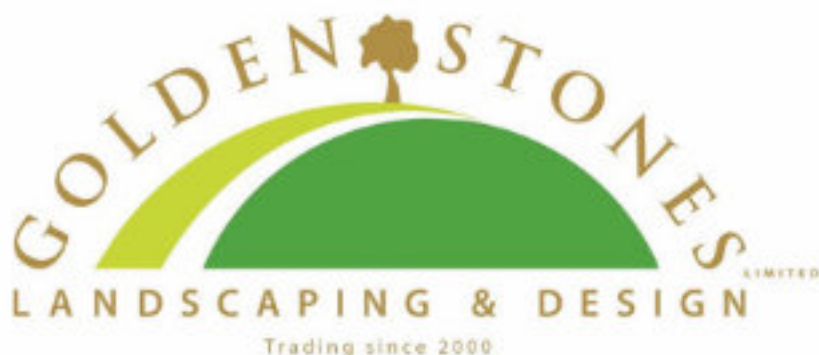
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Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

From Winter into Spring: The Quiet Work of Staying Connected

By Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

February feels like a month of transition. Winter still lingers, yet the signs of spring are unmistakable: lighter afternoons, snowdrops along lanes, and a sense that the year is beginning to stretch and breathe again.

I have always seen February not as a pause, but as a turning outward. In the South Cotswolds this shift shows itself quietly, in longer walks, lingering conversations, and the return of familiar faces after the winter months.

Unlike the business of December or summer's festivals, February rarely announces itself. Yet it is often during this understated season that the most meaningful connections are made. Over recent weeks I have been focusing on small, regular ways of staying in touch across the constituency: advice surgeries, village visits, and time spent door knocking in places that can easily be overlooked.

These moments are not headline-grabbing, but they are deeply rewarding. Again and again, I am reminded that strong communities are built through consistency, presence, and the simple act of listening.

Warm wishes,

Roz

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

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RACE NIGHT

Saturday 28th February

RACE NIGHT at the Village Hall

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Lime Down

Concerns Persist Over Lime Down Solar Despite Unanimous Council Vote

Despite a unanimous 85–0 vote at Wiltshire Council, serious concerns remain over the proposed Lime Down Solar development. During the Council Cabinet meeting on 6 January 2026, Sir Mike Pitt, spokesperson for the Stop Lime Down campaign and former Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, addressed councillors to highlight unresolved issues.

Sir Mike acknowledged the Council's general support for renewable energy but warned that Lime Down Solar presents "serious and unresolved concerns that cannot be ignored." He described the scheme as a vast, industrial-scale development spanning multiple sites near Malmesbury, linked by a 22-kilometre cable route to Melksham.

Wiltshire Council's own submissions identify missing information, incomplete assessments of worst-case impacts and unresolved risks. Key concerns include flood risk, groundwater protection, landscape and heritage damage, noise, public rights of way, fire safety linked to battery storage, air quality and economic impacts.

The Council's climate analysis suggests the scheme would not reach carbon break-even until around 2076, raising doubts about its climate benefits. Covering large areas of countryside for up to 60 years, the project is promoted by Island Green Power, owned by Australian investment bank Macquarie.

Sir Mike concluded that while renewable energy is essential, Lime Down Solar "does not meet the test" of being in the right place or at the right scale, stressing that the Council has not endorsed the scheme and that public engagement remains crucial.



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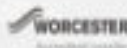
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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This year is many things, the 50th anniversary of the translation by William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament. This served as a foundational work for Myles Coverdale's translation of the whole Bible in 1535.

It is also the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis on 3rd October 1225 - his Feast day October 4th will be the high point of this year of Franciscan commemoration.

So, I may tell one or two stories about St Francis in my letter in the newsletter, this year.

My first story tells of young man named Francis Bernardone who has been released from captivity after a spell in prison as a prisoner of war. In the post-imperial age, many years after the Pax Romana had ended, towns warred against each other and the fortified town of Assisi was no different. In a local fight, Francis had been captured. On release, he worked in his father's cloth trading business and had access to expensive French cloth.

The story focuses upon the re-building of a tumbledown church at San Damiano. Francis felt called by God to re-build it. Without thinking about the consequences, he took some of his father's cloth and sold it in the market. He then took his ill-gotten gains to the priest for the repair the church.

This was clearly not a very sensible idea. The good priest was shocked that the money had been come from the theft of the cloth, and he refused to accept it. When he had told Francis' father what his son had done, Francis' father was furious. In fact, he was **so** cross that he dragged Francis before the Bishop to be punished.

The Bishop rebuked Francis for his theft but recognising it was in a good cause and not for selfish gain, ordered him to just give the money back to his father with no further punishment. Francis then did an extraordinary thing, perhaps he felt emboldened by the sympathetic response of the Bishop. He stripped off his expensive clothes and handed them to his father, and naked but for his undergarment, he publicly rejected his father. He told him that he was no longer his son and he put himself under the protection of God, as his father. The Bishop, touched by this act of devotion, covered Francis with his own cloak signalling that he was now under the protection of the Church.

What can we take from this story? Well, I leave it to you.

For me, there is something very powerful here about a naïve but fierce passion, for God's church. And a reminder that every little church in any part of the world, is a place that matters and a place where we can find God.

With my best wishes,

Rev Richard Thomson, (vicar)

Badminton Benefice website: www.badmintonbenefice.com

Email: revrichardthomson@gmail.com Home: 01454 606854/ Mob: 07717791858

Jan-26 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
1st FEBRUARY	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
8TH FEBRUARY	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
2nd Before lent	9.30pm	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
15TH FEBRUARY	9am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
Next Before lent	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young-Talk
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	M Butler
18th February	9.30am	Hawkesbury	Holy Communion	Rev R Thomson
ASH WEDNESDAY				
22ND FEBRUARY	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev J Hunnisett
Lent 1	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian MacFadyen
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson

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What is Candlemas Day?

As we move through the quiet chill of early February, our local landscape begins to show the first stirrings of renewal. Monday, **February 2, 2026**, marks the arrival of **Candlemas**—a festival that once stood as one of the most important dates on the British calendar.

Candlemas commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem and the purification of the Virgin Mary.

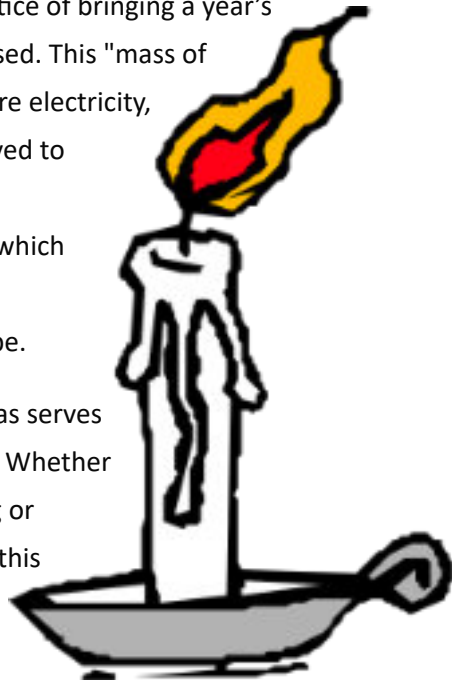
Whether you know it as the Feast of the Presentation, the Purification, or simply the day the Christmas tree must finally come down, Candlemas offers a unique blend of ancient folklore and quiet celebration.

Historically, Candlemas marks the 40-day point after Christmas and serves as the official conclusion of the festive season. While many of us now pack away the baubles by Twelfth Night, older traditions suggest that any greenery left up until February 1st should remain until Candlemas Eve to avoid bad luck.

The day's name comes from the medieval practice of bringing a year's worth of candles to the local church to be blessed. This "mass of candles" was a vital ritual in the centuries before electricity, providing households with light that was believed to ward off illness and winter shadows.

Look for the "Candlemas Bells"—snowdrops—which are currently appearing in our flower borders, churchyards and woodlands as a symbol of hope.

As we navigate the tail end of winter, Candlemas serves as a gentle reminder that the light is returning. Whether you're watching the weather for signs of spring or simply enjoying a pancake by candlelight, may this ancient festival bring a sense of warmth to February.



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