



DYDDI

DIGEST

MARCH - 2026 606

Didmarton's own magazine
Published monthly since 1975

DIARY DATES - MARCH

Friday 6th – 15th March – Para-Olympics

Sunday March 8th – International Womens Day

Sunday March 15th – Mothers Day

Tuesday March 17th – St. Patricks Day

Friday March 20th – Spring Equinox

Sunday 29th March –the clocks leap forward an hour.

RUBBISH DATES

Food Waste every Friday - Out by 7.00 am

Friday

Recycling, Refuse & Garden - Out by 7.00am

Friday - 13th & 27th

FILM CLUB

The next Film will be shown on Friday 13th March 2026. Doors open with a cash bar at 6.30pm and the Film starts at 7.30pm. All are welcome
Film Club members will be informed of the film title.

PLEASE join the club for free: contact jenny.body1@gmail.com

Jenny



100 CLUB

The February 100 Club draw took place on 6th February at the Film Night at the Village Hall.

The prize winners were:-

1st Prize £20 David Greenwood

2nd Prize £15 Brian Cook

3rd Prize £15 Sue Saunders

4th Prize £10 Nikki Edwards

Sue Cook and Sue Hammond

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CONTACTS

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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.

Don't you just love sunny days.

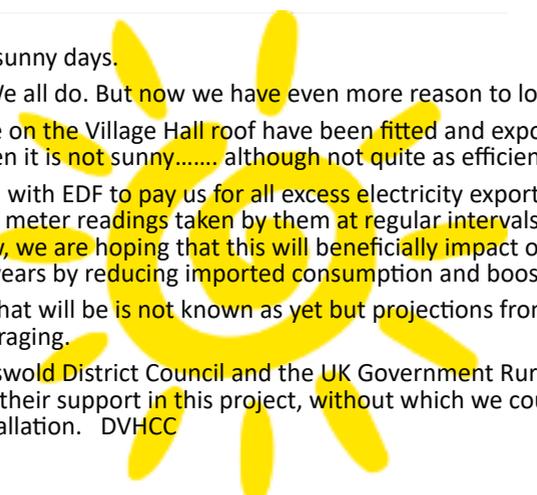
Of course you do. We all do. But now we have even more reason to love them.

The Solar Panels are on the Village Hall roof have been fitted and exporting to the grid – every day. Even when it is not sunny..... although not quite as efficiently!

We have negotiated with EDF to pay us for all excess electricity exported to the grid, based on automatic meter readings taken by them at regular intervals. As the hall usage is comparatively low, we are hoping that this will beneficially impact our costs and revenues in future years by reducing imported consumption and boosting revenues.

How much impact that will be is not known as yet but projections from the installation company are encouraging.

We must thank Cotswold District Council and the UK Government Rural England Prosperity Fund for their support in this project, without which we could not have moved forward on this installation. DVHCC



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The
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VALERIE'S WARTIME IN DIDMARTON.



March



Spring came early to our part of Gloucestershire. March was usually mild, although it often came in like a lion and we out like a lamb. The winds would flail the trees incessantly and howl round the chimney, but by the middle of the month it was noticeably warmer. The chiff-chaff and willow-warbler added their trills to the bird song in the lane and the bleat of sheep and their off-spring could be heard. In Park Wood, wild daffodils bloomed, interlaced with anemones or 'windflowes' as they are sometimes called. Patches of deep blue violets appeared and fragrant white ones hid themselves away in the hedgerows.

The following poem was one of my earliest attempts, inspired by one of those "mad March days." One of my chief pleasures was writing poems, stories and letters to my father and uncle, who were both serving with the forces abroad. Thank-you letters to relatives and friends in London, with whom I was rather out of touch, were not quite so willingly composed!

MARCHE

The first of March is here again
With cutting winds and drizzling rain.
O, what a dull and dreary thing
To hail the first approach of spring!
The winds have risen high to-day
And everywhere is all a-sway.
The trees are nodding to and fro,
The snowdrop's cup is drooping low.

Windows and doors are tightly closed.
The wind howls like a mournful ghost.
At night the gale rages fierce
As if the very heavens to pierce.
The chimney is its entrance gate
And never once does it abate.
Inside, the fire, the only cheer
Is rocking constantly in fear.

But when we reach Equinox time
The gale abates, all is sublime.
The birds are whispering in the trees
How they will build their nests with ease.
The flowers are peeping from the ground
And trees are budding all around
And everywhere and everything
Is ready now to greet the spring.





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Beaufort Races & Country Fair After Party Saturday 7th March

We're delighted to be hosting the Beaufort Races & Country Fair After Party, with live music, pizzas, burgers and King hotdogs available to order, a garden bar and a dance floor – the perfect way to continue the celebrations after a day at the races.



Mother's Day Sunday 15th March

Enjoy complimentary Bucks Fizz, beautifully prepared starters, classic Sunday roasts, seasonal mains and indulgent desserts, with dishes to suit everyone, including our Little Kings menu for children.



Opening Hours

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

The King's Arms, The Street, Didmarton, Badminton GL9 1DT
01454 238245 | info@kingsarmsdidmarton.com | www.kingsarmsdidmarton.com

February 2026 Speed Watch Summary

Despite the wet weather we managed to complete all of our 8 planned sessions showing our dedication to reducing the number of vehicles speeding through our village. We were supported once again by a visit from the PCSO and we are always pleased to receive his help.

We are a team of 14 villagers - Frances Barr, Chris Barski, Sarah Bugg, Ruth Carnaby, Lynda Copsey, David Greenwood, Sue Hammond, Pam & Jim Hudson, Susie Jones, Helen Russell, Sue Saunders, Sally Townsend and Steph Wallington.

If anyone would like to join us please contact me, Sue Hammond, on 238373 or speak to any of the team. Sue Hammond

Day & Time	Site	Pos ID	Top Speed & Time	Total Vehs	Comments
Mon 2nd 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	8	50mph @8:53	142	Also 42mph @8:38 and @ 8:39
Mon 2nd 16:00 to 16:30	Village Hall	2	37mph @16:08	151	
Tue 3rd 8:15 to 8:45	Village Hall	7	39mph @8:40	160	Lots of mizzle
Tue 3rd 15:45 to 16:15	Village Hall	5	All between 37mph and 39 mph	168	PCSO in support
Wed 4th 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	2	37mph @8:46	181	
Thu 5th 8:15 to 8:45	St Lawrence	3	All below 40 mph	197	
Fri 6th 8:30 to 9:00	Village Hall	8	46mph @8:36	141	A further 3 around 40 mph in the last 15 minutes
Fri 6th 16:00 to 16:30	Village Hall	8	49mph @16:15	59	Also 43mph @16:20 and 40mph @16:29
Totals		43		1199	23% of those exceeding the speed limit were at 40mph and above





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Sort code: 30-91-99

Account number: 77225368

Cheques/cash can be given to:
Sue Cook at 54 The Street
Sue Hammond at 6, Bertha's Field
or house-to-house collection in April

OUR SUCCESS

- Monthly prize draw of £60 (4 prizes)
- Special Christmas draw
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- £925 donated to DVHCC for village projects

Thank you for your continued support!

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100 CLUB



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BODYMATTERS

OUR BODIES KEEP THE SCORE

Let's be honest—our bodies remember everything. Every late night, every stressful day, every quick snack instead of a proper meal. The good news? While we can't magically erase years of wear and tear, we can absolutely start to heal and, even better, stop adding to the damage. Prevention really is easier than cure, and as we work on ourselves, we can help our children avoid the same pitfalls.

Stress is a sneaky villain. Our endless lists never seem to end—finish one, and another pops up! All that pressure leads to sleepless nights, and we need sleep to clear out the clutter in our brains and reset. When we were younger, skipping sleep felt like a badge of honour (remember how Maggie Thatcher famously got by on just four hours?). Now we know better: sleep is essential.

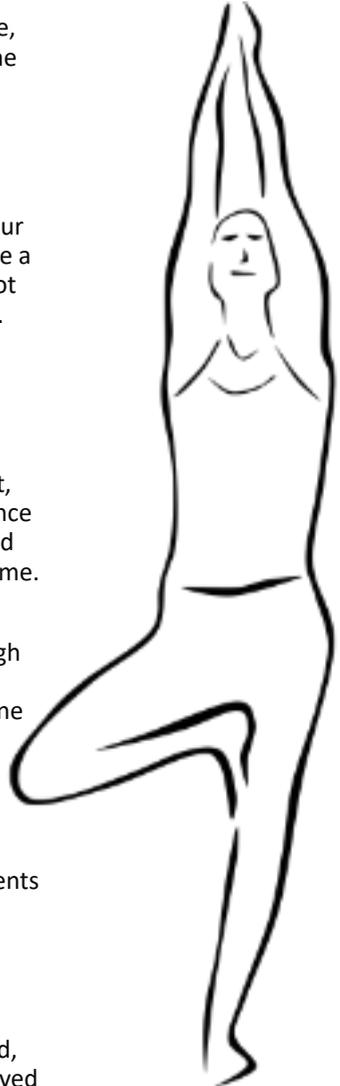
Food is another biggie. We've all indulged in ultra-processed treats, especially late at night. But food isn't just fuel—it's powerful medicine. It talks to our gut, hormones, and brain, sending different signals depending on what we eat. In the past, we ignored those signals or didn't understand them. Now, science tells us that sugar and processed foods can hijack our brains and mitochondria, and our mood is closely tied to our gut microbiome.

Movement matters too! It's not just about a gentle stroll (though that's great). Real movement—like brisk walks, running on the spot, skipping, or jumping jacks—makes us stronger, boosts bone density, and gets our blood pumping, feeding our brains with oxygen and nutrients. HIIT (high-intensity interval training) is a fantastic way to fit powerful exercise into a busy day.

But here's something we often forget: relationships. Achievements and independence are nice, but connection and friendship are what really help us thrive. We need people—family, friends, community—to function and feel fulfilled.

So, let's get back to basics. Forget perfection. Focus on real food, real movement, real sleep, and prioritising yourself and your loved ones. Small changes add up, and your body will thank you for every step you take towards better health.

Ruth



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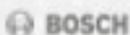
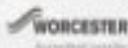
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Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

Finding Balance as the Light Returns

By Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

March feels like a season of renewal. This year, I began it by shadowing a crew at Cirencester Ambulance Station. Watching their calm professionalism reminded me that good outcomes depend not on rushing, but on clarity and teamwork.

As winter fades, longer days bring renewed energy and a sense that life is moving forward. Gardens are prepared, plans are made, and communities look ahead. Yet March also brings the spring equinox – a moment when day and night are balanced.

That balance feels especially important now. Across the South Cotswolds, families face rising costs, farmers are adapting to change, and local services are under pressure. We need progress, whether improving rivers, healthcare or flood resilience.

But progress must be thoughtful. The ambulance crews showed how steady, careful decisions achieve the best results. I see the same approach in local volunteers and community groups.

As spring arrives, it reminds us to move forward with purpose, balancing ambition with care and hope.

Warm wishes,

Roz

roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk

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**Beaufort Races & Country
Fair**

**At Didmarton
Point to Point**

Saturday March 7th

PONY RACING – 1st RACE 11am

Point to Point Steeplechases – from 1pm

FUN DOG SHOW

BUCKING BRONCO

SIMULATED CLAY SHOOT

ARCHERY

FOOD & TRADE STANDS



LIME DOWN

LIME DOWN SOLAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE RECORDS 99% LEVEL OF OBJECTION

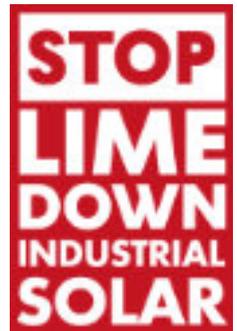
Nearly 5,000 submissions to the Planning Inspectorate—99% of which oppose the Lime Down Solar NSIP in Wiltshire—reflect an unprecedented level of concern, far exceeding the representation numbers for similar projects.

Stop Lime Down spokesperson Sir Mike Pitt stated:

“This isn’t about a handful of neighbours; thousands of homes, businesses, farms, and communities object. Such widespread opposition warrants serious consideration of whether the NSIP process is fulfilling its purpose, especially given unresolved statutory objections, missing information, and questions over economic and policy justifications.”

Key planning objections include:

- Loss of farmland and food security
- Scale and proximity to AONB
- Ecological damage to grassland, hedgerows, insects
- Flood risk and water contamination
- Industrialisation of rural landscape and heritage harm
- Construction traffic on unsuitable roads
- Reduced public access and mental health benefits
- Noise, light pollution, community disruption
- Negative impacts on property values, local businesses, and tourism No statutory body has offered clear support.
- National Grid: Objects unless infrastructure is protected
- Historic England: Notes unresolved harm, documentation gaps, and a grading error for Bradfield Manor
- Natural England: Cites insufficient information and inadequate cumulative assessment
- Environment Agency: Raises unresolved concerns on flooding, groundwater, and contamination
-



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL’S RELEVANT REPRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTED:

- Significant information is still missing from IGP’s application
- Worst-case impacts have not been fully assessed
- Key risks remain unresolved
- An astonishing lack of engagement from the developer including failure to attend key meetings.

In a BBC report on 6th March 2025, senior councillor Nick Botterill described the developers absence from a cabinet discussion as “appalling’ and “deeply disrespectful”.

Stop Lime Down is calling for urgent scrutiny of how a project facing 99% opposition can continue to be progressed and the significant waste of resources it will entail. It is hoped the Planning Inspectorate will ask the fundamental questions being about site selection, scale, transparency and democratic accountable

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SUDOKU

March 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 !!

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

NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the February quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

Editors note: Neil Fozard kindly provides the Suduko quiz every month. Its easy to take contributors work for granted but they have made this magazine possible. Thank you Neil



BADMINTON ESTATE



Spring Crafts Workshop

8th March



Celebrate spring at Badminton with Larkswold's hands-on crafts workshop from 10am-4:30pm. Choose from Easter table centrepieces, ceramic hares, or scented candle making, and create unique, personal pieces to take home.

Easter Cooking Demo

1st April



Enjoy an inspiring Easter evening with cook Nancy Lawson from Overtown Manor, 6pm-9:30pm. Watch a seasonal cookery demonstration, taste delicious dishes, ask questions, and take home recipes ideal for spring entertaining.

Open Garden Days

26th April



Explore the private gardens of Badminton House, 10am-4pm. Enjoy a day shopping for plants, gardening tools, food & drink. Visit 'A Garden of Botanical Art' exhibition on display in The Old Hall.

To book and for more information contact:

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Magical Gardens

11th and 12th June 2026



TWENTY MAGICAL GARDENS OF THE SOUTH COTSWOLDS

In aid of Tetbury Hospital

Tickets £80 | Lunch £25



MG

Upcoming Events



DIDMARTON
VILLAGE HALL

MARCH 2026

Mondays

Little Wren Yoga
9.15– 10.30am
Contact: Matt
littlewrenyoga@gmail.com

Body Matters Pilates
5 – 6pm
Contact: Ruth
ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

Tuesdays

Body Matters Pilates
9.15- 10.15am
Contact: Ruth
ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

Thursdays

Toddlers Group
10 – 11.30am
Contact: Sue on
01454 238222

03/03

Didmarton Parish
Council Meeting
from 7.30pm
Contact:
clerk@didmartonparish
council.gov.uk

10/03

Village Hall
Committee
Meeting
from 7pm
Contact:
alantownsend
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13/03

Film Night
Doors open and
cash bar from
6.30pm. Film
showing at 7.30pm
Suggested
donation of £5
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20/03

Leighterton
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Quiz & Curry Night
7pm Tickets £15.
See poster inside
for more details
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VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This year Marks the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis. As is well known, Francis loved nature and spoke of it in its different parts, as brother and sister. For example he called the sun Brother Sun, and the moon, Sister Moon. Everything in nature was in relationship with humanity in his eyes.

I was sad to read in the paper yesterday, that climate scientists are warning us that we are fast approaching a tipping point, after which there will be no chance of recovery for the planet. And our climate will spiral probably quite swiftly, towards an environment in which humankind will either not survive, or find increasingly difficult.

It is inconceivable, that the human race can be so blind to its most basic need. For what are we, without the Earth? What are we without oxygen to breathe and water to drink, and land to live upon?

My prayer is that the spirit of Saint Francis will once more inspire the people of the world to care for the things of nature, and to see our dependence and our relationship with nature. After all, this was one the first of the Commandments that God gave mankind in the Bible. To be stewards of the Earth, not violators, not destroyers, not even governors, but to care for it.

With my best wishes for a happy and holy Lent. Rev Richard Thompson

Jan-26 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
1st March	9.30am	Lasborough	Matins	Lay led, D Hewitt
Lent 2	1000am	Hawkesbury	Morning Prayer	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
8TH March	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
Lent 3	9.30pm	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Choral Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
15TH March	9am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
Mothering Sunday	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young-Talk
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	3pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Rev R Thomson
22nd March	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev R Thomson
Lent 5	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	5pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian MacFadyen
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson
29th March	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	
Palm Sunday				Rev R Thomson
	1115 am	Hawkesbury	Benefice Matins (preceded by procession from pond at 1045)	Rev R Thomson

Great News!!

The PCC at St Lawrence's have been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund which will allow us to carry out the much-needed repairs to the clock face and bell fixings. We hope to get the work underway in the next couple of months and plan to have events which will involve the village as it progresses.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with fundraising in the last eighteen months. The support of the village was important for our application. If you are a Lottery player – thank you!

We will keep you updated as the bell and clock are brought back to life.



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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THE ROYAL OAK

LEIGHTERTON

Join us this

Mothering Sunday

15th of March

Only a few spaces left!

Spring Food & Wine Tasting

5 courses with wine flight
plus canapes & welcome drinks on arrival

Wednesday 15th April - 7pm

Thursday 16th April - 7pm

Friday 17th April - 7pm

Limited spaces, pre-booking only

