

# DYDDI

DIGEST

APRIL - 2026 607

Didmarton's own magazine  
Published monthly since 1975

## DIARY DATES - APRIL

WOW 1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>

National Paint Eyes on your Eyelids Day 1<sup>st</sup>

National Ferret Day 2<sup>nd</sup>

National Hug a Person Day 4<sup>th</sup>

St. George's Day 23<sup>rd</sup>

## RUBBISH DATES

Food Waste every Friday - Out by 7.00 am  
Friday

Recycling, Refuse & Garden - Out by 7.00am  
Friday - 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

## FILM CLUB

The next Film will be shown on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 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



## May Blossom

“Cast not a clout till May is out” is an old English proverb warning people not to put away their warm clothes too early in the year. The word “clout” means a piece of clothing, and the phrase reflects the unpredictability of spring weather, especially in Britain. Some people think “May” refers to the month, while others believe it means the mayflower (hawthorn blossom), suggesting you should wait until the hawthorn is in full bloom. Either way, the saying reminds us that even when days start to feel milder, cold snaps and frosts can still arrive, so it's wise to be cautious before dressing for summer.

## 100 CLUB

The March draw took place at the Toddler group table top sale held on February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. The winners were:-

First Prize     £20     Margaret Greenwood

Second Prize   £15     Caroline Nicolle

Third Prize     £15     Alice Fulford

Fourth Prize   £10     David Michel

Sue & Sue

## 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.

## Ian Adsetts

Ian lived at Elmleaze stud for many years. Moving to Westonbirt just a couple of years ago.

Ian had been a long term supporter of all matters equine in and around the Badminton community but sadly he passed away unexpectedly on 24th February. He will be widely missed after a happy and eventful life.

The Adsetts Family



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### **Come and try bowls for FREE!**

At Nailsworth Mills Bowling Club our new season opens on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April with a ceremonial bowl by our president, and the draw for our grand raffle (tickets available from members). Through

the spring and summer anyone is welcome to come to the club on Friday evenings where you can learn the basics in a friendly environment or just have a go - you'll be sure of a warm welcome. All you need is flat footwear, and we'll show you the rest - coaching is available if you like what you find and want to learn more. You can find us on the Nailsworth Mills estate near the garden centre - just go straight across the mini-roundabout and we are on the left.

If you want to join, our membership fees are modest as the members run the club (just £60 in the first year), and the bar prices are very attractive.

Watch out for our special event dates, in this publication, on our Facebook page, or check updates at <https://www.nailsworthmillsbowls.club/>



## VALERIE'S WARTIME IN DIDMARTON.



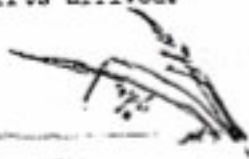
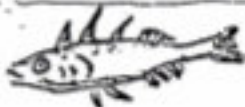
# April



In warm April sunshine between the showers we picked bunches and bunches of primroses to decorate the Church for Easter. We tied each bunch with wool and laid them carefully in wicker shopping baskets, and there were still plenty left in the woods after our raid. We would collect frog spawn from local ponds and streams and watch the eggs change into tadpoles and tiny frogs. We caught sticklebacks and minnows as well, but these did not survive long without running water. Watercress grew in the brook and we took off our shoes and socks to paddle in the cool water and glean the choicest bunches. After April it blossomed and was not suitable for eating again until September, so we never gathered it unless there was an "r" in the month.

There was the thrill of discovering a bird's nest; creeping quietly past the hedges; hearing the flutter of a bird as it mounted guard on its precious brood; and searching diligently until we saw the bird crouched, immobile, on its nest. We tried not to frighten her off and re-visited the nest several times to glimpse the eggs and later the chicks. Blackbird's and thrush's nests were most common, but I remember my uncle, showing me a wren's nest made of soft moss and packed with tiny white red-spotted eggs. He also showed me a nest of yellowhammers on a grass verge which he had discovered by seeing the parents deliver food there. I once found a clutch of hen's eggs under a hedge whilst searching for wild bird's nests. They were all fresh and a lucky find, as eggs were strictly rationed.

There was magic in the first cuckoo call - that "blithe newcomer of the spring" - nowadays heard only occasionally, even in the country; but in those days we often grew weary of the noise, which on warm, spring days started at dawn and continued at intervals throughout the day. A large, hawk-like bird, it would perch in our apple tree fluting monotonously for several minutes before flying off to another site, still within earshot. Swallows and martins darted tirelessly overhead, and finally, in May, the screaming swifts arrived.





## Seasonal Dining, Comforting Classics and a Warm Welcome

### Brunch, roasts and relaxed dining in the heart of the village.

At The King's Arms, heritage meets hospitality, with roaring fires in winter, a sunny garden in summer and a true Cotswold welcome all year round.

Our new seasonal menu celebrates the best local produce, alongside comforting pub classics and beautifully prepared dishes for every occasion. Join us for breakfast and brunch every day, hearty Sunday roasts, or a relaxed lunch or supper with friends and family.

We're proudly dog-friendly, with a warm, welcoming atmosphere that's perfect for village meet-ups with friends, family and four-legged companions. Whether it's dining, a weekend break or simply a pint by the fire, The King's Arms is at the heart of village life.

#### Quiz Night

First Thursday of Every Month

Join us on the first Thursday of every month for Quiz Night, hosted by Tom Hathorell.

Gather your team, grab a drink and put your knowledge to the test.

Whether you're quiz regulars or simply looking for a fun evening out, everyone's welcome.

£5.00 entry fee per team.



#### Live Music Night

First Friday of Every Month

Join us for live music on the first Friday of every month, starting on Good Friday.

From 7pm, enjoy a relaxed evening of great music and good company in the warm surroundings of the pub.

No tickets required, simply come along and enjoy the atmosphere.



#### 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](mailto:info@kingsarmsdidmarton.com) | [www.kingsarmadidmarton.com](http://www.kingsarmadidmarton.com)

# Major Changes Coming to Didmarton Cricket Club

You may soon notice some rather unusual activity on the playing field this summer. At an emergency meeting last week, the Didmarton Village Hall Committee, the Cricket Club, and representatives from The Kings Arms Pub agreed on a bold new initiative designed to “increase participation, excitement, and hydration levels” at village sporting events.

The proposal centres around a new format of cricket for the village’s popular T20 match, provisionally titled “**The Turbo Twenty**”.

Under the plan, every over will now be sponsored by a different beverage from The Kings Arms. Instead of the traditional drinks break after ten overs, players will pause after **every over** to sample the sponsor’s offering. A committee spokesperson explained that this would “support local hospitality while ensuring that no player becomes dangerously under-refreshed during the match.”

Additional rule changes under consideration include:

- **The Boundary Rule:** Any ball hit directly into any of the gardens counts as **ten runs and a complementary pint**.
- **The Village Hall Power Play:** During overs 5–8, batsmen must wear oven gloves borrowed from the Village Hall kitchen “to level the playing field.”
- **Spectator Participation:** If a fielder drops a catch, the nearest spectator must attempt the next delivery.

The playing field itself may also see improvements. Plans reportedly include installing a **temporary beer tent on the boundary**, allowing spectators to enjoy the action without the inconvenience of walking all the way to the pub.

Early reports suggest strong support from locals, although one resident did question whether the match might run slightly longer than usual. Organisers insist this will not be a problem.

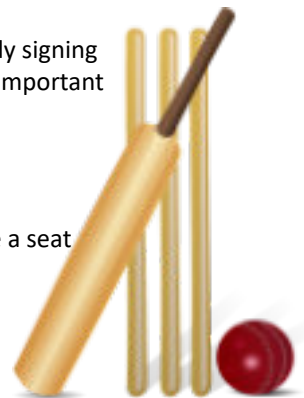
“Normally a T20 lasts three hours,” said the Captain. “With the new format we expect to finish comfortably... sometime on Sunday.”

Further details will be announced soon, with volunteers already signing up to help with scoring, boundary judging, and the extremely important role of **Official Taster**.

The Dyddi Digest will, of course, keep readers updated on developments.

And finally, before anyone rushes to polish their bat or reserve a seat in the mid-wicket beer garden...

**Happy April Fools’ Day.**





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# HELP SUPPORT THE 100 CLUB

## EXISTING MEMBERS

Please renew your membership for 2026/27

Preferably by bank transfer to:

**Lloyds Bank, 100 Club Account**

**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
- £902 in prize money given out
- £925 donated to DVHCC for village projects

***Thank you for your continued support!***

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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Monthly draws held at village events

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***Remember you have to be in it to win it!***

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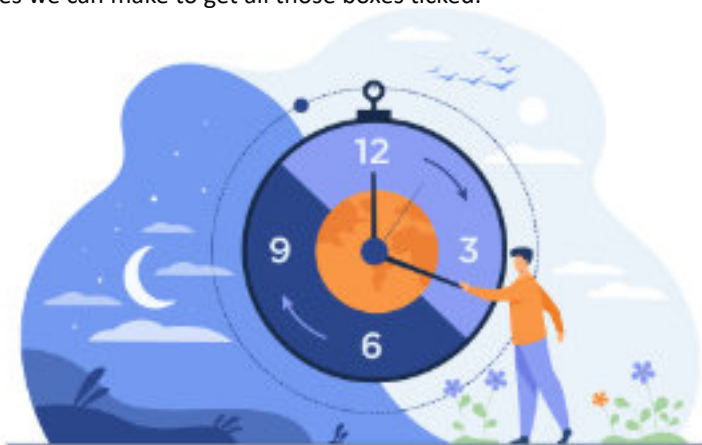


## BODYMATTERS

I've listened to a very interesting podcast on the Dhru Purohit show and if you are a podcast fan then I urge you to listen to it. The Podcast is about our Circadian rhythm which is "the body's internal 24 hour clock that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, operating in the background to manage physical, mental and behavioural changes."

The guest speaker is Dr. Satchin Panda, who has been researching how our circadian rhythm can be tied up with cancer and cognitive decline, depression and Alzheimer's. Dr Panda leads "Team Circadian" in ground breaking research of "The importance of time restricted eating," along with why exercise and light is so important for everyone. I've always used the analogy of not putting the wrong fuel in our cars but we continue to put the wrong fuel in our bodies. We ignore the time for eating, along with the optimum time for our bodies to digest the food before sleep. We know we shouldn't be going on our computers, iPads or phones two hours at least before we sleep, however we still do, then wonder why we wake up through the night when there are multiple reasons that can be addressed.

We are now coming into Spring and the clocks will be going forward so easier to make sure we have enough day light, to help with our circadian rhythm. Dimmer switchers are good along with lamps and will help in the evenings especially in winter to help towards our sleep hygiene. Dr Panda also refers to exercise as being the best antioxidant, if we make sure we get a pulse rate up and sweat then there is no better antioxidant also to get the blood pumping around the body especially the brain! if we are fairly sedentary then we are missing out on two vital activities. More and more research is being carried out to help us stay fit and enjoy a healthy lifestyle so it's important to pay attention to what changes we can make to get all those boxes ticked.



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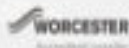
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# Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

## **Rooted in Place: Caring for the South Cotswolds**

By Dr Roz Savage MP

April brings renewal across the South Cotswolds – greening hedges, lambs in the fields and villages feeling busier again as the days lengthen. It's a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a special part of the country.

Over recent weeks I've been speaking up for our area both locally and nationally. At the Anthropy conference I joined discussions about how Britain's future depends on confident, well-supported local communities. Closer to home, at the Cotswold Regenerative Agriculture Conference, I heard from farmers and businesses working to strengthen food production while improving soil health and biodiversity.

I've also been raising residents' concerns about large housing proposals affecting villages such as Siddington, Lechlade, Fairford, Kempsford and Crudwell. Many people are worried about the impact on traffic, flooding and sewerage infrastructure.

New homes are needed, particularly for local families, but development must be properly planned and supported by infrastructure. I will continue working to ensure the South Cotswolds' voice is heard as decisions about our landscape and communities are made. Warm wishes,

Roz [roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk) 01285 300555



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## Cotswold District Council (CDC ) Report)

The next Full Council meeting is on 18 March. At the recent Overview and Scrutiny meeting, we received an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This government-led proposal would replace district and town councils with larger unitary authorities and is currently open for public consultation. The preferred option among most Gloucestershire councils is a single county-wide unitary authority, estimated to cost around £10m to establish, with CDC contributing approximately £1.5m. This figure reflects only direct costs such as IT and redundancies and does not account for the significant officer time required. I have raised concerns about the impact this work may have on officers' core responsibilities of serving Cotswold residents.

### Litter

My comments on litter, particularly fast-food waste, continue to attract national interest, including a forthcoming feature on BBC Morning Live. I have been contacted by people across the country and spoken with a company developing technology to record littering from vehicles. While more surveillance is not ideal, action is needed to tackle worsening litter. I am exploring a potential trial with CDC's Head of Environmental Services and discussing ways to work with food outlets, such as adding purchase details to packaging to help identify offenders. I have also raised concerns about increased litter following the removal of lay-by bins and the poor state of verges and lanes. While community litter picks help, CDC should take responsibility for the wider road network. I will share their response next month.

### Roads

Road conditions remain extremely poor. I report issues whenever possible and encourage residents to use the Fix My Street app to alert Highways. I also visited the A417 "Missing Link" project, which is progressing well. Partial opening is planned for early May, with traffic diverted through a temporary and complex route at the Air Balloon roundabout. Significant disruption is expected for several weeks, particularly from the Seven Springs direction, and drivers are advised to avoid the area if possible.

### Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council,

Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930



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# SUDOKU

## April 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 !!

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

### NOT SO EASY !!

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

Answers to the March quizzes:

'Easy'

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

'Not so Easy'

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

# Upcoming Events



DIDMARTON  
VILLAGE HALL

APRIL 2026

## Monday

### **Little Wren Yoga**

9.15 – 10.30am

Contact: Matt

littlewrenyoga@gmail.com

### **Body Matters Pilates**

5 – 6pm

Contact: Ruth

ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

## Tuesday

### **Body Matters Pilates**

9.15 - 10.15am

Contact: Ruth

ruth@bodymatters1.co.uk

## Thursday

### **Toddlers Group**

10 – 11.30am

Contact: Sue on

01454 238222

## 10/04

### **Film Night**

Doors open and cash bar from 6.30pm.

Film showing at 7.30pm

Suggested donation of £5

Contact: jenny.body1@gmail.com

## 14/04

### **Village Hall Committee Meeting**

from 7pm

Contact:

alantownsend

1950@gmail.com

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7<sup>th</sup> April talk – Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers: “Plants that have recently grabbed my attention”

### **Cuttings**

We enjoyed an entertaining talk at our March meeting by Luckington resident, Paul Fletcher, of Cherry Orchard Barn. Paul had prepared an excellent slide presentation of his beautiful, colourful garden, created out of a bare, windy field over a decade ago. A profusion of plants in a variety of garden rooms, each with a special identity, had members making notes of names. We hope to organise a visit to the garden during June or July when, Paul assured us, everything is at its best.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, we shall be welcoming nurseryman, Bob Brown to talk about plants that have recently grabbed his attention. Bob purchased an acre of land down a remote lane near Evesham in 1990 to start the famous Cotswold Garden Flowers company. The plot was originally intended for use as a burial ground but has flourished into one of the UK’s most renowned plant nurseries, offering an extraordinary collection of unique and unusual perennials. His visit will at least save us trying to find the place

!

### **Coming up**

5<sup>th</sup> May – Andrew Jeanes will return to talk about Climbing Plants

20<sup>th</sup> May The day we’re organising a self-drive trip to delightful Cadenham Manor, near Foxham. The lovely gardens were created in the 1950s with ‘rooms’ divided by yew hedges and moats and filled by old roses, specimen trees, fountains and statues. More .

### **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](http://sherston.net) website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at [sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com)





BADMINTON ESTATE

# Open Garden Day

Sunday 26th April

10am-4pm

Explore the gardens of Badminton House.  
Shop for plants, gardening tools, food & drink.

Visit the *A Garden of Botanical Art*  
exhibition on display in The Old Hall.

Book at [www.badmintonestate.com](http://www.badmintonestate.com)

## A call to Dyddi Digest readers.

1975 saw the idea of a monthly magazine in Didmarton germinate into reality and in October last year we celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

IN THE BEGINNING.... the proposers/villagers/editors wrote the articles, typed them onto A4 pages, photocopied those pages -double sided and paginated to take account of folding to A5!!! – collated the pages and stapled them together. THEN.... they organised delivery to every householder in the village.

What a feat, but necessary because print companies in those days were only interested in long runs and needed paying – which was difficult as there wasn't much in the way of fundraising back then.

So.....in the beginning there were no print costs. Just the blood, sweat and tears of the volunteers. Those volunteers were very well appreciated and held the full support and admiration of all the villagers, with many making the effort to add articles or financial contributions to the infant newsletter.

**Flash forward to today** where we produce, in house, a colour magazine, professionally presented and printed but still hand delivered - to each house in this village and beyond - by an unsung group of volunteers. We thank them enormously for their time and effort. But print costs are now at £1 per copy and partly supported by our advertisers. The balance is well over £1000 per year and paid by the DVHCC out of village funds raised from the profits of events that we hold during the year – profits which are needed for the upkeep of the hall and playing field.

We are very grateful to receive donations, by monthly standing order, from 3 residents of Didmarton. As the Dyddi Digest has been an informative and comforting read every month for many we are asking whether others would also consider setting up a small monthly standing order with your bank of just £1 or £2. Not everyone can afford to do so but if you can, please do using the following bank details.....

Sort code: 30-91-99          Account: 0231  
Didmarton Village Hall and Community Committee

I know many of you share our vision for the Dyddi to be able to continue serving the village for another 50 years.

Alan Townsend

Chairman - DVHCC



# VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As winter turns to spring, and Easter reminds us of the Christian Hope, and the weather picks up, let me tell you another story about Saint Francis. As we follow the story of Saint Francis, we realise just how radical he was. There is a story of him meeting a Leper on the road, and instead of avoiding him as was the custom, he raced up to him and hugged him. He then gave his coat to the leper.

The story has been told many times to remind people that, what is now called 'diversity and inclusion', began a long time ago with Jesus. Embracing a leper is about the most extreme form of 'diversity and inclusion' possible. And Francis throws a light on Jesus.

Something similar in our day might be racing up to a beggar on a pedestrian precinct in Bath and hugging them and insisting on them taking your jacket or jersey and shirt. Then walking away with barely a vest on.

Whilst most of us would not go beyond a smile and handing over a pound or two, we might support a homeless charity, as well. The point about what Francis did, is not to say that that is what we should do. It is a demonstration of the love of God which embraces every person no matter what destitute position, they find themselves in.

Like any good saint, Francis teaches us about God. And loving God, will help us to know how we should act.

With my best wishes for a happy Easter,

Rev Richard Thomson, Vicar.

revrichardthomson@gmail.com Tel 01454 219236 Mobile 07717791858

Jan-26 Parish Church services:				
Date	Time	Parish	Service	Minister
April 5th	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion	Rev S Abbott
Easter Day	1000am	Hawkesbury	Sung Eucharist	Rev R Thomson
	1115am	Didmarton	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer with HC	Rev R Thomson
12TH April	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion BCP	Rev P Cheeseman
Easter 2	9.30pm	Leighterton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev J Wilson
	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev J Wilson
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Rev J Wilson
19TH April	9am	Didmarton	Holy Communion BCP	Rev R Thomson
Easter 3	10.00am	Hawkesbury	Family service	Rev R Thomson, Debbie Young-Talk
	1115am	Sopworth	Matins	Rev R Thomson
	6pm	Acton Turville	Evening Prayer	Mr M Butler
26TH April	9.30am	Lasborough	Holy Communion CW	Rev J Hunnisett
Easter 4	1115	L Badminton	Matins	Rev J Hunnisett
	6pm	Hawkesbury	Evensong	Sir Ian MacFadyen
	6.30pm	Leighterton	Evensong	Robert Bryant-Pearson

# Planning Dispute over Joyce's Pool

Regular walkers around Joyce's Pool may have noticed an unusual feature overhanging the water: the **spaghetti tree** has bloomed and its long strands are dangling almost to the surface.

Local residents say the tree appeared to be thriving in the mild winter, with several early "harvests" already spotted by hopeful pasta enthusiasts armed with colanders.

However, the situation has attracted the attention of **Cotswold District Council**, which has reportedly issued an enforcement notice after concerns that the tree may have been planted without the appropriate rural culinary consent. Officials are said to be investigating whether the species is native to the area or the result of an experimental Italian agroforestry scheme.

A council spokesperson commented that while the district is supportive of agricultural innovation, "all pasta-producing trees must comply with the correct planning regulations."

In the meantime, visitors are advised **not to pick the spaghetti** until the matter is resolved.

## 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.

## DONATE TO THE DYDDI

Please follow the link to donate to our village magazine.

**Scan to Pay**

Download SumUp Pay to earn cashback on every purchase.



## ADVERTISE IN THE DYDDI

Quarter Page £130 for 12 issues

Half Page £200 for 12 issues

Full Page £380 for 12 issues

Shorter runs available, please contact the editor for a media pack.

Email: [editor@dyddi.co.uk](mailto:editor@dyddi.co.uk)

# THE ROYAL OAK

LEIGHTERTON

## 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

