



Lest we forget

CORONAVIRUS TIMES COKOMYAIKOS TIME?

On Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2020, Steve and Karen Gees with Ian Nixon attended the Brackley War Memorial and laid the commemorative wreath on behalf of Brackley u3a.

IN THIS ISSUE
IN FLANDERS FIELDS
CHRISTMAS CARD
OUR ARMED FORCES
MEMORIES
THE NATIONAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE
ANONYMOUS MEMORY
THANKSGIVING
MEMORY FROM MY DAD
MEMORIES FOR THOSE OLD ENOUGH
BLACK FRIDAY PURCHASES!
BOOK TITLE ANAGRAMS
A MATHEMATICAL FUNNY
MATHS 4 FUN PUZZLE
EXERCISE CLASSES
THE SILENT TREATMENT
STAGE MUSICAL COMPANY
HOW-LIFE EVOLVES
ENGLISH WORD
MIRTHY TALK
SPOT THE DIFFERENCES
DRAW ONLINE
CLOSE

Remembrance Day



The best way to wear a poppy is simply with pride.

The Royal British Legion has been supporting Service men and women, ex-serving personnel and their families since 1921. Our red poppy is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.
 "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today".



In Flanders Fields

The poem by John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe.
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
Grow In Flanders' Fields.



In December we will have a Christmas Card incorporated inside the Coronavirus Times
Also send us a picture that could go on the front
If you would like to post a festive message to your u3a friends
Send it to Janet or Alison via email
newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com

We will remember them

NATIONAL SERVICE



Our Armed Forces

The British Armed Forces, also known as Her Majesty's Armed Forces, are the military services responsible for the defence of the United Kingdom, its overseas territories, and the Crown dependencies. They also promote the UK's wider interests, support international peacekeeping efforts, and provide humanitarian aid.

Memories

Memories from Bob and Sue Dearing

Sue's Father, John, was in the Army and served on the 'Q' ships operating out of the South African port of Durban. Q ships were merchant ships that carried hidden guns and sunk many Japanese submarines in the Indian Ocean.

Bob's Father, Bill, was on the original design team of the Spitfire and went AWOL several times to join the RAF but was always sent back to his office in Belfast.

Both men came through the war safely.



Ian Nixon remembers that his Granddad laid out lots of old tyres on the flat roof of his house so that the German bombs would bounce back and hit them!



This brooch I currently have on my coat. It belonged to my Great Aunt Winnie. Her fiancé gave it to her before he went off to war in 1914. He never returned. (Alison Simmonds)

The National Service Experience

From 1947 to 1963, National Service presented new opportunities and experiences to young British men. Some found it a horrible experience. Others saw it as a time of great camaraderie.

After attending a medical and joining up, all conscripts had six weeks of basic training during which they got used to military life. Once enlisted and inside camp, National Servicemen were issued with their equipment, uniform (which often didn't fit) and boots. Conscripts were knocked into shape by sergeants under pressure to train them in as short a time as possible.

Basic pay for a private soldier was 28 shillings (£1.40) a week in 1948. This compared poorly with the average weekly wage in 1951, which was eight pounds, eight shillings and six pence. Those on a Short Service Commission would get extra pay.

Pay for conscripts rose to 38 shillings in 1960. However, the average weekly wage for men in 1961 was 15 pounds, 10 shillings. Sometimes the low wages were reduced by deductions for lost or damaged kit and equipment. National Servicemen often had little money left for social activities beyond a visit to the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI).

Alison Simmonds

Memory from my Dad, Colin Turner about his National Service.

Devizes training, Whitchurch posting - Royal Army Pay Corp. At their passing out parade, 40 names from his group were read out and they went off to the Korean War. Green Howards trained them. First day off the train they were taken to a large hall for an exam. Dad had been at Lord Williams Grammar School in Thame, travelling every day by train. The first question was name 5 things you find on a railway station? Similar questions followed. Apparently, they were checking for who could read and write.

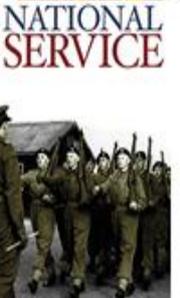
Dad was in the Army Cadets before. Sergeant Duff explained the Unit would be taking part in a marching competition. He knew 3 of the Unit had been in the Army Cadets so asked them to step forward. (Dad had been told by a friend "don't volunteer for anything"). Dad didn't step forward. Sergeant Duff found him out and bellowed "Turner, hard of hearing?" Dad got the job of calling out the timing for the march.

You could be called back for a further 2 weeks reserve training each year. Dad went back to Devizes (the Sergeant didn't realise he had been there before). An early exercise involved them being taken out into the Hampshire countryside, being left with a map reference to find their way back. Dad knew there was a bus service along the road, returning them very easily to their camp!

Dad made me laugh with this memory. As he was posted close to home he would go back whenever time allowed. One Saturday he had been fitting some extra lights to the front of his motor bike. Then heading back down from High Wycombe to Marlow suddenly all the lights failed. To avoid being charged as "absent without leave" he walked into the Marlow Police Station, explained the issue, they informed the Camp. He was offered a bed (in a cell) and breakfast before finishing his journey the following day.

We will
remember them

NATIONAL
SERVICE



Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day, is an important public holiday, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States. It originated as a harvest festival. Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789.

Short Thanksgiving Poem "Thankful"

No ghosts or goblins and trick-or-treats,
No candy or flowers for your sweets.
No gifts to buy or presents to give,
Just be **THANKFUL** for the life that you live.



Touching Picture of American Soldiers Paying Tribute to All the Horses That Lost Their Life in World War I

Anonymous memory of high jinks!

When I was a little girl, we used to have mischievous night on November 4th when we were allowed to cause mayhem in the local area so here are a few of the naughty things we got up to. Putting newspaper up a drainpipe and then lighting it, it used to roar. We also used to put lit bangers up the drainpipes as well. Tying adjacent house doorknobs together then knocking on the doors and running away. The naughtiest one was when I went into the next door neighbours back yard and cut the washing line in half. That was really naughty as the lady had to go out and buy a new washing line, she was rather cross but I never did own up to it.

Oh, the joys of a carefree childhood.

Memories for those old enough from Ian Nixon Who remembers these?

Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.

When football team families wore hand me down shoes and T. V gave only two channels to choose.

Back in the days of three penny bits.

when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.

When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted, and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers,
when children remained so for more than six years.

When children respected what older folks said and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

Back in the days of Listen with Mother.

when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.

When cars were so rare you could play in the street.

When Doctors made house calls and Police walked the beat

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons.

when butter was butter and songs all had tunes.

It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,
and your annual break was a day by the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green.

Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.

When children could freely wear National Health glasses and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling,
when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.

When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools and
everyone dreamt of a win on the pools.

I can't help but smile for the fun that I had.

Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob.

Back in the days of tanners and bobs



Did you know a
1943 brass
threepenny bit
could fetch you
£3,500.00

We will
remember them

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My oh my, every word rings a bell, not only 'jumpers for goalposts' but other things as well. Throwing sticks into trees, those conkers WILL fall, bikes with no brakes, a fixed wheel was all, 'cowhorn' handlebars, no mudguards at all.

Throwing stones at each other, health and safety unknown, no hard hat playing cricket, plastic 'box' for your manhood but no case for your phone.

Phones were in boxes that stood on the street, bright red, firmly they'd stand, no phone in your pocket, that was just for your hand.

No TV at home, that was a luxury for the others, Saturday morning pictures with a shilling from our Mother's.

Sixpence to get in, sixpence to spend, hours in the sweet shop, the choices? No end.

Blackjacks, fruit salad, sherbet fountain, gob stopper, maybe a jubbly? or maybe a 'whoppa'?

A teatime, a bedtime, no 'raking the streets', food that was 'good for you' with very few treats.

School uniform, short trousers, cap, satchel, a tie.

Darned holes in your socks, leaky pens, that awful blue dye.

Blackboard dusters, ammunition for 'Sir',

It came your way if his wrath you'd incur.

The cane, the slipper, or the flat of his hand, no redress for violence, parents didn't understand.

"You must have deserved it, they don't punish you for nought" "you're not there to have fun, you're there to be taught"

Well taught I was, and taught well may I say,

It gave me the values I hold to this day.

Respect for those wiser, consideration of others, role models to emulate, love for our Mothers.

At the time there were no grudges, it was just part of life, we had FUN without telly, or computers, no strife.

Modern kids miss out on the lessons we learned, they expect all to be given, nothing is earned.

Tanners and Bobs by David Wood

Black Friday purchases! Was that offer really too good to be true?

Black Friday is a day when retailers offer highly promoted sales on their products. This tradition began in the United States on the Friday following the Thanksgiving holiday; it later became widely popular causing roadblocks, traffic jams and massive queues that the name 'Black Friday' was coined.

Black Friday Bargain or was it? From Susan Smith

Many years ago, my husband and I were in Florida during Thanksgiving and although I love shopping was dreading Black Friday expecting the shops to be packed with people, pushing and shoving looking for bargains. How wrong I was, it was relaxed, families enjoying the long holiday weekend, a delightful experience. In one store, my husband spied a smart fawn suede jacket, his eyes lit up, it was already marked half price but being Black Friday was further reduced by 20%, and with a favourable exchange rate at that time, now priced at £20 sterling, it would have cost well over £100 if bought in the UK.

But, was it a Bargain?

On returning home, the jacket proved to be impractical – no good for rainy days, cold days, hot days, too posh for most casual events, and then my husband put on weight and the jacket no longer fitted. It languished unused in the wardrobe. Sadly 4 years ago my husband developed dementia and having lost a lot of weight, a symptom of Alzheimer's, the jacket is now too big for him. However, when I recently showed him it, he said "Oh yes" and his eyes lit up just as they had all those years ago, igniting his memory. I knew then the 'bargain' jacket will be a treasured item for ever.



Book Title Anagrams from Brian Starkey

DURING LOCKDOWN READING IS A FAVOURITE PASTIME SO PUT AWAY YOUR JAMES PATTERSON AND MARTINA COLE AND TRY TO SOLVE THESE BOOK TITLE ANAGRAMS. THEY ARE MOSTLY CLASSICS. TO HELP YOU I HAVE NAMED THE RELEVANT AUTHORS. GOOD LUCK.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | BATHE TARTY EGGS | F. SCOTT FITZGERALD |
| 2 | ORBITAL MILK DOCKING | HARPER LEE |
| 3 | DAD PIERCED JUNIPER | JANE AUSTIN |
| 4 | THE FAST GOPHER WAR | JOHN STEINBECK |
| 5 | HUGE WITH THE GRINS | EMILY BRONTE |
| 6 | DEPRIVED OF PLACID | CHARLES DICKENS |
| 7 | THROW DEATH FLOWERS | H G WELLS |
| 8 | TANNERS KNIFE | MARY SHELLEY |
| 9 | THY HELIX THOUGHT HIT A GEEKIER CAD | DOUGLAS ADAMS |
| 10 | DELIGHT FOR HORNETS | J R R TOLKIEN |
| 11 | STEM THEE HURT SEEKER | ALEXANDER DUMAS |
| 12 | KANGAROO CREW LOCK | ANTHONY BURGESS |
| 13 | DOWN WHILE WITH TINSEL | KENNETH GRAHAM |
| 14 | METALS OF THE CLEAN | JOHN HUSTON |
| 15 | RABIES SELLS ME | VICTOR HUGO |
| 16 | THE CAMB | WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE |
| 17 | TONIGHT WE WHINED | MARGARET MITCHELL |
| 18 | RICH CHATY TEEN HERE | J D SALINGER |

[Answers on the website.](#)

A mathematical funny from Ken Smith

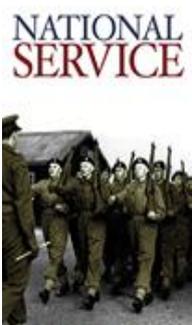
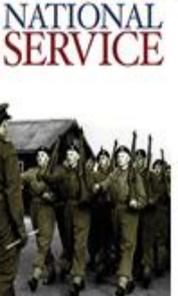
A schoolteacher was arrested today at Heathrow Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, an ancient wooden device called a "slide-rule" and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said she believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. She did not identify the man, who has been charged by the Anti-Terrorist Squad with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

"Al-Gebra is a problem for us," Ms Patel said. "Al-Gebra has terrorized many young people for years. They derive solutions by means and extremes and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values".

"They use secret code names like 'X' and 'Y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns', but we've determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval coordinates in every country."

As the Greek philosopher (Isosceles) used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle".



Ken Smith's Maths 4 Fun puzzle

Two people A and B spin a coin 30 times between them.
When the coin shows heads, A gives B two sweets.
When the coin shows tails, B gives A three sweets.
After the 30 spins A and B have the same number of sweets as they started with.
So how many times were heads and tails spun?

[Answers on the website](#)

Looking for some exercise classes for indoors try Fabulous 50's who have lots of different exercise options.

5-minute daily stretch for beginners

<https://youtu.be/qqx3314141>

1-mile walk (indoors) for beginners and seniors

<https://youtu.be/9xyJx8RYyqk>

THE SILENT TREATMENT (found by Ian Nixon)

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly the man realized that the next day he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, 'Please wake me at 5:00 AM.' He left it where he knew she would find it. The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go to see why his wife hadn't wakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, 'It is 5:00 AM. Wake up.' Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

Wantage Stage Musical Company

Alison Simmonds' Sister, Claire and friends singing Sound of Silence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufylz7SMr44>



The Man in the photo was the very last person to be called for National Service. It may have had something to do with his surname
Richard Vaughan
Unlucky or unfortunate

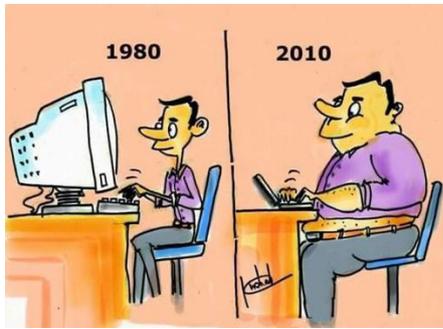
We will remember them

NATIONAL SERVICE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

BLACK FRIDAY

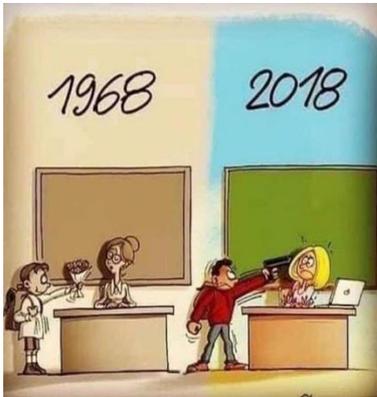




How Life Evolves



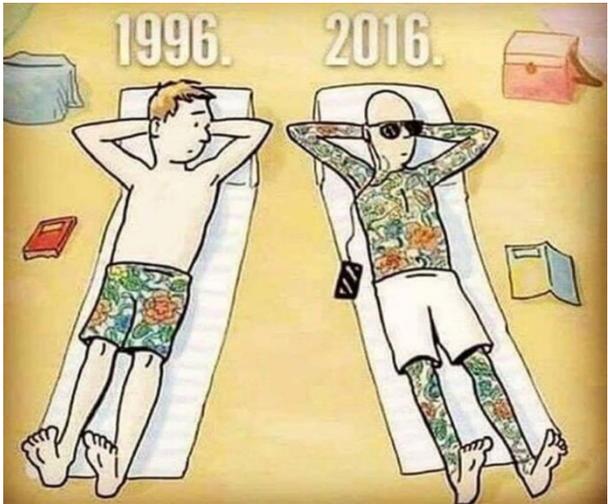
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HOW DID THE WORLD GO FROM THIS...

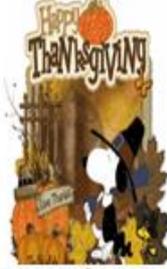


TO THIS ???



What common English word is 9 letters long, and each time you remove a letter from it, it still remains an English word..... from 9 letters all the way down to a single remaining letter?

- Startling
- Starting
- Staring
- String
- Sting
- Sing
- Sin
- In
- I



NATIONAL SERVICE



Mirthy.

Our next Mirthy talk will be on Thursday 18th December at 10 o'clock. Lasting approximately 40 minutes. The talks are very much like when we have a speaker at our monthly meetings. The talk is "Tis the Season to be Jolly" by Kath Reynolds. Christmas time! A look back at some of our Christmas traditions, celebrations and favourite toys! Enjoy a few carols and a look at the films we have watched at Christmas time.

We will remember them

NATIONAL SERVICE



Can you spot the 10 differences on the bottom picture of these National Service Boys
(you may have to enlarge it a bit to see some)

[Answers on the website](#)



NATIONAL SERVICE



Silversurfers - something to do Sketch / draw online for free

<https://www.silversurfers.com/video-hub/learn-to-sketch-and-draw-for-free-online/>

u3a

Brackley & District



Needs
YOUR INPUT
WITHOUT IT THE
CORONAVIRUS TIMES
WILL CEASE TO BE

So again, we would love your memories of Christmas past, your first Christmas memory, family traditions plus your festive greetings to fellow Members. Please let us have them, be it one line or a whole page, we can't produce this newsletter without your help. We must have your memories by 11 December. Many thanks.

Please continue to take care. If you would like to see something in the next Coronavirus Times then send to newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com. Items sent will be considered for future editions. Editors

We apologize for any errors or omissions you may find in this Newsletter.

We will
remember them

NATIONAL
SERVICE

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

75%
BLACK
FRIDAY
-20%
50%

