

Please remember



**to renew your
Membership**



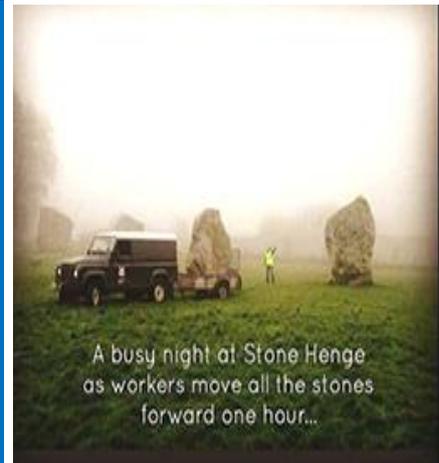
You don't want to miss out

Many thanks to those members who have already renewed.

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History of Mothering Sunday

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago, it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or s apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wildflowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.





A Very Different Mother's Day (A Thought-Provoking Tale)

On Tuesday 21st March, some years ago, a particular mother was busy at work when her son texted her asking "Do u want to go to the Diner on Sunday?" (this was for Mother's Day lunch) She replied, "Yes but will check if need to book". After phoning the Diner, she texted her son back at 13.38 "Diner ok Sunday. They said maybe busy so booked for 1.30. Hope this ok?" At 14.31 he replied, "Yes 1.30 is ok."

This was to be the Last text she ever received from her son, her only child; he passed away suddenly that night. On the Sunday, Mother's Day, this mother felt she just had to honour the arrangement, and at 1.30 sat at a table for one with a pot of tea, surrounded by other mothers and their families enjoying Sunday lunch, oblivious to her loss. But she didn't feel alone, knew it had been the right thing to come here, and brought great comfort on such a difficult day.

And from then on, Every Mother's Day at 1.30 she would sit next to his grave on a bench named in his memory knowing that they were still keeping their arrangement, the final one, and always would until they were together again. For this particular mother, Mother's Day would always be very different.



St Patrick is the patron saint of Northern Ireland as well as one of the saints of Ireland. He is said to have been responsible for bringing Christianity to the country in the 5th century. One of the many things he is credited with is driving all the snakes from Ireland into the sea. Legend has it that he raised 33 men from the dead, some of whom had been deceased for a number of years. St Patrick's Day is celebrated on the 17th March each year, participants have local parades, wear green and, of course, enjoy a drink.

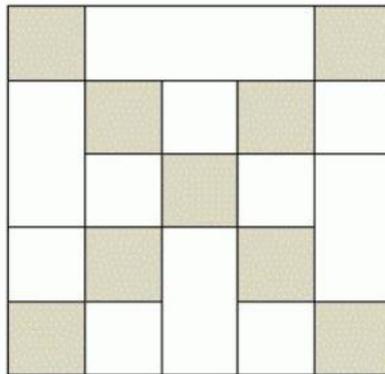


Maths4Fun Question

How many squares are there in this diagram?

(You may reuse)

[Answers on the web](#)



Wife: I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate.

Husband: Why not just throw it in the trash? That's much easier.

Wife: But there are poor starving people who can really use all these clothes.

Husband: Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

Husband is recovering from a head injury now

TRAVEL PLANS FOR 2021



Blossom watch is a simple pleasure that can help lift our spirits over the next few months. It may be seen in towns, in gardens, parks, countryside and if you're lucky from your window. Why not take a picture and send it in.

Earth's Population in Perspective

The population of Earth is around 7.8 Billion.

For most people it's too large a large figure to comprehend.

However, if you condensed 7.8 billion in the world into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to understand.

Out of 100:

11 are in Europe	87 have clean drinking water
5 are in North America / 9 are in South America	13 either lack clean drinking water or have access to a water source that is polluted.
15 are in Africa / 60 are in Asia	75 have mobile phones / 25 do not.
49 live in the countryside / 51 live in cities	30 have internet access
12 speak Chinese / 5 speak Spanish	70 do not have conditions to go online
5 speak English / 3 speak Arabic / 3 speak Hindi	7 received university education
3 speak Portuguese / 3 speak Bengali	93 did not attend college.
2 speak Russian / 2 speak Japanese	83 can read / 17 are illiterate.
62 speak their own language.	33 are Christians / 22 are Muslims
77 have their own houses	14 are Hindus / 7 are Buddhists
23 have no place to live.	12 are other religions / 12 have no religious beliefs.
21 are over-nourished	26 live less than 14 years
63 can eat until they are full	66 died between 15 - 64 years of age
15 are under-nourished	8 are over 65 years old.
1 ate the last meal but did not make it to the next meal.	13 either lack clean drinking water or have access to a water source that is polluted.
The daily cost of living for 48 is less than £1.50.	

If you have your own home, eat full meals & drink clean water, Have a mobile phone, Can surf the internet, and have gone to college.

You are in the miniscule, privileged lot. (in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world, only 8 can live or exceed the age of 65.

If you are over 65 years old, be content and grateful but also try to use your good fortune to benefit those in the less privileged categories. Love life grasp the moment and be kind to others. You did not leave this world before the age of 64 years like the 92 persons who have gone before you. You are already the blessed amongst mankind.

Take good care of your own health and consider the health of others.

Cherish every remaining moment and give some thought and perhaps take action to improve these statistics for the generations to come.

Into the Unknown from Frozen by WSMC.

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

Brackley Foodbank

<https://brackleyfoodbank.org/>

Brackley Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

If you are concerned about door-to-door salespeople, then ring the Doorstep Crime Action Network hotline on 0345 2307 702.

There aren't many/any things that we need to buy on the doorstep anymore.

Shared by



Brackley Neighbourhood Watch Scheme S107

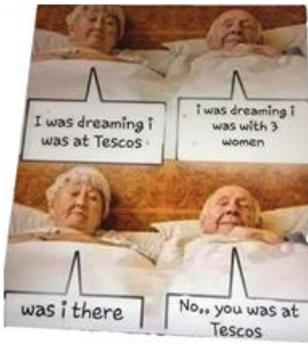
BrackleyNHWS107@btinternet.com ourwatch.org.uk

Spot the 10 differences in the bottom picture [Answers on the web](#)





If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock. That's humerus.



EASTER MANY YEARS AGO – The Sweetie Tin from Pat Noble



It was an old Jacob's Biscuit tin my mother had kept from the year dot and every year at Easter I retrieved it from the back of the sideboard and lined it with brightly coloured tissue paper. To me Easter meant sweeties rather than what Easter is really about.



I'd saved up my pocket money for weeks, probably months, and a couple of days before Easter I walked to the sweetie shop in the village. Now what to choose from the array of big glass jars full of garishly coloured goodies. I remember the jars as being about 2ft high and a hug wide as I was very young and little. Smarties were my first choice followed by Mint Imperials then Refreshers. Tubes of sherbet with a  stick of liquorice attached to the side, which you dipped into the sherbet were a favourite too.



When I got home I would tip all my sweeties into the tin and divide them into little piles ready for dipping into when I was allowed to on The Day. My older sister was always watching what I was doing and where I was putting my precious sweeties, and the amount in my tin did seem to dwindle overnight. I had to go to bed earlier than her - m'thinks that had something to do with the dwindling!



The Tin had to stay in the family sideboard - I wasn't allowed to have it in my bedroom. On Easter Sunday morning I went to my Tin and found that some more of my sweeties had gone. I shouted to my mother "Mother, some of my sweeties have gone; my sister (who shall remain nameless!) has taken my sweeties". I was very cross and showed it by stamping my foot and trying to steal some of her sweets. My sister then called out in a dramatically scared manner "Mummy, Pat's being deliberately naughty." (Big word for a six-year-old.)



Eventually peace returned and another Easter Sunday came and went. The rest of the year was kept pretty much sweetie free, so Easter was a real treat. I'm not too keen on sweeties now, chocolate beats everything!



Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember...Don't sing!



Grand National memory from Alison Simmonds

Out came the old tea cosy. Dad had bought the paper and carefully cut the names of the runners and riders into strips. In they went. There was always some friendly banter about who should choose first, sometimes oldest, sometimes youngest. Screams of delight if you got a good one. We all laid our strips carefully on the coffee table and waited for the start. There off! Each jump brings disappointment and later you would hear some sadness (glad the race has better safety rules in place now). Slowly your strips would be screwed up. Any left being held in your hands as you willed your last chances onwards towards the line. Then jubilation and usually a chocolate from the tin. Tea cosy goes back in the drawer ready for next year.

What's in your garden - photograph competition (send us your findings)

Behind Janet Whitby's back garden



Late last autumn David Hall had lots of wasps hovering above his front lawn and disappearing into holes. He has since dug an area and uncovered about 50 wasp grubs (some in halves due to the spade!) The photo is of one on the kitchen table, about 1 1/4 inch long.



We have no end of Frogs in our pond
Alison Simmonds





Have you played birdwatch pot black?

Might be a game to play whilst on a walk or sat in your garden or over the internet with family and friends. The way you play is up to you and you sort the rules.



Robin
red ball
1 point



Goldfinch/Yellowhammer
- yellow ball - 2 points



Greenfinch/Woodpecker
- green ball - 3 points



Sparrow/Wren -
brown ball - 4 points



Blue tit -
blue ball
5 points



Wood pigeon - Flamingo
(pink bits) pink ball
6 points



Blackbird/crow -
black ball - 7 points



Little egret/dove
(white ball) - in/off -
4 points away!

Numbers quiz from Brian Starkey. [Answers on the web](#)

1 What do the sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel add up to	11 In scrabble which is the only letter worth 5 points
2 Prior to the Korean war what parallel north formed the border between North and South Korea	12 How many sculpted lions by Sir Edwin Landseer sit at the base of Trafalgar Square
3 President Obama was what number President of the USA	13 Which number Pennsylvania Avenue is the formal address of the White House
4 What is an ogdoad	14 Charles Atlas marketed his fitness program for the 'how many' pound weakling
5 Which American television sitcom follows the lives of roommates Caroline and Max	15 How much is a baker's dozen
6 How many players are there in an ice hockey team	16 If an internet user follows a broken or dead link, they will typically find an error page with which number error message
7 Which age do you have to reach to be eligible to become President of the USA	17 How many landlocked countries are there in South America
8 In inches how high is a table tennis net	18 What is nine tenths of the law
9 In the Bible how many plagues of Egypt were there	19 The Crazy 88 feature in which film
10 Which number Apollo mission was the spacecraft that landed the first two men on the moon	20 On most phones what number key also features the letters m, n and o



St George

St George is the Patron Saint of England and 23rd April, the anniversary of his death, is the Saint's Day. (It is no longer a public holiday). Legend has it that a well in the town of Silene, Libya, was guarded by a dragon and to get water human sacrifices had to be made, the selection being made by the drawing of lots by the inhabitants. On the day St George visited a princess had been selected for sacrifice but he killed the dragon, and the princess was saved. In gratitude all the townspeople converted to Christianity. Several other countries also have St George as their Patron Saint - Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Portugal and Russia.



Shakespeare's birthday and date of death 23rd April

"I count myself in nothing else so happy / As in a soul remembering my good friends"

— RICHARD II, ACT 2 SCENE 3, LINES 46-47;
BOLINGBROKE TO PERCY



Carolyn Hunter, Poetry Group explains how this mathematical puzzle came to light

Whilst researching Mary Leapor I came across an academic article by Jennifer Batt mentioning the mathematical puzzle in the Northampton Miscellany January 1721. Philip, Mary's Father had worked it out and responded to Raikes and Dicey the Publishers. (Evidence that Mary's Father was literate and numerate.) An important fact when establishing the context in which Mary was brought up.

I was very curious and eventually an online copy in Australia gave me the puzzle.

Unable to work it out I turned to Ken Smith and the Maths4Fun Group. Ken found three possible solutions.

Have a go to find the three solutions.

Northampton Miscellany, January 1721

Question V

Four Men had each such a Parcel of Coin,
Whose Aggregate I to you will define.
Being Pounds Sterling Six Hundred and Five.
And if the Matter so well you contrive,
To augment the First's Sum by Ten of that Name,
Twill be equal to the Second's, decreas'd by the same.
The Third's multiply'd by Ten will agree
To one Tenth o'th Fourth's, whatever it be.
What Money had each, I gladly wou'd know,
And it is the thing you're requir'd to shew.



[Answers on the web](#)

American Pie

Follow the lyrics closely together with the photos. They synchronize beautifully to explain each verse.

Although Don McClean only released the song in 1971, for those of us who grew up in the 50's and 60's this is a great piece with some very poignant moments in the history of those times. And for those of you who did not, it's a taste of what you missed.

I knew that "American Pie" was the name of the plane in which Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed when it crashed in 1958 – and I knew the chorus about music dying on that day. I have listened to American Pie for many years, and I thought I understood what was being sung, but now realise that I didn't...

However, when the words are put together with pictures and film clips, the song takes on a new meaning. It took a lot of thought to produce this, and it brings back lots of memories and also makes the lyrics really come alive!

Those were the days, and we were very fortunate to grow up during that period of time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhX3b1h7GQw&feature=youtu.be>



Brackley & District

Online with Mirthy Talk

15th April Goose Grease and Brown Paper

Kath Reynolds

Can we afford the doctor? Of course not! A fun trip down memory lane to pre-NHS days and the kitchen cupboard remedies inflicted by our nearest and dearest! Honey, salt, onions, mustard...not to forget the snails, urine, string and cow muck!

20th May A Policeman's Lot

Neil Sadler

Neil Sadler spent 30 years as a police officer. Starting "on the beat" in the exotic holiday resort of Bognor Regis in the 1970s, he retired from a post in national and international police training. You may be amazed to hear who he met on his first solo night shift at 3am. Changes in police uniform and equipment and why not to be squirted with pepper spray. Also, where not to try and escape the traffic cops in one European country and a novel use for a policeman's helmet.

u3a

learn, laugh, live





Who said my family are competitive!

Boat Race Memory by Alison Simmonds

Rush around and get sat down on the sofa in readiness for the "race". Dad and I supported Cambridge and Mum and Michael Oxford. There off! Lots of shouting, then quiet. If they stayed close the shouting/rivalry/jesting could get quite intense. And if the finish was in sight and they were still close, then we were off the settee!



Brackley Morris Men from John Weaver

The Norm on the first of May: At half past five in the morning, the Brackley Morris Men gather on the piazza, just as the sun is rising, and do the traditional Brackley stick dance entitled "The Month of May". This is followed by the Brackley team and any invited guest sides (who have managed to get up that early!) dancing for an hour and a half. The Mayor and Members of the Town Council normally attend, celebrating with the odd bottle of champagne. At about seven o'clock, the dancers retire to the Red Lion for a full English breakfast, singing, music, dancing and beer. The Red Lion is in the unique position of having a premises licence which allows it to open on May Day at 5.30 a.m. every year, without having to make a specific application.

Alas, 2020 wasn't the norm & 2021 is not the norm; Covid has put paid to that and the Red Lion remains closed.

May Day 2020, two men, at different times, did a solo jig on the piazza, while others did a solo jig at home, all recorded and shared on Facebook.

May Day 2021? All plans are liable to be scuppered at the eleventh hour, but it is hoped to do something which maintains the annual tradition of dancing on the piazza as dawn breaks and the sun rises on the first of May.





It's time to say a fond farewell to one of our founding members.

Dawn MacGregor who served on the Steering Committee in 2015 is returning to live in America. Dawn is moving to a new Bungalow in Enterprize, Alabama and leaving Brackley on 7th April 2021. We wish her a safe journey and a happy life living near one of her sons.

Invitation to online event 13th April 2021, 10.00-12.00

The u3a Future Lives Group wants to engage with you. What can we do to achieve a brighter future for older people? What issues are most important to you to help us live better lives?

The Future Lives Group has identified three themes to explore, and one of these may interest you.

It will be an Open Space event, and you will have an opportunity to express your views. Together we will identify our priorities to take forward to achieve improvements in our lives. More information may be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/u3a-future-lives/home>

Sandi Rickerby, Trustee for the North East

Please support the May/June Coronavirus Times with items for others to enjoy. Tell others your memories.

What are you most looking forward to as restrictions ease?

Our deadline for the next edition is Friday 7th May. We would love to hear from you. All items sent will be considered. Please send to newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com
Many thanks.

Please continue to take care. Editors

PS Don't forget to send us your Photos

