

THE CORONAVIRUS TIMES

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The following are just two thoughts on the reason for June being a popular month for weddings, one nice and the other not so nice!

Traditionally the most popular month to marry, and still quite common. Why? The goddess Juno (for whom June is named) was the protector of women in all aspects of life, but especially in marriage and childbearing, so a wedding in Juno's month was considered most auspicious.

"June Brides" refers to the times when baths were annual or at most twice a year. Flowers came out in June and would be put in a bouquet for the bride to mask the smell of not bathing.



Your Editors were a little saddened to find we did not receive a single submission of answers to the Sweetie quiz in the last issue. We hope you had a go anyway, there are some that jog childhood memories. Answers to Sweetie Quiz ([link to website](#)).

A joke to make you giggle
 submitted by
 Kathy Hodges.
 Flattening the curve.



Another day in Quarantine somebody was feeling creative or maybe just losing their mind



Joan Ramsay, Walking Group Helmdon / Falcutt / Astwell

In January, this year we had a walk from Helmdon passing Falcutt and Astwell. Helmdon village is on the River Tove which is flanked by meadows that separate the village into two. It has a population of around 900 and used to be a farming community. The church of St Mary Magdalene in Helmdon is situated on the highest ground in the village and is built of Helmdon stone. The present church dates mainly from the 13 and 14th centuries. Helmdon stone is a pale limestone that can be sawn in any direction. The quarries were on the low ridge just beyond the northern edge of the village. Helmdon had lace making schools which taught girls from an early age how to make lace, it was first recorded in 1718. The 1851 census recorded that 94 women and girls worked in the trade but by the 1891 census only 6 women were employed due to mechanical lace making. Falcutt (or Fancote) is a hamlet and with Astwell it forms part of the civil parish of Helmdon, but previously both were in the Wappenham parish. Since the 16th century the hamlets were joined by the marriage of Jane Lovett to Sir John Shirley. She was born at Astwell Castle and was heiress of Thomas Lovett, who was the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. Astwell Castle is a Grade II listed former manor house which was restored in 1958.

Poetry Group 1

Third Age Matters Summer 2020 has just dropped on your doorstep. Well done to our Poetry Group 1 for their article "Memorial to Brackley Poet". Carolyn Hunter and her husband, Tim East are Convenors of this Group and have worked to have Mary Leapor, Poet, commemorated in her hometown of Brackley.



Brian Starkey, who sets the questions for the U3A Quiz Group, has submitted another quiz, this one is dingbats and the answers are books. Answers are on the website

(link to website)

BOOK TITLE DINGBATS 1

1 RIGHT BOOTS	2 Howards ↓	3 corpse ↑ BRING
4 Dazzling GIBRALTAR	5 MURDER SWAL AMOK MURDER SO	6 lounge Sweeping Brush
7 My hoe	8 cromadwd ↓	9 TTTTT ← Charcoal Battleship Misty Ash
10 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84 84	11 Hanger W ↕ E S B	12 LION TIGER BEAR R S I T V W
13 ↓ march	14 Hanger W ↕ E S B	15 Boer ppppp
16 Child Asleep	17 SLEEP	18 JIM spring summer autumn winter

We hope you enjoyed the artwork from the U3A Art Group in the last issue. This time we have two more for you to enjoy.



Thrush
by Jean Teague



Double Tulip
by Helen Vearncombe

This picture quiz has been provided by Kathy Hodges. All the answers are Countries. Answers are on the website
(link to website)

Catherine (Kitty) O'Meara's poem was suggested by Peter Kidger.
People stayed at home
(link to website)

Another memory jog has come from Kathy Hodges with 50/60 Memories. How many do you remember?
(link to website)

Another brain tickler of a Maths Puzzle from Ken Smith. The answer is on the website.
(link to website)

A farmer goes to the market to buy some animals. He has £1,000 to spend and he wants to buy 100 young animals of calves, lambs and piglets.

Now Calves cost £100 each and Lambs cost £30 each and Piglets cost £5 each. So how many of each does he buy?



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS UNTIL TUESDAY 30TH JUNE. THE RENEWAL GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE CORONAVIRUS TIMES AND OTHER UPDATES ABOUT BRACKLEY U3A ALONG WITH HAVING THE ONGOING RIGHT TO JOIN GROUPS AND ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETINGS, WHEN THEY RESTART. PLEASE CONTACT KAREN GEES, THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, BY EMAIL ON MEMSEC.BRACKLEYU3A@GMAIL.COM FOR ANY QUERIES AND WAYS TO PAY.

IF YOU DO NOT RE-JOIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL CEASE FROM THE 1 JULY.

MUSICAL ANAGRAMS

These musical anagrams will tease your brains, submitted by Alison Simmonds.
The answers are on the website. (link to website)

01 Theft prone homeopath 1986	02 A missing so 1989	03 Makes kites 1948
04 Proceeds Thru 2001	05 I am Jay Lancet 1953	06 Wildest oysters 1957
07 Inferred foothold 1964	08 Broken foot oh Mom 2011	09 Lo Hitman 2015
10 Less bear miles 1985	11 Think legion 1997	12 Gladly sounds 1950

Ruth's Garden Notebook. Garden Birds

One of the joys of the lockdown has been time to listen to glorious bird song in my garden. Whether it is because of the lack of traffic and plane noise, or indeed more time, I am not sure. The melodious song of the blackbirds has been my favourite, sometimes called the Beethoven of birds.

Now is a time of peak activity for our birds, when they vainly try to feed their young. My feeders are usually empty during the summer, but this year is an exception. However, a few fat balls bring greedy starlings, both adult and fledglings, who monopolise the feeders.

I only have the usual garden birds, but once had a green and red woodpecker pulling grubs from the lawn. On the fence sometimes sparrow hawks greedily observe the sparrows, and I once saw an orange breasted bullfinch eating berries in winter.

Apart from feeding birds, you will have more birds in your garden if you have 'cover'. By this I mean, mature trees, hedges, shrubs and overgrown neglected corners of your garden. Of course, you cannot conjure these overnight, but perhaps consider leaving some areas, shall we say, a little unkempt. Next time I hope to tell you about my favourite garden bird.

Ruth Harris

P.S. When I finished writing this, I looked up from my laptop to see a hedgehog scuttling across the patio, on clockwork legs!

Millennium Way Walk

Message from Ruth Harris

Hi Everyone

I am about to embark on walking the Millennium Way on Sunday. It is 100 miles, going from Middleton Cheney to Pershore. Walking with a friend, we plan to walk 6 or 7 miles once a week, and finish sometime in October before the winter sets in. If you, my friends and acquaintances, would like to support our endeavours and those of a local charity in turn supporting elderly people in their own homes, providing befrienders, lunches and entertainment in sheltered housing this would be much appreciated. My aim is to write a blog after each leg, hopefully with photos, sending it by e-mail to those who are interested. If you would like to hear how we get on and support our venture, please let me know by contacting my e-mail: ruthcharris@btinternet.com

Many thanks Ruth

People Need People - A Ben Zephaniah poem for WWWe (World Wide We) on Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/37198269>

Have you ever wondered about the difference between Wasps and Bees? This comes from David Hall.

This article was rather large so we have split it and the rest will be in Edition 6. Editors

HONEYBEES/WASPS AND THEIR NESTS

I would like to point out the differences between Honeybees and Wasps and their nests. Note: I am not necessarily meaning all Bees or all Wasps. There are many species of bees and wasps so not all act in the ways I have listed below.



Honeybees

Build their nests/comb out of wax which they secrete from their glands.

Build their comb vertically.

Build comb/cells on both sides.

Make cells 5 to the inch for storing honey and raising female brood. 4 to the inch for Drone/Male brood.

Although Honeybees prefer to make their comb/nests under cover; perhaps in a hole in a tree, they sometimes just build hanging from a branch in the open. There is no outer cover to protect the brood and stored honey from the elements or any creatures that might want to rob. In China, bees make huge comb hanging from high cliffs, which local people harvest, climbing up very dangerous rope ladders. Years ago beekeepers took out the comb and destroyed it by squeezing it to extract the honey. The wax was then used for candles and various other purposes. The bees then had to make a complete whole comb again. The key innovation responsible for hive design was the discovery of bee space, a gap size of between 6–9 mm (1/4–3/8 in) in which bees would neither build comb nor close with propolis, a glue like substance that sets hard. This bee space was discovered by an American called Langstroth in 1852. He used this useful information to make wooden frames in which the comb could be built that are easy to lift out and so extract the honey and then replace the frame and comb to be refilled by the bees, so the bees did not have to make complete new comb, just a bit of repairing, so saving them a great deal of effort and a great deal of honey. Bees make wax only when they need it. Wax glands on the underside of the bee's abdomen secrete flakes of beeswax, which is used to build the honeycombs. Many bees work together to produce and form the wax that becomes their home. Bees must consume about eight pounds of honey in order to metabolize one pound of wax.

To be continued



Wasps

Build their nests/comb out of wood mâché; they scrape bare wood and chew it to a right consistency. I saw a wasp scraping a bit of wood on the 10th April this year.

Build their comb horizontally.

Only build comb/cells on the underside.

6 cells to the inch in the wasp comb sample I have, other species of wasp could be different.

Wasps put an outer cover all round with a small entrance at the bottom. All the wasps die at the end of the summer except the Queen wasp who feeds herself up and finds somewhere safe and dry, maybe even underground to hibernate till the Spring of the next year. A building friend of mine told me that he found many Queen wasps in the Winter under roof tiles, always on the North facing side; presumably to keep cool for hibernation all the winter

Wasp Nest



Bees Nest



Continue to take care and let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the next Coronavirus Times. Items sent will be considered for future editions.

Items for future editions may be sent to (newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com).

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