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August Bank Holiday: This holiday is also known as the Summer Bank Holiday. Originally, the holiday was on the Scottish date (first Monday) for the whole UK, but in 1971, after a five-year trial period, it was permanently moved to the final Monday of August in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The August Bank Holiday was instituted by the Bank Holidays Act of 1871 to give bank clerks and shop people a day of relaxation not connected to holy days such as Christmas. Today, this holiday gives workers of all types a three-day weekend before the summer holidays end and employees must return to the workplace and students to their schools.

Sir John Lubbock, the first Lord Avebury, was responsible for seeing the enactment of the Bank Holidays Act of 1871, and the holidays the Act secured were unofficially nicknamed "St. Lubbock Days".

Holiday Memories

We have been to Wuhan, China (topical). It is a ghastly place. The only reason we were there was that it was the disembarkation point after our splendid river cruise on the Yangtze. We were there in 2001 before the dam was operational and the flooding. The Three Gorges were magnificent and the life on the river and its banks fascinating.

We went to Croatia for a holiday last year. When we landed, we had a four hour coach trip to our destination and we stopped halfway at a service station. We ordered coffees and paid in cash. This caused some consternation, which went on for several minutes as the server didn't speak a word of English (why should she) and we naturally, being English, could only speak English. It turned out that we had been supplied with Hungarian currency by the booth in Castle Quay shopping Centre in Banbury (you know the one) which was of course no use to us in Croatia. Thank goodness that plastic has no language barriers, so we were able to remedy the situation.

Kathy and Paul Hodges





My most exciting holidays have been in the colder regions of the world. A cruise up the Inside Passage – Vancouver to Seward – followed by a week’s coach tour of the Rockies with only three other passengers! Although this was in 1996 it is still my most memorable holiday – wonderful scenery, flights over snow-capped mountains, drives onto glaciers, sled rides through the forest. My husband and I also spent several holidays in Norway and Svalbard, where, until the early 2000s, my eldest son was living and working; Norway is a beautiful country. Svalbard however, is much different being 500 miles further north from the tip of Norway. Richard lived in Longyearbyen the capital of Spitzbergen which has a population of 2500 and 25 miles of roadways. During most of Spring and Summer the sun never sets. November to February they enter into two months of darkness – but for the stars, moonlight and northern lights. One of the few places in the world where there is a polar bear-safe kindergarten and, my son said, probably the only place where one can walk into a bank wearing a balaclava, holding a rifle and not get arrested!! We visited a ‘closed’ coal mine; had a boat trip to Moffen Island to see walrus; visited The Polar Research Institute and Barentsburg, a very drab and uncared for Russian coal mining town. On one visit we went dog sledding. To our amazement on arrival at the compound we were each given our own sled and instructed how to hitch the dogs and handle the sled on the drive. It was an incredible, unforgettable, and at times frightening, experience. Unfortunately, there is not room in this article to tell you all that happened. Perhaps another time!!

Anne Woolley



THE HOLIDAY – JULY 1973 "We're off, we're off, we're off in a motorcar, sixty coppers are after us and we don't know where we are" sang my two little boys and I as we journeyed to our holiday in Swanage, and played "I Spy" and "Spot the Smith's Crisps lorry" until we arrived at our Guest House, not far from Swanage beach.

In the morning we walked to the beach with our swimming gear wrapped in brightly coloured towels. After paddling for a little while we felt we could have more fun if we had a boat of some sort. A short walk to the town provided us with what we called the big banana – a yellow plastic inflatable canoe. We had such fun with that banana, trying to tip each other out of it, pulling the tow rope (a piece of yellow rope several yards long) in between sunbathing and playing football. (I sunbathed and Chris and Paul played football!)

It was very hot the next day and we spent a lot of time splashing each other in the sea, mostly Chris and Paul ganging up on me, and playing tick and jump-the-waves, then we went to lie down on our towels. I soon fell asleep, only to awake with a start to see that Chris and Paul were no longer on their towels. My heart stopped beating as I scanned the edge of the sea for them. They were nowhere in sight. With panic rising, I ran down to the water, calling their names. Couldn't see them. Listened for their voices. Couldn't hear them. No, this can't be happening. Then, what was that? Was I dreaming? I heard two happy, laughing voices shouting "Mum, we're here. Come and swim with us." Bliss. My boys were safe. When I asked them how long they had been in the sea by themselves they said they had got there just before me. Phew! I must have been asleep for a split second. Perhaps I was not the bad mother I'd felt a few minutes earlier.

Pat Noble

My earliest holiday memory, I was probably about three or four, was being on a sandy beach wearing a knitted wool swimming costume, the wool was scratchy, the sand was scratchy and the swimming costume stretched when I went in the sea but despite that I still love beaches.

Janet Whitby

Climbing Kilimanjaro 60 years ago by Ken Smith

My friend Brian and I went on an unforgettable holiday to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. After university I went out to Southern Rhodesia as a mathematics teacher. For the long summer holiday at Christmas 1961 we went in my car over the most abominable roads imaginable for a 5,000 mile trip to Kenya and got back for the next school term. We were bogged down many times and inspected by hyenas, leopards and lion and had to sleep in the car a number of times. Kilimanjaro in Africa is the highest single mountain in the world, as other high mountains are part of mountain ranges. Kibo peak is 19,342 ft above sea level and it is just south of the equator. Kilimanjaro has a perimeter of 100 miles at its base and the climb is really a long walk of 17 miles uphill. We arrived at the Marangu hotel where we hired equipment and guides and porters from the local Wachagga tribe. We joined a group of a dozen hopeful climbers.



Day 1 We passed through the local village where they cultivated bananas, coffee and maize. We went up through a thick forest and saw elephant spoor. Our guides prepared food and drinks on the way up. At the end of day 1 we reached an altitude of 10,000 ft and stayed overnight in the Bismarck hut.

Day 2 We went above the forest and into the clouds and over the moorland. The mountain flora was beautiful and the streams had very cold water. Above the clouds we saw the snow on the peak for the first time. We stayed overnight in the Peter's hut at an altitude now of 14,000 ft. At the end of day 2 it was cold and pyjamas went on top of the day clothes.

Day 3 It was cold, and more clothes went on top of the pyjamas. We slowed down because the air was getting thinner. We crossed the saddle which was desolate and quiet as no birds were up here. We were now at the snow line at 16,000 ft and stayed the night at the Kibo hut. Each hut was smaller as we went up. A second pair of pyjamas went on top of all the other clothes.



Day 4 The assault on the summit started at 2:00am as the idea was to get to the top to see the sunrise. But it was cold on the snow and ice. It was a bit steeper at the top and you had to hit your ice pick into the ice and pull yourself up a few inches. and there was little air to breathe. With only 200 ft to go I became so sick with mountain sickness and couldn't breathe and my stomach was going round like a washing machine. I only carried a camera but it was so heavy and my guide threw me over on my bottom and pushed me down the ice a few hundred feet until I could breathe again. Morning came and I had the amazing experience of watching aeroplanes flying by below me. We had breakfast at the hut and set off back down to the 14,000 ft hut for our last night's stop.



Day 5 On awakening I felt fine and we went down back to the hotel. Here we were given garlands of flowers and had a wonderful hot bath and a change of clothes. Wow, what a wonderful exciting memorable experience. but I have to say that the mountain air is for the mountain goats.

Ken Smith - especially note the effect of 60 years of global warming. The picture with the elephants is a recent picture with almost no snow. The picture of the hotel, where we started, with the summit showing the top 3,000 feet of snow is as it was.



"We were lucky earlier this year to get our "Golden Triangle" trip to India done and dusted before lockdown hit. Highlight was seeing this Tiger on the track in Ranthambhore National Park. There was a discussion in our vehicle as to whether it was a boy or a girl, I thought it obvious. 😊"Mike & Helen Kirkham



We have had lots of wonderful memories on holidays all over the world. Just a sample that stand out, one in Kenya on safari, we were being driven down a rough track in the bush when we stopped to look at a large family of elephants. There were lots of calves and the adults encircled them for protection. Suddenly an exceptionally large female charged at us, ears out, trunk in the air and roaring at us, luckily our driver was quick off the mark and he fled down the track. It was a fabulous time and very exciting seeing all the animals in the wild.

A totally different experience was going to the Sydney Opera House to listen to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra play la Traviata - beautiful.

We could fill a book with our holidays but just one more, we have both had birthday surprises whilst staying with our daughter and son in law in Melbourne, Brian's was a helicopter flight round ayres rock from our daughter Helen, and mine was a cruise from Melbourne around New Zealand from Brian, that was the biggest surprise of all as I usually end up getting my own presents.

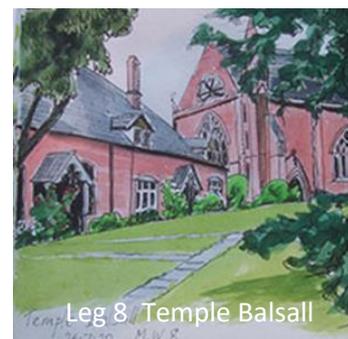
Marie and Brian



Millennium Way Walk sketches by Ruth Harris

To support Sally and my endeavours and, in turn, those of a local charity supporting elderly people in their own homes please contact me for further details. ruthcharris@btinternet.com Get in touch with Ruth to hear about their adventures, it's very entertaining.

Ruth's blog some of her watercolours below.



Brian Starkey's Quiz

If you were to holiday in the following countries, what would be their local currency before the Euro was introduced.

- 1 AUSTRIA
- 2 SPAIN
- 3 PORTUGAL
- 4 HOLLAND
- 5 FRANCE
- 6 GREECE
- 7 FINLAND
- 8 ITALY
- 9 SLOVENIA
- 10 IRELAND
- 11 CYPRUS
- 12 LITHUANIA
- 13 ESTONIA
- 14 GERMANY
- 15 LATVIA

GOOD LUCK.

Answers on the web

Link to web site



For the Next Issue

With September drawing close we would love your childhood memories of the Harvest from how it was done, what machinery was used and did you help. Also, memories of a Harvest Festival, how was the church decorated or was it held in a barn what mischief did you get up to. 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 18 September Many Thanks.

Tell me a story..... The Great Realisation

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Tom+Foolery#id=1&vid=47beb55d56a362b2f054e5fe30dd771e&action=click>

Since Youngsters of Today have their Texting Codes (**LOL**, **OMG**, **TTYL**, etc.) the Oldies decided not to be outdone by these kids, and now have developed our own codes too :

- ATD** - At the Doctor's
- BFF** - Best Friend's Funeral
- BTW** - Bring the Wheelchair
- BYOT** - Bring your own teeth
- FWIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL** - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA** - Got Heartburn Again
- TFT** - Texting From Toilet.

Now share this with some other oldies and make their day



The countries most affected by the coronavirus are the USA, Brazil, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, and France. India



Here are the images of their leaders.

The countries that are recognized as having managed the crisis best are Germany, Taiwan, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Denmark.



👍 My dear Friend. Now , you know why you have to listen to your wife 😊



When buying her postcards I remember my Mother laughing away and saying to my Father look at that one, don't know how they get away with it.

"If you would like to make a positive difference on a smaller scale why not apply to be a Brackley Town Councillor?" For more details link to website.



Brackley Town Council

20 High Street, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 7DS

**Make a change ...
Become a Town Councillor**

Brackley Town Council is looking to co-opt a new Councillor to fill a casual vacancy for Brackley South Ward



If you would like to make a difference to your community, please contact:
The Town Clerk
Telephone: 01280 811421
Email: town.clerk@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Silversurfers have added a "Games section". When it's too hot or it's raining why not take a look. Lose an hour playing games like Mahjong.

<https://www.silversurfers.com/>
https://games.silversurfers.com
/

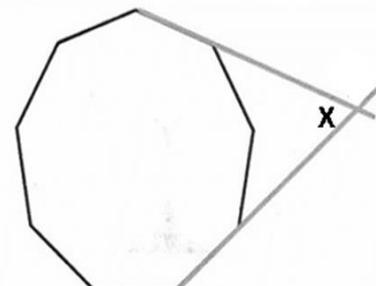
Puzzle from Ken Smith

Maths4Fun

Question

Two sides of a Regular Nonagon (9 equal sides) are extended as shown.

What is the angle at point X?



Answers on the web

Link to web site

LEXOPHILES (LOVERS OF WORDS):

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is too tired.

A will is a dead give-away.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleum Blown apart.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

My Blackberry Bush

**Just around the corner from my little bungalow,
There's a wide expanse of brambles where wild blackberries grow.**

Throughout the depths of winter, this bush is stark and bare,

I wonder how my blackberries will Ever flourish there?

As spring rolls into summer, I keep a watchful eye

On the berries now appearing, usually in July.

By August, plump and juicy, they're proudly on display,

Time to get my bowl and collect some every day.

These beauts are free of charge, who doesn't love being thrifty,

When a small pack of Tesco Finest will cost you two pounds fifty!

I don't make jam or crumble, or other such delights,

Just have them plain 'n simple for pudding on most nights.

Come October it's all over, but I won't be shedding a tear,

Cos I'm thoroughly Sick of blackberries, well - only 'til next year!

Susan Smith





Hello U3A members

Hopefully, you are all well and keeping in touch with at least one other member of U3A. (if not, please let me know)

U3A Head Office are still advising no resumption of meetings indoors due to our age group.

Outdoor meetings of 6 can take place after a risk assessment has been carried out and sent to the Committee for approval. (see link to website).

Looking on the positive side, we have a few vacancies for Group Convenors.

The Groups are Walking, Science & Technology, Theatre & Outings and Sunday Outings. We already have volunteers to start up new Groups for Cinema, Victorian Literature and Beginners Spanish. Please contact me if you are interested, so that plans can be put in place for when we resume activities.

I may be contacted on groupcoord.brackleyu3a@gmail.com or give me a ring on 01280 309337.

Best wishes & take care

Ian Nixon

Group Coordinator



ARE YOU A CARER?

1 in 4 of us will be an unpaid Carer at some time in our lives. There are over 60,000 unpaid Carers in Northamptonshire.

You may be providing support to someone of any age who cares for a relative, friend or neighbour who has a disability, long-term physical or mental health condition or other additional needs.

Caring for someone else can be stressful, isolating and sometimes financially difficult. It may also bring great satisfaction and rewards.

However, Northamptonshire Carers are here to support you because we all need help sometimes. Northamptonshire Carers provide – A support line offering a listening ear and emotional support. A Carers sitting service offering regular respite. Carers Assessments approved by NCC. Gym sessions and wellbeing workshops

Carers Cafes

Choir and Ukulele

Numerous Support Groups, e.g. dementia, COPD (Breathing Space)

Registration is free

We have adapted our services throughout the Covid 19 pandemic and are proud to have continued to support Carers successfully through regular phone calls, What's App groups and 'online' get-togethers.

Northamptonshire Carers covers the entire county and if you would like more information about our services and what we have to offer, please contact us -

General enquiries 01933 677837 Support Line 01933 677907

Website www.northamptonshire-carers.org

Northamptonshire Carers. 123 Midland Rd. Wellingborough. NN8 1LU

Please continue to take care as life seems to be returning to some normality and its extremely easy to forget that this pandemic is still very much a threat to us, the more mature members of the community. If you would like to see something in the next Coronavirus Times or would like to add something that's on your mind, then send to newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com.

Items sent will be considered for future editions. Editors

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