



TOGETHER
WE
STAND



Ukraine interesting facts

1. Ukraine is the largest country by area sitting solely in Europe, however the population at 43 million is the seventh largest.
2. There are seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites listed including Kyiv's St Sophia Cathedral, seen as the backdrop to current news reports, Lviv's historic centre and unique wooden churches in the Carpathians.
3. The National costume of Ukraine is called the Vyshyvanka. It is a plain white shirt made of linen that is beautifully decorated with hand worked embroidery, it is worn by both women and men.
4. The world's deadliest nuclear accident happened in the north of Ukraine at Chernobyl's Nuclear power plant in 1986. An exclusion zone was created around it that has many abandoned towns within it.
5. The Tunnel of Love is a semi-abandoned railway line in Klaven in the northwest of Ukraine. The tunnel is formed by the arching trees growing on either side of the single track. According to local legends couples who visit there will have their wishes granted.
6. The deepest underground station in the world is in Kviv, it is Arsenalna. The depth of the station is 105.5 metres.
7. Ukraine is the worlds largest producer of sunflower seeds, the area covered by the flowers is as large of the whole of Slovenia.
8. Ukraine's fertile black soil is ideal for growing food and crops so it is known as the breadbasket of Europe. It is one of the largest producers of wheat.



Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.

— Winston Churchill —

AZ QUOTES



Brackley & District

08 / 04 / 2022

Tulip Time -Did you know?

1. The first tulip bulbs arrived in the Netherlands from the Ottoman Empire, present day Turkey, in the 16th century.
2. At one time in the days of tulip mania, between 1634 and 1637, a single bulb could cost as much as an Amsterdam canal-side house.
3. The Netherlands grow 4.3 billion bulbs a year of which half are exported.
4. Every year the Dutch send 30,000 tulip flowers to the Vatican at Easter.
5. There are 150 species of tulip and more than 3,000 naturally occurring or genetically cultivated varieties.
6. New varieties of tulip take 20 years to go from the early stages of cultivation to being a bloom sold in the florist.
7. The tulip is the symbol of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.
8. In World War II tulips and tulip breads were often eaten when no other food was available.
9. The tulip is related to onion, asparagus and garlic.
10. The name tulip comes from the Persian word for a "turban".

Thomas Nashe (1567-1601)

Spring, the sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king,
Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The palm and may make country houses gay,
Lambs frisk and play, the shepherds pipe all day,
And we hear aye birds tune this merry lay:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The fields breathe sweet, the daisies kiss our feet,
Young lovers meet, old wives a-sunning sit,
In every street these tunes our ears do greet:
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!
Spring, the sweet spring!



Spot the difference there are 10 to find on the bottom photo. Answers on the web

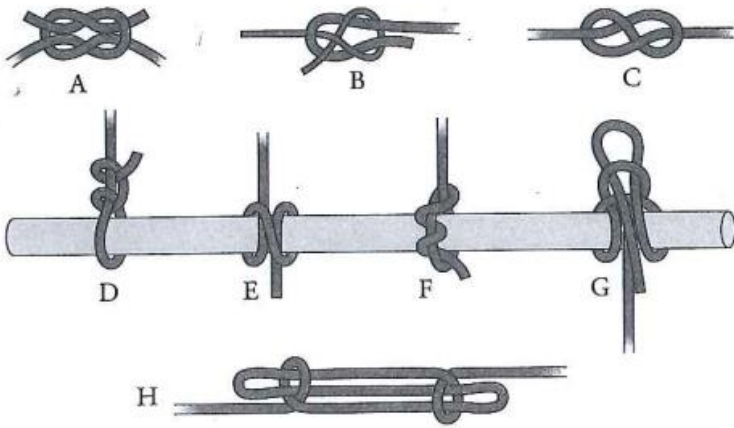


Jigsaw from Abingdon Naturalists

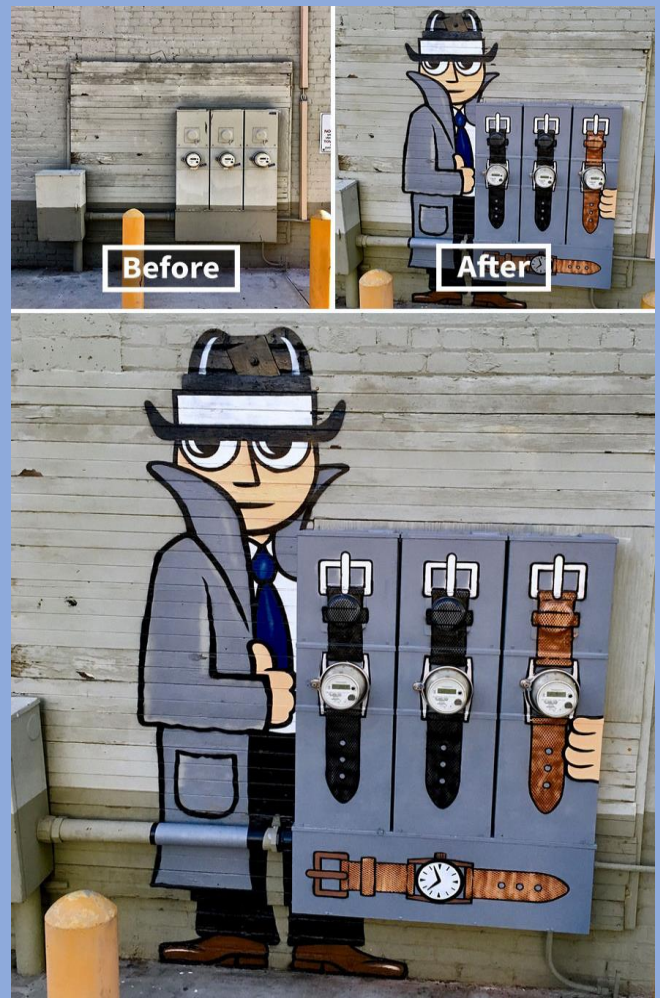
<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1c8ebd911353>

Tying Yourself in Knots

Most of us just about master tying our shoelaces, but how many of these basic knots can you recognize and name?



From Susan Smith Answers on the web



Maths4Fun Puzzle by Ken Smith

How many Grains of Sand on a chess board ?

- put 1 grain on square 1
- put 2 grains on square 2
- put 4 grains on square 3
- put 8 grains on square 4 etc.....
- Double on next square etc....



Note $8 \times 8 = 64$ squares on board

Answers on the web

Three men floating in a dinghy in the middle of the sea

They have 4 cigarettes but nothing to light them

How do they light them?

Answers on the web

At our age, we can hide our own Easter eggs, wait half an hour, and have no clue where we put them! 😂

There was an English Language competition. 2000 persons participated... The competition was To write in one sentence about Peace, Calm & Happiness....

The Award Winner wrote.....,

"My wife is sleeping."

Judges hugged him with tears streaming down their cheeks when presenting the award!

Litter Picking by Bruce Markie (Brackley u3a Walking group Convenor)

I suppose I started litter picking back in the 50s when as a child I was told by my parents to put my sweet wrappers in my pocket until I got home. I'm sure most of you were brought up the same, hence old photos show streets and parks free from litter as people had pride in their neighbourhood. I had always kept the area around my home litter free. Then five or six years ago, an area of Northampton where my daughter lives was such a mess, I felt sorry for her and so decided to make a difference. I started with just a pair of gloves and bin bags, many bin bags, gradually other people saw what I was doing and did the same. As the area was cleared it seemed that less litter was thrown down.

My working life ended just before the pandemic began and I wasn't able to drive for five months due to ill health. I found myself walking more and more around Brackley with my Border Collie, Buffy, and I was horrified by the amount of litter I came across in the green spaces, footpaths and countryside. I decided to do something about it. I purchased a litter picker, bag hoop (which keeps the bag open) and gloves.

My first target was the two fields behind Martial Dare Boulevard – this was quite a task, there was so much old litter in the bushes. Sack after sack was filled over the following months totalling over 1,000 litres of rubbish. Once again other people have now joined in keeping the area relatively litter free. On my best day I only found one sweet wrapper – what a difference.

After that I expanded to the other green spaces and roads. It was at this point I met a fellow picker, Conrad Woolley, who also does great work in Brackley and contacted the Brackley Town Council and got them on board. Conrad also spoke to businesses about the mess around their premises and got them to take action. At the end of February 2021 in Northampton a group was formed called "Northants Litter Wombles". I'm sure you will remember the Wombles – they tidied up Wimbledon Common. Around April 2021 my wife showed me a clip about them which was on Facebook, so I joined. After only a few months branches were springing up all over Northamptonshire totalling 2000 members. By December over 30,000 sacks of litter had been collected, this doesn't include lots of fly tipped items that would not fit into the sacks which would probably double the volume.

The Town Council had become even more involved by loaning out equipment and West Northants Council with collecting the bags once they have been picked and then reported.

I now litter pick daily whenever I walk with Buffy, some days a carrier bag full or just one piece of litter. If everyone just picked up one piece of litter and put it in a bin, or even better if people didn't throw it down the result would be fantastic. My next target was the sports field by the Recreation Centre, where I spent many days pulling litter out of the undergrowth. Then just after Christmas a gentleman from Juniper House appeared the other side of a bush with a screwed up carrier bag and tried to pass it to me. I thought he was giving me some rubbish, but it turned out to be a bottle of wine and some chocolates. He'd watched what I'd been doing and wanted to thank me.

I do target certain bad areas, the latest being the A43 roundabout and Banbury Road – you may have seen me on the road in my orange hi-vis tabard. It's a little bit hairy with the traffic, but received lots of "paps" of encouragement from passing cars. One lady even stopped, called to me and threw me a bar of chocolate. From this area I collected 61 sacks, traffic cones, signs, a barbecue, fishing rod, camp bed, kettle, bags of cement, tarpaulins and a tent all thrown on the verges.

I have also litter picked in Silverstone Woods and Chandos Park in Buckingham on a regular basis. It feels great to be thanked by members of the public, but looking back at the area you have just picked clean is so rewarding.

In the last year things have escalated with the Northants Litter Wombles, there are now groups even outside Northamptonshire, with over 3,000 Wombles. More companies are coming on board with sponsorship and helping with the litter picks. Group Litter Picks are held with up to 30 people which includes children to clear an area that is particularly bad. Talks are being given in schools to children, who then do a litter pick with the speakers.

The desire to clean up our environment is growing at a fantastic rate, with even toddlers trying to join in. So come on get the bug, get a picker and join in. Northants Litter Wombles have a website with lots of helpful information or speak to me.

<https://http://www.facebook.com/groups/northantslitterwombles/>

Molly saves the day at Easter

Mrs Barnes, Molly's elderly neighbour was feeling down in the dumps. A sudden cold snap had made her arthritic hands very painful and she was struggling to do her usual knitting and embroidery. Worse, she had an Easter bonnet to make for the Easter meeting of the Evergreen club she regularly attended, and there were prizes to be won! Mrs Barnes gave a big sigh, what was she going to do? As luck would have it, Molly popped in on her way home from school, something she often did but seeing Mrs Barnes looking glum asked 'Why the long face Mrs Barnes?'

After explaining her predicament, they went over to the table where Mrs Barnes had started to assemble a hat, along with various decorations to sew onto it. She explained it was in the style of a Cloche hat, very popular with Hollywood starlets in the 1920's. Molly could see it was in the shape of a bell, saying she'd learnt the word for bell in French at school - *cloche*. Mrs Barnes nodded.

Without hesitation, Molly said 'You tell me how you want it decorated and I'll sew it on for you'. Mrs Barnes smiled for the first time that day saying, 'I know the other ladies get help from their families, especially if their eyesight isn't good or they suffer from arthritis like me'. Molly replied, 'Don't worry, we'll make it look lovely with plenty of Embellishment' to which Mrs Barnes laughed saying 'Such a big word Molly' Molly tutted 'I pick them up from my Mother, she's Always using big words!'

2 weeks later at the Evergreen Club Easter meeting

There was an air of excitement in the Community Hall, all the ladies were proudly wearing their hats. The guest speaker the local vicar, known by all as Reverend Bob, had given an excellent Easter themed talk and now he was tasked with judging the 'Easter Bonnet' competition. Mrs Barnes's heart fluttered, no-one else had a hat shaped like hers but as 3rd and 2nd place winners were announced, her heart sank. She probably wasn't going to win, some of the other hats were Very grandiose indeed. Then she heard Reverend Bob say, 'The bonnet I'm choosing as the winner, is because it's been decorated so well and is an unusual shape, the Cloche I believe it's called, well done Mrs Barnes!' Mrs Barnes was So surprised, she thought '*Really? I've won?*'

When presented with her prize, a beautiful bouquet of spring flowers and a large chocolate bunny Easter egg, Mrs Barnes knew who she would be giving the Easter egg to, together with a big Thank You, her lovely friend Molly. By Susan Smith



A detailed programme of events, for the 4 days, will be published and distributed to Brackley residents in April. This will include:-

Thursday 2nd June: The Beacon will be lit at 21.45 at The Rugby Club during events running from 15.00 to 23.00

Friday 3rd June: Brackley u3a Dancing & Singing events at the Town Hall from 10.00. Crown making workshops at Egerton Hall.

Saturday 4th June: Brackley Carnival from 12.00 to 16.00 – Best of British theme.

Sunday 5th June: Outdoor civic/special service in Brackley Park in honour of the Queen's Reign. Street parties.

Nature Quiz

This quiz is designed for adults and children so all the family can participate.

Below there are **5** animal or plant names listed as **A – F**

There are numbered clues to the letters in the names.

The first letter of the answer to the statements is or sounds like an animal or plant or biological term gives a letter in the name.. Unfortunately the letters are not the right order so you need to unscramble them to get the correct name.

Here is an example to help you :-

1 Eight limbed marine creature - answer **OCTOPUS** therefore letter**O**

2 Wily old beast - answer **FOX** ... therefore letter**F**

3 The way to go - answer **ROUTE (ROOT)** therefore letter**R**

4 Roman guarding birds - answer **GEESE** therefore letter**G**

Rearrange the letters to give the **name = FROG**

A

- 1 Final part of eating.
- 2 Part of a clock sound.
- 3 Insect makers of hills.
- 4 These might fly.
- 5 Always making trunk calls.
- 2 Not only a drug but a ropy material.
- 6 Looks like a swimming lizard.
- 7 Someone who totals up numbers.

B

- 1 Goes with Holly at Christmas.
- 2 Oil used in cooking.
- 3 Rough voice.
- 4 Said to breath fire.
- 5 Don't put among the pigeons.
- 6 These anchor plants in the soil.

C

- 1 Coloured part of an egg.
- 2 Left after a fire.
- 3 Coloured device for hitting nails etc.
- 4 Motor cyclists jacket made from natural materials .
- 5 These swim in shoals.
- 6 Almost a Midget .

D

- 1 These jump around Australia.
- 2 You might help the NHS by having one a day.
- 3 Not a fast wriggler.
- 4 Hazel , Chest, Brazil etc"
- 5 Leaves that never change seasonal colour .

E

- 1 Old flowers to make wine/cordial.
- 2 Scientific name of Stinging nettle.
- 3 Cause painful foot.
- 4 Clover has them on its roots.
- 5 Watches & Clocks tell you this.
- 5 Fishy quintet by Schubert .
- 6 Bee product.
- 7 Gliding over ice.

F

- 1 Man's best friend.
- 2 Slippery aquatic creature.
- 3 Insect best seen in the dark.
- 4 Pollen producing part of a flower.
- 5 Bird well known at Christmas.
- 6 Causes breakages in a china shop.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE QUIZ

Answers on the web

Street Art at its best



Shirley Şerban

Song for Ukraine, 2022. I know that I'm more known for funnier songs, but with recent events, it's hard to find humour. I played with the lyrics of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' yesterday - all about trying to find joy in the midst of all this, then recorded it with my guitar this morning. Ukraine is very much in my heart at this time. This song is for all unwittingly caught in the conflict there.

Also remembering the very many in Russia who want nothing to do with this, including those who are putting their own lives in danger through protesting. And not forgetting victims of war and unrest around the world today - you are not forgotten.

Lyrics:

Now we dream of times we had before
We all are tired, we can't take more
And you don't care for hollow comfort, do you?
We're sick of this, the pandemic
Disasters, war - it's lunatic
Too crushed to feel the joy of hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Faith isn't hard when life is well
It's brittle when you're facing hell
And I can't always be lighthearted for you
But know that I am at your side
More as a shoulder than a guide
Even though we can't voice a hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

With confidence all but destroyed
I fling a prayer into the void
To recreate when happiness flowed through you
But despite the news we hear tonight
And if tomorrow brings no light
I'll hold on to the hope of hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Share this video with a friend: <https://youtu.be/duOnmJUNJQ>

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO JOHN
COME FORTH, AND YOU WILL
RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

BUT JOHN CAME FIFTH AND
WON A TOASTER



If you haven't grown up
by age 50,
You don't have to.

Kathy's Spring quiz

1. Which country produced the world's largest Easter egg?
2. Which century did the Easter Bunny originate, 16th, 17th or 18th?
3. In which country did the Easter Bunny originate?
4. Easter Island forms part of which country?
5. Which animal is used in place of a `bunny` in Australia?
6. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade for the life of Jesus?
7. Which country produces the world's largest Easter Egg hunt?
8. It is bad luck to do what chore on Good Friday?
9. What is the most popular Easter food in the U.S.A.?
10. On average how many Easter Eggs do children receive – 3, 8 or 11?
11. What is the Sunday before Easter called?
12. Which colour were the first Easter eggs dyed?
13. Pretzels are linked to Easter because the twists look like arms praying – True/False?
14. Which 1987 film inspired the term Bunny Boiler?
15. What does the White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland always carry?
16. Where does the art of painting eggs originate?
17. When was the first chocolate egg produced - 1873, 1893 or 1913?
18. What is it illegal to do in many German states on Good Friday?
19. In 2007, a Faberge egg was sold for how many million pounds?
20. What meat is traditionally eaten at Easter?

Answers on the web

Membership Renewal

As you know the membership of Brackley u3a runs from 1st April to the 31st March each year, as such we are now past the renewal date. In order that you may continue enjoying the Monthly Speaker Meetings, being members of the various Groups and, of course, the Newsletter and Magazine, please renew your membership now. Follow the link for the renewal form that needs to be completed, it has all the details of ways to pay.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/b/brackley/docs/membershipform2022-2023.pdf>

Two old ladies Dolly and Ruby were talking about their grandchildren.

Dolly said, each year I send each of my grandchildren a card with a generous cheque inside. I never hear from them never receive a thankyou message.

Ruby replies, I too send my grandchildren a card with a generous cheque. I hear from them within a week after they receive it in fact, they each pay me a personal visit.

Wow How come remarked Dolly.

Very simple solution I don't sign the cheque.



And finally books never published

Running to the outhouse By Willy Makit

Illustrated by Betty Wont.

Thanks again to our contributors without whom the magazine would be very short and uninteresting. I'm sure you will agree that we are lucky to have such talented members.