



THE CORONAVIRUS TIMES



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The Royal British Legion encourage us all to take part in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of their own home by standing up and raising a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertaking the following 'Toast' - "To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions, at home and abroad, that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

We wanted to give you a topical VE Day poem but couldn't initially find one. Messages went out for help and Frank Arnold Poetry Group Two Convenor; Lynne Lee and Susan Smith have created these amazing poems in just a few days. Then one was found on the internet as well.

VE Day Reflections by Frank V Arnold

The vanquished foe did bend the knee
And then we celebrated victory
But our joy was tempered when in its stead
We paused to remember our beloved dead.
A bittersweet moment in our time
As people laughed and cried with happiness sublime.
Streets were filled with cheering crowds,
Friends and strangers all shouting loud
Hurrahs at conflict's end with rest in sight
And a halt to tyranny and blight.
Now a three-quarter century on
We wonder how the time has gone.
For the enemy, as was, is now our friend,
Whom once we fought to bitter end.
Now we make hay instead of the military steel
Once used to hack at each other's zeal.
For a while victory was beyond our reach.
Dunkirk, Dieppe, and HMS Hood sunk by enemy fleet.
All harbingers of doom but then with steady eyes
We took command of our own seas and skies
To turn the tide leading to a stupendous D Day
Which in the end gave us our glorious VE Day.
So, let us raise our glasses to the Few and the many.
Give thanks for the heroes and heroines aplenty.
Peace came to Europe after much striving
To give us communities strong and thriving.
Pray the young won't forget the sacrifice that was made
To secure their future so they be not afraid once more.

Victory is Ours by Lynne Lee

Victory is ours, our flags are unfurled
We awake today to a brave new world.
Thanks to those who answered the call
They fought for our freedom
Some gave their all.

We'll never forget them
Or what they went through,
To make England safe again,
For me and for you.

But let's celebrate, now,
Let's dance and let's sing.
Let's roll out the barrel,
Let's enjoy all good things.

The evil is gone now,
And we are at peace
Which we must hold on to,
And never let cease.



VE DAY by Angela Wybrow

It really was the most brilliant day:
It was 1945; it was the 8th of May.
It is a date, forever remembered,
As the day when Germany finally surrendered.

The war across Europe had come to an end:
A war in which many had lost family or friend.
It was a day of much celebration
In towns and cities across many a nation.

Very soon after they had heard the great news,
Communities came together and really let loose.
Folk, they rejoiced: there was a great atmosphere,
With many a pub running right out of beer.

Raucous revellers filled Trafalgar Square,
Where hugs and kisses, with strangers, were shared.
As, on the Palace balcony, King George appeared,
The massed crowds below him chanted and cheered.

Soldiers and sailors were dancing the Conga:
The line, which they formed, growing longer and longer.
People danced in the streets and danced in the parks -
They danced and they danced until way after dark.

From out of folks' windows, lights dared to glow,
And many a gallon of cheap champagne flowed.
A kaleidoscope of colour lit up the night -
As did blazing bonfires, which were burning so bright.

People held parties right there in the street,
With sweet and savoury dishes laid out to eat.
There was Homity pie, and Corned Beef Hash,
Bread with Beef Dripping, and Faggots with mash.

There were Glory buns, Welsh cakes, and bread, spread with jam,
Apple Brown Betty, Plum Charlotte, and even Prune flan.
There were scones, carrot cookies, and eggless Fruit Cake,
Rock buns, Jam Tarts - all hastily baked.

The war had raged on for almost six years,
And, during that time, it had caused terror and tears.
It was a day of thanksgiving, a day of relief,
But, for some, just another day of deep-rooted grief.

The people of Europe were finally free,
And many a face was shining with glee.
At the Western Front, the fighting had ceased,
And, all throughout Europe, there was now, much welcomed,
peace.

Dear Tommy by Susan Smith,

Dear Tommy, did you make it? I haven't had any news,
The streets are being decorated with flags, red white and blues
I've heard the War is over; they're calling it VE Day
But I can't start to celebrate 'til I know you're on your way

So many haven't returned leaving loved ones with such pain
We Will remember these heroes; they didn't die in vain

Dear Tommy, I'm sitting in darkness not knowing what to do
Until I get an answer, has something happened to you?

From the quiet of my room, I hear a knock at the door,
Is this the message I'm dreading, as my heart rate starts to soar?

I peek out of the window, and suddenly I'm filled with Joy
Tommy's standing there, my only child, my soldier boy!

Dave Watts, Ukulele Group Convenor has offered this learning opportunity. Open University Online learning. The lockdown can be a testing time as we have all found out over the last few weeks. Well testing it certainly has been for me! I recently discovered that the Open University have free courses that you can do online. There are hundreds of courses on just about every subject you can think of. They range from 1 – 20 hours and you can dip in and out whenever suits you. You even get a certificate on completion. I have just completed my second course and am about to start number 3 on Brighton Pavilion. Just go to www.open.edu/openlearn or Google Open University openlearn.

Here is another brain teaser of a Maths puzzle from Ken Smith.

"An insect is at a bottom corner of an open topped cubic box with sides of 4cm and wishes to crawl to the diagonally opposite top corner. What is the length of the shortest path that it could take?"
The answer is on the website.

Brian's Quiz Do you know about Brackley?

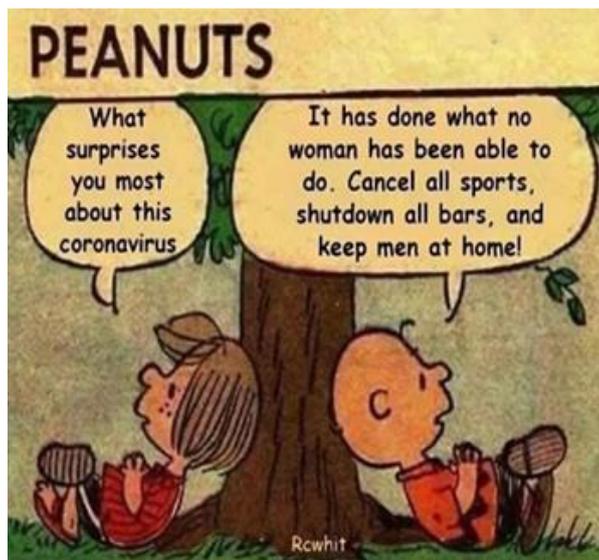
1. Which F1 team is based in the town?
2. Which two towns are Brackley twinned with?
3. Situated at the bottom of Hill Street is a former schoolhouse, what is the inscription on its walls?
4. Name the river which runs through town?
5. In which year was the town mentioned in the Domesday Book? 1082 1084 or 1086
6. Before the demolition of the viaduct in 1978 which British railway line did it carry?
7. Which two trades were the towns prosperity originally based on?
8. How many local Councillors does the town have?
9. Which division football does Brackley town play in?
10. Which hour is dedicated to NHS, the elderly and vulnerable shoppers at Waitrose?
Answers are on the website

Sandra Pinn has provided a link to an amazing video of with amusement and culture rolled together.

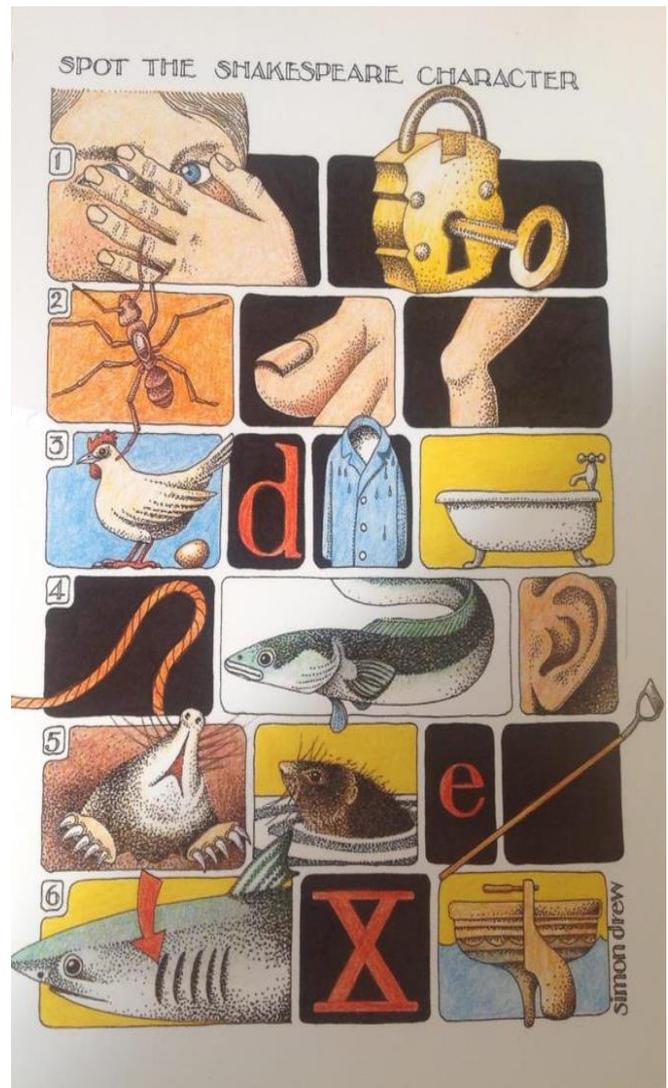
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Did you know
The Isle of Wight is the smallest county
in the UK but only at high tide.



Continuing the cultural theme, see if you can work out the answer to the Shakespeare picture quiz sent by Ian Nixon. The answers are all characters from his plays. Answers are on the website.



Continuing the Shakespeare theme

Riddle:

Romeo and Juliet are found dead on the floor in a bedroom. When they were discovered, there were pieces of glass and some water on the floor. The only furniture in the room is a shelf and a bed. The house is in a remote location, away from everything except for the nearby railroad track. What caused the death of Romeo and Juliet?

Answer is on the website

Christine Coleman has been trying a 30-minute writing challenge. Why not give it ago.

One of our members, Christine Coleman, has been enjoying the challenge of writing for 30 minutes each day on a variety of topics. You could pick a topic and get friends and family to join in, may be even grandchildren who are home schooling. There are also ideas online, (<https://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/try-these-30-minute-writing-challenges>). You can share your writing with others or keep it to yourself to read another day. Alternatively, if it is suitable you could read it to grandchildren as a bedtime story. Enjoy being creative you never know what it might lead to, you might be the next David Walliams or J.K. Rowling!

The kind of topics suggested for the writing challenge could be anything, here are some examples:

Any building or architecture that has caught your attention.

A situation or occurrence that has really made you laugh.

An inspirational person you have met who is not well known neither is a family member.

Your first kiss.

What has education done for you.

A family pet.

Something done by you or someone you know, which was challenging for you or them.

From Joan Ramsay and Margaret Copcutt, U3A Walking Group
Margaret and I thought we would share a bit of information on some of The places near to where our walks have been, hope you find it interesting. Our walk Halse to Farthinghoe, Halse Chapel (also known as The Tin Tabernacle) In the 1880s it is recorded that the curate of Brackley walked to Halse to lead services in Mrs Bartlett's dining room with about 40 people attending. At that time Halse had a population of about 110. In 1884 a plea was put in the church magazine for a room that could be used for church services and as a day school for the children, (it is understood that their previous chapel had been lost and the site had been built over). The present Halse Mission Chapel was originally a railway community room used by workers constructing railways in the area. The Rt Hon The Earl of Ellesmere purchased it and had it erected in its current site for the local people in 1900. Ninety years later funds were raised, matched by a lottery grant, and necessary repairs were carried out and a re-dedication service took place in 1999.



Halse Mission Chapel
The Tin Tabernacle

Farthinghoe incorporates the former lands of the deserted village of Steane. Limes Farm in the heart of the village can be traced back as far as 1826 and has been owned and run by the Deeley family for the past 200 years. We enjoyed a welcome coffee stop at the Farm Shop and Tea Room on our walk. Farthinghoe railway station, situated over a mile from the village, was opened in 1851, closed to passengers in 1952 and to goods in 1963. The second World War saw Farthinghoe handle ammunition for the RAF's Hinton in the Hedges Airfield. The meadow, which adjoined the station was used to hold cattle and sheep prior to transfer to Banbury Market, is now part of Farthinghoe Nature Reserve.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this history about a couple of the places we have walked, and we hope to share more information about our walks another month.

Garden Notebook 3

Butterflies-Orange Tip

In the beautiful sunny weather, we had in April, I saw 6 different kinds of butterfly in my garden. Small tortoiseshell, Peacock, Holly Blue, Brimstone, Small white and Orange tip. As the Orange tip has been very prevalent in the last week, I will tell you a little more about them.

Only the males have the distinctive orange tip on the corner of their white wings. The females have grey tips with a black spot. The underside of their wings is mottled beautifully in moss green and white.

The females lay single pale spindle shaped eggs on the underside of flower buds. They are hard to spot! Some of the flowers it uses are, Cuckoo Flower, Garlic Mustard, Honesty, and Dame's Violet. I have lots of both mauve and white Honesty in my garden. The caterpillars can be cannibalistic, probably because the Cuckoo Flower, for instance, can only produce enough seed pods to sustain one caterpillar. Each caterpillar leaves its food plant to overwinter as a chrysalis, probably in bushes and tall vegetation, emerging as an adult butterfly in April the following year.

by Ruth Harris

We hope you enjoyed the 3rd issue of this Newsletter. A reminder though that we know everyone is having a difficult time and we don't seek to make light of the suffering happening in many families and possibly amongst your friends.

Know that we are thinking of you all. 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. Email ([news items link](#))



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