

The Coronavirus Times



24 April 2020 Edition 2

In this issue:

Crossword from Brian with Clues
Ruth's Submission on Bees
Stephen Pope: Digital Photography
Group Co-ordinator
A little light-hearted humour
Ian's Number Puzzle
Jan Beaumont's poem
Link to Frances Reader's Age UK Tai Chi
A message from Ian Nixon

We hope you enjoyed the first issue of this Newsletter, there are a few more things to savour in this one. 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.

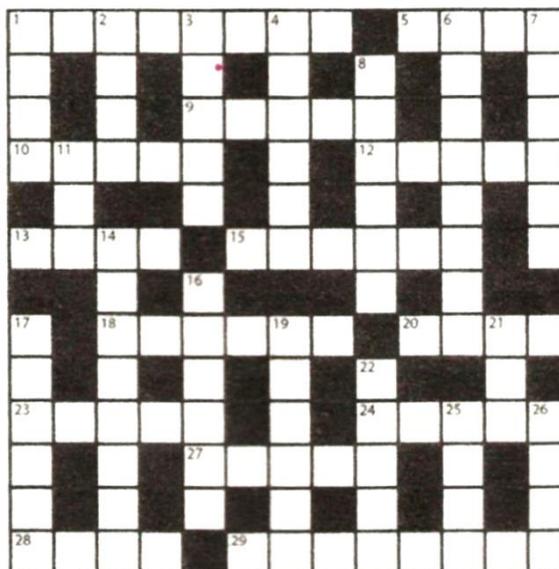
Brian Starkey from the Quiz Group has provided a crossword this time. As before the answers are on the website ([link to website](#)).

Across

- 1 One-storey house (8)
- 5 Audible breath (4)
- 9 Henry VIII's surname (5)
- 10 Islamic religious ruling (5)
- 12 Vote (5)
- 13 Large stone (4)
- 15 Charm against evil spirits (6)
- 18 Egyptian statue (6)
- 20 Reddish-gold pond fish (4)
- 23 Set of carriages (5)
- 24 Excellent (5)
- 27 Portable light (5)
- 28 Stringed toy (2-2)
- 29 Colourless gas (8)

Down

- 1 Cow meat (4)
- 2 Small amphibian (4)
- 3 Communion table (5)
- 4 Lancashire town (6)
- 6 Originator (8)
- 7 Break, opening (6)
- 8 Threefold (6)
- 11 Time gone by (3)
- 14 Accident victim (8)
- 16 Hockey-like game (6)
- 17 Weak (6)
- 19 Adjacent (6)
- 21 Charge (3)
- 22 Paul _____, Brookside actor (5)
- 25 High-pitched sound (4)
- 26 Spoil completely (4)



Garden Notebook Bumblebees 2

When sitting in the sunshine in your garden, you may think that the life of a bumble bee is simple, buzzing from flower to flower, but no, they have enemies! Just like the cuckoo bird there are cuckoo bumblebees. The cuckoo queen attacks the colony, kills the resident queen and eggs, takes over the nest and lays their own eggs. The workers of the host colony, then feed and look after these usurpers.

Even more horrible is the Conopid fly. They hide deep in a flower, and when the bumblebee innocently comes to gather nectar and pollen, they secretly lay an egg on the bumblebee. The larvae hatches proceeds to feed on the bumblebee's blood, then its tissue, eventually killing the bee. Also, bee wolf wasps attack bees, and take them to their nests to feed their young.

Towards the end of the summer, the queen lays both male and female eggs. When they hatch out, they leave the nest, and try to mate. The fertilised queens hibernate to emerge next spring to start the cycle again, but all the other bees die, their job done.

by Ruth Harris

Stephen Pope: Digital Photography Group Co-ordinator

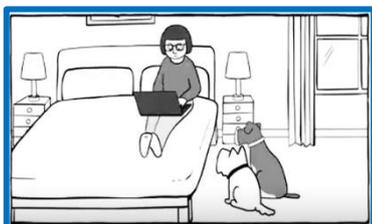
As we all went into "lock down" I set an ongoing challenge to the Digital Photography Group as a piece of "homework"! The challenge is "What I saw" without leaving the boundaries of our homes/gardens. So, lots of scope here, especially as Spring is in full swing and our gardens are in full colour with an abundance of bees and butterflies making the most of the weather.



While this is one area of photography, there are plenty of other opportunities in our homes. I had a wander around this morning to see what I could see, you know all those things we take for granted, but when I looked at them from a different perspective, I started to see new things.

Whether you have a DSLR camera or you use a smart phone, the general approach to taking photos indoors is remarkably similar. I was using my DSLR and tried a few different settings from aperture priority to a scene setting for indoors. I also used a macro focus lens to see how close I could get to objects, as this again changes what you see and the detail of an object. Do remember though that if you shoot towards a source of light, i.e. the window, your object will potentially be back lit and therefore look dark or even black with a bright background. This might be what you want to achieve, if not then move the object away from the direct light source and if possible have it against an appropriate coloured background, or get between the object and light source, but be careful of casting a shadow.

So, let your imagination run riot and record "What I Saw". See what new things you can see, and perhaps when we move back to normal times, we will all have seen our homes and gardens in a new light!



A little light-hearted
humour - who's in charge?
VIDEO-2020-04-09-14-14-18.mp4

Jan Beaumont's Poem "Time for us Girls"

Ian Nixon has submitted a number puzzle to tease your brain.

The answer may be found on the website.
([Link to website](#))

CAN YOU OPEN THE LOCK

USING THESE CLUES?

- 682 ONE DIGIT IS RIGHT
AND, IN ITS PLACE,
- 614 ONE DIGIT IS RIGHT
WRONG PLACE
- 206 TWO DIGITS ARE RIGHT BUT BOTH ARE IN
THE WRONG PLACE
- 738 ALL DIGITS ARE WRONG
- 380 ONE DIGIT IS RIGHT BUT IN THE WRONG
PLACE



[Link to Frances Reader's Age UK Tai Chi](#)

Trying to keep, fit but are finding all the routines quite active and stressful? Try this one from Age UK. It's Tai Chi to be done standing or sat on a chair, the actions are quite calming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PAJhvDB>

A message from Ian Nixon

Whilst we are all now indoors a fair bit of the time, and it seems it might be for longer than first hoped, the following might offer something different to entertain you. Various organisations, which are closed at this time, are offering shows free online. With many, if you have a smart TV, there is the possibility of watching YouTube on the screen. If not view on your PC, tablet, or phone – you will be amazed how good the quality is. Information on more cultural experiences to be watched at home – links available on our website. Hoping you find something to keep you occupied – there is only so much house cleaning you can do!

Keep Safe and Keep Smiling.

[Cirque du Soleil](#) / [Royal Opera House](#) / [Royal Ballet](#) / [Wigmore Hall](#) / [Prado Museum](#) / [Sadlers Wells](#) / [Metropolitan Opera](#) / [Andrew Lloyd Webber](#)

Don't quit poem it's being read by Idris Elba on the BBC between programmes sometimes

<https://images.app.goo.gl/SaMBxWaYkd2FNNi69>

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see we are the "oldies" now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the sixties
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and mini skirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Then somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks may be more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I'd like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll get through this crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Members your help please – any short stories and/or photos relating to VE Day. Needed by Tuesday 5th May. Thank you.

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 (insert news items link)