

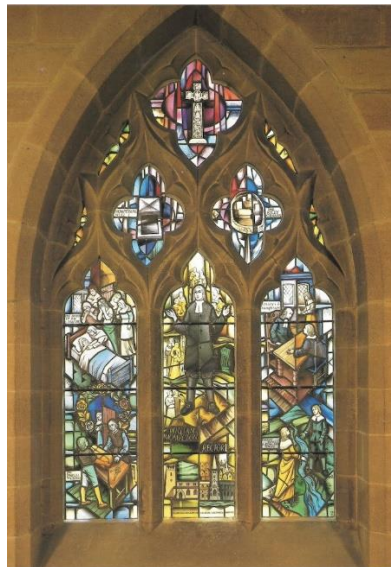
DESERT ISLAND TIMES

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*A MISCELLANY OF
CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM OUR MEMBERS*

Lockdown and Social Distancing – Stephen Berry

We've heard much about this over the past weeks and thankfully most people realise the importance of following the rules imposed by government and health authorities and transmitted to us on a regular basis.

The procedures we are currently adopting when signed-for post or parcels arrive – and when food deliveries are made by our supermarket or family members – are straightforward. The doorbell rings, the person making delivery deposits our item(s) in the porch and retreats to the front gate and, if any payment has to be made, that is left in the porch after collection and we retreat into the house. This procedure jogged my memory of events of many years ago.

In 1991 our eldest daughter was sitting her GCSE examinations and one of the books set for study for English Literature was the play "The Roses of Eyam", a play by Don Taylor. I became interested in the play while helping her with her revision sessions. It is set in 1665 – and very closely parallels 2020!

The village of Eyam is in Derbyshire, in the beautiful area known as The Peak District. Nowadays it has a population of around 1000 inhabitants and its principal industry is tourism, though no doubt some work in the neighbourhood in the limestone industry and in service industries. Historically, though, lead mining, silk weaving and cotton spinning were also of importance and the village had its usual craftsmen such as the blacksmith, cooper and carpenter.

We go back in time now to March 1665. One person caught bubonic plague, thought to have come in on a ship – from Holland, where plague was raging, but the suspected country of origin was China! It began in the poor, overcrowded parish of St. Giles-in-the-Field in London. Starting slowly at first, by May of that year 43 had died. In June 6137 people died, in July 17036 people. At its peak in August, 31159 people died. In all, 15% of the population perished during that terrible summer. Serious as the plague was, there was no sort of policy for dealing with it. No restrictions were placed on travel and, indeed, people were anxious to flee the capital if they could. One such person was a traveller in cloth. He saw an opportunity to flee when an order arrived in London from the village tailor in Eyam. Carrying his bundle of cloth he set off northwards and eventually arrived at the tailor's house.

The history of the plague in the village began in September 1665 with the arrival of the traveller. George Viccars, the tailor, found the bundle of cloth to be damp and he innocently put it in front of the fire to dry. Little did he realise that the cloth was flea-ridden and the heat brought the plague to life. George Viccars was dead and buried on 7th September and more began dying in the household soon after.

As the disease spread, the villagers turned for leadership to their rector, the Reverend William Mompesson, and, later, the ejected Puritan minister Thomas Stanley – a partnership even more unlikely in normal times than the present uniting of government and opposition parties in our crisis. They introduced a number of precautions to slow the spread of the illness from May 1666. The measures included the arrangement that families were to bury their own dead without any service or ceremony. [lockdown – families kept to themselves and did not mix with their neighbours] The church was closed and services relocated to the natural amphitheatre of Cucklet Delph, allowing villagers to separate themselves into family groups which were spaced out, so reducing the risk of infection. [social distancing]

Perhaps the best-known decision was to quarantine the entire village to prevent further spread of the disease. However, this brought its own problems as it was still necessary to source essential supplies, particularly food. Little was known about the disease or its method of spreading itself beyond the obvious means of contact, but it was thought that one means of transmission could have been on the coins used to buy supplies. A system was negotiated through the Earl of Devonshire at Chatsworth with neighbouring

parishes that food would be delivered to specific places on the parish boundary where coins would be left in basins of vinegar in the (vain) hope that the acid would disinfect the coins. A list of requirements for the next day was left at each basin.

At the start of the plague in Eyam, Rev. Mompesson had tried to persuade his wife to take their two children to safety with family in Yorkshire. She refused, though the children went away. She ministered unfailingly alongside her husband until she suddenly contracted the plague on 25th August 1666 and died. This month was the worst, 59 deaths being recorded.

Survival among those affected appeared random, as many who remained alive had had close contact with those who died. For example, one woman was uninfected despite burying six children and her husband in eight days. The village gravedigger also survived, despite handling many infected bodies.

The parallels with our present crisis are quite startling. It should be said that the two diseases are totally different, but although our knowledge is much advanced we still don't know exactly what we are dealing with at present. The arrangements made then are, to a large extent, being repeated now, though the use of the plastic card removes the need for the basins of vinegar! We have seen obvious means of transmission and surprises when random people seem to contract the virus, and the cooperation of people of opposing views shows that human nature has not changed over this large time period.

Each year the events of that period are remembered on "Plague Sunday", the last Sunday in August. A service is held in the parish church in the morning and, after lunch, a procession is formed there which, led by a brass band, moves towards Cucklet Delph, where an open-air service is held. By a fortunate coincidence I was involved in the 325th anniversary events. We were on holiday in Buxton and, as Angela had just received her GCSE results, we had to visit Eyam, which we did on the preceding Monday. Inevitably I gravitated towards the organ while we were in the church and I was invited to play it if I wished. I did wish! The outcome was that I was invited to play for the Plague Sunday service and we also took part in the afternoon service. It was a memorable and moving day and one I shall never forget.

The picture on this week's cover is directly related to the events recorded in this article. It is the "Plague Window" in Eyam Parish Church. Although it simply depicts various incidents without attempt at chronological sequence, it is nevertheless a colourful and poignant reminder of the terrible events that overtook one small village all those years ago.

It is to be hoped that our government will see fit to honour all of our front line staff who have lost their lives in the line of duty during the present crisis with some form of memorial. There should also be a permanent record of all of those who died as a result of contracting COVID-19. When things return to "normal" it is all too easy to forget the events and those directly involved.

An apology

You will remember that last week's edition took some getting to you in an acceptable form! Because of a formatting difficulty, a line of text was omitted and I failed to credit Rob Wilkinson with compilation of the UK Quiz. Apologies to Rob!

THANK YOU to all contributors and readers.

PLEASE keep material coming in – we are achieving a variety of genres and a variety of topics – but there is plenty of room for more! If your submitted material does not appear immediately it has been stored for future use. The aim is for each edition to have variety within itself.

Easypeasy Cryptic Crossword Clues - 3. - Angela Robins

There are a dozen types of Cryptic Crossword Clues and here are some of the Homophone type for your amusement. Remember to ignore the surface meaning of a clue - it rarely makes sense!

Homophones are words that are spelled differently but sound the same.

Each clue has a hint that it is a Homophone clue plus two definitions that we need to find a common answer, albeit spelled differently. Examples of hints are soundly, speak, we hear, loud, say, stated. Sometimes it helps if you read the clue out loud.

i.e. Remained sober, so we hear (6).

We are looking for a word that means 'remained' that sounds like a word that means 'sober'. The answer will be stayed or staid - it can be puzzling which one is the answer needed. The number of letters required will help decide. So, the answer is Stayed.

Have a go at these clues - answers are at the end.

1. Paddle in the sound for fish delicacy (3).
2. Cope with composer loudly (6).
3. Temporarily secures a levy, we hear (5).
4. Soundly criticise some light entertainment (5).
5. Neckwear that Siamese heard (3).
6. Narrow channel - not winding we hear (6).
7. Expensive animal by the sound of it (4).
8. An advance, we hear, on its own (5).
9. Assistance for one who's been duped say (7).
10. Naked animal heard (4).
11. Audibly grieving before midday (7).
12. To be honest, it was French currency I heard (5).
13. In speech shorten tutorial (6).
14. Noisily interfere with American resort (5).
15. Noisy group vetoed (6).
16. Heard nothing sister (3).
17. Had on, we hear, in conflict (3).
18. Noisy building plot is an eyeful (5).
19. Boring instrument everyone heard (3).
20. Wood found on sandy stretch, it's said (5).

Contact me on valdemosas2@gmail.com if you would like to receive my easy weekly crossword with hints and answers.

Answers:- roe, handle, tacks, revue, tie, strait, dear, alone, succour, bare, morning, frank, lesson, Tampa, banned, nun, war, sight, awl, beech.

My Favourite Painting – Gerald Lee

If I had to choose one painting or personal object that means most to me, it is not a picture you would find in a gallery or collection, nor does it even have a name, and the artist is unknown.

As a child in Belfast my brother, my sister and I used to take turns to have Sunday lunch at my aunts' house. They were the three older sisters of my father. I always admired a painting that hung over the mantel piece. In those days Belfast, although an industrial city comparable to Bristol or Leeds, had not extended so far that you had to walk a long distance to be in the countryside.

Although my father had free bus travel, he was a compulsive walker. One of his favourite walks was along the towpath of the River Lagan to Shaw's Bridge. It was a well-loved beauty spot with a country church with a lychgate nearby. The trees reflected on the river and sometimes you would see boat clubs or model railway clubs enjoying the good weather.

The picture showed the unspoilt tow path with an overhanging tree and the shades of green reflecting on the water. Through the course of time the picture has passed to me. It now hangs in my dining room and it is with great pleasure and pride I show it to visitors and describe the location as it was in my younger days.

There is also a mystery to the story. I never thought of asking the name of the artist, or perhaps I have just forgotten it. However, I can recall the legend of how the picture came to belong to my aunts. My eldest aunt, Nellie, had a lively engaging personality. Her love of conversation and good company has passed to me, I think! It was said that the artist lived in Australia. My aunt Nellie had sent him a photograph, from which he had composed the painting. The legend also said that the photograph was in the back of the painting.

When the painting came into my possession in 1988, I decided it was time for a new frame. I asked the owner of Maindee Gallery to reframe it and to check if the photograph was indeed in the back of the picture. Alas, it would have been a lovely story if it had been there, but unfortunately, although the gallery owner said it was not uncommon to find receipts or even letters, in this case I was disappointed.

Sadly, that area is completely spoiled as Belfast has expanded. Shaw's Bridge is a picnic site next to a very fast and noisy dual carriageway. But at least I still have the painting and wonderful memories of a more tranquil time.

Some Light-Hearted Entertainment contributed by John and Beth Smith

During this time of self-isolation it is very important that we take some exercise. This daily workout could prove to be just the thing!

MONDAY

Beat around the bush
Jump to conclusions
Climb the walls
Wade through the morning papers

TUESDAY

Drag your heels
Push your luck
Make mountains out of molehills
Hit the nail on the head

WEDNESDAY

Bend over backwards
Jump on the bandwagon
Run around in circles

THURSDAY

Blow your own horn
Pull out all the stops
Add fuel to the fire

FRIDAY

Open Pandora's Box
Put your foot in your mouth
Start the ball rolling

SATURDAY

Go over the top
Pick up the pieces
Go round the bend

SUNDAY

Kneel in prayer
Bow your head in thanksgiving
Give someone some encouragement

PHEW. WHAT A WORKOUT!

SPELL CHEQUER

i have a spelling cheque
it came with my pea sea
it plainly marks four my revue
mist aches eye kin knot sea

i strike a key and then a word
and weight four it two say
weather eye am wrong oar write
it shows me straight a weigh

as soon as a mist ache is maid
it nose bee fore two long
and eye can put the error rite
its rare lea every wrong

eye have run this poem threw it
i am shore yore pleased to no
its letter perfect all the weigh
my chequer told me sew

Did you hear about the vulture who tried to board an aeroplane carrying two dead crows? He wasn't permitted to board because you are only allowed one carrion per passenger.

MIKE THE PAINTER

There was a painter named Mike who was apt to make a penny whenever he could. So he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the church decided to do a big restoration on one of its largest buildings. Mike was given the job. He set about erecting the scaffolding, setting up the planks, buying the paint and, as usual, thinning it down with turpentine. Well, Mike was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed. Suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder and the sky opened. The rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Mike off the scaffold to land among the gravestones. He was surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Mike was no fool and he knew this was a judgement from the Almighty. He got down on his knees and cried, "Oh, heaven forgive me. What should I do?" From the thunder a mighty voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint, and thin no more!"

Some Proverbs - Pam Cocchiara

Remember in Junior School when we learnt all those proverbs and sayings? Here's my own version of just a few of them.

Where there's a will there's greedy relatives.
The grass is always greener on Monty Don's lawn.
God helps those who help themselves but he draws the line at shoplifters.
If you can't beat 'emdon't become a member of a Sadist club.
A bird in the hand is a fistful of droppings.
Blood is thicker than water but much harder to get out of your clothes.
Too many cooks on TV these days.
Two heads are better than one but not when it's Siamese Twins.
Better late than pregnant!

.... and a Quiz

What items of footwear are described in the cryptic clues below?

1. Useful for choosing shellfish.
2. The right footwear for plumbers?
3. Golf clubs maybe.
4. These will keep you fit.
5. Do they creep around and tell on you?
6. Suitable for Irishmen perhaps.
7. Give it some!
8. Shallow water birds.
9. Property of a medical man?
10. Do these hang around with Mother's Pride?
11. Obstinate creatures!
12. Useful if you've a flat tyre.
13. Banana skins?
14. Items used by an Italian assassin perhaps.

Answers on page 17

All that Jazz! – Mike Brown

Here's a typical example of the jazz I choose for my group at the "All That Jazz" monthly sessions. I like them and hope you will like them too.

1/ American jazz pianist & composer Ahmad Jamal was born Fritz Russell Jones in July 1930. For 5 decades he has been one of the most successful small group leaders in jazz. He emphasised space and time in his musical compositions and interpretation instead of focusing on the blinding speed of bebop. / YouTube - "Ahmad Jamal Poinciana - Olympia Paris Live"
<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SiARr9JhLEo>

2/ The infamous Miles Davis (1926-1991) was born in Illinois. He studied at the Juilliard School of Music but soon dropped out to make his professional debut with the Charlie Parker Quintet between 1944-1948. He became among the most influential and acclaimed figures in the history of jazz. His five-decade career kept him at the forefront of many stylistic developments in music. / YouTube - "Miles Davis - So What (Official Audio)" <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zqNTItOGh5c>

3/ Another jazz musician who needs little introduction is Dave Brubeck (1920-2012). A pianist and composer, he experimented with unusual 'time signatures'. Probably the tune with which he had the greatest success was 'Take Five' written by his sax player Paul Desmond of the Dave Brubeck Quartet. Try this one! / YouTube - "Unsquare Dance Medley (Dave Brubeck Tribute) - All-Star Jazz Quintet - 2009 Kennedy Center Honors" <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3KDjbbtsIYI>

4/ Clarinetist & Bandleader Benny Goodman (1909-1986), known as the 'King of Swing', led one of the most popular music groups in the States. His Carnegie Hall concert in Jan 1938 was described as the most important jazz or pop music concert in history - Jazz's coming out party to the world of "respectable" music. / YouTube - " Why Don't You Do Right - Peggy Lee - Benny Goodman Orch."
http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4zRwze8_SGk

5/ In Dec.1957 perhaps the most impressive array of Jazz talent ever was assembled before American TV cameras and provided viewers with a less formal look at the "Sound of Jazz" . Traditional Jazz was represented by trumpeter Henry "Red" Allen's All-Stars. / YouTube - "Henry Red Allen - Sound of Jazz 1957 - Wild Man Blues #2+#1 rec. Docu 6.06 BBC "<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vo7qiXkTu4s>

6/ The showstopper from the American TV show (above) was "Fine and Mellow" wherein Billie Holiday (who wrote it) and tenor sax player Lester Young, whose long and close friendship was said to be strained, rekindled one of the all-time great musical romances. / YouTube - "Billie Holiday - Fine and Mellow - The Sound of Jazz "<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sJQiqTZfakQ>

7/ One of the finest versions of Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood" is by the French jazz pianist Michel Petrucciani. Despite the fact that he was small in stature, due to a disabling bone condition, he was a powerful player as demonstrated by the following track. / YouTube - "Michel Petrucciani - In A Sentimental Mood "<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6PyYcnXQZJY>

8/ Gerry Mulligan was a skilful Baritone Sax performer, playing the instrument with a light and airy tone in the era of "cool jazz". The heyday of his quartet with Chet Baker was in the early 50's, after which Baker started to become a solo star. / YouTube - "Chet Baker & Gerry Mulligan-Carioca (1952)"
<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UeidKXueKec>

9/ Chet Baker was a primary exponent of the West Coast school of cool jazz. As a player (trumpet & flugelhorn) he had a generally restrained intimate style and attracted attention beyond jazz for his photogenic looks. He also earned much critical praise throughout his career for albums featuring his

voice. This track is a fine example. Unfortunately, his career was marred by drug addiction. / YouTube - "Chet Baker - Almost Blue" <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=z4PKzz81m5c>

10/ The American jazz pianist, composer and arranger Horace Silver hailed originally from the Cape Verde Islands. His most successful album was "Song for my Father" inspired by a trip to Brazil, dedicated to his father and released in 1965. / YouTube - Horace Silver Quintet Que Pasa <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=87wul09cuA>

The Logic of Children

Teacher: How old is your father?

Child: He's six.

Teacher: How's that possible?

Child: He only became father when I was born!

Teacher: Mary, go to the map on the wall and find Australia.

Mary: Here it is, Miss.

Teacher: That's right. Now, class, who discovered Australia?

Class: Mary, Miss!

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L.

Teacher: That's wrong!

Glenn: It may be wrong, but you asked me how I spell it!

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O

Teacher: What do you mean?

Donald: Well, yesterday you told us it was H to O!

Teacher: Clyde, your essay on "My dog" is exactly the same as your brother's.

Clyde: Of course, Miss. It's the same dog!

Teacher: Alan, what do you call a person who keeps talking when people aren't interested?

Alan: A teacher, Miss!

Teacher: A collision occurs when two things come together unexpectedly.

Jane: Miss, we had a collision in our family.

Teacher: Oh! What happened?

Jane: My mother had twins!

Teacher: Jonnie, give me a sentence which includes the word "intense".

Jonnie: When we went camping with the cubs we slept "in tents"

DIY – Pam Cocchiara

One of the main problems of our enforced stay indoors is how to keep busy, fit and sane! Apart from the recommended daily walk, I've decided to keep active by doing things that I am usually too busy to do (well that's been my excuse in the past!). I've made out a list of all neglected tasks around the house and I'm tackling them one at a time. I love making a list; it's so satisfying isn't it when you tick things off as you work your way through it.

First on the list, cleaning all the windows – Tick!

Next, an overhaul of the kitchen cupboards – Tick!

I've discovered kitchen utensils and appliances that I'd forgotten I ever had, some of them I'll certainly never use again. I've put items aside for the charity shops and other odd bits and pieces will go out for Wastesavers. After all this sorting and cleaning I'm feeling so virtuous that I expect to see a halo when I look in the mirror!

Next on the list is going to be a good sort-out of all the paperwork I've accumulated since my last great sort-out. When was that I wonder?

But there is a limit to my efforts. I draw the line at DIY. I shan't be tackling household repairs and odd jobs. I'll leave that to the experts. No, my advice is.....

Don't Do-it-Yourself!

When using a gadget or tool I'm clumsy, all thumbs as a rule.
I'm not very clever with my hands and could never
do practical things when at school.

When I cook, if I try to work faster slicing vegetables, it's a disaster!
After using a blade I need some First Aid,
a dressing maybe or a plaster.

Despite that I decided to try to cope with some jobs DIY.
Then a household disaster I'd be able to master,
and hopefully could rectify.

So I was determined to try to develop some skills by and by.
"If I try hard enough, it can't be that tough,"
I thought "Others have learnt, so can I."

I bought a book "Home Repair" and studied it all with great care.
It said to succeed, the right tools you would need
Tackle household wear and tear.

In Wicks, a nice man name of Ivor sold me a tool kit for a fiver.
In it were a spanner, hacksaw, a claw hammer
and two different types of screwdriver.

Now I thought that I knew all the tricks, and electrical faults I could fix,
But to my dismay I learnt the hard way
electricity and water don't mix!

Some rooms needed redecoration, a simple job in my estimation.
Now paint's all in my hair and splashed everywhere,

like a Jackson Pollock creation!

I went up in the attic to store items I didn't need any more.
There wasn't much space and one foot I misplaced
between rafters and went through the floor.

Cleaning up after that was a chore, my hands were all reddened and raw,
And in the one bedroom there's now much more headroom
Cause the ceiling's not there any more.

For a leaking pipe my strategy was a failure. Now that's plain to see.
Perhaps in hindsight a hacksaw wasn't right
for the job. Catastrophe!

I know now DIY's not for me. My hope was to do jobs for free.
But the house is a wreck. It'll need a large cheque
to pay for expert remedy.

I hate to give in as a rule. Admitting defeat's not thought cool.
But I know when to quit, "For Sale – 1 Tool Kit"
From now on a pen is my tool!

Sudoku

6				5	2	1	7	
	5	2						9
			8	9	4	5	2	
	4		6		3			
3				7				4
			9		8		1	
	3	5	7	8	6			
7						3	6	
	6	9	5	3				2

4			7	9			3	
	7						2	
	6	8	1	2				
7				1	6	9		2
	1	9		5		4	8	
5		2	9	4				1
				6	2	8	9	
		3					7	
	9			7	1			3

Each row and each column has to contain numbers 1 to 9 once only; each large square of nine smaller squares likewise. Do not guess numbers! Work out each by elimination.

From Bath to Blaina– Stephen Berry

Until the mid 18th century South Wales was very different from the country we all know today. There were no towns of any real size – even in 1801 the population of Cardiff was just under 2000, though this was exceeded by the populations of both Swansea and Merthyr. Fifty years earlier even these town were little more than large villages, but the onset of the Industrial Revolution saw their rapid expansion as iron making and coal mining developed.

At this stage the whole of South Wales was Welsh speaking – even to the borders with England at Chepstow and Monmouth. Certainly the majority of those who flooded into Swansea, Merthyr and the surrounding areas in the early days of the Industrial Revolution were from still-rural parts of Wales and the Welsh language continued in daily use. However, further developments led to increased urbanisation and the coming of the canals, tramways and railways sped up the process considerably. The demand for labour increased – and closely mirrored economic conditions in such areas as south west England (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Gloucestershire in particular) where unemployment was high. Thus began the movement of workers from England into South Wales – and with the workers came their language, which was, of course, English. It is worth bearing in mind, though, that all of these counties had very distinctive regional accents and dialects.

The area that was most greatly affected by the continuing influx of English labour ran from the Eastern Valley of Monmouthshire (that running from Newport through Cwmbran and Pontypool to Blaenavon) in the east to the Gwendraeth Valley (running from Burry Port to Cwmmawr just to the west of Llanelli) in the west. The northern boundary is less well defined, but runs roughly along the Heads of the Valley road from Abergavenny as far as Hirwaun and then veers slightly to the north west to include the Tawe and Amman valleys north of Swansea. The southern boundary is even more difficult to define precisely, but a rough indication of the border is the main line railway running westwards from Newport as far as Pembrey. This boundary can be stretched southwards to include the docks at places not on this line – particularly Penarth and Barry – although these developed much later in the 19th century and were originally outside the area.

Because of the influx of English workers in huge numbers, the language of the area moved from being predominantly Welsh to predominantly English – although not what would be termed Standard English. The best description of what emerged that I have been able to find is “English spoken with a good Welsh twist in its tail.” This twist was apparent in two distinctive ways. Firstly, a number of Welsh words and expressions were absorbed and often corrupted or mutated to something similar, making them unique to the area. Secondly, Welsh constructions and word orders were sometimes retained, making the expression in English a virtual direct translation of the Welsh. The resulting product, itself subjected to further development and change such as the shortening of words and phrases, has given us something which is almost a new language and which we now call Wenglish. At its simplest it can be easily understood by those who have a command of Standard English. At its best, it is unique and almost unintelligible to anyone doesn’t come “from round yere!”

An interesting character on my family tree was Thomas Warry, a trigonist, who was an actor. He was born and brought up in Bath; his second son Frederick (by his second wife), after an interesting upbringing in the theatrical world, moved to Blaina, where he became a coal miner. Bath represents standard English and Blaina en Wenglish. What aa difference!

So, let’s see some examples of Wenglish in action. In the left hand column is a sentence in Standard English and in the right is the Wenglish equivalent.

It all depends upon the weather.

My radio is unreliable. I'll have to have it inspected.

She's had a bad cough for a while so she can't risk it turning to bronchitis.

Come to my house later, will you?

Don't give it to me now – give it to me later on.

He's really friendly to you when he wants a favour.

She knows all about claiming benefits.

He has difficulty understanding things.

I like your new handbag.

You'd better see who has knocked on the door.

There are plenty of apples on my tree. Would you like some?

As she was going to Pontypridd anyway, she offered me a lift.

Just reverse a little way and you will see it immediately, straight ahead of you!

He's a nuisance – constantly in and out!

How are you? Better some days than others. She's not feeling quite right.

You look pale.

He looks unwell.

Are you feeling poorly?

David Williams is quite ill.

His wife is very ill

My workmate is seriously ill.

Old Mrs Jones is on the point of death.

The lawn desperately needs cutting.

It's all **according** to the weather

My wy-lus ave bin **actin' up lately**– I gorra **gerrit seen to**.

She've ad a bard corf **frages** so she **carn afford** to 'ave it turn to bron-cye-tus.

Come up my 'ouse **after**, will you?

Don't give it me now, give it me **again**.

'E's **all over you** when 'e wants **some'ing**.

She's **all there** when it comes **to the social**.

E's **not all there, that one!**

That's a tidy new '**ambarg** you got!

Go an' **answer** the door.

There's **any amount of** apples on my tree. **D'ew wan' sum?**

She was goin' down Ponty **anyroad**, so she said **she'd take me**.

Jest **back back** a bit and you'll see it **straight off, smack in front of you!**

He's a **proper pest** – **back an' fore**, back an' fore all the time

'Ow you doin'? Like the buses – up-an-down!

She's **one degree under**.

Ew do look peaky.

Duw! 'E do look rough

Ew feelin' bard?

Dai Williams is bard in bed.

'Is missus is bard in bed under the doctor

My butty is sinkin' fast.

It's all up with old ma Jones.

That **grarse** do need a trim **bard**.

Mr Jones has some strange opinions.

Could you put up the Christmas decorations?
Yes, I'll certainly try.

I would prefer a holiday in Porthcawl to one
in Tenby.

She talks very loudly – everyone can hear
her.

Don't ask him to do a job – he's useless!

The child living next door is extremely rude!

My neighbour is being very awkward about
the front boundary wall.

Could you please reserve that item for me?

Come here, please.

Who is John? That's him there.

The table looks much better after being
polished.

Lizzie is really argumentative – always being
awkward!

The play was poor – very boring

When I heard they had had a lottery win I
found it hard to believe.

He was very distressed to hear about the
burglary at the café.

She is excellent at making Welsh cakes.

There's always sport on the television – it is
so frustrating!

You won't get paid now – they've moved
away surrepticiously.

That bloke Jones is a **funny article**.

Cun you put up the **trimmins**?
Aye, I'll give it a **bash**!

Give me a **holiday down Trecco before**
Tenby any day!

You can 'ear her **from the other end of the**
town – she got a **bell on every tooth!** OR
She gorra **mouth like the Severn Tunnel!**

Do'n arsk 'im to **do nothin'** – 'e's a real
bewty!

That kid next doe-ur is cheeky **beyond!**

'Im nex doe-ur's being mighty **bolshy** 'bout
that birra worrl out the front!

Put that **by** for me **till after**, will yew?

Come over **by yer**.

'Oos John? It's 'im **over bithere**.

The table have **come up a treat** with a bit of
a elbow grease.

That Lizzie's right **contrary** – **cause an**
argument in an empty room she would!

That play **wasn't much cop** – right boring!

Wen I 'eard they'd won the lottery I **couldn't**
get over it.

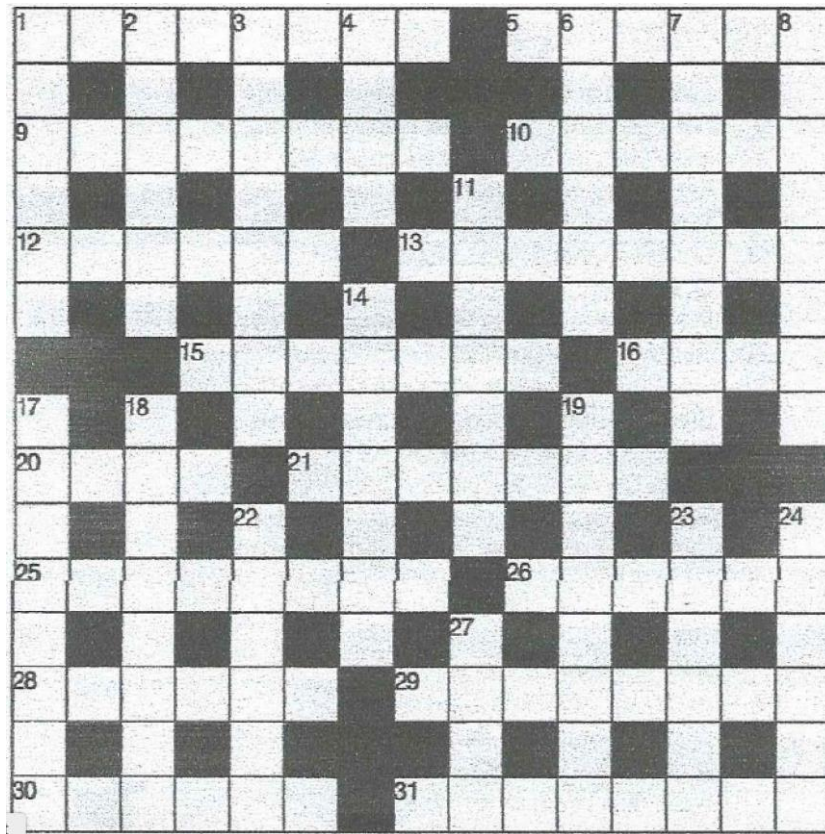
'E was ever so **cut up** about the break in
down the caff.

She's a **dab-'and** at bakestones.

All that sport on the telly – **it do do youer**
'ed in!

You **can whistle for youer cash now** –
they've gorn an' done a bunk!
(OR they've done a moonlight flit!)

One for the Experts (solution on p.16) – submitted by Alan Fry



ACROSS

1. Heartless fool terminating disbursement (8)
5. Employees of the county (6)
9. The front, or near it anyway (8)
10. Beat into a thin plate (6)
12. Copper – not commonly seen as a poison (6)
13. The new resident must be introduced (8)
15. Stockings and one shoe thrown on the railway (7)
16. Sightseeing trip in French city, not on the Sabbath (4)
20. He's a monster, and so regressive! (4)
21. Seem in a mess, having made a bloomer (7)
25. Check with newsmen after a little drink (8)
26. A virtue in the garden? (6)
28. 8 an American naval officer (6)
29. Sound point in a 23 (8)
30. Runs many refuse to make (6)
31. A writer given leave to go around the Minister (8)

DOWN

1. Scrutinise arches for distortion (6)
2. Blackmail is no longer wrong! (6)
3. One can but await developments in this Area (4-4)
4. Directions on producing gas (4)
6. Left following trouble in the plant (6)
7. A story about the queen causing controversy (8)
8. Flag to stop on a road (8)
11. Creating awful din, true, at the experimental stage (7)
14. Diana's in need of comfort – affection (7)
17. The drops maybe taken by a crock (8)
18. Nominates no amateur models (8)
19. Lightning left Nunhead illuminating the Night (8)
22. There's talk of the Irish going on foot (6)
23. A bad sailor in the main (6)
24. Goddess given a note about a bird (6)
27. Concerning a section of the pastor's Congregation (2,2)

Julie Andrews turns 69 – submitted by Greg Varney

To commemorate her birthday, actress and singer, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from The Sound of Music. These are the lyrics she used:

Tenna pads and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string.
These are a few of my favourite things.

Dial-a-ride and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Steradent and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinning,
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning,
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim

Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Solution to Crossword on page 15

ACROSS

1 Spending 5 Staffs 9 Anterior 10 Lamina. 12 Curare 13 Inserted 15 Hosiery 16 Tour 20 Ogre
21 Nemesia. 25 Suppress. 26 Thrift 28 Ensign 29. Aspirate 30 Dashes 31 Congreve

DOWN

1 Search 2 Extort 3 Dark Room 4 Neon 6 Teasel 7 Friction 8 Standard. 11 Untried
14 Disease 17 Potsherd 18. Proposes 19 Lighting 22 Brogue 23 Pirate 24 Athene 27 As to

The Parish Magazine – contributed by Marilyn Gregory

The Parish Magazine – that amateur production of news and gossip meant to inform the uninformed of the congregation – is often compiled and typed by a band of willing, but not always able, volunteers. Some items are rather amusing as a result. Here are some examples:

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come along and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The cost for the National Prayer and Fasting meeting includes a meal.

This morning's sermon is "Jesus walks on water". Tonight's sermon is "Searching for Jesus".

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things in your house that are not worth keeping. Don't forget to bring your husbands!"

Don't let worry kill you off. Let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again". The congregation was delighted.

Barbara remains in hospital, needing blood transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

At the evening service tonight the sermon is "What is Hell:?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.

Potluck supper at 5pm, with prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem group meets Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door..

Weight watchers meet Monday at 7pm. Please use large double doors on the side of the church.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Irvine Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours".

Answers to Quiz (page 7)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Winklepickers | 8. Waders |
| 2. Tap shoes | 9. Doc Martens |
| 3. Wedges | 10. Loafers |
| 4. Trainers | 11. Mules |
| 5. Sneakers | 12. Pumps |
| 6. Brogues | 13. Slippers |
| 7. Welly | 14. Stilettos |

Reflections – Ian Lumley

As I've travelled along life's highway
I've sometimes had cause to look back
To reflect if I've stayed on the best course
Or taken a left or right tack

It's easier to see when it's 'after'
Than when it's 'now' and in haste
Did I make the most of decisions
Or were they too often a waste?

I've always believed that it's better
To act than procrastinate
but just lately, I've come to see – slowly
that it's outcomes which really dictate

Did I leave those around happier than ever?
Did I just leave destruction in my wake?
Were those nearest and dearest protected?
Did I just leave them with a heartache?

It's too late to turn the clock back now
I can only reflect on what's gone
But I hope those around me who matter
Can see I was someone to count on

Someone who realised it's not easy
To make the best decisions each day
But who nevertheless tried to do so
Even if it made me quite grey

And when my time is quite over
Will they stand over me and just say
He could have tried harder, or will they
Say he tried his best, come what may.

Would you believe it? – The Clever Thing! Submitted by Barbara Phillips

Take your shoe size, no halves, round it up
Multiply it by 5
Add 50
Multiply by 20
Add 1020
Subtract the year you were born
The first digit is your shoe size and the last 2 digits are your age

Music written for and about children part 1 – Neil Pritchard

(Are you sitting comfortably? Then we'll begin)

I thought I'd try to take your mind off present angst, by sharing with you a recent music talk I gave. I've included links to Youtube for the musical examples. In my original talk I included 5 to 10 minute examples of some of the works. Here I've included the full works in some cases.

Put in the details of each of the musical examples given below in the Youtube SEARCH bar, click onto a recording of the music and enjoy!

You might, in the course of time, like to check out other works by the composers I've included. They are well worth exploring).

Many composers have been drawn to writing music for children, and I am going to give you an idea of how composers have risen to the challenge, with examples from the 18th century to the late 20th century. I remember as a child in the 50's being introduced to music in a variety of ways, one of which was listening to that iconic programme Listen with Mother. I'm sure some of you remember that experience. Here's a very "short and sweet memory" you may recall:

Listen with Mother; "Are you sitting comfortably"

Listen with Mother was first broadcast on the Light Programme in a fifteen-minute slot every weekday afternoon just before Woman's Hour. Consisting of stories, songs and nursery rhymes for children under five (and their mothers), at its peak it had an audience of over a million listeners. From 7 September 1964 the programme moved to the BBC Home Service. Remarkably it ran for over 30 years between 1950 and 1982. Here's a reminder of what it sounded like.

Listen with Mother: Eileen Brown (Listen With Mother, 2nd January 1961)

The theme music, which became synonymous with the programme, was the Berceuse from Gabriel Fauré's Dolly Suite for piano duet. It was recorded for the programme by Eileen Browne and Roger Fiske. What better way to start our musical journey than by hearing the Berceuse, played by brothers Arthur and Lucas Jussen.

Gabriel Fauré: Dolly Suite, Berceuse - Arthur and Lucas Jussen, piano.

The next piece, whilst not related to children, is often heard in children's concerts and is also one of the funniest pieces of music I've heard. The "Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti" (in English: "Humorous Duet of Two Cats") is unique among pretty much all Western music, classical and otherwise, for the bizarre style in which it is notated to be sung. There are no real lyrics, instead each vocal line in the piece is sung as a "meow," to imitate the sounds of a cat. Rossini is often attributed with writing the duet, because two of the pieces in it are derived from his opera Otello, and the third song is by C. E. F. Weyse, a little-remembered Danish composer of songs. So, without further ado, listen to this catatonic music, sung by Felicity Lott and Ann Murray.

Rossini: Cat's Duet - Felicity Lott and Ann Murray.

The next piece I'm going to consider is one of the most well-known pieces written for children, "The Carnival to the Animals" by Camille Saint Saens. From the beginning, he regarded the work as a piece of fun. On 9th February 1886 he wrote to his publishers in Paris that he was composing a work for the coming Shrove Tuesday and confessing that he knew he should be working on his Third Symphony, but that this work was "such fun". He had apparently intended to write the work for his students at the Paris Conservatoire but it was first performed at a private concert given on Shrove Tuesday in 1886.

The "Carnival" has since become one of Saint-Saëns best-known works. Ever popular with music teachers and young children, it is often recorded in combination with Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" or Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra." It is scored for two pianos, two violins, viola, cello, double bass, flute, clarinet, glass harmonica, and xylophone. It's played in this performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrea Licata with pianists Vivian Troon and Roderick Elms, in a very witty and ear catching performance. (By the way check out music for Glass Harmonic - it's weird and wonderful!)

Saint-Saëns - Le Carnival des Animaux (The Carnival of the Animals) (1886)

We haven't heard any opera yet. A work that always comes to mind when we talk about opera's for children is of course Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck. Humperdinck was one of those rare figures in music history - a composer who became a household name on the basis of a single work. Almost every opera company in the world will have a production of Hänsel und Gretel in its repertory, and the fairy-tale opera also holds the distinction of being the first complete work to be broadcast live from both the Royal Opera House in 1923 and, eight years later, from the Metropolitan Opera in New York. What is it about this work that is so appealing to children? The score of Hänsel und Gretel is a perfect fusion of childlike, but never childish, melodies and Wagnerian harmonies, with rich orchestration, which is almost unique in operatic history. It could appeal to children as well as the most sophisticated adult audiences.

The opera was first performed in Weimar, Germany, on 23rd December 1893, conducted by the composer Richard Strauss. It has been associated with Christmas since its earliest performances, and today it is still most often performed at Christmas time. It's a magical and dark story. Brother and sister Hansel and Gretel are drawn into the idyllic yet dangerous world of the forest, where they encounter the Sandman, the Dew Fairy and, most frightening of all, the Witch. In the dizzying excitement of the Witch's Ride and the beauty of the children's evening prayer, Humperdinck's music magically evokes the contrasting worlds of the story. One of the best recordings of this work is a performance from 1981 given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by George Solti with the Vienna Children's Choir, soloists including Hermann Prey and Helga Dernesh.

Hansel und Gretel Humperdinck: Finale Hansel and Gretel Choir (April 30th 2011)

The second part of this fascinating article will appear next week.

The Desert Island Challenge

You can choose up to 10 films, 10 books, 10 works of art and the musical works of 10 composers or artistes. What or who would you include in that list and what would be your top three choices in each category? If you would like to add a sentence or two to say why something is a favourite, please do so. I hope to get a large number of responses to this suggestion and I will release them gradually, so many per edition. It may give you some inspiration to revisit works you have not thought about for years! The bible and works of Shakespeare have been removed as stock items, but what would you want in place of them if you decided you did not want them?

This was the challenge set by Rob Wilkinson in DTI 1.

Surprisingly our members seem to be finding making choices something of a difficulty! Here are those received so far:

Hilary Lester

My favourite films are:

Pretty Woman; My Fair Lady; PS I love you; Mary Poppins; Oklahoma; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

My daughter says I like “chick flick” films with a happy ending so Pretty Woman covers this!

Books would be:

Bridges of Madison County; Autobiography of the Super Vet; and Elizabeth is Missing.

Bridges of Madison County is the only book that has made me cry!

Music would be anything by Neil Diamond.

Work of art The Hay Wain by John Constable. Only reason for this is it includes Willy Lott’s cottage where I stayed on a biology trip with school.

Stephen Berry

Films: Oh! Mr Porter; Titfield Thunderbolt; Ten Commandments: Star Wars 4, 5 and 6, Home Alone 1, 2 and 3. First two – railway-themed comedies of the highest order; TC – great story well told; SW4-6 – pure escapism! HA – farce at its best and absolutely hilarious.

Books – very difficult! Too many good detective fiction authors to choose from, and with over 2000 railway history books I wouldn’t know where to start making a choice!

Works of Art: Players Cigarette Cards “Cries of London” – two sets. Two prints from our house, one of a stormy sea off Cornwall and the other a tranquil view of a lake in the moonlight.

Music: Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Sibelius, Eric Coates, Richard Strauss, Sullivan, Wagner and songs sung by Peter Dawson and Josef Locke.

I certainly would not want Shakespeare! Give me a copy of Bradshaws Railway Timetables for 1910 or 1922 (both reprinted in hardback editions)

THE THREE C's OF LIFE – Janine Gibson

CHOICES

CHANCES

CHANGES

***You must make a CHOICE
to take a CHANCE to
CHANGE your life***

At whatever stage of life we are, it's never an excuse not to let this be the time to make your CHOICE to take a CHANCE to CHANGE something in your life. We have now been given the gift of extra time to actually think and consider what there is we would like to change; whether it be what you could learn about, a skill you have always wished to try, how you allow some people to treat you, switch off from those around you who are repeatedly negative so will be lowering your own mood, and, when we can all be together again, how you spend your social time.

We often look back wishing we'd done a certain something, or realising how we have allowed others views and comments to affect us, which in turn can take away our confidence. However, by us permitting this to happen, we fail to continue to improve our own lives by moving on in a positive manner. Sometimes, you just have to turn around, give a little smile, throw the match and burn that bridge behind you. Remember, whatever age we are, whatever our health is, our past does not equal our future.

For all of us, THE THREE C's OF LIFE apply. Whether you make a choice to give yourself 20 minutes a day to do something just for you, or take that first step to take up a skill you've always wished to try – plenty of choice at U3A, you are making a CHOICE to take that CHANCE to CHANGE something in your life, and in turn this will give you a boost of positivity. Take a moment now to think of something that you would like to do for yourself – however small or large - and commit to it now.

Thought of it? Great - you have now just taken a huge positive step for yourself.

CHOICES ... to take... CHANCES ...to make... CHANGES

GWENT ARCHIVES NEEDS YOU

Gwent Archives is not just concerned with preserving the past but also with documenting the present. It is our duty as a service to ensure that our collections reflect the history of Gwent and the experiences of our communities. But to do this, we need your help.

We are asking you, the people of Gwent, to consider keeping a diary or journal in the coming weeks and months and to deposit it with the archives in the future. They can be recorded as pen-and-paper or digitally. They can include photographs, sketches, or poetry. You may want to record your experiences as audio, rather than handwritten. We want to hear about how current events are impacting on you and your local area, what things are you hearing in the news, how it is affecting people you know?

We have already asked our staff and our volunteers to participate but to truly reflect our history, your history, we need you.

Any questions or queries, please contact enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk. More information on submitting the diaries will follow.