



TAW THIRD AGE GROUP

Newsletter 379

1st August 2023

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/taw/home>

Registered Charity No 1026238

Welcome to our August 2023 Newsletter



COFFEE MORNINGS

The next Coffee Morning will be on **Monday 7th August 2023** and will be hosted by the **Art Group**, at the **Roundswell Community Centre** at **10:30am**. Admission £1 for coffee/tea, biscuits and a raffle ticket. The Coffee Morning on **Monday 4th September** will be hosted by the **Railway Group**, and we will also have a speaker - **Karen Thomas** who will talk about the **Landkey Hedgehog Group**.

Please Welcome our New Members:

Mr Rob Dougall (Returning Member)
Mr Keith and Mrs Gaynore Fletcher
Mrs Leila Hampstead
Mrs Carolyn Provan (Affiliated)
Mr Barry and Mrs Gill Tucker



!! IMPORTANT MESSAGE

from
YOUR EDITOR !!



Back in March I notified you that I will be on holiday mid September so will not be able to produce a separate Newsletter for October. The Trustees agreed that the September and October Newsletters could be combined. Your entries for your September Newsletter need to cover your meetings for **both September and October**, and the deadline is **Thursday 17th August**. The following Newsletter will be the **November** issue for which the deadline is **Thursday 19th October**.

~Valerie

REMINDER: If you **move house** or your **email** or **telephone number changes** *please* let **Veronica McLaughlin**, the **Membership Secretary**, know so that we can continue to keep in contact. It will also ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter by email.



ILLNESSES and BEREAVEMENTS:

Carol Griffiths is responsible for keeping in touch with members who become ill or are taken into hospital.

If you become aware of any such cases please contact her. Would Group Leaders please take responsibility for informing Carol of illnesses of their group members. Would the family, Group Leader or any other member please inform Carol of the details of names and dates of deaths. **A single line announcement will be included in the Newsletter unless the family do not want any acknowledgment. It is for the Group Leader to notify Carol who will notify the Newsletter Editor.**

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Gordon Gregory.

ART GROUP HOSPITAL EXHIBITION



Our Art Group is, once again, exhibiting its work in the corridor to the X-Ray Department in the North Devon District Hospital, until September. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the corridor, and if you wish to purchase any of the works displayed please contact Joel Mansfield at the hospital (see Contacts List for contact details). When the exhibition ends the artists will be donating 10% of the payment for their work to the Hospital Charity.

~Derek



Allotment 21

Opportunities for DIYers to use their ingenuity, know-how and skills on a range of practical projects on our allotment. Projects make good use of re-cycled or re-purposed materials. An interest in fruit, flowers and vegetables is not necessary although these items will be among the rewards on offer! **Contact Jackie** (see Contacts List for contact details). ~Jackie

Our Groups

Members are encouraged to contact the Group Leaders of groups they are interested in joining and have their names added to any waiting lists.

REMEMBER - Contact details are in the tables on the last two pages of this newsletter.

Those two pages are not available on our Website!

AFTERNOON TEA - Jill Chappell. Come and join us for afternoon tea. We meet at **2:30pm** at the **Queen Anne Cafe on The Strand** on the **4th Tuesday of every month**. Our next meeting is **August 22nd**. Only contact me if you can't make it, otherwise see you there. ~Jill

ALLOTMENT 21 - Jackie Ward. **Mill Road site, Barnstaple**. Our group meets **2:30pm** the **3rd Friday each month** at the **Barnstaple Coffee Shop**. Summer is here, our group are busy picking beans, lettuce, berries and more. Happy to tend our vegetables at a time that it suits them, taking a break to sit in the sun to enjoy the moment. We have room for 2 more members. **HELP** - If you have a drill and saw and are handy with DIY, that's perfect, our group needs you. Contact Jackie. ~Jackie

AMBLERS - Trish Lilley, Lyn Bonewell. Change of plan. We shall meet near **Queen Anne's Cafe on The Strand** at **11:00am** on **Tuesday 8th August** to walk along the Tarka Trail to St John's at Ashford for optional coffee or lunch and/or bus back to Barnstaple. See Contacts List for contact details. ~Dorothy & Max

ART - Derek Seymour. The Art Group meets on the **1st and 3rd Thursday** each month from **9:30am to 12:00 noon** at the **Rhododendron Methodist Church Hall**. We currently have an exhibition of our work in the X-Ray Corridor of the North Devon District Hospital. Please see notice on the front page of this newsletter for more information. ~Derek

BADMINTON - Alex Ferguson, Carol Griffiths. **Tarka Leisure Centre 09:30am to 10:30am TUESDAY** and **2:00pm to 3:00pm THURSDAY**. Please note that we are now on our summer break for the duration of August. Our Autumn term starts on **Tuesday 5th September**. We still have vacancies for players to join us on either the Tuesday morning or Thursday afternoon session. Why not come along and take advantage of a free taster session before making a decision on joining. We are a friendly group of mixed abilities so why not give it a try. For further information just call Alex or Carol. ~Alex & Carol

BOOK CLUB - Barbara Vercoe. Book Club takes place on the **4th Monday of every month** at **10:30am**. At present we do not have a permanent venue. ~Barbara

BOOKWORMS - Linda Tyrrell. We meet at the **Library** on the **last Tuesday of each month** at **10:00am**. We still have space for two more members. ~Linda

BREAKFAST CLUB - Wendy Walmsley. This group is usually held on the **1st Wednesday of the month** at **9:15am**. The **2nd August** meeting will be held in **Queen Anne's cafe in**

Barnstaple, and the **6th September** meeting at **Green Lanes Cafe**. If you are UNABLE to attend please let Wendy know. If you would like to join this friendly group for a chat over breakfast, please contact me. ~Wendy

BUS PASS - David and Jill Baker. The Bus Pass trip for August is to **South Molton** on **Thursday 24th August** with the option of a meal at the Old Coaching Inn at 1:00pm. This is in place of the trip to Winkleigh as the bus times have changed on the 5B route. Bus times are as follows:

11:25am - Barnstaple Bus Station Bus No 155 (Stand H)

2:03pm - arrive South Molton

Return Trip:

2:09pm or 3:09pm - Bus No 155

2.48pm or 3.48pm - arrive Barnstaple Bus Station

Names to **Michael O'Nion** by **Thursday 17th August**.

~David & Jill

CANASTA - Linda Lee, Yvonne Geary. The next meeting of the Canasta group will be on **August 21st** at **2:00pm** in the **Annexe of Fremington Parish Hall**. If you are interested in playing, do get in touch. We have a waiting list but it is only short. ~Linda & Yvonne

CHAIR PILATES - Susie McCrum. This group is suspended **until September** as our tutor will be across the pond.

~Susie

CHATTERBOX - Sheila Jennings. At the May Meeting it was decided by the Group that we should try including puzzles, games and quizzes into our monthly meetings. Last month we played Scattergories, and a picture puzzle. These were enjoyed so much that it was unanimously decided to continue with the plan of one hour Chatterbox (subject to be chosen by a different person each time) then one hour of games, quizzes and puzzles. We meet on the **3rd Monday of each month** at **11:00am to 1:00pm** in the **Barnstaple Museum**. Please come and join us. ~Sheila

COFFEE MUGS AND TEAPOTS - Jackie Ward. Meeting in the **Museum Café, The Square, Barnstaple**, the **3rd Wednesday morning of each month, 10:30am until 12:00 noon**. Join our happy group chatting over a cuppa. You are welcome to come and join in our fun morning. Contact Jackie. ~Jackie

CREATIVE WRITING - Sue Boyd. I will put a notice in the Newsletter if we have any spaces available, but please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by email if you would like your name put on the waiting list. ~Sue

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT - Jane Bellworthy. In May our subject was Trial by Media. We looked at how the various forms of media are trusted by the public. BBC is still doing

well! We currently have two vacancies. We meet on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** at **Fremington Parish Hall Annexe**.
~Jane

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION 1 - Paul Bate. The next meeting will be on **Thursday August 3rd** at **10:15am** at the **Fox Inn in Fremington**. The group meets on the **1st Thursday in the month**. We will be discussing interesting topics which are currently in the news. Refreshments are available at the pub.
~Paul

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION 2 - Paul Bate. The group will next meet on **Thursday 17th August** at the **Fox Inn, Fremington** at **10:15am**. The group meets on the **3rd Thursday in the month**. We will be discussing interesting topics which are currently in the news. Refreshments are available at the pub.
~Paul

CYCLING - Steve Coppell. We aim to ride once a week, normally on a **Wednesday**, but everything depends on the weather. We are fair weather cyclists who always stop for brunch! We usually start the rides at **10:30am**, but that too can vary. The rides start mainly from **Barnstaple**, but the **last Wednesday of every month** we depart from **Bideford**. New members are always welcome.
~Steve

DANCERSIZE - Hilary Newing, Sue Fogarty. No report this month.
~Hilary & Sue

DAY TRIPS BY COACH - David Baker. The August trip on **Thursday 17th August** is to **Bristol** with an option to visit SS Great Britain. This should be a most interesting day out without travelling too far. There will be a coffee stop on the way to Bristol and plenty of time in Bristol for sight seeing or shopping. THERE ARE STILL A FEW SPACES LEFT ON THIS TRIP. COST £16 for an excellent day out. First-come-first-served. Names, money and pick-up point to **David Baker asap**. Cheques made out to **Taw U3A**. See Contacts List for address for payment.

SEPTEMBER TRIP on **Thursday 21st September**. This trip is to **Bernaville Garden Centre, Cowley, Exeter**. One of the best run Family Garden Centres in Devon. We then travel onto **Dawlish** for lunch and time for sightseeing or for a walk along the new seawall. It should be a most interesting day out without travelling too far. Cost £16.

Pick-up points and times:

Chilpark, Fremington **9:15am**; New Inn, Fremington **9:20am**; Bus stop by car park, Bickington **9:25am**; Bus stop on North Walk opposite Tuly Street, Barnstaple **9:35am**; Park and Ride, Barnstaple **9:45am**.

Names, money and pick-up point to **David Baker** by **Monday 4th September**. Cheques made out to **Taw U3A**. See Contacts List for address for payment.

The **October** trip is on **Thursday 19th** is to **Padstow** and then on to **Port Isaac**. Cost £16.
~David

DESIGN & MAKE I & II - Jim Pinn. Meeting on the **25th August**, usual times. I have a space for one, so if you would like to try your hand at working with wood please contact me.
~Jim

DEVON HISTORY - Ken Bonewell. As usual there will be **no talks or visits for August**. At present I don't have anything definite for **7th September** but am awaiting details for something in **Torrington**.
~Ken

FOOD, FARM, ENVIRONMENT - David Baker. **No August meeting** because of Bank Holiday. September meeting is a trip to **Pickwell Barton** on **Monday 25th September**. More details next month. New members welcome.
~David

GARDEN DAYS - Roxanne and Graham King. **Wednesday 27th September: Slimbridge, Glos, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**. Bring your bins, but it's much more than only birds - excellent landscaping and stunning views over the Severn Valley. A fine venue.

Pick-up times: Chilpark **9:30am**; New Inn **c.9:35am**; Ellerslie Road **c.9:40am**; P&R **c.9:45am**.

Cost: £28.00.

Booking: Via our email. Once place confirmed payment to our home address (cheque to **Taw U3A**) **by end August**. Please write trip, pick-up point, new U3A membership number (Barnstaple members need to affiliate to Taw) and, if we don't already have these, email and phone number (mobile if possible) on separate paper. Last year's supporters 1st-come-1st-served, others on waiting list (are often places).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do NOT phone us unless it is a last minute emergency! We do not have the information in our heads! Please email us and we will reply as soon as we are able.

Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th August: NT's Lt Moreton Hall, RHS Bridgewater, National Memorial Arboretum. This trip is fully booked. Pickup times will be advised by us or Swan Tours.
~Graham & Roxanne

HOLIDAYS - Lynden Davies. No report this month. ~Lynden

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS - Italiano per i principianti - Graham King. Italian for beyond immediate beginners. Couple of places available for anyone who has done a little Italian before. Please email me. Le prossime sessioni alla Volpe alle 11:00am. Mercoledì Agosto il 2, il 16 e il 30, Settembre il 13 e il 20.
~Graham

KNITTING - Sheila Jennings. Both groups meet at **10:30am** on the **2nd Thursday** and **4th Friday** of **every month** in the **Museum**. Please come along and bring your knitting. Gentlemen would be welcome.
~Sheila

PRACTICAL GARDENING - Jackie Ward. This group meets the **2nd Thursday of each month** in The **Annexe, Fremington Parish Hall, 10:30am to 12:30pm**. We always start with a cuppa and a biscuit. We share our knowledge of successfully growing plants and solving the gardening problems that we have in North Devon. Plans will be made for our next trip to a garden centre/gardens. We have a plant table and at the end of the meeting our group sell and share their plants. We never know what plants will be on the table. We have room for two more members. Contact Jackie.
~Jackie

PSYCHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE - Jane Bellworthy. We meet on the **4th Tuesday of each month**. At our July meeting we looked at Addiction. We meet at **2:00pm** at **Fremington Parish Hall Annexe**. Currently the group is full but please let me know if you would like to join our waiting list. ~Jane

RAILWAY - David and Jill Baker. The August Railway trip is to **Newton Abbot** on **Wednesday 9th August**. This replaces the trip to Salisbury and is the one that should have happened earlier in the year.

Times: 9:35am - Barnstaple

10:41am - arrive Exeter Platform 1

11:00am - leave Exeter Platform 3

11:25am - arrive Newton Abbot

11:29am or 11:39am - No 12 Bus opposite the Station

Return: 2:05pm or 2:15pm - Bus opposite where you alighted from in the morning

2:37pm - train leaves Newton Abbot Platform 1

3:10pm - arrive Exeter Platform 1

3:19pm - leave Exeter Platform 3

4:25pm - arrive Barnstaple

Names to **David Baker** by Friday **4th August**. New members welcomed. ~David & Jill

RAMBLING - Pauline Newbound, Barbara Hewis. **Monday 14th August** we shall meet at the **Muddlebridge layby, Fremington** for a walk of about 6 miles led by **Harriet Croft**. The walk will take us through Combrew Farm and fields to Horscott, lanes and woods back to Griggs Field, the former Army Camp housing estate to the woods at Fremington Quay, a short section of the Tarka Trail, over Penhill and back through some woods. Several stiles, some up and down but nothing too strenuous. Possibility of lovely views over the estuary. BYOFAD. ~Pauline & Barbara

READING SHAKESPEARE ALLOWED - Bob Godfrey. If you're reading this and are interested please don't hesitate to contact me any time. No special knowledge of Shakespeare is necessary. The group is very supportive. We meet on the **3rd Wednesday of the month, 2:00pm to 3:30pm**, at **Fremington Methodist Church, Old School Lane**. ~Bob

ROAMERS - Harriet Croft. **Monday 28th August** led by **Frank and Pauline Pethica** (see Contacts List for contact details). The walk of approximately 4.5 miles will start at **10:30am** from **Heanton Punchardon Church car-park, EX31 4DQ**, which is to the left of the church (OS Ref: 502356). The walk will pass through Ash Barton with woods, fields, one lane, no steep climbs, a few stiles, hopefully good views and should avoid the Bank Holiday hordes. BYOFD. As usual it would be helpful to let us know if you are coming. New members welcome. ~Frank

SHORT TENNIS - Yvonne Geary, Sue Morley. We play **every Wednesday morning** from **10:30am until 11:30am** at the **Tarka Leisure Centre in Barnstaple**. We have now finished for the summer and will start again on **Wednesday 13th September**. Our group is now full but please let us know if you would like to go on our waiting list. ~Yvonne & Sue

SIGHT SUPPORT - Jill Baker. The next meeting is on **Monday 14th August** in the **Cafe at the Musuem** at **10:30am**. The local MP Selaine Saxby will be attending. If you have a problem reading this Newsletter let Jill know as she may be able to help. New members with a sight problem are very welcome. Contact Jill. ~Jill

SKITTLES - Julie and Patrick Kift. We had another fun packed evening in July. The winners were as follows: highest gent Richard Taylor, highest lady Julie Kift, and the Booby went to Jackie Moores. The killer game was hard fought and ended up between Doug Saunders and Rita Drayton with Rita just pipping him to win. Well done everyone. Thank you for the raffle prizes given, much appreciated as always, and to everyone for setting up the skittles. Our next evening will be on **1st September 7:30pm** start.

~Patrick & Julie

STROLLERS - Maureen and Peter Penfold. **August** walk will be arranged by **Wendy**. Please let her know if you are not able to come. We will be walking around **Landkey** and eating at the Castle Inn approximately 12:30pm. Should it be too wet to walk we will all meet up at the pub at 12:30pm. Our happy group of walkers list is now full, but we have a waiting list. Look forward to seeing you all.

~Peter & Maureen

SUNDAY LUNCH - Susan Covington. Next lunch will be on **Sunday 13th August, 12:30pm**, at **St John's Garden Centre**, then **Sunday 10th September, Park Hotel, Barnstaple, 12:30pm**. Please let me know if you cannot attend. Group full but I have a waiting list. ~Susan

TABLE TENNIS - Janice and Bob Godfrey. **Every Thursday morning, 9:30am to 12:00 noon** at the **Tarka Centre**. Due to changes and retirements there are now some spare places in the table tennis group! To enjoy games to the full some previous experience is really necessary even if it was ?-?- years ago. Don't hesitate to contact us and arrange a free taster session. ~Janice & Bob

TEN PIN BOWLING - Brian Tilbury, Jan Hartshorne. We now meet **every Wednesday at 1:15pm inside the Bowling Alley on the Braunton Road**, except during the school holidays. In the past few months Jayne Hartshorne was again highest scorer for the ladies with a modest 191, and for the men, Doug Saunders is again in the spotlight having one of the highest scores this year with 307. For the rest of us, 'it's the taking part' that counts! Well maybe? Anyway, we hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer break and we will start bowling again on **September 6th**. ~Brian & Jan

TUESDAY LUNCHEON GROUP - Trish Lilley. Our CHANGE OF VENUE to **THE WILLIAMS ARMS** in July was a great success. All the members that attended have already made reservations for our next lunch on **15th August at 12:30pm**. There is no set menu, you just pay for what you choose individually. The full carvery is just £10.95. Bookings can be made with me via email or telephone. ~Trish

WANDERERS - Chris and Lesley Wade. Our walk this month will be in **Instow** on **Tuesday August 8th**. We will meet in

the **Lay-by opposite the Marines Base on the B3233** at **11:30am** for a walk down past the base and then on to the signal box at Instow, and then walk down the seafront for lunch at the Wayfarers Inn at 12:15pm. The walk will be led by Steve and Pauline Jordan. If you are planning to join us **please let Steve know** by phone (see Contacts List for contact details) **by Wednesday August 2nd**. Further details

about lunch arrangements are being sent out to group members.
~Chris

WINE APPRECIATION - David Rowe. Meet **1st Friday of the month** at the **Barnstaple Library, Room 3B**.
~David

WOODCARVING - Marion Choules. **Weekly, Wednesday mornings 10:00am to 12:00 noon**.
~Marion

Members are encouraged to contact the Group Leaders of groups they are interested in joining and have their names added to any waiting lists.

CALENDAR - August/September 2023

Coffee Mornings:

Monday 7th August (Art Group)	- 10:30am - Roundswell Community Hall
Monday 4th September (Railway Group, with Speaker)	- 10:30am - Roundswell Community Hall

September/October Newsletter Deadline: Deadline for entry of events occurring **after Friday 1st September AND Sunday 1st October - THURSDAY 17th AUGUST**. **REMEMBER - your Editor will be on holiday mid September so your entries need to cover both September and October.**

Group	Day	Date		Time	Venue/Information
		August 2023	September 2023 (Subject to Change)		
Afternoon Tea	Tuesday	22	26	2:30pm	Queen Anne's Cafe, The Strand
Allotment 21	Friday	18	15	2:30pm	Barnstaple Coffee Shop
Amblers	Tuesday	8		11:00am	Queen Anne's Cafe, The Strand
			12		TBN
Art	Thursday	3; 17	7; 21	9:30am	Methodist Church Hall, Rhododendron Avenue
Badminton	Tuesday	No Meetings	5; 12; 19; 26	9:30am	Tarka Leisure Centre
	Thursday		7; 14; 21; 28	2:00pm	
Book Club	Monday	28	25	10:30am	TBN
Bookworms	Tuesday	29	26	10:00am	Barnstaple Library
Breakfast Club	Wednesday	2		9:15am	Queen Anne's Cafe, The Strand
			6		Green Lanes Cafe
Bus Pass	Thursday	24		11:25am	Barnstaple bus stn, Stand H, to South Molton
			28	TBN	Minehead or Porlock via Lynmouth
Canasta	Monday	21	18	2:00pm	Fremington Parish Hall Annexe
Chair Pilates	TBN	No Meeting	TBN	TBN	TBN
Chatterbox	Monday	21	18	11:00am	Museum Tea Rooms
Coffee Mugs and Teapots	Wednesday	16	20	10:30am	Museum Cafe, The Square, Barnstaple
Creative Writing	Thursday	10	14	10:30am	TBN
Crime and Punishment	Tuesday	8	12	2:00pm	Fremington Village Hall Annexe
Current Affairs Discussion 1	Thursday	3	7	10:15am	The Fox Inn, Fremington
Current Affairs Discussion 2		17	21		
Cycling	Wednesday	TBN	TBN	10:30am	TBN
Dancersize	Tuesday	TBN	TBN	10:00am	Church Hall, Fremington
Day Trips By Coach	Thursday	17		8:30am	Bristol
			21	9:15am	Bernaville Garden Centre
Design & Make I - Ladies	Friday	25	29	9:30am	Group members know venue
Design & Make II - Gents				2:00pm	
Devon History	Thursday	No Meeting	7	TBN	TBN
Food, Farm, Environment	Monday	No Meeting	25	TBN	Pickwell Barton
Garden Days	Wednesday	23		TBN	Bridgewater RHS, Salford
			27	9:30am	Slimbridge, Glos
Holidays	Wednesday	No Meeting	No Meetings	TBN	TBN
Italian for Beginners	Wednesday	2; 16; 30	13; 20	11:00am	La Volpe
Knitting	Thursday	10	14	10:30am	The Museum, The Square, Barnstaple
	Friday	25	22		
Practical Gardening	Thursday	10	14	10:30am	The Annexe, Fremington Parish Hall
Psychology of Everyday Life	Tuesday	22	26	2:00pm	The Annexe, Fremington Parish Hall
Railway	Wednesday	9		9:35am	Barnstaple train to Newton Abbot
			13	8:35am	Weston-super-Mare

CALENDAR - August/September 2023 (Continued)

Group	Day	Date		Time	Venue/Information
		August 2023	September 2023 (Subject to Change)		
Rambling	Monday	14		TBN	Muddlebridge layby, Fremington
			11	TBN	TBN
Reading Shakespeare Allowed	Wednesday	16	20	2:00pm	Fremington Methodist Church, Old School Lane
Roamers	Monday	28		10:30am	Heanton Punchardon Church car park
			25	TBN	
Short Tennis	Wednesday	No Meetings	13; 20; 27	10:30am	Tarka Leisure Centre
Sight Support	Monday	14	11	10:30am	Bromley's Cafe, Museum on The Square
Skittles	Friday	No Meeting	1	7:30pm	Plough Inn, Bickington
Strollers	Tuesday	1		11:00am	Landkey
			5	TBN	TBN
Sunday Lunch	Sunday	13			St John's Garden Centre
			10	12:30pm	Park Hotel, Barnstaple
Table Tennis	Thursday	3; 10; 17; 24; 31	7; 14; 21; 28	9:30am	Tarka Tennis Centre, Barnstaple
Ten Pin Bowling	Wednesday	No meetings	6; 13; 20; 27	1:15pm	Bowling Alley, Braunton Road, Barnstaple
Tuesday Luncheon Group	Tuesday	15	19	12:00nn	The Williams Arms
Wanderers	Tuesday	8		11:30am	Lay-by opp Marines Base, B3233, Instow
			12	TBN	TBN
Wine Appreciation	Friday	4	1	2:00pm	Room 3B, Barnstaple Library
Woodcarving	Wednesday	2; 9; 16; 23; 30	6; 13; 20; 27	10:00am	Fremington

RIDDLES

1. A wealthy family lived in a big circular house. They had a maid, a butler, and a gardener. The parents were going to a party, so they tucked the younger kids into bed and kissed them goodnight and said goodbye, and kissed the older kids goodnight. When the parents came home, all the kids were gone—they had been kidnapped. The authorities ask the butler, maid, and gardener what they were doing at the time of the kidnapping. The butler says he was organizing the library, the maid says she was dusting the corners, and the gardener says he was watering the plants. Who's lying and actually kidnapped the kids?

Answer: The maid—she said she was dusting the corners, but the family lives in a circular house, so there are no corners.

2. A woman is sitting in her hotel room and hears a knock at the door. She opens the door to see a man whom she's never met before. He says, "I'm sorry, I have made a mistake, I thought this was my room." He then goes down the corridor and into the elevator. The woman goes back into her room and calls security. What made the woman so suspicious of the man?

Answer: If he really thought it was his hotel room, he would have tried to open the door—not knock on it first.

3. You walk into a room and see a bed. On the bed, there are two dogs, five cats, a giraffe, six cows, and a goose. There are also three doves flying above the bed. How many legs are on the floor?

Answer: Six—the bed's four legs, plus your two legs.

4. A California farmer owns a beautiful pear tree. He supplies the fruit to a nearby grocery store. The store owner calls the farmer to see how much fruit is available for him to buy. The farmer knows the main trunk has 24 branches. Each branch has exactly 12 boughs and each bough has exactly 6 twigs. Since each twig bears one piece of fruit, how many plums will the farmer be able to deliver?

Answer: None—a pear tree doesn't grow plums.

5. You walk into an old horror house. It has no power or plumbing. Once inside, you see three doors. Each door has a number on it. Behind each door is a way for you to die. Behind door number one, you die by getting eaten by a lion. Behind door number two, you die by getting murdered. Behind door number three, you die by electric chair. You can't turn back, so you have to go through a door. Which door do you go through?

Answer: Door number three—the house has no power, which means it doesn't have electricity. Therefore, the electric chair won't work.

6. What does man love more than life, and hate more than death or mortal strife; that which satisfied men want; the poor have, and the rich require; the miser spends, the spendthrift saves, and all men carry to their graves?

Answer: Nothing.

