

THE THURSDAY CLUB NATTER



EDITION 29

05.03.21

WHERE ALL THE GOSSIP CAN BE FOUND



Megan's family have announced that the funeral cortege will depart from Henley between 9.00am and 9.15am on Friday 12th March 2021. The cortege will divert down the Warwick Road and turn into the School Coach Park and complete a circuit where the Thursday Club members can pay their respects. Derek and Janet will return to the Hub and make a drink for everyone who would like to stay for a little longer, socially distanced as ever. If you are arriving by car you can park in the school coach park, the entrance is opposite Arden Road.

Our special thoughts are with Alan and his family this week. We will all miss Megan so much. She was always a bright light entering the Thursday club with a wonderful greeting for everyone she met. She would settle to her table and regale her companions with delightful tales from her full and wonderful life. Countless families, relatives and friends will have cause to mourn her passing as they reflect with warm feelings on her life and works. Megan will always have a special place in our hearts.

Sophie's Positivity Corner



After a full year of not being able to leave our homes, hug our friends or family or support our local high Street, things are changing! Boris' Road map has given hope and a sense of "light at the end of the tunnel". It seems we are on the home stretch.

Firstly, it's important to recognise what you've been through and what you've had to deal with this past year as it may have caused some painful or uncomfortable emotions, I know it has for me and I was hardly one of the worst affected. Having negative emotions doesn't make you weak, or ungrateful and trying to ignore those feelings, although may work in

the short term, can cause more harm than good in the long run.

I use an analogy when I'm working with children called the balloon pop. Essentially, you picture a deflated balloon and every time you feel a negative emotion you blow up the balloon a little bit. After a while your balloon may become so full that it bursts, and all your emotions come spilling out all at once. Now due to the stress of the pandemic, our balloons are already half inflated, leaving us less room for our feelings before it pops, so we may find that we become overwhelmed more often.



The good thing about balloons though, is that air can be let out, causing the balloon to deflate without the deafening noise of a bang when it bursts. If we find ways to acknowledge our feelings, talk about them, write them down, do some breathing exercises, find a creative release, then we can also deflate our balloon.

All of your feelings are valid. Every single one. We can try to give ourselves a stern talking to, and this may help initially, but it won't be dealing with the emotion at hand. Give yourself time to heal, time to reflect and you'll notice a difference in your overall mood. This also applies to positive emotions too! If you're feeling happy, then embrace it, ask yourself what put you in a good mood and try to do more of it!

The "light at the end of the tunnel" is getting closer everyday so focus on the good, but just don't forget about the bad.

HELP FOR GETTING THERE.....

Transport available to take you to your vaccinations

VASA can be contacted on 01789 262889 (press option 1) Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm or email transport@vasa.org.uk or talk to Peter

Nature Notes

It was lovely to see some of you on Peter's wildlife zoom meeting on Tuesday March 2nd. Jill and I both enjoyed the chat and hope you did too.

One of the birds we mentioned was the Siskin, as two appeared on one of our feeders during the zoom and while we know you see them in the Henley area, they are rarer visitors to suburban Shirley. We do therefore get quite excited when we see them in our garden.



Male Siskin

The Siskin is a small finch with a narrow bill and forked tail. The male has a black crown with striking yellow-green plumage, females and juveniles are duller with no black patch. Siskin population expansion has been a rare success story with a 10 fold increase in numbers over the last 40 years. Historically, breeding mainly in Scotland and Wales their range has expanded following the spread of new conifer plantations and the surge in

provision of wild bird food in gardens. They usually start to appear in gardens after New Year and return to their breeding areas in spring. A BTO study showed that more Siskins visited gardens in years when the Sitka Spruce and Alder seed crops were poor and many of the birds we see in winter are from the continent.

FOODS THAT WILL HELP OUR WILD FRIENDS DURING COLD WEATHER
guardiansofrescue.org



- Uncooked oats
- Cereal
- Cooked rice (ideally brown)
- Soaked dog kibble
- Wet dog or cat food
- Fresh coconut in the shell
- Baked potatoes
- Suet blocks / bird cake
- Raw peanuts / walnuts / others
- Raw sunflower seeds
- Wild birdseed
- Bread is better than nothing at all, but is very low in nutritional value.

Thank You for caring!



Female Siskin

They build a small cup shaped nest high up in conifer trees, laying 4-5 eggs that are incubated for 12-13 days, fledging 13-15 days later. They can breed in their second year but most die before they reach 3 years. The oldest recorded age in a ringed individual is 8½ years.

Derek Healing

When the puppy printer runs out of ink 😂

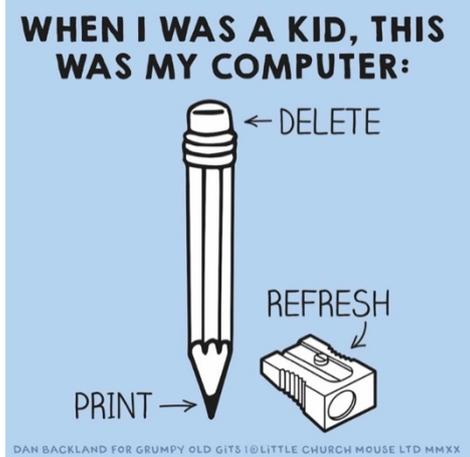
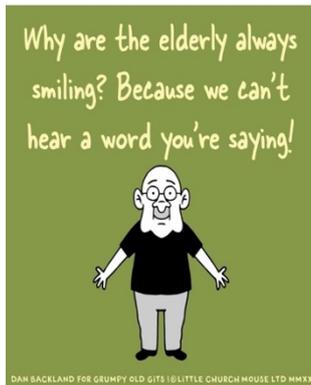


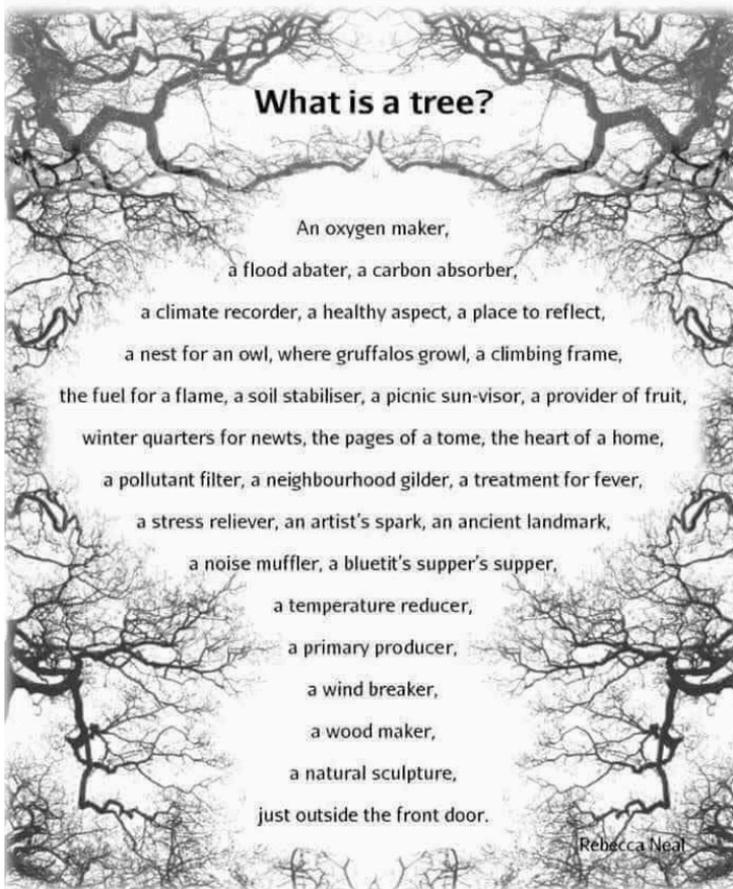
Jokes and Thoughts

Thanks to everyone who contributed

UK government : You're not permitted to travel more than 5 miles from your front door.

Me: OK





Your DUCK IS DEAD

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet..

"How can you be so sure?" she protested.. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman..

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$1,500!" she cried,"\$1,500 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$1,500."

1. 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
2. The 2 most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.
3. Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.
4. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
5. Money can't buy happiness. But it makes misery easier to live with.
6. Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad cheque.
7. Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by moving from where you left them to where you can't find them.
8. Always remember to pillage BEFORE you burn.
9. The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
10. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
11. The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.
12. Paranoids are people too; they have their own problems. It's easy to criticise, but if everybody hated you, you'd be paranoid too.
13. A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell and make you feel happy to be on your way.
14. Eagles may soar, but weasels aren't sucked into jet engines.
15. If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
16. A conclusion is the point at which you got tired of thinking.
17. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
18. For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
19. Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.

A SENIOR MOMENT

An elderly lady actually wrote this letter to her bank.

The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in The Times and this newspaper thanked him most sincerely.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my Pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only twenty-eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank who you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your 'phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1-- To make an appointment to see me.
- 2-- To query a missing payment.
- 3-- To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4-- To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5-- To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6-- To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home...
- 7-- To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated, at a later date, to the Authorised Contact.)

8-- To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 8.

9-- To make a general complaint or inquiry.

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client

Addendum from The Editor:

It is IMPORTANT to REMEMBER that this letter was written by a lady who is 88 years old; DOESN'T SHE MAKE YOU PROUD!!!?

Kim's Korner



When you have me, you feel like sharing me, But if you do share me, you don't have me . What am I?

What is light as a feather, but even the world's strongest person could not hold it for more than a minute . What am I?

I never ask questions but am always answered. What am I
Answers to last week's riddles

Riddle 1: 😊😊

I HAVE BRANCHES, BUT NO FRUIT, TRUNK OR LEAVES. WHAT AM I?

A BANK

Riddle 2: 😊😊

WHAT GETS WET WHILE DRYING? A TOWEL

FIND THE 5 DIFFERENCES



A QUIZ FOR BOOK WEEK

- 1) Which character travelled around the world in 80 days with Passe Partout?
- 2) What was the girl's school created by Ronald Searle and portrayed in several comedy films?
- 3) Which author created the aggressive, lethal plants called triffids?
- 4) Name the Scottish schoolteacher played by Maggie Smith in the film of Muriel Spark's novel?
- 5) According to Aesop's Fable, which animal did the tortoise beat in a race?
- 6) Who wrote The Last of the Mohicans?
- 7) Name the young hero of Treasure Island.
- 8) In which book by William Golding are Piggy and Ralph shipwrecked?
- 9) Victor Hugo wrote The Hunchback of Notre Dame. What was his other famous book, the story of an escaped convict, Jean Valjean?
- 10) Which character in David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens, always insisted that he was 'very 'umble'?

DON'T FORGET THE JIGSAWS AND THE DVDS



HEARD ABOUT THE CENSUS – WORRIED ABOUT THE CENSUS!- LOOKING FOR HELP?

The Hub is an official help centre. We have trained advisers and a warm welcome to people without the means to complete the survey on-line. You can telephone for an appointment with an adviser any time, you will be given an appointment to either come to the centre, help with transport can be given. If you prefer a time when an adviser will telephone you, may be obtained and you complete the form together in total confidence. When you phone you might recognise the voice on the other end.

SPECIAL TEL NO. TO RING IS 01564 314660.

EMAIL: censushhcc@gmail.com

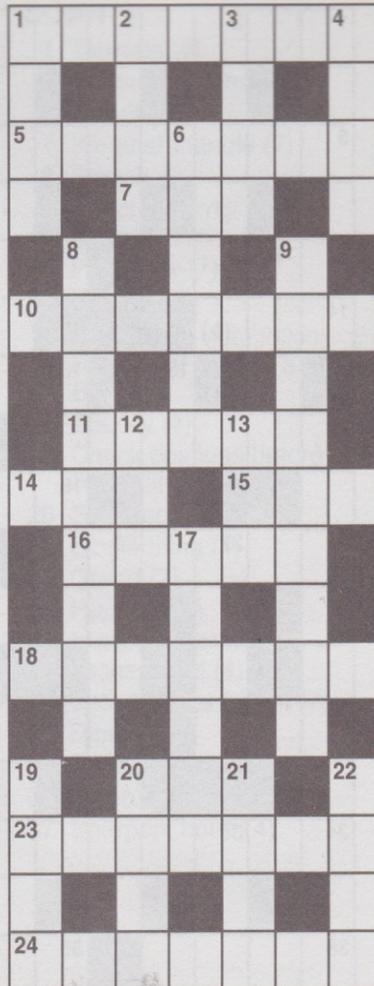
Crossword

ACROSS

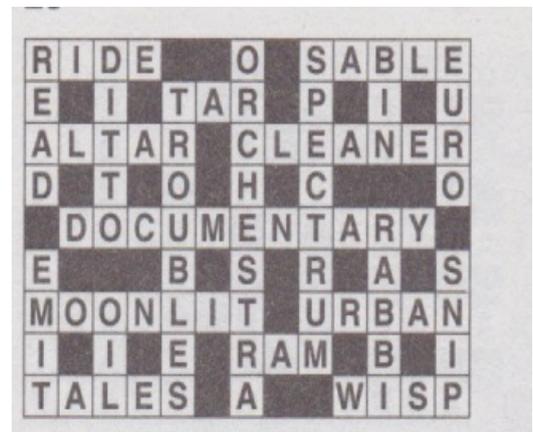
- 1 Very small fish (7)
- 5 East African language (7)
- 7 By reason of (3)
- 10 Game of chance (7)
- 11 ___ Blixen, Danish writer (5)
- 14 Nautical record (3)
- 15 Pallid, tired-looking (3)
- 16 Dimmed (5)
- 18 Shopping cart (7)
- 20 Boating blade (3)
- 23 Evergreen tree (7)
- 24 Buoy up (7)

DOWN

- 1 Job (4)
- 2 Unable to hear (4)
- 3 Hideout (4)
- 4 Downfall (4)
- 6 Horn, siren (6)
- 8 Piece by Renoir (4,2,3)
- 9 Foot soldier (9)
- 12 Make of cooker (3)
- 13 Female sheep (3)
- 17 Australia's money unit (6)
- 19 Crust on a wound (4)
- 20 October's birthstone (4)
- 21 Take it easy (4)
- 22 Consumer or operator (4)



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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Need advice, help, or just a chat - phone Peter 07974573582. peter.crathorne@gmail.com

www.thehubathenley.com and click on the donate button.