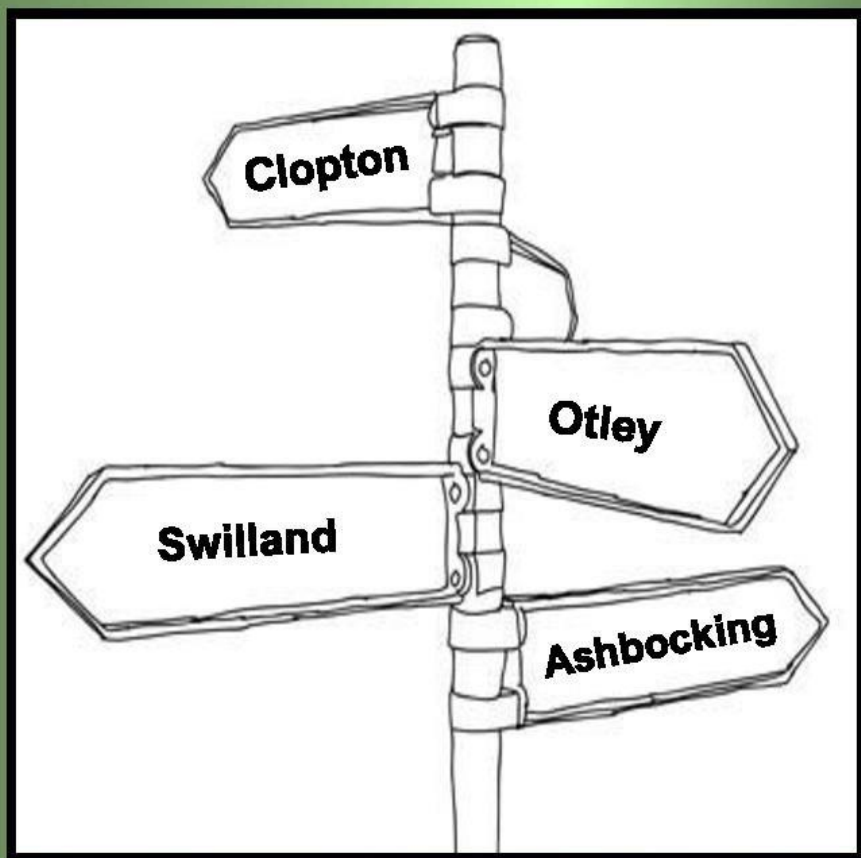


# *The Signpost*



*News from the Parishes*

### **A Word from The Editors.....**

Welcome to the **May Signpost**. We have been blessed with plenty of dry weather, but the farmers and keen gardeners are now crying out for a nice steady rain along with warmer temperatures and so will see even more of our countryside beauty and the crops and flowers will grow big and strong.

Another big issue for you to read through, while sitting in your gardens. We have all the latest news from the villages and updates on social events. If you would like to see anything else within our magazine, whatever it may be, we would gratefully receive it for inclusion in our upcoming editions. If you would like any family or friends' birthdays or anniversaries celebrated, then please do let us know and we will include in next month's magazine.

Our next magazine will be the **June** issue with a deadline **of the 24<sup>th</sup> May.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email each month, please email Amy [bakergirl174@gmail.com](mailto:bakergirl174@gmail.com) and Angela [amtrelor@btinternet.com](mailto:amtrelor@btinternet.com)

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website [carlfordchurches.org](http://carlfordchurches.org) and within the Mini Grapevine. If you would like to receive the Mini-Grapevine weekly via email, please register via the website [carlfordchurches.org](http://carlfordchurches.org) or with Mark Cresswell – [mark@carlfordchurches.org](mailto:mark@carlfordchurches.org). There are links on the Carlford Churches website to the Facebook page, Mini-Grapevine and The Signpost. The Carlford Churches Facebook page can be accessed directly <http://facebook.com/carlfordchurches>.

***Keep safe and take care, Amy and Angela***

***God our challenger and disturber,***

***help us to confront***

***all that makes for death and despair***

***in our lives, our communities, our world.***

***May we never lose sight***

***of the possibility of transformation***

***and be continually surprised***

***by people who believe in one another***

***Amen***

## **Be Thankful**

*Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,*

*If you did, what would there be to look forward to?*

*Be thankful when you don't know something,*

*For it gives you the opportunity to learn.*

*Be thankful for the difficult times,*

*During those times you grow.*

*Be thankful for your limitations,*

*Because they give you opportunities for improvement.*

*Be thankful for each new challenge,*

*Because it will build your strength and character.*

*Be thankful for your mistakes,*

*They will teach you valuable lessons.*

*Be thankful when you're tired and weary,*

*Because it means you've made a difference.*

*It's easy to be thankful for the good things.*

*A life of rich fulfilment comes to those who are*

*also thankful for the setbacks.*

*Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.*

*Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,*

*and they can become your blessings.*

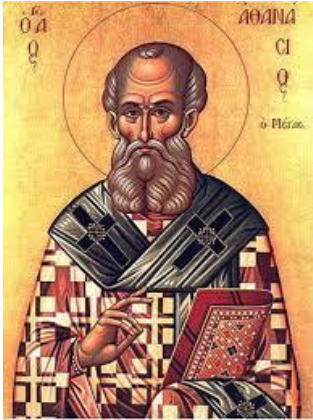
*(Unknown)*

## Rainfall for March

The first 10 days were dry with some warm days at times and then turning quite windy with temperatures between 6 to 10 c during daylight hours. Apart from a few showers the rest of the month remained cold and dry with a few sunny days. Rainfall was again low at 1.0 inches.

*Russell Ling*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed



This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop,

Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

"In order to live off a garden, you practically have to live in it."

*F M Hubbard*

### **Otley and District Gardening Club**

Dear Readers,

It's been sometime since I was able to report some gardening club news, but this month is an exception. We are planning our 'Annual Plant Sale' again this year on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 5 pm and will be following last years format. We'll be having plant stands at the following addresses:

**Anerley House, Helmingham road, Otley IP6 9NR**

**Mulberry House, The Green, Otley IP6 9PB**

**Old House Cottage, The Green Ashbocking IP6 9JZ**



We will be adopting a donation basis, so please give generously. The Charity we're supporting this year is Motor Neurone Disease Association as this is a charity that has given to our community, so we feel that it's our turn to give back. Last year's

sale was so successful, raising £1,000.00 for the Covid Charity and St Elizabeth's Hospice, we'd love to be able to raise the same if not more.

Plants will range from vegetable plants, ornamental plants and alpines and more. Please come along to the stalls over the weekend and see what amazing plants we have to offer. Our members have been very busy behind the scenes planting seeds for annual plants like cosmos and cornflowers, splitting clump forming perennials and taking cuttings from other perennials like gaura and salvias. Although our sale is happening earlier this year to previous, the selection and variety of plants will still be the same, even if you have to use your imagination a little as to what things will grow into.

If you have any plants you would like to donate to our sale, please get in touch with me and I will let the appropriate person know you'll be dropping by. Alternatively, you can take them to Issy Lincoln at Anerley House and leave them behind her front hedge. Please call me on 07880-627984 for more information and if you'd like to help setup the stalls on the day.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the gardening club committee, (Issy Lincoln, Jill Hempstead, Sue Montgomery, Liz Stegman, Linda Pollard, Betty Rudderham and Davina Marshall) for all the support and dedication they've shown during lockdown and beyond. I couldn't run Otley and District Gardening Club without them.

Thanks for reading and I really hope we see you buying up our amazing plants!

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman*



When you're already doing 5 things and a customer asks you for help 😞😞😞



# Never Give Up

In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca Recording company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out." The group was called The Beatles.



In 1944, Emmeline Snively, director of the Blue Book Modelling Agency, told modelling hopeful Norma Jean Baker, "You'd better learn secretarial work or else get married." She went on and became Marilyn Monroe.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry fired a singer after one performance. He told him, "You ain't goin' nowhere son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck." He went on to become the most popular singer in America, named Elvis Presley.

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it did not ring off the hook with calls from potential backers. After making a demonstration call, President Rutherford Hayes said, "That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"

When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2000-step process."



In the 1940's, another young inventor named Chester Carlson took his idea to 20 corporations, including some of the biggest in the country. They all turned him down. In 1947 - after seven long years of rejections! He finally got a tiny company in Rochester, New York, the Haloid Company, to purchase the rights to his invention, an electrostatic paper-copying process. Haloid became the Xerox Corporation we know today.

### **The moral of these Stories:**

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can you be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved. You gain strength, experience, and confidence by every experience where you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you cannot do. A winner is not one who never fails, but one who NEVER QUIT! In Life, remember that you pass this way only once! Let's live life to the fullest and give it our best.

### **Brain teasers**

#### **Children:**

Penny has five Children:

The 1<sup>st</sup> Child is named January  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Child is named February  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Child is named March  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Child is named April  
What is the name of the 5<sup>th</sup> Child



#### **New Door:**

How could you rearrange the letters in the words “new door” to make one word?

#### **Doctor:**

A boy and a doctor were fishing.

The boy was the doctor’s son, but doctor was not the boy’s father. Who is the doctor?

**(Solutions on Page 20 )**

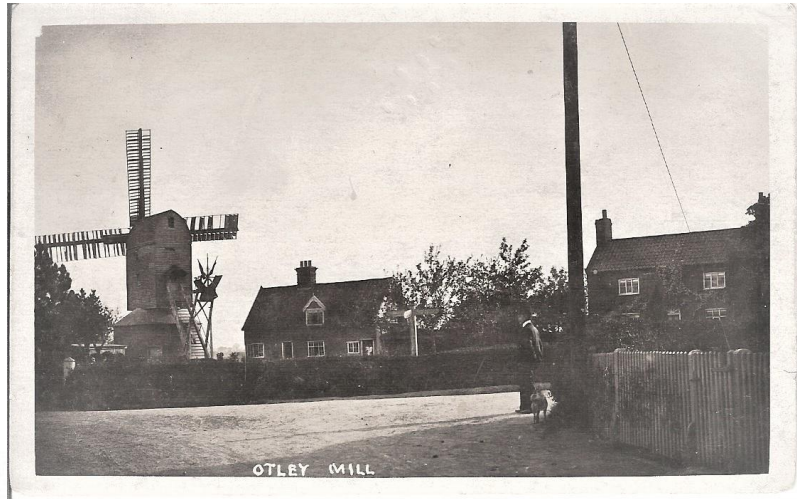


*Method is like packing things in a box; a good packer will get in half as much again as a bad one.*

*Sir Richard Cecil*



## Days Gone By In Otley



Otley Post Office 1930



White Horse Cottage formally a Pub 1907

*If you have photos of your village in days gone by, please send them to us.*

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### ASHBOCKING

I hope you have been enjoying the gloriously sunny weather of late. Admittedly the wind has been rather cold and persistent. The gardeners among us will have been cursing the nightly frosts which in my garden have been very damaging to new growth on several shrubs, although it never ceases to amaze me how the spring bulbs recover each day as the day warms up. In the morning daffodil heads are hanging painfully but by midday they are upright and perky.



At last, it is a joy to walk the footpaths without getting muddy or struggling to stay upright, and not having to bath the dogs on returning from most walks. The garden too, is a constant source of enjoyment and seasonal jobs, reminding us of nature's renewal. I wonder if others have noticed the greater variety of birds this year? We have had more of the usual ones with the addition of fieldfares, starlings, and blackbirds which seem prolific this year. Such a joy to watch.

Ashbocking church is still undergoing repairs to the Chancel roof as well as alterations to the flagpole and possibly a handrail fitted to the tower staircase. We are still awaiting the return of the window that has gone off for renovation. We look forward to opening the church again once these repairs are complete. Hopefully we will have news by then on the loo front!

We are at present in negotiation for a temporary porta-loo of a wider specification to enable access for the disabled. This however, if permission is given, will only be a temporary measure until a more permanent solution is afforded.

There are several plans to enhance the use of the church, therefore minds are once again beginning to think about fundraising. Not easy to plan until the Covid situation is stable, more news later....

As we start meeting outside with family and friends again, we look forward to commencing our community activities; coffee mornings to name but one. With this in mind and the inevitable baking associated with them for those special treats this recipe comes to mind. Quick and easy but looks and tastes good.

## Chocolate Cupcakes with Ganache Icing

To make 12 muffin size cakes. You will need paper cases and a 12 hole muffin tin.

Heat the oven to 180 deg C, 160 deg fan, gas 4.

1oz /25g cocoa powder  
3 tbsp milk  
4oz /100g softened butter  
4oz/100g SR flour  
5oz/150g caster sugar  
2 large eggs

Ganache icing  
50ml dbl cream  
2 1/2 oz/ 60g plain chocolate, chopped  
Icing sugar if you prefer a sweeter ganache



- Measure cocoa into a large bowl. Heat the milk until hot and pour over the cocoa. Stir to a paste.
- Add remaining cupcake ingredients and beat until blended and smooth.
- Spoon evenly into the paper cases and bake for 20 – 25mins until risen and firm to the touch.
- When done, cool on a wire rack until cold before icing.

### To make the Ganache

- Heat the cream in a pan until scalding, drop the chocolate into it and stir until smooth and shiny. If you like a sweeter ganache add sifted icing sugar to taste and beat into mixture.
- Set aside to cool and thicken once it has reached the perfect spreading consistency spread or pipe the icing over the cupcakes, decorate with chocolate shavings.
- 

Alternatively, you could buy chocolate fudge icing or use chocolate or butter icing.

The Ganache is good though!!

*Linda Pollard*  
([linda.pollard3@btinternet.com](mailto:linda.pollard3@btinternet.com))

## CLOPTON

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of John Pryke who has died after a long period of ill health. John, a long time resident of Clopton, was a very well respected and admired business man.

We send our condolences to Anne, his wife, and his three daughters.

On the day of the funeral of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh the tenor bell at Clopton Church was tolled as a mark of respect. Thank you to David Stanford.



After a long period of closure Clopton Church will reopen for its first service of 2021 in May. The church will be thoroughly cleaned and strict Covid guidelines will be followed with a risk assessment being carried out.

The service of Holy Communion will be at 9.30am on May 23rd and it will be the first service taken in our church by Revd Katrina Dykes. It would be great to see people from other churches in our benefice to give Katrina a warm welcome. As we will still be following social distancing could you please let either myself 0792711588 or Jenny Schurr 01473 738357 know if you are coming so that we can ensure adequate spacing to keep people safe.

Clopton Village Hall will be open for the local elections on May 6th. The hall will be fully open at the start of July for events and bookings provided there are no further restrictions.

*Doris Main*

## OTLEY

Our Easter service was held in the church and we thank Sally Gaze for organising and leading it. We were still wearing masks, no congregational singing inside and Communion only of one kind.

However, the bells rang out and the church was decorated with a 'host of golden daffodils' thanks to Joan Parish and her flower arrangers. There was also our small Easter garden.....more of that later.



At the beginning of the service Tom Rogerson gave us a lovely rendition of Easter hymns on the organ.

As it was good weather, we went outside to sing out loud 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' and 'Thine be the glory', two wonderful Easter hymns. It was made it even more enjoyable and more 'tuneful' because we had guitar accompaniment thanks to Gill Dodd.

After the singing we returned to the church for Communion.

Gill played and sang the spiritual 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord' as the Communion was prepared and also afterwards, which was beautiful.

It was good to be back in church and from May onwards services will continue again on the first Sunday of the month.



I have been asked about the Easter garden.... we started that with the Sunday school many years ago. Either Mrs Podd or her daughter Briony made a paper mache frame holding the mount with three crosses and the tomb. It was then covered with moss and decorated with flowers. It grew from there and was at one time filling a whole table in the South Aisle with the mount at one end

and a path with flowers on either side leading up to it. The parents and children usually brought their own flowers and 'trees' to decorate.

What we have left now is the bare and slightly distorted wire frame which has lasted about thirty years and is kept behind the organ. Once it is decorated, it is transformed, and the wire disappears under the greenery.

It would be lovely to involve children next year in the making of our Easter garden.

*Karin Upson*

*In my youth I thought of writing a satire on mankind,  
but now in my age I think I should write an apology  
for them. – Hugh Walpole*

On the 12th of April, Matt Newsom rang the tenor bell 99 times half muffled and the flag was flown at half-mast in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh (see the photo below, taken by David Peek). St Marys Church held a short memorial service on the following Friday. We thank all who were involved.



We send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of Joyce Cooley, Dennis Stratford and Molly Wright, who passed away in April. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The next service at St Marys will be a Family service on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 9.30am - 10.30am.

We look forward to seeing you.

### **News from The Hart...**

Sheer joy as we were able to welcome everybody once again on the 12th April. Double and triple joy as it was a 60th birthday celebration and we had the talented Dan Fraser entertaining us. And in the following days we had the pleasure of meeting lots of newcomers to the village, most of whom moved during lockdown. Local Ashbocking chanteur Graham Welland played to a packed (if a tad chilly) crowd on Saturday and there was more music and a BBQ on Sunday. I can safely say our feet ached but we were very happy to be back. Over the next few weeks we will continue in the sheltered beer garden before we are allowed to be inside from 17th May. Keep an eye on our Facebook page ([www.Facebook/otleywhitehart](http://www.Facebook/otleywhitehart) and you don't have to be on FB to view it) for what's coming next or pop in and have a chat. After all, we are The Hart of the village.



## SWILLAND

It was wonderful to have a real live service on Easter Day. We were still not allowed to sing in church, but we enjoyed listening to the hymns Helen played on the organ. Our thanks to Helen for coming to play the organ for us. We went out into the churchyard to sing the final hymn. It was a glorious day and warm enough to sit in the garden. John Lord had cut the grass in the churchyard, leaving the lovely primroses so it was looking neat and tidy. Thank you to Margo for the beautiful flowers.



We have recently held our APCM by Zoom. Members of the PCC were willing to be re-elected. Brian Williams is our only churchwarden. We therefore have a vacancy for a churchwarden. The accounts were presented and approved and were in a healthy state even though we have had so few services this year. The annual report and fabric report were also presented. At the following PCC meeting we discussed the plans for the vestry/toilet extension and converting the present vestry into a kitchenette. These will be presented for planning permission in the near future. We will be running a fundraising campaign and will apply for grants to enable us to go ahead with this project. We thanked John Lord for keeping the churchyard tidy.



On Saturday 15th May from 9 a.m. there will be a working party to tidy the extremities of the churchyard. Do come and join us with whatever tools you think will be useful. It is always an enjoyable morning.

Our next service in church will be on 20th June, but there will be services somewhere in the benefice each Sunday and an online service at 9.30am every Sunday.

I hope after 21st June we will be able to resume our monthly coffee mornings. Six of us could meet now in the garden, but it is a bit cold at the moment.

*Ann Kent*

## Bergersh Place Open Garden



The gardens of Bergersh Place will be open again this year as part of the National Garden Scheme (which supports nursing charities). Please follow the link below to watch an informal video of the garden which hopes to be open on the Bank Holiday weekend, **Sunday 30th May 2021 from 12 noon - 5 pm.**

<https://youtu.be/TDzP5PwU4T8>

Due to current restrictions, pre-booking on the NGS national website is necessary, <https://ngs.org.uk>, but this may have changed closer to the date. Further updates will be available nearer the time.

There are links to lots of beautiful gardens as well as talks on the national website and some of our local garden enthusiasts might like to browse the Suffolk gardens listed to make a plan to visit some of them when everything is back to normal.

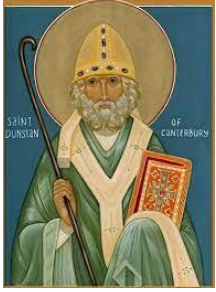
**To see a World in a  
Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a  
Wild Flower  
Hold Infinity in the  
palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour**

Taken from  
'Auguries of Innocence'  
by William Blake





## 19<sup>th</sup> May – Dunstan: the abbot who restored monastic life in England



Dunstan (909-988 AD) stands out as an example of what just one person can achieve when they follow the call of God on their life.

Dunstan was born near Glastonbury, of a noble family with royal connections and church connections; his uncle was Archbishop of Canterbury. But in 935, at the age of 26, he was accused of ‘studying the vain poems of the pagans’ – and expelled from court. He nearly married, but instead made private monastic vows and was ordained a priest by Elphege, bishop of Winchester. Dunstan felt God’s call on his life and responded. That decision was to shape English history.

Not at first, however. For Dunstan began his priestly life by simply returning to Glastonbury and living as a hermit. He painted, embroidered and did metalwork. But when in 939 Edmund became king of Wessex, he recalled Dunstan and made him abbot of Glastonbury. The monastic life of the country was all but dead; the Danish invasions and the hostility of local magnates had seen to that. Dunstan set out to change all this, and went on to restore monastic life in England, under the Rule of St Benedict.

Down the years, Dunstan saw kings come and go: Edmund, Edred, Edgar, Edward. Under King Edgar Dunstan was made bishop of Worcester in 957, bishop of London in 959, and Archbishop of Canterbury in 960. Thus was born a fruitful collaboration between King and Archbishop which was to reform the Church in England. Monastic orders began to thrive once more. After the Conquest, the days of Dunstan would be looked back on as the ‘golden age’.



Dunstan was zealous for the faith. He taught, prayed, fasted, repaired churches, acted as judge, inspired national laws of the land, made sure taxes were paid, and encouraged his monks in their manuscripts and prayers. He

remained active right to the end of his life: he preached three times on Ascension Day 988, and died two days later, on 19 May, aged nearly 80.

They wrote of him: he was without doubt “chief of all the saints who rest at Christ Church” (Canterbury). It has been well said that the 10th century gave shape to English history, and Dunstan gave shape to the 10th century.

## **RUSSELL LING REPORTS**



A considerable change has taken place in the way that livestock has been kept since the end of WW2.

Laying birds were all previously on free range but since the war, battery cages were the preferred choice. These cages would have had nipple drinkers for water and a trough in the front for the feed that was filled from a moving hopper. The eggs from these birds rolled down a slight slope in the front of the cage to be collected by hand or in the larger unites a moving belt would have taken then to the end to be graded and then packed onto egg trays. There were three cages high which were back-to-back, and the droppings fell onto a wired glass and were removed by a scraper once a day. The scraper was pulled by a wire rope attached to a rod which was turned with a handle by hand or an electric motor. Depending on the number of cages in the building the droppings either went into a wheelbarrow and were then tipped into a container outside or removed by mechanical means.

Another type of cage was the Californian system, this consisted of the tiers being staggered from the top to bottom so that the droppings all fell into a pit which would have been cleaned out after the birds had been removed at the end of their laying period. The advantage of the battery cage system was the ease of looking after a large number of birds in one building and the fact that all the eggs were clean. Free range birds were also more likely to be killed by a fox if there were any about and were more prone to get other diseases such as bird flu from wild birds.



Due to the public concern over animal welfare and the perception that keeping birds in cages was cruel, legislation was brought in so that in future any new cages built had to have not only more room for the birds but also have a perching space and a bird bath. The cost of these measures due to the increase in price for this type of cage made this method of keeping laying birds unprofitable and many poultry farmers then decided to go free range.

Prices for free range eggs had been gradually increasing as more consumers preferred them to battery cage eggs and this made it another incentive to change. As more poultry keepers started producing free range eggs the quantities in the shops increased and the price per dozen eggs dropped.

### Four worms and a lesson to be learned !!!

A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.

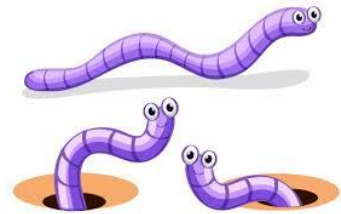
At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol ... **Dead.**

The second worm in cigarette smoke ... **Dead.**

The third worm in chocolate syrup ... **Dead.**

The fourth worm in good, clean soil ... **Alive .**



So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back and quickly raised her hand and said,

"As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

**That pretty much ended the service !!**

## Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 8

- 1) The riddle itself says the name of the 5<sup>th</sup> child is called 'What'
- 2) One Word
- 3) His Mother

### INTERESTING STUFF (or maybe not!)

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed To beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'.



The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Coca-Cola was Originally green.

The State with the Highest percentage of people who walk to work:  
Alaska

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)  
The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. In any given hour: 61,000

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.



**Q.** What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common? **A.** All were invented by women.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

### **An American in Otley: English Flowers I Met**

I grew up with observant parents and grandparents. They commented on things in their environment and pointed them out to me as I grew up. This included the plants and flowers we might see on walks through the woods of Pennsylvania or along a Canadian shoreline. In spring, I eagerly looked for the first Mayapple flowers, spring beauties, mountain laurel blooms, the wispy white blossoms of shadblow serviceberry and lacey sprigs of flowering dogwood.



Moving to the UK was my introduction to plants I had never encountered and unfamiliar names for plants I did know. In part, species new to me were the result of the movement of plants from Asia into Europe as people and animals migrated. Apparently, the Atlantic Ocean was a barrier to further travel westward to the Americas, hence their unfamiliarity. To be sure, the colonists brought some plants to the New World, but native European wildflowers and flowering shrubs are not the same as ours.

When traveling through wooded areas beyond RAF Woodbridge I was struck by the feathery yellow flowers that erupted from bushy shrubs. Broom! I never had seen it but discovered that it is a dye plant. Then there was a small flowering tree that grew in the hedge rows and flowered early in February. I thought the blossoms looked vaguely like plum blossoms, but it seemed way too early for those to be in bloom. Tom Whitehead told me it was Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and he warned about the cold weather that was sure to follow. It was only later that I learned that the small tree was also known as a Sloe and that Sloe Gin could be made from its fruit. Oh my, but that will warm your heart on a winter's night.



I also learned that blackthorn is an excellent source of natural tannins for dyeing and leatherworks.

Walking along a green way to Russell Ling's back door, I peered into an adjacent ditch and saw the prettiest pink and yellow flowers growing from small plants that hugged the banks. I thought they looked like primroses, but they were too small. Wrong! These dear little harbingers of spring are common primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) from which the larger, more showy varieties of primroses have been bred and with which I was familiar.

In a neighbor's front lawn, I saw equally enchanting small white flowers that I was told were "weeds." Weeds or not these looked like miniature daisies. After some research I learned they were English Daisies (*Bellis perennis*) from which the taller varieties we all know emerged. Like dandelions, I am sure that ardent gardeners try to rid their lawns of these encroachers, but they are lovely. As with the primroses, I had never seen these beauties growing wild. Larger varieties, yes; not the smaller ones.



And then there were the scarlet red poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) growing in wild abandon along the headlands of the grain fields around Otley. I am sure farmers viewed them with disdain, but blooming in front of the ripening grain, they made the perfect contrast to the golden stalks of wheat. Perhaps I was drawn to them because of their association with World War I and the poppies of Flanders' Field. My grandfather first recited that poem to me as he talked about his service in France. This common variety of poppy does not grow wild in the States but, like you, we wear paper replicas in November to remember that war and those who fell.

There were other cultivated flowers and bushes that I was introduced to by Rita Ling, Russell Ling's wife of many years. She was a brilliant gardener and knew her flowers. In fact, it was she who introduced me to many species by their Latin names. That is why I have included that nomenclature to remember her instruction. She taught me about *Aubretia* and *Lobelias* (both the same in Latin). While we now have those gems in the States, I had not seen them in our garden nurseries in the '70s.

English wallflowers (*Erysimum*) and I were already acquainted before my arrival in Otley although not in their many colors. My parents had brought seeds back from England in the 1970s having seen them on their travels. My father diligently grew them under a plant light and transplanted them in the following spring in his garden in Virginia. They were his pride and joy and not familiar to many of his friends. I sent him additional seeds while I was in Otley.

Latin nomenclature, colloquial American, English, whatever, I still enjoy noticing and knowing what flowers bloom in my environment. Utah has been an unexpected education with new flowers, cacti, and weeds I still am identifying. So, enjoy your summer blooms as I will mine.

Mary Miner, [Susiespinner36@msn.com](mailto:Susiespinner36@msn.com)

## FASCINATING LANGUAGE

### **Brass Monkeys**

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations.



However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

## SMILE LINES

Some people you're glad to see coming; some people you're glad to see going.

You do not need a parachute to skydive – you need a parachute to skydive *twice*.

The only thing to fear is fear itself... and spiders.

How do you start a fairy tale in the modern age? "If elected, I promise..."



### **True love?**

I was officiating at a wedding and during the preparations the bride and groom wanted to have two turtledoves on the altar as a symbol of their forever love. I politely said no birds or animals.

They hid the birds in a back room, anyway. Immediately after the service they went outside, each of them with a bird in its cage. They opened the cages in unison. One bird flew out and made a hard right turn. The other flew out and made a hard left turn.

We all stood there watching the symbols of their forever love fly off in opposite directions.

*A true story from the Revd Mark Martin*



### **Chicken run**

Idealistic politician: "I dream of a better tomorrow where chickens can cross the road and not have their motives questioned."



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### Spring Flowers Word Search



Y F C O H O K A G H Y L E C H  
E E L J I C J W Y X Q P S A B  
R H O I I S Z D L J W V O R D  
S S V G L O R J N F U L R N R  
C H R Y S A N T H E M U M A E  
P C G L N N C Y N N D U N T D  
O W J G I L A O L A S I R I N  
P F E A M D M P I I S V A O E  
P A Y E G E O S D S L I Y N V  
Y Q V M N E Y F O R C H I D A  
Z Q R A Y W V X F B A H R M L  
R E W O L F N U S A L G X I U  
T Q R M W C A Q F T D G O O U  
C I M W Y X N O K C I A P N V  
J Q A A U N W I T H U A L D X

Anemone	Daffodil	Iris	Lily	Rose
Carnation	Daisy	Lavender	Orchid	Snapdragon
Chrysanthemum	Hydrangea	Lilac	Poppy	Sunflower



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