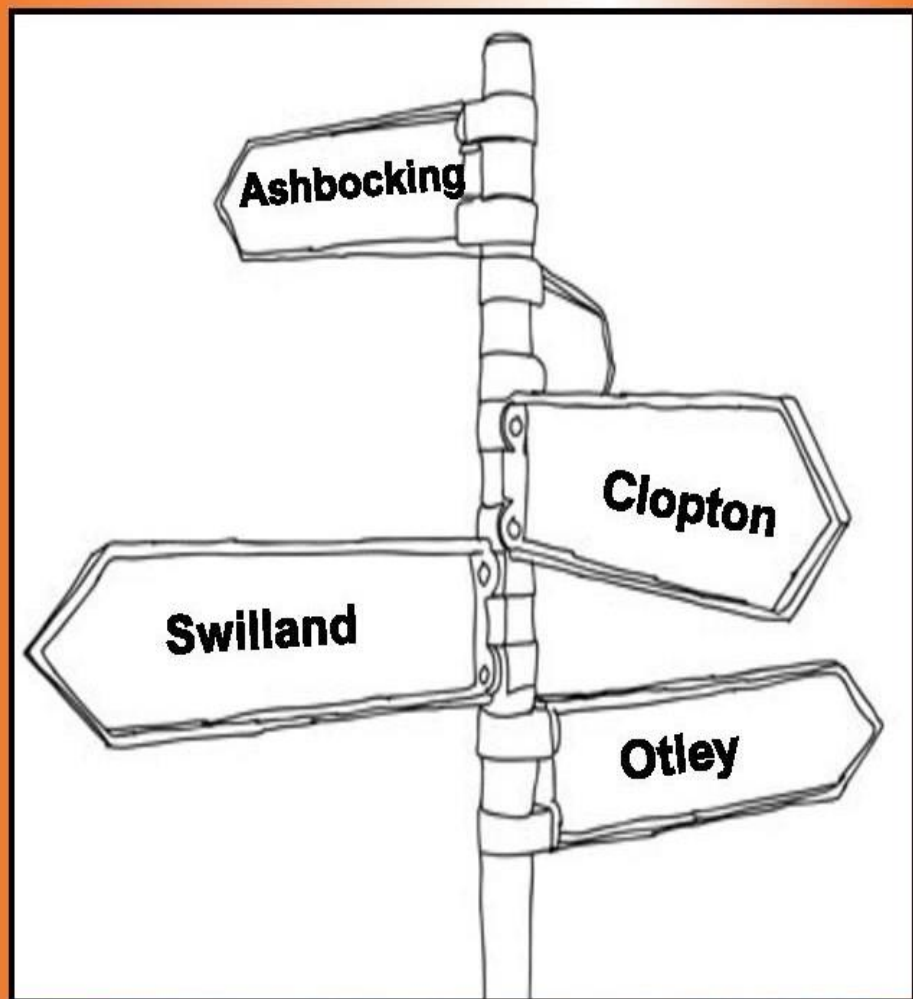


# *The Signpost*



*News from the Parishes*

## **A Word from The Editor.....**



Welcome to the **September Signpost**. I hope you have been able to enjoy the many local events that have been taking place throughout August in our local area. For those who have been away on holiday, I hope you had a lovely time and came back feeling rested. For our farmers, I hope that harvest has treated you well and filled your barns with straw, corn and forage – considering the drought situation, yields have been better than anticipated. For those that have been awaiting exam results – may you have achieved the grades that you needed and are well on your way to moving the next step along the ladder. Here we now are in September – how is it that time goes so very quickly – it really does not seem that long ago that I was preparing the magazine for the beginning of the year and now we are heading towards Autumn already! Although I must admit that autumn appears to be fast approaching, no doubt due to the drought conditions. So many plants, trees and shrubs have lost their leaves, which are brown and crunchy already or have died back a month earlier than normal.

Good luck to all those beginning new schools, colleges and universities this month, enjoy the new challenges that lie ahead for you. Chase your dreams.

If you would like to see anything else within the magazine, whatever it may be, I would gratefully receive it for inclusion in upcoming editions. If you would like any family or friends' birthdays, exam results or anniversaries celebrated, then please do let me know and I will include in next month's magazine.

The next magazine will be the October issue with a deadline  
**of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email, each month,  
please email Amy [bakergirl174@gmail.com](mailto:bakergirl174@gmail.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>. Should you wish to speak with Rev'd Katrina Dykes or a member of the benefice team please telephone 01473 735183.

***Keep safe and take care till next month...With best wishes, Amy***

## **The Rhythms of Creation**

The rhythms of creation –  
The never-ceasing beat  
Of seasons in rotation  
As cold gives way to heat;

We know, when it is raining  
The sun will dry the rain  
And when the moon is waning  
It soon will wax again.

The farmer drills his acres  
When springtime rains shall fall  
Then gathers wheat for bakers  
As sunflowers grow tall;

In spring, the fruit trees, blooming  
Attract the busy bees;  
As autumn clouds are looming  
We pick from loaded trees.

The Lord, our Great Creator  
Allowed us, by His grace  
To be the regulator  
Of earthly time and space

But mankind has been greedy  
In burning coal and oil  
So farmers now are seeding  
In dry and desert soil.

The rhythms of creation  
Are wand'ring from their beat  
Increasing suffocation,  
Of fire, flood, and heat.

Lord, teach us new behaviour  
To spend, with care, our days:  
Dear loving Lord and Saviour  
Forgive our foolish ways!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Rainfall July



The beginning of July remained dry but on the 10th, we had the beginning of a heatwave culminating in two very hot days when the temperature reached 34 c, in other parts of the country it reached 40 c the highest ever recorded. Due to the fact that we are nearer the North Sea there was a welcome breeze which helped reduce the higher temperatures that were experienced elsewhere. The rest of the month

remained dry with hot and sunny days. There were only a very few days when we had a light drizzle, not enough to record.

One of the years that are most remembered for a hot dry summer was 1976, looking back on my weather records for that year by the end of July rainfall totalled 5.98 inches whereas this year it was 8.0 inches. In 1976 the dry weather began in June but ended at the end of August when it rained persistently for the rest of the year with a total of 19.65 inches which is about 5.0 inches below average for Otley.

*Russell Ling*

### *September Weather Sayings.....*

- *Heavy September rains bring drought.*
- *September dries up ditches or breaks down bridges.*
- *September blow soft, till the fruit's in the loft.*
- *Married in September's golden glow, smooth and serene your life will go.*
- *If the storms of September clear off warm, the storms of the following winter will be warm.*
- *Fair on September 1st, fair for the month.*

*"There are flowers enough in the summertime,  
More flowers than I can remember—  
But none with the purple, gold, and red  
That dye the flowers of September!"*

*—Mary Howitt (1799-1888)*

## 1<sup>st</sup> September - Drithelm – Vision of the afterlife



Drithelm is the saint for you if you have ever wondered what lies beyond death, or if you have had a near-death experience. He was married and living in Cunningham (now Ayrshire, then Northumbria) in the 7<sup>th</sup> century when he fell ill and apparently died. When he revived a few hours later he caused panic among the mourners and was himself deeply shaken by the whole experience.

Drithelm went to pray in the village church until daylight, and during those long hours reviewed the priorities of his life in the light of what he had seen while ‘dead’. A celestial guide had shown him souls in hell, in purgatory, in paradise and heaven. Suddenly the reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became real to him, and his life on earth could never be the same again.

Next day he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus.

Drithelm’s Vision of the afterlife is remarkable in that it was the first example of this kind of literature from England. It was SO early: seventh century Anglo-Saxon England! Drithelm has even been seen as a remote precursor of Dante.

On a lighter note, Drithelm can also be a saint for you if you didn’t get abroad this summer but ventured to swim instead off one of our beaches: he used to stand in the cold waters of the Tweed for hours, reciting Psalms.



5

I couldn't find this little girl's parents so I trapped her with dinosaurs so she wouldn't run off while I find them



# Otley and District Gardening Club

Dear readers,

We finally have some rain!! Thankfully it was not on the day we had our willow weaving workshop with Deb Hart. We had 11 people in total join us on the day and we all learned so much. We made a garden obelisk and a woven willow tray or bird feeder. It was such a great experience, something I'll be doing a lot more of.



The garden is looking parched and withered, but we've watered the vegetables and we're still getting some bits ripening. Our tomatoes are starting to get red, orange, and yellow in hue and so tasty. So much better than the rubbish you get from the supermarkets. Our courgettes have finished, but I've succession planted some other plants, which are starting to get into their stride. More French beans to come too, although our runner beans weren't so successful this year. They need so much water, and there's only so many hours in the day. But we still had some, which is welcome as they're one of my favourite summer veggies.

Our Otley and District Gardening Club meetings start again this month, with a spokesperson from Darcy Everest in Cambridgeshire. They will be demonstrating how to plant an alpine pot ready for the winter and into next year. The meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm at Otley Village Hall. It's time for membership paying too, so please bring your readies to pay for the year. Our membership is £10 for the year and £2.00 per meeting you attend. Our full year's programme will be available on the night, with your membership cards to get your 10% discount at Ashbocking Nursery and Laurel Farm in Henley. Please make sure you take your membership cards to prove your affiliation as you won't get the discounts without it.

If you'd like any further information about our membership, please get in touch with me on 07880627984 or [phil@florabundant.co.uk](mailto:phil@florabundant.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman,  
Otley and District Gardening Club*

*“The older one gets the more one finds the present must be enjoyed; it is a precious gift, comparable to a state of grace.” – Marie Curie*

## Archbishop meets head of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine



The Archbishop of Canterbury recently welcomed the head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epifaniy, to Lambeth Palace.

“We heard the most heart-breaking stories of atrocities against civilians and against Orthodox clergy in occupied territory, yet amidst it all the Patriarch spoke of love for all, especially enemies,” he said.

“Of course, like all Ukrainians, he feels passionately about the terrors and horrors visited on his country, the lies told and the remorseless fear and attack, but the passion is not showing itself in hatred, nor is it showing itself in weakness, but in faith and determination and a plea for support for the church in its humanitarian work and for Ukraine. Let us give that support as a church as best we can.”

So far, the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe has raised more than £300,000 for humanitarian work in Ukraine and amongst Ukrainian refugees.

### Brainteasers



1. When you have me, you immediately feel like sharing me. But, if you do share me, you do not have me.
  2. Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet you miss me, when I have flown. What am I?
  3. I am an odd number. Take away a letter, and I become the same. What number am I?
  4. A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman, an attractive girl named Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Sarah seven apples. Why?
  5. Which word does not belong? Beekeeper, dumbbell, dumbstruck, untruthful.
- (Solutions on Page 35)

## DID YOU KNOW.....

- September's birth flowers are the **aster** and the **morning glory**. The aster signifies powerful love, and the China aster expresses variety or afterthought in the language of flowers. The morning glory symbolises affection.
- The September birthstone is the sapphire, which was once thought to guard against evil and poisoning.
- September is associated with Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.
- September's name is really quite inaccurate these days. It was originally the seventh month of the ancient Roman calendar, and as such, was named Septem. It wasn't until 451 BC that the months of January and February were added to the calendar.
- September also used to only have 29 days. Thanks to Julius Caesar's reform of the Roman calendar in 46 BC the month now has an additional day!
- **1st** 1939 was a dark day for the world. It was on this day that Hitler invaded Poland.
- **1st** 1951 Britain's first supermarket opened at Earls court, London.
- **1st** 1971 the penny and thrupenny piece coins cease to be legal tender as Britain continues the changeover to decimal coinage.
- **2-6th** 1666 The great fire of London raged for four days, only 6 recorded deaths.
- **3rd** 1939-15th august 1945 The second world war – Gt Britain, France, New Zealand and Australia declare war on Germany after Hitler refuses to withdraw his troops from Poland.
- **6th** 1527 Magellen completed the first circumnavigation of the world.
- **6th** 1852 First free public lending library opened.
- **7th** 1533 Queen Elizabeth I was born.
- **9th** 1835 Local government constituted in the UK.
- **9th** 1950 Soap rationing ended in Britain – introduced in 1942.
- **9th** 1087 William the Conqueror died.
- **11th** 2001 Terrorist attack with two planes crashed into the Twin Towers, a third crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth in a field.
- **19th** 1960 First parking tickets issued in London.
- **22nd** 1955 ITV started.
- 1735 Sir Robert Walpole, Prime Minister was the first PM to move into 10 Downing street and since then became the PM's official home.
- **23rd** 1940 George cross instituted.
- **26th** 1580 English seaman Francis Drake returns to Plymouth in the golden hind, becoming the first British navigator to sail the earth.
- **27th** 1825 The world's first public passenger rail service begins between Stockton and Darlington in the north of England.
- **28th** 1745 First singing of the national anthem.
- **29th** 1757 Nelson was born.
- **30th** 1928 Penicillin was discovered by alexander Fleming.



## **METEOR SHOWERS**

### **What is a meteor shower?**

A meteor shower is a celestial event in which a number of meteors are observed to radiate, or originate, from one point in the night sky. These meteors are caused by streams of cosmic debris called meteoroids entering Earth's atmosphere at extremely high speeds on parallel trajectories. Most meteors are smaller than a grain of sand, so almost all of them disintegrate and never hit the Earth's surface. Very intense or unusual meteor showers are known as meteor outbursts and meteor storms, which produce at least 1,000 meteors an hour, most notably from the Leonids. The Meteor Data Centre lists over 900 suspected meteor showers of which about 100 are well established.



### **Fast Facts**

1. A meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through the trail of debris left by a comet or asteroid.
2. Meteors are bits of rocks and ice ejected from comets as they move in their orbits about the sun.
3. A meteor that reaches the ground is called a meteorite.
4. Meteor showers get their names from the constellation in where their radiant is located. Perseids come from Perseus, hence the name Perseids. The constellation is not the source of the meteors, merely a viewing guide.
5. Comets continuously eject material with each passage around the sun; this replenishes the shower meteoroids.
6. Approximately 30 meteor showers occur each year that are visible to observers on Earth. Some of these showers have been around longer than 100 years. For example, the Perseid meteor shower, which occurs each year in August, was first observed about 2000 years ago and recorded in the Chinese annals.
7. Meteors are sometimes observed with red, yellow or green trails. The colours are caused by the ionisation of molecules - like oxygen which appears to be green.

8. A fireball is a meteor that is brighter than the planet Venus.
9. Radar indicates there are 12,000 meteors on a given night that are about the size of a piece of dust.
10. The International Space Station has shielding to protect it from meteors up to an inch wide.
11. The word meteor comes from a Greek word that means suspended in the air.
12. Meteors can become visible as high as 120 kilometers above Earth.
13. Named meteor showers recur at approximately the same dates each year.
14. There are 112 established meteor showers.
15. When the moving radiant is at the highest point, it will reach the observer's sky that night. The Sun will be just clearing the eastern horizon. For this reason, the best viewing time for a meteor shower is generally slightly before dawn — a compromise between the maximum number of meteors available for viewing and the brightening sky, which makes them harder to see.
16. Even the smallest meteors are visible from many kilometers away because of how fast they travel and how brightly they shine. The fastest meteors travel at speeds of 71 kilometers (44 miles) per second. The faster and larger the meteor, the brighter and longer it may glow.

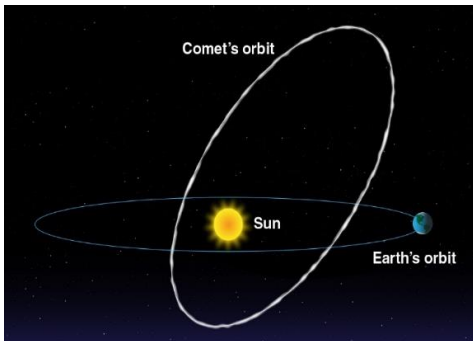
## **Meteors**

Meteors come from leftover comet particles and bits from broken asteroids. When comets come around the sun, the dust they emit gradually spreads into a dusty trail around their orbits. Every year the Earth passes through these debris' trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere where they disintegrate to create fiery and colourful streaks in the sky. As the space rock falls toward Earth, the resistance—or drag—of the air on the rock makes it extremely hot. What we see is a "shooting star." That bright streak is not actually the rock, but rather the glowing hot air as the hot rock zips through the atmosphere. Scientists estimate that about 48.5 tons (44 tonnes or 44,000 kilograms) of meteoritic material falls on the Earth each day. These chunks of rock, ice, and metal are leftovers from the formation of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago. They are a lot like a fossil record of our early solar system. When Earth encounters many meteoroids at once, we call it a meteor shower.

## **Why would Earth encounter many meteoroids at once?**

Well, comets, like Earth and the other planets, also orbit the sun. Unlike the nearly circular orbits of the planets, the orbits of comets are usually quite lopsided.

As a comet gets closer to the sun, some of its icy surface boils off, releasing lots of particles of dust and rock. This comet debris gets strewn out along the comet's path, especially in the inner solar system (where we live). Then, several times each year as Earth makes its journey around the sun, its orbit crosses the orbit of a comet, which means Earth smacks into a bunch of comet debris.

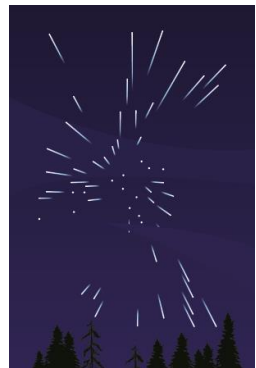


## **But not to worry!**

The meteoroids are usually small, from dust particle to boulder size. They are almost always small enough to quickly burn up in our atmosphere, so there's little chance any of them will strike Earth's surface. But there is a good chance that you can see a beautiful shooting star show in the middle of the night!

In the case of a meteor shower, the glowing streaks may appear anywhere in the sky, but their "tails" all seem to point back to the same spot in the sky. That's because all the meteors are coming at us at the same angle, and as they get closer to Earth the effect of perspective makes them seem to get farther apart. It's like standing in the middle of railroad tracks and seeing how the two tracks come together in the distance.

Meteor showers are named for the constellation where the meteors appear to be coming from. So, for example, the Orionids Meteor Shower, which occurs in October each year, appear to be originating near the constellation Orion the Hunter.



### What's the difference between a meteor, meteoroid, and meteorite?

They're all related to the flashes of light that we call "shooting stars". But we call the same object by different names, depending on where it is.

**Meteoroids** are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids. Think of them as "space rocks."

When meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere (or that of another planet, like Mars) at high speed and burn up, the fireballs or "shooting stars" are called **meteors**.

When a meteoroid survives a trip through the atmosphere and hits the ground, it's called a **meteorite**.



### Historical developments

A meteor shower in August 1583 was recorded in the Timbuktu manuscripts. In the modern era, the first great meteor storm was the Leonids of November 1833. One estimate is a peak rate of over one hundred thousand meteors an hour, but another, done as the storm abated, estimated more than two hundred thousand meteors during the 9 hours of the storm, over the entire region of North America east of the Rocky Mountains. American Denison Olmsted (1791–1859) explained the event most accurately. After spending the last weeks of 1833 collecting information, he presented his findings in January 1834 to the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, published in January–April 1834, and January 1836. He noted the shower was of short duration and was not seen in Europe, and that the meteors radiated from a point in the constellation of Leo. He speculated that the meteors had originated from a cloud of particles in space. Work continued yet coming to understand the annual nature of showers though the occurrences of storms perplexed researchers.

The actual nature of meteors was still debated during the 19th century. In the 1890s, Irish astronomer George Johnstone Stoney (1826–1911) and British astronomer Arthur Matthew Weld Downing (1850–1917) were the first to attempt to calculate the position of the dust at Earth's orbit. They studied the dust ejected in 1866 by comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle before the anticipated Leonid shower return of 1898 and 1899. Meteor storms were expected, but the final

calculations showed that most of the dust would be far inside Earth's orbit. The same results were independently arrived at by Adolf Berberich of the Königliches Astronomisches Rechen Institut (Royal Astronomical Computation Institute) in Berlin, Germany. Although the absence of meteor storms that season confirmed the calculations, the advance of much better computing tools was needed to arrive at reliable predictions.

In 1981, Donald K. Yeomans of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory reviewed the history of meteor showers for the Leonids and the history of the dynamic orbit of Comet Tempel-Tuttle. A graph from it was adapted and re-published in *Sky and Telescope*. It showed relative positions of the Earth and Tempel-Tuttle and marks where Earth encountered dense dust. This showed that the meteoroids are mostly behind and outside the path of the comet, but paths of the Earth through the cloud of particles resulting in powerful storms were very near paths of nearly no activity.

In 1985, E. D. Kondrat'eva and E. A. Reznikov of Kazan State University first correctly identified the years when dust was released which was responsible for several past Leonid meteor storms. In 1995, Peter Jenniskens predicted the 1995 Alpha Monocerotids outburst from dust trails. In anticipation of the 1999 Leonid storm, Robert H. McNaught, David Asher, and Finland's Esko Lyytinen were the first to apply this method in the West. In 2006 Jenniskens published predictions for future dust trail encounters covering the next 50 years. Jérémie Vaubaillon continues to update predictions based on observations each year for the Institut de Mécanique Céleste et de Calcul des Éphémérides (IMCCE).

## **Famous meteor showers**

### **Perseids and Leonids**

Generally, the most visible meteor shower is the Perseids, which peaks on 12 August each year at over one meteor per minute. NASA has a tool to calculate how many meteors per hour are visible from one's observing location.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks around 17 November of each year. The Leonid shower produces a meteor storm, peaking at rates of thousands of meteors per hour. Leonid storms gave birth to the term *meteor shower* when it was first realised that, during the November 1833 storm, the meteors radiated from near the star Gamma Leonis. The last Leonid storms were in 1999, 2001 (two), and 2002 (two). Before that, there were storms in 1767, 1799, 1833,

1866, 1867, and 1966. When the Leonid shower is not *storming*, it is less active than the Perseids.

### Other meteor showers

You can find many more names of Meteor showers throughout the year, but below are some of the most significant:

Major Streams	Meteor	2022 Night	Peak	Rate Hour**	Per	Parent Body (Asteroid or Comet)
	Quadrantids	3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	January	110		(196256) 2003 EH1
	Lyrids	22 <sup>nd</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	April	18		<a href="#">Comet C/1861 G1</a>
	Eta Aquariids	6 <sup>th</sup>	May	50		<a href="#">Comet 1P/Halley</a>
	Southern Delta Aquariids	30 <sup>th</sup>	July	25		Unknown sungrazing comet
	Perseids	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	August	110		<a href="#">Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle</a>
	Draconids	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Oct.	10		Associated with Comet 21/P Giacobini-Zimmer
	Orionids	21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Oct.	20		<a href="#">Comet 1P/Halley</a>
	Leonids	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Nov.	15		<a href="#">Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle</a>
	Geminids	14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dec.	140		(3200) Phaethon
	Ursids	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec.	10		Comet 8P/Tuttle

\* For observers in the northern hemisphere.

\*\* Estimated rate per hour in under perfect conditions, based on activity in recent years

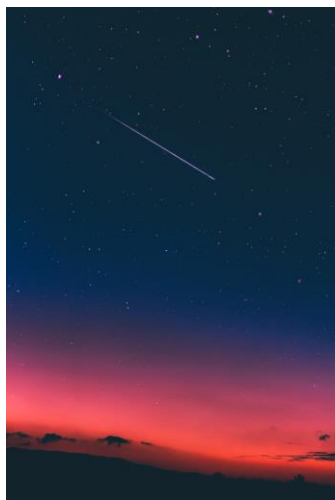
### Extra-terrestrial meteor showers

Any other Solar System body with a reasonably transparent atmosphere can also have meteor showers. As the Moon is in the neighbourhood of Earth it can

experience the same showers, but will have its own phenomena due to its lack of an atmosphere *per se*, such as vastly increasing its sodium tail. NASA now maintains an ongoing database of observed impacts on the moon maintained by the Marshall Space Flight Centre whether from a shower or not.

Many planets and moons have impact craters dating back large spans of time. But new craters, perhaps even related to meteor showers are possible. Mars, and thus its moons, is known to have meteor showers. These have not been observed on other planets as yet but may be presumed to exist. For Mars in particular, although these are different from the ones seen on Earth because of the different orbits of Mars and Earth relative to the orbits of comets. The Martian atmosphere has less than one percent of the density of Earth's at ground level, at their upper edges, where meteoroids strike; the two are more similar. Because of the similar air pressure at altitudes for meteors, the effects are much the same. Only the relatively slower motion of the meteoroids due to increased distance from the sun should marginally decrease meteor brightness. This is somewhat balanced because the slower descent means that Martian meteors have more time to ablate.

### **How capture a meteor shower on a camera**



To try and take photographs of a meteor shower can be an exercise in patience as meteors streak across the sky quickly and unannounced, but with these tips – and some good fortune – you might be rewarded with a great photo.

**1. Choose Your Photo Opportunity** - Be sure to check the weather and Moon phase before going out. Clouds or a bright Moon can diminish even the best meteor shower. Use the table to look at dates of meteor showers.

**2. Dark Skies** - Get away from town or streetlights and find a place with dark skies. Too much light and it will be hard for your eyes to see fainter meteors, plus your image will get flooded with the

glow of light. Turning down the brightness of the camera's LCD screen will help keep your eyes adjusted to the dark.

**3. Use a tripod** - Meteor photography requires long exposures and even the steadiest of hands can't hold a camera still enough for a clear shot. Heavier tripods help reduce shaking caused by wind and footsteps, but even a lightweight tripod will do.



*In this 30 second exposure taken with a circular fish-eye lens, a meteor streaks across the sky during the 2016 Perseids meteor shower as a photographer wipes moisture from the camera lens Friday, August 12, 2016 in Spruce Knob, West Virginia.*

**4. Use a wide-angle lens** - A wide-angle lens will capture more of the sky and give you a greater chance of capturing a meteor in your shot.

**5. Timing** - Use a shutter release cable or the camera's built-in timer. Using the self-timer gives you several seconds for any shaking from pressing the shutter button to stop before the shutter is released. A shutter release cable (without a self-timer) eliminates the need to touch the camera at all. And if your camera has wifi capabilities, you might be able to activate the shutter from a mobile device.

**6. Manually focus your lens** - At night, autofocus will struggle to find something on which to focus. Setting your focus to infinity will get you close, but chances are you'll have to take some test images and do some fine tuning. With your camera on a tripod, take a test image lasting a few seconds, then use the camera's screen to review the image. Zoom in to a star to see how sharp your focus is. If the stars look like fuzzy blobs, make tiny adjustments to the focus and take another test image.

If your camera has a zoomable electronic viewfinder or live view option, you might be able to zoom to a star and focus without having to take a test image.



**7. Aim your camera** – Even though we don't know when or where a single meteor will appear, we do know the general area from which they'll originate. Meteor showers get their name based on the point in the sky from which they appear to radiate. In the case of the Leonids, during their peak, they appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo in the eastern sky.

**8. Experiment!** - Depending on how the image turns out, you can manually adjust aperture (set it to a lower number if the image is too dark) and ISO (set it to a higher number if the image is too dark) to improve your next images. Changing only one setting at a time will give you a better understanding of how those changes affect your image.



*The crew of the International Space Station captured this Perseid meteor falling to Earth over China in 2011. Credit: NASA*

**10. Enjoy the show** - With your camera settings adjusted, capturing that perfect photo is just a matter of time and luck. The highest rate of meteors visible per hour is in the hours after midnight and before dawn. Set up your camera next to a lounge chair or a blanket to witness the wonder of a meteor shower for yourself – and, with any luck, you'll take home some envy-inducing shots, too!

## **News Stories from The Stranger Side of Life**

**Twins that Died 30 years ago marry** - Two babies that died almost 30 years ago have been married in a wedding ceremony to “bless” a family. Clothes represented the deceased babies during the night-time ceremony. “Pretha Kalyanam” or “marriage of the dead” is a tradition in some coastal communities in the states of Karnataka and Kerala in India. It is believed that it fends off the bad luck brought upon the bereaved families if their departed sons and daughters do not wed.



**Grandmother talks at her own funeral** - A grandmother who died aged 87 spoke to mourners at her own funeral, reported The Telegraph. Marina Smith MBE, a leading Holocaust campaigner, appeared in the form of an artificial intelligence-powered hologram, answering questions and revealing family secrets. The “holographic conversational video experience” came courtesy of StoryFile, an AI-powered video platform that is available in the UK.

**Rescue workers save dog on mountain** - Mountain rescue workers were called up the UK’s highest mountain to bring back a dog that “refused to budge”. Maggie, a 35kg Turkish Akbash dog, had sore paws and refused to continue when the walkers she was with began their trek back down the hill. After the walkers were unable to carry her any further, help was called and Lochaber Mountain Rescue got the pet back home by the early hours of Sunday morning. A stretcher and chicken stick treats were among the tools used to bring the dog back down.

**French forced to eat ‘mustard of the Germans’** - There is a shortage of Dijon mustard in France so French diners are being forced to eat horseradish sauce, which they disparagingly nickname the “mustard of the Germans”, due to a shortage of Dijon mustard. A heatwave in Canada last year has led to a shortage of the seeds that go into Dijon mustard, the spicy variety that is highly popular in



France. The development has been “a dent to French pride”, because “most people had assumed that Dijon mustard was French through and through, with seeds from the fields of Burgundy”.

**Alpacas spark Loch Ness excitement** - Alpacas taking a cooling dip in Loch Ness fooled online viewers into thinking they were Nessie. When the animals escaped their sanctuary, viewers on social media were amused by the confusion. “Cue the Nessie sightings from the other side of the loch,” said one social media user. Meanwhile, a new theory holds that the Loch Ness monster may have actually been a freshwater dinosaur. The news means the existence of a Loch Ness monster is “plausible”, a British university concluded.

**Brit breaks marathon record** - A British woman has broken a record by running 106 marathons in 106 days. Kate Jayden achieved the world record for most consecutive days to run a marathon distance (female). On day 46, she noticed that her knee “hurt a bit” but didn’t realise that something might be wrong. Later, an MRI scan in May revealed that she completed the challenge with a fractured knee, and she will need to undergo surgery, said Guinness World Records.



**Cats grounded in German town** - A German town has ordered residents to lock their cats indoors over the summer for the next three years, or face fines of €500 (£420) if a cat is caught outside. The move is a bid to protect the ground-nesting crested lark in Germany and fines will rise as high as €50,000 if a cat attacks an endangered lark. “I’m really glad that’s happening,” said Peter P Marra, one of the authors of the 2016 book *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*. Cats, including the feral variety, **kill billions of US birds and mammals every year, according to a study.**

*“For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with knowledge that you are never alone.”*

*– Audrey Hepburn*

## 11<sup>th</sup> September - St Protus and St Hyacinth - victims of mindless violence



On this, the 17th anniversary of the Twin Towers, we remember two innocent people who also met their death in the flames of mindless violence. These were Roman martyrs mentioned in the 4th century list of martyrs. Hyacinth's tomb was discovered in the cemetery of Basilla, with his name and the date of his burial (11<sup>th</sup> September). Inside were charred bones, indicating

death by fire. An inscription by Damasus says Protus Hyacinth were brothers, and another ancient source called them 'teachers of the Christian law'.

When your manager walks in and you pick up the nearest thing to your hand to look as if you're working.



## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

### **ASHBOCKING**

It is that time again, when we are suddenly reminded that summer will not go on indefinitely. It has truly been a memorable year and, dare I say it, I look forward to the cooler days of autumn. My garden has never looked so bleak, no grass, scrawny vegetables if they actually germinated in the first place and great cracks in the ground. My flower borders have done a little better but nowhere near as good as other years. Maybe it's the soap in the old washing up water that has done it! Anyway, I give thanks that it has been no worse and we do have food on the table.

John and I had a very enjoyable morning at the end of August when we joined people from Culpho Church for coffee at the home of Richard and Chris Garnham. This was to welcome the new Curate, Gail Minter, and her family. A lovely morning spent with lovely people, thanks for inviting us. The August coffee morning in Ashbocking was at the home of Duncan and Yvette Bray. We thank them for a lovely morning in their garden, it was so good to see people and chat.

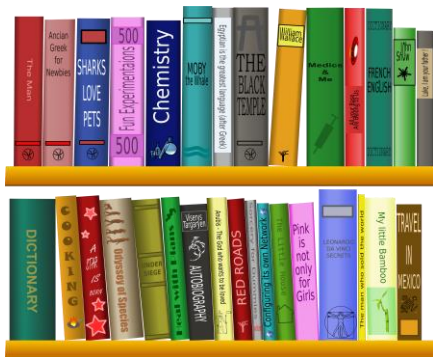


Ashbocking's coffee morning in September is on Friday 2nd at 10:30am at the home of Liz and Steve Stegman. They are at Old House Cottage near the cross-roads, just past Nelson Close. Despite the weather conditions Liz has managed to keep her garden looking lovely, so hopefully the weather will hold so that we can enjoy it.

Ashbocking had two lay services in August as it was holiday season for the ministry team too. The last one was on the 28th, at 11am which means that we will not have one in September, as it is the turn of Swilland to host.

The next service in Ashbocking will be our normal family service on Sunday 11th September at 11am. Everyone is welcome to join us, and for refreshments afterwards.

Knit and Stitch will be held on September 5th at 10:00am, at Hawthorns, The Green. We were very slack with projects over the summer as it was too hot to knit or sew but we did enjoy a jolly good natter. Hopefully we get back on track as the season cools off. Do join us even if you don't have anything on the go at the moment, and please phone me if you require any information. Tel 07887537152.



The books in the church which were mainly left from the jumble sale have not been sold and we need to clear the church now. They will be removed in the next week or two so if you are interested, they are under the back pews, and you are welcome to have a rummage. Donations for books please in the wooden collection box just inside the door. Any donations given will go to the development fund, which ultimately will be

used to modernise the church with a loo and kitchenette.

I do have a recipe this month, brought about by a few too many courgettes. We found this recipe on the BBC website and really like it.

## COURGETTE AND LIME CAKE

Only takes 15mins to prepare and 50mins to 1hr cooking time.

200g soft light brown sugar

200ml veg/sunflower oil, plus enough to oil the tin.

4 eggs

175g SR flour. (We made ours with GF flour with ½ tsp Xanthum gum.)

½ tsp baking powder

75g shelled pistachios ground

1 medium courgette about 150g, grated.

2 limes zested and juiced.



## FROSTING

275g soft cheese (full fat)

100g icing sugar

1 lime zested and juiced.

25g shelled pistachios, roughly chopped.

Oven 180c/160c fan. Gas 4

Combine sugar and oil in a bowl with the eggs. Mix well.

Fold in flour, baking powder and pistachios.

Squeeze as much moisture as possible from the grated courgette and add to the mixture along with the lime zest and half of the juice and combine.

Bake in the oven for 40-50mins. Check towards the end of cooking and cover in foil if it is browning too quickly.

Once it is done cool the cake for 20mins before turning it out onto a wire rack.

Poke a few holes in the top with a skewer and pour over the remaining juice.

Cool completely.

Frosting- Put the soft cheese in a bowl, sift in the icing sugar. Pour in lime juice and combine. Spread over cooled cake and sprinkle with pistachios and lime zest. Best eaten within 3 days. Ours didn't last that long!

*Linda Pollard Tel: 07887 537152*

## CLOPTON

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the lovely weather (maybe not the gardeners!) and those lucky enough to have had a holiday are feeling refreshed.

September means a return to school for lots of children and many will be starting school for the first time. Work hard! To those starting an apprenticeship, going to university or starting their first job we wish you well.

Our Harvest festival is on 25th September at 9.30am. Everyone is very welcome. We would appreciate any gifts of produce that we could take to the Salvation

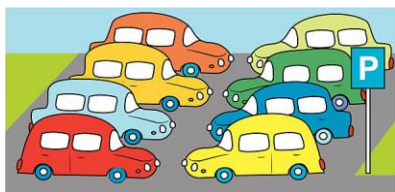


Army Hostel in Ipswich. They are always so pleased with what we take them and the cooks really like to get fruit and vegetables to add variety to their meals. They also like tins of food as well so anything would be great. If you are unable to get to the service then gifts can be left at the back of the church.

Our September Hobbies group is on Wednesday 6th September from 10am until noon. Don't worry if you have not got a hobby, you will enjoy seeing what everyone is doing and they might inspire you to try a new craft! We pay £2 to cover the cost of the hire of the hall and coffee and biscuits.

The coffee morning is on Wednesday 26th September from 10am until noon. Everyone is very welcome. It will be hosted by Kath Raffell. There is no charge.

## **PARKING**



We have heard people say that it is difficult at Clopton church as there is nowhere to park. In fact, some people have been discouraged from using the church for important events such as weddings, baptisms and funerals because of this. **We have plenty of really good parking!**

The field behind the church, accessed from the Otley side of the church up a track, has parking for at least thirty or more cars. There is access to walk through the hedge into the churchyard so it is very safe, especially with young children as there is no traffic to contend with. The farmer has given his permission for this uncultivated part of his field to be used. There is also space in the churchyard for several cars on two areas of grass. If anyone has mobility issues then they are welcome to drive, or be driven, up to the church door. We have a wheelchair and walking frame that can be used if needed. So, please do come and pay us a visit, you will be made very welcome!

*Doris Main*

*“Many lovely things pass out of life when jealousy comes in.”*

*– Anon*



## OTLEY



When James planted the seven oak trees in Otley churchyard nobody expected such a prolonged time without rain. However, the trees have survived thanks to James' diligent watering regime - with a watering can! - once every week. In the meantime, we have at least had one heavy shower which should have given James a little relief.

Our monthly service was a communion service on August 7th with Katrina presiding. The theme of her address was 'faith' illustrated by Abraham's story. Abraham obeyed

God's call to go to another place without knowing where that place was. What is God calling us to do? Are there new ways we could follow?

Our August coffee morning on August 11<sup>th</sup> took place in the church which was another hot day and the venue suited that very well; it was pleasantly cool in the church.

We are very fortunate in Otley church to have kitchen and toilet facilities. On September 10<sup>th</sup> there will be the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride event and the people coming to Otley St. Mary always appreciate our facilities, a rarity amongst smaller rural churches.

We are coming to the end of August and students' anxious wait for their exam results is over. Now exciting new changes will be happening. Some are looking forward to starting college, training for a job, going on to high school or starting school for the first time. We wish them all well.

With the end of the summer holidays many clubs will be starting up. After a two year pause due to Covid the Otley St Mary Handbell ringers are ringing again under Helen Jay's direction. Helen has already booked our first engagement in October. We are playing in care homes and day care centres where music is always appreciated and brings smiles to the



residents' faces. Please do get in touch with me if you are interested in joining our group.

The next coffee morning is on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Crowley's house at 10 Spring Park where you will all be very welcome.

The collection for Christian Aid amounted to £ 200.40.

*Karin Upson*

## **Autumn Progressive Supper**

A number of people have been asking when the St Mary's Progressive Supper will be returning so Vanessa and Ruth have decided to organise one for Saturday 8th October.



Details will be advertised on Facebook and in the shop. If you would like to join in or find out more, please ring Vanessa on 01473 890787 (07775748739) or Ruth on 01473 890543 (or message on 07902024976). It is always an enjoyable evening and raises useful funds for the church.

## **Suffolk Punch County Camp 11-15<sup>th</sup> August**



**Venue – Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre**

**Who were invited – All Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs Scouts, Explorers, Network and Leaders in Suffolk**

Yes, and over 850 Scouts and Explorers arrived on 11<sup>th</sup> August for an extremely fun packed, hot activity/camping weekend.

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs from all the Districts in Suffolk visited the camp on designated days increasing the overall attendance to over 1000/day. The camp was split into 3 sub-camps (Water, Earth & Fire) and each camp had its own fridge full of water & freezer filled with ice-pops. Every Scout received a logo water bottle to ensure everyone was well hydrated.

Where do we start with the activities available?

Scuba diving, zorbing, paddleboarding, sailing, canoeing, powerboating. These took place on site or at Walderingfield or Levington

Archery, slingshots, tomahawks, rifle shooting

Climbing, abseiling, crate stacking

Axe work, forging your own tent peg, spoon carving, butchery, bread cooking (open fire obv's)

Rodeo, circus skills, water slide, assault course, camp doughnuts, pioneering.

Bouncy castle, jousting, bungee run

Paracord work, beading, leather/wood branding, rope making, stone painting, pillows

Ice cream van and tuck shop, Disco, cinema

And many more.....

The management and activity teams did the most fantastic job helped by all the volunteers. It took 4 days to build – including extra toilets & showers, fencing and marquees. Minibuses took the Scouts off site.

Plans are now underway for the next camp ...bigger and better?

(Amy has added a link to a short video of the camp – hope you enjoy it)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5V1tUhea-GQ>



“A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.”

*Charles Gordy*



**Do people say that you sing like a  
bull-frog?  
Then you need to join ...  
TOADS!  
(The Otley And District Singers)**



**Where? - Otley Village Hall**

**When? - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month**

**Time? - 7.30pm – 9.00pm**

**Our very first meeting will be on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.  
All are welcome and no previous experience is required...come and  
sing for fun!**

**For more information contact:**

**Judy on 01473 892681 (judycairns8@gmail.com)**

**or Gill on 01473 890884 (opio1959@gmail.com)**

## **SWILLAND**

Nikki at the Moon and Mushroom ran a most successful Super Car Sunday.  
£165 was raised in donations to our Kitchen project. Thank  
you to everyone who was involved.



Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 18th September.  
Do come and join us. Donations of produce etc will be  
gratefully received.

There will be a lay led service on 25th September.

Keep an eye out for details of the next coffee morning on the A Board at the  
end of Church Lane.

*Ann Kent*

## **Our Church Extension**

Max Bygraves was a comedian/singer who was very popular for many years in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He had a catchphrase he used each time he appeared before an audience, and it was “I wanna tell yer a story.” Well, this is the start of the story of our Church extension.

Even if you haven’t visited our Church in Swilland you will likely have passed by and noticed its unusual spire on top of the tower from across the fields perhaps, but unless you have visited you won’t know it’s also beautiful inside, even if it does have a big problem and as always problems are sometimes difficult to solve.



Our problem is that we don’t have running water in the Church and that means no toilet. Imagine that in this day and age; a building used by the public without facilities. It shouldn’t be allowed and that’s what we think on the Church Council (PCC).

Swilland doesn’t have a village hall like most villages around ours, probably because it’s so small so the only place where we can fraternize is in our cheery friendly Pub, the Moon and Mushroom but whilst it’s friendly and we have even have had some Church Services there followed by Lunch, sometimes you need a different focus and that’s where the Church can help the community by providing a venue for not only religious services but also to act as a centre where all groups of people can meet up for things like concerts, mother and child groups, exhibitions, public meetings, choirs, a Christmas Draw event, Men’s group social events and Women’s similarly and in fact any communal activity.

How can a Church with pews provide such access and community for various groups? Well, here we have a cunning plan. We are intent on making the rear end of the nave of the Church an adjustable space, by removing those existing pews and then use portable chairs for social activities, audiences etc. We are

also going to level the floor to facilitate disabled access and we are going to put in a toilet that can be used by both disabled and more able-bodied people. Furthermore, we are going to change the existing vestry into a serverie and kitchenette for provision of refreshments for people during and after events.

To get this scheme up and running however is a long drawn-out process. You have to get planning permission from the District Council; you have to get a special permission called a faculty from the Church Authorities and you need an architect to steer you through the pitfalls and potential difficulties drawing up plans and schedules of work. None of this is cheap. So far, we have spent over £8k inc Vat in just plans, planning permission and concept drawings. We started before Covid came along but were inactive during the lockdowns despite some initial fund raising where we managed a few thousand, but now we are back in earnest.

Nikki and Mark at the pub have come on board to help us with the fund raising and some of you will have visited their recent car show, their first event on our behalf held on the football field, from which we received donations towards the project. Nikki is planning more events involving events hosted by the pub with proceeds going to our fighting fund, for which we are very grateful in anticipation. The proceeds from the Pub Quiz will also find their way into the Church coffers with the first contribution already delivered



We are told by the powers that be, we next need a schedule of works to get our faculty and then we can really go to National Donors for funds but we have to prove our resolve to get them on board but that is apparently going to cost another £11k. Without the faculty, National Charitable Trusts won't entertain applications from organizations such as ours and to make matters worse, some will only consider people who have raised 30%+ of the target amount.

The Church does have some funds earmarked for work relating to the fabric of the building, but you always have to have a reserve for emergencies so we are going to be heavily dependent on donations both local and wherever we can touch the hearts of charitable people and organizations.

At the next meeting of the PCC in September we are going to work out how we are going to pay for the Schedule of Works and I hope to keep everybody in the village informed as to how we are doing over the next year or so with regular contributions in the magazine.

Some of you will be wondering as to the cost of this venture and it is high for such a small village. The architect has costed it out at about £120k which seems like a massive amount of money to me to have to raise, for such a project, but to put it into perspective some of you will remember when we had to raise £45k in 2012 for the tower repair and organ refurbishment. On that occasion we managed to raise the money in only nine months so I am optimistic for this project also.

There are many people who read this magazine locally and I am guessing there are some out there with great ideas for our fund raising (yes please). To this end we are hoping in the next month or so to establish a circle of friends consisting of people who may or may not be Churchgoers but with a community spirit who will pitch in to sow ideas for projects that then later harvest funds on behalf of the village community to add to the target cost.

If you are interested in participating in a worthwhile event for our village please contact Amy

El caracol



### ***Crocodile Tears***

***Meaning: Tears or expressions of sorrow that are insincere.***

*Origin: Written in the 14th century, a book called "The Travels of Sir John Mandeville" recounts a knight's adventures through Asia. In the book it says that crocodiles shed tears while eating a man they captured. Even though it is factually inaccurate, the phrase 'crocodile tears' found its way into Shakespeare's work and became an idiom in the 16th century, symbolising insincere grief.*



**Cold Feet:**  
Soldiers who had frozen feet were not able to rush into battle



## More funding needed for palliative care, General Synod hears

The General Synod recently called on the Government to allocate more money for palliative care, as members voted to reaffirm the Church of England's opposition to a change in the law on Assisted Suicide.

Following a debate, members backed a Private Member's Motion (PMM) paying tribute to the 'enormous and untiring' efforts of health professionals working in palliative and end of life care.

They called on the Government to guarantee adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services to ensure the highest possible standards of care for all. Members further affirmed that the law on Assisted Suicide should remain unchanged.

*"Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know you left open." – Anon*





## RUSSELL LING REPORTS

### Gibraltar Road in Otley

At one time every village had its own postman who knew every house and the



names of the people who lived there so there was no requirement for road names to be installed. Following War 2 with more houses being built and post being delivered by van it became more necessary for roads to be identified and named. Parish Councils were asked to name Roads on new developments such as Pearls Close, this was where Pearl had his

threshing tackles. However, Gibraltar Road had already been named but for a different reason.

Gibraltar was captured by the Anglo Dutch fleet in 1704 from Spain during the war of the Spanish succession, on behalf of the Hapsburg ruler Charles VI who made claim to the Spanish throne. Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 at the end of the war of the Spanish Succession. Spain sought to restore its Sovereignty by diplomacy and persuasion but eventually when this failed the Spanish laid siege to Gibraltar from 1779 - 1782. The Spanish and French fleets blockaded the Rock from the sea while on the land side an enormous army constructed forts, redoubts, entrenchments and batteries from which to attack.

General Elliot who was in charge of the defence formed a corps of sharpshooters who kept the enemy constantly engaged and inflicted heavy losses. As the winter of 1779 came down the garrison began to suffer from want of fresh provisions which resulted in an outbreak of scurvy. Fortunately, in the spring Admiral Rodney defeated two enemy fleets at sea and was able to bring fresh provisions and reinforcements. The following winter provisions

again became short with more disease and starvation rations but there was no thought of surrender. Again, in the spring another British fleet succeeded in reaching the harbour with stores and food.

The French and Spanish, finding it was impossible to starve the garrison out resolved to make a last desperate attack by land and sea by a large army and fleet. But the night before the grand attack was to have taken place half the British garrison filed silently out of their defence works and made a surprise sortie. The enemy infantry in the trenches were routed their cannons blown up and considerable damage done to their stores and equipment also many prisoners taken. This reversed the grand assault on the Rock for some time, eventually the enemy launched their great attack. Two hundred heavy guns



opened fire from floating batteries in the Bay and a further four hundred guns on the land side. But the garrison replied with red hot shot to set fire to and sink the enemies floating batteries in the Bay destroying nearly all their fleet. All attempts to storm the fortress on the land side also failed and the enemy retired disheartened and defeated leaving the British garrison victorious.

The Spanish have never given up trying to get the British to return Gibraltar back to their control. As it was shown in WW2 Gibraltar is in a key position in controlling the entrance to the Mediterranean and has an essential sea anchorage for this country in that area.

It would be a mistake to allow our possession to be given up after all these years.

The soldier that I referred to earlier served in the army during that siege and when he eventually came home decided that he would name the road where he lived in Gibraltar Road as a reminder of his time there.

## Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 7

1. A secret
2. Time
3. Seven (remove the “s” and it becomes “even”).
4. An apple a day keeps the doctor away!
5. Dumbbell. All of the other words have only one of the vowels (a, e, i, o, u).



How did you do?

## An American in Utah Wildfires Here and There

Once again, friends in the village noted differences between our nations. This time it concerns the seeming inevitability of catastrophic forest fires in our western states, especially California. Sadly, the reasons for this concern climate, geography, forestry practices, urban-forest interface, and climate change. Given the recent experiences with field and woodland fires in Europe, I thought I would spotlight some of our issues.



By far, humans cause most fires in woodland areas here and in Europe. The U. S. National Park Service estimated that 85% of wildland fires are human caused. They result from “campfires left unattended, the burning of debris, equipment use and malfunctions, negligently discarded cigarettes, and intentional acts of arson.” The EU has said that 9 out of

10 fires in Europe are human caused or due to electrical transmission lines. As heat and drought settle in Europe, it might be well to learn from our western fire experience.

Roughly speaking, one can divide the U.S. into three sections. For my purposes of discussion, the East extends to the Mississippi River and is considered a zone with a “humid temperate climate” marked by higher humidity and rain throughout the year. This kind of a climate tends to suppress large forest fires. The prairie states lie in our heartland and are enormous stretches of flat grassland with moderate temperatures, moderate rainfall, and few trees. The West, by contrast, is arid / or semiarid, with limited and inconsistent supplies of water. The West includes Washington, Oregon, and California (the Pacific states); and Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona (the Mountain states). It is in these states that our most destructive wildfires occur.

Reasons for Western wildfires include:

1. Forty-seven percent of the West’s land is held by the federal government and managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Thirty-one percent of that acreage is forested. The BLM oversees roughly 246 million acres and the Forest Service approximately 193 million acres. The land held by the federal government became theirs by default – settlers did not want it. It is mountainous, arid, and not arable. By contrast, recent statistics cite 73% of the UK’s woodland as privately owned and the woodland privately managed.
2. Conifers are the most plentiful trees in the western forest, especially at higher altitudes. They burn at lower temperatures, have flammable sap in their branches and tend to grow closely together so that fires spread quickly from treetop to treetop. Conifer forests can burn five times faster than the deciduous woodlands found in the East.
3. Western forests are managed, but not to the extent of European woodlands. The sheer acreage of woodland makes oversight daunting. By and large, management is contracted out to private entities. These for-profit companies cut and remove specified timber as well as replant areas lumbered off, cut roads as needed and prevent fires. This land is leased for its resources from the U. S. government.

4. Federal agencies adopted a Western land management strategy of “fire suppression” which settlers brought with them. This is an obvious response – “if a fire is burning, put it out. It’s a natural disaster.” Before the arrival of European settlers, many native American tribes actively managed woodland systems with judicious use of fire. They would set low intensity fires to remove shrubs, grass and fallen trees to lessen fuel loads. This practice is known today as “prescribed burns.” By reducing the build-up of fuels, forests are less likely to experience catastrophic destruction. However, many forested areas have not benefitted from these prescribed burns.
5. People are encroaching into woodlands. People need more space for housing and want the benefits of living in scenic, rural areas. The “wildland-urban interface” has become a danger zone rife with the potential for catastrophic fires that destroy woodlands, residences, and the people living in them. Prime examples of the interface danger are electrical transmission lines bringing power to residents. Faults in electrical lines are the third most common cause of forest fires in California.
6. Climate change has made drought conditions worse and wildfires more likely in the West. Changes in the Jet Stream are altering rain and snow patterns. Summer temperatures are higher, drying out vegetation sooner. Summer storms in the West are producing thunder and lightning but not much rain. The CBS TV station in Sacramento, California noted “nearly half of the lightning strikes that hit the ground during spring and summer had been dry — there was no rain falling nearby. Dry lightning tends to happen in storms over areas of extreme drought, like the one California has been in for the past several years. The air is so dry that the rain evaporates before it hits the ground.” (August 8, 2022) Mountain snowpacks are diminishing reducing soil moisture and stored water. With less snow and warmer temperatures, fire seasons are beginning earlier and lasting longer. The Wilderness Society believes that, since 1980, climate change has roughly doubled the area of wildfires in the western U. S.



This is a perfect example of the new dangers in the West. Several years ago, I opened my front door to this scene. A forest fire had started in that “Wildland-Urban” interface just a few miles from our home. A lightning strike was to blame! Happily, the winds were blowing the fire up into the Wasatch Mountains to the east and not down into our housing area. The diligent work by local firefighters got it under control.

Mary Miner, [susiespinner36@msn.com](mailto:susiespinner36@msn.com)

### **SMILE LINES**

\* *From a pew-sheet:* Ladies, don’t forget the jumble sale. Now’s your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don’t forget your husbands.

**Hearing is not believing-** A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: “If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I’ll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.”

**Back to school -** Young James finished his summer holidays and went back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that James was

misbehaving. “Wait a minute!” protested his mum. “I had him here for weeks and I never once called YOU when he misbehaved!”

**When all else fails** - My colleague and I delivered a large refrigerator to the local priest’s home. With difficulty we had managed to get the fridge into the porch, but then struggled for over 20 minutes to make the 90-degree turn through the narrow door. The priest, seeing our difficulty, asked what we usually did when confronted with such a situation. Rubbing some badly skinned knuckles, I replied, “Well, Father, at this point we usually start swearing.”

“That’s fine, gentlemen,” Father replied, “just allow me time to move out of earshot, so you can continue your work.”

**Confess** - A man walked into a minister’s study and confessed: “I think I’m addicted to Twitter.”

The minister looked at him and replied, “Sorry, I don’t follow you.”

**Budget** - I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something.

**Dream** - Politician: “I dream of a better tomorrow, where chickens can cross the road and not have their motives questioned.”

**Remember...** You will be stuck with your debt if you can’t budge it.

**What they say** - When my older brother was very young, he always walked up to the church altar with my mother when she took Holy Communion. On every occasion, he tugged at her arm and asked, “What does the priest say when he gives you the bread?” Mum would always lean over and whisper something in his ear. Imagine his shock many years later when he learned that the priest doesn’t say, “Be quiet until you get to your seat.”

**First day back** - It was the first day of school. As the new Head made his rounds, he heard a terrible commotion coming from one of the classrooms. He rushed in and spotted one boy, taller than the others, who seemed to be making the most noise. He seized the lad, dragged him to the hall, and despite his protests, told him to wait there until he was excused.

Returning to the classroom, the Head restored order and lectured the class about the importance of good behaviour. “Now,” he said, “are there any questions?”

One girl stood up timidly. “Please sir,” she asked, “May we have our teacher back?”

### **CHILDREN’S CORNER**

*Something a little different this month..... I challenge all the children who may read this to try and make some bird feeders for your gardens before you return to school. If you would like to send a photograph of you and your completed birdfeeder I will include in next month’s magazine.*

#### **Simple DIY Pinecone Feeder**

This can be fun to make a pinecone feeder! You should need 4 items: pinecones, string, peanut butter, and bird seed!

- Find some pinecones.
- Wrap the string in a tight loop around the top of the pinecone, leaving enough to tie it to a tree or pole.
- Coat the outside of the pinecone with peanut butter and then roll it in bird seed! Use smaller seeds will ensure that seeds stick well, but mixed seed or black-oil sunflower seed will work too if you press the seed in well.
- Hang your feeder on a tree branch or pole and watch the birds enjoy their winter feast!

Most people put out a bird seed mix, which birds do appreciate. However, if you



really want to impress your avian friends, here are a few DIY bird food recipes we recommend:

### Suet Cake Recipe 1

- 1 pound melted fat (beef fat or lard)
- 1 cup millet
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup raisins

### Suet Cake Recipe 2

- 1 cup lard (no substitutions)
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 2 cups corn flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar



Melt the lard/fat/nut butter in a saucepan until completely liquid. Remove from heat and let sit for several minutes.

Stir in the remaining ingredients and cook for a few minutes.

Pour into small containers (tuna fish cans are good) and refrigerate until they are hard enough to hold their shape. Release into a suet feeder or cut them into cakes, seal in plastic wrap, and store in freezer.

Mixture can also be stuffed into 1-inch holes drilled in small logs to hang from trees.

What gets wetter the  
more that it dries?

A towel!!

What gives you  
the power to walk  
through a wall?

A door.

What kind of  
jobs do funny  
chickens have?

They are  
comedi-hens!

# Hidden Objects Puzzle

Can you find the twelve hidden objects?



wrench



bone



light bulb



spoon



domino



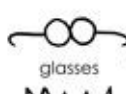
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*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter..."*

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