# Mobstead News



April 2022
50p each or £5 p.a.

***Putting Local People First & Keeping a Community Together***



# Editorial



*My mother had many first cousins but she was closest to her Welsh cousins with whom she used to spend school holidays. They, later in her life, would stay with us. However, she was also very close to her Uncle Tom's son Richard. Richard lost his mother at the age of nine and spent many holidays with my Grandma and Granddad. Unfortunately Richard had impaired hearing and did not do well at school. Consequently he did not gain the qualifications his siblings did and chose to work as a lorry driver. He met his wife Betty while working for a firm in Matlock in Derbyshire. One year, when I had been through a particularly rough time, he took me to stay with him and Betty and their two children. They lived on a hill overlooking Matlock with a view to Riber Castle, a ruined country mansion built for John Smedley, a rich industrialist. While I was there, this was a zoo specialising in various species of lynx. One day I took a walk along the disused railway line and picked some wild flowers for Betty. This is now the Peak Rail steam railway. One day I took a look round the caves at the Heights of Abraham. There was just me and the guide, a young man with a torch. Now there are organised tours of the caves and one can take a cable car to the top. I walked! A few years ago we went on a day trip to Matlock Bath. It was a summer Sunday and crowded with visitors. Matlock Bath has become a resort for East Midlanders. I could not believe how a place could have changed from quiet back water to this. A nice little tale from Matlock was of a dog that used to catch the bus in to town, have a look round and get the bus back again. What a character!*

***Carol Winterbottom***

**The Mobstead News Magazine Schedule**

Due to the overwhelming response of articles and content for The Mobstead News Magazine, we request that articles are no more than 300 words in length.

**15th of the Month**: All content to be with David by **12 noon** (*Please note that unfortunately due to copy and print deadlines, we are unable to accept any content after this date)

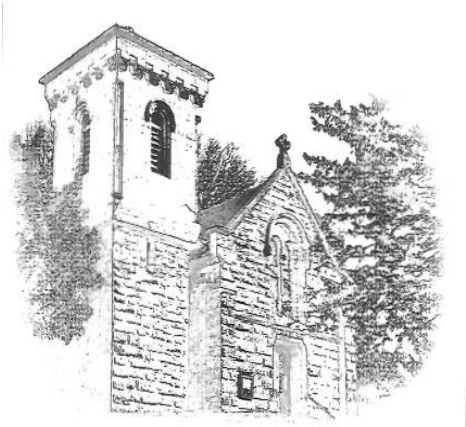
**16th of the Month:** We finalise and proof - read content as we have to collate and format all content for the magazine as we go, if you are able to get your content to us before the 15th of the month that would be much appreciated.

**Many thanks**


1. ***Mobstead News Front Cover***
2. ***Editorial, Details for May, Issue, Contents***
3. ***St. Mary's Church Services for April 2022 Altar Flowers for April, Good Friday, Lent***
4. ***Faith Matters***
5. ***To arrange a Wedding or a Baptism, Church Book Shelf, Mobstead News Information***
6. ***Gardening Club Report***
7. ***Mad Moments in the Garden, Word Wall***
8. ***Gnosall Parish Council Report for April 2022***
9. ***Cookery Corner***
10. ***Dog Fouling Reminder, Smiles, Spring Poem, Covid 19 Cartoon***
11. ***Mob Mart***
12. ***Mobstead Juniors Page***
13. ***Mobstead Seniors Page***
14. ***Exercise Curry Trail, Parish Council share of Council Tax***
15. ***The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle***
16. ***Diary of a Dog Fosterer***
17. ***Desert Island Discs***
18. ***What's on at Gnosall Library April 2022***
19. ***Dandy Comedy Duo***
20. ***The Malta Debacle – Disaster or not?***
21. ***Gnosall RBL Report***
22. ***Scarecrow Festival, Quiz Answers***
23. ***Poem by Jan Breeze, Platinum Jubilee Tea Party***
24. ***The Guest House, Bingo & Bangers***
25. ***Reflections, Closure of Church Graveyard***
26. ***An Uneasy Paradise – Living on The Waterways***
27. ***Neighbourhood Watch***
28. ***Anagrams Solution, Anagrams, Lucky Bonus Ball, We Need You***
29. ***The Word is Up, M.O.B. Thursday Club, Women's Institute, M.O.B. Stitchers, Save the Children***
30. ***Advertise here!!, Moreton Millennium Community Centre Advert, Cartwright and Hudson Foundation, This Month in History***
31. ***Local Advertisements Page 1***
32. ***Local Advertisements Page 2***
33. ***Local Advertisements Page 3***
34. ***Local Advertisements Page 4***
35. ***Some Useful Telephone Numbers***
36. ***Malta – The George Cross Island***


Please send to **mnvillagemagazine@btinternet.com**
**in Microsoft Word docx or doc format (<u>not odt</u> format)** by the **15th April 2022.**
Any problems please contact David Winterbottom on **01952 691131**
**or email: davidwinterbottom413@btinternet.com**







***St Mary's Church Drawing by Jackie Talbot***

***Come and see our Victorian Church***
***Everyone is very welcome at all our Sunday services***
***April 2022 - Worship in Moreton at St Mary's Church***

| *Date & Time* | *Service* | *Priest* |
|---|---|---|
| *3rd April 10am* | *Zoom Service* | |
| *10th April 11am* | *Holy Communion* | *Rev Alison* |
| *14th April 7.30pm* | *Benefice Service - (Maundy Thursday) Adbaston* | |
| *15th April 12.00pm* | *Benefice Service - (Good Friday) Norbury* | |
| *17th April 11am* | *Holy Communion by Extension* | *Tina* |
| *24th April 11am* | *Morning Worship - (Community Centre)* | *BWT* |

**ALTAR FLOWERS** **NO FLOWERS DURING LENT**

***Help needed with the Easter Flowers. Please ring Pat on: (691451).***

## *Good Friday*

*When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday the future for his followers couldn't have seemed bleaker. Their beloved master, friend and teacher had died a most cruel death and the likelihood was that the authorities would now be after them. They were frightened and in hiding when the news of his resurrection was brought to them. Suddenly, the future seemed much brighter, they had hope, all was not lost.*

*Every year thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps to stand at a crucifix. One tourist noticed a trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the undergrowth and to his surprise came upon another shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected and overgrown. Everyone had gone as far as the cross but there they had stopped. Far too many have got as far as the cross and known the despair and the heartbreak. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter – the message of the empty tomb.*

*The message of Easter is one of hope.*

*Although things looked bleak on Good Friday it was through Jesus' death on the cross that we can all look forward to better days ahead. When we accept Christ as our Saviour, then no matter what dark times we go through we know that there is a roadmap out. A roadmap to a brighter future.*

***Rev Alison Kirby***

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*Please join Revd Alison and community members at 11am on Tuesday 5th April in the Millennium Centre. There will be a short period of Lent reflection led by Alison followed by a Soup lunch. Please be aware that we are charging £3.00 and this money will contribute towards to the Bishop's Lent appeal for the diocese of Matlosane in South Africa.-. Everyone is welcome.*

## Faith Matters

*Rev'd Cathy Dakin*

Writing this in mid-March I, like so many, am deeply troubled by the war being waged against the people of Ukraine by Russian armed forces, under President Putin. In what feels the most dangerous crisis to have hit Europe in my lifetime we lament with the people of Ukraine, whose lives were not far different from our own. We're horrified by the devastation of their country, the loss of homes and livelihoods, friends and loved ones, power supplies, even food and water: all that makes for safety and security.

Russian leaders are acting without regard for human rights and Christian values. Since the first missiles struck on 24th February, homes, schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure facilities including nuclear power stations have been targeted. Thousands of Ukrainians, many of them civilians, have been killed and injured. Millions have fled from besieged towns and cities. But the shelling even of safe routes and evacuation buses has threatened or even prevented the creation of secure humanitarian corridors.

The invasion, which the Archbishop of Canterbury has described as "wicked beyond description", is seen as an affront to Christianity itself. Ukrainians are deeply religious, with an estimated 70 per cent having a Christian faith. Sadly, attempts have been made on the life of the leader of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, while an Orthodox priest is among those shot dead by Russian troops. Places of worship have been destroyed along with other historic buildings. As I write, fears are growing for the 11th century St Sophia's Cathedral in Kyiv, a city holy to Russian as well as Ukrainian Christians as the cradle of Russian Orthodox Christianity.

Russian aggression, like other atrocities past and present, shows us the worst that we human beings are capable of being. We've also had glimpses, though, of the best that people can be.

The ordinary people of Ukraine are doing what they can to defend life and freedom. Many have shown self-giving kindness and compassion to those in need. Others have joined the fight to defend their country from advancing Russian forces . . . and fight they have.

Neighbouring countries have risen to the challenge of what the U.N. says could be the "biggest refugee crisis this century". Poland particularly, but Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova too, have welcomed refugees who have escaped with just the clothes on their backs and a few possessions. Other countries have also offered help.

Traumatised refugees are being offered protection and support, and many people have opened their homes and their hearts to them.

Here and elsewhere the war in Ukraine has prompted an outpouring of public support. Many people have given clothes and items for those caught up in the crisis. Those who can are giving via trusted charities and the Disasters Emergency Committee.

The tragic events in Ukraine confront us with uncomfortable truths: the seriousness of sin and evil; the fragility of our lives; the brokenness and suffering of our world.

For Christians in many traditions this is the season of Lent, which began on 2nd March – Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time to recall the events leading up to Christ's death on the cross, which we remember on Good Friday. It's a time to reflect on our relationship with God and one another, on our own lives and on our journey of faith.

This Lent we hold the plight of the Ukrainian people in our hearts and our prayers. We do so in the faith that Christ by his death has broken the power of human sinfulness, and the suffering and evil in the world. In the cross of Christ, we see the love of God poured out for all people – you and me, the people of Ukraine, and even our enemies.

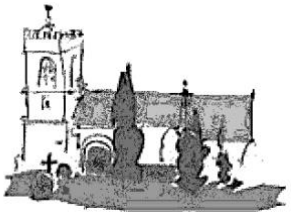
At Easter we shall proclaim afresh the good news that Christ is risen. We'll do so in the assurance that nothing – no human powers, not even death itself – can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is our hope.

The former Bishop of Norwich, Graham James, wrote in 2018[1]: "Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people in our world are abandoning their homes every day in places of war and conflict". He prays:

> Give us the courage, Lord, to be unselfish when in danger,
> compassionate to those who have come through tragedies,
> and generous to migrants and refugees seeking a better life. Amen.

1. A Place for God: The Mowbray Lent Book 2018. Graham James. Bloomsbury Continuum

**Cathy Dakin**



# News from St Mary's Church

***To arrange a wedding or a baptism. Please contact: Sue Belyavin on 01785 822820 or email: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com***




## *Book Shelf – in St Mary's Church*

***We are not taking any more books at the moment, but we have been most grateful for the donations received over the last few months. Pat***

## Mobstead News Information – Cost, 50p each or £5.00 p.a.

***Mobstead News information to be sent to: mnvillagemagazine@btinternet.com***
***Editor: Carol Winterbottom, 5 The Crofters, Post Office Lane, Moreton, TF10 9EG***
***Email: carolwinterbottom@btinternet.com – Tel: 01952 691131***

***Copy date is the 15th of the month.***

## ADVERTISING / CLASSIFIEDS

***Please send all advertising to the Editor – details above. Please include a billing address. Mobstead News will bill you after publications.***



| | |
|---|---|
| Full Page | £90 pa |
| Half Page | £45 pa |
| 1/3rd Page | £30 pa |
| 1/6th Page | £15 pa |
| One or two lines | £5 pa |

***Revenue raised from advertising offsets the cost of producing the magazine. Any Charity adverts will be free.***

***The magazine is produced in A4 size and produced each month in Feb, March, April, May, June, (July/Aug Double Issue) Sep, Oct, Nov, (Dec/Jan Double Issue)***

***Pages in Colour – Please note due to costs, we are limited to two colour pages a month. (usually the front page and back page). Only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the MOBCC committee, can there be more than this.***

***Obituaries, birthdays, births, greetings for occasions such as anniversaries – all accepted and free of charge, but subject to resizing by the Editor.***

## ***M.O.B. Gardening Club March 2022***
## ***From Little Acorns – a talk about Coppicing***

*This month we had a change from our planned speaker and instead we were visited by Mike Taylor, who came to talk about coppicing. Coppicing is a traditional method of managing a woodland. Hardwood trees are cut down to the stump on a regular basis and allowed to regrow. The shoots are left for various spans of time and then they are harvested and used in different ways. It is a sustainable forestry technique which enables harvesting wood from a living tree.*

*Mike worked in the steel industry but nine years ago he had a disagreement with his boss which led to him handing his notice in. He had always been interested in nature and particularly woodlands and after researching the area he bought eleven acres of Gibbons Corner Wood, near the Wrekin. Mike's wood is part of an ancient semi natural woodland which had been coppiced for centuries. He knows this because there is a medieval ditch surrounding the area and some of the felled trees are centuries old, confirmed by counting the rings on the trees. The wood was originally owned by Mr Gibbons, hence its name. There are alder trees there which Mike thinks were used for making high quality charcoal as the remains of charcoal pits have been found and later for making gunpowder. Alder can be used to make plates, bowls and spoons and even the soles of clogs.*

*At the end of World War One a lot of trees had been felled for the war effort and the hardwood trees were replaced by the quicker growing softwood trees. The demand for coppice products fell and the coppicing became economically unviable. Gibbons Wood fell into disuse.*

*Mark and his wife wanted to make a living from this piece of woodland in a sustainable way and so began coppicing the trees. They decided to use the wood in a similar way to how it was in the past. They make pots and bowls, furniture, wooden benches for gardens, stakes for hedges, charcoal and faggots which are the cuttings from the top of trees, bundled together to use for restoring river banks amongst other things. Mike uses traditional methods of making these products and with traditional tools, pole lathes, axes and knives. They use a horse drawn logger to collect any felled logs. This is not an economical method as using machinery would be quicker but the horses cause a minimum amount of damage to the woodland floor. Also it is a way of providing work for someone using horses in a traditional way. If these methods are not used and protected they will not be viable and die out.*

*There are many benefits to coppicing a woodland. When a group of trees grow to full height they cut out the light and little can grow under their canopy. Once coppicing takes place the light can reach the woodland floor and plants begin to grow. Many plants associated with a healthy wood land have now reappeared in Mike's wood such as toothwort, yellow pimpernel and English bluebells. Insects are now in abundance. Other animals have appeared such as badgers, foxes, hares and deer. The wood captures lots of carbon and is a sustainable energy source. It is also used to help promote health and well-being with various groups of people, including youngsters.*

*Mike also is aware of the legacy of the wood. He wants to pass it on in a better state than when he found it. He has restocked the wood with saplings from local nurseries or ones he has propagated himself. He sells most of his products within 30 miles and is keen to help the local economy. He enjoys talking to groups of people to pass on his knowledge and encourage the idea of sustainability. He was a very interesting speaker and everyone enjoyed listening to him.*

*We have moved our next meeting from 19th to 26th April. The speaker is Anne Harrison talking about scented plants. We start at 7.30 p.m. at the Millennium Hall. It is £2 for members and £3 for non-members and includes refreshments, a quiz and a raffle. Non-members are always welcome.*

*Mary Cowell (Gardening Club Secretary)*



# MAD moments in the garden



What a pleasure it is to see signs of spring in the garden. The snowdrops are going over, daffodils and narcissus are providing a splash of bright yellow or, more tasteful to some, various delicate creamy shades and wafting scent.

Whilst weeding a patch in my front garden I removed the not very successful planting of *Euphorbia Robbiae*. It was lovely for the first three years but for the last two years has looked scrappy and very sad. Time to put it out of its misery.

I like groups of one particular plant variety, I think it gives a calmer sense of space to areas of the garden, the alternative being 'noise' of different plants and colours together, although in some areas I like that too. The disadvantage of this block or drift style is, of course, if you don't choose the right plant or want a change, then you are left with a large bare patch. The optimist in me calls that an opportunity! Given minimal spending, or rather no spending, on going out, holidays or clothes of late, I decided on the treat of buying plants to fill the space rather than propagate them slowly over a couple of years. So what to choose? Something that looks good for a couple of seasons, especially when other plants might not be at their best in that area. Something that can be left to its own devices much of the time and that might be a bit different. Looking around, rather than introduce a new variety of plant I decide on *Bergenia*. I already have a few large clumps of *Bergeni*a, mostly inherited, although one somewhat superior clump has been created from three plants bought five years ago and propagated to now provide about twenty plants. In trying to identify the variety, I realized that there are some ten different species with seventeen different cultivars of them holding the RHS Award of Garden Merit, so they must be deserving of a better image than they seem to have in general.

One variety that caught my eye was *Bergenia Borodin*, 'another Jim Inchbald cultivar' it says on the website… The internet makes it very easy to find out more. Jim Inchbald was a very well known (by those in the know) plant collector responsible for the introduction of many garden plants. After an hour reading about his life and wishing I could head off collecting seed in Turkey, I remember the article. He along with his wife were an intrepid pair.

*Bergenias* are commonly know as Elephants Ears, Pigsqueak or Large Rockfoil. They are part of the *Saxifragaceae* family which also includes *Astilbe, Rodgersia* and *Saxifrage* London Pride. They originate from predominantly the Himalayas and Western China. They have spreading rhizomes with tough, leathery, often glossy leaves that have short stems that are broadly oval. Leaves vary, some offering dark red leaves throughout the winter, others dark green leaves that turn red/orange as temperatures drop, providing good Autumn colour. The range of flowers, leaf size, shape and colour depends on the cultivar. Flowers are mostly pink or white and appear often above the foliage in Spring.

Trying to identify the variety I have has proved problematic.

Gardening books, seem to refer somewhat grudgingly to *Bergenia* as a tough, sometimes useful plant for difficult spots, damp praise. What a shame. In my view some cultivars are beautiful foliage plants providing good, interesting ground cover particularly in winter, with the flowers adding colour to the spring garden. They are versatile and certainly worthy of even more space in my garden.

I wonder how many different varieties there are growing in the village gardens?

Mary-Ann Driscoll

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## Word Wall by Philip Neal

**Sort the following into four groups of connected words. Answers next month**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DOT | REVOLVER | GAIN | BISHOP |
| DEAN | CASTLE | PADRE | BAZOOKA |
| DERRINGER | MAID | CATAPULT | CHAPLAIN |
| PAWN | CANON | QUEEN | KING |

# GNOSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## (INCLUDING THE WARDS OF MORETON AND KNIGHTLEY)

It's a busy time at the Parish Council at present! Life seems to be returning to "normal" (if we can remember exactly what that is) and suddenly there are meetings in diaries and jobs to be done.

We have been through the challenge of setting the Budget for next year – never an easy task with competing priorities but harder than ever this year, when our income (like that of so many others) has been decimated by covid closures. There has had to be some extremely careful prioritisation in order to achieve the most we can for our money. I am glad to report that the Allotments Road has (at last) been resurfaced and the potholes are no more – this has been a job that's been around for ages but finally we have managed to allocate funds and get it done. It should make it far easier for those using the road now. The Boardwalk has also been the subject of long-awaited works, which have been delayed due to both funds and weather. When the money was there, the boardwalk was under water or key people had covid and so on. It has been immensely frustrating not to be able to get it sorted but finally it is fit for use – and doesn't it get some use as well! Winter and Summer, people love to use that pathway across the Acres, which is so good to see.

We are presently undertaking works at the Grosvenor Centre and the roof is undergoing major repairs – another costly job but not one that could be ignored, as the Centre gets a great deal of use from all sorts of groups. We were also fortunate enough to receive a very generous gift from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous which will enable us to refurbish areas and make them more fit for purpose. We had hoped to undertake rebuilding or significant refurbishment over the last 5 years or so but austerity and financial constraints put paid to those ideas and we feel fortunate indeed to be in a position to make improvements to the internal appearance of the Centre thanks to this generous gift.

Another project which we had sadly mothballed, the Sensory Garden, will also benefit from the donation and we hope to be restarting this project shortly. This is something close to my heart and it will be wonderful to see it come to fruition – but I shan't be counting any chickens until I see it with my own eyes after all this time. In addition to supporting these two projects, our benefactor also gave £5,000 to the BKV group and £1,000 each to the Heritage Group, the Library, the Youth Club (soon to be reopened we hope) and the Public Rights of Way group. A further £1,000 was shared between the various groups which support young people, including Scouts, Beavers, Guides, Cubs and Rainbows. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole village will benefit from this generosity.

Speaking of generosity, it has been heartening and humbling to see the outpouring of support for Martin Price and his pals, Brian Cristian, John Penman, Dave Hickie, Marcus Thornton and Dave Wright who drove three vans to Poland, crammed with goods to support Ukrainian refugees. In just one short week, the Grosvenor Centre was stuffed with goods and volunteers helped sort and pack them, giving up their time so generously. At a time when there is so much in the world to make us despondent, actions like these remind us that whenever tragedy strikes (natural or manmade) there are always good people willing to help. Thank you Gnosall.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the support they have given me during my tenure as Chair of the Parish Council. Usually, the term of office is three years but I got an extra one as covid really messed things up! April will be my last Council meeting as Chair. We learned how to meet on Zoom, we kept going and we did our best to continue to serve the parish. I have enjoyed every single minute and I wish my successor, whoever that may be, every success. To serve this village is a privilege and a pleasure.

Gail Gregory, Chair of Gnosall Parish Council **See Page 14**

**Office Opening Times**

**Monday - Closed**
**Tuesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm**
**Wednesday - 9.30am - 12.30pm**
**Thursday - by appointment only**
**Friday - Closed**

**Jayne Cooper Clerk,**
**Gnosall Parish Council, The Grosvenor Centre, High Street, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0EX**
**Tel: 01785 822685**

**email:**
**clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk**

**www.gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk**

**Facebook**

**Did you know Gnosall Parish Council has a Facebook page? Local information and events are posted regularly. Why not "like" our page and start following us. Hundreds of other people do and help share useful local information.**

**Useful telephone numbers**
**Police (non emergency): 101**

**Highways: 0300 111 8000 (roads, pavements and street lighting issues)**

**Streetscene: 01785 619401 (litter and dog mess)**

**Hiring The Grosvenor Centre,**
**Mr Stuart Ridgewell**
**cso@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk**
**or 01785 822685**

# Cookery Corner

Looking at the calendar, there seem to be several celebratory days in April. The 25th is Anzac Day. The biscuits which were given to the troops at Gallipoli were known as Anzac biscuits or diggers. The recipe below is very quick and easy to make and was one of the first things I learnt how to bake when I was quite young. Many of the more traditional recipes use plain flour and bicarb, but not being a fan of the bicarb after- taste, this is my preferred recipe. The 4th April, as well as being Easter Sunday this year, is also national carrot day! The carrot and potato gratin is a lovely accompaniment with roast meats. Finally, the fruit fool is a light, quick and easy to make dessert which uses in-season rhubarb.

## ANZAC BISCUITS

**Makes approx 20**



125g/5oz softened butter
1 tbsp golden syrup
175g/6oz caster sugar
75g/3oz self-raising flour
75g/3oz desiccated coconut
100g/4oz porridge oats

**Method**

1. Heat the butter, golden syrup and sugar together in a pan until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved.

2. Stir in the flour, coconut and oats and mix well.

3. Working quickly before the mixture gets too cold, place large teaspoonfuls of the mixture on to greased baking trays, spacing well apart. Flatten very slightly. Over flattening will result in the biscuits spreading too much and becoming too crunchy.

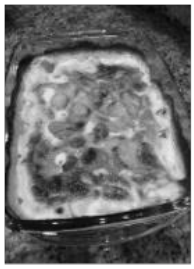
4. Cook at 160C fan/180C/gas 4 for 8-10 minutes until the biscuits are lightly brown at the edges.

5. Cool on the tray for a couple of minutes before transferring to a wire cooling rack.

## CARROT AND POTATO GRATIN

**Serves 4**

500g/20 oz waxy potatoes, peeled and sliced wafer thin
1 small parsnip, peeled and sliced wafer thin
350g/14 oz carrots, peeled and sliced wafer thin
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary
300ml carton of double cream
150ml/6 fl oz milk
50g/2 oz grated parmesan
Salt and pepper



**Method**

1. Lightly grease a 2 litre ovenproof dish. Layer the potatoes and the parsnips in the dish. Scatter over the sliced garlic and season with salt and pepper.

2. Pour the cream and milk into a saucepan, add the rosemary and carrots. Bring to the boil and simmer on a low heat for 3 minutes.

3. Pour the carrot cream mixture over the potato and parsnip layer. Sprinkle on the grated parmesan. Cover the dish with foil and bake at 180C fan/200C/gas 6 for 40 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for another 20 minutes. Reheats well in a microwave.

## RHUBARB FOOL

**Serves 4**

450g/18 oz forced rhubarb, roughly chopped
3 tbsp golden caster sugar
200ml/8 fl oz double cream
1 tbsp icing sugar
2 balls of stem ginger, diced plus 1 tbsp of the syrup from the jar
120g/1 small pot thick, creamy plain Greek yogurt

**Method**

1. Put the rhubarb, caster sugar and 1 tbsp of water in a pan and cook covered over a gentle heat until the rhubarb is tender. Remove the lid and turn up the heat and cook for 2- 3 minutes to allow the liquid to become syrupy.

2. Tip the rhubarb into a sieve over a bowl to catch the syrup and allow the rhubarb to go cold.

3. Puree the cooled rhubarb with 1 tbsp of the rhubarb syrup and the ginger syrup until smooth.

4. Whisk the double cream and icing sugar together until it forms soft peaks.

5. Fold the yogurt into the cream mixture.

6. Gently fold the rhubarb mixture into the cream and yogurt along with nearly all the chopped ginger. Keep a little of the ginger back to use as decoration.

7. Spoon the fool into the glasses, decorate with the left-over ginger and chill.

Serve with shortbread fingers or brandy snap biscuits.



Diane Overton

***DOG FOULING REMINDER:***

A number of complaints have been received regarding dog faeces not being picked up by the dog walkers. Moreton, Outwoods & Bromstead are nice tidy villages and everyone is reminded that dog mess should be cleaned up.



It's not his job**…….it's YOURS!**

Please clean up after your dog.
Thank you.



SMILES

*These may be funny, embarrassing, and…oh, just read them yourself. Enjoy, and share them with someone who needs a laugh!*

**Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!**

* This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
* Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
* For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche in the crypt.
* Bring & share church supper: Prayer and medication will follow.
* Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help!
* The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.
* At the church meeting last week the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
* Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'
His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

**SPRING POEM**

**APRIL**

*April's like a pretty girl*
*Posing shyly in soft unseasonable pastels,*
*Unsuitably clad for these turncoat days - Lilting happily in warm sunshine*
*Then suddenly vulnerable*
*As driving rain rakes the tender leaves*
*Or icy winds tear at the intricate lace of blossom*
*And chasten the madcap daffodils.*
*But those fragile looks belie her strength*
*And when she passes all will be well.*



# Mob Mart

## De-clutter and SELL on **Mob Mart**. What's not to like!

- **15%** Commission on sales to be divided equally between The Millennium Centre and St Mary's Church, Moreton.
- Details of sales, please send with photographs to **mnvillagemagazine@btinternet.com or phone: 01952 691131** by copy date, **15th** of the month.
- **15%** Commission money to the Squirrels. **01952 691630 ortbro43@gmail.com**
- To date almost **£300** has been raised Thank you to all the sellers.

**Classified adverts for private sales**
**Please send details for the next issue by the 15th of the month to:**
**mnvillagemagazine@btinternet.com**



**Under Counter fridge for sale.**

**£60 or nearest offer.**






**Good Working Order.**

**Contact Nigel on: 07977044493**

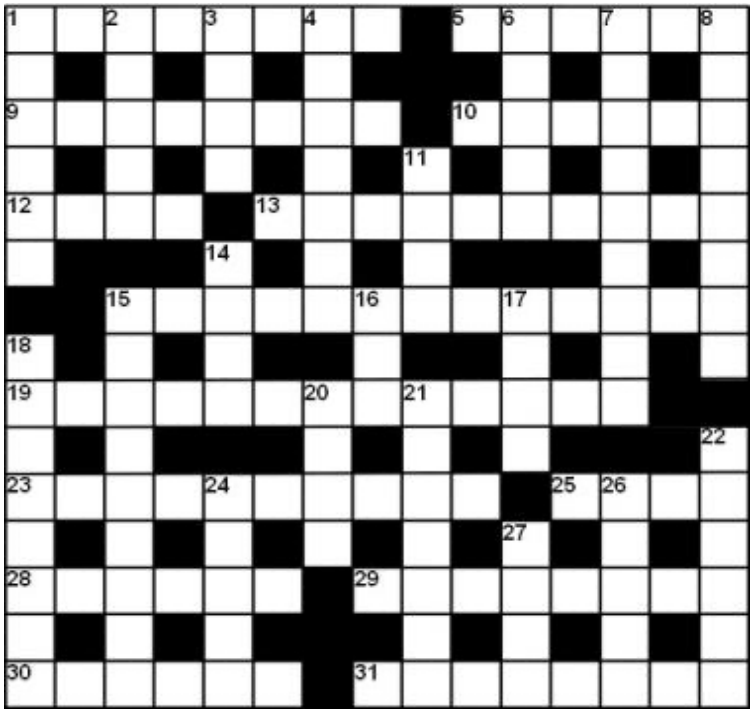
# Mobstead Juniors Easter Word Search Page

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

EASTER
BUNNY
CHOCOLATE
BONNET
DYE
COTTON TAIL
EGGS
HOP
EGG HUNT
CHICKS
FIND
HIDE
FUN
COLOUR
FAMILY
DECORATE
RABBIT
FLOWERS
PARADE
CELEBRATION

# PUZZLE CORNER

**Crossword by Philip Neal**



**Across**

1 Lose many a slip between me and copyright (8)
5 Accepts offer in seaside (6)
9 Call round foreign isle for German varietal (8)
10 Alliance admits son for get together (6)
12 Uncomfortable sofa designed for idiots (4)
13 Pride of Italy give SAS one liquid (10)
15 Red Loire taxi taking their old currency around English tern at sea (8,5)
19 Uncle Tom playing piano in Tuscan town (13)
23 Sometimes bubbly French master catches fish on tangled line without rod (10)
25 Italian town sparkles when it comes back with spumante (4)
28 Swimmer hides the inside bar (6)
29 Half apprentices working in white (8)
30 Senior lighting engineer inside is French (6)
31 Inter weapon concealed with daughter in Côte de Beaune (8)

**Down**

1 Turning red mechanism and auction item into dinner accompaniment (6))
2 Be quiet little one it could be continental (5)
3 Compose a bygone from a soothing melody (4)
4 Mythical creature has dog guarding volcanic eruption (7)
6 Beano brings the house down while crooner got round when his number was up (5)
7 Eagles sang for road speed criminal (9)
8 Words of judgement (8)
11 Dog repelled the fiend within (4)
14 Talented Lincoln recruited apprentice (4)
15 Firm had no trace of account Ted got in touch with (9)
16 Initially Northern Ireland lost but there was nothing in it (3)
17 Standard decline (4)
18 Friendly but flummoxed detectives out for a stroll (8)
20 We accept naval pots (4)
21 Vineyard where you can talk to the water (7)
22 Sound reverberates inside essential organ (6)
24 Councils ebbing tides (5)
26 Butcher also requires new parlour … (5)
27 … and new rug required for annexe (4)

## Sudoku

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

**Mobstead Seniors Page**

**Answers Next Month**

## Exercise Curry Trail

*"Freddie Mercury's died, pass it on", I whispered to the man nearest me, as we lay in a defensive position, in the middle of the jungle in Borneo. It was the 24th November 1991 and I was*



*carrying a long wave radio to communicate with our Headquarters, who were several miles away. I had learnt that, by changing frequency, I could receive the BBC World Service and listen to news from back home. We navigated by compass bearing and pace counting. We cached several days' worth of food, which we could navigate back to, once our current supply ran out. On a ridge line the man in front of me paused and whispered "can you hear buzzing?" at which point a swarm of hornets flew out from a tree and preceded to sting me several times as I could not run away fast enough, being hindered by a heavy radio and several days' worth of food. Our camp was located on the coastline of the South China Sea and we were warned not to enter the sea, as it had the highest death rate from shark attack in the world. Within an hour, men were out swimming as far as the eyes could see with no regard to personal safety. We flew back home for Christmas after which we would fly to the Arctic for more training, which would enable us, as Royal Marines, to deploy at the drop of a hat, anywhere in the world, to protect the UK's interests.*

Ian Breeze

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## Parish Council share of Council Tax

To reach a balanced budget and a precept for 2022/23, Council had a difficult task taking into account the Council's financial position, especially as the Council's income significantly reduced with the closure of the Grosvenor Centre for the majority of 2020 and for part of 2021, and understanding that expenses for many people will rise considerably in the next year. Unspent budgets in the 2021/22 financial year were used on essential maintenance and jobs were fitted in, wherever possible, before the end of March to avoid these costs being included in the 2022/23 financial year and impacting on the precept.

Council agreed that it was necessary to take the decision to make a small rise in the precept. If it had not done this the Parish Council may have had had to reconsider its activities and the services it provides.

As reported previously, the Parish Council is responsible for maintaining many areas and facilities within the parish that come with ongoing maintenance costs. All these increasing costs have to be budgeted for. The Parish Council always looks for funding opportunities and is successful with many of the applications it makes. However, as we all know, the cost of all services has risen and continues to rise.

The Parish Council provide excellent value for the precept when other local Parish Councils charge more for less service provision. Gnosall Parish Council provides many facilities and services and arranges community events during the year to the benefit of its parishioners which we know are appreciated.

The council tax for a Band D property in 2022/23 will be £49.41 per year, a rise of 6.3% which equates to approximately £3 per year.

**Jayne Cooper, Clerk Gnosall Parish Council**

# The Daily Doings of Mrs Dolittle



*The other morning, I realised with shock I must have put on an extreme amount of weight, for on doing up my front-fastening bra, I realised my boobs were barely contained at all. It took me a puzzled while to realise my brain function was out of kilter. That bra does up at the back! Old age does suck.*

*I put loads and loads of bulbs in fresh beds along underneath my new garden pagoda. After chemo I felt very weak (still do) but I felt sure if I could get the task done, I would live to see them bloom. Well, I'm still in remission, and a host of pretty blue irises are now marching along the flowerbed, giving me much joy and hope. Soon a mass of forget-me-nots and bluebells will be continuing the blue theme, then big, bold peonies will be showing off, together with deep blue agapanthus. At least, I hope the agapanthus have survived. They looked rotten and slimy with all the rain, but there is a hint of new growth, so I hope they might get going soon. I've planted climbing roses and wisteria up the pagoda posts and have now set my sights on seeing them bloom and climb over the trellis on top. I don't expect them to be prolific the first year, but I'll let you know in a couple of years how they are doing!*

*It's the first day of March as I write and the weather is grey and chilly. The last day of February had a deep cerulean blue sky with barely a cloud. The day was lovely and sunny and warm, so I spent all of the day out in the garden, dragging big pots full of earth and plants into their positions under the new pagoda. Not bad for an old biddy who is half extinct! I also dug in some new roses and peonies - all very slowly of course, with lots of sit-downs on one of the many seats scattered around in cosy nooks I have made throughout the garden. It was lovely to sit and gaze at all the bulbs and plants popping up that I had managed to get in before winter, and to discuss the state of the world with a cheeky blackbird at my feet.*

*On retiring to bed exhausted, I discovered I'd left it unmade, which was bad enough, but the sheets were covered in ghastly muddy paw prints from the dogs! That will teach me to leave the door open. The cat, who was in there lawfully, had, unbeknownst to me, been in a fight and had bled all over the rest of the sheets. Mud and blood, and me so desperately tired! I collapsed on this filthy heap and fell asleep, to wake at midnight. A little refreshed by then, I staggered out of bed, took off the sheets, shoved them in the washing machine, put on fresh bedding and then fell back into what could be called the sleep of the almost dead.*

*Checking on my bank account, I noticed a woman's name on the joint account - and a payment had been made to her of £80.00. What had Remote Control Man been up to? I could only think of one thing, so while I didn't really believe that he had been led astray by a fallen woman, I nevertheless confronted him, hands on hips. He looked at me, then said, "What kind of woman would I get for only eighty quid these days, for goodness sake? Mind you, if it were Catherine Deneuve..." We both laughed, and so did the parrot. After a little ferreting online, all was made clear. It seemed I had paid a tradesman who had given me a woman's account to pay into. Just goes to show, one should never assume, especially when your own memory is at fault! Luckily, we both thought it amusing, so no harm done.*

## Diary of a Dog Fosterer
## Molly and Dougal – The Shih Tzu Pair



*Molly and Dougal were two, very cute Shih Tzus dogs who had been handed over to the Dogs Trust Centre because their owner had died. Molly was 12 years old and very cheeky and Dougal was a handsome 13-year-old.*

*Shih Tzus are an Asian breed and are a cross between the Llasa Apso and the Pekingese dogs. Shi Tzu means "Little Lion" but they are not at all fierce and were bred to be companion dogs. They are affectionate and happy little dogs who just love to be with their people. They are great family pets but their small size sometimes puts them at risk of unintentional injury. They have a long, silky coat which comes in many colours but daily brushing is necessary to prevent tangles. Often, they are clipped as grooming daily can be a chore.*

*Molly and Dougal had a sad story to tell. Their owner had died and so the owners' parents had taken Molly and Dougal to live with them. Then the original owner's mother died leaving just the father, who must have been devastated, to look after them. He had struggled, for obvious reasons and eventually they were handed into the Dogs Trust. By this time, Molly and Dougal were in a bit of a mess. They had not been groomed for a long time and they could not be seen under their fur. Their nails were very long so presumably they had not been walked. They had just been left alone with someone coming in to feed them. Very sad.*

*This is where the Dogs Trust comes in. Life does not always go according to plan and you may find yourself trying to care for a dog, either your own or one you have inherited for some reason and it is too much of a struggle. It may be a change of accommodation or finances. There may have been a family crisis or breakdown. The Dogs Trust want to help and handing a dog over to them is the most responsible thing you can do for the dog. They will look after them, keep them safe, love them and find them a new home.*

*Once in the centre Molly and Dougal were cleaned up, clipped, had their nails cut and they had a medical. Molly was fine but Dougal had to be neutered and have a lump removed. He also needed some dental work. They were such good companions for each other they would be re-homed together. They came to us whilst Dougal went through his operation and recovery.*

*We really liked them. They were very easy dogs to foster. We walked them gently at first and built them up to walking a bit further. They began to enjoy the garden but their favourite thing was to curl up on the couch with us. They were happy to sleep together in the kitchen and kept each other company when we left them. Dougal had his operation and recovered with us at home.*

*We took Dougal into the centre for his post-operation check and Molly went with him. They had attracted a potential new owner who wanted to meet them. She liked them so much she took them home with her straight away! It meant we did not get much chance to say goodbye to them but it was better for them to go into their new home quickly and start their new life as soon as possible. It was no surprise a new owner was found for them so quickly as they were such delightful little dogs!*

*Mary Cowell*

# Desert Island Discs



It was an honour to be invited to choose my Desert Island Discs for this issue of Miscellanea but my first thought was, 'how am I ever going to be able to pick just 10 of my favourite pieces when music has, arguably, been the biggest influence in my life?'

Rather than my favourite 'discs' then, I have chosen some that have marked particular periods of my 64 years on this planet and have stayed with me as permanent reminders of those times.

Firstly, I'll get this out of the way from the off! In 1972, on the John Peel radio show, I heard a track from an album that changed my whole life. The musician in question was Irish, virtuoso guitarist, Rory Gallagher and I could easily have picked 10 of his songs for this list. Through him I learnt so much about my first love, the Blues, and its most important proponents and I could have, just as easily, picked a list entirely made up of Blues tunes and artists.

I travelled all over the UK and Europe to see Rory play - over many very happy years - and was lucky enough to get to know him and his band. Most of my school friends were David Cassidy or Donny Osmond fans so I think, being keen on Rory as well as Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy and BB King etc., I was seen as a bit of an oddity by my contemporaries! One of the songs that best represents those incredible live performances is my first choice;

***Messin' With The Kid by Rory Gallagher*** - Like most people, the first music I was exposed to was from my parents' record collection and so I grew up listening to The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles and Roy Orbison amongst others. Looking back, the 45 single (remember those?) that I most liked to play on the gramaphone record player - the size of a small wardrobe - in our house was an indication of my future musical taste and is my second choice;

***Son Of A Preacher Man by Dusty Springfield*** - A big part of my youth was my membership to the once famous, though sadly now defunct, Friars Club in Aylesbury. Every Saturday I'd work in a local record shop and, in the evening, see a couple of live bands at Friars. It was a favourite haunt of David Bowie and guitarist Mick Ronson and a song, closely linked to both of them, that is so reminiscent of those heady days, is my third choice;

***All The Young Dudes by Mott the Hoople*** - At home, there was also classical music to enjoy and there was one piece of music that moved me to tears early on in my life. I'm no Inspector Morse when it comes to opera - but I know what I like! Choice four;

***The Pearl Fishers (duet) by Georges Bizet*** - From school in Buckinghamshire, via an Arts Foundation course, I ended up in London, studying for a BA at Central School of Art. By now, music had become a huge part of my life … studying, less so! From art school to my first proper job - and the making of new, and life-long, friends - one piece of music has given me many happy memories. 'Brown Eyed Girl' is my song for my daughter by this artist but, from before she came along, this is my fifth choice;

***Moondance by Van Morrison*** - Fast forward through a diverse career in Advertising and Design, Social Services and Education and to being happily married and the proud mother and stepmother ('wicked' in the best sense of the word!) of three lovely young adults. There are a couple of songs that are synonymous with happy get-togethers. One particular album has become a firm favourite. It is now a tradition that it must always be played at barbecues and other, especially - with its Latin American vibes - summer, family gatherings, is 'Supernatural'. From that album comes my sixth choice;

***Smooth by Santana (ftg. Rob Thomas)*** - There are songs that have always been hovering about in my life that have taken on greater significance in more recent years. What makes these songs special is, in part, their 'sing-along-ability'. I don't go in much for Karaoke but singing along at the top of your voice (especially in the car) alone or with various family members or friends is such good therapy that it should be freely available on the NHS. I was very tempted to go for 'Delilah' by Tom Jones, 'Bat Out of Hell' by Meatloaf or 'Suspicious Minds' by Elvis as they were all top contenders for my number seven slot but this particular song has a special significance as we chose it to be played at our wedding ceremony;

***Can't Take My Eyes Off You by Andy Williams*** - Music has played a huge part in my life both listening to and making it. As well as the Blues, I enjoy music from most genres and from all parts of the world - although I will admit to never having quite got my head round modern Jazz or anything remotely 'Techno'! I've attempted to play - with varying levels of success - the recorder (a vastly underrated instrument), oboe, banjo, guitar, piano and ukelele but I've taken the most pleasure in singing. From Rossini's 'Stabat Mater', Gilbert & Sullivan and madrigals at school through various bands and choirs to, more recently, spending five years as a member of a local Gospel Blues & Soul choir, the well-being and camaraderie gained from group and harmony singing is hard to beat. The Heartland Delta Singers was formed as part of the excellent Dereham Blues Festival and we performed all over Norfolk. Sadly, a casualty of the pandemic, the choir has now folded but my eighth choice is in honour of those very happy and harmonious years;

***Over My Head by Sister Rosetta Tharpe*** - One of my biggest regrets is not persevering with playing the piano. In my youth I had piano lessons from a neighbour in return for babysitting his small children. I was not a diligent pupil and his heart was not really in teaching. His passion was for composing and my ninth choice is one of his most famous and, in my opinion, best works;

# What's ON! at Gnosall Library
April 2022

**20 Apr** **Reading Cafe**

Our monthly discussion group on books and reading.
At this month's theme is our recent good reads
3:15-4:45pm

**25 April** **Family History**

Come along if you would like help in tracing your ancestors on-line
4:00-6:30pm

**26 April** **Baby Bounce & Rhyme**

For 0-3 year olds and their carers
11:00-11:30am . Stay for a drink and a chat

Would you like to volunteer at your local library? We would to have more volunteers particularly to help at Baby Bounce & Rhyme and a new activity we are trying to develop

Contact chairman@gleanhub.org

## Opening Times

Monday: 4:00-6:30pm
Tuesday: 10:00am-12:30pm
Wednesday: 3:00-5:30pm
Thursday: 2:00-4:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-12:30pm

Gnosall Library community-managed

YOUR LIBRARY Staffordshire County Council

# An Evening of Black Country Humour & Song
**with**

# 'Dandy-Comedy-Duo



**On Saturday 2ndApril 2022 @ 7.30pm**
**Doors & Bar open at 7:00pm**
**Moreton Millennium Community Centre**
**Church Lane, Moreton, Nr Newport**
**TF10 9DS**

**Tickets Only £12:50 until 21st March**
**Tickets £14:00 after 21st March until 30th March**
**Tickets must be ordered before 30th March**
**Tickets orders must be paid for in advance.**

**(Includes Fish & Chip Supper from Jones's Newport)**
**Tickets available from Patricia 01952 691222**
**Email: patricia4moretonfolktf10@gmail.com**
**Also from Hey Jude's Music Store, Newport**

# THE MALTA DEBACLE – DISASTER OR NOT?

Fifty years ago, we had been living in Malta and working with the Service Children's Schools for five years. We were happily settled in a Maltese house, near the sea. We had lovely neighbours and a pleasant way of life. The Army paid for our accommodation and Bill's salary and we had a 'foreign service allowance' from which we were saving for a house in England. And then everything changed.

Dom Mintoff became Prime Minister of Malta and Wikipedia describes him as 'an anticolonialist revolutionary'. Mintoff wanted Malta to become a republic and, as a first move, he wanted all British troops to leave the island. From early December 1971 there were rumblings, which we tried to ignore as Mintoff began negotiations/ threats with the British Government. Arguments raged in the local press both for (Labour press) and against (Nationalist press) the ousting of British troops.

Despite this, the announcement on December 29th 1971, that all British troops must leave the island by January 3rd 1972, came as a complete shock. That, of course would include ourselves as 'civilians attached'. Bill went to a briefing to find out what was to happen.

We went to a party at a friend's flat on 'the Patch' (Army barracks) on New Year's Eve. The only difference from a normal visit to the Patch was an armed guard at the entrance. Later, we were to hear from our worried families in UK that the British press was reporting tanks in the streets – we never saw tanks in the streets. There was no violence and many Maltese people deplored its government's policy.

Early in the New Year, flat-pack packing cases were delivered to our house, with instructions to pack them and then phone a given number for our names to be put on a flight list. Suddenly it was all very real. We faced a return to UK in the middle of the winter, with three children aged 7, 5 and 3, no job and nowhere to live. Fortunately, my mother-in-law lived on the ground floor of a large house and let the first floor as a flat to supplement her income. The flat was vacant and so we could move in. We hoped Bill could register for supply teacher work.



Packing proceeded apace, with the added difficulty of the children diving into the partly filled crates to retrieve toys they still wanted to play with. Eventually the crates were full and screwed down and we phoned the given number. The day the crates were collected sticks in my memory. A naval lorry arrived to collect them, manned by an officer and several ratings, the latter being the worst for wear as householders were offering them tots of duty-free rum/ whisky/ gin/ brandy to fortify them for the task. By the time they got to us, few were standing!

We were put on a flight on 11th January, 1972. Arriving at a cold, wet Brize Norton, we were met by a friend who lived nearby and put up overnight before travelling to mother-in-law's in Surrey the following day. The bottom had fallen out of our world and we didn't know what the future would hold.

Fortunately, Bill did pick up supply teaching work. We heard nothing from the Army for some time as the Government continued to negotiate with Mintoff. Would they offer us another teaching post elsewhere with the Service Schools or not?

The children settled into a local school and nursery and tentatively we began to make plans. It seemed sensible to buy a house whilst we were in England. I was planning to take teaching qualifications on our return and Bill wanted to upgrade his qualifications, so we began to look around the country for an area which would fulfil both ambitions and where we could afford to buy a house. Surrey, our county of birth, was far too expensive. And so, we happened upon Robert Key Drive, Mattishall. I could attend Keswick Hall for teacher training from there and Bill could extend his qualifications by studying during the week at the Cambridge Institute. The children could attend the primary school.




The following weeks were taken up with applications for the courses and estate agents/ solicitors/ surveyors/ mortgage brokers. It all fell into place and we moved into Mattishall on 14th April, 1972. About a month later, the Malta situation was resolved and, on May 25th, we returned to the same house in Malta to finish our contract. The whole street was out to greet us and we felt really welcomed. Our house in Robert Key Drive was let for a year. So it was that in July 1973 we finally moved back to England permanently and have lived in Mattishall ever since.

What had seemed to be a disaster had in fact done us a good turn because 1972 was at the time of gazumping and had we not bought our house then, we could not have afforded it a few months later, as the price had gone up by 50%!

*Anna English*

**See Back Page** ⟶

**The Royal British Legion provides financial, social, and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families, and dependants.**



**Community Support Representative, Neil Bartlet, Tel: 07508310938, Email: neilbartlett.nb@gmail.com**

**Member's Profile**
**Neil Bartlet, Branch Community Support Representative.**

Neil grew up in Derrington and attended King Edward V1 High School in Stafford. Having been an Air Cadet at Stafford, in 1983 he joined the Royal Air Force as an aircraft mechanic, becoming a skilled Air Radar and Laser Guided weapon systems technician, serving with 29 and 56 Squadrons in Cyprus, Sardinia, Germany, Canada and the USA.

Neil left the RAF after twelve years' service and worked for two years on the Midlands Motorway network maintaining police CCTV cameras. But it was his experience of Tornado aircraft with the RAF that led him to join British Aerospace to train members of the Royal Saudi Airforce in Saudi Arabia. This he did for eighteen years, during which time he trained eighteen service and two civilian technicians for the Royal Saudi Airforce.

It was while Neil was on leave from Saudi that he decided on completion of his contract, to live in Gnosall, where he now lives with his wife, Alison, and two children. He is employed as an Air Electrical Inspector with Tech Services, Kuehne & Nagel Air Defence at Donnington.

As a result of the Branch's recruitment drive in 2021 Neil joined the Royal British Legion and at the AGM that year, with his experience of leadership, mentoring and welfare issues, in the RAF, volunteered to become the Branch Community Support Representative, where his principal involvement will be with Legion awareness events, telephone buddies, home and hospital visits, bereavement support and local touchpoints.

**Breakfast Club**

With COVID concerns behind us, ten members gathered at Greens T on Saturday 19th February for 'big eats', a family sized tea pot and bottomless coffee pot, provided by the ever-munificent Rachel. Diners left replete, one commenting that he would not eat again that day.

**Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

**The next regular meeting of the branch** will be at the Royal Oak, Gnosall, on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.30 pm. New members, ex-service personnel and others with an interest in the work of the Legion, are welcome to join us.

**The next meeting of the Breakfast Club** will be at Greens T in Gnosall High Street on Saturday, 16th April at 10.00 am. New members welcome.

**A coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum** has been arranged for Wednesday 11th May 2022, leaving the Royal Oak car park at 10.00 am, returning at 3.00 pm. Tickets £12.00 per head, payable by 2nd May. Non-members welcome subject to seat availability. Persons requiring mobility aids to advise when booking. **Contact Di Clark on 07984 517034.**

**Alan Cristall, PRO, Gnosall & District Branch**
**Tel: 01785 822022 Email: cristall@btinternet.com**

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



# Scarecrow Festival

## 13th – 14th August 2022
## In Moreton, Outwoods & Bromstead

You will remember in 2015 and 2019 we had two wonderful village week-ends when we held our first and second Scarecrow Festivals. We have been asked a number of times, when can we do it again, so 2022 is the year! The week – end chosen is 13th /14th August and the theme is: Characters from children's books, films or cartoons.

Scarecrow making is a terrific craft project for the whole family to enjoy. You don't need to be a good artist or a carpenter to make a wonderful scarecrow as was proved in 2015 & 2019. You just need some imagination and be willing to have a go! The scarecrow can be made from any material and be as big as you like. It is not a competition!

If you are keen to take part please let the Squirrels know by the end of April. More details later.

Telephone: 01952 691630
Email: ortbro43@gmail.com

### Crossword Answers from March

**Across**

**1** Halcyon days. **9** Galenic. **10** Terrace. **11** Hui. **12** Oddment. **13** Vandyke. **14** Ely. **15** Sated. **17** Meant. **18** Boost. **20** Logic. **22** Tod. **24** Inkling. **25** Anagram. **26** Elm. **27** Pillion. **28** Orating. **29** Bulk carrier.

**Down**

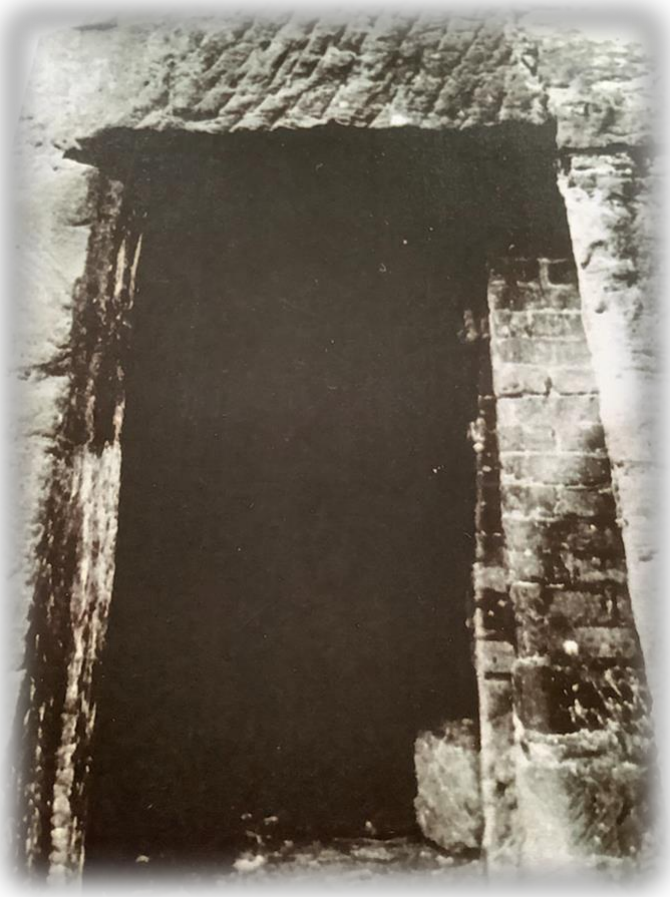
**1** Holiday folk club. **2** Lancers. **3** Yacht. **4** Native dog. **5** Acronym. **6** Sealyham terrier. **7** Ignore. **8** Detect. **16** Telegenic. **18** Blimps. **19** Trivial. **21** Chapati. **23** Damage. **25** Amour.

### Sudoku Answers

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

### Word Wall Answers

**Rice:** arborio, basmati, wild, carnaroli
**Wild:** angry, untamed, violent, barbarous
**Plants:** herb, factory, conceal, shrub
**Public; ...**house, …library, …relations, …domain



*There once was a sandstone quarry*
*Opposite the farm*
*We used to go and play in it*
*Never coming to any harm*

*We were told the quarry*
*A blacksmith worked his ware*
*We found a cut-out shelter*
*And assumed it must be there*

*But alas a few years later*
*The quarry it was gone*
*Somebody decided to fill it in*
*So no more childhood fun*

*Jan Breeze*

# Moreton, Outwoods and Bromstead Jubilee Afternoon Tea & Party

The Community Centre and Parish Council are arranging an afternoon tea party at the Millennium Centre to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

**Please save the date – 5th June starting at 2.30 pm**

We will be organising entertainments and competitions for the afternoon.

Please save all your red, white and blue. We will have further details to follow.

# THE GUEST HOUSE – some observations by Anna English

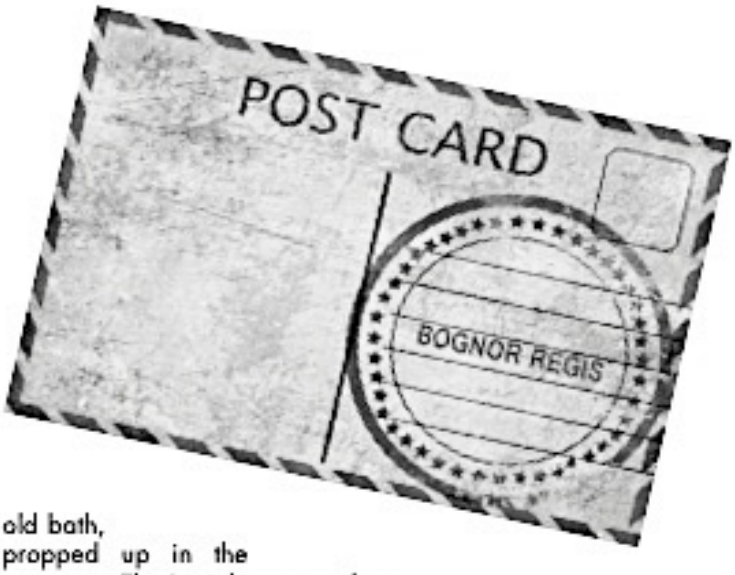
Holidays for us, just after World War II were taken at Bognor Regis and, later at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. We always stayed in guest houses, where breakfast and evening meals were provided. Three strong memories from Bognor Regis were 1) being allowed one icecream at day and the agonising decision as to which flavour to choose; 2) being forced to have an afternoon rest one day in order to be allowed to stay up and attend the local carnival in the evening; 3) my stepfather developing extremely sore knees with blood poisoning from exposing them to too much sun. In the Isle of Wight, I remember flocks of budgerigars flying free in the trees near the post office. The Guest House owners were friendly and I don't recall any friction.

However, friction was certainly on the cards when, in the 1980s, I was President of the local National Union of Teachers for a year. I attended the Annual Conference in Blackpool at Easter, and Bill came with me. We booked into a bow-fronted Guest House in a terrace of Edwardian houses. The landlady was FIERCE! Our room turned out to be over a disco and was both pokey and very noisy until about midnight. There was no question of changing rooms. She served 'dinner' at 5pm and woe betide anyone who turned up late. Bill roamed Blackpool whilst I attended the Conference and usually met me at lunchtime with 'You've got to come and see this.....'! Whilst we were impressed by the Tower and its ballroom, we were bemused by burly white men stripped to the waist and 'blacked up', wearing grass skirts and kiss-me-quick hats striding around on the beach in their doc-Martins, in the freezing wind! One day we played truant from the Conference and drove up to the Lake District for a walk. There was still snow on the hills. Arriving back for 'dinner' at 5.15pm we received a telling-off and a very frosty reception.

I recall another occasion when we were driving to Wales with our three daughters for a holiday in the Snowdon area. Arriving in Shrewsbury mid-afternoon, we decided to find a B and B and to drive to our destination the following day. The landlady who had rooms was very po-faced. She showed us to the rooms and then announced that we had to go out until 6pm, so we found ourselves wandering around Shrewsbury with 3 hours to kill before we were allowed back into the house! With both these landladies, the impression was that they were doing us a favour by offering accommodation.

So.....have things changed? Three years ago, we had our first experience of AirBnB, in Bath, when we attended a family Ruby Wedding party. The room was in a basement flat owned by a young woman with a toddler. She was very welcoming and gave us a key, so we could come and go. Clearly, the very attractive room was usually her bedroom, as she was squeezed in with her son and her itinerant partner overnight. Breakfast was provided, but there was no table to sit at to eat it so we stood around in the kitchen. It felt a bit awkward standing around with them and chatting whilst we ate.

Then two years ago, we booked an AirBnB in Kent when we were invited to a wedding. Two days before we were due to go, AirBnB contacted us to say the woman in whose house we were to stay had withdrawn from the website, as she had been robbed by her last client. They offered us two other possibilities in the area. We rang the first one. A young man answered and said, yes, he could put us up, but would we please arrive before 11am. We obliged, but were slightly alarmed by the litter-strewn area in which he lived. The house turned out to be an end-of-terrace which he was doing up. There was a very smart bathroom BUT our room contained a mattress on the carpeted floor and the




old bath, propped up in the corner. That's right – no other furniture. Nowhere to hang our wedding clothes, except from the curtain rail. No, he didn't do breakfast – there was a pub down the road. He was going to Brighton with some friends and may not be back overnight, so, if he didn't re-appear, would we please just put the key through the door when we left? OK, we weren't paying much, and, as with all AirBnB places, we left an evaluation on the website and he, presumably evaluated us so other owners could decide whether or not we were a good bet if we wanted to stay.

My sister-in-law lets two rooms through AirBnB in Bath. They are beautifully furnished and she pays great attention to detail so everything is provided for her guests. Maybe we have just been a bit unlucky. These days, Premier Inns seem a better bet!



Advance Notice

BINGO & BANGERS

**Saturday 21st May 2022, 7pm**
at Millennium Community Centre.

**Admission £5 (children £2.50**).
To include one Bingo sheet of 6 games and a Hot Dog.

Bar open.

***Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church.***

# Reflections




It was raining in Glasgow horizontally. The Morris Minor hire car showed no sign of having been modified to match the climate. There was an ominous sloshing sound from the engine compartment and the windscreen wipers took an occasional breather compelling me to slow down as the image of the road ahead merged with that of the puddles.

"Edinburgh road to Bathgate "they said ", then left through the town and this steelworks is there."

I was relieved they hadn't added "You can't miss it", my internal navigation system taking such remarks as a challenge rather than encouragement.

I found Bathgate, it was raining horizontally, and had several potential left turns and the largest number of council houses I had ever seen but only one resident. An old chap in a long overcoat was trying to coax an elderly terrier in the general direction of even more houses. I slowed down to stall speed.

"Renton and Fisher" I enquired, "steel foundry?" He waved his walking stick in an arc that encompassed most of the Northern hemisphere, "Alang by the lum" he offered and was propelled down a pedestrian way by a strong pull by the dog whose expression said "make of that what you will".

A vague recollection of 'lum', as chimney, prompted me to scan the horizon for one that stood out from the rest and by adopting a crow-flying aim, modified by the vagaries of the road layout, I ended up at the foundry.

Dr Allen, who ran the outfit, was squelching through the yard to the melting shop carrying lunch box and thermos flask. We sat on a bench next to the furnace and steamed gently as we discussed the minimum technicalities that justified my visit and he then escorted me to the car park. I suddenly felt very hungry.

"Is there a café or a pub?"

He paused, "There is a restaurant on the main road "he said, "just about where you turned off, but I'm not sure if it's still open."

It was difficult to tell. It looked like a smaller version of the one in Psycho, but it did have a car parked in front and the remains of a sign that might once have said 'Lunches and Teas'. The large mahogany front door opened into a gloomy hall extending through to the back of the building. It was even gloomier when I shut it behind me, the only light coming from the far end together with a faint odour reminiscent of school dinners. Each side of the hall had a large door with a brass knob. I tested the one on the right and found a large room with drawn blinds and what might have been corpses covered by blankets awaiting discovery by Miss Marple. I closed the door. The door on the left revealed a marginally brighter room with four circular tables and bentwood chairs, two of which were occupied by middle-aged ladies in tweed overcoats and trilby hats with feathers. They were sipping the remains of a hot beverage.

At the far end of the room was a serving hatch. It shot up six inches as I took a seat at a table and closed just as sharply. A few minutes later, a young girl dressed in the style of a 1930's housemaid arrived and set a bowl of soup in-front of me. The ladies took advantage of the diversion to leave the room noiselessly having presumably given up on Miss Marple. As I was finishing my soup the service hatch snapped up and down and the girl re-appeared with what might have been neeps and tatties accompanied by a thin slice of moistened meat. Shortly afterwards the hatch repeated its trick and the girl substituted an individual sponge pudding soaking up a watery custard, and a cup of brown fluid. Silence descended.

Emerging from the dining room I groped my way to the back. The girl was standing in the doorway to the kitchen.

"You'll want some money" I suggested. "Two shillings and sixpence" she said. I gave her three shillings. "Keep the change." I said. She bobbed into the kitchen and emerged with sixpence. "No" I said "that's a tip," adding without irony, "for service." I thought she was going to cry and smiled. She ran into the kitchen bearing it over her head like a cup winner's medal.

It wasn't raining when I arrived in Edinburgh and, having checked in at the Caledonian hotel, enquired about trains to Leven the next morning, with the intention of watching scenery roll by (rather than driving into it). Reception was busy shovelling brochures at mainly American visitors who were hoping to see the Loch Ness monster and the changing of the guard on the same day. They were a bit deficient on guides to Scottish steelworks, but the lady scattering miniature soaps and shampoos around my room assured me that from Leven station I would be able to see and stroll to the foundry and that there was a 'pub' halfway.

I arrived at the station next morning early to allow myself time for a meal before business, but the pub turned out to be a bar. I propose not to dwell on negotiations which led eventually to the bartender's wife allowing me into her kitchen to demonstrate the ease with which a slice of cheese could be lodged between two slices of buttered bread and to persuade her that I would pay real money for the resultant delicacy. It helped to soak up the pint of 'heavy', the only other source of nutrition available.

Fifty years on you can probably get one deep fried followed by a similarly mistreated Mars bar, but I would like to be remembered as the pioneer of the concept.

*Gramps*

## St Mary's Church
## CLOSURE OF GRAVEYARD

We apologise that the graveyard will be 'closed' whilst repair work is carried out to the slabbed paths at the far end.

Work commenced on 7th March and will continue probably until the end of March during which time there will be no safe access to graves. We will inform you when the graveyard is open again.
Members of Parochial Church Council.

# AN UNEASY PARADISE - LIVING ON THE WATERWAYS



*Julia*

I moved onto the canal about five years ago. I'd been walking along the towpaths around here for many years before I got my boat, always thinking I would like to have one of my own one day and live on the water, and that window of opportunity came to me when my eldest child left home and my youngest was very keen to move onto the canal as well.

Living this way has simplified my life; I swim a lot in the river and live more naturally and harmoniously with nature. It makes me feel more in tune with everything and not be too separate and wrapped up in a human-dominating world where people believe they're superior to nature and that they can conquer it.

The longer I am here the more I feel a sense of belonging. The community here welcomed me, but like any community it has its ups and downs and its difficulties, it's not perfect any more than any other community or world. It's not idyllic. There's a lot of hard work, there's conflict as well as joys. I think that it reflects the truth about the state of the world and so maybe it is more honest.

This way of life has completely changed my mindset, which is perhaps the most important of all. The way I am about everything, my whole thinking, has completely altered. The moving is refreshing and stops the stagnation and now I feel I've got to a point of no return, I don't think I could live in a house-type dwelling again.

***Julia***

On the canal everyone comes together and everyone provides something different, we've all kind of stumbled across this and then we all add to it, we all participate. I think it's good that our community is colourful and distinctive; I think we should celebrate our diversity and how different our lifestyle is.



*Becky (and Salvador)*

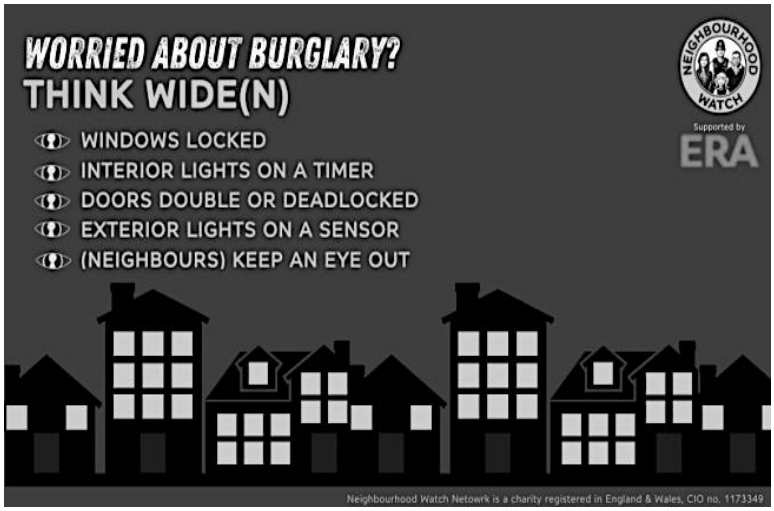
It's wonderful, the whole boating life. Here life is really simple. People aren't always rushing around. I feel secure. I know all of my neighbours and everyone is looking out for each other. I have this lovely community and I feel blessed I've made such good life choices. On the canal I'm never bored because I'm surrounded by beauty – I can look out my window and watch the ravens courting or the barn owl hunting. We make our own entertainment; we play music, we have fires, we forage, and it's all absolutely free. During lockdown I wanted for nothing. I didn't need to buy anything, or get anything, or change my life in any way. I've realised that everything that actually makes me truly happy are the things we've evolved with; sitting round a fire or having a swim in the river, being in a community, these make me feel satisfied in a way that money can't. I think we're very lucky, here on the canal, that so many of us feel satisfied with comparatively little.

***Becky***

***From the series - An Uneasy Paradise : Living on the Waterways***

***Instagram @anuneasyparadise***

***And the softcover book of the same name is available on Amazon or from sebastienandlouise.com***




**Our research shows two thirds (67%) of people are worried about their home being broken into, yet there are simple, proven measures we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of burglary by up to 50%. THINK WIDEN.**

**VAN BREAKS**

**Staffordshire Police have received numerous reports of vans being broken into over-night.**

**In several of the incident's entry has been gained to the vehicles by forcing the lock and power tools have been stolen.**

**Please ensure, if possible, any items of value are removed from vehicles and vehicles are parked in a well-lit area. If possible park your vehicle close to a building so access to the doors is restricted.**

**MOTORCYCLE THEFT**

**Staffordshire Police have received a report of the theft of two motor cycles from a shed in the garden of a property in Gnosall. Remember to secure outbuildings particularly overnight and report any suspicious activity to the police.**

**DOOR TO DOOR SALESMAN**

**Staffordshire police have been made aware of a male selling goods door to door in the local areas.**
**This male has been described as quite persistent and has caused some alarm to residents.**
**We advise that you do not buy good from anyone going door to door and exercise caution when answering the door.**

**GPS THEFT CHURCH EATON**

**During March a GPS system was stolen from a tractor in Church Eaton area.**
**Thefts of GPS systems is a major concern for farmers. The equipment can be costly to replace and can massively disrupt day to day farming operations.**
**The technology plays a vital role in modern farming and thefts of systems can take time to replace, causing delays during busy periods.**

**Crime prevention advice to help protect GPS systems from thieves:**

**- Activate PIN security on GPS kit with your own unique number if available.**
**- If your system is not PIN enabled, mark your postcode to deter thieves and trace your property back to you.**
**- Keep tractors and other machinery with GPS fitted stored out of sight when possible.**
**- Remove GPS kit when possible from tractors and other machinery and store it securely when not in use.**
**- Record serial numbers and photograph your kit.**
**- Check serial number of second-hand kit offered for sale.**

**Dawn Burney Neighbourhood Watch Community Co-ordinator**

## ANAGRAMS SOLUTIONS FROM MARCH 2022

1. **MOUSE**
2. **FALCON**
3. **ALLIGATOR**
4. **FLAMINGO**
5. **BARRACUDA**

## SOME OF THESE ANAGRAMS SEEM TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE BUT CAN YOU SOLVE THEM ANYWAY?

**CREATURES**

1. **RAPTOR (6)**
2. **NIP HOLD (7)**
3. **GREAT DRIP (9)**
4. **A MALL (5)**
5. **A PENCIL (7)**

**Answers in the next publication**

## Lucky Bonus Ball Numbers

| 26th Feb | 5th March | 12th March | 19th March |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 48 | 16 | 7 |




**Why not try your luck?**

**To join in the Bonus Ball Lottery, for £1 per week, contact Sally Kerr on 01952 691464 for details about setting up your standing order.**




***Do you have some news to share or just have something to say about the village? If you can contribute to the content of your Mobstead News Magazine in any way or would like to give us feedback (good or bad) or discuss any magazine issues then***

***Please contact:***
***Carol Winterbottom on 0195 691131***
***Email:***
***carolwinterbottom@btinternet.com***

***or***

***David Winterbottom on 01952 691131***
***Email:***
***davidwinterbottom413@btinternet.com***

# THE WORD IS UP!

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is UP. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v]. It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election (if there is a tie, it is a toss UP) and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is blocked UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost a quarter of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with (UP to) a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . My time is UP!

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**21st of April 2022**

**Time: 12.00 until 2.30pm**

**If you would like to join our friendly group for light refreshments and a chat**

**please ring Pat and Phil Lawley on 01952 691451**

**(Admission £3)**






## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

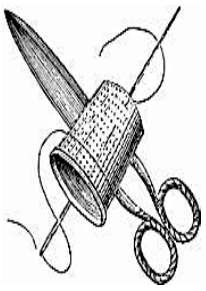
***The Moreton, Outwoods and Bromstead Women's Institute meet in the Moreton Millennium Community Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm.***

***All ladies of any age are welcome. We have interesting speakers and refreshments.***



## M.O.B. STITCHERS AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL

**14th and 21st April 2022**
**Thursday at 2pm till 4pm**
**at Moreton Millennium Hall**
**Everyone Welcome!!!**



**Charity Number 213890**

## Save The Children

**If you have any unwanted clothes or bric-a-brac etc. to donate we would willingly collect.**





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## Moreton Millennium Community Centre

The Fully Air-Conditioned Main Hall, Social Club Room and Lower Hall with Skittle Ally are available for Hire at reduced rates for residents of Moreton Outwoods & Bromstead. The Main Hall capacity is 100 and is available for Weddings, Birthday Parties etc: with a full catering Kitchen. The Lower Hall is available with or without the Skittle Alley with a capacity of 50, access by stairlift for wheelchair users 28 Car Parking places including 2 Blue Badge places. The Centre is fully licenced for Music and the sale and consumption of alcohol on the premises.

**Enquires 01952 691520 (Answer phone)**
**Email info@millenniumhall-moreton.co.uk**

## CARTWRIGHT AND HUDSON FOUNDATION ARE YOU GOING TO UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE? OR TRAINING AS AN APPRENTICE?

The Cartwright and Hudson Foundation is a local educational charity that helps young people who are undertaking any of the above and are residents of Gnosall, Moreton or Knightley.

We are able to provide financial assistance towards the purchase of books, equipment, instruments, tools etc.

For further information and an application form please contact

**Mrs D. Stiles – Clerk to the Trustees**
**Heather Lodge**
**6 Fair View Court**
**Wheaton Aston**
**Staffordshire ST19 9RB**

**(or drop into the Parish Office, High Street, Gnosall)**

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April. | 1662 | British King Charles II grants royal patronage to a group of scientists and academics founding the Royal Society of London |
| 4 April. | 1964 | The Beatles fill the first five places in the US singles chart with "Please Please Me", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "She Loves You", "Twist and Shout" and "Can't Buy Me Love". |
| 9 April. | 1806 | Birthday of English engineer and inventor Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Perhaps the greatest of the 19th-century engineers, he designed railways, bridges, tunnels, viaducts and ships. |
| 10 April. | 1633 | Bananas, never seen before in England, went on sale in a London shop. |
| 11 April. | 1689 | The joint coronation of William III, Prince of Orange and champion of Protestantism, and his wife Mary II took place in London. |
| 14 April. | 1983 | The first cordless telephone went on sale in Britain. |
| 17 April. | 1969 | The age at which a person is eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18. |
| 24 April. | 1858 | At the second attempt, the biggest bell in the world, Big Ben, is finally ready for hanging in the clock tower of Westminster Palace, London. |

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# Some Useful Telephone Numbers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DOCTORS** | Gnosall Group Practice (surgery) | | 01785 822220 |
| | (Dispensary) | | 01785 822166 |
| | Newport, Linden Hall | | 01952 820400 |
| | Newport, Wellington Road | | 01952 811677 |
| **SHROPDOC (Out of Hours)** | Check with your surgery if you can access this service or ring **111** | | 0333 222 6655 |
| **D.S.S.** | Telford Centre | | 01952 207400 |
| | Benefit Enquiry Line (for people with disabilities) | | 0800 882200 |
| **POLICE** | Emergency Calls (No Charge) | | 999 |
| | Non-Emergency Calls of a general nature ring - → | | 101 |
| | **(15p. charge regardless of length of call, mobile or landline)** | | |
| | For calls concerning local issues, **(15p. charge regardless of length of call, mobile or landline)** and ask for **Patrick Wright PCSO 16750, Gareth Higgins PCSO 26345, Emma Fry PCSO 23800** | | |
| **HOSPITALS** | The County Hospital, Stafford | | 01785 257731 |
| | South Staffs Healthcare | | 01785 257888 |
| | University Hospital of North Staffs, S.O.T. | | 01782 715444 |
| | Princess Royal, Telford | | 01952 641222 |
| **UTILITIES** | GPU Midlands Electricity | | 08457 353637 |
| | Power Loss Helpline | | 0800 9177953 |
| | Severn Trent Water | | 0800 7834444 |
| **MORETON ORGANISATIONS** | Women's Institute, President (Mrs A Griffiths) | | 01952 691477 |
| | Women's Institute, Secretary (Mrs C Winterbottom) | | 01952 691131 |
| | Women's Institute, Treasurer (Mrs J Pownall) | | 01952 825747 |
| | Neighbourhood Watch Community Co-Ordinator (Dawn) | | 07985113188 |
| | Karate (Mr Wayne Butler) | **Mobile** → | 07890 349451 |
| | Millennium Community Centre (MCC) | | 01952 691520 |
| | Millennium Community Centre (Webmaster) | (Mr D Winterbottom) | 01952 691131 |
| | Mobstead News Editor | (Mrs C Winterbottom) | 01952 691131 |
| | Mobstead News Magazine Contents/Graphics | (Mr D Winterbottom) | 01952 691131 |
| | Mobstead News Distribution Manager | (Mrs S Howlett) | 07970 422498 |

## MORETON MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chairman | Mr R Kerr | **Email: rogerkerr07@gmail.com** | 01952 691464 |
| Secretary | Mrs K Underhill | | 01952 691308 |
| Treasurer | Mrs S Kerr | | 01952 691464 |
| Social Club Chairman/Lottery | Mr C Turpin | | 01952 691606 |
| Social Club Secretary | Mr A Bennett | | 01952 691644 |
| Social Club Membership Secretary | Vacant | | |
| Social Club Treasurer | Mr R Surrage | | 01952 691365 |
| Booking Secretary | Helen O'Neill | **Email: helen4523@gmail.com** | 01952 691098 |

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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|---|---|---|
| Rector | Revd Alison Hudson, **rectorstaffsborder@gmail.com** | 01785 822820 |
| Chairman | Revd Alison Hudson, **rectorstaffsborder@gmail.com** | 01785 822820 |
| Secretary | Mrs Carol Winterbottom | 01952 691131 |
| Treasurer | Mr Trevor Davies | 01952 285157 |
| Deanery Synod Reps. | | |
| Gift Aid Secretary | Mrs Sandra Cummings | 07912146172 |

## COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Borough Councillors | Mr M Smith | **E-mail: rmsmith@staffordbc.gov.uk** | 01785 280648 |
| | Mr Patrick Farrington | **E-mail: pfarrington@stafford.gov.uk** | 01785 824162 |
| Gnosall Parish Council Clerk | Miss Jayne Cooper | **E-mail: clerk@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk** | 01785 822685 |
| Council Support Officer | Mr Stuart Ridgewell | **E-mail: cso@gnosallparishcouncil.org.uk** | 01785 822685 |
| Grosvenor Centre (parish) | | | 01785 822685 |
| **County Councillor** | Mark J Winnington | **E-mail: mark.winnington@staffordshire.gov.uk** | 01785 822224 |
| **PARISH COUNCIL** | Mrs J Tomkinson | | 01785 823473 |
| **MORETON WARD** | Mr Allan Mills | | 01785 824636 |
| | Mr Martin Holmes | | 07976 138073 |
| **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** | Sir Bill Cash MP | | 01785 811000 |

# MALTA - THE GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

As I had flown in and out of Malta on occasions in my RAF days, but never had time to look around the Islands, January seemed to be a good opportunity to visit.



*Map of Malta & Gozo*

As most realise, because of its strategic position in the Mediterranean where powerful maritime and air forces can control approaches to the eastern Mediterranean, Malta has proved to be an attractive prize ever since the first settlers arrived before 5,000 years BC. Some megalithic temples built circa 3200 BC survive today, the oldest free standing edifices in the world. From 800 BC to 1800 AD, Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Arabs, Goths, Romans, Turks, the French and the Spanish have all occupied Malta at various times inflicting pain and suffering on the indigenous people. Only the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, who were gifted the Islands by Charles V of Spain, lavished enormous wealth in the Islands by constructing magnificent churches and baroque structures. They also built up the defences making Valletta the most fortified city in Europe; this enabled them to repel the fleet of Suleiman the Magnificent during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565 and defeat the Ottoman forces. St Paul also had a huge influence on Malta when he spent three months in Malta after his shipwreck in AD 60 spreading Christianity throughout the Islands. After Napoleon took Malta in 1798, the Maltese rose up against French domination in 1800 and voted to come under British Protection; this was formalised by the Treaty of Paris making it a British Crown Colony. It became an important Royal Navy base but had little involvement in the WW1 apart from providing nursing care for thousands of wounded.



*St Paul's Anglican Cathedral and the Domed Carmelite Church*



*Golden Bay*

Between 1940 and 1943, Malta received the most severe aerial bombardment in history as Italian and German forces attacked shipping/airfields/harb our installations. The islands were effectively under a second "Great Siege" with supplies cut off leaving many starving. Thousands of houses were destroyed and over 1,500 Maltese civilians were killed. Twice the islands were close to surrender because of lack of supplies. In 1942, King George V1 awarded Malta the George Cross in recognition of the people's heroism. Thousands of British and allied sailors and airmen were also killed attacking Axis forces and defending the islands; war memorials in Valetta and elsewhere record the names of those killed. Self-government was granted in 1947 and. in 1964 Malta became an independent state leading to the withdrawal of British troops and administration in 1979. Some readers will remember the Malta Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff, driving Britain and the USA to distraction, but he certainly was successful in ensuring the country's independence.



*Sliema*

With a history like this, it is no wonder that the Maltese people are so stoic and they remain very friendly to the British and English is widely spoken. From our hotel in Qwara on the peninsular with Bugibba and St Paul's Bay, we used the cheap and reliable bus service to take us all around the islands. For those that have not visited, the "musts" are the very impressive capital city of Valetta and its harbours which have been rebuilt sympathetically after the extensive war damage. The main street "Republic" down to the fort of St Elmo is an absolute delight, passing many historic sites. The Grandmaster's Palace with its Armoury should not be missed and the interior of St John's Co-Cathedral must be one of the most spectacular places of worship in the world. The War Museum at the Fort is wonderfully presented and you can enjoy the spectacular views over the harbour. The harbour tour by boat and the ferry ride to the "Three Cities" (Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua) must be seen. Sliema and St Julian's (just north of Valetta are lovely and are great tourist centres. The walled city of Medina adjacent to the old capital of Rabat are both full of historical interest; the islands of Gozo and Comino are beautiful and very interesting and can be visited easily by ferry from Valetta, Sliema or Cirkewwa on the north tip of Malta. There are not many sandy beaches but Golden and Gnejna Bays on the west coast are lovely and the ports on the south coast are all very attractive. For those interested in ancient temples and underground caves, there are many to see around the islands; with 359 Christian churches on Malta and Gozo, we were amazed at the architecture, elaborate decoration and beautiful artwork in the ones that we visited. Although churchgoing has declined in Malta, attending Sunday Mass in St John's Cathedral, Valletta, the St Paul's Shipwreck Church on St Paul's Bay and in Malta's newest Church in Bugibba, dedicated to St Francis of Assisi, the Maltese are clearly much more faithful than we are in UK.



*St John's Cathedral, Valetta*

Brian and Caroline Lavender