

Rotary

CLUB OF HODDESDON
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Summer 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES
MOTTO 2021-22

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The purple crocus is now the widely recognised symbol of immunization against polio. The current situation is summarised for us here by PDG Meirion Morris BEM.

THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

Rotary's challenge now is to eradicate the wild poliovirus in the two countries where the disease has never been stopped: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Routine immunizations must also be strengthened in Africa to keep the virus from returning there. The polio partnership is working to rid the world of all strains of poliovirus, so that no child is affected by polio paralysis ever again.

To eradicate polio, multiple high-quality immunization campaigns must be carried out each year in polio-affected and high-risk countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to maintain populations' immunity against polio while also protecting health workers from the coronavirus and making sure they don't transmit it.

Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion towards polio eradication since it launched the PolioPlus programme in 1985, and it's committed to raising \$50 million each year for polio eradication activities. Because of a 2-to-1 matching agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, each year, \$150 million goes toward fulfilling Rotary's promise to the children of the world: "No child will ever again suffer the devastating effects of polio".



President Lawrence is laying a wreath at the Hoddesdon War Memorial in November 2020 on behalf of Hoddesdon Rotary Club, remembering all who while serving gave their lives in two world wars. Rotarians have traditionally served by selling poppies at the Morrisons supermarket, but this was not possible on account of the pandemic. John Hiscock, organiser of the rota and liaison with British Legion, will be seeking a full list of volunteers next November.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I write, we are taking further positive steps towards resuming normal life and the relaxations from lockdown will be very welcome. For the majority of Hoddesdon Rotarians we have not seen each other in person for more than twelve months, a significant time. 'Normal life' will be something different as we learn to live with the virus, and I am sure that this will be reflected equally in how we operate and resume our Rotarian duties, from events to meetings and gatherings.

With two months left of my presidential year, it has been a unique experience and whilst we haven't been able to meet in person it has been good to keep the Club in contact via Zoom, albeit that not all members have been able to join us.

I do look forward to assisting Mike Marsh as he takes over the reins in July, and furthermore to planning for my next and hopefully more active second term as President for 2022/23. My thanks to Mike for his support as Secretary in the last year, to Tony as Treasurer, and good wishes to you all for an enjoyable summer.

- Lawrence Bone

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JESSICA WINTERS - Rotary Global Scholar

On Monday 15th March 2021 we welcomed Jessica ("Jessi") Winters via Zoom telling us about her experience as a mature student at UCL. Jessi, from Corpus Christi, Texas, has 3 siblings, all currently living in Texas.

She studied accounting at a university near Austin, Texas and worked as an auditor for 2 years. Jessi explained her initial path in accountancy lost its appeal for her after a couple of years. Instead of remaining a number cruncher, Jessi saw the need for community economic development, went to Colombia for two years with the Peace Corps, becoming fluent in Spanish.

There were four headings to the activities pursued, mainly with young women for whom Jessi has particular concern and is keen to support.

Running an accountancy course, which she herself devised for those making a start in business, was a most satisfying item. Jessi also established contacts with artisans. She supported them in gaining more control and input into the weekly artisan fair where they sold their products.



This was the group of artisans during their anniversary event.



Local school work was also undertaken. The photo above shows a cheerful group of girls drawing a community map, in order to identify the community's assets which could be utilised in starting a business.

The group for which Jessi appeared to have the greatest fondness was Club GLOW (Girls Leading Our World), a female empowerment programme where young women learn about healthy living, friendship and build a community of support.



Club GLOW where a community member donated his time to teach boxing, so showing the importance of physical exercise.

Following her studies towards an MSc in Global Health and Development, Jessi was asked where she would settle and who would be her employer. Answering candidly, Jessi didn't know but the appeal of Latin America is very strong.

It is unfortunate that Jessi has been denied face-to-face lectures while the pandemic restrictions are in force, however it is hoped that some personal classes will be possible before the term ends. Meirion expressed our thanks and good wishes, hoping Jessi will be able to visit us in person at a later date.



The students who graduated from my ten-week accounting class.

Normal lunch meetings, at 1pm on Mondays, start by saying grace. Since lockdown has kept us at home we have an introduction instead and the following was prepared for Jessi's March 15th "visit".

Jessica, our Speaker, is studying in the City.
Covid stopped her trip to us - that really is a pity.
So we are meeting "virtually" (without us leaving home)
and pray that we, before too long, will all be free to roam.
The Rotary Foundation backs the Global Grant cost
with 100% match to ensure donations are not lost.
Thank God for Rotary leaders whose inspiring vision
enables youth with promise to join a Global mission! - Amen

ROMAN HOARD DISCOVERED IN HERTS

In 2013, recently retired, I was looking for some new interests. At the gym we had been talking with Ron about his metal detecting exploits and historic finds.

As seen on TV's *The Detectorists* with Toby Jones, this can be a relaxing and rewarding hobby but also cause for mirth and mockery from the uninitiated but we decided to form our own



club "The Terrantiqs" (Hoddesdon/Broxbourne Metal Detecting Club). Little did we know this would lead to some significant finds and the attention of the national press, along with that of newspapers across the globe.

Metal detecting has been practiced for many years but, with technical improvements, the hobby has grown over the last thirty years, some c20,000 enthusiasts now trekking across farmland at weekends. Equally the law has changed to ensure that the nation's historical treasures and artifacts are not whisked



away. The Treasure Act 1996 (with the Portable Antiquities Scheme) came into force to cover the question of ownership of items found. The appointment of the Coroner's Court ensures that the law is applied, and a 'Finds Liaison Officer' (FLO) is available in each county.

The hardest part of the hobby is persuading farmers to allow access to their land, and this involves much footwork and letters with follow-up calls. We had some leads and linked up with a number of farms in Hertfordshire and Essex, many weekends were spent, in all weathers, looking for items that had been buried for security. Long forgotten items, coins dropped when walking across a field, perhaps in the middle ages, there is much to be



found. In less secure times valuables would be buried particularly with an invading army approaching, but regularly the owner would not return to his treasure having perished or flown from the invaders.

From 2013 onwards we enjoyed our hobby learning much history along the way, and learning to recognise the hammered coins and periods that they came from, mostly ancient coins from the previous two thousand years, but also incredible items such as the Saxon strap end (see photo).

Crotal bells, silver coins and a few gold staters, are always an exciting find. The thrill of a knowing 'ping' from the metal detector and uncovering an item that has been buried for centuries is hard to beat, although at times the result will be a muddy gunshot cartridge or an old spoon!



In Spring 2017 we set out detecting on a large farm in North Herts, having gained permission to detect there. One particular field proved of interest but we had little time as the field was due to be ploughed and sown with seed. Tantalizingly, we started to

find a few Roman denarii all in one small area of the field (a denarius was worth a day's wages to a labourer in biblical times). We had to wait for three months, returning in August to re-start the search, but in the meantime we had carried out some research and discovered that there may have been a Roman military site there, close to the principal Roman settlements of Verulamium and on route to Colchester.



Not disappointed, we continued to find many rare denarii coins as well as some British Iron Age gold coins, all finds being plotted on a map of the field, as is our routine, showing a pattern for the 'scattered hoard'. Having told the land owner we declared the find to the FLO at Verulamium Museum and delivered the coins for onward transfer to the British Museum for assessment.

The process for assessing these finds is always lengthy; some two and a half years later we received a report confirming the hoard to be a mixture of Roman and British coins, the majority from the Augustus to Claudius reigns. The oldest coin was a denarius from 129BC. The Iron Age coins were identified as those seen in the North Thames area around 100AD and used alongside Roman coinage. The report stated the hoard was likely to have been deposited between the Roman invasion in 43AD and the Boudicca uprising in 61AD.

As a group, along with the farmer, we decided to donate the find to Hertford Museum rather than sell the coins at auction. This was seen as a generous action by the authorities as many finds are sold on to private collectors or bought by museums, but we wanted the hoard to be used for future educational purposes and shared with the local community for all time.

The Story of Rotarian **ROBERTO LORENZINI**

I was an only child, born in Siena, Tuscany, Italy. I enjoyed a very good childhood, went to school until 14 and at that time I wished to help my Mum and Dad with some income by finding a job.

First I was a bell boy in the Excelsior, a 5-star hotel in Siena, where I soon realised how the other half lives.

At 18 I began 3 winter seasons at the Bernerhof, in the Swiss ski resort of Gstaad and two summers in the Imperial, Montreaux. I learned enough French, but realised that to progress my career I would have to learn English.

Brook Street Bureau got me a green card and a job in Weston-Super-Mare. I had the best of times there for a couple of years, but when I heard: "In Nottingham, girls outnumber boys 3-to-1" - it occurred to me, as a young boy myself, that offered the best way to learn English; so I went there!

In the mid-1960s it was like a free for all in Nottingham, and there I met my wife, Barbara. As she was a Hoddesdon girl we came back south. I found a job at Ladbroke Casinos, which I lived to regret because after a few years they were shut down by the Gaming Board, who found them "not fit and proper people" to run a casino.

Then I met Peter Stringfellow who already had Clubs up north and wanted to open a club in London. I helped to open his club in Covent Garden as a manager. It was a great success from the start and I worked there from 1979 to 2003 when, by age 59, I was well burnt out. One day, out of the blue, Peter and I had a meeting and agreed, as we shook hands, to end my career at Stringfellows.

By now my English had improved. Well, that was the major reason for coming to the UK! I'm pleased I became a Rotarian in 2011 and a valued member of East Herts Golf Club since 1973.



NOT ANOTHER HAUNTED HOUSE!

It was, and still is, a beautiful moated, brick Tudor house. It was originally a Catholic house, hence the long straight drive so they could see the reformers coming, the moat with a narrow bridge and of course a priest hole and underground chapel.

I was asked to look after the restoration, so one gloomy November afternoon I and a team of three were on the second day of the survey. The house was empty and without electricity.

"I'm just going to have a walk round the outside, before the light goes, to look at some of the brick details" I said, adding, perhaps unwisely: "Watch out for the ghost!"

There was a rather long silence. "What ghost?" By this time I was wishing I had kept my mouth shut. "Well all these old houses have ghosts don't they? I expect it's a pale young woman in a long white dress, they usually are".

I went outside and carried on with my inspection eventually working my way back to the main entrance porch, where I found three ashen-faced and visibly shaken young men.

"Did you see it, did you see it, we saw it, it was there."

I asked what on earth they were on about.

"It was the ghost, the woman in the white dress, she was outside the window looking in and crying out".

Now I am pretty open minded and if I ever see a ghost then I will believe, but come on! "Now look, I have just been right round the outside and I saw nothing ephemeral or ghostly or even slightly spooky".

"But we saw it, we all did".

I could see they were very much on edge and clearly nervous so, as the light was fading fast, I called it a day and we climbed into the car to go back to the office.

We had been going for about ten minutes when a somewhat accusatory voice from the back said: "Lindsay, what is this white sheet doing on the floor of the car?"

"Er, I expect it's the dog's" I said. "Tell you what, we will

stop at the pub and I'll buy you a beer".

It took several beers before any of them would even speak to me!

Thanks to Lindsay Jones for this reminiscence and for his many yarns, often associated with his career as an architect, which have so often amused and entertained us.



VOLUNTEER EXPO ONLINE EVENT

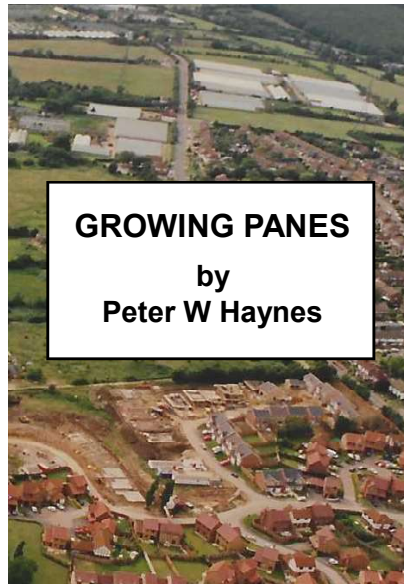
CHANGE LIVES. TAKE ACTION.

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May 2021

Rotary announces the **first** national volunteering show, celebrating the impact of volunteers, charities and social organisations. This is a ground-breaking public event for Rotary and the whole volunteer sector with speakers, workshops and virtual exhibition. Enrol free for "Volunteer Expo" now.



PETER HAYNES - LEA VALLEY DEVELOPMENTS



On 19th April (via Zoom) we heard from Peter Haynes about changes in the Lea Valley which he explains more fully in his new book ***Growing Panes..***

The book contains an array of maps and photos, several taken by Peter from the air.

Each decade after WW2 it seemed that Lea Valley growers faced increasing difficulties.

Some nurseries were very old fashioned structures, heated by coke boilers, their owners were unable, or unwilling, to pay for modernisation, meanwhile the

young generation chose to earn a living in a white collar job rather than enduring the physical labour which the nursery industry inevitably entails.

Peter attended Hornsey College of Art before starting work in his uncle Bert's nursery, where he discovered the discomfort of long hours and intense heat working under glass.

Uncle Bert also had a hand in an estate agency but, in spite of Peter's expressed ambition, he failed to become active in it. Instead it was the late Paul Wallace (former Rotarian whom some of us met on our Club visit to Guernsey) who opened the door for Peter into estate agency.

The "Hundred Acres" was then entirely devoted to glass-houses, like hundreds of other acres in the Lea Valley where homes have since been created.

Peter explains the reasons why growers were finding life difficult and why some allowed their premises to decay when owners were unable to modernise their inefficient boilers, or replace rotting frames and adopt modern growing techniques.

Meanwhile, wage rates had risen and jobs in offices were more congenial; new owners could not readily be found.

There were many nurseries where Demolition Sales were arranged, all equipment and material was listed in lots and an auction would be held at the nursery itself.

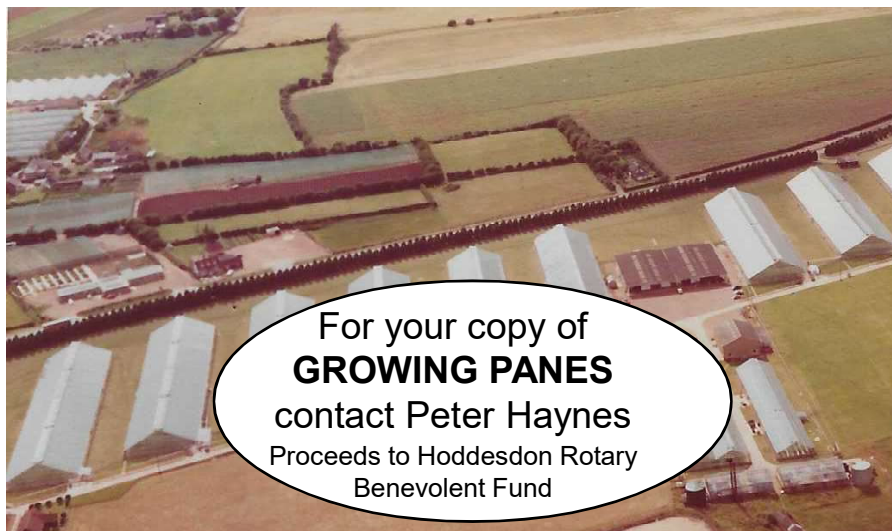
The demand for housing was encouraging house builders to develop all over the country, but especially in Hertfordshire as a convenient commuter county with easy access to London.

Peter lists the five main areas where Paul Wallace sold houses and the nurseries on whose land they were built.

Maps in colour demonstrate the use of land in each of the areas: Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Wormley, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, West Cheshunt and Hammond Street Road.

As well as local developments, Peter was given a lift by David Huggett in his light aircraft to visit the Isle of Wight where one of his photos in the book was taken. Arreton Nursery is a site of 45 acres with 7½ acres under glass, each metal-framed greenhouse some 30 feet to the eaves. That property was sold to become one of the first in this country to grow the miniature tomatoes which are now so popular.

Arreton Nursery, Newchurch, Isle of Wight



For your copy of
GROWING PANES
contact Peter Haynes
Proceeds to Hoddesdon Rotary
Benevolent Fund

EARTH HOUR, CARBON & THE PLANET

We CAN all contribute to reducing our personal carbon footprints and encourage others, businesses and Governments, to take seriously the 2050 net zero carbon target.

Greenpeace say: “Essentially ‘net zero’ means that by 2050, the amount of greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide) the UK adds to the atmosphere is no longer more than what they take out”.

Last December Boris Johnson set out a 10-Point Plan to reduce the UK’s emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is in line with the Paris Agreement (part of the global target of net zero by 2050).

WWF invites each of us to measure our own Carbon Footprints. The Hiscocks try to live sustainably; lockdown has changed certain habits but we do not use cars much and rail/bus even less. We separate and recycle as much as we can. We live in a 4 bedroom house but it has lots of eco benefits including solar panels and hot water roof panels, loft insulation etc. We do not spend excessively on consumables but have had long distance flights each of the last 5 years. If we had gone to our apartment in Portugal last year instead of NZ, our carbon footprint would be 89% not 153% of our impact target (to get UK to net zero).

The latest WWF initiative was “Earth Hour” urging us all to take action on 27th March. Earth Hour involved millions around the world switching off their lights to show they care about the future of our planet – our shared home.

When we make changes in our own lives, and share them with others, we also inspire the people around us to change – and we help grow a movement that businesses and governments can’t ignore. So, switch off all non-essential lights etc for one hour from 8.30 pm.

Earth Hour was the start of a decade for action to care about climate and nature. By 2030, nature and wildlife could be recovering all around us. We could have green jobs, cleaner air and a healthier future for the next generation.

- John Hiscock 12 March 2021

NON-NATIVE INVADERS & BEEKEEPING

Ted spoke to Club (8th March) on this subject, giving much detail, so this summary may prove to be a useful reminder.

Ivy mining bee - relatively new to UK, spotted in 2001 and can be seen in autumn when ivy, their main food source, flowers. The female is slightly larger than a honey bee with densely haired ginger thorax and broad orange/yellow striped abdomen. Males are similar but smaller and difficult to distinguish from other male plasterer bees, particularly the Sea Aster Bee (*Colletes halophilus*) and the Heather Bee (*Colletes succictus*).



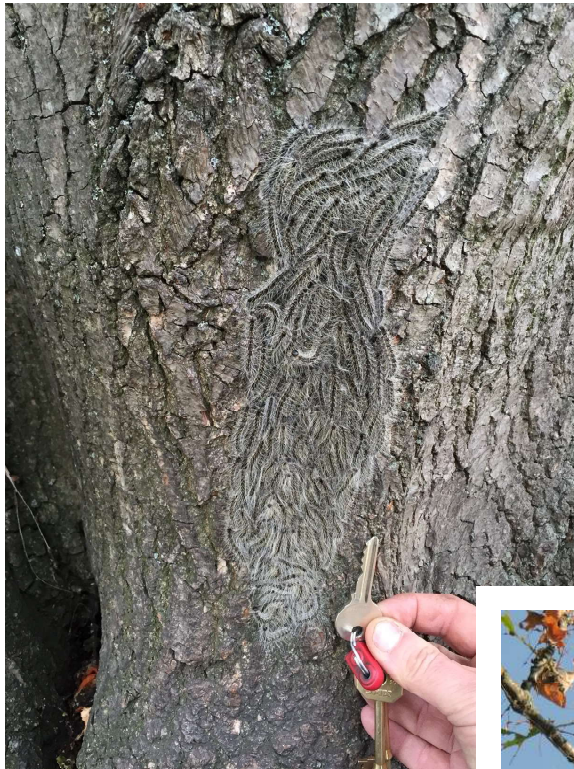
Oak Processionary Moth has been present in many European countries since 1995 and was first seen at Richmond, London, in 2006. Originating in Spain it spread north, exclusively attacking oak trees. Having no natural predator to prevent it spreading it has now reached Sweden. Once the larvae are established, trees are defoliated. Caterpillars of the OPM moth have tiny hairs which can be blown by the wind, causing irritation to human skin and, less often, sore throat, breathing and eye problems.



The outbreak has reached disturbing proportions and has broken out of the M25 in several areas despite serious attempts at eradication. Slowing down the spread is now the

official policy.

In spring 2020 I found an oak tree in my garden was affected and reported it to “Tree Alert” at the Forestry Commission; fortunately the Government pays experts to spray oak trees. One of the approved treatments is *Bacillus Thuringiensis*, which I use to control Wax Moth larvae in my honey bee frames.



OPM larvae en masse invading an oak tree.



The OPM larvae have a mass of hairs



The effect of OPM invasion on an afflicted oak tree.

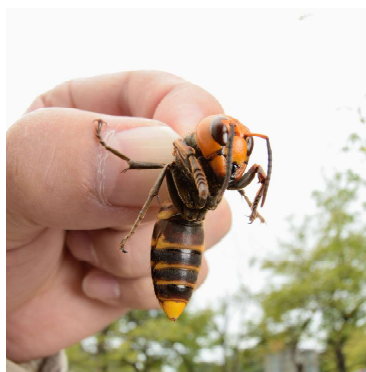


Spraying the oak tree is the only effective way of dealing with OPM larvae.

Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) could decimate our pollinators if it gets established here, as it is in France and Spain since its accidental introduction in 2004. Honey bees are a particular favourite of the Asian Hornet. Nests found in UK have been successfully destroyed in the last four years.

In France beekeepers estimate they have lost up to 80% of honey bee colonies in areas where Asian Hornets have become established.

- Ted Gradosielski BEM



There was a young man from Dundee
Who said "I've been stung by a wasp!"
When they asked: "Does it hurt?"
He replied: "No it doesn't,
but I'm damned glad it wasn't a hornet".

Wasp



Honey Bee

COMMENT FROM DAVID BRADBURN

Thank you for sending the Club magazine; always a good read. I was especially pleased to see the article about Santa delivering a tablet and special software to Iona-Surée and would like to thank Santa for doing so and the Club for facilitating the machine. It will be of great benefit to her both now and well into the future.

When Liz and I first met Iona-Surée she was in Kings College Hospital and would have fitted in the palm of my hand. She was wrapped in clingfilm as her skin had not developed. Iona-Surée lived in an incubator in a specialist care baby unit. She was born unbelievably early and thanks to the skill of doctors, the dedication of nurses and the constant love and care from her mother, she survived. Iona-Surée faces many challenges as she develops and copes with school and home life.

Her mum, Natasha, is totally dedicated to caring for Iona-Surée and does so brilliantly well. Professionally Liz supports children with complex disabilities and their families and she does so for Iona-Surée, but as a friend, and is in frequent touch with her. Getting Iona-Surée's schooling right, now and into the future, is an on-going quest and the gift to her of the tablet and software will help her get the most out of her schooling and help her to reach her full potential. Keep up the good work of Rotary!

HEARTS HELPING HERTS

It was refreshing for 25 of us to hear about the recently formed charity on 29th March when Amanda Moss, its founder and driving force, described what it does for local people.

In spite of being recently a victim of the pandemic, Amanda has been eager to resume full activity. The food distribution, in concert with the Foodbank, has been supported by individuals and organisations, enabling over 100 families to be helped. The remarkable growth since starting in 2019 is testimony to Amanda's enthusiasm and drive.

MARQUETRY by John Hiscock

Craftsman Stuart King, author of many marquetry books, believes that the earliest evidence of marquetry or inlay was probably a casket with ivory designs set in bitumen depicting royal and daily life in Mesopotamia (the cradle of civilisation) around 2600 BC.

Ulysses mentions it in Homer's Odyssey, as some of our older members will remember. Pliny the Elder refers to the quality of veneers such as maple, holly, palm, elder root and poplar in the context of furniture.

During the 17th and early 18th century Versailles furniture was commissioned by Louis XIV, that was the height of French marquetry excellence.

In UK the use of veneers was restrained until 1689 when William of Orange and his wife Marmalade Mary introduced a retinue of skilled marquetry artisans who produced excellent long carriage clocks and other furniture. Many examples exist to this day. For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the grain, texture and colours of wood and its veneers. Keith Theobald used to accuse me of being a tree-hugger; he was right.

There are three, very similar, basic decorative formats:

INLAY or **INTARSIA** - The solid surface of one material like wood (or even marble) is cut out to receive pieces of another material, forming a pattern or picture within the surface. Intarsia is thought to have originated in the Islamic world.

This wolf picture shows how shapes, sizes and species of wood can be inlaid onto a base, which could be wood, ivory or bone.

MARQUETRY tended to take the place of intarsia from around 1620 though I tended to do it from around 5.30 in the morning. Age and decrepitude has caused me to refrain for the last 5 years.



In Marquetry one creates pictures on top of the surface of a wooden carcass (a baseboard, box, table or an *objet d'art*) by selecting, cutting and fitting together pieces of wood veneer, rather like a jigsaw.

PARQUETRY is a form of marquetry in geometric shapes: tiles, trelliswork or basket-weave in furniture and (parquet) floors. Today there are professionals who make a living from producing marquetry in pictures, containers, panels, seats and decorative objects like pencil boxes.

Some practitioners produce very advanced marquetry, works of art, dozens offered for sale on line. A rather lovely Russian American lady with studios in Miami and NY named Alla Kosarevskaya is such an expert; would I had just a fraction of her talent; this floral design and the lady opposite are examples.

I have made many pictures over the years and distributed a few - including one to Fritz and Anki our Swedish Rotary Club friends.

I was a little obsessive at one stage, that phase is now behind me, but I found marquetry an absorbing,





The variety of designs in catalogues and on the internet, is almost without limit, inspiring budding marqueteers.



challenging, meticulous hobby that gave me great satisfaction when it worked out as intended. As a form of writing in wood it was good for my wellbeing and kept me from mischief around the house.

Not even my scalpel and razor sharp 10A blades drew unwanted legal attention and my razor-sharp wit was sheathed as I concentrated.

I hope I have conveyed some of the fascination.

WORDS WORTH QUOTING

"The best portion of a good man's life: his little, nameless unremembered acts of kindness and love."

- *William Wordsworth*



"I am so glad you are here. It helps me to realize how beautiful my world is."

- *Rainer Maria Rilke*

"To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation."

- *Life of Pi by Yann Martel*

"The only way out of the labyrinth of suffering is to forgive."

- *John Green, Looking for Alaska*

"This above all: To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

- *William Shakespeare, Hamlet*

"And so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past"

- *F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby*

"I'm not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."

- *Louisa May Alcott, Little Women*

"Sometimes, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." — *Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking-Glass*

"It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live."

- *J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."

- *Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms*

"Falling down is an accident; staying down is a choice."

"Stop being ashamed of how many times you've fallen and start being proud of how many times you've got up."

PP Dave Bondy sent this cutting from the Radio Society of GB magazine:

Happy 100th Birthday G2FUU

Tommy Knight, G2FUU celebrated his 100th birthday recently. He became interested in amateur radio when he left school because his friend was a radio amateur. Instead of waiting to be called up for WWII he decided to volunteer for the RAF and spent the war fitting radar into Spitfires.

After the war, he took his amateur radio licence and he has always been keen on overseas contacts. He has enjoyed regular skeds on Sunday mornings with radio amateurs in Australia, New Zealand and West Indies and occasionally he and his wife, Olive, met them in person for holidays.

Tommy is still very active on the air when he is able, especially as part of ROAR (Rotarians Over Amateur Radio) Net. Many happy returns, Tommy.

AN APPEAL FROM

For over 4 years we have campaigned to improve protection for victims of payment (APP) scams.

The logo for 'Which?' is displayed in white text on a red rectangular background.

However, even with all the progress we've made, in the first six months of 2020 over £200m was stolen by scammers. Millions of pounds continue to go straight into fraudsters' bank accounts.

The current system is failing people. Find out more about our campaign progress and how the regulator is letting down victims of scams. And please, do let us know if you've suffered this type of scam. Your story can help us build a stronger case for change.

AN OBITUARY FOR TODAY

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as churches became businesses; criminals received better treatment than victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on.

If not, join the majority and do nothing.



Cartoons borrowed from the
New Yorker

After his second dose of vaccine Fred began to have blurred vision. Arriving home he called the vaccination centre for advice, asking if he should see a doctor, or be hospitalized. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses!



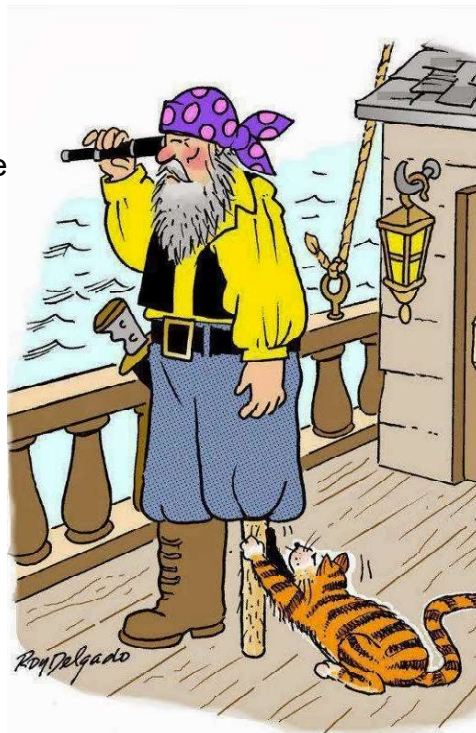
SMILING IS INFECTIOUS by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me
today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin;
when he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

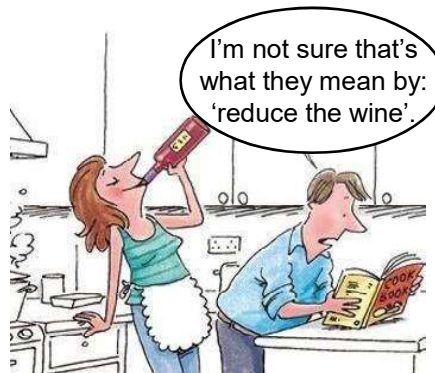
I thought about that smile,
then realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected.





Please don't get me wrong, I love working at the North Pole, but I just wish we could find at least one shop around here that sold non-pointed shoes!





First Ladybird asks:
“What’s the matter
with you today Fred?”
After a moment there
comes the distinctly
pathetic reply:
“I just don’t know for
sure, but I seem to
have lost all my spots”.

ONE-LINERS - some from U3A NEWSLETTERS

I’m starting to think I’ll never be old enough to know better.
Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.
I told my wife to embrace her mistakes - so she hugged me.
Martin didn’t like his beard at first, but it grew on him.
Name a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary: Thesaurus
My pet eagle has just won first prize in a talon contest.
Never let your education get in the way of your ignorance.
Which letter is silent in the word “Scent”? - The “S” or the “C”?
Why is the letter W called “double U”? - why not “double V”?
The word SWIMS upside down still spells SWIMS!
Why is there a “d” in fridge but not in refrigerator?
Ever wonder why the word funeral starts with “Fun”?
Why doesn’t lipstick do what it says?
If money doesn’t grow on trees why do banks have branches?
Why put cups in the dishwasher and dishes in the cupboard?
Why is it called “rush hour” when that’s when traffic is slowest?
Why do they call TV a “set” when there’s only one?
Robber in a lingerie shop gave police officers the slip.

A duck, a skunk and a deer went out for dinner;
when the time came to pay the skunk didn’t have cent,
the deer didn’t have a buck,
so they put it on the duck’s bill.

PUZZLES TO PONDER

We had an entertaining Quiz at the end of February when our Quiz Master, Meirion, trusted us to mark our own answers - which we then cheerfully kept to ourselves to avoid any embarrassment!



During lockdown, sales of jigsaws dramatically increased, Peter Haynes has done more than 120 so far. On the other hand, many hands were left with not enough to occupy their time! Among the most busy have been the health service people - they have had no opportunity for time-consuming puzzles.

If time is available, one learns that jigsaw puzzles can teach patience. This is particularly true if tackling a circular one; then the usual starting point does not apply.

Usually one hunts for edge pieces first, straight along each side. But with a round puzzle, or one with a yet more complicated outline, straight edges do not exist!

So, where does one start? The sorting of 500 or 1,000 pieces can begin by selecting those of similar colour. Then sections of the picture will gather in the same pile. Avid puzzlers may acquire sorting trays to make this easier, but pieces of card can serve a similar purpose.

Putting pieces into some kind of order is a useful start. But that's not the whole story. There are many shades of colour within each pile. It was Isaac Newton in the 17th century who chose to divide the rainbow into red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. The precise division and number of colours was arbitrary. Newton chose seven colours, but the pieces of each puzzle may conveniently be split in many other ways; with words showing, recognisable bits of people and things, sky or water.

The well known song: "When I needed a neighbour, were you there ...?" - perhaps comes to mind.

Thinking about puzzles can teach us a great deal.

- Peter Lardi

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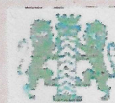
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