

Happy Birthday in February to:-



10th Doris Hubbard
14th John Hughes
21st Kate Goldsmith

Do you know someone you
would like to add to the list?
Contact Margaret on 250048

YOU JUST NEED TO HAVE FAITH

A couple of nuns who were nursing sisters had gone out to the country to attend to an outpatient. On the way back they were a few miles from home when they ran out of petrol. They were standing beside their car on the shoulder when another car approached.

Seeing ladies of the cloth in distress, the driver stopped to offer his help. The nuns explained they needed some petrol. The driver of the other car said he would gladly drain some from his tank, but he didn't have a bucket or can.

One of the nuns dug out a clean bedpan and asked the driver if he could use it. He said yes, and proceeded to drain some petrol into the pan. He waved goodbye to the nuns and left.

The nuns were carefully pouring the precious fluid into their petrol tank when the police patrol came by.

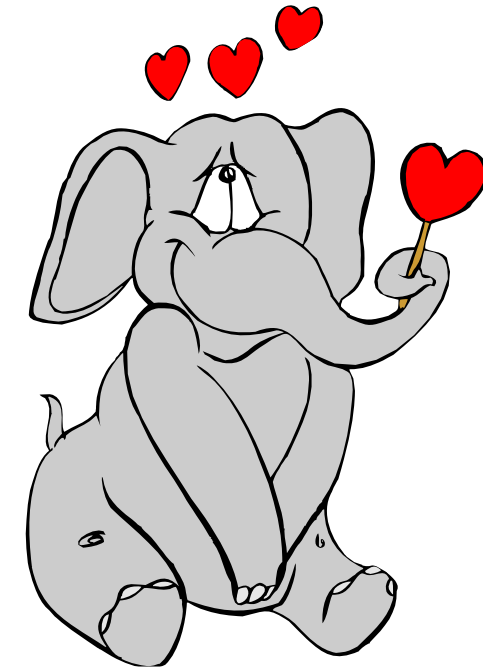
The policeman stopped and watched for a while, then he said:
"Sisters, I don't think it will work, but I sure do admire your faith!"



Please could you let me have letters or articles for the March edition of
The Newsletter by the 20th of February - Many thanks

Editor – John Beales, 20 Church Close, Hepworth. 01359 250048
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HEPWORTH SOCIAL CLUB NEWSLETTER



*Don't Forget
Valentines*

Issue
No 103

February
2006

This Newsletter is available on the Internet at
<http://www.johnbeales.co.uk/news.htm>

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ixworth Police Station - 01284 774235
Community Police Officer - Sheena Tate
e-mail sheena.tate@suffolk.pnn.police.uk



If you have something to report to me, and you have e-mail, please use e-mail, unless it is urgent, as it is easier, quicker and more accurate to turn into a formal report. Sheena.

Latest Credit Card Scam

Be prepared for the following credit card scam but please bear in mind that they have the number and your address

It works like this:-

A person calling says, "This is (his or her name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA (or any other credit card). My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card that was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £249.99 from a Marketing company based in (name of any town or city)?"

When you say "No" the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from £150 to £249, just under the £250 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says,

"I need to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you

Where Buzzards Fly

What time has past
Since this track was flat?
What forces did concur
To mould these awesome hills?
Was love there then
Or redress, or ravaging peace
And eternal change?

Was man a mere glint in
Nature's eye?

Yet we are here, and now
Can see the beauty.
We hear the roaring Dee,
Where rainbows appear and
Re-appear in their glory.
We roam the slate-tipped
Towns, sleep and eat there.

You stride off, little steps;
Off with a purpose. An
Aqueduct, a canal, chiselled
Out of the rock. Amid great
Forces of old. Forces that
Now sleep where buzzards fly.

Bernard Arthur Howlett ©

Answers to Crossword 103

Across: 1 Launched, 5 Braces, 10 Zebra, 11 Telephone, 12 Elevation, 13 Earth, 14 Plates, 15 Sleeper, 18 Deserts, 20 Gather, 22 Ashes, 24 Apartment, 25 Committed, 26 Voice, 27 Danish, 28 Passages.
Down: 1 Lazier, 2 Umbrellas, 3 Characteristics, 4 Entries, 6 Representatives, 7 Choir, 8 Shepherd, 9 Blends, 16 Preceding, 17 Advanced, 19 Starts, 20 Grandma, 21 Others, 23 Human.

"The House of 1000 Mirrors"

Long ago in a small, far away village, there was place known as the House of 1000 Mirrors. A small, happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When he arrived, he bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. He looked through the doorway with his ears lifted high and his tail wagging as fast as it could. To his great surprise, he found himself staring at 1000 other happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as his. He smiled a great smile, and was answered with 1000 great smiles just as warm and friendly. As he left the House, he thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often."

In this same village, another little dog, who was not quite as happy as the first one, decided to visit the house. He slowly climbed the stairs and hung his head low as he looked into the door. When he saw the 1000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him, he growled at them and was horrified to see 1000 little dogs growling back at him. As he left, he thought to himself, "That is a horrible place, and I will never go back there again."

All the faces in the world are mirrors. What kind of reflections do you see in the faces of the people you meet? What reflection do others see when they look at you?

-- Author Unknown

Lighting Answer

Simple really!

Enter the room and which ever bulb is on is connected to switch number 2, feel the remaining two bulbs and whichever bulb is hot is connected to switch number 1, and the remaining bulb is connected to switch number 3.

Switch on switch number 2.

Switch on switch number 1, wait a few minutes, then switch off.

to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card.

These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him.

After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?"

After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them.

Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card!

If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost to late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

Please pass this on to all your family and friends. By informing each other, we protect each other.'

PROVIDING INFORMATION ANONYMOUSLY

If you are hesitating about giving information because you do not want to be identified, then hold back no longer -
Call Crime Stoppers free on 0800 555111.
Your information IS important.

INFORMATION AND THE COMMUNITY

The past few months has seen a very satisfying increase in the amount of information being passed to the police from members of Neighbourhood Watch and the general public. This direct information is of great value as it enables the police to target offenders quickly and accurately. Do not think you have to present a watertight case, you simply have to tell the police what you suspect or know – leave the tying up and cross referencing of details to them, that's their job and they do it very well.

Obviously the freshest information is the best, if offenders are active in the area or are still likely to be travelling, you should always dial 999 to make your report. Whilst you may prefer to make a report to someone you know, such as your CPO by calling 01284 774100 and leaving a message on their Voice Mail Box, this may not be the best way to pass on information as they will not get the message until they are next back on duty, and that could be several days.

Unless suspect individuals are known to you, perhaps the most useful information you can note for the police are accurate car registration numbers. Modern technology enables the police to trace all the details about a car and its registered owner within the matter of a few seconds of knowing its registration number. Descriptions of vehicles and individuals are, of course an added bonus, but getting the correct registration number is the top prize. Even parts of a number are useful, especially if they are combined with other details such as colour, make, model and any blemishes or unusual features.

The public made a significant contribution last year to the prevention and detection of crime in this sector, so let us go forward into this New Year with the resolution to do even better at passing on timely and accurate information to the police. You have helped make this corner of our county a better place in which to live. It can get even better, but only if we, as a community, all keep alert and report our suspicions as soon as they are roused.

**IF WHAT YOU KNOW MIGHT SOLVE A CRIME . .
THEN REPORT IT NOW ! CALL**

The Police on 01284 774100 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111

register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?)

7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

*****A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER*****

10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT

Yes, it's that magical time of the year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed to our friends across 'The Pond', honouring the least evolved among us. Here then, are the Glorious winners:

1. When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.....

And now, the honourable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine and, after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, he man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the

PETER'S PANEL

In the first week of this year I read the following. "An expensive set of car tools left under a car, between 1 and 1.30pm, were stolen." "Between 3.15 and 7.45pm a lady's jacket and a child's crash helmet were stolen from a garden." "Between 6.10 and 6.30pm shopping was taken from the unlocked boot of a car parked on the street." "A man's unsecured bicycle, which had been left on the street, was stolen between 6.10 and 6.30pm." And so it goes on. The good thing is that although these all happened in Western area, none was in Bury Rural. Can it be that we have learnt or have we just been lucky? I suspect it is the latter, in which case we must take heed of what is happening "just over the hill."

The message is clear. The light fingered brigade is already out on the prowl, looking for items that are not being watched. It only takes seconds for one of these opportunist thieves to nip into a garden and nick whatever takes their fancy, if we leave some item they desire unguarded. They just cannot resist the temptation – so don't give them the opportunity!

Post Script. Clearly I was tempting fate by writing this on the 17th of January, as the next day PC Ruth Horton was investigating six reports of items being taken from unlocked cars in Rougham!

PARKING AT COUNTRY PARKS

With the possible approach of more clement weather there are likely to be more of you taking the opportunity to exercise yourselves and your dogs in these delightful surroundings. Don't let the euphoria of spring cloud your minds to the activities of the less benign members of our community. Police do patrol these areas regularly, but remember there are still likely to be miscreants out there waiting and watching for a nice soft target. They have already struck at Knettishall Heath this year.

Please do not leave attractive items on view in your cars. Even a grubby old gardening jacket is attractive to the thief because it might contain a wallet or credit cards and its display on the seat of a car might cost you a broken car window. Even better do not take any valuables with you at all – after all do you really need a handbag containing cash and credit cards to exercise yourself or your dog ?

SUFFOLK SAFEKey – THE KEY TO YOUR PEACE OF MIND

Knowing police are able to contact the right people in case of emergency

Suffolk Constabulary is committed to keeping your property safe from crime. However, if an emergency does occur it is important that the police can gain access to your property and deal with the situation immediately, to limit any damage or the cost of repair to you.

This will replace the existing keyholder service which has now become out-dated.

By joining Suffolk SAFEKey you will enable police officers to contact your keyholders in the event of an emergency at your property

The service is essentially a database containing detailed information, supplied by you, about your home and keyholders. A keyholder is someone you trust, such as a friend or family member, who lives nearby to you and has access to your property in your absence.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- peace of mind while you are away
- helps the police avoid any delay in gaining access to your property as time saved could prove vital in securing an outcome to enquiries
- if you were unable to speak or open your door whilst still in the premises due to accident or injury, keyholders can be contacted quickly
- ensures your details are never out of date as you are in control of amendments

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- For just £11.75 (incl. of VAT) per year you will gain peace of mind

HOW DO YOU JOIN? EASY and SIMPLE as 123

1. Complete a REGISTRATION FORM and post off
2. REGISTER ONLINE at www.suffolk.safekey.org.uk
3. CALL the SAFEKey HOTLINE on 0870 145 4440

jumped on her lap and gave her my best sad look and purred loudly at her. 'It's OK puss, your dinner should now be cooked, I hadn't forgotten you' said my mum and with that she went into the kitchen and dished up our Christmas grub. 'I don't know, one just can't get the slaves, these days' I thought. We all tucked into our smoked salmon, followed by turkey for lunch. After lunch, we cats went gallivanting for a while, to work off the calories, especially mine, as I am not exactly 'twiggy', but don't be deceived by the somewhat 'rounded' exterior, underneath, it's all 'muscle'.

In the evening we were all having an evening meal of more turkey and watching TV. There was a special programme of 'Top of the Pops' on. Among the Christmas songs, there was a group called 'Slave', with a track called Merry Christmouse Everybody'. Also, there was a guy called 'Lizard' who sung 'I wish it could be Catmass everyday'. (I've never seen a cat with scales before, must be a new exotic hybrid). Finally it was time to hit the sack.

My mum may not be the perfect slave but she loves me and my furry relatives very much. We are a very close family. My relatives crashed out on the furry throw on the sofa and I snuggled next to my mum on her bed where I belong.



All in all, it was the purrfect Catmass!

Chivers and friends.

(Thanks Chivers – good to see you can use a computer too!! I haven't heard from any 'Canine' friends yet but I look forward to this as we can't be outdone by the 'Felines' can we?)

Happy New Year or in dogspeak Yappy New Year. Look out for next months column. If any of my fans would like to email me my address is Pip@margaretellis.co.uk I would be very happy to publish it.

Love Pip

PS

Q: What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive cat?

A: A dog



PIP'S PAGE

Hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, me and the girls certainly did. Our owners did too - what with all the dog treats and rabbit treats WE bought for THEM. Last month I said I would tell you more about my job but - great excitement - I've had a reply to my appeal for others to write to me and I have great pleasure in publishing his letter. I would like to personally like to thank him for telling us about his 'Catmass', I bet a lot of you will feel envious of his Catmass dinner!!

Hi Pet Pals,

My name is 'Chivers', a highly intelligent cat who lives in Hepworth. I live with my mum and two furry companions who are my sister and another mum. Confused? I am of course 'Top-cat', being the only male in the household. Do I sense an argument brewing here? Thought I'd better tell you about my 'Catmass'.

T'was the day of Christmas and not a sound in the house. Nothing stirred, not even a mouse (unfortunately). Well, apart from a clockwork one which my mum bought me for one of my presents. How dare she insult my intelligence by offering me such a thing! Of course I obliged by pretending to play with it to amuse her. We super bright cats have to humour our humans. We all exchanged our presents, although there was a quite a loud discrepancy among me and my furry housemates over who had which presents. I wondered why my human mum had put her headphones on??

How was she going to hear me calling for my breakfast? I meowed my heart out, trying to arouse her attention, but she seemed to be involved in setting up her DVD player which we had bought her. I tried clanging the brass table with my paws, annoying my feline companions, spraying on the curtains, but nothing. I even stamped on the Christmas pud (which my Mum had just cooked), flattening it in the process. They don't call me the Mighty Marmalade for nothing, hee hee.

Finally I saw her going into the kitchen. 'At last' I thought, as I heard a tin being opened. It was a tin of peanuts. 'Right - this means war!' I thought. My mum was watching a film called 'The Aristocats'. - Hadn't she thought of me as an aristocat too? I ran up to her,

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

I am appealing for witnesses to the three related incidents of arson to cars that took place in the early hours Sunday the 22nd of January in Barningham and Hopton.

In particular we would like to hear more about a dark coloured car that has been associated with these crimes.
Sheena Tate

Barningham. Over a period of four months a vehicle parked on Sandy Lane was damaged frequently.
At 4.30am 22 Jan a vehicle parked on Sandy Lane was set on fire.

Hopton. Between 3 and 4.45am a vehicle in a pub car park on the High Street was set on fire.

Knettishall. Between 2 and 3pm 28 Jan a window of a car left in the Country Park car park was smashed.

Market Weston. Overnight 4/5 Jan a maroon horsebox V 301 SWL was stolen from a field off The Street after the lock on the gate was cropped.

Stanton. At about 6.50pm on 8 Jan two men, in a black saloon car, accosted an elderly lady in Duke St. She hit one of them with a walking stick after which they drove away.
Overnight 27/28 Jan the contents of a handbag left in a kitchen on Bury Lane disappeared.
At 1.34pm 27 Jan a disqualified driver was caught driving a vehicle along the A143.

MORE SPEED CHECKS ON THE WAY

Promise you, this is not a New Year resolution! It is simply because there has been an increase in the number of complaints made to the police about vehicles being driven at excessive speeds through our villages and on country roads. For this reason the police will be stepping up the number of speed checks in the villages and on rural roads in the coming days.



Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe



Do you recognise this person?

His picture was found in the loft in a house in The Street.
If you recognise him let me know - John 01359 250048



PAPER OFFER



Plain A4 paper (as used in this Newsletter)
80gsm. Suitable for laser, inkjet and handwriting
£1.50 per ream (500 sheets)

☎ 01359 250048

A Panorama special later shows the now fat grasshopper finishing up the last of the ant's food, though Spring is still months away, while the council house he is in, which just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around him because he hasn't bothered to maintain it.

Inadequate government funding is blamed, Trevor Phillips is appointed to head a commission of enquiry that will cost £10,000,000.

The grasshopper is soon dead of a drug overdose, the Daily Mirror blames it on the obvious failure of government to address the root causes of despair arising from social inequity.

The abandoned house is taken over by a gang of immigrant spiders, praised by the government for enriching Britain's multicultural diversity, who promptly set up a marijuana plantation and terrorise the community.

Seems a bit familiar?



A LIGHTING PUZZLE

A windowless room contains three identical light fixtures, each containing an identical light bulb.

Each light is connected to one of three switches outside of the room.

Each bulb is switched off at present.

You are outside the room, and the door is closed. You have one , and only one, opportunity to flip any of the external switches. After this, you can go into the room and look at the lights, but you may not touch the switches again.

How can you tell which switch goes to which light?

Answer on page 22

DIFFERENT VERSIONS!

THE CLASSIC VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool, and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The shivering grasshopper has no food or shelter, so he dies out in the cold.

THE BRITISH VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool, and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others less fortunate, like him, are cold and starving.

The BBC shows up to provide live coverage of the shivering grasshopper; with cuts to a video of the ant in his comfortable warm home with a table laden with food. Britons are stunned that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so while others have plenty.

The Labour Party, Greenpeace and The Grasshopper Council of GB demonstrate in front of the ant's house. The BBC, interrupting a Jamaican cultural festival special from Notting Hill with breaking news, broadcasts them singing, "We Shall Overcome"

Ken Livingstone rants in an interview with Trevor McDonald that the ant has gotten rich off the backs of grasshoppers, and calls for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share".

In response to polls, the Labour Government drafts the Economic Equity and Grasshopper Anti Discrimination Act, retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant's taxes are reassessed, and he is also fined for failing to hire grasshoppers as helpers. Without enough money to pay both the fine and his newly imposed retroactive taxes, the government repossesses his home.

The ant moves to Spain, and starts a successful wine-exporting company.

The Seven Wonders Of The World

A group of Students were asked to list what they thought were the 'Seven Wonders Of The World' Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes.

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal
3. The Grand Canyon
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St Peter's Basilica
7. The Great Wall Of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet, so she asked the little girl if she was having trouble with her list. The little girl replied "Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there are so many."

The teacher said, "Well tell us what you have and maybe we can help".

The girl hesitated and then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. And to Love"

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! The most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Sent in by Doris & Vic, Church Close

CAN YOU NAME THE 'ORIGINAL' SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD - Answers on page 14

One Fine Saturday Morning.

The mudguard on Paul's bike rattled as he rode through a pothole in the road.

"Bout time you fixed that Pauly," remarked his Father as they pedalled up the hill out of Hepworth.

Paul's cerebral self was not riding a bicycle -- it was guiding home a coughing, spluttering, badly shot-up Stirling from a dangerous mission over Germany.

"Yeah," he gasped as his Father's voice intruded into his private world, unable to add that he had tried many times unsuccessfully. Riding a much smaller machine than his Pa's and without the luxury of "three-speed" gearing meant that his young legs had to work twice as hard just to keep up.

Seconds later they crossed the A143, rode through Rams Lane and out onto the airfield called Shepherd's Grove. Once within the airfield boundaries the dream became reality, the excitement ramped up to full pitch. Here was a shrine of adventure where few boys were permitted access. A place populated by charismatic young men dressed in smart uniforms. An historic place of daring and valorous deeds. Somehow just being there made him part of that desirable estate. No longer wishing to be a child he wanted to soak up and experience all of the atmosphere, to walk with men and comprehensively learn about the glorious military life so fortuitously located on his doorstep.

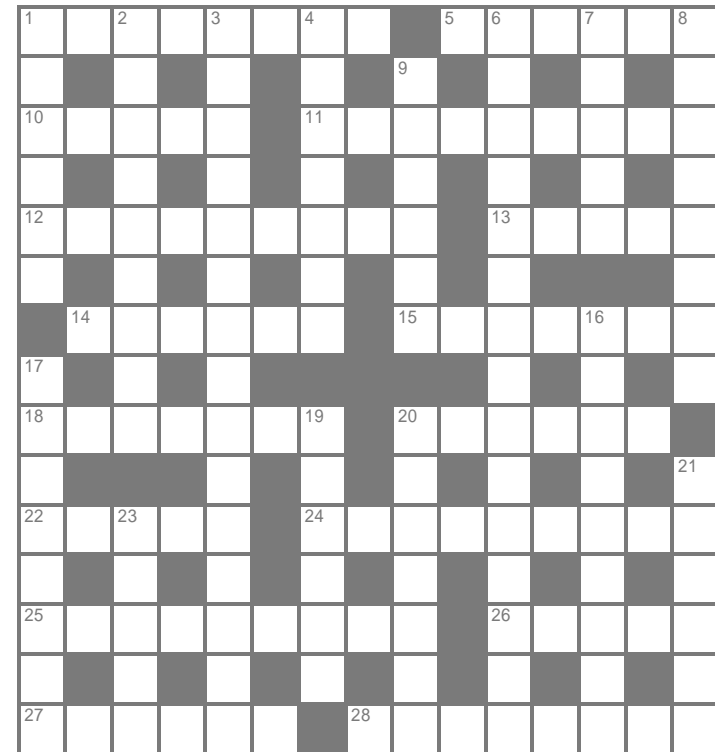
The Grove was no longer a place Where Sheep May Safely Graze, large areas of it were now concreted over to accommodate the aircraft of the United States of America's Air Force. Even the busy A143 was halted several times a day when the Super Sabre jets had been in residence. Cycling round the perimeter track behind Montrose Farm they passed a dispersal point full of unguarded piston-engined aircraft,-- all transport `planes, - - not one war-bird amongst them!

"They're not even guarding these." complained Paul. "There's nothing to stop us nicking one and just taking off into the blue if we wanted to."

"They're not that daft, there's no fuel in them," said Mr Laurie, "besides, somebody is sure to be watching us."

A couple of hundred yards further along towards Uphorp they

Crossword 103



Across

- 1 Set off a rocket (8)
- 5 Holds up your trousers (6)
- 10 A striped horse (5)
- 11 Dog and bone (9)
- 12 A promotion (9)
- 13 One of the planets (5)
- 14 What we eat from (6)
- 15 A tired spy (7)
- 18 Abandons (7)
- 20 Collect (6)
- 22 Remains of a fire (5)
- 24 Another name for a flat (9)
- 25 Steadfast (9)
- 26 Larynx (5)
- 27 Neighbours of Sweden (6)

Down

- 1 More Idle (6)
- 2 Covers from rain (9)
- 3 Traits (15)
- 4 Openings (7)
- 6 Agents (15)
- 7 Harmonious voices (5)
- 8 Carer for sheep (8)
- 9 Mixers together (6)
- 16 Going before (9)
- 17 Went forward (8)
- 19 Begins (6)
- 20 Female relative (7)
- 21 More of the same (6)

Answers on page 23

Seven Wonders of the World

Probably the best known list is:

1. The Pyramids of Giza (the oldest of the wonders and the only one substantially in existence today).
2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon (a series of landscaped rooftop terraces on a ziggurat, ascribed to either Nebuchadnezzar II or the semi legendary Queen Sammu-ramat).
3. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia (a large gold-and-ivory figure of the god on his throne by Phidias).
4. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus (a temple, built in 356 BC, famous for its imposing size and the works of art that adorned it).
5. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. Mausolas's widow erected (c. 350 BC) a great tomb (the Mausoleum) in his memory (he was Satrap or governor of Caria in South Asia Minor now modern Turkey) . Its remains are now in the British Museum.
6. The Colossus of Rhodes. The work of Chares of Lindos, the statue commemorated the raising of Demetrios Poliorcetes' long siege of Rhodes (305–304 BC). It was toppled by an earthquake c. 225 BC. The fallen Colossus was left in place until AD 653, when raiding Arabs broke up its remains and sold the bronze for scrap.
7. The Pharos of Alexandria (a lighthouse built c. 280 BC on the island of Pharos off Alexandria, said to have been more than 350 ft, or 110 m, high).

These wonders inspired the compilation of many other lists of seven attractions, or "wonders," by later generations.

Information from Encyclopaedia Britannica

passed by a big black hangar containing even more aircraft. Nearby was a building with a garish mural of an open jawed snake. Underneath was written the legend --BUSHMASTERS--- the logo of the 78th Fighter Bomber Squadron of the USAAF. A little further along was the Air Ministry compound, where many local civilian men were employed. Today being a Saturday very few of either them or American personnel were present

The first thing Ray Laurie did was to make a brew of hot, strong, unbelievably sweet tea , which everybody but Paul seemed to enjoy. Next they took a cup to the Clerk of Works, the man in charge. Paul entered his office with mixed feelings, for although there were interesting photographs of planes, pilots and aircrews of earlier years dotted about the room, there were also embarrassing pictures of scantily clad ladies. The sort of pictures that being found in possession of at school would warrant at least a thousand lines! Somehow the room was sullied by their sleazy, challenging demeanour.

Paul's favourite picture was an aerial view of the airfield, absolutely jam-packed with tow-planes and gliders, every bit of open space except for the runways occupied by an aircraft. That particular morning Paul went over and started counting them, just reaching ninety, when Jack the Clerk-of-Works interrupted his thoughts. "That photo was taken just before the Rhine Crossing, ---poor buggers!" he remarked. "Whole operation was a bloody fiasco right from the start! Some of the poor sod's never even got there you know, the rest were shot down like flies when they did!" Paul was puzzled by his attitude, how could the man say a thing like that? He just couldn't believe it. He didn't want to believe it. It couldn't be true. Mr Churchill and his Generals would never have let their men down like that! He felt hot stinging tears forming in his eyes as he looked at the record of the doomed invasion force. The thought occurred to him that Shepherd's Grove was probably the last piece of England that the many dead stood on. Dad's hand came down comfortingly on his shoulder. "There are terrible mistakes made fighting wars boy," he said , " best thing we can do is to try to keep out of them."

Paul swallowed hard and resolved not to blub, listening half-

interestedly to the adults as the conversation moved on to more humorous issues, recalling the schoolboy scrapes some light-fingered characters had got themselves into in the post-war period -- pinching things off the Americans, which by all accounts was regarded as a Robin Hood or William Tell-type enterprise.

"After all," said Jack, "times were hard."

Then came a story about a local lay-preacher whom he knew which made him prick up his ears. Apparently he had been caught by a snap Military Police inspection sometime in the past, trying to smuggle some cigarettes (for U.S. forces consumption only) off the "camp" when he finished work.

"Poor old boy," said Mr Laurie, "he was ever so upset! I bet someone slipped them into his bag when the cop's turned up."

"Probably", agreed Jack, "but you can never be sure can you?"

It was then that Paul realised these men felt no pride about working here. The "droom" was merely a convenient place for local men to work and the opulence of the Americans both tempted and corrupted them. Finishing their tea the adults decided to go through the motions of working for H.M. Government and went their separate ways.

The highlight of a morning at the "droom" occurred around ten o'clock when the milkman called. He sold the most mouth wateringly delicious cheese-flavoured crisps that a boy could ever wish to taste, but which regrettably could not be bought elsewhere. A packet of these was the reward for Paul's help. Came the expected hour he could wait no longer and went in search of the milk float. As he walked round the front of the building a slab of invective delivered in the Yankee drawl of the deep south hit him as though he had just walked into a brick wall.

"Don't tell ME ya ----- cayn't boy. Ya ----- ain't even tryin!"

Paul shot back behind the building as the torrent of abuse continued, then crept back to see what was going on. Peering round the corner he saw further along the road two coloured Privates trying to lift an enormous wooden crate onto the buck of a pickup truck, all the while being harangued by a white Sergeant, alternately puffing on a large cigar between obscenities.

It was ridiculous, Paul could see it was far too heavy for two men to lift on their own.

"Sarge it's just too heavy, we can't move it," reiterated one of the men, noticing Paul as he straightened up. This only sparked off

another insulting tirade. Paul hated the Sergeant intensely. He hated himself for feeling so inadequate and helpless but knew that he must do something. That Sergeant needed a good sorting out --- and he knew just the man to do it. Paul's Dad took no truck from anyone!

"I know how you feel Pauly! The poor old darkies do have it hard, but there is nothing that I can do about it."

"But Dad!"

"I'm sorry Pauly, I can't go interfering with the military,---it's more than my jobs worth. Besides, you're not even supposed to be here!" The sound of rattling milk bottles came from nearby.

A few minutes later as Paul returned to the front of the building nibbling a crisp, the pick-up he had seen earlier cruised past. The Sergeant was driving and sat alone in the cab, the two Privates perched on the crate in the back, facing in his direction. He raised his hand to wave but stopped immediately. Their blank, unfriendly gaze struck him rigid. They made no attempt to acknowledge him--- as though he was of no account ---as though he didn't exist.

Suddenly he just didn't feel hungry anymore,---- in fact he couldn't wait to go home.

Russell N Kemp © 10.1.2006

