



The Olive Branch

Reaching out to everyone

October 2021
Issue 9/2021

Our Emerging Wetland

Wetland Working Committee



After the Board authorised the clearing of the former dam area, Murray van Zyl, our contractor, has removed a huge number of smaller alien trees and cleared vegetation that does not belong in a wetland. There were several alien species growing in the area which are listed as Category 1b invasives under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004. All Category 1b species need to be removed and controlled as they can potentially attract a hefty fine. Bugweed, one of the five most invasive Category 1b species was previously cleared from the area with the help of volunteers. Three more Category 1b invasives are currently being cleared or poisoned, namely small leaf spiderwort (a relative of the wandering jew plant), pampas grass and the yellow iris. The weavers have already started to build nests, so the reeds will be tackled at a later stage.

Repairing the weir during the rainy season is too risky as a storm can cause

flooding and undo all the work in progress. The clearing of the undergrowth has opened the interior of the wetland. The willow trees, though also alien invaders, will initially be left in place to provide shade and to prevent the area becoming a parched wasteland until the weir allows submerging of the area and for new wetland vegetation to be planted. In the meantime, many days of chipping branches has provided a good layer of mulch to protect the soil and which will eventually turn into compost.

Developing a wetland is a long-term project and we need to be patient to allow nature, and the water, to guide us in this regard. However, it is exciting to finally be able to see the cleared area that will one day become our wetland. Do have a look when you next walk along the northern fence. □



MEET OUR NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER

A very warm Welcome to Chris Heyneke, our Village's new Operational Manager who took over from Jacques De La Rey on 1 September 2021.

Chris was born in Roodepoort and educated at Hoërskool Bastion. He is the holder of an IT Engineering Diploma.

Chris is married to Clarice and they have four sons.

Chris's working experience spans more than 15 years in Property Management and Maintenance.

He joined the staff of Trafalgar some five years ago, originally in the capacity

of Commercial/Residential Maintenance Manager. He held the portfolio of Estate Manager prior to joining us at ORV.

Chris's sporting activities in the past included cricket and rugby; during his younger years he was a member of the Northern Natal under 21 Rugby Team.

Chris's hobbies are motor sport and computers. He views himself as a problem-solver and a people-helper. □



In this issue

Frank Peachey writes about his 10 top favourite Western movies.

Margorie Hutchison continues with her reminiscences in Matters Musical.

James Halley ponders about William McGonagall, The World's Worst Poet.

The Editor's Desk



Dear Villagers,
In October 2019, I took over the editorship of the Olive branch newsletter, 24 editions later I am still here, busily typing away! I offer my thanks and appreciation for your support and contributions to the Village News and Views over the past 2 years.

A quote by producer and film-studio executive David Geffen caught my attention: "I have no talent except for being able to enjoy and recognize it in others." It resonated with me because it describes, in a way, my role as editor. I've surrounded myself with exceptionally talented people. I am in awe of their writing skills and dedication to their craft. Well Spring is here! We have had some lovely warm days and all the Spring

flowers and blossoms are looking stunning. Our village is also gearing up for a "soft opening" for social events, that is Bingo and birthday celebrations. We all hope to be up to full speed very quickly. For this month's edition of our newsletter, we have articles submitted by some of our residents, and in addition to the Sudoku and crossword we have added Word Search and Trivia which I am sure you will enjoy.

That's it for now folks, until next time,

Regards
Angie,
Editor



ORV Wellness Day

Come to learn more about your health and have a good time. On Monday, 4 October 2021, Unique Health and the ORV Health and Wellbeing Committee will sponsor a Wellness Day. Between 9 AM and 12 AM there will be personal assessments in the Service Centre Hall for blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, vision, hearing and feet. All are free except R100.00 is needed for the vision testing. Booking ahead at reception is essential for the 2PM talk and hearing tests. Vision tests need to be booked with Frail Care

At 2 PM a pharmacist will speak (English) on medication usage followed by questions and answers. This will also be in the hall and a charge of R15.00 is asked as it includes coffee/tea and some time to socialize afterwards. Booking for this speaker and refreshments is essential as there is a limit of 50 people due to COVID-19 regulations. ☐

Readers' comments

Hi Angie thank you for great news letter.
George Ralph

In my book, this is what a job well-done looks like. Thank you to our editor and the team for a great newsletter. Keep them coming.

Kate McDonald

October in History

1962 The Beatles release their first single "Love Me Do" and the world has not been the same since.

1968 Apollo 7 is launched from Cape Canaveral.

1982 The musical "Cats" Opens on Broadway. ☐



Estelle Visser and Thabo Maine strut their stuff at Heritage Day lunch.

Household Hints

Crayon marks on white walls

Wet the coloured area and rub with toothpaste. An abrasive, extra-whitening brand of toothpaste will work best.

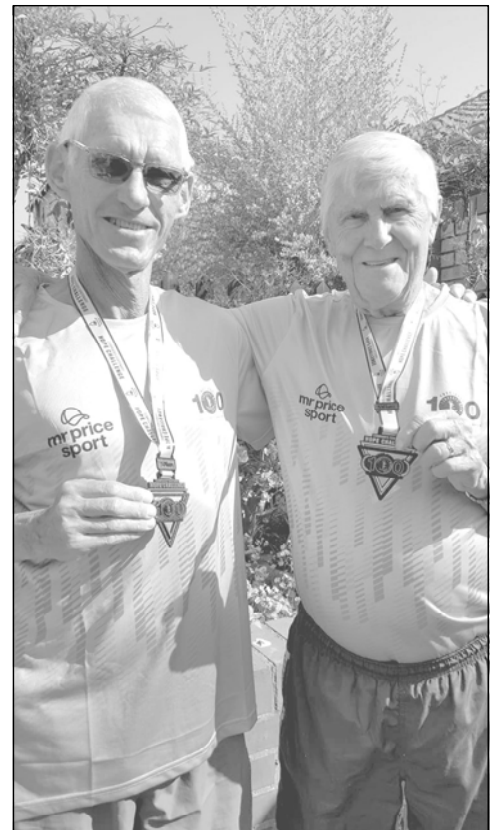
Deodorize the Garbage Disposal

Eliminate odours in the garbage disposal by dropping orange, lemon or lime rinds grinding them and then placing them in

the garbage disposer. Cinnamon sticks work, too.

Blood on carpets

Quick is best! Immediately sponge blood stains with cold water. Use a little fragrance free soap if the stain persists and then rinse with cold water ☐



Above: Fanie Kruger & George Ralph. Both are from our village and ran the virtual Comrades, received medals as in the picture.

George finished in the top twenty in his age group whilst Fanie finished in the top six with a great time.

Well done guys! You are both great examples to all of us! ☐

Frank Peachey's 10 top favourite Westerns

SHANE (1953)

Alan Ladd, Jack Palance

This film is rated as a Western masterpiece in the true cowboy tradition. It won an Academy Award for Best Cinematography.

GUNFIGHT AT THE OK CORRAL (1956)

Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas

Action packed classic telling the story of one of the Wild West's most legendary events.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (1980)

Kevin Costner, Mary MacDonnell, Floyd Red Crow Westerman

Many outstanding performances in this film which won a total of 7 Oscars, including Best Director for Costner in his debut as a film director.

HOW THE WEST WAS WON (1962)

A 2h 35m long Western epic adventure movie combined the talents of three great Western film directors (Henry Hathaway, John Ford and George Marshall) with an all-star-cast comprising of Henry Fonda, John Wayne, Gregory Peck and James Stewart among others. The film depicts five interlocking stories recounting the settling of the American West in the 19th Century. It received wide acclaim and was the winner of five Oscars and nominated for a further three Oscars.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY (1966)

Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach

An engrossing movie about the pursuit of a fortune in stolen gold. The film's main theme tune reached the top of many of the international music charts. It was written by the famed film composer Ennio Morricone .

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN (1960)

Yul Brynner, Steven McQueen, Eli Wallach

A terrific struggle by seven mercenary cowboys to save a Mexican mountain village from plundering bandits. The theme music played at varying tempos during different scenes is widely acknowledged as one of the best known pieces of film music ever composed.

THE FASTEST GUN ALIVE (1956)

Glen Ford, Jeanne Crain, Broderick Crawford

An out-of-town outlaw, Vinnie Harold (Crawford) threatens to burn down the town of Cross Creek unless George Temple (Ford) meets him in the Main Street for a gun-draw battle to prove who is the "Fastest Gun Alive". The film depicts several almost unbelievably fast gun-draw scenes.

HIGH NOON (1952)

Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Lloyd Bridges

A classic Western showdown which

won four Oscars. Gary Cooper was awarded Best Actor for his role as the US marshall. The movie will long be remembered for the Oscar-winning theme song "Do not forsake Me Oh my Darlin" sung by the famous Tex Ritter.

THE SEARCHERS (1956)

John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter, Natalie Wood

Considered by many as one of the best Directed films by Hollywood great, John Ford, the movie portrays a heart-felt search by an ex-confederate soldier (Wayne) in the late 1860s for his daughter kidnapped by the Comanche Indian tribe, until he finds her.

BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (1969)

Paul Newman, Robert Redford

This enjoyable film has traceable correlations to a true story. The movie also features the memorable Oscar-winning song "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head". □

Sources:

Book: 501 Must-See Movies, contributing Authors: Ronald Bergen, Rob Hill.

Internet: Reference Google, Wikipedia, Turner Classic Movies and others.

DVD Covers: Films as put out by Paramount Pictures, MGM Studios, 20th Century Fox Film Productions, Universal Pictures, Alberto Gimaldi Productions.

Stimulating Mind Games and Brain Teasers

www.braingle.com

Braingle Offers Senior Brain Teasers and more.

They also offer daily exercises designed to help improve memory and manage stress.

Registration is free and allows access to a selection of exclusive games.

Brain Den (brainden.com)

You can choose from puzzles based on

logic, geometry or pictures. There's also a forum to discuss puzzle clues and how to solve them. You can also play chess, sudoku, and crossword puzzles that are refreshed daily. This website is available in mobile version too!

Offline Brain Games for Seniors

If you don't have access to a computer, this doesn't mean you can't play brain games. There are many games that can

be played offline that are mentally stimulating.

There are also small groups in our village that get together once or twice a week to play various board games for example scrabble. If you would like to know more, please contact me apartment 544 ext 5402. □



Thanks from Dafni Wright

I would like to thank our residents for their interest and wonderful response to my article in the August Newsletter titled "For those less fortunate"

In particular the following kind-hearted donators:

Vanessa Lohman
Sandy Kruger
Desiree Human

Ivana Blasa
Patricia Salzwedel
Sylvia Panaretos
Carin Kreker.

Thank you for all your generosity and kindness.

Know that your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks from me, Dafni 460. □



International Coffee Day

Frank Peachey

Coffee is part of our Day-to-Day existence, and Friday, October 1 will be no different as Coffee Drinkers the World over celebrate this Day as International Coffee Day.

A few weeks ago my wife and I spent a very pleasant weekend at a nearby Country Manor where they had on the Breakfast Menu "Oats cooked with Milk and Whiskey". The serving was delicious with only a slight hint of Whiskey, but nevertheless very flavoursome.

On returning home, I did a bit of research into another of my favourite drinks (especially in winter) – Irish Coffee.

According to legend, in the 1940's

(presumably in the latter part of that decade after WW2 had ended), a resourceful barman by the name of Joe Sheridan at Shannon Airport created a coffee drink using Irish Whiskey that would warm up the stranded passengers when their Transatlantic Flight had to turn back because of bad weather. The story goes that when a passenger asked if he was being served "A Brazilian Coffee." Joe replied "No, it's an Irish Coffee."

Sources: *The World Atlas of Coffee* by James Hoffmann, and numerous references to Irish Coffee on the Internet, and the Reader's Digest 1987. □



Five Birthdays and an Anniversary



Above: September birthday babies (from left to right) Mac McDonald, Glanville Craig and Kate McDonald.



Above: George and Yvonne Ralph had their 60th anniversary in June. Because of Covid restrictions, they only celebrated it in September.



Left: More September birthday babies!

Barbara Haddon and Tom Addison

October birthday babies: We wish you all very happy and wonderful birthdays!

Chicken Ya-Ya

This is my adaptation of a recipe that appears in Enola Prudhomme's book, *The Cajun Low-Calorie Cookbook*. Cajun food is notoriously high in calories. I for my part have put most of the bad-for-your-health ingredients back in and replaced the chicken halves she has with thighs. The author wrote that when she first presented this dish to her family one of them exclaimed, "Ya, ya, ya!" The name stuck.

It is easy to prepare and once in the oven requires little attention. Definitely my kind of cooking.

Ingredients

- 1.1 to 1.4 kg chicken thighs, skinned (deboned can be used according to your preference)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground red pepper (If your guests don't like fiery food, leave this, the chilli powder, and the hot pepper sauce out. Those who want some fire can then add chilli sauce. However, this does defeat the object of the exercise somewhat.)

- ½ teaspoon chilli powder (This can be substituted with more red pepper.)
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon low-fat margarine
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- ½ cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- ½ cup finely chopped celery
- 200ml unsweetened orange juice (or use fresh oranges, squeezed – don't worry about the membranes – just pick out the pips.)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel (Don't leave this out.)
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon hot pepper sauce

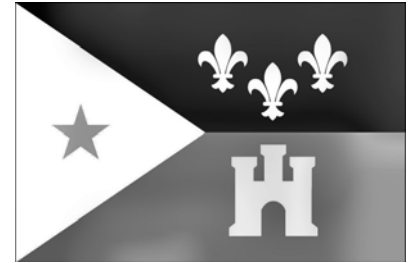
Method

- Preheat the oven to 175°C.
- Arrange the chicken pieces in a 25cm square casserole (I use a shallow Corning one) that has been sprayed with non-stick vegetable cooking spray. Combine the salt, red pepper, chilli powder and paprika; mix well

and sprinkle over the chicken; set aside for 15 minutes.

- In a medium skillet over high heat, melt the margarine. Add the onions, bell pepper and celery; sauté, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add all the remaining ingredients. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes longer, or until the sauce thickens
- Remove the sauce from the heat and pour over the chicken.
- Cover with the lid. Cook for 1 to 1½ hours, or until the chicken is tender.
- The sauce may be thickened if need be by drizzling a cornflour solution between the pieces and agitating with a fork or a spoon.

James Halley ☐



OLIVEDALE

DOUGLASDALE

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1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
from R6 500

2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
from R7 500

SIMPLEX:

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from R12 000

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Studio from R5 500
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from R6 750

2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
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Summer Months

Remember the song *Hot Fun in the Summertime* from the 1960s? Or *Summer Nights* from the movie, *Grease*? With the hot days of summer here, it's time to talk about how too much heat can affect us.

We all want to be outside in the fresh air. However, being outside too long or in an apartment or house without air conditioning on a really hot day can put you at risk for heat stroke. Someone who is dehydrated or who has chronic diseases is more at risk for developing problems when overheated.

Signs and symptoms of heat stroke, which is a medical emergency, are: fainting or becoming unconscious, a change in behaviour (that is confusion, agitation, staggering, being grouchy or acting strangely), a body temperature of over 40°C, dry, flushed skin and a strong, rapid pulse or a slow, weak pulse. Note the comment *dry*: it is someone is not sweating to cool their body down.

Since dehydration is a risk factor for your body becoming overheated, let's talk about some simple ways to increase your fluid intake in the summer:

1. Eat fruits with higher water content, like melons. Watermelon is low in calories and high in water content and vitamins. You can eat it fresh, freeze it, use it to make fruit salad or add it to a smoothie.

2. Tired of drinking plain water? There are many flavoured water options available, such as bubbly (carbonated) or plain. You can also make your own flavoured water.

One small bottle of lemonade or orange juice can make many, many glasses of flavoured water by adding a splash to your glass.

3. Baby steps: If the thought of drinking a large glass of water sounds like too much, consider sipping on it. Put two or three one litre water bottles in your

refrigerator and just sip on them throughout the day. You could pull one out when you are sitting with your favourite book or watching your must-see TV show. Every time you start a chapter or watch a commercial, you take a sip. You will be amazed by your progress at the end of the day if you consciously make an effort to sip away throughout your waking hours.

4. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine as your primary fluids during a hot day. Both of these items are considered to be diuretics. Yes, like a water pill, they help your body get rid of fluids. ☐



Word Search

There are 15 words hidden in this puzzle, 12 of which are listed. Words can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. They may even be backwards. No solution is provided.



Matters Musical part 2

Marjorie Hutchison

When I arrived back in Pretoria the CBC Old Boys had already begun an amateur dramatic group and had staged the musical *No, No Nannette*, with Margaret Hutchison as Nannette. (I had yet to meet the family). The following year they staged *Maritza*. Both these productions took place in the old Opera House. I joined the chorus in *Maritza*. (We ladies of the chorus had beautiful Hungarian costumes and black “baby-doll” shoes on our feet, held in place by an elastic band around the instep). During the last Saturday night performance, in one of our energetic dances, I had the mortification of seeing my shoe go flying off my foot into the audience! Not a memory I’m likely to forget! In the interim, I had met the Haupt family. Roy Haupt, (also a CBC Old Boy), had begun a group of English Morris Dancers, which I attended with the Burroughs family (my “2nd parents”). Roy’s sister, Lorna, was an excellent ballet teacher. She had studied under the legendary Marjorie Sturmann (as had my sister) and their mother, Gladys Haupt, was costume-maker extraordinaire! (If she had made one ballet or musical costume in her life, she must have made thousands). She was so good she could virtually take one look at you and begin cutting out the material! In 1959, Roy Haupt formed an amateur theatre group called The Lodge Players. Their first pantomime *Cinderella* was staged in December that year at the Little Theatre in Skinner Street, Pretoria. Margaret was cast as Prince Charming (a part she played in many of the pantomimes) and Ian had now joined the chorus. I was

paired off with another boy but Ian had his eye on me and persuaded my partner to change places. (And the rest, as we say, is history!)

Now, I had no special musical talent, but I can certainly boast about my in-laws! Ian’s maternal grandmother was Secretary of Trinity College of Music and all the overseas examiners stayed in their house when exams were taking place. There was always music in their house. (Their parents had moved into their grandmother’s home upon the death of their grandfather). Their father, Jack Hutchison, had a beautiful tenor voice, their mother Myra, a beautiful soprano. Before PACT began, I think it was known as Volksteater, Myra was cast as Santuzsain in the opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Sadly, upon the death of her mother, Myra never sang in public again. Grandmother saw to it that extra lessons were taken in speech, drama, piano, singing and ballet (even Ian was forced to do this - probably for “deportment”, but it didn’t last long. He wouldn’t be seen dead carrying ballet shoes – his mother had to walk far behind him!) Ian would not have had singing lessons either. He was the only one in the family who didn’t have a singing voice. He used to patter his songs. He played the drums in the cadet band at school and played the cornet.

During the following five years in which Ian and I were involved, before moving to what was then Rhodesia for two years, the Lodge Players produced a mid-year show as well as a Christmas pantomime. (I still have all the programmes, signed by the cast, together with numerous

photographs.)

For the pantomimes we had our own script writer (David Bryant) so the shows were always topical. We boasted our own small orchestra, Carol Kesting being our pianist and musical director for all of them and Gladys Haupt and her team made all the costumes. Before I talk about the two shows which earned awards for both Ian and Margaret and for the Lodge Players, the first two mid-year productions were Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Mikado* in 1959 and *HMS Pinafore* in 1960. For some odd reason it was decided that we would do a matinee of *HMS Pinafore* for the doubtable inmates of Weskoppies! They must have thought we were crazy! The humour of course escaped them and they laughed at the oddest things. It was the most unnerving experience!

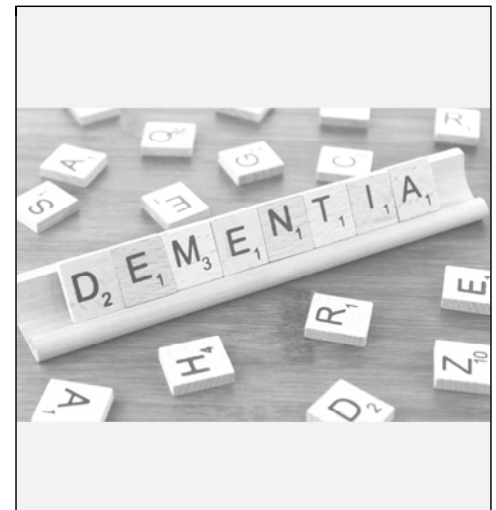
In 1962, the mid-year show was *Me and My Girl*. (I still have Ian’s original script French’s Acting Edition No. 199, price 6s net, with his writing on the back page noting the last week’s rehearsal times!) I will now quote from The Pretoria News of Thursday, February 21, 1963. (There is a photo of Margaret, Ian with trophy and Gladys Haupt): “There were happy smiles from Mrs G Haupt and Margaret and Ian Hutchison, when they went home with trophies after the annual presentation by the Pretoria Amateur Theatre Trophies Association. Mrs Haupt was there to receive the trophy on behalf of her son, Roy Haupt, who produced ‘the most outstanding musical production of the year’ – *Me and My Gal*. Margaret and Ian gave the best male and female musical performance.

Silence

*Who do you see when you look at me?
I’m not the person I used to be.
At times I will not know your name,
But really, I am not to blame.
Dementia has changed a part of me.
A part that you can’t even see.
It’s had an effect upon my brain,
But deep, deep, down, I’m still the same.
I can still feel and laugh and cry.
So, when you see me, don’t pass by,
Without a word, a wave, a smile.
Please just stop and chat a while.
You’ll cheer me up and make my day,
Maybe, we’ll laugh at things I say.
For there’s still humour to be found,*

*It is not doom and gloom, all round.
So, please, please, treat me just the same.
The word ‘Dementia’ is only a name,
For a condition that I’ve got,
But I can still do such a lot.
I may just need a bit more time,
So please be patient when in line,
I’m struggling at the shopping till.
I’ll get there in the end, I will.
So, take a moment, pause a while,
And then give me a nod, a smile.
And maybe then, your hand you’ll lend.
For you are now a ‘Dementia Friend’*

Anonymous □



Crossword

Solution on page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Dressed
- 5 Fathers
- 10 Office message
- 14 Shoe fastener
- 15 Once more
- 16 Declare openly
- 17 Hymn ending
- 18 Fun and games
- 20 Army doctor
- 22 Green gems
- 23 Soft belt
- 26 Desertlike
- 27 Choice
- 31 Heart artery
- 35 Epoch
- 36 Ballerina's skirt
- 37 Hollow stalk
- 38 Make a doily
- 39 As a substitute
- 43 Lump
- 44 Employed
- 46 Distribute
- 47 Opposite of WNW
- 48 Danger
- 50 Asserted
- 52 Mumbai attire
- 54 Root beer, e.g.
- 55 Meetings
- 59 Bobbin
- 63 Picnic favorite
- 66 Advertising emblem
- 67 Stratford-upon-_____
- 68 _____ acid (nutrient)
- 69 Bible book
- 70 Politician _____ Gingrich
- 71 Designated
- 72 Witnessed

DOWN

- 1 Chowder ingredient
- 2 Gold fabric
- 3 Served perfectly
- 4 Actress _____ Richards
- 5 Golf norm
- 6 Birthday number
- 7 Horse's gait
- 8 Aviator
- 9 Disdainful look
- 10 Bullfighter
- 11 Like Satan
- 12 Temperament
- 13 Possesses
- 19 Opera song
- 21 Spiny plants
- 24 Shock
- 25 Strikes
- 27 Framed (2 wds.)
- 28 Wipe away
- 29 Subsequently
- 30 Surpass
- 32 Married again
- 33 Poke fun at
- 34 Said further
- 40 Eternities
- 41 Choir voice
- 42 Feats
- 45 Disagreement
- 49 Wild animal's home
- 50 Movie house
- 51 Italian seaport
- 53 Director _____ Polanski
- 55 Graceful bird
- 56 Icicle's spot
- 57 Pack away
- 58 Thin
- 60 Trickle
- 61 Folklore monster
- 62 Borrowed money
- 64 First number
- 65 Head movement

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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55	56	57					58			59		60	61	62
63								64	65		66			
67					68						69			
70					71						72			

Sudoku

Solution on page 11

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



Trivia

Wimbledon

On July 9, 1877, the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis club started the first Wimbledon Men's championship with 21 amateur tennis players competing the first Gentlemen's singles tournament. Player entrance fee for the tournament was one pound one shilling (one guinea) The event was won by Mr Spencer Gore – who beat Mr William Marshal 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. Winner Prize money was 25 guineas. The Ladies tennis championship was introduced in 1877 ending with the first lady winner, Maud Watson.

Taste Buds

The average person has about 10 000 taste buds and they are replaced about every two weeks. As a person ages, some are not replaced. An older person may only have about five hundred working taste buds. This explains why certain foods taste stronger to younger people.

Oldest Forest in the world

Daintree Forest, a natural paradise and home to some of the most spellbinding wonders and unique wildlife, nestles in Australia's tropical Queensland region. Daintree stretches thousands of kilometres along the 'greens' coastline. It is in fact, one of the oldest rainforests in the world, being part of the Wet Tropics of Queensland, spanning across the Cairn region. The forest is estimated to be 180 million years old, and is also one of the

largest continuous areas of rain forest covering about 1200 square kilometres.

How many phases are there of the moon?

There are eight phases of the moon. As we see it, in order: New moon, Waxing crescent, First quarter, Waxing gibbous, Full moon, Waning gibbous, Third quarter, Waning crescent. The cycle repeats itself once every 29.5 days.

Did You Know?

How many bones do sharks have in their bodies?

Answer: None. They only have cartilage.

Did you know that it is impossible to hum while holding or pinching your nose.

No number from 1 – 999 includes the letter 'a' in its word form excluding 'and'.

Sleep

During an eight hour sleep a person changes position at least 12 times

The Longest English Word

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis (45 letters).

Distance

In 1970 Sir Francis Chichester in Gypsy Moth V covered the trans-Atlantic route

in 22 days, the shortest solo crossing from East to West in a mono-hull vessel.

Narrowest Record Breakers

At Italy's Monza F1 race track in 1971, 0.61 seconds separated the first 5 cars. The race was won by Peter Gethin with Ronnie Peterson 0.01 seconds behind.

Narrow Escape

On the 9th of June 1865, Charles Dickens had a narrow escape in a train accident. The accident occurred on the Staplehurst Bridge near Kent. The front and centre carriages fell off the bridge, that was being repaired, into the river. Meanwhile the last coach in which he and 3 friends were in, hung precariously from the tracks. He and his friends managed to get out of the coach to safety where he left his friends and climbed down to help the injured passengers. He found a bottle of brandy and after filling his hat with water and the brandy gave everyone he could help a sip. After this he climbed back up and into the hanging coach to claim the manuscript of *Our Mutual Friend* which he had forgotten earlier to take with him whilst helping others to safety. Ironically Charles Dickens passed away on the same date five years later.

Source:

The Book of Facts and Records (Purnell Publishers).

A Chip on the Shoulder

Have you ever accused anybody of having a chip on their shoulder? Ever wonder how it came about? Well I'll tell you anyway.

It seems there are at least two versions of how it originated.

The first one goes back to at least the 1800s. A 'chip' can be defined as a piece of timber, or wood. Well, apparently it became a thing for some men to place a chip on their shoulder in order to show that they were looking for a fight! Yeah, well I suppose a very angry person, would place a 'chip' on their shoulder and then dare others to knock it off! There must have been a lot of angry men back then! Anyway if anyone wanted to accept the proposed challenge they could do so, and then a fight would occur shortly after.

"The second of a chip on the shoulder" comes from the ancient right of shipwrights. Within the Royal Navy

dockyards it was allowed that the workers could take home a daily allowance of off-cuts of timber, even if good wood was cut up for this purpose. The privilege was instated in 1634. But by 1756, this privilege had been abused so much that it was costing taxpayers too much in lost timber for warship repairs and construction.

The decision was then made by the Navy Board to limit the quantity a shipwright could carry home. A warrant was issued to reduce the quantity of chips by ordering the men to carry their bundles under their arms instead of on their shoulders, as one could not carry as much timber in this fashion. And then of course they no longer had a chip on their shoulder! But by Heck, I bet there were a lot of angry men!

So there you have it dear friends, well I never knew that! Did you?

Personally I think sadly the boring

second one is the correct meaning. But I really love the idea of the man with a chip on his shoulder raring for a fight! LOL! What do you think? ☐



William McGonagall — The World's Worst Poet

James Halley

It takes a special skill to be declared The World's Worst Poet in the English language but Scotland's William McGonagall was well up to the task. His notoriety today rests principally on the following infamous gem, named if my memory serves me, *Invocation to a Cow*:

*The hen is a noble beast.
The cow is much forlorn,
Standing in the pouring rain
With a leg at every corner.*

But he did a lot more. William Topaz McGonagall was born in Edinburgh, the son of poor Irish weavers, in 1825 but spent most of his life in the city of Dundee (where I myself hail from). At the age of about 50 (the sources differ on this point) he became self-assured that he was a poet of great merit. He gave public readings which "were regularly attended by riotous audiences throwing rotten fruit" (scottishpoetry.org.uk).

He famously walked all the way to Balmoral Castle to see Queen Victoria but was turned away at the gate.

Also he gave performances as a Shakespearian tragedian, gaining fame with his Macbeth when he refused to die onstage, saying the actor playing McDuff was trying to upstage him.

He claimed to have been given the title of "Sir William Topaz McGonagall, Knight of the White Elephant of Burmah" by the king of Burma, a title he assumed till his death as a pauper in 1902.

So, what attracts his admirers to his work? His poems are frequently banal to the point of self-parody. Usually

recitations of events, they have a special clumsiness to them that takes on a special charm of their own. Take for instance this extract from his *A Descriptive Poem On The Silvery Tay*:

*Beautiful silvery Tay,
With your landscapes, so lovely and gay,
Along each side of your waters, to Perth
all the way;
No other river in the world has got
scenery more fine,
Only I am told the beautiful Rhine,
Near to Wormit Bay, it seems very fine,
Where the Railway Bridge is towering
above its waters sublime.*

It only gets worse, in his response to the demise of the said railway bridge in his *Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Sil'ry Tay!*

*Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Sil'ry
Tay!
Alas! I am very sorry to say
That ninety lives have been taken away
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,
Which will be remember'd for a very
long time.⁵*

His work is pure simpleton magic. Unbelievably crass and devoid of proper scansion, it has taken on a life of its own, resulting in many commentaries on his work on the internet, especially about the poem about the cow.

The comic Spike Milligan was an ardent admirer of his and published a loving satire named "The Great McGonagall" which Milligan also recorded as an audio book, and which formed the basis of a

film of the same name starring Milligan as McGonagall. (The film also features Peter Sellers, of Inspector Clouseau fame, doing a turn as Queen Victoria!) It is difficult to come by as a DVD but is a must for admirers of McGonagall and Milligan.

Those interested in finding more of McGonagall's poetic gems are encouraged to go to the sites cited in the sources. You never know. Like me, and Spike Milligan and many others, you may just become a fan.

Fun fact: Professor McGonagall in the Harry Potter series was named after him.

§ Footnote: *The first Tay railroad bridge from Dundee across the Tay River blew down in a storm with a train on it in 1879. All lives were lost. A new one was built alongside the remaining piers. As a small child in the late 1950s my siblings would taunt me with the story as we made the crossing. The remaining piers of the original bridge were still visible probing out above the water. This used to terrify me. □*

Sources:

poemhunter.com
poetryfoundation.com
scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk
historic-uk.com



Another story about Bill

Glanville Craig

Previously I wrote about Bill and his activities and his ancestry. However, Bunny, his wife, was not going to be left out.

Bunny received a letter from Syfrets a company doing various financial activities, including the winding up of estates.

The letter basically dealt with the winding up a very old, deceased estate.

Bunny's family tree revolved around the Wilmot Family who were one of the families who came across from England

and settled in Grahamstown amongst the 1820 Settlers. Bunny in fact had a direct lineage with the Wilmot's. This did not seem very important until she was advised that due to her lineage, she was directly linked to the Earl of Rochester who, during his life, was third in line to the throne of England.

Armed with this information, Bunny waited with great expectancy for her inheritance from the Earl of Rochester. Eventually it arrived. It was the stout sum of R57,32.

She didn't bank the cheque but retained it as a bit of memorabilia.

We of course as a family were upset that we were never invited to any of the Royal Family weddings as one would expect from family.

Once again, I was deprived of the opportunity of bragging at school about my heritage.

Fortunately, the war between England and Scotland was not advanced by Bill or Bunny in their household. □

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 Submissions for inclusion in the Olive Branch can be sent directly to the Editor or emailed to:
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 Submissions should be in Word format with separate photographs. Hand-written submissions will also be accepted, **The deadline is the 22nd of each month or preceding Friday.**

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Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword solution

1	C	2	L	3	A	4	D	5	P	6	A	7	P	8	A	9	S	10	M	11	E	12	M	13	O	
14	L	A	C	E	15	A	G	A	I	N	16	A	V	O	W											
17	A	M	E	N	18	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	19										
20	M	E	D	I	C	21					22	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	S							
						23	S	A	S	H	24		25		26	A	R	I	D							
27	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	28					30				31	A	O	R	T	A		
35	E	R	A							36	T	U	T	U					37	R	E	E	D			
38	T	A	T							39	I	N	S	T	E	A	D						43	W	A	D
44	U	S	E	D	45										46	D	O	L	E			47	E	S	E	
48	P	E	R	I	L	49				50	C	O	N	T	E	N	D	E	D	51						
						52	S	A	R	I					54	S	O	D	A							
55	S	E	S	S	I	O	N	S	56						58				59	S	P	O	O	L		
63	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	64				65				66	L	O	G	O			
67	A	V	O	N	68	A	M	I	N	O	69								69	E	Z	R	A			
70	N	E	W	T	71	N	A	M	E	D	72								72	S	E	E	N			

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