

Stop Press

Issue 19
April 2008

the lal torbay students' magazine

CREAM TEA FESTIVAL

Celebrating the
best of British

COMPTON CASTLE
A delightful gem
just outside Paignton

JURY SERVICE
A teacher tells us of her
experience in court

PLUS... THE PLANETS... MORRIS MINORS...
MORRIS DANCING... LAL NEWS... WHAT'S ON...
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hello

A warm welcome to the nineteenth issue of StopPress, the LAL Torbay Students' Magazine.

Having survived the winter gales we now prepare ourselves for the arrival of spring (hopefully!). The school is continuing to make good academic progress and work is well under way preparing the brochure for 2009 and getting ready for the summer season. We were represented at a recent careers evening in Ivybridge where there were a number of people very interested in our teacher-training courses and keen to sign up for summer jobs too. This month we also see the start of another Cambridge exam course, good luck to all the students in the coming weeks.

In this edition of StopPress we explain a little more about two icons that are being celebrated in Paignton this month, Morris Minors and Morris dancing. We look at Compton Castle, which re-opens after its winter shut-down. There's lots to do this month in Paignton: with the English Riviera's Cream Tea Festival - which ties in nicely with our new welcome parties - it's jam-packed with entertainment, you might say.

Enjoy!



win a souvenir pen!

If you would like to tell us about your home country, strange customs, your experiences here in England, or you just want to tell us a funny story, we want to hear from you. If we print your submissions in StopPress, we'll give you a fabulous LAL Torbay pen. Carefully machined in luxurious stainless steel, these pens carry the LAL Torbay logo and are a really useful reminder of your time in Torbay.

If a group of you want to get together to write an article, we'll give each of you an LAL Torbay key-ring if we publish your work.

See below for details of how to send in submissions, then get writing!



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StopPress is published by LAL Torbay, edited by Andy Tyrrell and typeset by Tristram Grevatt.

Sports report by Frank Mercer. Music & composers by Kevin Ryland. Additional articles in this edition were submitted by Lorraine Myrie, Kevin Ryland, Andy Tyrrell, Tristram Grevatt & Dan Luly. Thanks to Kevin Ryland & Ariane Meier for proof-reading.

We welcome submissions from students and staff. Please hand any items you would like considered for publication to Andy Tyrrell in Room 1.01, or e-mail stoppress@laltorbay.co.uk

Articles in this magazine are contributed and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of LAL Torbay.

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this month at lal



international foundation year validation approved

We are pleased to announce that The University of Brighton has given our IFY course its official validation.

This means that from September we will be able to offer a course for students wishing to study English for Academic Purposes along with economics, IT skills, and mathematics. We will also be offering an English for Academic Purposes Course to be run at the same time for students who do not require the economics and mathematics components.

secret shopper success

In the April edition of the EL Gazette, a journal for those who work in the English Language Teaching world, LAL Torbay Summer schools came out top in a secret survey.

An 'undercover' reporter contacted us and other schools last year to enquire about rates of pay and conditions for teachers wishing to work in our summer schools. It was reported that LAL were the most

'transparent' with their information, ensuring that all new teachers know exactly what their contracts require of them and what they will be paid.

Other schools stated that they did not have the required information available and that the reporter should contact them nearer to the summer.

Mark Cook, the General Manager of Summer Schools, said 'I am delighted that we have stood up to the rigours of a "secret shopper" and it gives an indication of our levels of professionalism in an industry which does not always act as such.'

taste of the west for new students

LAL Torbay has a treat in store for new students: a welcome party with a delicious afternoon tea. This is a great way to meet other students and staff, make new friends and try an important part of English culture. South-west England is famous for its rich 'clotted' cream, and this is an essential ingredient for the Westcountry's famous 'cream teas'.

Every Monday, LAL Torbay is offering a delicious free cream tea for all new adult students, with tea, scones, jam and clotted cream.

During this welcome party we also tell students a little about the history of the cream tea, demonstrate how to eat a cream tea properly, and explain how to make a proper pot of tea (which is compulsory knowledge in England!). There are also a fun quiz and games.

residence in malta

LAL Malta is proud to announce that as from April it will be operating the 200-bed Days Inn Residence, which is centrally located in the heart of Sliema within walking distance of LAL Malta's adult centre. The Days Inn Residence consists of 55 studios and 45 hotel rooms. The studios are stylishly furnished and include a kitchenette and bathroom. There are various types of hotel rooms, making the hotel available for both adults and young learners.

concert

Mike Newell, former LAL Torbay teacher, will be performing Puccini's 'Messa di Gloria' and Cherubini's 'Requiem in C minor' with the South Devon Choir in the 'Italian Classics' concert at Central Church, Torquay on Saturday 5th April.

The concert starts at 7.30pm, tickets cost £10.00 and are available from Torquay Tourist Information Centre (TIC) in Vaughan Parade, Paignton TIC on The Esplanade and Dawkes Music at 29 Winner Street, Paignton.

To get to Central Church, catch the number 12 bus from Paignton bus station to Castle Circus. Central Church is the tall, white 'modern' looking building at the top of the hill.



compton castle

A hidden gem not far from Paignton.



Not far from LAL Torbay, hidden away in a wooded valley in Marldon at the edge of Paignton, there lies a little-known, yet locally important, castle. Work first began on the building in the 14th century and it was fortified in the reign of King Henry VIII to protect from the threat of a French invasion that never happened.

The historical significance of this castle dates from the 16th century when the three sons of Otho Gilbert, John, Humphrey and Adrian, became very influential and important in the magnificent navy of Queen Elizabeth I and then went on to lead the expansion of the English colonies in North America.

Further historical links were created when, following the death of Otho, his widow married Walter Raleigh of Fardell. Their son, also called Walter, grew up to join his half-brothers in their expeditions and adventures and went on to become the famous Sir Walter Raleigh.

John Gilbert inherited the house from his father and went on to play an important role in the defence of the country during the threat from the Spanish Armada and eventually became

the Deputy Lieutenant of Devon and Vice-Admiral of the Western Coast.

Humphrey's love of adventure and discovery led to him taking five expeditions from Plymouth to colonise North America. He claimed Newfoundland for Elizabeth I and sailed on the Golden Hinde (the boat made famous by Sir Francis Drake). Sadly his adventurous life ended when his little ship, 'the Squirrel', sank in a storm off the Azores and he drowned.

The third, and youngest of the brothers, Adrian, became one of the well-known group of adventurers that included Walter Raleigh, Francis Drake, Philip Sidney, Martin Frobisher and John Hawkins. The Virginia colony, founded by Raleigh in 1585, was named after Queen Elizabeth, 'The Virgin Queen'.

If you are a smoker, you might be interested to know that it is very likely that the first tobacco brought back to England by Sir Walter Raleigh was smoked at Compton Castle.

In the years after the Gilbert brothers' adventures, the family became more interested in other investments and eventually in 1800 the castle was sold and fell into disrepair.

In 1930 Commander Walter Raleigh Gilbert, the 11th in line from Sir Humphrey Gilbert, bought the estate and began the long and expensive task of restoration. He finally sold the property to The National Trust in 1951 and with their help the restoration was completed.

If the weather is fine then there's nothing more relaxing than wandering around the garden and looking at the spectacular flowerbeds, rare shrubs, Rose Garden and an Elizabethan Knot Garden.

Inside the castle are mediaeval defences, spiral staircases and squints – peep holes to look from one room to another – and an excellent example of a mediaeval kitchen.

► Compton Castle is owned by the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and you can visit at the following times: 2nd April – 30th October Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11.00 – 17.00. Admission: £4.00

► Stagecoach bus no. 7 runs from Paignton bus station to Marldon, 1.5 miles (2.4km) from Compton Castle.

jury service

A 'jury' is a group of twelve members of the public, chosen at random, who listen to the evidence given in a court of law, and who decide if someone is guilty or innocent. At the beginning of the year LAL Torbay teacher Lorraine Myrie was called up for jury duty. Here we have her own account of the experience to give you the opportunity to find out how the judicial system works.

It started when I received a letter in December which summonsed me to Jury Service at Exeter Crown Court. There was a leaflet with a lot of information about serving on a jury. In Britain anyone aged between 18 and 70 is required to be a juror if summonsed.

The exceptions are anyone who: has a criminal record; is in hospital at the time; is mentally unstable; is a member of the House of Lords.

The penalty for not serving is imprisonment or a fine of £1,000.

I arrived at Exeter Crown Court at 9.15 on Monday. The security check at the main entrance was similar to the one done at airports. There was a special

code for the door – which was frequently changed – and we all had to register with a court usher upstairs.

There were about 60 of us in a big room. We watched an explanatory video and were given some forms to fill in.

It was just after 10.45 and we were asked to wait for the selection. It was a very long wait; indeed it was after 14.30 when the usher returned and called some names. The people called were sent home with instructions to call on the Wednesday for further directions.

She then read out eighteen more names and we had to answer 'yes' and say 'oath' or 'affirm.' This would indicate what we should do if eventually chosen.

We then followed her down some stairs, along a winding corridor, up two more flights of stairs then through two rooms, finally arriving in Court Three. We had to put our coats and bags on a table and stand at the back of the court.

The judge – actually a Mr Recorder – wearing a black robe and a white, short, curly wig was sitting on a big chair directly under the Royal Crest. There was an empty chair on either side of him. That part of the room was on a higher level. Immediately in front of him was the Clerk of the Court whose job was to copy and transcribe everything that was said; there was also an extra usher in case any unforeseen situation arose. The witness box was on her left, facing them on the Recorder's right was the Defence barrister, wigged and gowned. Someone official looking sat behind him but we never found out what his duties were.

On the left of the Recorder was the Crown Prosecutor, also wigged and gowned – behind him there were policemen sitting – the number ranged from one to four. At the back of the court there was a booth where the defendant sat with a warder. The court reporter sat in front of this and the visitor's gallery was on the side. The jury box was opposite the witness box, I was struck by the number of television sets around the room.

Twelve of us were then called and we



took our places in the jury box. I was number ten. The Recorder then apologised for keeping us waiting and thanked us for coming. He asked us if we knew any of the people who were present; when we said no he thanked and dismissed the other six people. We then either took the Oath or made an Affirmation individually. The Recorder then explained our duties to us. He stressed that we were not to discuss the case with anyone and we had to make our decision based on the evidence.

We were then asked to 'retire' while a point of law was discussed. We sat in the ante-room as twelve strangers – three men and nine women. When we were led back to the Court the Recorder told us that our case was a police investigation which had been going on for several years. We were asked to return the next day.

Our first task on the Tuesday was to choose a foreman. A young girl begged to be the one so we agreed.

When we took our seats we were given a ring binder with information about the case which allegedly involved the buying and selling of stolen jewellery.

An undercover policeman had infiltrated the gang. We watched a video of his meeting with the defendant, a 71-year-old man. After lunch we listened to tapes of their conversation. This finished at about 15.30 and the Recorder said we could stop for the day as the proceedings had been so intensive.

When we resumed on Wednesday morning, we listened to the witnesses. They gave evidence about the theft of their jewellery and identified certain pieces that the police had discovered in the defendant's possession. Statements were read from the victims who were

unable to attend. The prosecution also examined the police.

After lunch the defendant was questioned for almost two hours by the prosecution. Before he was examined by the Defence counsel, we had to leave the court while another point of law was discussed. After we were called back in, the defendant was then questioned by the Defence counsel and cross-examined by the prosecution. This finished at 16.45.

On the Thursday morning, the Recorder did his summing-up. He went through certain points of the evidence and then asked us to retire and return a verdict on which we all agreed.

When we returned to the ante-room, we started off by taking a straw poll. We were really undecided. To my surprise, the foreman turned out to be strongly anti-police, anti-law and order and dangerously liberal in her opinions. She thought the defendant was guilty but insisted that the system caused him to steal and so refused to convict him.

We had to inform the Recorder that we could not arrive at a unanimous decision. We were sent home.

On the Friday morning, the Recorder said he would accept a majority decision of 10 – 2. We retired to our ante-room once more and, after about two hours, reached a verdict of guilty.

When we went back into the court and delivered the verdict, the Recorder told the defendant that he could sentence him that day, but he advised his barrister that he wanted a pre-sentence report so the defendant was remanded in custody until that could be prepared. Only then were we informed about his very long list of previous convictions. **LM**

collective amusement

As students of English you are aware of Collective Nouns, the parts of speech that we use to define groups of things. For example: a *herd* of cows, a *shoal* of fish.

Our very own Kevin Ryland, the resident staffroom linguist and comedian, has come up with some alternative collective nouns you won't find in the grammar books...

A whine of teenagers
A lurch of alcoholics
A twitch of neurotics
A bicep of body-builders
A sanctimony of vicars
A paunch of beer-drinkers
A leap of faith-healers
A dodder of pensioners
A bellow of sergeant-majors
A howl of werewolves
A hoot of choirboys
A leer of perverts
A birch of public schoolboys
A perm of hairstylists
A rant of evangelists
A whine of Winehouses
A flicker of film buffs
A flash of paparazzi
A toggle of boy scouts
A flush of lavatory cleaners
A bounce of doormen
A swish of slalomers
A bouquet of wine-tasters
A pomposity of politicians
A raffle of charity workers
A knot of hangmen
A flash of streakers
A trip of acid-rockers
A rack of inquistors

april anniversaries

200 years ago, on 20th April, the phrase "Trial Separation" entered the English language. It came as a result of divorce proceedings brought by James Gregory Dyas against his wife.

150 years ago, on 10th April, Big Ben, the 14-ton bell in the Westminster Clock Tower, was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

100 years ago, on 24th April, Jacob Murdock of Los Angeles put his wife and children in the car and became the first man to take his family across America by car, completing the trip to New York in 32 days, five hours and 25 minutes.

50 years ago, between 4th and 7th April, the first protest march for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) took place from Hyde Park in

London to Aldermaston in Berkshire. Demonstrators demanded a world-wide ban of nuclear weapons.

25 years ago, on 25th April, German magazine *Stern* published what they claimed were Hitler's diaries. British newspaper the *Sunday Times* promised to print the diaries – but was forced to cancel the publication and apologise after experts said the diaries were not real.

cream tea festival

Now that you've attended our Welcome Talk and 'Introduction to the Cream Tea', you will be ready for a whole week of celebrations of everything Westcountry and English...

Coinciding with the Queen's Birthday and St George's Day, the English Riviera Cream Tea Festival is a celebration of all things English. From scones to fish and chips and real ale to Morris Dancing, the festival promises six days of traditional merriment, all with a healthy dollop of clotted cream on top!

The quirky and eccentric inaugural festival runs from Friday 18th April to Wednesday 23rd April 2008 and is packed with the sort of seaside fun you'd expect from a resort famed as both the birthplace of Agatha Christie and Fawlty Towers.

Along with the Cream Tea there can be nothing quite as English as the traditional Fish and Chips, and so Friday 18th April will be 'Fish and Chip Day', with a host of activities taking place in many of the 'chippies' (fish and chip shops) around the Bay. Look out for a special pullout in the local paper, the *Herald Express*, packed with special offers and fish and chip titbits and trivia. Interestingly, 2008 is the international year of the potato! Don't forget that to really get the feel for this delicacy you must eat it from the paper while walking along the seafront – eating it indoors is for wimps!

On Saturday 19th you can join in with 'Morris Day' on Paignton Green and a celebration of all things Morris – with bells on! There will be a huge meeting of Morris Dancers, demonstrating this traditional form of folk dancing. There will also be a huge rally of Morris Minor cars. This year, the Morris Minor was voted as being the car that most sums up "what it is to be British." We come along and say happy 60th birthday to this British institution.

Morris Day will also be a great opportunity to experience a traditional English fête, with assorted games and musical treats on offer. The town is encouraging anybody with the name Morris from anywhere across the globe

to come and join them for the largest ever meeting of Morris!

If you are still around on Sunday 20th then this is the day you've all been waiting for, 'Cream Tea Day' and a massive traditional celebration in the stunning grounds of Cockington Village. A huge marquee will house one of the largest tea parties ever held, where local cream tea and food and drink suppliers will be offering up their 'low fat' wares. As well as live music provided by the Torbay Brass Band there are cooking demonstrations where you can learn how to make traditional English fruit jams, before tasting a range of delicious, flavoured teas. Visitors will also be able to enjoy the huge range of local craft stores in the main Cockington Court. Behind the house in the Rose Garden, further craft studios can be found including a blacksmiths, glass blowing and an organic garden. And why not try your hand at a gentle game of croquet?

On Monday, 21st April it is the Queen's 82nd Birthday and there will be a concert, featuring the cream of English Talent. Chas and Dave will be heading down from the East End of London to provide a few cheeky ditties, while the West Country legends The Wurzels, from

Somerset, will be singing their Scrumpy and Western classics. Tickets for the concert can be bought at the Torquay Tourist Information Centre.

Things come to a suitable climax on the Wednesday when the whole resort will be celebrating St George's Day. A whole host of entertainment will be on the menu across the Bay, with local businesses pulling out all the stops to make it a memorable celebration. Come along and help support the first ever English Riviera Cream Tea Festival – a celebration of all that is quintessentially English.

These events are the perfect opportunity for you to experience traditional English eccentricities and get a feeling for what it is to be English and living in the West Country. We recommend that you give it a try and give yourself even more fun memories of your time spent at LAL Torbay.



british icon: morris minor

The Morris Minor is Britain's answer to the Volkswagen 'Beetle'. It's not as famous around the world as the equally British 'Mini' - but the same designer worked on both cars.

The Morris Minor was launched in 1948 and was a revolutionary car for Britain: it was one of the first cars which brought modern luxuries to a car which working people could afford. It was also very unusual in having a unibody, or monocoque, construction, which meant that the body of the car was designed to share the stresses of driving with the chassis.

With a top speed of around 60mph (96km/h) and driving 40 miles (64km) on a gallon (4.5 litres) of petrol, the car was both fast and economical to run.

The team which designed the Morris Minor was led by Alex Issigonis. He became famous as the man who designed the Austin Mini, but he is said to have preferred the more luxurious Morris Minor.

The Morris Minor was certainly more stylish than Volkswagen's Beetle; there was something sophisticated and



American about the lines, yet the compact car is also distinctly British.

The car came in two- and four-door saloon models, and an estate version, called the Morris Traveller, was also built. A strange feature of the estate car

was that the wood frame of the car was exposed on the outside and varnished, not painted, making the car look rather like an Elizabethan house.

The Morris Minor was produced in Britain until 1971, when cheaper and less memorable cars came into production. Despite no Minors having been produced for 37 years, there are still up to 40,000 of them on Britain's roads alone - and thousands more in countries all round the world.



The Morris Traveller

►► You can see the Morris Minor from time to time on the open road, but there will be lots to see on 19th April, when there will be a 60th birthday party for the Morris Minor on Paignton Green.



If you see a group of men leaping about with bells on their shoes and waving handkerchiefs or sticks, you may well be watching a Morris dance. Morris dancing is an English tradition dating back to the 15th century. It nearly died out in the 1800s (only four towns continued to perform Morris dances), but became popular again in English

villages in the 20th century.

Morris dancing is normally accompanied by live music, often an accordion (a hand-operated, keyboard wind instrument) or a violin. The dancers move in patterns as a group, rather than dancing in pairs.

When Morris dancing was revived in the 1900s, most teams were men - known as Morris Men - but there are now many women who perform Morris dances too. There are usually six or eight people in a 'set', which is the name given to the people taking part in a particular dance. There may also be someone dressed as an animal (or even a tree), and this person often tries to get the audience to join in.

Morris men are well known for their odd dress: they usually wear hats, and they have colourful ribbons attached to their clothes.

Morris dancers often go from village to village to perform their dances. They are often seen at village fêtes and at village pubs on fine summer evenings.

►► You can experience Morris dancing during the Cream Tea Festival on 19th April, on Paignton Green.

the sport of kings



© Allan Kilgour

Sports

On Saturday 5th April, at Aintree racecourse in Liverpool, the Grand National steeplechase will be run. It is the longest race over obstacles in the UK – 4 miles 4 furlongs* (7.2km) and 30 jumps, including the fearsome 'Chair': there is no limit to the number of horses and riders, and since the Second World War, no fewer than 37 horses and a number of riders have been killed. However, it is one of the most popular events of the sporting calendar, and even the least horse-mad British like to have a "flutter" (a small bet) on the result.

Every June, another national institution, the Derby is run at Epsom near London. This is a "flat" race without jumps, although part of its 1 mile and 4-furlong* (2.4km) course is a steep uphill run. These are only two of the hundreds of race meetings, on the flat or "over the sticks", which horse racing fans enjoy throughout the year, and those fans come from all levels of society, including and especially the Queen herself.

Her ancestor, King Charles the Second, came back in 1660 after several years abroad during England's short experiment with republican and military government, determined to enjoy himself. Apart from women, his main interest was horses, and it was he who made Newmarket, near Cambridge, a centre for horse breeding and racing. For years the upper-classes had been interested in breeding fast, strong horses for war and hunting, and it was known that the ideal combination of speed and strength could be found by crossing

European horses with "Arabs" or "Barbs" from the Middle East, North Africa and Spain. In the early 18th century three Arab stallions were imported to England which became the ancestors of every racehorse in the country for over 200 years. Named after their owners or homes, they are known as the Byerley Turk, the Darley Arabian and the Godolphin Arabian.

Flat racing is a test of pure speed and stamina, over distances no greater than 1 mile 6 furlongs* (2.8km), and only horses over two years old can take part. Steeplechasing or hurdle racing at National Hunt meetings, as the name shows, grew from traditional cross-country riding, especially during the autumn and winter fox-hunting season. Apart from the Grand National, the biggest event over the sticks is the Cheltenham festival, with the Gold Cup race as its climax. As many horses and jockeys come from Ireland, Cheltenham gives Irish fans a week-long "hooley" (party), especially if an Irish horse wins the Gold Cup. In flat racing there are many 'classics' – the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas (a guinea is £1.05) at Newmarket, the St Leger at Doncaster, and the meeting at Ascot, near Windsor, which is just as important as a social event, giving society ladies a great excuse to dress in their best and wear extraordinary hats. This is the Queen's "home" course, and she always attends if possible.

Racing is exciting and fun, but apart from that it is important to remember the millions of pounds and Euros that it generates for the economies of Great Britain and Ireland. **FM**

*British racing uses miles and furlongs, rather than kilometres, to measure distance. A furlong is $\frac{1}{8}$ mile, or 200 metres.

To celebrate Saint George's Day on 23rd April, our story tells of the patron saint of England, though the tale is set in the Middle East...

Along with the unicorn and the dodo, the dragon is sadly no longer found walking or flying in the world any more, mostly due to the over-excited campaigning of macho knights trying to prove their masculinity to young ladies in trouble. This is a great shame, because dragons were among the most intelligent and misunderstood animals that ever lived. They came in many shapes, sizes and colours; part snake and part crocodile, with bits of lion or eagle and hawk. Capable of running and flying at very high speeds, their scales protected them like armour and their ability to breathe fire helped them to fly and defend themselves.

Of all the countries that had dragons it was in China that they were most understood and respected. Dragon bones and teeth were used as medicine. A dragon guarded the houses of the Chinese gods and brought rain to the world when the crops needed it. Even today the Chinese still fly dragon kites and honour the dragon at New Year by creating huge paper models and dancing with them in the streets.

In fourth century Palestine dragons were feared, partly out of ignorance but mostly as a result of the unpleasant behaviour of a few nasty individuals. For some reason some of the dragons of Palestine had taken to living in cold, dark, creepy caves where they slept on huge piles of treasure which they had stolen. They had discovered that human flesh was actually quite tasty, especially when it came from the body of a spoilt and pampered princess.

It was during this time that George was born. His father was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army and when George was old enough he too served in the army. He converted to Christianity and then travelled the world spreading the word of God.

During his travels in the Middle East he came to the town of Silne (which is known as Beirut today) and heard a tale of a dragon which lived at the edge of a



stinking lake outside the town. The people of the town had foolishly thought that if they gave the dragon a couple of sheep it would move away.

The dragon was very pleased to have found this town. He was fed daily and therefore had no intention of leaving, and had no idea that the people were afraid of it.

Eventually the town ran out of sheep. So a council was called and the stupid, frightened locals decided that if they had no sheep they would have to use their children instead. A lottery was created and once a week a child would be chosen at random to be sacrificed to the dragon.

By the time George arrived in the town the dragon was very pleased with the change of diet and the stink from the lake had become totally unbearable. On the day of each lottery the streets were deserted as the townspeople waited for the knock on the door that announced the terrible news that their child would be the next to go to the dragon.

As George arrived at the royal palace he heard the king arguing with his ministers: it just so happened that the child chosen to be sacrificed was the king's daughter, the princess. Under the laws made by him there were to be no exceptions to the Tuesday lottery and now he was going to lose his little girl.

George ran from the palace, jumped onto his horse and galloped to the edge of the lake, following the smell. He soon found the princess sitting on the ground outside a dark cave.

A deep rumble came from the black

hole and a bright green dragon came out into the sunshine, George was surprised at the size of the beast, it was only slightly larger than a horse with tiny wings that could never have helped the creature to fly. It had two squat legs, long claws and a long snake-like neck; the most frightening part of the animal were the huge, sharp, white teeth that filled its mouth.

George, who had seen much danger and sadness in his travels, was not afraid of the dragon. He angrily spoke to the creature telling it how wrong it was to eat humans and how bad the meat was for its health. He untied a ribbon from around the princess's hair and tied it around the dragon's neck.

You can imagine the celebrations and amazement when George returned to Silne with the princess leading the dragon. The townspeople were so shocked at George's action that they all decided to let him convert them to Christianity.

The king decided to hand his throne over to his daughter, who ruled the land wisely for many years, while the dragon lived the rest of its days in the palace garden.

Over the centuries the story has become exaggerated and Saint George has changed to become the dragon-slaying knight we know today.

Adapted from a story by A. Horowitz from 'The Kingfisher Book of Myths and Legends' – Kingfisher Books

the planets

Holst's suite of music that's out of this world.



Adam Ciesielski

If you are interested in astronomy, astrology or exciting music, there is a wonderful orchestral work you should listen to!

It is called "The Planets" and it is a long piece which is beautifully written and one of the true classics of English music. The composer, Gustav von Holst (1874-1934), to give him his original Swedish name, was born in Gloucestershire in the west of England and he was, like his friend Vaughan Williams, a collector of English folksong. His interests were esoteric, philosophical and religious of the oriental kind.

"The Planets," written between 1914 and 1918 is a work of genius, and it is a suite of seven studies of the planets of our solar system as known at that time. The planets are given their Roman astrological characteristics or associations.

The first movement depicts Mars, the Bringer of War, and its extraordinary, militaristic rhythm suggests mechanised warfare or the onward march of troops. It was actually written before the Great War (World War One) broke out in 1914, and Holst, like many great artists, could

have had a premonition of the aggression and horror that was to come. The cold, monotonous rhythm and brilliant orchestration makes an unforgettable opening with the organ underpinning the huge orchestra.

As a complete contrast, the second movement is tranquil as befits its title, Venus, the Bringer of Peace. The gentle opening, its pure lyrical sound with a delicate violin solo and gentle celesta, paints a soft and calm picture.

Mercury, the Winged Messenger, is fleet of foot and delicate and the huge orchestra is used with skill and wit. Mercury himself seems to be flying through the orchestra with charm and humour, the celesta bringing a lightness of touch.

Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity, is different in tone. The movement begins like a heavy-footed but jolly dance with horns, perhaps depicting the sound of church bells, and tambourines suggesting a midsummer dance on the village green. Then comes the great and noble melody (later adapted as a hymn) which is so typically English. Brass intone a splendid finale and the movement ends on an upbeat.

Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age, offers a melancholic contrast. After a cold and dark beginning (now we know where Goldsmith got his idea for the title music for "Alien"), heartbreaking strings and woodwind depict a life coming to its close with resigned dignity and with bells tolling in a funereal yet celebratory way. The clamour subsides into the bleak atmosphere of the beginning.

Uranus is the Magician, a heavy-footed cousin of Dukas' famous "Sorcerer's Apprentice," sounding like a dancing elephant. At one point, at the climax, there is an extraordinary organ glissando. The music fades away and then a final spell is cast with heavy brass intonation.

Neptune is the Mystic. All is mystery. Neptune was, when this music was written, the furthest planet in our solar system (the now-discredited Pluto was not discovered until 1931). The women's choir enter almost imperceptibly and fade away in a wonderful and moving coda into the darkness and mystery of deep outer space. **KR**

grammar spod

Flash! Ah! Saviour of the grammar verse.
Flash! Ah! Explain the past perfect to us!
Flash! Ah! His fount is enormous.
Flash! Ah! Please please give to us.



That's right folks, back by popular demand is the one, the only Flash Grammar with the Past Perfect tense

The Cambridge dictionary describes the past perfect as:

'...the grammatical tense used to describe an action that had already finished when another action happened. It is made with 'had' and a past participle.'

Past Perfect simple:

We use the Past Perfect simple tense for the 'earlier past' or the 'completed past'. A common use is to 'go back'

when we are already talking about the past, so as to make it clear that something had already happened at the time we are talking about.

*I realised that we **had met** before (NOT I realised we met before).*

*When I arrived at the party, Lucy **had** already **gone** home.*

The past perfect is common after verbs of saying and thinking, to talk about things that had happened before the saying or thinking took place.

*I told her that I **had finished**.*

Past Perfect Continuous:

We use the Past Perfect continuous to talk about longer actions or situations which had continued up to the past moment that we are thinking about, or shortly before.

*When I found Lucy, I could see she **had been crying**.*

Spod Puzzle:

Why did the crab go to prison? (Answer on page 14) **DL**

idioms of the month: eyes

Idioms are an important part of the English language, and when used correctly can make you sound more English. Have a look at these 'eye' related idioms ...

To see eye to eye – to agree / disagree with someone

Example: - *I often don't see eye to eye with my boss!*

To be easy on the eye – attractive, pretty

Example: - *David thought that Mary was very easy on the eye.*

To cast an eye over – to read through quickly, to check

Example: - *I asked my friend to cast an eye over my homework before I gave it to the teacher. AT*

coffee break

quick quiz

1. What is the highest mountain in Africa?
2. What was Lady Chatterley's first name?
3. What is the cube root of 64?
4. What is a beaver's home called?
5. What does a notophile collect?
6. What is the chemical symbol for iron?
7. What is the capital of Venezuela?
8. Who lived at 221b Baker Street?
9. What is a *South of the Border* cocktail made from?
10. In which year did the Pilgrim Fathers arrive in America?

Answers on page 14

sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row and every column, and each of the 3x3 grids outlined in bold, contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once.

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

word grid

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in this grid? There is at least one nine-letter word, and at least 140 words in total. Suggested answers below.

R	S	R
A	T	E
N	S	F

what's on

From www.englishriviera.co.uk

The Torbay Film Club 01/04/2008
19:30 - 21:00

The Torbay Film Club will be showing *The Kite Runner* at Torquay Museum at 7.30pm. Based on the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini, this oscar-nominated story of exile, ambition and betrayal is set against a backdrop of three decades of war-torn Afghan history. Amir and Hassan are childhood friends bonded by their love of kite-flying, until Amir witnesses a horrific crime against Hassa, one which will haunt him to another lifetime. Torquay Museum, Babbacombe Road, Torquay
Tel: 01803 211211

Read All About it 01/04/2008 - 30/04/2008
Torbay Libraries have planned many events to celebrate The National Year of Reading! Events start in April and run through until December. Events planned range from 'Read All About it' which kicks off the official nationwide launch of the National Year of Reading and encourages everyone to read anything and everything, including newspapers, mags, online blogs etc. In June 'Reading Escapes' is the theme which promotes the escapist fiction - perfect for your summer holiday read! December finishes with a writing competition entitled 'Write the future' However with many themes running throughout the year, you should have more than enough to keep you entertained until Christmas!
Torquay Library, Lymington Road, Torquay
Tel: 01803 211 211

Who Killed 007? 03/04/2008
19:00 - 00:00
Murder Mystery evening, fancy dress optional. Prizes for the best dressed Bond character. Thursday 3rd of April 2008, 7.00 p.m for 7.30 p.m in Paignton Zoo's Island Restaurant. Tickets £18.00 each includes a two-course

supper. To book contact Lynee Parker: Tel: 01803 697509. Proceeds from this event go towards Paignton Zoo Conservation Fund. Paignton Zoo, Totnes Road, Paignton. 01803 697509

Ian Bruce 05/04/2008
Saturday 19:30 - 21:00
Scottish folk-singer Ian Bruce played the Teignmouth folk festival to great effect last year and returns to Devon to play a handful of gigs - one of which, of course, is at the Blue Walnut Cafe. The Blue Walnut, 14 Walnut Road, Chelston
Tel: 01803 605995

Italian Classics 05/04/2008
(Puccini & Cherubini)
South Devon Choir
Saturday 19:30 - 21:00
Central Church, Torquay
Tel: 01803 605135

The English Riviera Geopark- What's so special 06/04/2008
Why has Torbay's geology received international acclaim? The first of a two part short course with John Rissdon to reveal the Bay's dramatic geological past, from tropical reefs to scorching deserts. Meet in the Cary room in Cockington. Booking essential. Cockington, Paignton
Tel: 01803 606035

Extreme Spring Rockpool Ramble 07/04/2008
Monday 13:00 - 15:00
A rare opportunity to discover the amazing marine life that lives at this special underwater local nature reserve and at a very low tide. Bring waterproof clothing and suitable shoes for some clambering over rocks. Suitable for children over 8 years and Adult from £3.50, Child from £2.00
The Seashore Centre, Tanners Road, Paignton
Tel: 01803 528841

Spring Wild Hedgerow Nibble 08/04/2008
Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
Discover which wild plants are good to nibble and infuse for tea on a stroll around. We will finish by making some spring leaf tea ourselves. Meet in front of Cockington Court. Adult £3.50 Children free
Cockington, Paignton
Tel: 01803 606035

Courtenay family and history of Powderham Castle 09/04/2008
Wednesday 14:30 - 15:30
Lecture by Felicity Harper.
Christian Community Centre, Fore Street, Brixham

Bat walk at Berry Head NNR 09/04/2008
Watch the rare greater Horseshoe bats emerge from their roost, tune in with bat detectors
Meet at Berry Head visitor Centre
Adults £3.50 Children £2
Berry Head Visitor Centre, Brixham
Tel: 01803 882619

Nicky Swann 11/04/2008
Friday 20:00 - 22:00
Supporting contemporary folk duo Megson, Nicky Swann is a singer songwriter from South Devon. Her vocals blend blues, jazz and soul. The Blue Walnut, 14 Walnut Road, Torquay
Tel: 01803 605995

Megson 11/04/2008
Friday 19:30 - 21:00
The combined talents of northerners Stu Hanna and Debbie Palmer make the upcoming duo 'Megson'. With a debut album 'On the Side' under their belts and a self titled EP, they are fast making waves amongst the British folk / roots scene with their captivating songs, poignant lyrics, beautiful harmonies and impeccable musicianship. Megson have gone from strength to strength playing up and down the country at festivals, folk clubs and acoustic venues. They have won over many new fans with their easy stage manner and vibrant performances. The Blue Walnut, 14 Walnut Road, Torquay
Tel: 01803 605995

Building with Torbay's Rocks 11/04/2008
Friday 10:00 - 12:00, £3.50
A gentle walk with John Risdon exploring Torquay's exploitation of its geology, from Central Church Forecourt, Torre

The Power Of Community Film 01/05/2008
Thursday 09:00 - 17:00
Positive and uplifting documentary on how Cuba survived Oil and Downed its farming. Occombe Farm, Preston Down Road, Paignton
Tel: 01803 520022

solutions

General Knowledge Quiz:
1. Kilimanjaro; 2. Constance; 3. four; 4. Lodge; 5. Bank notes; 6. Fe; 7. Caracas; 8. Sherlock Holmes; 9. 1 oz tequila, 1/4 oz coffee brandy and a dash of lime; 10. 1620

Word grid:
3-letter words
aft, ant, are, art, ass, ate, ear, eat, era, err, fan, far, fat, fen, net, ran, rat, sat, sea, set, tan, tar, tea, ten

4-letter words
ante, ants, arise, arts, earn, ears, east, eats, eras, errs, fans, fare, fast, fate, fats, fear, feat, fens, fern, fess, fret, near, neat, ness, nest, nets, raft, rant, rate, rare, rats, rear, rent, rest, safe, sane, sans, sate, seat, seas, seat, sent, self, sets, star, tans, tare, tam, tars, tear, teas, tens, tern, tsar

5-letter words
after, arses, asset, aster, earns, farer, fares, fasts, fates, fears, feast, feats, ferns, frets, nears, nests, rafts, rants, rates, rears, rents, reran, rests, safer, safes, saner, sates, sears, seats, serfs, snare, stare, stars, stern, tares, tams, tears, terns, terra, tress, tsars

6-letter words
afters, arrest, assent, assert, astern, errant, farers, fasten, faster, feasts, rafter, rarest, raster, safest, sanest, sarsen, snares, stares, stems, strafe

7-letter words
arrests, fastens, fatness, rafters, rasters, strafes

8-letter words
transfer

9-letter words
transfers

Spod Puzzle: The crab has gone to prison because he pinched something.

5	0	7	6	9	0	0	1	7
1	6	5	4	7	9	8	7	
9	7	2	8	2	1	6	5	
8	1	9	2	0	7	2	5	
6	0	5	2	1	9	2	7	0
2	2	7	7	8	5	1	8	0
7	5	8	9	2	6	7	2	4
7	9	6	1	5	2	8	2	7
2	2	1	7	5	8	5	4	5

Pirate Days in Brixham
The Brixham Buccaneers invite you to experience their Pirate antics every Thursday during holiday season. With the magnificent Golden Hind as its backdrop this motley crew provides entertainment for the whole family, from face painting to stocks and storytelling to balloon making. Enjoy the spectacle of shops bedecked with Pirate bunting & flags; bring your camera to capture memories.
The Quay, Brixham

what's on

princess theatre, torquay

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

3 April 14.30 & 19.30

4 April 19.30

5 April 14.30 & 19.30

8 April 14.30 & 19.30

9 April 19.30

10 April 14.30 & 19.30

11 April 19.30

12 April 14.30 & 19.30

14 April 19.30

15 April 14.30 & 19.30

16 April 19.30

17 April 14.30 & 19.30

18 April 19.30

19 April 14.30 & 19.30

25 April 19.30

Tony Stockwell - An Evening Of Clairvoyance

CBeebies at the Theatre

26 April 14.00 & 17.00

27 April 11.00 & 14.00

30 April 19.30

Coppelia - Vienna Festival Ballet

3 May 19.30

That'll Be the Day

6 May 19.30

South Pacific

Box Office Numbers:

Ticketmaster: 08702 414 120

Groups (10+ tickets): 01803 380 842

Box Office Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00

palace theatre

Famous Five - The Sequel & the Travellers Tale

5 April 2008, 19.00

Join our local acting factory senior show as they show us what they have been doing over the last term. For further information visit the Torbay Acting Factory website.

Torbay & South West Festival of Dance

12 - 19 April 2008

Dance competition / festival - for more information contact Marion Smith on 01803 409617

The Anniversary

24 - 26th April 2008, 19.45

Comedy Play - A wry look at a dominating mother's family conflict.

Torbay & South West Festival of Music

29 - 30 April 2008

Competition / festival - for more information contact Marion Smith on 01803 409617

Palace Theatre, Paignton

Telephone 01803 665800 10:30am - 5:30pm

Monday to Saturday

little theatre, torquay

Wed 2nd - Sat 5th April 2008 at 7.30pm

(matinee Sat 2.30pm)

Coward Custard by Noel Coward

TOPS Musical Productions Present an

entertainment devised by Gerald Frow, Alan

Strachan & Wendy Toy

Prices £9.00 (£8.00 seniors) Group Concessions

Sat 19th - 26 April 2008 at 7.30pm (not Sunday)

Drowning on Dry Land

A comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

In this hothouse world the faster you rise, the

faster you fall and the fall begins for Charlie on

the day of his son's birthday party, heralded by

the arrival of the spectacularly incompetent

children's entertainer, Mr.Chortles.

Tickets £9.00 Concessions £8.00

Bookings:

The box office is open every morning, Monday to

Friday between 10.30am and 1.30pm. During

the run of all plays the box office is also open

from 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

By Phone: 01803 299330

babbacombe theatre

Tue Apr 01 LOVE ISVARIETY 8:15pm

Sun Apr 20 Steeleye Span 8:00pm

Sun Apr 27 The Jimmy Tamley Show 7:30pm

Sun May 04 BUDDY HOLLY - A Legend Reborn

Adults £15.00, Seniors £14.00, Children £10.00

Babbacombe Theatre, Babbacombe, Torquay

Box Office 01803 328 385

sports

Football

www.torquayunited.com

Torquay United continue their season at the family friendly Plainmoor Ground.

5th April 15:00 TU v Farsley Celtic

15th April 19:45 TU v Northwich V

19th April 15:00 TU v York City

26th April 15:00 TU v Crawley Town

Rugby

www.torquayrugby.co.uk

Torquay Athletic R.F.C, Recreation

Ground, Rathmore Road, Torquay

19th April 15:00 TA V Barnstaple

april's lal excursions

(subject to change)

Descriptions of Excursions are in the *Guide*

01/04 Totnes Walk/Shops

Jazz Night

02/04 Greenway Gardens

Country Pub

03/04 Plymouth Barbican & Hoe

04/04 Coast Drive

05/04 Stonehenge & Salisbury

08/04 Dartmouth & Kingswear

09/04 Cockington & Torquay

Country Pub

10/04 Exeter Walk/Shops

11/04 Taste of Dartmoor

12/04 North Cornwall

15/04 Totnes Walk/Shops

Jazz Night

16/04 Coleton Fishacre

Country Pub

17/04 Plymouth Barbican & Hoe

18/04 Sorry - no tour (driver training)

19/04 Mid Cornwall

22/04 Brixham & Berry Head

23/04 Dartington Hall

Country Pub

24/04 Exeter Walk/Shops

25/04 Sorry - no tour (driver training)

26/04 Bath & Wells

29/04 Totnes Walk/Shops

Jazz Night

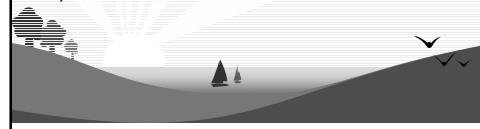
30/04 Greenway Gardens

Country Pub

01/05 Plymouth Barbican & Hoe

02/05 Coast Drive

03/05 South-east Cornwall



Adult Excursions

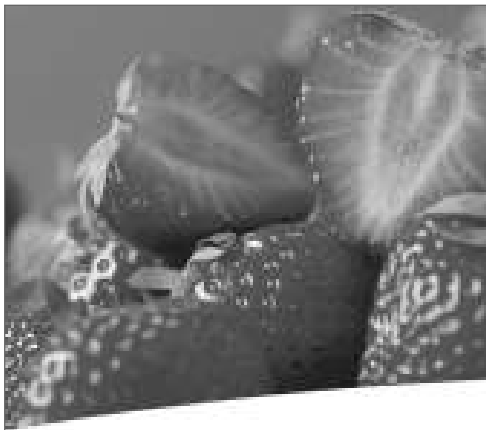
cinemas

apollo cinema, paignton

See notice boards for full listings. On Esplanade Road, by the seafront in Paignton. Open every day. Information & booking: 0871 220 6000

central cinema, torquay

See merlincinemas.co.uk for full listings. Open every day. Information & booking: (01803) 380001



18TH - 23RD APRIL 2008

A QUINTESSENTIALLY ENGLISH CELEBRATION

FRI 18 APRIL

Fish and Chip Friday

SAT 19 APRIL

Morris Day

SUN 20 APRIL

Cream Tea Day

MON 21 APRIL

Chas & Dave v The Wurzels

WED 23 APRIL

St George's Day

Call

01803 211211

Tourist Information Centres

In Torquay, Paignton and Brixham

Visit

www.englishriviera.co.uk

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