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welcome to November 2016

Hello Neighbours,

So October, you've given us some lovely sunny autumnal days but we gave in and the sandals were finally put away the heating went on! Though in all honesty I love the colours of Autumn, wrapping up for cold crisp walks and dark cold cosy candlelit nights and the kids have the excitement of halloween at the end of the month and Bonfire Night in early November. As I write this we are just about to break up for half term, it only seems like last week the children went back to school!

Then of course its the countdown to the dreaded "C" word, though we should really mention it as there are lots of lovely local school and church Christmas Fayres taking place at the end of November - don't forget to check our "Whats On" and pencil them in your diaries now!

The winter always brings with it essential repairs around the house, the sort that we could all ignore for a while in the midst of a care free Summer ... gutters that need clearing, boilers that need servicing, leaking roofs and wobbly fences that need fixing. Our advertisers all report they get really busy at this time of year so don't put off making that appointment, you will find everything you need in the pages of our little magazine full of local trades and community events.

If you are thinking of advertising your business or know of a local business you think should be in our magazines please get in touch or recommend us, don't wait until the New Year and its more affordable than most people imagine, we have solutions to fit all budgets. Supporting truly local businesses and the community is what we are passionate about so please feel free to send us information of whats going on in the local area.

Until next month then.....think local, spend local, **stay local**

Becky & Rachael x

Dec'16/Jan'17copy deadline: **21st Nov 2016**

We publish:

Waterlooville & Cowplain | 14,750
Clanfield & Horndean | 7,500
Purbrook & Widley | 5,000
Denmead & Hambledon | 3,000
Portchester & Port Solent | 7,500

Competition Winners:

Congratulations to last months
(october'16) Winners:

Guide Dogs Gala Ball Tickets
= Kim Cowdrey, Purbrook
£25 M&S Vouchers
= Paula Johnson, Horndean
Wine, Chocolates & Flowers
= Debbie Ayling, Waterlooville
Denied Beer Festival Tickets
= Mike Wohlgenuth

to enter our competitions email:
competitions@stay-local.co.uk



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WHAT'S ON

November 2016

A guide to What's On in Waterlooville & surrounding areas in November.



5th – Denmead WI Autumn Fair at All Saint's Church Hall from 10am – 12 noon with raffle, cakes and stalls.

5th – Havant Bough Firework Display and Bonfire at Stockheath Common from 7.30pm. Free event.

5th – Rowlands Castle Fireworks Display at the Recreation Ground, Links Lane. Gates open 5.30pm and fireworks from 7pm.

5th - Remember, Remember the Fifth of November when there will be a Flaming Autumn Fair at Denmead Church Hall from 10.00 to 12.00 noon. A Rocketing Raffle, a Dazzling Cake Stall, and some Sparkling Refreshments can all be enjoyed. The room will be alight with a Blast of Bric-a-Brac, an Explosive choice of Books, and a Cracker of a Craft Stall, whilst Tombola will just be a Trick or Treat. All presented by Denmead Evening W.I.

5th - Spirit of the South, a female cappella chorus are singing at the Gosport Music Festival, For info call 02392-451220. Seeking a new Musical Director. E-mail j.f.lambert@ntlworld.com

5th - Lovedean Village Hall. Antiques & Collectors Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m

8th - Waterlooille Probus Club meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 'The Chairmakers', Worlds End, Hambledon, PO7 4QX. The next meeting will be starting at 12-00 noon. We meet for a drink and a chat with fellow members and after a 3-course lunch, our guest speaker Andrew Negus will give presentation entitled 'Winchester, Part 3'. For more info please contact our secretary, Peter Quine, on 079 2662 0530 or by e-mail to peterpia@outlook.com.

12th – Christmas Fair to raise funds for the Ickle Pickle Children's Charity at Waterlooille Community Centre from 11am – 3pm.

12th – Oaklands School, Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooille will be holding a Craft Fayre from 12 noon – 3pm.

13th – Blendworth Band in Horndean Square for the Horndean Remembrance Parade from 10am - 11.30am.

13th – Wandering Witches Fayre at Waterlooille Community Centre from 10am.

14th – A talk on Jack the Ripper - discover the truth behind the murders from 7pm at Waterlooille Library. Tickets 02392 252608 or www.hants.gov.uk/shop

16th - 'Wildfowl and Waders', a talk organised by the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Padnell Road, Cowplain from 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

18th – Commander Crabbe – what really happened? At All Saint's Church, Denmead from 7.30pm.

18th – 20th – Christmas Fayre at Stansted House with stalls, food and Father Christmas. 12 noon – 7pm (Friday), 10am -5pm (Saturday and Sunday).

19th – Christmas Market from 10am – 4pm at Deverell Hall, Purbrook for the Rowans.

19th – Rucksack Appeal for the homeless of Portsmouth at Pompey in the Community, Aston Road, Portsmouth. Fill a rucksack with donations of warm clothing, toiletries and soups etc (or individual items) and take to the centre.

23rd – Royal Marine Band Concert at All Saint's Church, Denmead from 7.30pm – 8.30pm – BOOKING ESSENTIAL 02392 268565 or www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk

24th, 25th + 26th - HATS will be performing "Treasure Island" at Merchistoun Hall, Portsmouth Road, Horndean at 7.30pm.

25th – Adult Christmas Shopping event at Catherington Infant School to raise money for the school 26th – Advent Fayre at Christ Church, Witley from 12 noon – 3.30pm.

26th – Christmas event and light switch on from 4pm – 6pm. Lantern procession followed by a sing song around the Christmas tree – lights switched on at 5.30pm.

26th – Rowlands Castle NSPCC Christmas Fair in the Parish Hall from 11am -2pm.

26th – St Wilfrid's Christmas Fayre, Padnell Road, Cowplain from 10am – 1pm with children's activities, cakes, stalls, raffles and Father Christmas.

26th – Christmas Bazaar at All Saint's Church, Denmead from 10am – 11am.

26th - Film Night "Eddie the Eagle" Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, at 7.30pm. Tickets £5. For more details call 02392 256132 or visit www.denmeadca.com

26th - 2nd Dec Waterlooille Scout Group CHRISTMAS FAYRE at St.Georges Church Hall Waterlooille 10am - 1pm Tombola, Chocobola, Raffle, Children's Lucky Dip and much more. Games for all Refreshments: Drinks, Bacon Rolls and Cakes Entry 30p children free.

27th – Woofs and Wellies walk at Stansted Park, a Christmas themed day for all dogs – come dressed in festive clothing. Registration from 9am, walk starts at 10am. Further information 02392 237142.



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

Rating: Easy

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

October '16 Solution



Computer Wordsearch

Find the words associated with computers in the grid and the remaining letters will spell out a related phrase.

Words to find:

- Bug
- Chip
- Copy
- Cyberspace
- Desktop
- Disk
- Driver
- Ethernet
- Font
- Hacker
- Hardware
- Input
- Jpeg
- Keyboard
- Menu
- Modem
- Port
- Reboot
- Save
- Scroll
- Server
- Soundcard
- Spyware
- Upload
- USB
- Virus
- Windows

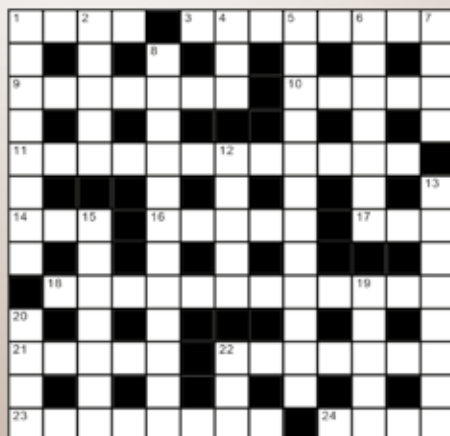
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Pulp (4)
- Arrange (8)
- Submerged (7)
- Tablets (5)
- Focused (12)
- Short sleep (3)
- Very angry (5)
- Half a dozen (3)
- Normal (12)
- Innermost digit (5)
- Very tired (7)
- Mumbled (8)
- Hence (4)

Down

- Drugs (8)
- Piece of cutlery (5)
- Pole (3)
- Sequential letters (12)
- Disease (7)
- Not difficult (4)



- Incredible (12)
- Educate (5)
- Detonates (8)
- Factory output (7)
- Follows eighth (5)
- Stalk (4)
- Perish (3)



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Boneless Turkey Breast £11.68 per kg Any size from 1-5 kilos e.g: 2 kilos Serves 8 approx. cost £23.00

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PACK 1 Price £28.00 | PACK 2 Price £53.00 (See below) PACK 3 Price £69.00 | PACK 4 Price £89.00

PACK 2: 1-1.2kg Gammon (serves 4-5), 1-1.2kg Topside (serves 4-5), 12 mini Sausage Rolls, 12 Pigs in Blankets, 450g Pork Sausagemeat & Sage & Onion stuffing mix, 500g Back Bacon, 8 Pork Sausages, Goose Fat (1 jar), 250g smoked Streaky Bacon Price £50.00

More weights guidance & information can be found online



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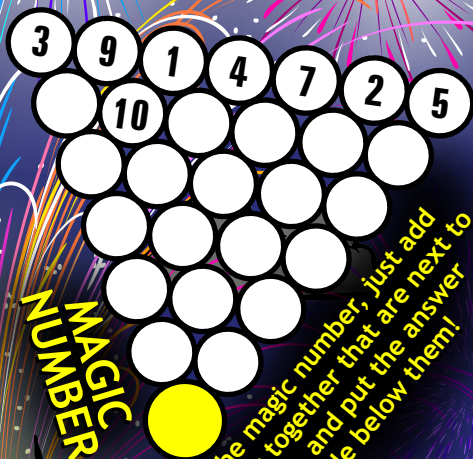
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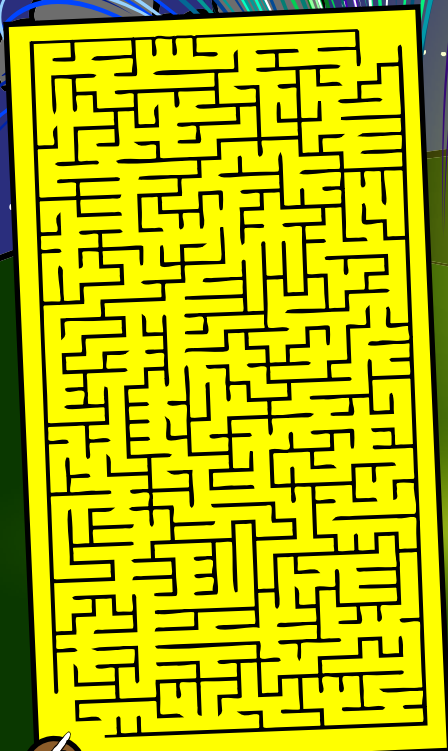
Bonfire Night Beggars!

**Always remember
to be safe near fireworks!**

	1	5	2		3	20
6		4	9	2		32
7	7	8		1	2	26
1	2		8	5	9	34
	1	7		1	2	23
4		3	2		4	24
8	8		4	9		41
40	29	40	29	29	33	

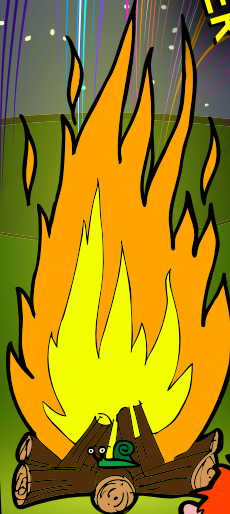


To find the magic number, just add the numbers together and put the answer to each other, and put the answer into circle below them!



Mega-Maze

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YOU FIND
THE 5 SECRET
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Seasonal Recipe

Venison is a lean and flavoursome red meat which is in season from October through to February. For the best quality, buy from a trusted butcher or farmers' market. This warming casserole is perfect for a weekend supper served with creamy mashed potato and a glass of full-bodied red wine.



Venison Casserole

- 1** Place the venison in a bowl and pour over the wine. Add the juniper berries and bay leaves, cover and marinate in the fridge for 4-5 hours or overnight. Remove from the fridge 1 hour before starting to cook the casserole.
- 2** Preheat the oven to 150°C/300°F/Gas Mark 2. Strain the venison from the red wine (reserving the wine). Heat half the oil and butter in a large flameproof casserole dish and fry the venison in 2-3 batches until browned all over, adding the rest of the oil and butter when necessary. Remove the venison with a slotted spoon and set aside.
- 3** Add the onions to the casserole and fry for 6-7 minutes until golden, adding the garlic after 3 minutes. Sprinkle over the seasoned flour and fry for a further 1-2 minutes. Gradually stir in the wine and stock and bring to the boil, scraping any sediment from the base of the casserole.
- 4** Add the venison, parsnips, carrots and half the thyme sprigs to the casserole and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Cover and cook in the preheated oven for 1½ – 2 hours until the venison and vegetables are tender.
- 5** Remove from the oven and stir in the redcurrant jelly. Return the casserole, uncovered, to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes. Serve garnished with the rest of the thyme sprigs and with creamy mashed potato, if liked.

- 1.3 kg diced venison
- 425ml red wine
- 1 tsp juniper berries
- 2 fresh bay leaves
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 25g butter
- 350g shallots or button onions, peeled
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 2 tbsp seasoned flour
- 300ml hot beef or vegetable stock
- 2 large parsnips, peeled and cut into chunks
- 4 carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- few sprigs fresh thyme
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- creamy mashed potato, to serve

Serves 6
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SMOKEY TREATS FOR BONFIRE NIGHT

The embers of the barbecue have stopped glowing weeks ago, now to be replaced by a roaring bonfire accompanied with the illuminating cascade of fireworks. The air is thick with a mix of cordite and wood smoke, with appetites being satisfied by a plate of bangers, mash and baked beans.

Bonfire night is a visual celebration that lights up the darker autumn nights and your choice of what to drink will equally light up your party. I have chosen two South African wines and two whiskeys all reflecting a smokey profile. These drinks accompany the evenings theme and the nature of the cuisine served at bonfire night celebrations, adding a warm complex beverage to enjoy as the embers of the fire dwindle in the garden.

The first of my selection is Porcupine Ridge Syrah from Swartland, South Africa this excellent wine is produced from the star of South African wine making Marc Kent. The wine delivers a full bodied wine presenting dark fruit, chocolate, coffee with a smokey finish. The fourteen percent alcohol is warming but completely balanced with the fruit and body of the wine and perfect for matching with complex rich smokey food.

My second choice is Cederberg Waitrose foundation Shiraz, the wine is produced on our foundation in South Africa. The wine is a rich expression of ripe red fruit, elegant oak

influence and a peppery, smokey, spice finish. This rich full bodied wine has a hefty fourteen and a half percent alcohol, though as with the previous choice it is beautifully balanced and is made for bonfire night parties.

The perfect spirit to accompany a smoke filled bonfire night is Talisker Syke single malt from the Isle of Skye. This is not a peat monster but a whiskey produced with maturation taking place in a combination of refill and toasted American oak casks. The result is a sweet vanilla, toffee, honeyed and subtle smoke on the nose, with the palate adding citrus, white pepper and finishing with a dry spice and smoke characters.

The Lagavulin 16 year old single Malt Islay is a completely different beast this is a brooding peat monster, not for the novice or faint hearted. A true expression of what made the southern end of Islay whiskey the reputation it has today. The nose grabs you with its combination of smoke, iodine, sherry and vanilla. The palate is viscous and rich, a amalgamation of fruity sweetness with malt and sherry. Finishing with a long complex crescendo of spice, dried fruit, vanilla and peat smoke.

Have a safe bonfire night enjoying your wine and spirits after the fire and fireworks have finished.

John Boyes, Waitrose, Waterlooville

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Crystal Therapy



Crystals are minerals formed underground from three-dimensional repeating patterns of atoms. A crystal's appearance depends upon the natural characteristics of its type, and the conditions in which it grows. Some take on strange shapes, some are very small and others grow very large, developing over thousands of years.

The repeating chemical structure of crystals is said to invest them with a kind of memory; this means that crystals have the power to hold energies. You may hold a quartz crystal with the intention of filling it with your love, and this is what is meant by programming a crystal. You do not need any wires or a special connection with God - all you need is intention and focus. The crystal will remember your love, which will then permeate any environment in which the crystal is placed.

Crystals can remember negative as well as positive energies, and so will sometimes need to be cleansed. A piece of amethyst will actually help to cleanse a room of heavy energies, for example: Anger; though this means that the amethyst, which will retain an element of that negative energy will itself occasionally require cleansing.

There are various ways of cleansing crystals. One of the most common is to submerge them in salt water (sea water is excellent,) for a couple of days, then run them under the tap to clean off the salt. Remember that some crystals, such as Selenite are water soluble, so an alternative method is needed. This can include: burying crystals in the garden for a few days, leaving them for a while in a stream (pick a slow-running one or they may no longer be there when you come back for them!) or leaving them outside overnight in normal water to bask in the moonlight, or by using Reiki.

Different crystals have different energetic properties; for example: a Tigers Eye can aid those seeking clarity, while Lapis Lazuli is said to expand our awareness and help us attune to our intuition. Rose Quartz is calming and sometimes referred to as the stone of gentle love.

Many of the books available contain lists of crystals and what each one means; these meanings are simply interpretations of the energy each crystal carries. Some may consider a crystal with a fresh, lively, citrus feel to it to give zest and promote optimism, therefore helping to reduce depression. With a little practise and intuition, anyone can interpret the immediate characteristics of a crystal.

For example, red is the colour of action, and red crystals can invigorate and enliven in the same way that the blood in your body gives life. White or clear stones such as quartz may help you to figuratively see more clearly. Purple stones may assist in transformation and change. By all means read and digest the definitions in books, though please realise that it is important to form your own opinions.

You do not need to know the exact properties of every crystal in order to buy one, although this may help. It is more important to be receptive and allow yourself to be drawn to a crystal that will have meaning for you. If you are in a shop, simply stand in front of a group of crystals, close your eyes and relax, and when you open them choose the one you feel most drawn to.

The right crystal can affect the energy of an environment, and the energy it holds can influence you whether you simply hold it in your hand or place it by your bed or on the mantelpiece. Crystal healers use their knowledge of the stones and of the patient in the healing process. There are various methods of healing with crystals, such as placing crystals on and around a person while they are lying down, or using a wand or point to focus love, energy and intent on the other person in a way that relates specifically to their ailment and needs.

As with many objects used for divination and healing, a crystal can only do harm in the wrong hands. A crystal healer only uses a crystal as a tool. A great crystal does not make a great crystal healer, just as a great paintbrush does not make a great painter. It is recommended to buy crystals from reputable suppliers, and after receiving them it is wise to cleanse them.

Use your intuition and you cannot go far wrong. If one day you feel a crystal no longer belongs in your home, it may be time to give it away. As you change you may find that you want different crystals around you, although many will stay with you happily for a long time.

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WEAR IT WITH PRIDE

As Remembrance Day approaches the sale of poppies becomes more evident on street corners, in shops, at schools and places of work. Since 1921 the Royal British Legion has been responsible for the appearance of the the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and hope. In its first year 9 million were produced and were sold out almost immediately. A year later a poppy factory was set up to cope with demand which enabled disabled ex-servicemen to gain employment. Since those early days, the selling of poppies have helped millions of armed forces personnel, veterans and their families.

There have been many theories over the years about the right way to wear a poppy. The Royal British Legion say there is no right or wrong way to wear a poppy, but others decree men should wear them on the left where medals go, and on the right for ladies as a widow would wear her husband's medals on the right. Many choose to wear it on the left over their hearts.

Veteran, Peter Godsmark, came up with his own theory of what the poppy represented which went viral. He said the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives for freedom, the black for mourning of those who did not have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf for the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. He felt the leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock symbolising the ceasefire on the Western Front at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

But according to the Royal British Legion as long as the poppy is facing upwards with the stem down, there is no right or wrong way to wear one. Today, it is common to see poppies worn on hats and bags and attached to cars, buses, planes, public buildings and landmarks, including man-made, knitted or enamel poppies. The Royal British Legion believe that the poppy is a symbol of

remembrance and hope, not a symbol of death or a sign of support for war or a reflection of politics or religion. On Armistice Day on 11th November the two minute silence was first introduced in 1919 when Sir Percy Fitzpatrick sent the suggestion to King George Vth who gladly accepted the proposal. But the idea originally came from Capetown where a two minute silence meant a minute of thanksgiving for those who returned and one minute to remember the fallen. Originally the holding of a poppy to their lips during the silence showed the nation that they were ready to mark those who had died for their country.

On 13th November, Remembrance Sunday, villages, towns and cities will hold their own remembrance services in churches and around war memorials with prayers, readings and quotes from a poem by Robert Laurence Binyon, *"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them"*. After such ceremonies it was the custom to leave your poppies at the graveside or war memorial. Who can forget the sight of the 888,246 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London in 2014? One for each soldier of the British Empire who was killed in World War One.

Richard Hill Brown, Area Co-ordinator said, "In 2014, with the centenary of the Great War and the impact of the poppies at the Tower, we managed to raise £25,400 in the Waterlooville area and last year the amount was £28,395 ,which is far and away the most we have collected". The poppy is as relevant today as it was when first introduced as the work of the Royal British Legion still continues to provide financial, social and emotional support for those who served or are currently serving in the British Armed Forces, and their families. Let us all wear our poppies with pride.



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SAVE A DOG AND HELP A VETERAN



Everyone knows a dog is a man's best friend and even more so when the dog is helping someone with an illness as they have the instinct to know when a person is in distress. Stan and Joan Spooner of Denmead are volunteer fosterers for Service Dogs UK, a charity which provides assistance dogs for servicemen and emergency services personnel suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They became involved in the charity when their daughter was friends with one of the co-owners, Garry Botterill, a Sergeant in the West Sussex Police, and volunteered them as possible dog foster parents.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder that develops as a result of a traumatic experience and the sufferers have flashbacks, nightmares, feelings of suicide, difficulty in feeling emotions, fatigue, loss of trust, a feeling of isolation and often struggle with daily life in work and at home. For those in the armed forces, PTSD is often triggered by combat and for those involved in emergency services it can be triggered by life threatening experiences, such as horrific accidents. Engaging with a dog can give them a sense of security, has a calming effect and helps boost confidence. Owning a dog also brings a sense of responsibility and provides a routine and a purpose to go out meaning veterans have to be committed to the dog.

Research shows that interaction with dogs provides therapeutic benefits and using rescue dogs makes an unique partnership. Advantages of a veteran – dog partnership includes lowering stress levels and depression, lowering blood pressure, anxiety, startle responses and emotional numbness. It increases a sense of calm, a positive sense of purpose and patience and improves sleep and emotional state. There is a mutual beneficial relationship between man and dog which is essential to the health and well-being between the two.

Being a volunteer fosterer means being committed for 4 – 6 weeks at a time helping rescue dogs from the Dog's

Trust to socialise in the volunteer's own home. They attend training sessions together and learn how important it is to be patient and kind to dogs which may have had their own traumas. This fostering enables the dogs to be assessed for suitability before going for further training with qualified trainers of Service Dogs UK to be partnered with a veteran. The advanced training takes 9 months between dog and possible owner to establish suitability, and both are reassessed each year.

Service Dogs UK covers Post Traumatic Stress Disorder sufferers in East Hampshire, West Sussex and Surrey and train their dogs to Assistance Dog International Accreditation and only use rescue dogs from the Dog's Trust, as both veterans and dogs have battle scars and being able to help each other empowers them. The dogs are carefully selected with the right qualities meaning they can go anywhere with the veteran as a team. They give comfort and can distract when their owner feels tense and can recognise stress and anxiety and redirect the person to more positive activities such as petting.

Stan said, "It is a relatively new charity which needs more fosterers and funds as training, food and vets fees are given free so I try and arrange social events to raise funds". "It's a rewarding pastime and gives great satisfaction knowing you're not only helping some-one with PTSD, but also a rescue dog". "I attended training sessions with Kelley Honour at Waterlooville who waived her fees and within 3 weeks the dog had received a Kennel Club Award certificate". "To see a veteran and a dog working together is fantastic and makes a huge difference to both parties".

More information on Service Dogs UK can be found on their website www.servicedogsuk.org or have a chat with Stan on 02393 071965. (photo : Service Dogs UK)



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Hero remembered at Catherington



In 1942 a daring Commando raid took place which Sir Winston Churchill stated had shortened the war by six months. Operation Frankton, better known as the Cockleshell Heroes, was masterminded by Lt Colonel Blondie Hasler who lived at Catherington. Through the instigation of his friend, Cdr Bill Evershed and the organisation of Cllr Sara Schillemore, a blue plaque was unveiled at his former home by Lord Paddy Ashdown to commemorate his involvement in this dangerous mission.

Operation Frankton was planned to disable enemy shipping in Bordeaux by paddling 70 miles up the Gironde Estuary to attach limpet mines to the ships in the harbour. Ten men, trained at Southsea, set off in five specially made canvas canoes but two were soon drowned. After five nights under cover of darkness the others reached their destination to successfully disable six ships, but six men were captured, interrogated, tortured and executed by the Germans. Only Blondie Hasler and his crew mate Corporal Bill Sparks managed to make their way on foot through France with the help of the French Resistance and reach safety in Spain.

Nearly 100 people attended the unveiling of the plaque at Glamorgan Road, Catherington including representatives from the services, police and fire service and local dignitaries. Twenty three Hampshire firefighters recently retraced the paddle strokes of the Cockleshell Heroes in an attempt to raise £10,000 for charity. Cllr Sara Schillemore welcomed the guests and thanked the current owners of the house, Sarah and Greg Hughes, for the use of their home. She then invited Cdr Evershed, Brigadier Spencer, Deputy Commandant of the Royal Marines and Lord Ashdown to say a few words. Cdr Evershed recalled his childhood memories of collecting

for the Red Cross with his mother around the village and stopping at Mrs Hasler's house for tea. In 1942, Blondie told his mother he was 'going away' and she later heard he was safe but was not told of his return. It was a great shock to her when he walked through the door.

Brigadier Spencer spoke of the remarkable courage of the men especially as most were not regular Royal Marines and they had no idea of what they were volunteering for – in fact, three of them were non-swimmers. He said their bravery prevented vital supplies getting through to German ports and their navy. Lord Ashdown, a former Special Boat Service commando said, "Blondie was a man from a normal background who did something extraordinary for his country". "His quality shone through and he commanded by example and all the brave men who took part should be remembered today". Blondie's widow, Bridget, was unable to make the long journey from Argyll but sent her appreciation of what was being done in her husband's memory, but said she sad for the men who died and received no medal recognition for their bravery. The speeches were followed by a Royal Marine bugle call and a minute silence.

Lord Ashdown unveiled the plaque which was funded by the East Hants District Council's councillor grant scheme and supplemented by funds raised by the Catherington Village Residents' Association, and this was followed by a small reception. It was a highly dangerous mission that was heavily reliant on the ingenuity and the courage of the men involved. They knew from the start that it was probably a suicide mission. The plaque will be a great reminder of the sacrifice these brave men gave for Britain.

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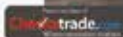
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So why does November 5th still hold such a special place in our hearts? It's a fairly safe bet to say that the original reason for Bonfire Night – to commemorate the gory end of Jacobean terrorist Guido Fawkes and his fellow plotters – isn't really on our minds these days when we celebrate the date.

November 5th is one of those important times when young and old can come together – despite the dark and the cold winter weather – to enjoy a shared experience complete with its own traditions. Central to that ritual is the bonfire itself.

The attraction of fire is hard-wired into our DNA. Some historians speculate that the activities we associate with Bonfire Night are actually borrowed from much earlier, pagan traditions and the dates certainly seem to fit. The ancient Celtic festival of Samhain began on October 31st (coincidentally our date for Halloween) and extended to the following day. At sunset on October 31st local villagers would assemble in order to build a giant bonfire, which then became the focal point of the event.

The word 'Samhain' means "summer's end" and communities came together both to thank the gods for the harvest and to help them face the long, dark months ahead. Ancient people also believed it was a time for contacting – and sometimes appeasing – the spirits of dead ancestors who might



lend a hand from the 'other side' to help the community through the challenges of winter.

At the end of the celebration, each family would take a torch from the bonfire and bring it back to their home, where all fires had been deliberately extinguished the day before. These fires were then re-lit using the flame of the sacred bonfire: it was believed that if the fire went out, troubles would follow.

This summer it has been interesting to observe a shadow of this practice in the rituals surrounding the Olympic torch – particularly the care that has been taken in preserving the flame throughout the national relays building up to the opening ceremony of the 2012 games.

We consider that we belong to an enlightened and sophisticated society, so it is fascinating to observe the extraordinary pains taken by officials to ensure that the light originally sourced from the Temple of Hera at Olympia in Greece is not extinguished. Just as our ancient forefathers venerated the fire from the sacred Samhain bonfire, we treat the Olympic flame as a living being that must not be allowed to 'die' in case our hopes of success are extinguished with it.

So next time you are standing round a November 5th bonfire – or even lying back in the bath, surrounded by a mass of flickering candles – you can reflect on our very human need to use fire as a bringer of hope and cheer.

By Claudia Leaf

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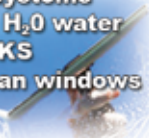
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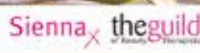
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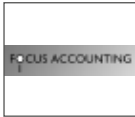
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