



Fortnightly: 21st August 2020 Edition 11

Last edition of August and some 'aah' experiences to share with you...

Liaisons along the Towpath

The lockdown was dragging into its second week and showed no sign of coming to an end, so I decided to go for a walk along the Grand Union canal towpath. The water was very quiet and green because the barges were also on lockdown and could not be moved.

It was not long before I came across a family. Frankie, who was sitting in the middle of the canal introduced himself and pointed out his wife Daisy on the other side of the water who was watching all their six ducklings rummaging amongst the bushes. Frankie proudly said, 'Of course, it's my job to protect them all'. 'You're certainly doing that', I said as he paddled away. Further along the path I saw 3 tiny ducklings with, I presumed was their single Mum because there was no Dad around. She quietly said, 'Hello, my name is Gertie'. I tentatively asked, 'Where is their Father?' She replied with a sigh, 'Charlie, I don't know where he is but life goes on, doesn't it?'. I said, 'You are doing a wonderful job'. 'Thank you', she panted and rushed off to gather a baby from the weeds.

On the second walk I gained some answers to Gertie's questions, I wasn't far from the gated road bridge when I saw two drakes sitting side by side at a post on the towpath. Mindful of social distancing I went up onto the grass verge, then I heard a 'quack' of thanks so turned round to face them. 'Hello', I said, 'who are you?' 'Oh, hello', said the one who quacked, 'I am Charlie, and this is my younger brother Desmond'. 'What are you doing here?', I asked. 'Well, we're waiting for the bar to open but it's a bit late today'. I said, 'But haven't you heard, all the bars are closed?' 'No, we're always the last to be told, we'll stay here anyway as there's nothing else to do'. How sad, poor Gertie, I thought as I walked away.

The third walk started at the Leicester arm and the duck's world had changed again. I saw Frankie but I didn't see Daisy or his family and he was too busy bathing to talk. Further along I saw Charlie and Desmond swimming in the middle of the canal, I asked where they were going. 'We're going to find Frankie' said Charlie. 'We're having a boy's day out, we hope that The New Inn will be open'. 'It won't be', I said, 'because they are all still closed'. 'Well we might be lucky because Desmond is struggling

being teetotal for 6 weeks' said Charlie. 'Good luck', I said as I left them.



Charlie and Desmond going to see Frankie...

Margaret J



You thought you had heard it all, but did you hear about a hen adopting five ducklings? Neither had I until recently!

It transpires that one hen was broody however, there was problem, she had no cockerel man-friend. A poultry keeper had some ducks and one had just laid five eggs and mother duck wasn't very interested in her new family. Two human-friends put their heads together and got an idea ... what if Mrs Hen sat on the duckling eggs and was their foster mum? After all, stranger things have happened!

Mrs Hen instantly took to her new role and got comfy, protecting her new eggs. Motherhood was thrust upon Mrs Hen and she soon had her own little family, of five ducklings. She didn't



seem to mind, nor notice that they weren't little chicks! Her new charges immediately took to her and to this day she still takes pride in showing them the way of the world, even if there might be a few

differences along the way. Eventually the ducklings will be returned to their original parents, but for now, they are enjoying following mother hen around her paddock and playing in the water.



This article comes courtesy of family in Northumberland

Members Snippets and Posers

Welton WI Book Club

On Friday 31st July Caroline Maxwell kindly hosted our first meeting since February. Sitting in a leafy arbor in her beautiful garden sipping homemade lemonade with biscuits all in individual packs, we were all delighted to meet up again. We also discussed a wide range of genres read since lockdown. Next month's choice is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owen .



Thank you to Caroline for organising this in her inimitable way after the Monday rain caused it to be cancelled. *Marie*

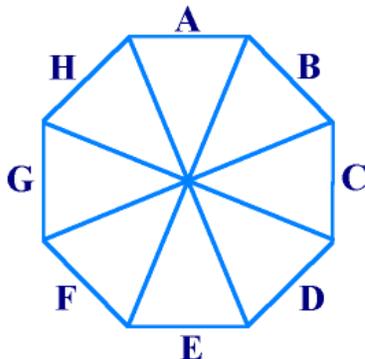
OPEN GARDENS

What lovely times we are enjoying at each other's gardens. We next have ...



Friday 28th August – 2.30/3.30 – Jean W
01327 872368 – 18 Clarkes Way
Friday 4th September – 2.30/3.30 – Hendrika
07766 331421 – 10 Halford Way
Please ring to confirm your place – Max 6 2m apart

OCTA-PLUS



Can you work out which eight numbers correspond with the letters A-H on the Octa-Plus diagram? No two numbers are the same. Each number is a whole number and no number is less than 1 or greater than 34.

B minus C is either 5 or 6

H is B minus D

E is H minus D

G is D plus F

D is a sixth of B

F is a quarter of C

A is 150 minus the sum of the other seven numbers

Gardening Corner

Note from editor: Our resident gardener Anita has been enjoying her efforts whilst relaxing in her garden. Our gardens are at their best and never one to be idle, she has kindly given us an insight into why she is keen on her hobby.

It's part of who I am

I was born into it! I have been gardening a very long time – over half a century to be exact. I had my first small patch at the age of five and have grown things ever since. Both my dad, grandfather and great grandfather were avid gardeners so it's in my blood. We had a huge vegetable garden when I was a child and my dad grew all our fruit and veg.

Escapism

It is an escape. If I feel stressed or need to clear my head, I simply go outside and grab the secateurs! It can be almost meditative. Gardening is food for the soul.

Satisfaction

It's so satisfying to see something grow. Whether flowers or vegetables, it's immensely pleasing to watch what you planted flourish.

Nature

What better way to communicate with nature? Birds, bees, butterflies and other creatures still delight me.

Outdoor beauty

It makes my world beautiful. I love being outdoors and I look at or am in my garden every day. It is such a great place to share with friends and family.

"I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow" David Hobson



7th August 2020 Answer

TRIANGLE
 ACCORDION
 HARMONICA
 HARPSICHORD
 CLARINET
 CONCERTINA
 MANDOLIN
 ORGAN
 SAXOPHONE
 TAMBOURINE
 TROMBONE



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