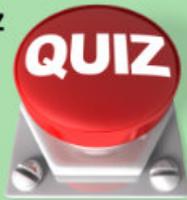


Answers To Last Friday's Quiz

1. ROCKY
2. PICK UP
3. GOLD
4. WAGON WHEEL
5. DRIFTER
6. PENGUIN
7. BREAKAWAY
8. KIT-KAT
9. BLUE RIBAND
10. TUNNOCKS CARAMEL WAFER



Just a gentle reminder that our Facebook group is a 'closed' group, that means it is only open to Southport U3A members. Please do not forward the link to friends who are not members. They will not be permitted to join and their applications cause additional admin work.

Thank you for your understanding. Click [HERE](#) to visit the group page.



Everybody likes an easy lunch, but sometimes things don't go as planned. Click [HERE](#) to watch this short video.



If you are interested in bumble bees and what to do if you find a nest, click [HERE](#) to download a PDF containing useful information.

Francine Sagar

The Royal Opera House are showing a recording of the Royal Ballet's performance of 'The Dream'. It costs £3 and is on at 7pm tonight (Friday 19th March). Click [HERE](#) to visit the performance page.



I bet you have never seen Lady In Red performed like this before. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video clip from Britain's Got Talent (and try not to get too annoyed at the constant cutting away from the act - or is that just me).



You may have seen the weirdly decorated Mersey Ferry over recent years, but how much do you know about the history behind its paint job? Click [HERE](#) for an article about 'Dazzle Camouflage' and why it was developed.



Maybe if I had become an estate agent I might have been able to afford a 'Boogatti' or two. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video all about excess.





Fool's Gold is
Carol and Steve Robson.

Acoustic musicians, storytellers
and performers they have delivered
countless shows to audiences all over
the UK - and online all over the world!

A typical FG show features a mixture
of songs, their stories supported by
some wonderful visuals.

But Dark Light is not a typical show...

Especially created for zoom
performance 'Dark Light' will entertain,
amuse, amaze and surprise!

(At least, we hope so!)

www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk

FOOL'S GOLD

DARK LIGHT

the flannan island mystery

Southport U3A

23 March 2021

10.30am

live on zoom

SHOW PROGRAMME

What makes a great story?

A story that grabs the imagination and gives
it a good shake.

That's what we look for when planning a show, and with
'Dark Light', that's just what we found...

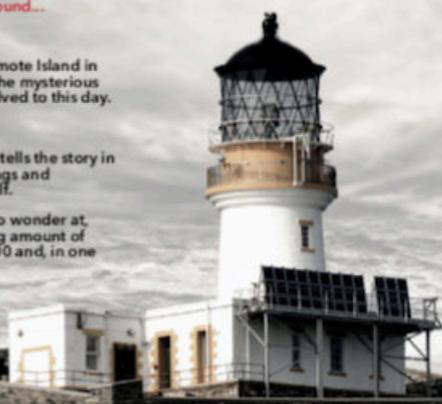
In 1900 a strange event took place on a remote island in
the Outer Hebrides. This story is all about the mysterious
disappearance of three men; and it is unsolved to this day.

Or is it?

This musical presentation from Fool's Gold tells the story in
detail using original and contemporary songs and
fascinating visuals - as well as the story itself.

As usual with an FG show, there is plenty to wonder at,
much to enjoy, lots to smile and a surprising amount of
songs that you did not know belong to 1900 and, in one
way or another, belong to this story.

Welcome to the Flannan Islands mystery!



What makes a Fool's Gold show so different?

We are musicians, so we love to play and sing songs. The songs
are a mixture of original pieces and very well known tunes
usually linked to a theme or a place. We like to vary the
arrangements and styles - and especially play different
instruments - we have quite a collection! All our music is
acoustic and if you need a reference point, 'Folk' would be a
good place to start.

The thing that sets the shows apart from a concert recital are
the stories. All of our songs have wonderful tales hiding behind
them - often very unexpected. We like to tell our audiences the
stories and perform the songs - each performance is 100% live
- there are no backing tapes in one of our shows!

In 'Dark Light' the story links all the music together into a
fascinating mystery tale narrative.

...and there's another thing. The stories and songs conjure up
images so we use those too. We tell the stories with the aid of
images, animations and movies and we support the live music
with a video - no backing tapes, but a backing video!

We hope you enjoy 'Dark Light'.



You may not be aware, but the National U3A run a monthly photo
theme called 'U3A Eye'. There are no prizes, except bragging rights, its
purpose is simply to allow people to get involved. A couple of months ago,
one of my photos was amongst those selected, so a friend suggested I put it
in here and encourage you all to take part.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the page in which
my photo was selected and also to
find out how to take part.



FROM WHICH SHAKESPEARE PLAYS DO THESE QUOTES COME?

1. "To be or not to be: that is the question"
2. "Now is the winter of our discontent"
3. "Of one who loved not wisely but too well"
4. "Beware the Ides of March"
5. "A horse, a horse, my Kingdom for a horse"
6. "Why then, the world is my oyster"
7. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and others have greatness thrust upon them"
8. "Get thee to a nunnery"
9. "All that glistens is not gold"
10. "If music be the food of love, play on"

Answers on Tuesday (I promise)

When we lived in Woodford, we had a huge pond, not many frogs most of the year, but usually on a warming rainy night, in March, I would here them croakily coming back from wherever they had gone to lay their eggs, around my sideways, they shimmied under the gate.

We had a utility room in the garden, so I was always in and out and it had to be locked every evening, I can remember my delight when one night in March, every year, as I went out I could see a trail of them returning to where they were born.

I used to ring my mum, who lived in Norfolk, then excitingly tell her the frogs have returned. It will be delightful watching the babies as they emerge.

We also had great crested newts with yellow and orange spotted underbellies.

We've don't have pond here in Ainsdale, so I had forgotten what it joy it was to see and hear them, thank you for the reminder. A great memory. It's made my day!

Jean Washbourne



Friday 19th March 2021

Fulham v Leeds United
20:00 Sky Sports

Saturday 20th March 2021

Brighton & Hove Albion v Newcastle United
20:00 Sky Sports

Sunday 21st March 2021

West Ham United v Arsenal
15:00 Sky Sports

Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur
19:30 Sky Sports



If you are 'In The Mood' for a little dancing, click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, dancing to the well known instrumental piece from the Glenn Miller Orchestra.



My snippets about our frogs have caused so much interest I thought it would be good to give a little more information about building a wildlife pond.

I can't claim to be an expert, but here are some things I have picked up over the years.

Even if you don't have much space you can still put in a pond, as long as you make sure it is at least 2



feet deep (preferably closer to 3 feet). That is to make sure that, during the Winter, there is liquid water at the bottom and it is not too prone to evaporation on hot days.

Make sure that you have places along the edge which frogs and other amphibians can use to climb out, otherwise they will drown.

If you would like a water feature, make sure it is at one end of the pond and leave the other end natural. Frogs like calm water and plenty of cover.

Plant a mix of marginal and oxygenating plants. Oxygenating plants, that grow from the bottom are good as not only do they help keep the water fresh but they also give the wildlife some cover.

Don't worry too much about clearing silt off the bottom. As long as you are keeping the water fresh this silt will be a haven for wildlife such as newts.



If you want to add fish, try to go for vegetarians or you will find your tadpoles become lunch.

It may take a little while but, providing

you have the right elements in place, your pond will become home to frogs, toads and maybe even newts. We found our first breeding pair of newts last year (they may have been there longer but they are very shy creatures).

If you have plants that break the surface of the water you will also find damselflies and dragonflies coming to them, possibly even laying their eggs on them. Look closely and you will see pond skaters, skimming across the surface tension. Maybe even a water boatman, hanging upside down from the surface.

A cascade will help keep your pond aerated and also provide fresh water for birds, bees and all manner of other wildlife, throughout the year (we keep ours running permanently).

There are lots of online resources (click [HERE](#) for an example) to help you get started and I can personally recommend Neptune Aquatics (opposite Sefton Meadows), for equipment and advice.

Once you have built your pond, sit back and watch the action.

Ian Homewood



More wartime memories this week, from Colin Weir.

"I was posted to a Regiment near Swindon who shortly moved the Tidworth. It proved to be an eventful part of my career. I volunteered for a driving course that lasted week and I got my licence. Then another course to upgrade my Field Engineering knowledge and the best one was a fortnights skiing in Aviemore Scotland.

A local hotel allowed us to use the detached bar but not the one reserved for residents. It was a Saturday night and it had been snowing hard. When we went for a pint a pile of band instruments were set up with just a pianist playing. His mates were unable to attend. My mate Paddy had drumming experience and I could slap a bass having played in a Skiffle



group on a tea chest. The pianist was thrilled at our offer to join him and we soon had them singing and dancing. It was at that time that elasticated ski pants were the vogue and the ladies opened our eyes as we could see their visible pantie lines. Later referred to as VPL. One even wore her suspenders and stockings that were visible.

Because we volunteered we had free drinks all night and we were the only two allowed to use the residents bar. (I'm on the extreme left in the photo.) Shortly after our return a troop of us were sent to Warminster Camp on the edge of Salisbury Plain, we had to bury some shot up tanks that had been used for target practice. Because they were mostly very thick armour plate the local scrap merchants were unable to cut them up as it would be too expensive. (One photo shows a bulldozer and scraper beginning to make the hole for the old tanks. The second photo is of me in the distance watching the Fowler

bulldozer being put through its paces after I had carried out some repairs.) It was a profitable adventure, we fitters removed plenty of metal objects from the old tanks which the local scrap merchant welcomed and it provided beer money for we poverty stricken soldiers.



We were billeted in the camp at Warminster and another job we had to do was remove some very big concrete ramps that had previously been used to inspect the underneath of tanks, but had come to the end of their life. It was noisy compressors and jack hammers that were employed and not an enjoyable job. It was reserved for naughty soldiers, late on parade, dirty boots etc. and your job for the day was using a jack hammer for ten hours.



We had plenty of volunteers. Nearby was the camp H.Q. It was housed in a very pretty brick building and might have been the Camp Commandants home in the past. As we were finishing for the day a big tank appeared off the ranges and began the descent into the camp. The driver missed his gears and the brakes failed to hold it as it gathered pace down the hill and embedded itself into the pretty camp Headquarters. We downed tools and rushed to help, happily there were no casualties. Our offers to help were spurned by the Clerk of Works as the building had to be propped up before the tank was extricated."

SCENIC SCOTLAND

Ian Homewood

