

# The Lydden Vale News



April 2026

**Defib Runners** in order of proximity  
to the Defib at Buckland Newton Village Hall

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Lisa Peart       | 01300 345578 |
| Keith Darbyshire | 01300 345196 |
| Gill Nell        | 01300 345825 |
| Sandie Stout     | 01300 345135 |
| David Morris     | 01300 345402 |
| Geri Aitkenhead  | 07864 195619 |

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## The Bit at the Beginning ....

The Daffodils may be a few weeks early this year, but they are looking fantastic. The grass verges definitely look their best at this time of year, and it certainly brightens the day.

If you like to get involved in the community or you just have a little spare time, there are a few appeals for volunteers in this month's LVN (see page 8 and 20 ). If you love chatting to people and eating cake, then running the Tea Tent at the Fete could be for you (and a friend/partner?). I've been doing this for a few years, and it really is a lovely day – it requires a certain amount of organising beforehand, but it is very rewarding and there are plenty of people willing to help. Otherwise, if flowers are more your thing, then Holy Rood Church are looking for flower arrangers.

Also, Buckland Newton Village Hall are looking for a new Bookings secretary, likewise the Lydden Vale Gardening Club needs a secretary too, and the Plant Sale needs a Treasurer. Village life is never dull!

Happy Easter!

Amanda



\*\*\*\*\*

### Publication Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is on the **18th** of every month

### Text, Photographs, Community Messages, Enquiries, etc. to Amanda at:

Email: lyddenvalley@gmail.com

Meetings/interviews: arranged via email

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**\* 1/8 Page Landscape please. 1/4 Page Portrait - unless full width of page, in which case Landscape. Thank You!**

The LVN is a great place to advertise covering a broad and diverse area, whether you have a colour or mono advert! Kindly mention the Lydden Vale News when responding to advertisements.

**This Month's Front Cover Credit:** Iain Fergusson

The Buckland Newton  
Community Website

**www.bucklandnewton.com**

Your local website for up-to-date news, events, clubs, groups, directories for businesses and services - and information about the village and its surroundings (and the online version of the LVN!)

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# WHAT'S ON - APRIL 2026

**Wednesday 1st April – 8 pm**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT – THE GAGGLE OF GEESE** (See page 7)

**Thursday 2nd, 16th and 30th April - 2 - 4 pm**



Our sessions for April will be on Thursdays - 2nd, 16th and 30th  
From 2-4pm at the Gaggle of Geese

Come along and join us with whatever craft you like to do, or come along and “natter”.  
We have cake at “half-time” too !  
Everyone very welcome.



Lyn Cox 01300 345739      Jane Willis 01300 345477

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 7.15 for 7.30 pm.**  
**LYDDEN VALE GARDENING CLUB - BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL** (See page 12 for details)



**Friday 10th April – 12.45 pm**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB**



Last month we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at The Green Man. The old bowling alley has been transformed into a very elegant dining/party room.

This month, on Friday 10th April we are back in our Village Hall. Lunch will be served at 12:45 p.m.

The menu is as follows:


Fruit Juice

Beef Lasagne served with garlic bread or Quiche Lorraine with mini potatoes  
(both served with salad)

followed by Baked Raspberry Cheesecake or Tiramisu

Tea or Coffee

If you have not already done so, please confirm your attendance to Bridget Hodges (01300 345493).

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>Monday and Friday</b><br><b><u>POST OFFICE 9am-12 noon Buckland Newton Village Hall</u></b> |
|---|--|

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30 am**

**BUCKLAND NEWTON HISTORY GROUP – THE PARISH PAVILION** (See page 11 for details)

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**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30 – 12.30pm**

**PULHAM CHURCH COFFEE MORNING – THE HALSEY ARMS** (See page 6)

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**Friday 24th April 2026- 10.30 am - 12 pm**  
**BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE CAFE**



Cafe will be on Friday 24th April, from 10.30 - 12 noon  
Tea/coffee and cake - £1.50 - bargain !!

Let's hope some lovely Spring weather has started by then.  
Everyone welcome - locals and visitors

Lyn Cox 01300 345739      Liza Hill 01300 345230

\*\*\*\*\*

**Date for your diary:**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – THE GAGGLE OF GEESE** (See page 7)



\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 10 am til 12 pm**

**BUCKLAND NEWTON PLANT SALE** (See page16)



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# Important information

## Buckland Newton Hosted Outreach Service

The opening times at this service will be changing.

The change will take effect from Monday 16 March 2026 at 09:15

New opening times

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday    | 09:15 - 11:45 |
| Tuesday   | No Service    |
| Wednesday | No Service    |
| Thursday  | No Service    |
| Friday    | 09:15 - 11:45 |
| Saturday  | No Service    |
| Sunday    | No Service    |

For information in Braille, large print or audio call 03452 66 01 15, Textphone 03457 22 33 55 or to see a copy of our Principles of Community Engagement about changes to the Post Office network, visit our website [postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk)

NC18



SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

## COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Pulham Church Fund.

In the Function Room at  
The Halsey Arms

(By kind permission of Ross and the Team.)

10.30am - 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a cuppa, delicious home-made cake and a catch-up with friends.

Help preserve our lovely historic Church building.



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# Easter Trail

23RD MARCH TO 14TH APRIL  
DAILY FROM 10AM TO 4PM

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Find us on Facebook:  
@ LittleGoslingsBucklandNewton

# EASTER Activities

From Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March

DECORATE AN EGG COMPETITION

£2.50 per entry

BUNNY TRAIL

Follow the paths around the Animal Park & Gardens and look for the hidden bunnies, place a sticker on your map where you find them. Return your completed map to the shop and collect your goody bag!

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# Gaggle Events



**Easter Weekend** - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – bring the kids down for a free Easter Treasure Hunt. And Otter Brewery will be doing a ‘tap takeover’ showcasing their range of ales at the Gaggle over the weekend.

Likely to be a busy weekend so please book if you would like to eat. Pub closed on Easter Monday.

**Knit & Natter** - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April - the fortnightly crafting social group. Free to attend. Bring a project and perhaps some cake! 2 til 4pm

**Open Mic Night** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April & 6<sup>th</sup> May – pop down from 8pm to 10pm to enjoy and support local musicians. Or be brave and join in with a song or two.

**Pub Quiz** - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – our popular monthly Gaggle pub quiz. Fun evening of head scratchers, cryptic clues and general knowledge. Teams of up to 6. £2 per person or free if you dine before the quiz. Booking required.

**Axe Throwing & Archery!** - we have teamed up with Dorset Medieval Archery to offer axe throwing and archery in the Gaggle gardens. Bookable sessions in the Gaggle gardens across the week are now available through [www.dorsetmedievalarchery.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmedievalarchery.co.uk) . ‘Have a go’ axe throwing in the Gaggle gardens Saturdays from 4pm; pop along and try to win the best score of the day!

**Birthday Celebration** – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – celebrating another year of us having had the Gaggle open 8 years!! The popular band Longdog will be playing in the garden. And we will be doing a community group photo (around 6.45pm); a snapshot of the pub & villagers.

**Gagglefest** – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July – our annual family friendly music festival. Seven bands, two stages, kids’ zone, BBQ, laser tag, mobile barber, pizza, axe throwing, three bars and more! Tickets on sale now over the bar and via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gaggle](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gaggle)

‘Good news, we have printed more of our Lunch Club cards! If you haven't heard then we offer Club members 20% off food weekday lunchtimes! Perfect excuse to treat yourself to lunch at the Gaggle! If you don't yet have a card then ask for one next time you dine & pay....you can then use it for your next visit! Limited number of Gaggle Lunch Club cards available so don't miss out!’

\*\*\*\*\*

## Buckland Newton Village Hall



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## Buckland Newton Village Hall

At the end of February, Buckland Newton Village Hall received the exciting news that its grant application to the National Lottery's Awards for All Fund had been successful! This is a huge relief as it saves a lot of fundraising, and means that work can now be undertaken to:

Repair the veranda

Relay the patio and replace the surrounding fencing and gates

Upgrade the electrics in the kitchen


But we cannot be complacent. The lighting in the main hall needs to be replaced, swapping the old bulbs for LED lighting and the Committee is currently seeking quotes for this work.

AND as many of you may have noticed, the curtains around the Hall need updating. The last quote we had for this work was approx. £13,000 (including the stage).

The Hall Committee will be holding an Afternoon Cream Tea at the Hall on Sunday 5 July between 2 - 5 pm, to celebrate all the amazing things that go on at the Hall, and to start to raise funds for the ongoing work that needs to be undertaken. We hope you can join us!

In the meantime, the Hall is looking for a new **Bookings Secretary** a voluntary role (all members of the Hall Committee are volunteers). The role requires approx. 2 hours a week of someone's time and attendance at the Hall Committee's quarterly meetings. If you think you can help and would like to give something back to your community, please contact Kate Parish, Hall Chair at [bnvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bnvillagehall@gmail.com).

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### BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE FETE – AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 2026 APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

**A VILLAGE FETE ISN'T A VILLAGE FETE WITHOUT A TEA TENT!  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER/S TO ORGANISE AND RUN THE TEA TENT THIS YEAR.  
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ATTRACTION AT THE FETE AND RAISES SIGNIFICANT FUNDS.  
IF YOU FEEL THIS IS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA MCKENNA [amandamckenna62@gmail.com](mailto:amandamckenna62@gmail.com).**

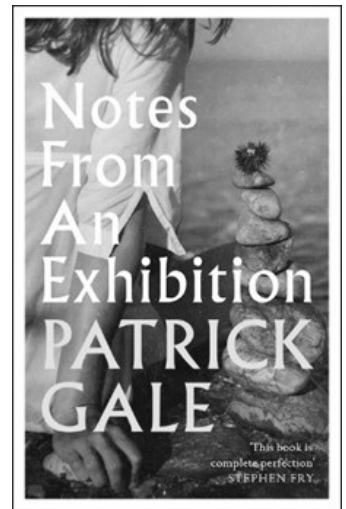
**WE ALSO NEED MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE FETE COMMITTEE – IT IS NOW A VERY  
WELL- OILED MACHINE SO WE ONLY MEET ABOUT 4 TIMES A YEAR AND WE ALWAYS  
WELCOME NEW IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.  
CONTACT SIMON [info@gaggleofgeese.co.uk](mailto:info@gaggleofgeese.co.uk)**

## In The Buckland Newton Book Corner

I expect many of you have already read **Patrick Gale's 'Notes From An Exhibition'** as it was written in 2007. I had somehow missed it, so it was a recent discovery for me as the choice for our most recent Book Group book.

It is a layered family drama centred on the life, and aftermath, of a brilliant but troubled artist, Rachel Kelly. After Rachel's death in her studio in Cornwall, her family gather and begin to clear through her belongings, including the many unfinished paintings and artefacts they find in her attic studio.

From there, the narrative moves back and forth in time, gradually piecing together her life through the multiple perspectives of her husband, children, and others who knew her. Long-buried secrets begin to emerge about her past, her relationships, and the impact she had on each of them.



Rachel is portrayed as a gifted painter whose creativity is closely tied to her struggle with bipolar disorder. Her intense highs fuel her art, while her depressive episodes cause emotional damage to those around her, especially her family. They had "*learned to live around her, like people living near a volcano.*" Gale presents mental illness as both powerful and destructive through Rachel's character. He uses the description that she was "*both the storm and the calm after it*" and each of her four children are shaped differently by her instability.

I found all the characters very believable, although Rachel herself is likeable in her vulnerability and creativity, but her behaviour, shaped by her mental illness, often makes her difficult to sympathise with consistently. She is best described as complex rather than likeable or unlikeable, as readers may feel compassion more than affection with opinions shifting depending on who is narrating and what stage of her illness she is in.

I particularly liked the structure of the novel, which is one of its most important features, and hence its title. Every chapter begins with an "exhibition label" note about one of Rachel's artworks or possessions that a curatorial 'voice' describes. The following chapter then reflects in some way on the object or artwork using a character's voice – Rachel herself, or one of her family. There's a sense that this curator's note gives us the official version, the art (which we picture in our imaginations) gives us another and the piece of narrative that follows (the character's voice) yet another. The truth most probably lies somewhere in between all three.

The ending is left unresolved, which I confess to finding a little frustrating, but it serves to reinforce the novel's central message that **identity, memory, and truth are inherently fragmented and subjective**, much like the curated pieces of an exhibition.

*Karen Whiter*

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## Buckland Newton History Group

The History Group is now up and running with an initial eight members interested in researching and archiving the history of Buckland Newton. The long-term aim is to publish the results, perhaps as a book or on-line.

The first stage will be to catalogue all the previous research, articles, etc. that have been carried out by others over the years, to avoid replicating any research.

If you have looked into any aspects about the history of the parish or have any relevant old photos, documents, etc. that you would be willing to share, please contact us.

If you would like to join the group, please join us at our next meeting on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am in the Parish Pavilion.

Andy Waring at [andywaring12@gmail.com](mailto:andywaring12@gmail.com) or  
John Baker at [johnbaker386@outlook.com](mailto:johnbaker386@outlook.com)

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## Buckland Newton Youth Club

It has been another busy month for Buckland Newton Youth Club as members have taken part in Buckland Newton's first Children's Literacy Festival, to celebrate the National Year of Reading.

As I write, members have already completed a workshop with Ed from the Bank of Dreams of Nightmares, writing a story and script which they will perform on Thursday 26 March. And have designed their own scenery with a local illustrator, Alice Loader.

Meanwhile, the BNYC volunteers have been busy getting the Youth Club's allotment ready to be used again. A hot bed has been built in the polytunnel and raised beds have been made to protect the crops - we learnt last year that something was needed to prevent the young people from trampling over their seedlings!

Sowing will begin in earnest in early April, and it is hoped there will be plenty of food to cook, eat and share over the course of this year.

BNYC's Summer programme will be available in next month's LVN but plans include the Wild Camp, trips to the beach and Splashdown and another "Bring Your Tractor to Youth Club" night!

To get involved contact Kate Parish, Lead Youth Worker [bucklandnewtonyc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandnewtonyc@gmail.com). Young people need to be in Yr 6 and above to join.



## LYDDEN VALE GARDENING CLUB

LAST MONTH - The March talk by Mike Burks of Castle Gardens, as always, was entertaining as well as informative. The subject "Weed Control" may have sounded dry but was anything but, and many of us learnt a new word, ALLELOPATHY. Mike gave examples of the naturally occurring ALLELOPATHIC chemical which can inhibit the growth of neighbouring plants and therefore can be used to deter certain weeds e.g. Tagetes minuta, a Mexican marigold versus Ground elder, Calendula (Pot marigold) v Marestail. These are not overnight cures but can show results long term with patience and replanting's.

*(However inevitably, as managing director of Castle Gardens Mike was obliged to bring a range of 'over the counter' weed killers!)*

LOOKING AHEAD....Forty members are now signed up for a visit to The Newt\*\* on 6th May.

And to prepare for this, we look forward to a talk on 8th April by Head of Programming, Arthur Cole. He will outline its history, from the days of the Hobhouse Family living at Hadspen House to its more recent transformation, begun in 2019, to the gardening phenomenon that is The Newt.

There are many advantages to club membership, including benefits from being part of Castle Gardens Gold Club, along with special rates for visits. For example, normal entrance to The Newt costs the proverbial 'arm and a leg' but for LVGC members the entrance fees in May will be subsidised from club funds, there being no coach visit this year. This benefit will also apply to the June visit to the very special Walled Garden at Upper Sydling House.

NB. Those on the list for the May visit will be receiving an email requesting Payment before or at the April meeting, to qualify for the special group rate.

### **The next Meeting on Wednesday 8th April at 7pm for 7.30pm**

Whether or not you are coming on the visit we hope to see a good number at what promises to be a most interesting talk.

As usual we welcome nonmembers at £3pp.

\*\*For those unfamiliar with The Newt

*It is a working country estate between Bruton and Castle Cary. Set amid farmland, woodland, orchards and lakes, is the original Georgian manor house, stable yard and farm buildings, as well as acres of formal gardens with a renowned horticultural history.*

*The latest incarnation has been created by Italo-French architect Patrice Taravella, who believes a garden should be both beautiful and useful. Mixing ornamental and productive elements, the gardens are a feast for the eyes and stomach. At their core sits the Parabola, a walled garden concealing an apple tree maze; at their edges, diverse woodland provides a sheltered habitat for native wildlife.*

*Jan Burnett*



## Mostly Moths - Four-spotted Footman

I see no spots! That's because only the female has this adornment and even then you can only see three of them! That's because like all the footman family of moths, the wings are tightly wrapped around the body and the fourth spot is hidden. So-called 'Footman' because of the resemblance to the long stiff coats worn by Victorian footmen.

The Four-spotted Footman is a very dapper looking moth with its bright yellow forewing. When you first see it, it is surprisingly large compared to the ubiquitous Common Footman that can be so numerous in July. It used to be a rare sight but in recent years its numbers have increased, especially in the South. Both an immigrant and now residential. Its larval food is lichen. I caught this chap in August last year. First I have ever caught here.



*Fizz Lewis*

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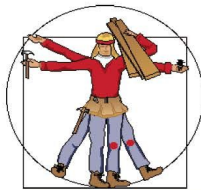
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## Greg James bike ride for Comic Relief



Greg James, the Radio 1 DJ and TV show host, cycled through Cosmore on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March as part of the first leg of his 8 day, 1000km tandem bike ride from Weymouth to Edinburgh in aid of Comic Relief. I managed to take a photo of him and his entourage coming down Revels Hill in Cosmore and took a screenshot of him being greeted by Greg Rutherford, the retired British track and field athlete, when he stopped for a break at the Hunters Moon in Middlemarsh.

*John Marjoram*



\*\*\*\*\*

## Buckland Newton Plant Sale

The Buckland Newton Plant Sale in aid of Weldmar Hospice will take place this year on Saturday 9 May 2026. The sale will start at 10 am at Buckland Newton Village Hall and will run until midday. The Youth Club will be serving refreshments from the Parish Pavilion, where there will be another plant stall too.

For many years Jan Marpole has acted as Treasurer for the Plant Sale, collecting the money raised by the stall holders and arranging for payment to be made to Weldmar Hospice. Jan has done a terrific job, and everyone is extremely grateful to her for taking on this role. However, Jan has decided it is time to step down from this role, and the Plant Sale is therefore looking for another Treasurer.



BUCKLAND NEWTON

# Plant Sale

Save the date

SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026  
1000 - 1200

Thinking about sowing some seeds or dividing perennials, remember to pot up a few extras and donate to the Buckland Newton Plant Sale, in aid of Weldmar Hospice.

To get involved, donate plants, or run a stall contact Kate Parish: [bucklandnewtonyc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandnewtonyc@gmail.com)



It is a straightforward process:  
 Collect the funds from the stall holders  
 Count up the money and let everyone know how much as been raised  
 Arrange payment to Weldmar Hospice

If you think you can help, please contact [greystonebn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greystonebn@yahoo.co.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## The Lydden Vale

A poem with a local theme?  
It should be easy - so it seemed.  
An ode to Buckland Newton was my aim.  
I scratched out drafts and wracked my brain.  
I tried. Alas, it was of naught avail  
Until I thought at last of Lydden Vale.  
In praise of this to none I yield,  
Its woods, and streams and sloping fields,  
The haze of garlic in the scented dell,  
The clouds of azure that I love so well,  
Where bluebells stand in martial rivalry  
Facing the garlic's warlike panoply.  
On one side almost celestial white.  
The other, rich hues, purple, blue and bright.

Across the hills the clouds their shadows chase  
Dappling with shades of grey the valley's face.  
The wind sweeps by and shakes the waves of  
grass,  
Ruffles water's natural looking glass.  
Around about the spinney weaves the breeze  
And upturns the whitebeam's silvered leaves.  
But then a squall of rain obscures the sun  
And homeward must I now for safety run,  
Or trudge, soaked, cold and much bedraggled  
To seek some comfort in the Gaggle.  
And so do my poetic musings pass  
And thus, content, I rest my pen at last.

*By Christopher Sharp*



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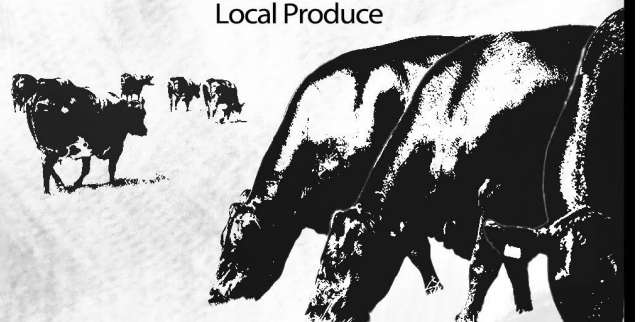
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## April Quiz

1. How many children did Queen Victoria have?
2. The first hybrid car was built in 1899. Who designed it?
3. Where was the Formula 1 British Grand Prix held in the even-numbered years between 1964 and 1986?
4. Who played the title roles in "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid"?
5. What is lava called while it is still underground?
6. Which act has the most singles debuting at number 1 on the UK chart?
7. Rob Wilkins was whose personal assistant?
8. Who managed the men's England National football team from 1999 to 2000?
9. What is the Karakoram?
10. What is the densest naturally occurring element?

*By Simon Spencer*

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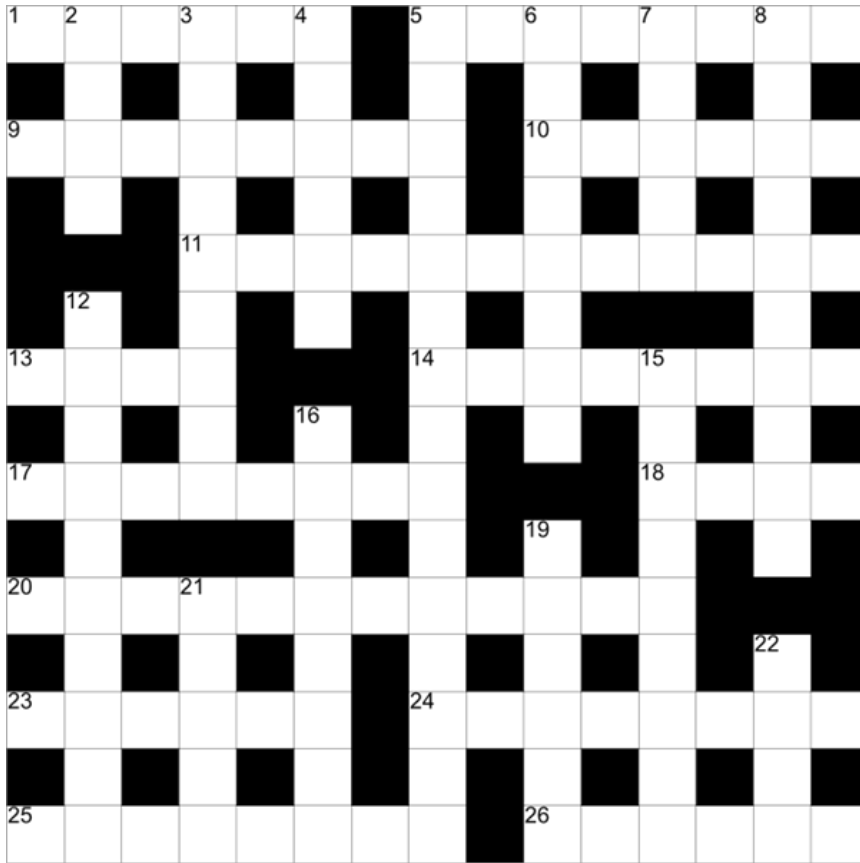
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|   | 8 |   |   | 1 |   | 4 |   |   |
|   | 2 |   | 8 |   |   |   | 7 | 1 |
| 8 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 5 |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 8 | 3 |   |
| 6 | 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 3 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7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

Sudoku by mathsphere.co.uk

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | E | C | Y | R | O | V | A | S | E | T | O | Y | G | E |
| N | I | G | P | R | F | R | M | L | R | N | N | H | M | T |
| T | N | P | A | Q | A | U | I | J | L | M | D | Y | H | C |
| Y | G | F | D | V | C | M | Q | L | X | I | H | P | J | X |
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| F | F | F | A | B | I | K | I | H | O | A | U | C | A | C |
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| O | C | E | D | U | N | Y | T | F | X | R | K | L | O | O |
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WHERE ARE THE HERBS?

BASIL  
BAY  
BORAGE  
CHAMOMILE  
CHERVIL  
CHIVES  
COMFREY  
CORIANDER  
DILL  
FENNEL  
LOVAGE  
MARJORAM  
MINT  
OREGANO  
PARSLEY  
ROSEMARY  
SAGE  
SAVORY  
TARRAGON  
THYME



**Crossword and Wordsearch  
by Carole Spencer**

**Across**

1. Church aisle not a fused tool (6)
5. Mother's disputes dogs (8)
9. Needs to be pressed (8)
10. Anyway just imagine doing without one puzzle (6)
11. No lingo might translate into a second job (12)
13. Impose duty on a single vehicle (4)
14. Balm from Eton – mint possibly? (8)
17. Pretty smelly (8)
18. Theoretician includes counter quote (4)
20. Tree pruner, in from France brewed a serial investor (12)
23. About seductress Doctor (6)
24. Relation disturbed from the east (8)
25. About time side was listed (8)
26. Insect that might take to the wing (6)



**Down**

2. Was thankful for including piece of yarn (4)
3. Electronic sound after disorderly crowd is stealing apples (9)
4. Fifteen's comrade Trotsky holding nun's coat (6)
5. Moderate place for a white line (6,2,3,4)
6. Insulting going downhill (8)
7. I do it badly being a fool (5)
8. Womanliness produced if tiny mine is exploded (10)
12. Fine hearth constructed according to scale (10)
15. Writer of yesterday (9)
16. Tote smokers instrument (8)
19. One in the spirit trade (6)
21. Royal domain in actual miles (5)
22. It could be four letters (4)



## Buckland Newton — Holy Rood

Vicar: Jonathan Still, The Vicarage, Back Lane, Cerne Abbas Tel: 01300 341251  
Churchwarden: Jon Sulkin Tel: 07971 277584

Holy Rood is open every day from 9.30am  
thru' 5pm for private prayer

### April Services at Holy Rood

**Friday 3 April – Good Friday**  
Bun Service at 11am

**Sunday 5 April – Easter Day**  
Holy Communion at 9.45am

**Sunday 12 April**  
Matins at 9.45am

**Sunday 19 April**  
All Age Service at 4pm

### SELECTION OF BOOKS IN HOLY ROOD

£0.40 EACH OR 3 FOR £1.00

### We need extra help!

Some people have moved away; others have retired or maybe just need a break which means that our flower team at Holy Rood Church is sadly depleted and needs some extra help. It is only a couple of times a year for two weekends so not onerous, but we all tend to all muck in for Christmas, Easter and Harvest. It's a jolly atmosphere, usually there's a mug of tea or coffee on offer along with a good natter, if you're lucky, there might even be a bit of home-made cake!

Never done flowers before. Don't know where to start? No problem, we've all been there and we are still learning as we try new ideas or new flowers, so we're happy to share our knowledge and help whenever needed.

None of us has any formal training, we just enjoy arranging flowers in jugs, bowls or baskets. Greenery can be from a garden or hedges, marvellous in autumn with all the berries, dried thistles and seed pods make lovely Christmas decorations and then there's fluffy cow parsley in spring. Usually we do 2 or 3 arrangements each time and if you would rather not be on your own, that's fine, there's always someone who is happy to share the week.

Even if you feel daunted by the prospect, just come and see what it's all about, you don't need to be a churchgoer or get involved in any other aspect at Holy Rood. If you enjoy flowers, you're the person we need, we can give as much or as little help as you want. It's rewarding, fun, and creative, come on, give it a go, anyone is welcome.



Carol Phone 01300 345119 or [carolgrant.sw@gmail.com](mailto:carolgrant.sw@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dear Friends,

I realise that this is short notice indeed, but I write to tell you that at 2.30pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April the Rt Revd Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury, will visit Cerne Abbas to Baptise and Confirm a member of my Naval Unit who wishes this to happen before he deploys to Cyprus.

This creates an opportunity for others from Buckland Newton, Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone and Minterne and the local area to be Baptised and Confirmed on your doorstep. Such an Episcopal visit is very rare indeed.

People have interesting memories of Confirmation as a sort of religious '11plus' exam. It used to be a 'rite of passage' to adulthood, with a 'Course' and a 'Test'. Vicars used to call it the 'Passing out Parade' as often they didn't see teenagers often in church after the event! Quite simply, it is the Candidate repeating in their own voice from their own mind the promises made on their behalf by parents and godparents at their (infant) Baptism. Then the Bishop's hands are laid upon the head of the Candidate with a prayer that they be filled with the Spirit of God, the Spirit of all Life and Being. It makes the Candidate a full member of the Church fully admitted to the fellowship of the Bread and the Wine at the Lord's Table. It also qualifies the person to stand in their turn as Godparent to children of friends and family, which is an honourable and important privilege.

The laying on of hands fascinates me. It is a literal tactile fact of continuity which goes back 2000 years to Jesus of Nazareth who laid his hands on the heads of children and adults and prayed God's Spirit upon them. They anointed and blessed their successors in the same fashion. And it is not just appearances. These are the title deeds of belonging enacted in this physical contact. It is how (at least three) Bishops make a new Bishop, and how a Bishop makes Deacons and Priests. That is why I must be satisfied as to the sincerity of the Candidates and do all I can to help them explore their own journey.

(Things got a bit out of hand in Wales in the 19thC when the word went around that Confirmation was a specific remedy for Rheumatism. A Bishop recognised repeat Candidates for this once a lifetime event. Reforms were enacted.)

So, I have to vouch for and present each candidate personally. I have books and pamphlets to assist in exploration and am here preaching in our churches each Sunday. So, no tests, no time for 'courses' (how would one ever coordinate a time these days?) But a very rare opportunity. Please get in touch if you are intrigued!

*Jonathan*

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Teddy Bear Zip Wire Results



And what a result the day was with some amazing and daring toys making it down the wire. Not only teddies but rabbits, ducks, penguins, a lamb, a monkey, birds and as promised a fiery red dragon too but who can forget the octopus or the over-sized carrot? Luckily there were no casualties so the First Aider was not required. It was a wonderful fun and laughter filled day with the bacon butties disappearing in record time.

A special prize went to Teddy as the elder statesman of the contest at 91 years young with Flappington Flapper the First winning the Best Name whilst fearless Pandy the Peregrine zoomed down in breath-taking style easily beating everyone else's time.

The magnificent sum of £717 was raised for the Chancel Roof fund so many thanks to all who supported the event in whatever manner.

Thanks also to the Bell Ringers for opening up the Bell Tower for guided tours.

\*\*\*\*\*

# April Newsletter — Cerne Abbas Surgery

## Urgent Dental Care Appointments

Did you know **urgent dental services** are available in Dorset, even if you are not registered with an NHS dentist? Patients can access these services quickly through NHS 111.

If you develop an urgent dental issue and cannot find an NHS dentist, **telephone 111**. The NHS 111 health advisor will assess your situation, and if you have a clinical need for urgent treatment, they will make an appointment at the nearest urgent dental care service. If the issue is assessed to be non-urgent, you will be directed to another NHS dental practice and/or given self-care advice until you can get an appointment.

How do I know if my dental issue is urgent?

If you have painful or worrying problems that aren't life-threatening but still need treatment urgently. Examples include:

- Swelling or infections in the face or mouth that are getting worse (but not affecting breathing)
- Severe dental or facial pain that can't be eased with normal painkillers
- Broken or badly moved teeth after an accident
- Knocked-out baby teeth
- Facial injuries that may need a hospital check
- Bleeding in the mouth that you cannot stop

Gum or mouth infections, like painful or rapidly worsening gum disease or cold sore outbreaks.

## Home Blood Pressure Monitors

In the past, the surgery has been able to loan blood pressure monitors to patients for short periods so they could take readings at home. Unfortunately, many of these monitors have not been returned, and our supply has become extremely limited.

Because of this, we are no longer able to loan monitors from the surgery on a regular basis. Instead, we now recommend that patients purchase their own home blood pressure monitor if they are able to. Basic monitors are widely available online and from most pharmacies and retailers, starting from around £20. We recommend Omron monitors as reliable and easy to use.

Having your own monitor can be helpful for keeping track of your blood pressure over time and sharing readings with the practice when needed.

## The surgery Facebook page

Did you know that Cerne Abbas Surgery has a Facebook page? It's the best place to stay up to date with important and urgent announcements (surgery closures, telephone lines down, etc.).

Social media allows us to share updates much more quickly and at short notice. If you use Facebook, we encourage you to follow our page to stay informed and connected with the surgery.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HELP FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH OIL HEATING



01258 837354  
01258 838851

Are you panicking about the rapid rise in heating oil costs? Or do you know of neighbours who rely on oil to heat their homes and need help?

Dorset Council is to get £494,167 in Government funding to support low-income households who rely on heating oil.

Around 8.7% of households in Dorset (about 14,730 homes) rely on heating oil, compared to 3.6% nationally. In some rural parts of the county, particularly in North and West Dorset, this rises to between 33% and 50% of households.

Residents who are struggling with heating oil costs and are concerned about maintaining heating or hot water are encouraged to contact Dorset Council for advice and support.

For further information and to register for updates go to [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

<https://www.bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.org.uk>

The next Full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May 2026,  
7.00 pm in the Parish Pavilion.



The Parish Pavilion is available for parishioners to use. If you would like to book the Pavilion, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details. The Pavilion has a toilet that is open to the public 24 hours a day.

Internet is now available within the Pavilion – Log in details are displayed on the noticeboard in the entrance.

The Parish council website is [www.bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) here you will find direct links to Dorset Council services and departments such as Planning, Road Closures, Travel, Waste and Refuse and Report a problem.

### PLANNING

P/FUL/2026/01001- Laurence's Farm, Beaulieu Wood, Buckland Newton, DT2 7DH

Erect roofing over an existing agricultural silage clamp.

*Comments by 17 March 2026 - The Parish Council supports this application.*

For information only - Responses submitted since last meeting

P/FUL/2026/00100 - Duntish Mill Farm, Factory Lane, Duntish, DT2 7DR

Change of use of part of an existing building (Cottage3, also known as Farm Cottage) from residential use (Use Class C3) to short-term holiday accommodation.

*Comments by 9 February 2026 - The Parish Council has not objections to this application as it will not impact on the general daily use of this site*

Applications for information purposes only - no comment required

P/PABA/2026/00552 - Old Henley Farm, B3143 from Henley Farm, Henley to Holcombe Dairy Lane, Henley, DT2 7BL

Erect agricultural storage building

Dorset Council, in line with their agreed Statement of Community Involvement, will no longer be sending out neighbour notification letters for planning applications, unless they are specifically required by legislation. All applications will continue to be publicised via site notices, and press notices are also used where required by law. Details of all applications are also published online, and they will continue to consult statutory organisations and town and parish councils. Dorset Council are at present asking applicants and agents to help by displaying site notices on the Councils behalf.

Please note that these are applications known about up to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month; others may be submitted after this date, therefore check the Parish Council Website.

Planning applications can be viewed on the Dorset Council website. To view all applications listed under Buckland Newton Parish, use the advanced search page and select Buckland Newton under the Parish drop down.



## POLICE REPORT

January - no reports

February

03/02/2026 Possible Hunt – no confirmation that wildlife was chased.

20/02/2026 Rogue Traders completed inferior quality work – Trading Standards are the lead for this investigation

It is important to report all crimes/incidents so that the police can build up a picture of what is happening within the County. If nothing is reported, they cannot act on it.

Dorchester NPT website address is [Dorchester | Your area | Dorset Police | Dorset Police](#)

Our Face Book Page address is: [www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/](http://www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/)

Our Twitter Page is: <https://twitter.com/DorchesterPolice>

Our Instagram Page is: <https://www.instagram.com/dorchesterpolice/>

Dorset Alert messaging system registration to receive messages is: <https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk/pages/2451/1/Register.html>

### Contacting Dorset Police (non-emergency)

Do it Online: [www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/](http://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/)

Telephone: 101 \*(Calls to the 101 non-emergency number from both landlines and mobiles are free)

Message an officer: [www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/message-an-officer/](http://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/message-an-officer/)

To report information to the police with 100% anonymity, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or call Freephone 0800 555 111

### YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE:-

|  |                 |   |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Chair  | Andy Foot       | 01300 345511  |
| Vice Chair   | Mick Ames       | 01300 345497  |
| Councillors  | Mark Needham    | 01300 345293  |
|  | Chris Osmond    | 01300 345326  |
|  | Lin Townsend    | 01300 345306  |
|  | Nick Baker      | 07812 528170  |
|  | David Manny     | 07798 837122  |
| Flood Warden   | Bradley Perrett | 07855 473641  |
|  | Doug Morse      | 01300 345707  |
|  | Kevin Morse     | 01300 345707  |
| Rights of Way Liaison Officer  | Stephen White   | 01300 345431  |
| Parish Clerk   | Sarah Mitchell  | 01258 817288 / <a href="mailto:clerk@bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@bucklandnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> |
| Chalk Valleys Ward - Dorset Council – Cllr Jill Haynes 01300 341277 / <a href="mailto:cllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">cllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a> |                 |   |

### **Reporting Issues With FOOTPATHS or BRIDLE-PATHS**

Stephen White, as a Rights of Way Liaison Officer for the Dorset Coast & Countryside Service, investigates any issues within the parish of Buckland Newton, reporting to Dorset County Council.

His contact numbers are

01300 345431 or 07773 283764

If you prefer to report issues directly to the council, you can do so by calling 01305 224463 or online at

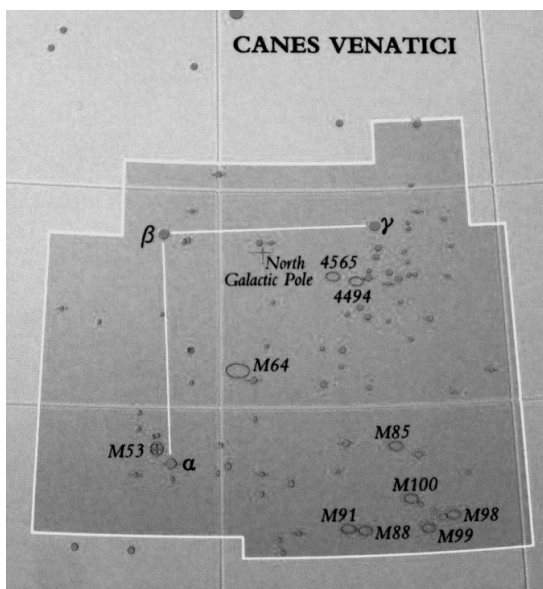
[www.mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem/](http://www.mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem/)

## YOUR NIGHT SKY – APRIL 2026

The end of last month finally gave us some clear views of the night sky. Hopefully we will get more this month. April should see the first mission back to the Moon since 1972 (See Special Events. I have had some requests for help finding the stars which I cover each month so I have included a basic sky chart this month and will try to do so in future.

This month's constellation is Coma Berenices (Berenice's Hair). This constellation has no bright stars and can be hard to find, but it is a remarkable area of sky. It is a faint sprinkling of stars superimposed on a cloud of galaxies. These are the northern end of the Virgo cluster of galaxies. There are eight galaxies in Coma Berenices which are visible in a small telescope. Each galaxy is as big or bigger than our own Milky Way galaxy. Coma Berenices can be found in the Southeast at about 10 pm early in the month, moving towards the south as the month progresses. It is about halfway between the horizon and the pole star. It is to the right and above of the bright star fairly low in the east which is Arcturus.

The first object to look for in Coma Berenices is Melotte 111, which is a star cluster visible with the naked eye on a dark night when there is no Moon in the sky. It is better viewed through binoculars. It is to the right of the numbers "4565" and "4494" on this month's star chart. It comprises 37 stars about 288 light years away. The second object of interest is M53, which is a fine globular cluster of stars also visible with binoculars. It is close to the brightest star in the constellation, Alpha ( $\alpha$ ), Coma Berenices. M64, also known as the "Black Eye Galaxy", is visible in binoculars although you will not be able to see the dark feature which gives it its name. You should be able to see that it is slightly elliptical. M3, which is to the left and slightly above Coma Berenices on our sky chart, is a globular cluster. You should be able to see a fuzzy ball which will resolve into stars with a small telescope.



**COMA BERENICES**



**LOOKING SOUTH-EAST**

**THE PLANETS THIS MONTH.** Venus will be a bright evening star in the West by the middle of the month. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> it will be to the right and slightly above the planet Uranus which you should be able to see with binoculars. Jupiter will now be in the West in the constellation of Gemini. Saturn, Mars and Mercury are lost in the twilight this month.

**THE MOON.** Full Moon is on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with new Moon on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SPECIAL EVENTS.** Nasa intends to launch Artemis 2 before April 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be the first human mission to orbit the Moon since 1968. The mission is similar to Apollo 8, which orbited the Moon at Christmas in 1972. It is the first full test of the new Orion spacecraft. The propulsion module for the spacecraft was built by the European Space Agency in Europe. The Lyrid meteor shower reaches its maximum on the night of April 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>. Unfortunately, the Moon doesn't set until 2am. The meteors will appear to come from the Northeast and will be at their peak in the early morning after the Moon has set. They sometimes leave a dusty trail.

Cont . . .

If you have, or are thinking of buying a telescope, and need any observing technical advice, I can be contacted on (01300) 345485 or at keithmwright@compuserve.com. There are free Apps which can be used on a tablet computer or smart phone that will help guide you around our night sky. You need to have the GPS turned on for the best results.

Keith Wright

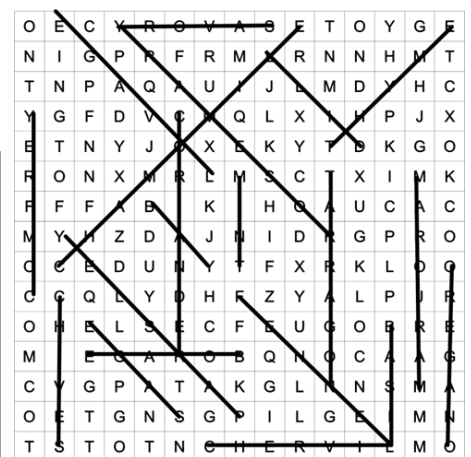
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Quiz Answers

1. Nine. Born between 1840 and 1857, the five girls and four boys all married into various European Royal families. The oldest was Victoria (Princess Royal) and the youngest was Beatrice. All survived into adulthood.
2. Ferdinand Porsche. Called the System Lohner-Porsche Mixte, it was a racing car that used a petrol engine to supply power to an electric motor that drove the front wheels. It was well-received and over 300 were produced.
3. Brands Hatch. Silverstone hosted it during the odd-numbered years. Nigel Mansell won his first ever Formula 1 win there in 1985 when it hosted the European Grand Prix that year.
4. James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson. The film was based on real events, Garrett and the Kid were acquaintances in New Mexico, before Garrett was tasked with hunting down the elusive 21-year-old outlaw.
5. Magma. Magma is molten rock trapped underground, often accumulating in magma chambers, and contains dissolved gasses (volatiles) that are lost during eruption. Underground it cools slowly, forming plutonic/intrusive rocks like granite, whereas lava cools quickly forming volcanic/extrusive rocks such as basalt.
6. Westlife. They have had fourteen singles debut at number 1, followed by Take That with ten. Band member Nicky Byrne passed his exams to join the Gardai before joining the group!
7. Terry Pratchett. He was looking for a local lady who could pop in and help him with the bookkeeping, but Wilkins was suggested by Colin Smythe, the publisher of Pratchett's first five novels. When Pratchett heard that Wilkins had been a fan for years, and was good with computers, he took him on immediately, and many computer games were played when Terry was thinking about writing.
8. Kevin Keegan. Keegan got the job after Glenn Hoddle was sacked after a newspaper article in which he expressed inappropriate personal beliefs. Kevin Keegan was rejected by Doncaster Rovers as a youngster because they thought he was too small. One source notes that when he turned up for the trial, Rovers saw "the five-foot tall kid" and thought he looked more like a jockey than a footballer!
9. A mountain range. Spanning the borders of Pakistan, India and China and extending into Afghanistan and Tajikistan, the range contains four of the fourteen eight thousand metre or more mountains, the highest being K2. It joins to the west end of the Himalayas.
10. Osmium. With a density of 22.6g/cm<sup>3</sup> osmium is hard, with a blue colour. Some fountain pen tips contain osmium alloys because they need to withstand years of use. Iridium is slightly less dense than osmium.



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





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