



Quiz of the week

- 1) Noah's Ark appears in which book of the Bible?
- 2) 'Salt eel' is a nautical term for the end of what?
- 3) What colour is the rose Silver Jubilee?
- 4) In 17th-century England, hearth money was a tax levied on what?
- 5) The stencil-based reproduction method serigraphy is also known as what?

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE November 23, 1918



IN the heart of Dovedale the river is spanned by an ancient pack-horse bridge just wide enough to permit the passage of a horse with its load. In the olden time the hills and dales of Derbyshire were scored with pack-horse trails, many of which exist to this day. Roads as we know them today were few and far between and long strings of horses were to be seen threading their sinuous way over hill and dale. The bridge shown is the 'Viator's Bridge' of the fly-fishing part of the *The Complete Angler* by Charles Cotton. Every disciple of Izaak Walton feels a thrill as he gazes upon this old bridge for the first time.—H. W.

Wicked words

In the art world, 'tasteful' is probably a bigger insult than 'tasteless'

Grayson Perry

1) Genesis 2) A rope 3) Pink 4) Hearths and fireplaces 5) Silkscreen printing

Time to buy

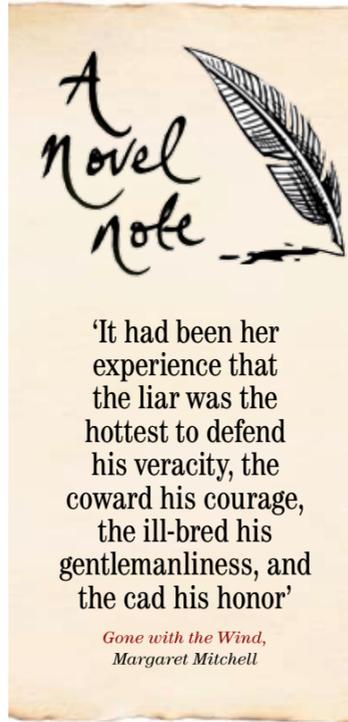
Depaz Plantation Rhum Reserve XO, £75, Frazier's Wine Merchants (0121-704 3415; www.frazierswine.co.uk)



Black Labrador tea towel, £14, Inspired By Darcy (01823 740004; www.inspiredbydarcy.co.uk)



The Wand brushed-gold candle lighter, £170, S. T. Dupont (www.st-dupont.com)



Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell



Five things you (probably) didn't know about... Hampton Court Palace

- Hampton Court is home to the Great Vine, one of the largest grapevines in the world. In 2001, it produced more than 800lb of black dessert grapes.
- Vincent van Gogh visited during his time in London, from 1873 to 1875. He was inspired particularly by Mantegna's *Triumph of Caesar*, which remains in the collection today.
- Queen Victoria opened the palace, which hadn't been home to royalty since George II, to the public in 1838. Her restoration of it included the iconic Great Gatehouse, which has been reduced from five to three storeys.
- Hampton Court Maze, the oldest surviving hedge maze in the UK, was designed for William of Orange. There may, however, have been a different maze prior to this, planted for Cardinal Wolsey.
- In 2016, the Royal Chapel hosted Vespers, a Catholic service of prayer, for the first time since the Act of Supremacy 1559. *Harris Webb*



Oh, the agony!

Resident agony uncle Kit Hesketh-Harvey solves your dilemmas

Fill in the blanks

Q I'm a writer with multiple successful novels to my name, but am suffering from a severe case of writer's block. I can't begin to count the number of hours spent staring at an empty screen of late and my deadlines are creeping frighteningly close. I'm starting to panic—how can I clear my head and get going again? *H. S. T., Co Durham*

A I'm worried by this word 'multiple'. You sound as if you might be setting yourself unnecessary targets. Of course, deadlines focus the resolve, but relax the schedule. Word-processors are demanding, soulless and impersonal. Try a notebook and pencil or an enormous piece of paper pinned to the wall, like Inspector Barnaby on *Midsomer Murders*.

Next, leave the room that's so redolent of panic. Have you tried physically moving as you work? A long sea voyage or train journey? A constant parade of different impressions induces a sense of kinesis that finds its equivalent in the creative process.

Finally, immerse yourself temporarily in an art other than writing, such as oil painting, tapestry or learning the flute. These processes will quiet the analytical side of your imagination and allow it to fly once more.

Unmissable events

Exhibition
November 21–December 1 'The Winter Show' (right), 7, Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire. This mixed pop-up exhibition features contemporary artists from Yorkshire and beyond. Works by gallery artists, including Millie McCallum, Lincoln Seligman and Di Bourne-Arton, and guest artists, such as Amelia Anderson and Lizet Dingemans, range from original paintings to linocuts and prints (www.hobbyhorseart.com)

Until February 24, 2019 'The Furthest Lands', Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, West Yorkshire. Exhibition of work by Norman Ackroyd, one of Britain's most celebrated landscape artists and print-makers. 'The Furthest Lands' covers 950 miles from the Shetland Islands to the south-west of Ireland through aquatint etchings and watercolours (01924 832631; https://ysp.org.uk)

Food
November 24 The Truffle Feast, Bake Barn, Fonthill estate, Chicklade, Wiltshire. Sorn and Shepherd's Bush restaurant Albertine present a one-off, six-course dinner celebrating the English truffle alongside the finest Wiltshire produce. 7.30pm–10.30pm, £100.15pp (https://thetrufflefeast.eventbrite.co.uk)

Concert
November 29 Kids for Kids Candlelit Christmas Concert, St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London SW1. Start the Christmas season at this charity evening hosted by ITV's Julie Etchingham, with well-known readers including Kids for Kids patron Eamonn Holmes. Music comes courtesy of the choir of Queen's Gate School and Thames



Fanfare Brass. 7pm–8.30pm, child tickets £15, adults £32 (07957 206440; www.kidsforkids.org.uk)

Fair
November 22–25 Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, London SE18. The capital's only fair dedicated to contemporary print-making is now in its third year, with a curated showcase of more than 500 works by artists including Gary Hume, Tracey Emin and Langlands & Bell. Tickets £7 (www.woolwichprintfair.com)

November 24–25 Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre, Ludlow Castle, Shropshire. More than 100 stalls of goodies, 'make and take' activities including medieval portraits, hog roast, mulled wine and hot chocolate, plus entertainment from pantomime to jugglers and minstrels. Child tickets from £5.50, adults from £11. Park-and-ride avail-

able from Ludlow Racecourse (www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk)

Book now
December 22 It's a Wonderful Life at Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London W8. The Palace's Pavilion will be transformed with comfy seats, mulled wine and gently falling snowflakes for a screening of the 1946 festive film as part of The Luna Winter Cinema season. Other films, including *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Muppets Christmas Carol*, will be shown every day from December 17 to 22. General adult admission £18.50 (0844 858 6767; www.thelunawintercinema.com)

November 24–January 6, 2019 Aladdin, Hackney Empire, Mare Street, London E8. Enjoy Christmas pantomime at the old music hall, with the Olivier award-winning Clive Row as Widow Twankey. Tickets from £10 (020-8985 2424; https://hackneyempire.co.uk)

What to drink this week Christmas claret



Harry Eyres recommends some classy bargains

What is it about claret? There's been a fashion in recent times—especially among sommeliers and the hipster crowd—to knock red Bordeaux or at least dislodge it somewhat from the elevated pedestal it has occupied for so long. There is, however, something especially satisfying about the wines made in the environs of the Gironde; a certain seriousness to go with mature ripeness, restraint as well as richness.

Why you should be drinking it
Some recent fine vintages—the underrated 2014, the warm 2015, the classic 2016 and now the very promising 2018—are providing some excitement and dispelling the idea that claret is about as thrilling as a Scottish bank manager's suit. In the satellite areas of St Emilion and Pomerol, and in Médoc at *cru bourgeois* level, there are some genuine bargains to be had.

What to buy
Château Moulin de Curat Puisseguin St Emilion 2014 (www.waitrosecellar.com; £14.99) has good density of colour and a combination of Merlot (65%) softness with Cabernet Franc (25%) freshness, with a certain earthiness I find attractive. Château Les Moines 2009 (below, £17.95; www.tanners-wines.co.uk), by contrast, is a *cru bourgeois* from the Médoc made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon. These Cabernets, from a great vintage, were clearly exceptionally ripe and there is great plummy richness on the nose, with good density and structure on the palate. Château La Fortune 2016 (£33.99; www.oxfordwine.co.uk) is a tiny Margaux *cru bourgeois* on a fine gravelly site, where Michel Rolland consults. The results are most impressive, with great depth of colour, layers of blackcurrant and blackberry fruit and—most important of all—the elegance and finesse of really classy claret.



Country Life Picture Library; Rudy Sulgany/Getty