**NEWSLETTER**

**Hello Everybody**

**A little late but as this is the first letter for 2025 – Happy New Year.**

**Just to let you know, we did very well on the last day of term in December.  We raised £120 on the raffle and £124 on the table sale in the lobby.  Many thanks to those who helped and to everyone for your generosity.**

**I know it seems early to be thinking about it but we shall be having our annual lunch on 1 April.  For those who are new to our group the lunch is held in the hall and is provided by the Herstmonceux Lunch Club and we need to let them know the number attending and their choice of meal.  This year they will be providing roast turkey and a choice of puddings: trifle and ginger treacle pudding.  There will also be a nut roast but this is primarily for the vegetarians and is limited as the ladies cannot manage to supply two different meals due to limited space and time.  We will have our group session as usual until 12 noon and then the tables will be re-arranged for the meal at approximately 1.00pm.  Julie will come round next week to start collecting numbers and choices.  The cost will be £12.50 for members and £6 for volunteers and tutors.**

**Here are the answers to the last quiz**

1. **Who wrote the novel ‘Trilby’?  George du Maurier.**
2. **Which composer is known as the father of the symphony?  Joseph Haydn.**
3. **In which county is Sandringham?  Norfolk.**
4. **What physical or mental quality is important when competing in endurance sports?  Stamina.**
5. **Who was the author of ‘Gunga Din’ and ‘If’?  Rudyard Kipling.**
6. **What is the first name of the actress remembered for her role as Sybil Fawlty?  Prunella.**
7. **What is the common name for the flat race held annually on the Epsom Downs?  Derby.**
8. **What is the capital of Benin?  Porto Novo.**
9. **Who wrote the children’s novel ‘Ballet Shoes’?  Noel Streatfield.**
10. **Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic?  Amelia Earhart.**
11. **Which instrument is used to depict the cat in Prokofiev’s ‘Peter and the Wolf’?  Clarinet.**
12. **During the war what were stored at Manod slate mine in Wales?  Art works from the National Gallery.**
13. **Which dance arrived in Britain around 1812?  Waltz.**
14. **What were clinker or carvel built?  Boat hulls.**
15. **In religious tradition which fruit is said to have 613 seeds?  Pomegranate.**
16. **Which four letter suffix comes from the Latin for ‘head’ and denotes the number of heads, or origins, of certain muscles of the body?  Ceps. (biceps, triceps)**
17. **What do you call someone who speaks several languages?  A polyglot.**
18. **Which flowering plant is related to the potato, tomato, chilli and deadly nightshade?  Petunia.**
19. **What is the collective noun for a group of goldfinches?  Charm.**
20. **Who wrote the Alexander Trilogy comprising ‘Fire from Heaven’, ‘Persian Boy’ and ‘Funeral Games’?  Mary Renault.**

**Many happy returns to those celebrating their birthdays in February and March**

**Jane Simkins, 3 February**

**Amy Watson, 4 February,**

**Wyn Hagger, 13 February**

**Pearl Ruffell, 18 February**

**Sylvia Trussler, 18 February**

**Ray Aubrey, 22 February**

**Pat McGann, 27 February**

**Alison Cotton, 14 March**

**Sally Wallis, 16 March**

**Stephen White, 22 March**

**Congratulations to the winners of the December 100 club draw.**

**First prize, ball 20, Brian Ory;**

**Second prize, ball 30, Sue Curtis and**

**Third prize, ball 12, Pat McGann**

**Here is another quiz for this month.**

1. **Which UK  prime minister was involved in negotiating the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?**
2. **What is the capital of Ethiopia?**
3. **Which Berkshire town is the site of the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world?**
4. **What is the name of the county town of Buckinghamshire?**
5. **Who was the showman and dog-biscuit manufacturer who founded what is now the world’s largest dog show?**
6. **What is the name for a pair of foot-operated cymbals on a stand forming part of a drum kit?**
7. **What do you call a segment of a bulb of garlic?**
8. **Where are there two 20th century cathedrals at either end of Rope Street?**
9. **Which Golden Age detective writer was one of the first women to graduate from Oxford?**
10. **What is the capital of India?**
11. **Which composer wrote Carmen?**
12. **Who was England’s first Yorkist king?**
13. **What is the alternative name for the bird of prey known as a fish hawk?**
14. **Which monarch was Queen Victoria’s eldest grandchild?**
15. **In terms of length v width, which is the world’s narrowest country?**
16. **Which was kept at Westminster Abbey from 1296 to 1996?  .**
17. **Which spice is the berry of the climbing vine Piper Nigrum and may be black, white or green?**
18. **In October 1997, on the steps outside the Albert Hall, the Spice Girls each read a line from Laurence Binyon’s 1914 poem ‘For the Fallen’, to launch an appeal for which organisation?**
19. **Princess Charlotte Augusta, who died in childbirth following her marriage to Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, was the only child of which British monarch?**
20. **Which are the four herbs mentioned in the song ‘Scarborough Fair’?**

**I know several members already receive the memory sticks sent out by Wealden Talking News.  For anyone who does not know about this organisation, they send out recordings taken from local newspapers in the Wealden area which includes items from further afield and a features section.  They also produce a very interesting monthly magazine.  If you are interested you can contact them on 01435 862304.**

**We shall be holding the Annual General Meeting on 25 March.  We will give you a reminder of this date nearer time.**

**That’s all for this month.**

**Keep well and keep smiling.**

**Jean**

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