

# COUNTRY LIFE®

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

EVERY WEEK



## Let the landscape inspire you



Buy British wood and save our trees  
The new peony your garden needs  
Skiing secrets for beginners



## Quiz of the week

- 1) In which city would you find the Book of Kells?
- 2) Metachrosis is the ability of some animals to do what?
- 3) Who composed the 'Pomp and Circumstance Marches'?
- 4) Dulse is an edible species of what?
- 5) In Greek mythology, who gave King Midas the power to turn whatever he touched to gold?

## 100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE November 9, 1918



A GOOD few years ago, there was a doctor-minister living in Cheltenham who sent an old lady with a bad leg to an aunt of mine with strict injunctions that she was to lie in bed for six weeks and partake of nothing excepting milk and a tea made from the roots of couch grass. A lotion was also to be used, made with the same tea and a little alum. This was done, with the result that the old lady lived to nearly ninety and was not troubled with her leg again. My aunt told several people of this cure, always with satisfactory results. The doctor said if the medicinal value of couch grass were known it would be cultivated instead of being looked upon as a noxious weed.

## Wicked words

The only sport in which spectators burn as many calories as players

Bill Bryson on cricket

- 1) Dublin 2) Change colour 3) Edward Elgar 4) Seaweed 5) Dionysus

## Time to buy



**Small leather-and-canvas backpack, £95,** Scaramanga ([www.scaramangashop.co.uk](http://www.scaramangashop.co.uk); 01334 657642)

**Kasper All Over Owls cotton men's socks, £11,** Scott-Nichol (0116-244 1342; [www.scott-nichol.com](http://www.scott-nichol.com))

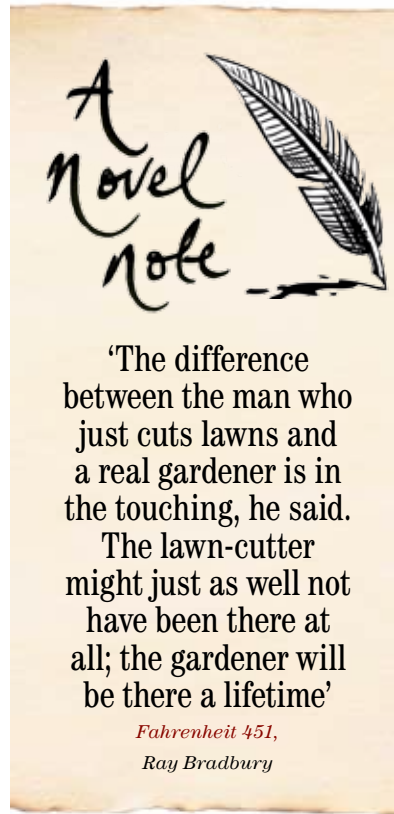


**One of Everything natural toiletries box, £90** pre-launch offer (usually £186.25), Wild & Precious (020-8089 2342; <https://uk.wildandprecious.com>)



## Five things you (probably) didn't know about... Cigars

- Last year, British actor Tamer Hassan was crowned Cigar Smoker of the Year. Previous winners include presenter Jonathan Ross and Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- The Churchill parejo cigar, usually 7in long with a 47 ring gauge, was both named for and made popular by our great wartime Prime Minister.
- In 1999, American basketballer Michael Jordan severed a tendon in his finger with a cigar cutter. The legendary player retired that same year.
- Before enacting the USA trade embargo on Cuba in 1962—which still stands today—President John F. Kennedy tasked his press secretary, Pierre Salinger, with obtaining as many of his Cuban cigars as possible by the following morning as a personal stockpile. Salinger came back with 1,200.
- The phrase 'close, but no cigar' is thought to originate from the fact that they were awarded as fairground prizes in the USA. *Harris Webb*



'The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime'

*Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury*



## Oh, the agony!

**Resident agony uncle Kit Hesketh-Harvey solves your dilemmas**

### Counting the pennies

**Q** Our daughter's spending habits are gathering pace and there's talk of a first car.

It's not that we can't afford to buy her one, but I believe that having to earn it teaches the value of money and suggested a weekend job. She and my husband have labelled me a scrooge—am I? *J. N., Gloucestershire*

**A** Stick to your magnificent guns. I've always been a bit of a fan of dear, sensible Scrooge and the austerity does drag on so. The cossetted young of the iGeneration have far too overweening a sense of entitlement and your daughter will take greater care of something to which she has made her own financial contribution.

As it is, she'll have to work flat out and full-time anyway, in order to pay for the astonishing insurance premiums, not to mention the punitive cost of petrol, which a sententious metropolitan government has taxed beyond the purses of those country people who do genuinely need cars. So, I'm afraid, will you—but at least she'll be able to drive you to your respective jobs.

## What to drink this week Some lively Greeks



No one could compare these wines to cleaning products, assures Harry Eyres

Greek wine hasn't exactly gone mainstream, but it's making its way quietly from the far margins to an interesting 'left-field' position. Jokes about the Greek-branded wine Demestica (kills 99% of all known germs and so on) are a thing of the past.

### Why you should be drinking them

Most Greek wines are made from native varieties that are unknown elsewhere—hands up who's heard of Robola, Malagousia or Limnio—and which bring distinctive and assertive character to the table. There's a new wave of small, quality-minded producers that don't charge extortionate prices.

### What to buy

Rouvalis Winery Asprolithi Roditis 2017 (£10.60; [www.maltbyandgreek.com](http://www.maltbyandgreek.com)) is a good starting point—lemony-dry, chalky and crisp. For something more complex, I recommend the flower-and-apricot-scented, golden-rich and buttery Domaine Lyrarakis Vidiano 2017 (£11.50; [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com)) from a leading estate on Crete. Assyrtiko has won a niche following as the leading light among Greek white grapes; originally grown only on the island of Santorini, it has now spread. Domaine Sigalas Santorini PDO Assyrtiko 2017 (£25.50; [www.maltbyandgreek.com](http://www.maltbyandgreek.com)) has the typical mineral intensity associated with this variety—full-bodied and powerful, this is a wine for strongly flavoured fish and white-meat dishes. Greek reds aren't all heavy and potent: Thymiopoulos Atma Xinomavro 2017 (£11.99; [www.waitrosecellar.com](http://www.waitrosecellar.com)), from Naoussa in north-west Greece, is quite pale, with a subtle, Pinot Noir-like nose and considerable complexity. Ktima Vourvoukeli Limnio 2016 (£18.40; [www.maltbyandgreek.com](http://www.maltbyandgreek.com)), grown in Thrace, but from an ancient variety associated with Limnos, is deep, dense and dark, substantial and tannic. You can even find sophisticated, clean and fresh retsina: try Tetramythos Retsina Patras (*right*, £11.95 IB; [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com)). I guarantee none of your guests will compare it to paintstripper.



## Unmissable events

### Exhibition

**November 10-23 'Quirks & Quiddities of Norfolk' (right),** The Red Dot Gallery, Holt, Norfolk. Artist Barrie Morris explores the folklore, myths and legends of the region in 20 paintings on topics that include the ghost of Anne Boleyn, the Norwich snap dragon, the vicar of Stiffkey and a miraculous mermaid in Upper Sheringham ([www.thereddotgallery.com](http://www.thereddotgallery.com); 01263 710287)



Outside, animations and light installations create an enchanted journey through the grounds. Adult tickets £12 (01296 820414; <https://waddesdon.org.uk>)

**November 12-December 14 'Journey Through Landscape',** Tessa Packard Showroom, Ives Street, London SW3. New landscapes, both urban and pastoral, by Phoebe Dickinson. Presented in a salon-style hang, some 100 *plein air* paintings depict Iceland, California, Florence and other contrasting scenes from the British artist's year of global travel (<https://phoebedickinson.com>)

### Fair

**November 9-11 Handmade in Britain,** Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3. The annual contemporary craft-and-design fair returns to London with more than 100 UK-based designer-makers offering textiles, jewellery, ceramics and glass to the public. Adult day tickets from £8 ([www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk](http://www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk))

### Christmas

**November 10-January 2, 2019 Christmas Carnival,** Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Christmas at Waddesdon is 18 months in the making and, this year, it's on the theme of Carnival. The East Gallery will take visitors to Venice, the Breakfast Room to the 1930s and 1940s and the White Drawing Room to a masked ball of the French Court.



### Book now

**December 2 Don Quixote,** various venues nationwide. As part of the 2018/19 'Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema' season, some of the world's finest dancers will become knights, toreadors, flamenco dancers, gypsies and dryads. The performance will be broadcast live from Moscow to cinemas around the UK ([www.bolshoiballetincinema.com](http://www.bolshoiballetincinema.com))

Heinz Tschanz-Hofmann/Alamy; Bettmann/Getty; Royal Collection Trust/Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II