



Quiz of the week

1. In which year did the Channel Tunnel open?
2. Wackford Squeers is a school-master in which novel?
3. What does HSBC stand for?
4. What is a half-hunter?
5. Who was Nicholas Breakspear?

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE

August 31, 1912



Scouts out and about

SIR R. Baden-Powell has just returned from a tour round the world made in support of the Boy Scout Movement. The fact that in eight months he travelled 55,000 miles and visited seventy Scout centres is eloquent testimony not only to his own enthusiasm and energy, but to the wonderful hold that this movement has taken on boys in every quarter of the globe. On the more obvious benefits that scouting brings with it—the discipline and smartness and the healthy exercise in the fresh air—it would be easy to enlarge.

Quiz answers 1. 1994, 2. Charles Dickens' 'Nicholas Nickleby', 3. Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, 4. A pocket watch, 5. The only English Pope

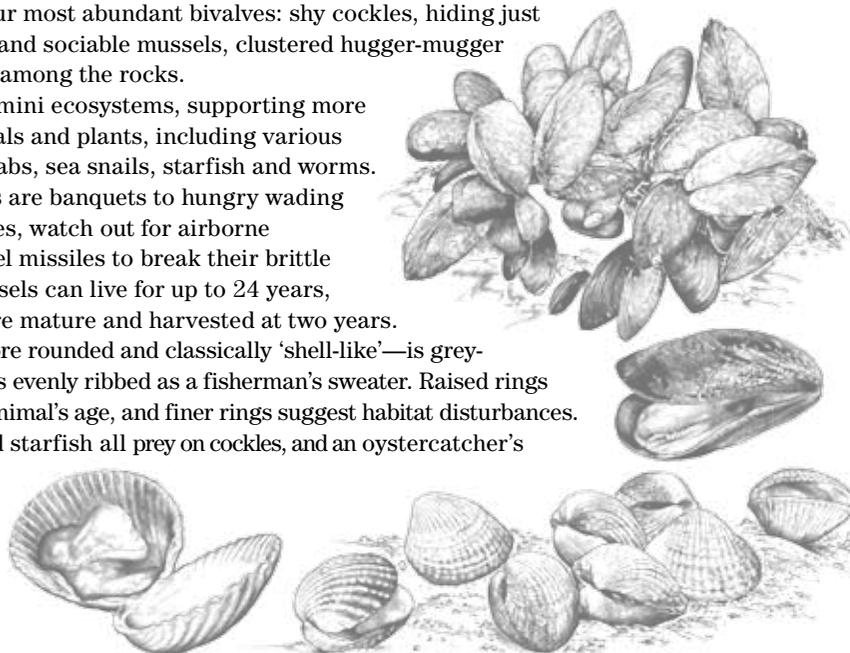
The nature of things

AH, the salty seaweed aromas of the seashore at low tide. It's just the place to look for two of our most abundant bivalves: shy cockles, hiding just under the sand surface, and sociable mussels, clustered hugger-mugger in their barnacled cities among the rocks.

Blue-mussel beds are mini ecosystems, supporting more than 130 different animals and plants, including various seaweeds, anemones, crabs, sea snails, starfish and worms. Consequently, such beds are banquets to hungry wading birds. On shingle beaches, watch out for airborne seagulls dropping mussel missiles to break their brittle shells. Undisturbed mussels can live for up to 24 years, although farmed ones are mature and harvested at two years.

The cockle's shell—more rounded and classically 'shell-like'—is grey-blue to light brown and as evenly ribbed as a fisherman's sweater. Raised rings cast across it reveal the animal's age, and finer rings suggest habitat disturbances. Flat fish, shore crabs and starfish all prey on cockles, and an oystercatcher's hard beak is an invincible hammer to access the mollusc morsel inside. **KBH**

Illustration by Bill Donohoe



Good week for

Windmills

They're officially the nation's favourite buildings, beating country houses, cathedrals and castles to the top spot in a recent poll

Agricultural students

In the list of degrees that lead most directly to employment after graduation, agriculture is now ranked fifth, according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency

Vocal protests

A group in Bridport opposing housing plans by West Dorset District Council has produced a farcical re-enactment of a council meeting, in opera form

Bad week for

Desperate Dan

The Dandy will print its final edition in December, its 75th anniversary, but will continue to publish online

Hertfordshire firefighters

They spent more than six hours rescuing a water buffalo that had slipped into a river and was unable to climb out up the steep bank

UFO sceptics

Richard Deakin, head of UK Air Traffic Control, told Radio 4 that there is an unidentified flying object in British airspace roughly once a month

Interiors

Toasters

When the Second World War broke out, German-born Max Gort-Barten was in Britain, and he joined the British army. In 1945, after the fighting had ceased, he bought a small factory in Camberwell, founded Dualit, and soon afterwards designed a six-slice toaster with a built-in timer. The firm is still run by his descendants today. The Dualit two-slot Union Jack NewGen (*bottom*) costs £159.95 (0845 604 9049; www.johnlewis.com).

Surrey-based firm Rowlett Rutland has been making smart toasters since the 1960s. Its Regent Retro toaster (*right*) comes in a range of bold colours, including yellow, tangerine, plum, cranberry and green, and is priced at £182.40 (01372 450855; www.rowletrutland.co.uk). **AY**



Brighten up your kitchen with a Regent Retro toaster (*above*) or the Dualit Union Jack NewGen model (*left*)

Stay at home

The Wellington Arms, Hampshire



Everything here is done simply and tastefully. The inn's two rooms are in what used to be the barn, with wonderfully comfortable beds, and there can be few better noises to hear outside your window than chickens, pigs and sheep rooting about. You can sample homemade produce, including honey and chutneys, and visiting the restaurant is a must—at the helm is *The Good Food Guide's* gastropub chef of the year. Rooms from £130 a night, including breakfast.

(0118-982 0110; www.thewellingtonarms.com)

Get away

Angsana Balaclava, Mauritius



The architecture of this subtropical paradise is tastefully eclectic, with thatched roofs, rattan wall coverings and stone flooring. Conservation activities mean you can give something back, and, if you tire of the resort's own magnificent plants, the nearby Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens are also glorious. A garden suite costs from £300 a night, including breakfast and dinner, but excluding drinks.

(00 230 204 1888; www.angsana.com/en/balaclava)

Good to know: Pevsner's ant



IN 1908, when architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner (*above*) was six years old, his mother, the effervescent Leipzig society hostess Annie Pevsner, suffered a nervous breakdown and sought treatment from the eminent Swiss psychiatrist Auguste Forel, who ran a clinic at Yvorne, near Lake Geneva. His methods proved so helpful that her husband bought a holiday home for the family nearby, where they spent several summers.

In addition to his medical work, Forel was a world-renowned expert on ants, who named his house La Fourmilière (The Ant Colony). He became fond of Frau Pevsner's serious, self-contained little son, and when, several years later, he stumbled upon a particularly energetic new species of ant in the Venezuelan jungle, he dubbed it *Crematogaster distans r. Pevsnerae* in his honour. According to Forel, the creature was 'plus petite que l'espèce typique' at just 2.8mm–3.2mm long, but highly productive. In 1982, during a BBC broadcast, Viennese art historian Ernst Gombrich said he believed that 'the spirit of the ant [had] entered into Pevsner's soul [which is why] he is so incredibly industrious'. **EH**

What they said

*'The nightingale does sit so late,
And studying all the summer night,
Her matchless songs does meditate'*

Andrew Marvell, from his poem *The Mower to the Glow-Worms*



Unmissable events

Exhibitions

September 1–October 28 'Journey into the Light', Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, West Midlands. Sketches, models and designs, including work by Sir Jacob Epstein and John Piper (www.coventrycathedral.org.uk)

September 8–November 4 'Tiny Tales', Lindisfarne Castle, Northumberland. Exploring the castle's history through artist Laura Johnson's miniature figures (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Open studios

September 1–16 C-Art, various venues, Cumbria. Some 134 studios and galleries open their doors to the public (01768 899444; www.c-art.org.uk)

Show

August 31–September 2 The National Gardening Show, The Royal Bath and West Showground, Somerset. In aid of Horatio's Garden Appeal (01749 822200; www.bathandwest.com)

September 2 Lobster and Crab Feast, Clovelly Harbour, Clovelly,

Devon. Music, theatre, magic and stalls. In support of the National Lobster Hatchery (www.clovelly.co.uk)



Fair

August 31–September 2 Chatsworth Country Fair, Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01328 821821; www.chatsworthcountryfair.co.uk)

September 2 Suffolk Spectacular, The Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Newmarket, Suffolk (01394 380643; www.suffolkhorsesociety.org.uk)

Festival

September 2 Lochinch Castle Food and Drink Festival, Castle Kennedy and Gardens, Stranraer, Wigtownshire. 10am to 4pm (01776 702024; www.castlekenedygardens.co.uk)

Three wishes Picnic hampers



Henley picnic hamper, £169, Amberley Products (01252 793389; www.amberleyproducts.co.uk)



Fleur-de-lys, £260, Life's a Picnic (www.lifesapicnic.co.uk)



The Gourmet Trotter, £599 (including golf trolley), The Gourmet Trotter (01372 940100; www.gourmet-trotter.co.uk)