

COUNTRY LIFE

COUNTRY LIFE®

JUNE 14, 2017

EVERY WEEK

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MASTERPIECE



Donald Campbell – the man who went too fast
London's most glamorous nightclub by Nina Campbell
PLUS dozy dormice, Royal Ascot and kitchen dressers

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Quiz of the week

- 1) Who was the original drummer for The Beatles?
- 2) What does a toxophilist practise?
- 3) The alligator pear is more commonly known as what?
- 4) In which city would you have found Checkpoint Charlie?
- 5) In which year did Torvill and Dean win Olympic gold?

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE

June 16, 1917



BECAUSE there is so little sign of it, the chance of the normal waistline coming into favour again is distinctly good. That this will not be received with enthusiasm this side of the Channel is a foregone conclusion, for the flat, almost boyish figure now affected has become an obsession. Though it has become an obsession, it has ceased altogether to be smart in the best sense of that hackneyed phrase.

Wicked words

The penalty of success is to be bored by people who used to snub you

Nancy Astor

- 1) Pete Dink 2) Archery 3) Anacardo 4) Berlin 5) 1984

The nature of things

Linnets and redpoll

THAT chatty and tuneless little finch, whose chest is softly smudged with a rosy-crimson waistcoat, is most likely a male linnets in his breeding plumage. Formerly abundant almost everywhere (and, in olden days, a popular caged bird), their UK population has fallen steeply since the 1970s, since widespread use of herbicides on crop weeds and autumn crop sowings have reduced their survival opportunities. Some help has been at hand, however, as linnets have found a lifeline in bird feeders and nyrer seeds.

Nesting is usually low down, among protective gorses, brambles, ivy or other shrubby material, where the nest of tightly woven grass and twigs nurtures a clutch of light-blue eggs with reddish speckles. (The country names of gorse thatcher and furze linnets refer to the bird's residential preferences.)

Linnets (*top right, bottom right*) and redpolls can be very difficult to tell apart, both having seasonal dabs of crimson on their foreheads and chests; often, however, it will be easiest to consider their location and time of year. 'Lesser' redpolls (*top left, bottom left*)



spend much of their time up in the trees—especially liking birch and alder—and are more prevalent in the North, Scotland and Wales; the slightly larger 'common' redpolls are chiefly winter visitors and actually quite scarce. **KBH**

Illustration by Bill Donohoe

Time to buy



'The Classic' handmade Harris tweed alpaca-fibre dog bed, from £100, Snuggly Fox (01508 570400; www.snugglyfox.co.uk)

Salcombe Gin gift set, £65, Salcombe Distilling Company (01548 288180; www.salcombegin.com)

Giraffe tray, £46, Joanna Wood (020-7730 5064; http://joannawood.co.uk)



'Some people—and I am one of them—hate happy ends. We feel cheated. Harm is the norm. Doom should not jam. The avalanche stopping in its tracks a few feet above the cowering village behaves not only unnaturally but unethically'

Pnin, Vladimir Nabokov

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Unmissable events

Exhibition
June 19–July 14 Elle Lambert solo show (right), Osborne Studio Gallery, Knightsbridge, London SW1. The equestrian painter's latest works depicting 'colourful long-legged horses... evidently shod by Lou-boutin' are being shown to coincide with Royal Ascot (020-7235 9667; www.osg.uk.com)

June 16–October 27 'A Landscape of Objects', Forde Abbey, Cheshire. A sculpture trail highlighting the importance of water in the gardens will be accompanied by artist residences. Normal admission applies (01460 220231; www.fordeabbey.co.uk)

Festival
June 17–18 DogFest, Arley Hall, Cheshire. Canine extravaganza hosted by Noel Fitzpatrick, with The Great Dog Walk, Superpet Live, have-a-go dog diving, grooming sessions and shopping. The show will also visit Knobworth House in Hertfordshire on June 24–25. Adult tickets from £15, camping also available (0844 581 4917; http://dog-fest.co.uk)

Gardens
June 17 Open Garden, Spitsbury Farm, Tisbury, Wiltshire. Discover Tania and Jamie Compton's six-acre, romantic and naturalistic garden with its winding groves and high grasses. Opening in aid of the Church of St James, Anisy. 3pm–7pm, entry £5 (01747 817119)

June 17 Asthall's Grand Day Out, Burford, Oxfordshire. Visit Asthall Manor's gardens at their summer peak and enjoy a cocktail while browsing the wares of top fashion designers, who will be selling at special prices, or settle down for some food and a puppet show. 10am–7pm, adult entry £5 (www.ontarioartscentre.co.uk; 01993 824319)

Agricultural show
June 22–25 Royal Highland Show, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh. See livestock, heavy horses, pole climbing and the Scottish Ice Cream Championships at this showcase of rural life. Gates open at 7.30am, adult tickets from £22 (0131-335 6200; www.royalhighlandshow.org)

History tour
June 20 'If these walls could talk', Ston Easton Park, near Bath, Somerset. The hotel's resident historian will be on hand as you explore the library, saloon and one of England's earliest surviving



print rooms, with their antique furniture and fine art. 2pm, £27.50pp including afternoon tea (01761 241631; www.stoneston.co.uk)

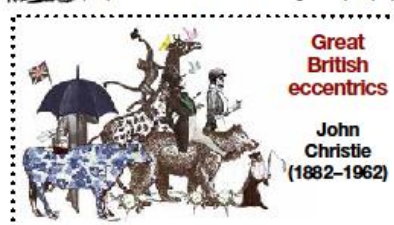
Book now
July 4 Micro Herbs and Edible Flowers course (right), Belmont Le Manor



aux Quat' Saisons, Great Milton, Oxfordshire. Learn to grow seasonal shoots, leaves and flowers and how to use them in your favourite dishes at The Raymond Blanc Gardening School. £110, including lunch, plus a propagator and seeds to take home. 8.45am–12.45pm (www.belmont.com; 01844 278891)



Honington village gardens, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, June 18, 2pm–5.30pm
Combined admission (seven gardens) £7, children free
As we head into summer, some of the most enjoyable NGS open days are offered by groups of gardens—this is a perfect example. The 17th-century village offers a range of treats, from cottage gardens and a wealth of planting details to spacious acres around Carolean Honington Hall (not open).



Great British eccentrics

John Christie (1882–1962)

CHRISTIE loved two Germanic specialities—opera and *Lederhosen*. In 1926, while renovating an inherited house, he decided to host an opera. Glyndebourne Festival Opera was born and, spurred on by his wife, Audrey Mildmay, the annual event occupied Christie's life. He would often wear *Lederhosen* to the festival—he designed a more formal version of the garment himself—and, in 1933, demanded that all guests do the same. This wasn't his only unusual fashion choice: if he felt too hot, he would simply cut off the arms of his black tie. A man of irregular financial beliefs, Christie threw lavish parties, spent a fortune on the festival and employed a man whose sole job was to switch off lights, but would only travel third class. Christie was also a loving husband and, when his wife needed her appendix removed, he kept her company by having the surgery as well. *Sidney Hiscor*

Illustrations by Emma McCall



Drawings: Courtenay Lane Picture Library

What to drink this week

More serious rosé



Pink wines with character do still exist, Harry Eyres assures us

In a recent column, I expressed a certain nostalgia for the days when rosé didn't have to be ultra-pale and über-sophisticated, in the Saint-Tropez mode, and when pink wines could get away with a certain depth of colour or even character. At a recent tasting, I found my wishes being granted by the wine-buying equivalent of the Tooth Fairy, the thoughtful and accomplished Katherine Dart MW of Berry Bros & Rudd.

Why you should be drinking them

You might think serious rosé is a contradiction in terms, but such thinking would be historically shallow. Not long ago, during a cellar tour at Guigal in the Rhône, Philippe Guigal remarked to me that, as recently as the 1980s, Guigal's Pinot rosé was as dark as a pale Pinot Noir red and was sold at four years of age.

What to drink

Katherine's offerings didn't include a Tavel, but the Berry Bros & Rudd Provence Rosé by Château la Massaronne (below, £12.95; www.bbr.com), made from 80% Nebbiolo (the grape of Barolo and Barberesco) and 20% Barbera. Quite a deep pink in colour, this rosé is a proper wine, bristling with bright fruit and energy. Finally, from quite an unexpected source, there's the 2016 Birichino Vin Gris Rosé (£18.00; www.bbr.com) from California; the colour is pale, but there's a fascinating gameyness (from old vine Mourvèdre) and lovely, fresh acidity.

