

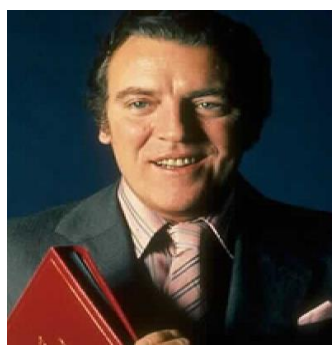


<b>E</b>	entertainment
<b>M</b>	emories
<b>B</b>	rain Teasers
<b>R</b>	asons to smile
<b>A</b>	rticles of Interest
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<b>E</b>	njoyment

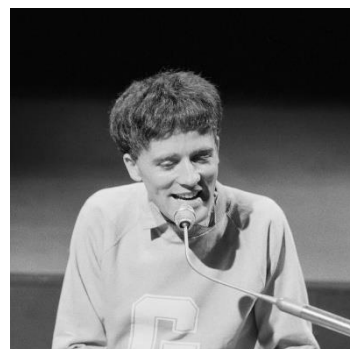
March Edition 2021

## Famous Faces

Can you name these famous people?



What do the first five, then the second five have in common?



## Sharing a Memory

### Games children loved in the 1940s

What games can you recall playing as a child?



### Playing outdoors

A slice of bread and scrape, a bottle of water with a paper stopper and the gang were ready for adventures. Soap carts, play-acting and it never cost a penny!

Wheels for the soap carts came from old prams and there were always a few planks of wood about. A piece of washing line to steer and 'bob's yer uncle' the kids had transport.

'Be home before it gets dark' was the only rule laid down by parents and off we'd go on our big adventure. Even in the towns and cities there were adventures to be had climbing amongst the bombed-out buildings with never a thought for our own safety. Sadly, these days are long past.



### **Fivestones (or Jacks)**

An interesting game of dexterity that is no longer as popular as it used to be. It helped if the player had large hands, as the object is to throw the five stones into the air and catch them on the back of the hand.

What followed was a method of picking up the remaining stones until all have been collected. Jacks are a very similar game where five metal-pronged 'stones' are used whilst bouncing a small ball. This could keep a child quiet for ages!

### **Two balls up the wall**

Start slowly, Mum would instruct, as we held two balls in our hands and threw them up against the wall one by one and carefully caught them. Once confident we'd add another ball then another. We'd let one bounce, throw another under one leg. The combinations were endless.

The only time we got in trouble was when we bounced the balls up a wall where someone was trying to get a baby to sleep. Then we ran like hell!

### **Cowboys and Indians**

A stray feather stuck on our hair for the Red Indian and a stick or a finger for the gun and imagination went into

overdrive. Was it Saturday morning pictures that fired kids imaginations to play this favourite game? Even better if someone had received a feather headdress or a sheriff's badge for their birthday. If a toy gun appeared in a Christmas stocking then that child was king. A packet of caps to supply the all-important noise and we could play for hours



### **Conkers**

As autumn approached there were trips to the woods to find the largest shiniest conkers without having our fingers stabbed by the harsh prickly cases that protected the conker. Then the joy of dreaming of owning a winner - a champion conker!

Threaded onto a bootlace, or a strong piece of string, we could soon have a winning conker that had smashed others to smithereens in combat. Sadly, today this favourite playground game is deemed too dangerous for youngsters.

Taken from novel: *The Butlins Girls* by Elaine Everest 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 published by Panmacmillan (available in paperback, kindle and audio)

## Brain Teasers

- What is seen at the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
- I am not alive, but I have five fingers. What am I?



- Arthur needs to find his marigold gloves for spring cleaning. Can you help him find them?



# “I beg your pardon?” The origins of odd British sayings



Knees-up: we all like to do it - but where did the saying originate?

## 1. A bit of how's your father

This expression is first credited to music-hall comedian Harry Tate, who, when asked an awkward question, would reply with "How's your father?". This was then used by First World War servicemen as a stand-in for all manner of implications, including the racy one it is now most often associated with.

## 2. Bob's your uncle

Meaning "Simple as that", this expression is thought to date from the Victorian prime minister, Lord Salisbury, when he appointed his nephew Arthur Balfour as chief secretary for Ireland, a post most people considered him unfit for. However, from the 1900s, "Bob" was a generic name for an unknown man.

## 3. The apple of my eye

This phrase, which appears in the King James Bible and also in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, refers to a time when the pupil of the eye was thought to be a solid object.

#### 4. To be a flash in the pan

This expression is thought to have come from when flintlock muskets used to have small pans to hold gunpowder. If the gunpowder flared up without a bullet being fired, it was a "flash in the pan".

#### 5. To get someone's goat

In the 19th century nervous horses would supposedly be calmed down by placing a goat in the stall with them. Rival horse owners would steal (or "get") the goat to upset the horse and win the race.

#### 6. To have a knees-up

You don't get more British than a knees-up and this expression first appeared in the music-hall song Knees Up, Mother Brown.

#### 7. To beat around the bush

In medieval times game birds were scared out of their hiding places under bushes and then killed. Hitting the bush directly could prove dangerous, hence the analogy.

#### 8. To wet your whistle

This first appears in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The word "whistle" refers to a mouth.

#### 9. Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey

This phrase was first recorded in America in the mid-1800s. Some believe it originated from the Napoleonic wars and derived from the brass plate (called a monkey) that cannonballs were stacked on. When it was cold, the brass would contract, and the balls would fall off. Others think this is unlikely and merely refers to the extremities on actual brass monkeys.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/only-in-britain/strange-british-sayings/>

22 APRIL 2016 • 8:00AM

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## Comedy Corner

### Jokes inspired by St. David's Day



- Morgan, a youngster, was describing in an essay his holiday in Aberystwyth, astonished and delighted his teacher by spelling the town's name correctly every time he used it. The next day Miss Jones, his teacher called him to the front of the class and said, 'Show the class how well you can spell. Write "Aberystwyth" on the blackboard.' 'Please, Miss Jones, I can't anymore,' Morgan pleaded, 'I've eaten all my rock.'

- On a beautiful summer's day, two English tourists were driving through Wales. At Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwylllantysiliogogogoch they stopped for lunch and one of the tourists asked the waitress: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?"

The girl leaned over and said: "Burr... gurr... King."

### St. Patrick's Day Jokes

- How can you tell an Irishman is having a good time?

He's Dublin over with laughter!

- Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

Because real rocks are too heavy!



## St. David's Day

### Hand Sewn Felt Daffodils



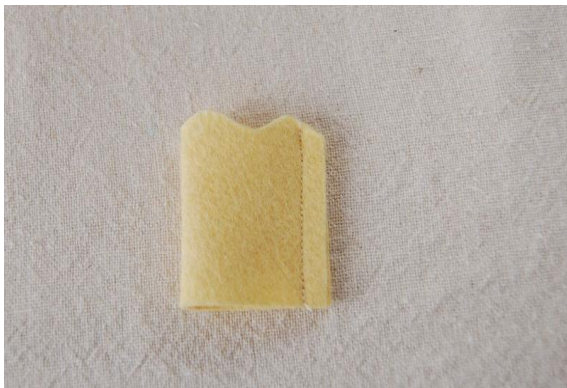
These were made by residents of Anchor Care Home Millbeck in Norton, Stockton-on-Tees. We displayed them in a vase with pretty tissue paper.

#### What you will need:

- scraps of felt in yellow, beige and dark green
- three lengths of floral wire & green floral tape } or green straws
- needle and thread for hand sewing



Draw templates onto card which can be drawn round onto felt and cut out. You'll need two flower pieces and one centre piece.



Fold the centre piece over and stitch the sides together forming a tube. Turn the tube right side out.



Sew a running stitch along the bottom of the tube and pull the stitches to gather the bottom.



Take one petal shape and, folding each petal in half, sew a row of stitches on the back side of all three petals.



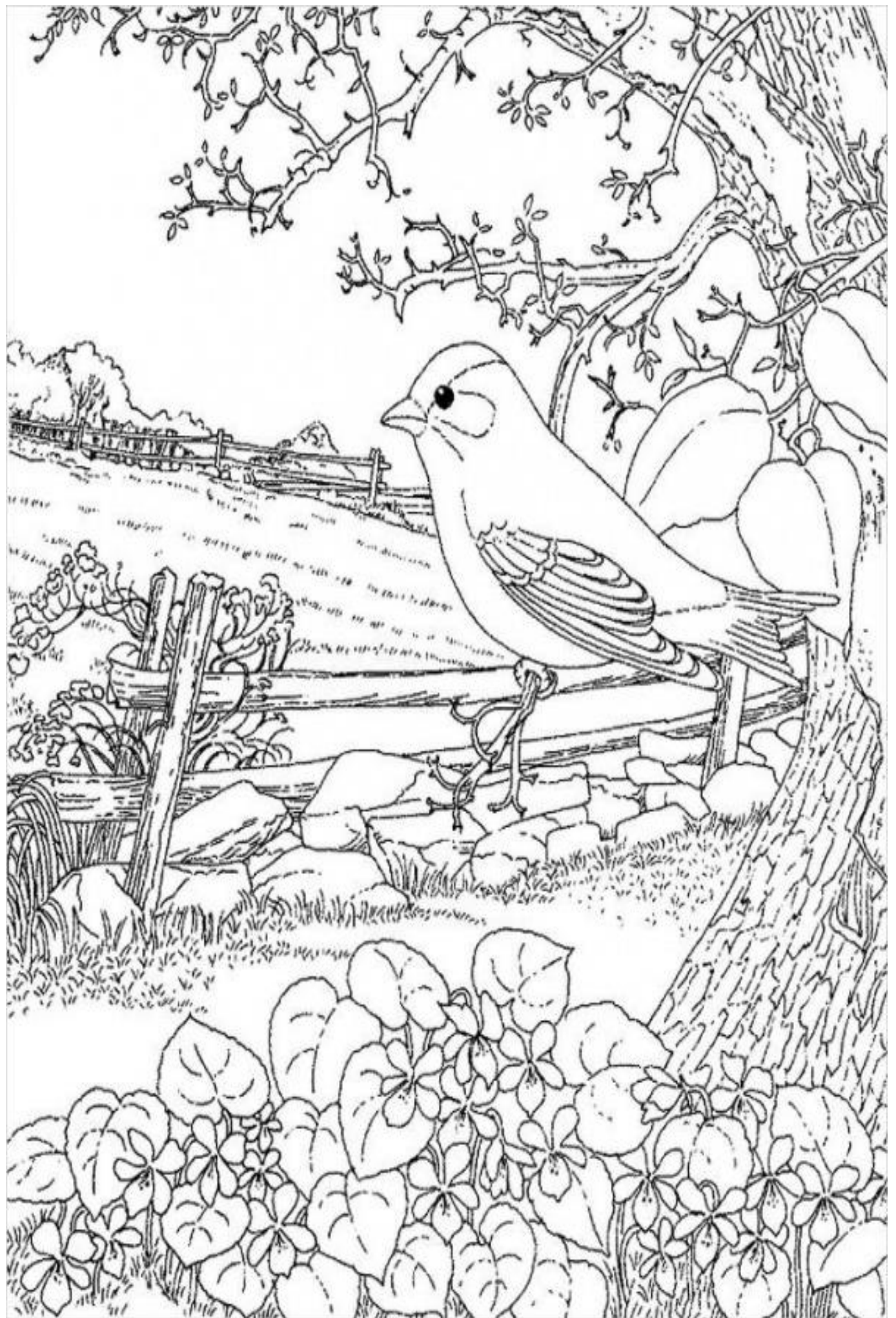
This will add dimension to your flower and make it look more realistic.



Now layer the two petal pieces off set from one another to make a six petaled daffodil.



Place the centre piece on top and sew it in place, going through both layers of petals, to secure everything.



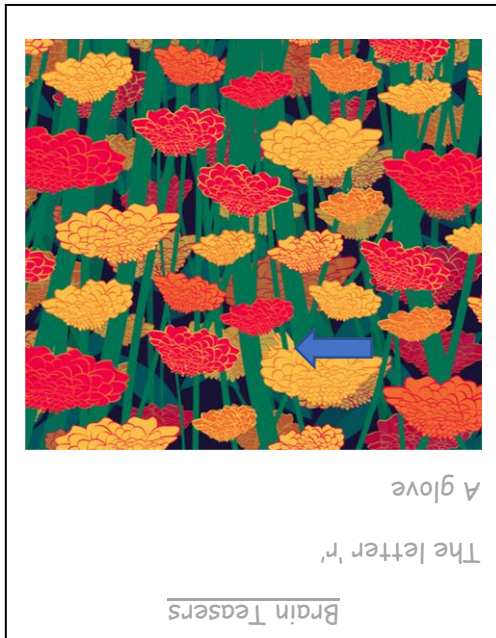


Anyone looking for care for themselves or a loved one can enjoy a stay at an anchor care home. We offer home cooked meals, a wide range of activities and tailored care in our friendly homes.

The following offer is available at Elderwood, Middlesbrough Grange and Kirkley Lodge:

**March is the last month of our winter offer - two weeks free for new permanent residents at our selected care homes**

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Millbeck, High Street, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 1DQ	08000854177
Wynyard Woods, Wynyard, Billingham TS22 5GJ	01740 646980



- Famous Faces
- Answers
- Tom Jones
- Aled Jones
- Richard Burton
- Tommy Cooper
- Kathryn Jenkins
- Val Doonican
- Eamonn Andrews
- Sir Kenneth Branagh
- Gloria Hunniford
- Gilbert O'Sullivan