

# Read 'awl' about it

## The Lockdown Newsletter from the Cannock Chase Shed

ISSUE No 5.



### THIS WEEK...

- Motoring memories
- How have Shed members been keeping busy?
- Humour
- The Garden Railway
- New quiz – 'Body Parts'
- Caption competition
- Quiz answers from last week.



Submissions and suggestions to:

[annewallbank@talktalk.net](mailto:annewallbank@talktalk.net)

01543 520452

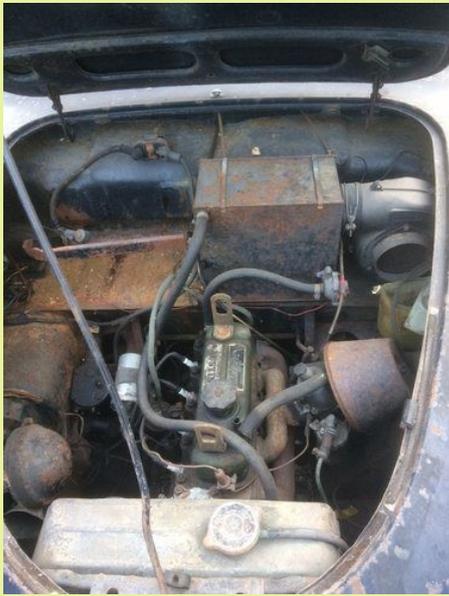
07526 636194

# Motoring Memories

I passed my driving test when I was 18 (passed on the second attempt), and my first car was a green Austin A35, 1958. (Nicknamed Wilberforce by Maureen) It was my pride and joy, purchased for £100.



This was the first time I rebuilt an engine, I had an engine out of an uncle's old A35 van for parts. Unfortunately I had the engine on my mom's back lawn, and I forgot that I hadn't drained the oil out of it, and flooded the lawn with old engine oil - I wasn't very popular.



I stripped the engine from the Uncle's van in the garden shed and carefully labelled the pistons and con rods as I took them out, new pistons were fitted to the con rods with new bearings. Then I rebuilt the engine. I thought it a bit tight and thought it was the new parts, but when I tried to start it the engine would not turn over. I asked a neighbour for a tow. When we got to about 20mph I let the clutch out and the back wheels locked up. When I was given an A35 manual and spotted the problem I realised that I had put two pistons in the wrong way round! You live and learn! luckily I didn't have to remove the engine again but just to drop the sump



(all pictures are a representation, not Graham's actual car)

At the time me and the girlfriend (later to be the wife) would go for drives in the evening. That was the only time when Maureen dictated the directions. The A35 had the original knob on the dashboard that you turned left or right and as we drove along. If Maureen saw something interesting she would turn the knob and off we would go!

# So, what have Shed members been up to?

**Phil has been making a replacement slatted table top for a “love seat.”**

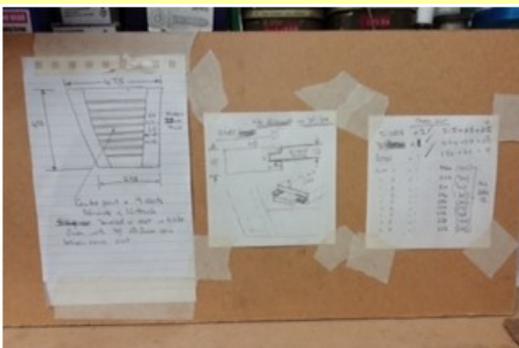
The table top of the “love seat” that we keep outside at our holiday home in north Wales has started to rot due to the lovely Welsh weather. I’d got some mahogany that I’d been hanging on to for years in the hope that it might come in useful one day, so I’ve made it from that..

The two side rails of the outside frame have a groove cut in them to locate the bare faced tenons on the ends of the slats. The top and bottom rails are joined to the sides using a double square haunched mortise and tenon.

I’ve glued it together using Gorilla Original glue, which is supposed to be waterproof. The surface has been stained to bring the colour as close as possible to the rest of the seat, and I’ve finished it using Screwfix No Nonsense Yacht Varnish



The “love seat” outside our holiday home (caravan) in Wales.



Working drawings!



When we’re eventually allowed to go back up to North Wales, I’ll fit the new top and hope that I got my measurements right.

**Phil Arm**

# Pond repairs

Graham has been working on his pond



On 8th April 2020 (Mom's Birthday) I started to rebuild the wall around the pond, I made shuttering to the outside brick contour and to 10 inches wide, then filled with concrete.

This was done in 4 sections, with the aid of some of my neighbours who gave me more gravel and cement because I had underestimated how much I needed (Good neighbours around here!), this took about 2 weeks to do.

I then decided to level off the lawn by the pond so I raised it up by 4 inches then on 1st May I started to lay the new turf.

Job done - except for the slabs on the top, I've got to wait for the grass to take, first.



**Graham**

## Adirondack Garden Seat

I've had a pile of scrap wood for a couple of years now, that was 'rescued' by my husband Gav, just as it was about to be put in a skip.

After some careful measuring, I reckoned there was just about enough for a couple of Adirondack chairs for the garden. I had planned to make them last summer, but didn't get around to it – I am an expert procrastinator.



As my collection of scrap wood is now threatening to take over the garage, I decided it was time to use some of it up. Also, Gav is on furlough, so I thought it'd be a nice project for us to do together.

The plans are simple, no particular skill or fancy techniques required, but for they are intended for different sizes of timber, so we're making adjustments as we go.

So far we have half a chair...

**Anne**

## A Cut Above

**Congratulations to Anne's husband Gav, who this week graduated from the Covid 19 School of Hairdressing.**

Gav's final test almost ended in failure when after nearly an hour of tense snipping, his client accused him of merely 'tickling the ends with the scissors', and after seizing the scissors, proceeded to cut out chunks of her own hair in frustration.

This outburst obviously gave Gav the confidence boost he so desperately needed, and he finally started to demonstrate a surprising level of skill for a trainee with just two previous light trims under his belt.

This new confidence was almost Gav's downfall, as his energetic scissoring resulted in a small wound to the client. However, after a brief 'timeout' for first aid, the client was declared well enough to continue, and the test resumed.

The tension in the room was palpable, and the judge made the unusual move of calling a coffee break one and a half hours into the test. Returning visibly refreshed, Gav clearly found his stride, and made the final 30 minutes look almost easy.

After a gruelling two hours, the test was complete (apart from the front bit, which Gav didn't have time to finish due to a prior engagement – so the client was left to finish this bit off herself.) The large pile of silver hair lying at Gav's feet stood testament to the blood, sweat and tears that had fuelled his performance.

Gav commented afterwards that although he was pleased with his success, and is keen to have a try with the clippers next time, he has no immediate plans to give up his day job.

Before



After



## Bird Feast

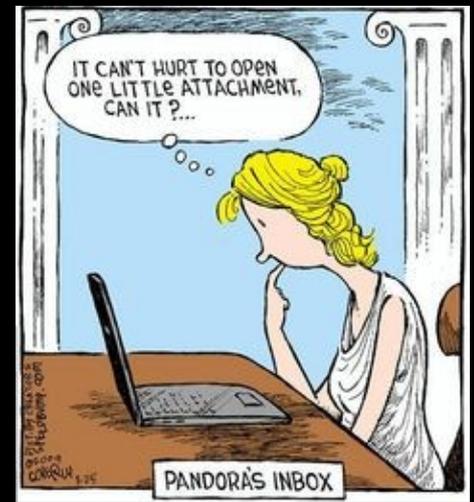


Pete Ross has been keeping busy 'reproducing' his bird feeder design – did he really drink all those bottles of wine?

A shop assistant fiercely fought off an armed robber with his labelling gun yesterday... police are now looking for a man with a price on his head.

I WENT TO DONATE BLOOD TODAY, BUT THEY KEPT ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

WHO'S BLOOD IS THIS? WHERE DID YOU GET IT?



# HUMOUR

Is it too early to put up the xmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do.

Today I saw a local ad that said radio for sale £1 ...volume stuck on full. I thought to myself, "Well, I can't turn that down".

Dear God, i have been very good today. No grumpy thoughts,

no swearing, no smacking people in the head and no whining at all.



DespicableMeMinions.org

But i'm about to get out of bed now, so i may need your help with the rest of the day.

**Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.**

@3WTHADHD



Breaking news - a man claims to have learned how to do origami backwards.... More on this story as it unfolds.

# The Garden Railway

Retired British Rail worker Adrian Backshall has used the lockdown to finish a remarkable project - he has built a 30ft railway in his back garden in Eastbourne, complete with hand-cranked wagon.

Retired British rail employee Adrian already had the trolley when he and his wife moved to Eastbourne and as they now had a much bigger garden his wife gave permission for him to build a track for it.



Adrian's daily commute now takes him down his garden, although at present, there is only 30 feet of track.



The dummy signal was a retirement present. It's a plate layer's trolley, with a Wickham body built on top by a friend who is a blacksmith.



Inside the trolley, Adrian has installed a wood burning stove, a kettle, 12 volt lighting, and there is storage in the box seat.

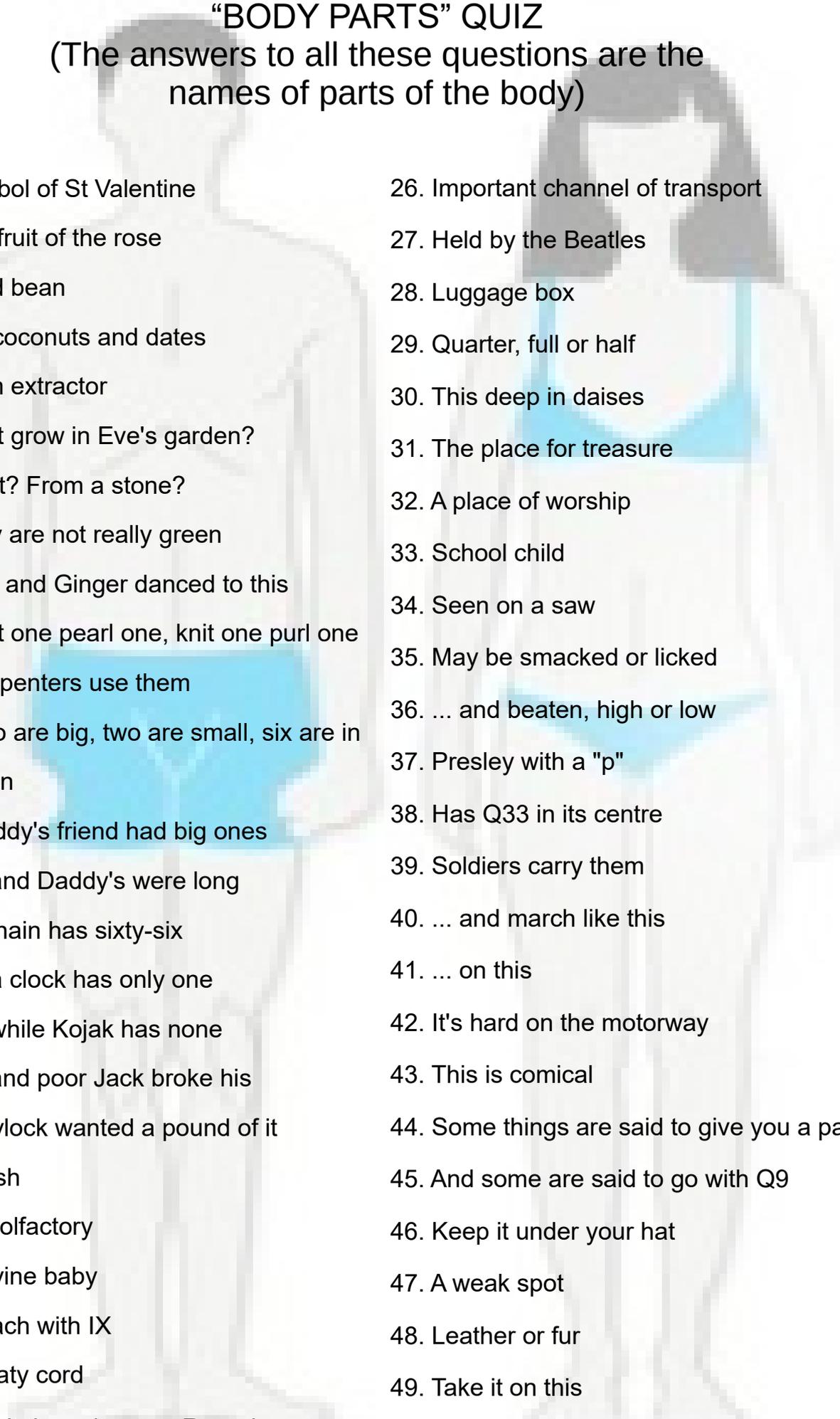


It's intended for entertaining, like a gentleman's club, but because of Covid 19, Adrian's all alone. He's really looking forward to getting a few mates round for a brew up.

Adrian's plan to extend the line by 45 ft to the end of the garden is currently on hold, as negotiations with his wife have 'stalled'.

# "BODY PARTS" QUIZ

(The answers to all these questions are the names of parts of the body)

- 
1. Symbol of St Valentine
  2. The fruit of the rose
  3. A red bean
  4. For coconuts and dates
  5. Plum extractor
  6. Did it grow in Eve's garden?
  7. What? From a stone?
  8. They are not really green
  9. Fred and Ginger danced to this
  10. Knit one pearl one, knit one purl one
  11. Carpenters use them
  12. Two are big, two are small, six are in between
  13. Noddy's friend had big ones
  14. ... and Daddy's were long
  15. A chain has sixty-six
  16. ... a clock has only one
  17. ... while Kojak has none
  18. ... and poor Jack broke his
  19. Shylock wanted a pound of it
  20. A fish
  21. It's olfactory
  22. Bovine baby
  23. Attach with IX
  24. Meaty cord
  25. Don't throw it away. Recycle
  26. Important channel of transport
  27. Held by the Beatles
  28. Luggage box
  29. Quarter, full or half
  30. This deep in daises
  31. The place for treasure
  32. A place of worship
  33. School child
  34. Seen on a saw
  35. May be smacked or licked
  36. ... and beaten, high or low
  37. Presley with a "p"
  38. Has Q33 in its centre
  39. Soldiers carry them
  40. ... and march like this
  41. ... on this
  42. It's hard on the motorway
  43. This is comical
  44. Some things are said to give you a pain in this
  45. And some are said to go with Q9
  46. Keep it under your hat
  47. A weak spot
  48. Leather or fur
  49. Take it on this
  50. Almost a saint



**Captions are still coming in**

".....So I kissed the frog and.....it worked!"

"I was only thinking 'outside the box' "

**new caption comp next week**

**Next week...**

**Pet Pics – please send us a pet picture, it can be a current or past pet, it doesn't even have to be your own pet. Let's show everyone our 'best friends'.**



**Answers to last week's shop quiz:**

- |                      |                        |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1-Boots              | 18-Poundstretcher      | 35-Marks and Spencer |
| 2-Mothercare         | 19-Starbucks           | 36-Debenhams         |
| 3-Comet              | 20-Staples             | 37-Homebase          |
| 4-Currys PC World    | 21-Boss                | 38-Iceland           |
| 5-Carphone Warehouse | 22-Holland and Barratt | 39-Sports Direct     |
| 6-Waterstones        | 23-Aldi                | 40-Timberland        |
| 7-Waitrose           | 24-Millets             | 41-FatFace           |
| 8-Principles         | 25-Anne Summers        | 42-Monsoon           |
| 9-Miss Selfridges    | 26-Costa Coffee        | 43-New Look          |
| 10-Gap               | 27-Morrisons           | 44-Superdrug         |
| 11-W H Smith         | 28-Tesco               | 45-Victoria's Secret |
| 12-Subway            | 29-Halfords            | 46-Zara              |
| 13-John Lewis        | 30-Focus               | 47-Topshop           |
| 14-Clinton Cards     | 31-Woolworths          | 48-Pandora           |
| 15-Bon Marche        | 32-Wickes              | 49-Dune              |
| 16-Oddbins           | 33-Carpentryright      | 50-Body Shop         |
| 17-River Island      | 34-Lidl                |                      |