

COUNTRY LIFE®

APRIL 20, 2016

EVERY WEEK

Happy Birthday Ma'am

PLUS
Shakespeare,
new-builds and
tree flowers



£3.20



Quiz of the week

- 1) Charles Rennie Mackintosh designed which famous Scottish building?
- 2) After a 16-year absence, *Doctor Who* returned to television in 2005. Which actor played the Doctor in this new series?
- 3) Which cricket ground celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2014?
- 4) Which university won the first Boat Race, held in 1829 at Henley-on-Thames?
- 5) Charles Ryder is the protagonist and narrator of which 1945 novel?

**100 years ago in
COUNTRY LIFE**
April 22, 1916



SPRING poetry does not come natural this year. April, so far from being a sweet young figure mingling a girl's laughter with girlish tears, roars like a rough tom-boy and hurls snow, sleet and icy winds in the faces of those who seek her in woodland and field. Hers are very far from being 'showres swete'. Before a blazing wood fire that never grows hot enough, 'spring-time, the only pretty ring time,' is anything but 'the sweet of the year'.

Words of the week

Afflatus (noun)

A sudden rush of divine or poetic inspiration

Esurient (adjective)

Of a greedy disposition

Anfractuous (adjective)

Intricate or circuitous

1) Glasgow School of Art 2) Christopher Eccleston 3) Lord's 4) Oxford 5) 'Brideshead Revised'

The nature of things

Spoonbill

If you're lucky enough to get sight of a spoonbill at the business end, it's not something that could be mistaken for anything else, being just as it says on the tin: the black bill (with a splash of yellow near its tip) is spoon-shaped, albeit a flattened-out model. All the better to probe for breakfast in the shallows with; feeding is achieved by the remarkable bill being used to scythe left and right in fresh, brackish or saline waters, chancing upon morsels such as shrimps and other crustaceans, insect larvae, tadpoles and small fish.

There has been much excitement in recent years, as the species, which winters here in very small numbers along eastern and southern shores, is becoming a little more regularly seen. Summer sojourns used to be almost unknown. Prior to 2010, for example, when the extensive marshes of Holkham Nature Reserve in Norfolk hosted four nesting pairs that raised a number of young, the species had been known to breed here only four times in the previous three centuries. At breeding time, its pure-white plumage



becomes more fancy, with long crest feathers—raised during courtship rituals—and a patch of soft yellow on the chest and nesting may in the company of other water lovers, such as herons, egrets and cormorants. KBH

Illustration by Bill Donohoe

Time to buy

Fruit Drops jam jar in lavender/blue, £625, William & Son (020-7493 8385; www.williamandson.com)



Aromatic repair and brighten hand cream, £28, Aurelia Probiotic Skincare (020-7751 0022; www.aureliaskincare.com)



'What you do in this world is a matter of no consequence,' returned my companion, bitterly.
'The question is, what can you make people believe that you have done.'

A Study in Scarlet,
Arthur Conan Doyle



Leather stationery box, £295, Life of Riley (01799 551871; www.lifeofrileyonline.co.uk)