

The Sparkles Magazine



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur	3
September Words.....	4
Using Old Newspapers	5
Scrub-a-Dub-Dub: Household Soaps	6
September Nature Notes.....	7
Good With Your Hands.....	8-9
It Happened In September	10-11
The September Quiz.....	12-13
September People	14
Object Of The Month	15
Quiz Answers.....	15

“Crowned with the sickle
and the wheaten sheaf,
While Autumn, nodding
o'er the yellow plain,
Comes jovial on.”
James Thomson





Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

September sees two of the most important and holy days in the Jewish calendar. First comes Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It starts on the evening of Friday 18th September this year. Like many other religious festivals, it is a time for prayer and celebration, for thoughtful contemplation and for festivities. The Torah calls on Jews to 'raise a noise'. This is done traditionally by blowing the shofar, a ram's horn. There is feasting, especially sweets such as apples dipped in honey.



By comparison, a week later, Yom Kippur is a day of fasting and reflection. It is the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in Judaism. It is regarded as the Sabbath of Sabbaths.

September Words

September

by John Clare

At last the fields are wearing clear
And glad sounds hum in labour's ear,
When children run about and roam
And run to meet the harvest home,
Glad the harvest's end is nigh
And weary labour nearly bye.

Then comes the harvest supper night
Which rustics welcome with delight,
When merry game and tiresome tale
And songs increasing with the ale
Their mingled uproar interpose
To crown the harvest's happy close.



Using Old Newspapers

Once you've finished reading a newspaper, what happens next? Many people put them in the waste paper collection for recycling. But there are so many other uses for old newspapers.

Over the years old newspapers have been used to line drawers and cover tables when cleaning the brasses. They can be scrunched up to lay in the bottom of a fire with the kindling sticks and coal on top. If you were short of sticks, pages of newspapers twisted up tight made paper sticks to light the fire.

Newspapers can be used to wrap apples, stuff into shoes to keep them fresh, dry out boots that have got wet. And, of course, some people even used torn newspaper in the outside loo!





Household Soaps

No self-respecting kitchen sink was complete without a bar of household soap. They were usually green, and they were tougher than a bathroom soap. They didn't bother with fancy fragrances. They were there to do a job.

Dirty, greasy hands were washed with household soap. Collars and cuffs were rubbed and rubbed with a bar of soap

before washing a shirt. Stains were removed from cloths and even from carpets.

Fairy, Sunlight and Lifebuoy led the way. The bars didn't seem to melt away – they lasted for ages. With a bar of household soap you could tackle nearly any job around the house.



September Nature Notes

The year is on the turn by September. In the countryside, the harvest is reaching its end. The fields are being ploughed or harrowed ready for winter wheat or to be left fallow.

The big country shows have dominated the summer. Now it is the turn of shows in the remoter dales to bring locals and visitors together. In the Lake District, Eskdale Show

gives farmers the chance to have their best Herdwick sheep judged. There are stalls and dog shows, vintage tractors and the craft and produce tent. There is great pride in winning a cup or coming away with a rosette.

Towards the end of September, churches and villages have harvest festivals. It is a chance to celebrate everyone's hard work and the bounty of nature.

Good With Your Hands

Brenda and Brian are chatting about their school days.

Brenda loved history and was good at French. Brian did well in science, and he enjoyed learning about the world in geography. But they both looked forward to practical classes. “The teachers seemed to think that if you were good at academic subjects, you wouldn’t be able to cook or be skilled at joinery,” says Brian.

Brenda chuckles and agrees: “Some people, they said, were naturally good with their hands, as though you couldn’t be good at both academic and practical subjects.”

Brian agrees: “It’s true, some people are better at practical things, but there’s a lot of skill involved. Making a door and getting it to fit well can be just as difficult as solving quadratic equations in maths.”

“Of course,” says Brenda, “there was no chance of us



girls doing woodwork. We did sewing and cookery classes. Domestic science they called it then. By the time our daughter was at school it was home economics.”

“That’s right,” laughs Brian. “Us lads were never allowed anywhere near a sewing machine or a baking bowl. It was off down to the workshops. The first year was all woodwork. After learning to plane wood flat and saw straight, the first thing I made was a box to keep marbles in.”



“I made a cushion cover,” recalls Brenda. “Then we made our own aprons. Mine had roses on it – very pretty. I loved pinning and tacking the material. We progressed to making our own dresses. I went to my first ever dance in one of my own dresses. I was nervous in case it appeared homemade.”

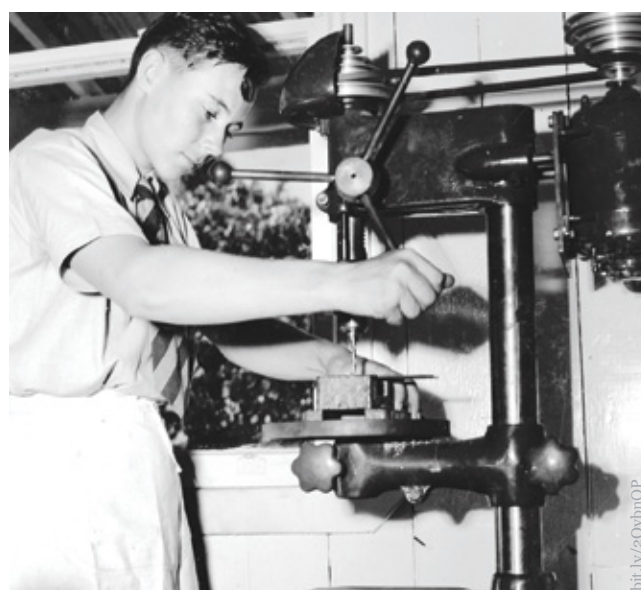
“I bet it was better than you could buy,” says Brian with a smile. “I’m not sure the stool I made was that good.” Brian smiles even more: “How did you get on in cookery classes, Brenda?”

Brenda looks annoyed. “I’ve always been a better sewer than



a cook, as you well know, Brian. There may have been the odd burnt offering.”

“I think you’re a very good cook,” says Brian, and they both have a good laugh. Then they tuck in to the roast dinner they’ve enjoyed cooking together.



It Happened In September



The First TV Adverts

Do you prefer commercial television or the BBC? There are no adverts on BBC television. Yet we have all got used to commercial breaks on ITV. Indeed, some of the adverts have become well-known and loved, such as the Hovis bread advert filmed at Gold Hill in Shaftesbury.

We all knew that Esso petrol put a tiger in your tank, that

Persil washes whiter and it shows, and that for instant mashed potato, for mash get Smash!

ITV first went on the air on 22nd September 1955. With it came the first TV advert. It was for Gibbs SR toothpaste. It was, the advert said, 'tingling fresh'. And toothpaste is still advertised on the telly today.

All change for BBC radio

People had got used to the BBC radio stations of the 1950s and 60s. However, 30th January 1967 brought change all round. The Home Programme became Radio 4, the Third Programme still brought classical music but was now Radio 3, and the Light Programme was renamed Radio 2.

There was also a new kid on the block. Radio 1, full of pop music, was launched the same day.



Roberts Rambler radio

Last of the Telegrams

Nowadays, people have mobile phones and they send text messages. They are just a few words – a couple of sentences each. In fact, text messages are very like telegrams.



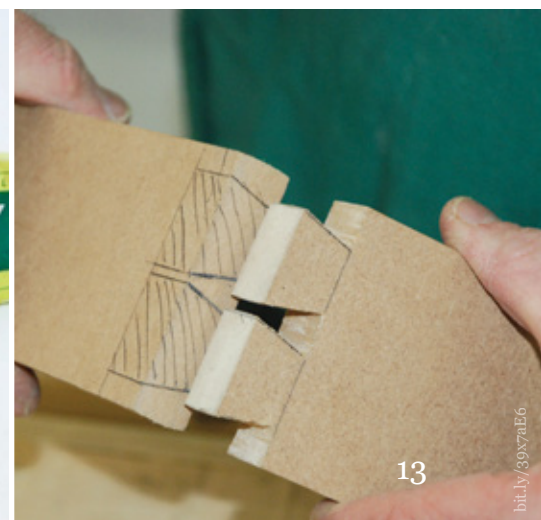
The Post Office telegram service ceased on 30th September 1982. People just talked on the phone instead. But now, once again, they send each other short messages.

The September Quiz★

1. What colour is Fairy household soap?
2. Rub-a-dub-dub: how many men in the tub?
3. And who do you think they are? Can you complete the rhyme?
4. In which year was ITV launched? *1955, 1965 or 1975*
5. In which year was Radio 1 launched? *1947, 1957 or 1967*
6. In that year, what did the Home Service become?
Radio 4 or Radio 5
7. What did the Light Programme become? *Classic FM or Radio 2*
8. And what did the Third Programme become?
9. Teleg _ _ _ s were short, urgent messages
10. Which instrument did John Coltrane play?
Trumpet or Saxophone
11. Which pianist was famous for 'Side Saddle'?
12. Which rock and roll star sang 'Peggy Sue'?
Buddy Holly or Chuck Berry
13. Is Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year?
14. Yom Kippur means the Day of At _ n _ m _ n _
15. Most harvest loaves are in the shape of a wheat s _ _ _ f
16. Which brand of petrol says "it puts a tiger in your tank"?



17. The first TV advert was for Gibbs SR. What sort of product is Gibbs SR?
18. Which brand of soap powder claims it washes whiter, and it shows?
19. Was it nearly always girls or boys who did domestic science?
20. Would you do tacking and hemming in a class on cooking or sewing?
21. Would you use a hacksaw in woodwork or metalwork?
22. In woodworking, mortise and dovetail are both types of what?
23. Joan puts her old newspapers out for the waste paper collection. She is rec _ c _ ing them.
24. Joan finds that a bar of household soap lasts 84 days. How many weeks is this?
25. Joan likes classical music. Does she listen to Radio 1 or Radio 3?
26. Alan follows the news and likes drama. Does he listen to Radio 2 or Radio 4?
27. Did you send telegrams from a Post Office or a Bank?
28. Does September see the start of the autumn or spring term in schools?
29. Would you find household soaps mainly in the kitchen or the bathroom?
30. How many words can you make from the letters in 'Household'?
Examples: hose, loose, sold



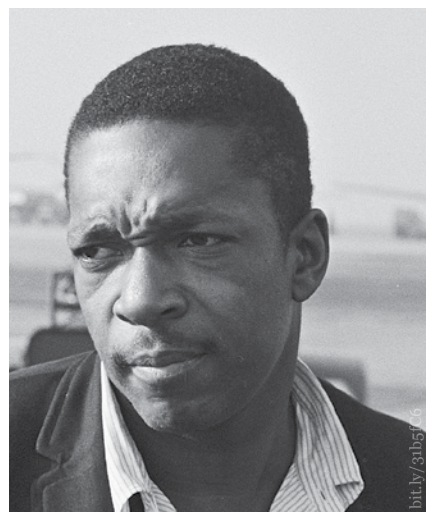
September People

Three musicians who all got us bopping, dancing and tapping our feet, all born in September

John Coltrane

John Coltrane was a fabulous musician. He made playing the saxophone look easy, which it definitely isn't. He helped launch bebop music, and he worked with other jazz greats such as Miles Davis.

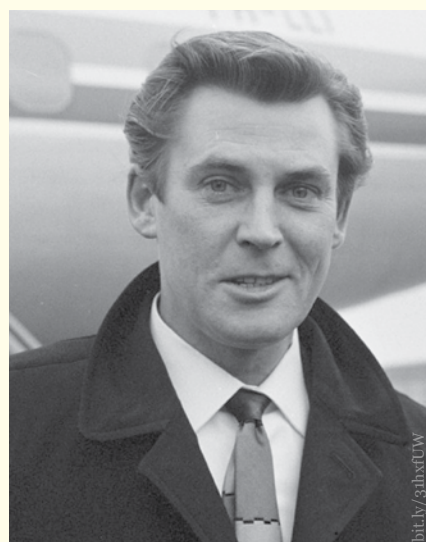
Born on 23rd September 1926, he spent his career bringing jazz to a wider audience.



Russ Conway

Though not a concert pianist, Russ Conway was one of the great piano players. He was born in Bristol on 2nd September 1925. After service in the Royal Navy, he played in clubs in London.

By the late fifties, he was top of the charts with classics such as 'Side Saddle' and 'Roulette'.



Buddy Holly

The rock and roll revolution owed a lot to Buddy Holly. He was the fresh, youthful face of a new generation of pop stars. His songs, including 'That'll Be The Day' and 'Peggy Sue' got everybody rocking.

Born on 7th September 1936, he died tragically in a plane crash in 1959.



Object Of The Month

Under the kitchen sink or in the scullery you found the buckets and the cloths, and, of course, a scrubbing brush. Doorsteps, hearths and flagged floors all needed scrubbing with hot, soapy water.



Housemaid's knee wasn't some minor ailment. It was often the result of hours spent kneeling and scrubbing floors. Even today, no house should be without a scrubbing brush.

The September Quiz Answers



- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Green | 9. Telegrams | 21. Metalwork |
| 2. Three | 10. Saxophone | 22. Joints |
| 3. The butcher,
the baker, the
candlestick-maker
(And all of them out
to sea) | 11. Russ Conway | 23. Recycling |
| 4. 1955 | 12. Buddy Holly | 24. 12 weeks |
| 5. 1967 | 13. Rosh Hashanah | 25. Radio 3 |
| 6. Radio 4 | 14. Atonement | 26. Radio 4 |
| 7. Radio 2 | 15. Sheaf | 27. Post Office |
| 8. Radio 3 | 16. Esso | 28. Autumn |
| | 17. Toothpaste | 29. Kitchen |
| | 18. Persil | 30. Various |
| | 19. Girls | |
| | 20. Sewing | |



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