

The Sparkles Magazine

Building a Quarry Tiled Fireplace

FEBRUARY
1957

The **PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER**

Editor: F. J. CAMM

1/3



Red Cross and Red Crescent	3
May Words	4
What's In A Name? – Pub Signs	5
Pop Goes Portable	6
May Nature Notes	7
Do It Yourself	8-9
It Happened In May	10-11
May People	12
Around The Country – English Villages	13
The May Quiz	14-15
May Crossword	16
Word Search – Tools For The Job	17
This Sporting Life – The Matthews Final	18
Object Of The Month	19
Quiz and Crossword Answers	19

“ There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern.”
Samuel Johnson





Red Cross and Red Crescent

Most people want to see a peaceful world. Sadly, that peace is sometimes broken by war and conflict. That's where the Red Cross and the Red Crescent come in. They help the injured and prisoners of war. They try to keep both sides to the Geneva Convention. It is not easy, but it is essential work, and most of it is done by volunteers.

The Red Cross came about in 1863. A Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant, had witnessed a

terrible battle between Austria and Italy. He wanted to provide neutral and impartial care in time of war.

The founding motto of the Red Cross was 'In War, Charity'. Dunant based the Red Cross on his strong Christian faith. That same appeal to charity and kindness led to the formation of the Red Crescent in Muslim countries as early as 1876. Together, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent have brought hope in troubled times.

May Words

When Green Buds Hang In The Elm

by A.E. Housman

When green buds hang in the elm like dust
And sprinkle the lime like rain,
Forth I wander, forth I must,
And drink of life again.
Forth I must by hedgerow bowers
To look at the leaves uncurled,
And stand in the fields where cuckoo-flowers
Are lying about the world.



What's In A Name?

Have you ever wondered what the story is behind the name of a pub?

In medieval times, many peasants couldn't read. So landlords put simple pictures on their pub signs, like The Plough or The Star.

Landlords wanted to keep on the good side of the king. Pubs called The White Hart have a deer on the sign. It is the crest of King Richard II. The name The Royal Oak comes from the story of King Charles II hiding in an oak tree after losing a battle.

There are lots of pubs called the Rose and Crown. The name refers to the end of the War of the Roses. Or how about a nod to country sports at The Old Dog and Duck or The Royal Pheasant?

What is your local pub called?



Pop Goes Portable

The thrill of having your own record player! No longer did you have to listen downstairs with your parents. No longer did you have to pretend to like John McCormack or the big-band music of Artie Shaw. You might still play Bing Crosby and Doris Day. But soon you were rocking to Elvis Presley and Bill Haley.

Not that the portable record players of the 1950s were all that portable. There was the Dansette, but even it needed two strong arms to lift. But these were record players you could have in your bedroom or take to parties with your friends.

The portable record player gave you a world of your own!





May Nature Notes

In the countryside in May, the hawthorn is blossoming in the hedgerows. The white flowers are a sure sign that summer is around the corner.

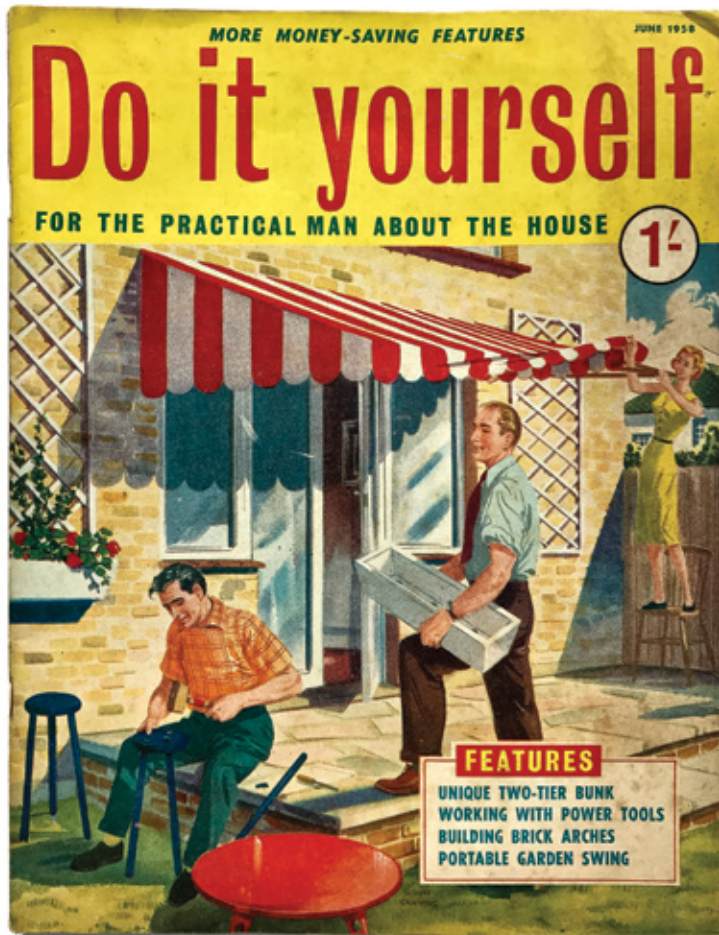
Hawthorn hedges are home to wildlife. Butterflies are attracted to the flowers. Inside the hedge, small creatures like dormice and hedgehogs hide safely.

Hawthorn is also known as the may tree. The flowers are gathered for May Day

celebrations. But there is a superstition that it is bad luck to take may blossom inside the house.

A well-known saying goes, “Ne’er cast a clout ‘til may do be out”. ‘Clout’ was a word for warm winter clothing. The saying means not to take off your vest until may trees are blossoming, because cold weather could return.

Do It Yourself



The 1950s were a time of hope. The long years of war and austerity were over. Unemployment was low and wages were rising. Harold Macmillan even went so far as to say, “Many people have never had it so good.”

Not everyone was in clover. Money was still tight. Bringing up young families was hard. But people wanted to improve their

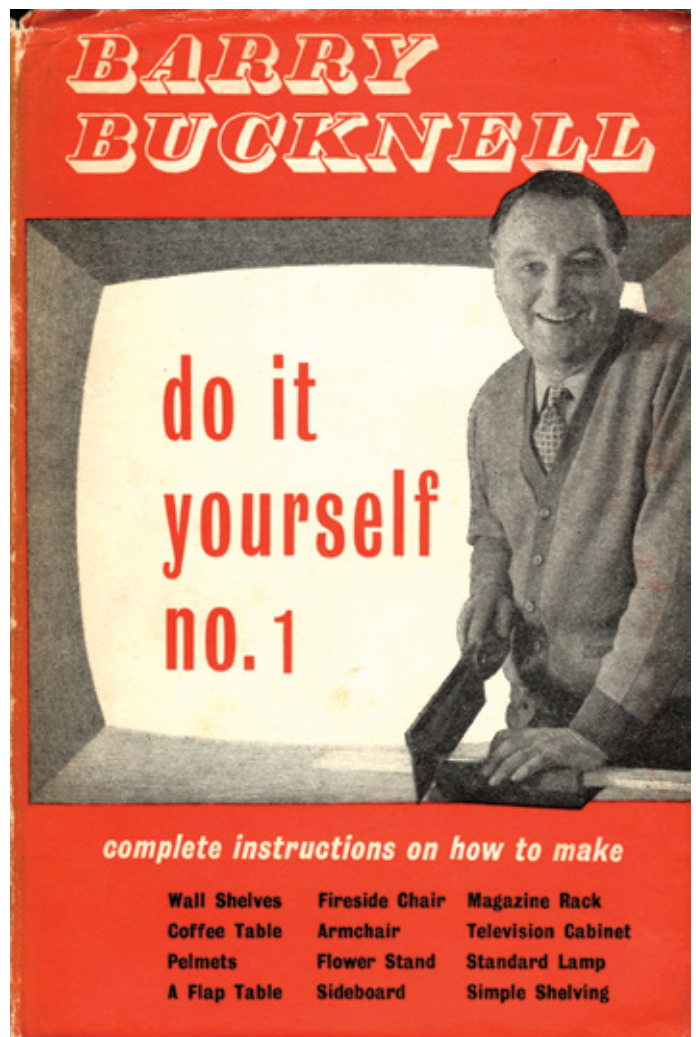
lives and their homes. It was no surprise then that the 1950s saw a boom in DIY – Do It Yourself.

There were magazines on the news stands helping you to build kitchen units or add sparkle to your bathroom. A popular choice was *Practical Householder*. It gave you the confidence to build a porch or fashion your own fireplace.

Young men and women got to work putting up built-in wardrobes or shelving units. Hardboard and plywood were used to face old-fashioned doors, and to box-in unsightly chimney breasts.

Television got in on the act, too. Barry Bucknell was the face of DIY on the telly. He was one of television's first 'hands-on' practical presenters. The programmes were simple and straightforward, and Barry Bucknell tried to keep his projects like that, too. They were aimed at the complete amateur, and not at the skilled joiner or builder.

One problem was that the programmes went out live. Barry Bucknell rehearsed all his projects at home, with his wife timing him. However, live in the television studio, he sometimes ran out of time, or he got his measurements wrong. As a result, he sometimes had to say: "This is how not to do it!"



Nevertheless, Barry Bucknell and many a practical magazine got much of the country busy with wood, tools and glue. People learnt how to lay tiles, mix mortar and point bricks. Homes were transformed, more and more, people really did feel they were having it good, even if they did it themselves!

It Happened In May

Eiffel Tower

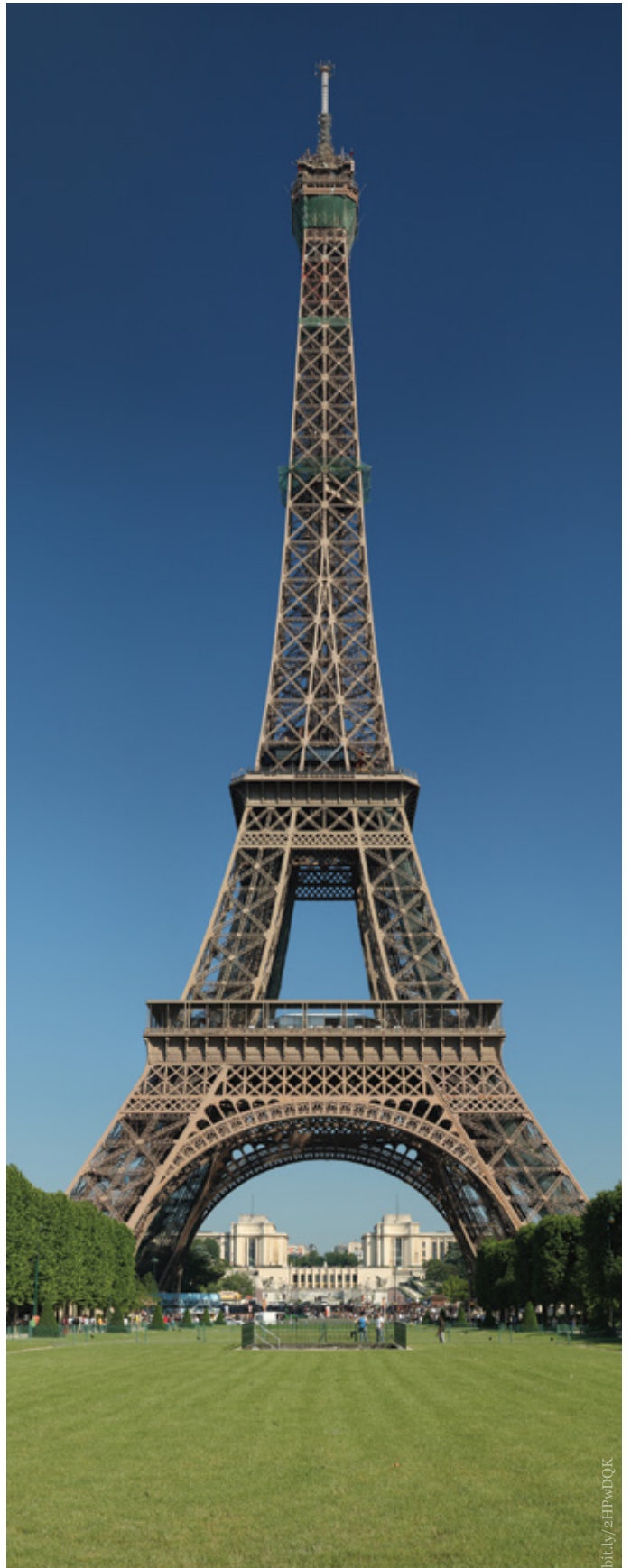
The Eiffel Tower is one of the best-known landmarks in the world. It dominates the Paris skyline. It is still the tallest structure in that city.

The Tower was built as the centrepiece of the Paris World Fair in 1889. It was a symbol of French engineering and industry.

It opened to the public on 6th May. There was just one snag: the lifts were not yet working. Thousands flocked to buy tickets, but many only reached the first or second levels.

Yet, twenty days later, while the lifts were still not working, some 30,000 people had made the climb to the top.

That meant climbing 1, 710 steps, but they all agreed that the view was worth it when they finally got there!



Petrol Rationing Ends

If you were lucky enough to have a car, a motorbike or a van, the 26th May 1950 was a day to celebrate. Petrol rationing had come to an end.

No longer did you need coupons to fill up. Driving just for pleasure was once more a possibility. The traffic was still light, and the open road lay ahead for motorists.



Talylllyn Railway

Like many narrow-gauge railways in Wales, the Talylllyn Railway was built to carry slate. The slate traffic fell away. By 1950, the Talylllyn was close to closure.

A group of enthusiasts got together to save the line. On 14th May 1951, their first train pulled out of Tywyn station. It was the world's first preserved railway. Over the years, it has brought pleasure to thousands of tourists.



May People

This month, two men who stood on top of the world

Everest Conquered!

May 1953 saw one of the great feats of mountaineering. On 29th May, two climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. It is so high that they needed oxygen masks. They also needed great physical strength and climbing skill.

The two climbers couldn't stay long at the top. They took a few photos, and made their way carefully back to camp. They were met with shouts of jubilation.

One of the men was the New Zealander, Edmund Hillary. The other was a local Sherpa climber from Nepal, Tenzing Norgay. They both became famous names around the world.

News of their triumph took time to travel. The news didn't reach London until the morning of 2nd June, the very day of the Queen's Coronation. It certainly added to the celebrations.

Tenzing Norgay had other reasons to celebrate the 29th May when he was on the top of Everest: it was his 40th birthday!





Around The Country

~ English villages ~

What comes to mind when you picture an English village? Maybe the church spire rising above the trees, or the local pub or a village shop. Maybe it's a winding street lined with stone cottages with low thatched roofs. In a village, everybody knows their neighbours.

Villages in England are full of history and tradition. In the spring, the 1st May is celebrated as May Day.

Some villages still have a maypole. The local children dance around the maypole holding long ribbons.

There may be morris dancing on the village green. Morris dancing is a custom dating back over 500 years. An accordion plays the tunes. The morris dancers use handkerchiefs, sticks or even swords. They wear bells on their legs. The bell pads are called 'ruggles'.

The May Quiz

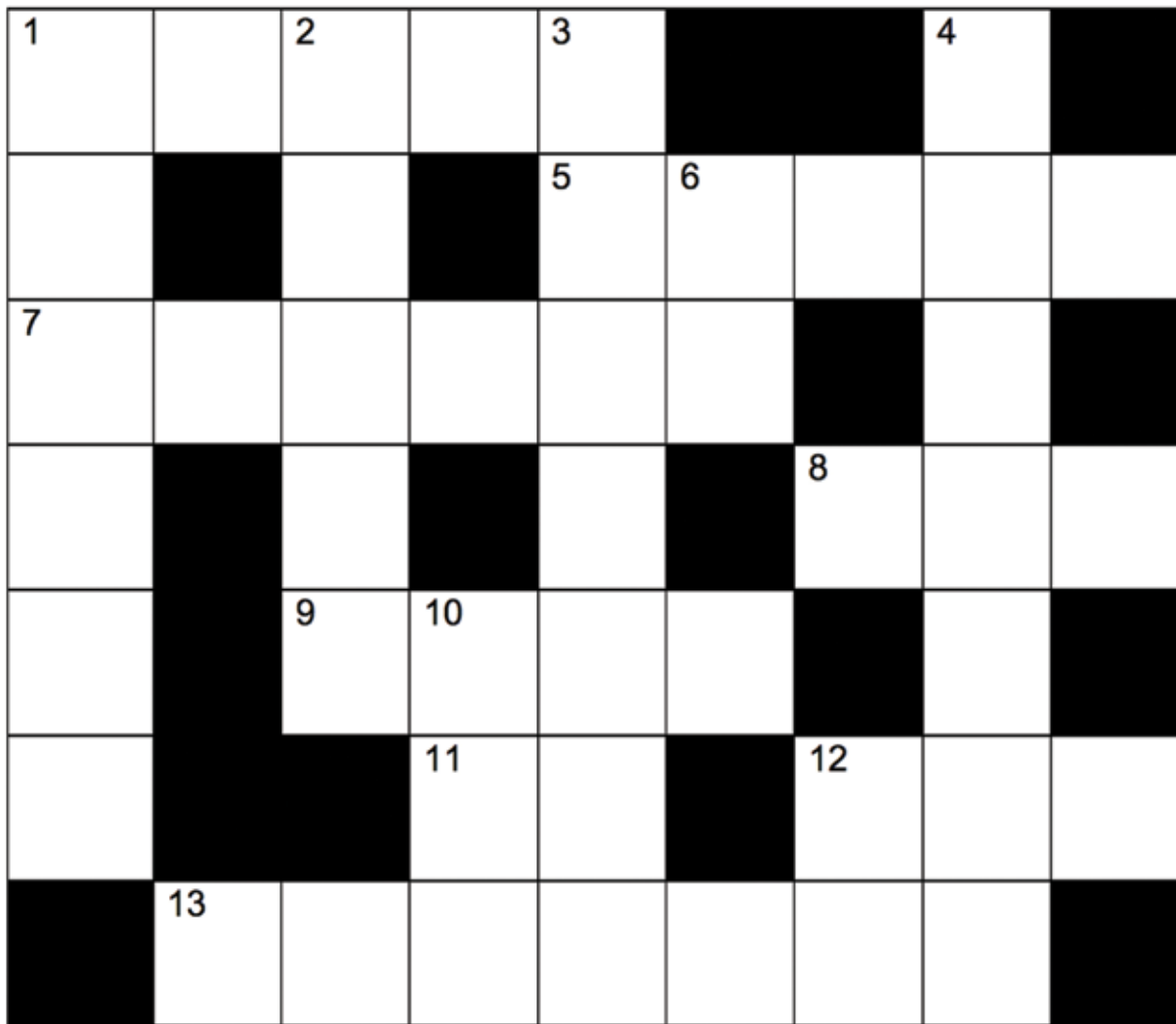
1. Which three colours are traditional on a maypole?
2. The symbol of the Red Cross is a red cross on which colour background?
3. Which organisation was founded as the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross?
4. Where might you find a snug, a bar and a cellar?
5. Which is the highest mountain in the world?
6. In which range of mountains is it?
7. Which make of car sounds like a traditional English folk dance?
8. What does DIY stand for?
9. Who did DIY on the telly, Barry Bucknell or Percy Thrower?
10. Would you use a plane or a file to smooth wood?
11. Is Phillips a type of drill or a type of screwdriver?
12. Mitre, dovetail, and mortise & tenon are all types of what?
13. In which city is the Eiffel Tower?
14. How many legs has the Eiffel Tower?
15. After the war, in which year did petrol rationing end?
1946, 1950 or 1953
16. Is the Talyllyn Railway in Wales or Ireland?



17. Which two people were the first to climb Mount Everest?
18. In which year did they conquer Everest? *1935, 1953 or 1969*
19. News of their feat reached London on 2nd June. Which major royal event was taking place that day?
20. Roughly how high is Mount Everest?
 4,000 feet, 16,000 feet or 29,000 feet
21. Which one of these is the odd one out? *Pub Bank Inn Tavern*
22. A common pub name is Royal Oak. Which King hid in an oak tree?
 Henry VIII or Charles II
23. Was the Dansette a type of hostess trolley or a record player?
24. Which part of a record player is the stylus?
25. *Practical Householder* cost one shilling in 1955. In 1957 it cost 25 percent more. How much did it cost?
26. In the 1953 FA Cup Final, was Stanley Matthews playing for Blackpool or Bolton Wanderers?
27. Which team won?
28. Who scored a hat-trick for Blackpool?
 Stan Mortensen, Bill Perry or Stanley Matthews
29. The may is the flower of which thorny bush?
30. How many words can you make from the letters in 'Do It Yourself'?
 Examples: tidy, flour, sold



May Crossword



Across

1. Home of the Eiffel Tower
5. Where a judge sits
7. Old name for a pub
8. A type of poem
9. Used to pull a bell
11. Us, together
12. Abbreviated form of including
13. World's highest mountain

Down

1. Fuel for cars
2. The Thames is one
3. Tool used to remove old wallpaper
4. Careful
6. Opposite of off
10. To be in debt
12. Third person singular of to be

Answers on page 19

Tools Word Search

s	p	l	a	p	f	i	c	h
a	w	p	x	e	i	l	h	a
h	s	l	e	n	l	h	i	m
d	p	i	n	c	e	r	s	e
r	a	e	b	u	p	x	e	a
i	n	r	v	s	a	w	l	r
l	n	s	a	n	d	e	r	m
l	e	h	a	m	m	e	r	t
k	r	p	g	s	p	i	q	y

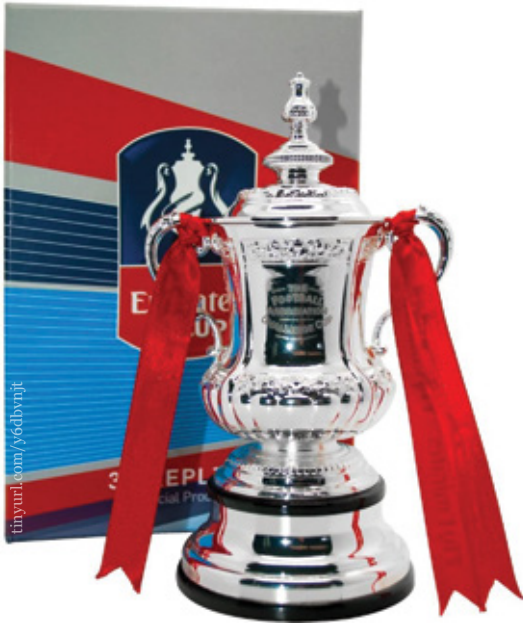
Can you find the ten tools hidden in this word search? All words are vertical or horizontal.

axe
chisel
drill
file
hammer

pincers
pliers
sander
saw
spanner

This Sporting Life

The Matthews Final



Stanley Matthews

The 1953 FA Cup Final had fine footballers on both sides. Nat Lofthouse was playing for Bolton Wanderers. Blackpool's stars were Stanley Matthews and Stan Mortensen. Matthews was widely regarded as the best English footballer of his generation. He was a wizard playing on the wing as an outside right.

In 1948 and 1951, Blackpool had been losing finalists. With a little over twenty minutes remaining, it looked like Blackpool were going to miss out again. Bolton were leading 3-1.

But Stanley Matthews had other ideas. He ran rings round the Bolton defence. He didn't score a goal, but he set them up. Stan Mortensen completed a hat-trick. It was 3-3. With seconds remaining, Matthews put in another cross from the wing. It went just behind Mortensen, but Bill Perry netted for Blackpool. They had won the FA Cup by four goals to three.

It was an extraordinary comeback. Ever since, it has been called the Matthews Final.

Object Of The Month

If you were going to do a repair yourself, you needed a decent set of tools. Nowadays, many tools are electric. They are very convenient, and they get the job done quicker. But they don't have that personal touch.



In the past, hand tools meant just that. One of the most satisfying tools was the hand drill. The wooden handle fitted snugly in your hand. With the other hand, you whirled round the handle. The gear-wheels turned, and you soon had the hole drilled.

May Quiz Answers



- | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Red, white and blue | 13. Paris | 23. Record player |
| 2. White | 14. Four | 24. Needle |
| 3. Red Crescent | 15. 1950 | 25. 1/3 (one shilling and threepence) |
| 4. Pub | 16. Wales | 26. Blackpool |
| 5. Mount Everest | 17. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa Tenzing) | 27. Blackpool |
| 6. Himalayas | 18. 1953 | 28. Stan Mortensen |
| 7. Morris | 19. Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II | 29. Hawthorn |
| 8. Do It Yourself | 20. 29,000 feet | 30. Various |
| 9. Barry Bucknell | 21. Bank | |
| 10. Plane | 22. Charles II | |
| 11. Screwdriver | | |
| 12. Woodworking joints | | |

May Crossword Answers



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Across: 1. Paris | 5. Court | 7. Tavern | 8. Ode |
| 9. Rope | 11. We | 12. Inc. | 13. Everest |
| Down: 1. Petrol | 2. River | 3. Scraper | 4. Prudent |
| 6. On | 10. Owe | 12. We | |



For more information on our resources and subscriptions for care homes or for individuals, please visit: www.dailysparkle.co.uk



ENQUIRIES

0800 228 9698

info@dailysparkle.co.uk • www.dailysparkle.co.uk

Copyright © 2021 Everyday Miracles Ltd T/A The Daily Sparkle ®