

The Willows Whisper

April

Spring Song

by Robert Louis Stevenson

THE air was full of sun and birds,
The fresh air sparkled clearly.
Remembrance wakened in my heart
And I knew I loved her dearly.

The fallows and the leafless trees
And all my spirit tingled.
My earliest thought of love, and Spring's
First puff of perfume mingled.

In my still heart the thoughts awoke,
Came lone by lone together -
Say, birds and Sun and Spring, is Love
A mere affair of weather?

April is associated with springtime, new beginnings, and a time to bloom. Like the flowers and trees, it's a time to start fresh and shed those cool weather layers.

Starting the month with some friendly pranks always reminds us to not take everything so seriously.

CONTACT US



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[The Willows Website](#) | 01509 650559

DON'T FORGET:

Yvonne is available for you to join her for a catch up on Tuesday 28th April between 3:00pm and 4:00pm. If you would like to book a specific time slot, with her, please call her on 01509 650 559.

REFERRAL PROGRAM



Do you know someone seeking a Care Home for a loved one? If you refer to resident, who comes to live at The Willows, you can receive a reward!

We are offering:

£250 vouchers if the resident comes to stay with us on a respite stay or £500 vouchers if the resident you refer comes to our Home permanently.

If you would like more information, please speak to Priya Patel or Yvonne Manton.

Contact us on 01509 650 55

For more updates follow us on social media!



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Excellence**





April 1st - April Fools Day

In British folklore, April Fool's Day is associated with Gotham in Nottinghamshire and an event from the 13th century. According to legend, King John decided to 'acquire' some of the land of Gotham for a hunting lodge.

Naturally this was not popular with the townsfolk and so they decided on a cunning plan to dissuade the king. They decided to 'play the fool' so when the king's men arrived in the town, they found the townspeople doing all sorts of crazy things such as trying to drown fish. This was enough for the king's men to counsel the king to choose somewhere else for his lodge, as Gotham was obviously full of madmen.

Ever since then, according to legend, April Fool's Day has commemorated their trickery.

Some people may remember a famous April Fool prank from 1957, when the BBC program 'Horizon' apparently showed Swiss farmers picking spaghetti from spaghetti trees.

The BBC received so many enquiries from viewers asking where they could buy a spaghetti plant that they had to own up to the hoax the following day!

Then in 2008 the pranksters at the BBC reported that during filming for their natural history series 'Miracles of Evolution' they had captured footage of flying penguins.

Presenter Terry Jones of Monty Python fame was shown walking with the penguins in Antarctica and then following their flight to the Amazon rainforest where the penguins would "spend the winter basking in the tropical sun." The video went viral on the internet.

Nowadays when someone has an April Fool trick played on them, the prankster will generally shout "April Fool!".





April 5th - Easter

Easter traditions and symbols have evolved over time, though some have been around for centuries. To Christians, Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ

The holiday's mixed origins have resulted in some interesting traditions in the UK, including gobbling chocolate shaped like eggs.

This tradition can be traced back to the early 1800s when artificial eggs were made as gifts for Easter throughout Europe. Solid chocolate eggs also became fashionable in France and Germany around this time.

The first hollow Easter eggs that most closely resembles what we enjoy today was invented and made in Bristol, by chocolatier J.S Fry & Son, in 1873.

The company eventually merged with Cadbury's, who launched their first Easter egg in 1875 and went on to design the iconic Cadbury's Creme Egg.

You will also notice hot cross buns make a well – welcomed appearance, in the build up to Easter. These small, lightly sweetened and spiced bread-like buns are eaten toasted with butter smothered on them and a nice cup of tea! MMMMMmmmm!





The Story of Lant

In the heart of Shepshed, where the past whispers secrets to the present, two landmarks stood tall: Greens Shoes and The Lant. It was 1888, and William Green & Son, makers of the esteemed Grenson shoes, had just opened their factory doors in this Leicestershire town. The air was alive with the rhythm of Goodyear welt construction, crafting shoes for royalty and commoners alike.



Fast forward to the 20th century. The shoe factory succumbed to overseas competition and was closed, the site remaining unoccupied for some years until The Willows Residential Home was erected on the site in 1975, being taken into the 3abCare Group in 2016. The legacy of Greens Shoes lived on, with Grenson remaining a premium brand. The Willows Care Home residents often reminisced about Shepshed's bustling textile days. They'd also hear of the peculiar practice of collecting urine for wool processing – urine generating ammonia and a detergent effect on woollen fleeces laid down the centre of The Lant. This lane was ideal for the purpose, being straight and sloping with effluent flowing into the brook (now culverted) at the end of the lane. The nearby Baptist Church conducted its baptisms in the brook, upstream of the effluent it is to be hoped!

Residents were encouraged to empty their chamber pots on to the fleeces before they went to Nottingham to be spun into yarn. Meanwhile just around the corner women would be washing their laundry in the brook. What's new with pollution? Small wonder that life expectancy in those days was so short!

Today, The Willows continues to care for the Shepshed community and surrounding area, sometimes also reaching even further afield. Its residents may have connected to Shepshed, its spirit and history. And in the quiet moments, you might hear whispers of Greens Shoes and the curious tradition of urine and yarn. Suffice to say that in those days The Lant was not the best address in town!



MARCH ACTIVITIES





APRIL EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

**Wednesday 2nd April:
Boogie Beatz with Hannah**

**Wednesday 8th April:
Singing from the Heart
Live Entertainment**

**Sunday 12th April
Rock'n'Rollers are BACK!
Live Entertainment**

**W/C Monday 13th April
Chiropody Week**

**Tuesday 21st April
National Tea Day**

**Thursday 12th April
St. George's Day**

**Sunday 26th April:
Church Service for the Residents**

**Wednesday 29th April:
Dance Day**

**There's always something to do...
Our much-loved regular schedule continues:
Pamper & Spa Days
Hairdressing
Arts & Crafts
Social Lounge Activities**



This month we say 'Happy Birthday' to:



Doris - 2nd April



Iris - 9th April



John - 23rd April



Feedback from Family of Resident - March 2026

**"To all the lovely staff at The Willows,
We want to express our sincere thanks for the
wonderful way you all cared for our mother, over the
18 months she was in your care.
The family really appreciate the kindness and dignity
with which you treated her and also the kindness
shown to her visitors."**



EASTER

WORD SEARCH



Y T L
Y P H S H Y
H S S A R G E
Y R Y I H I R H Y
H H D R E T S A E H Q
U N S P R I N G I R H
B N I A A L D L A S I R B
C T S L C H I C K A S I C
J E L L Y B E A N L A S F
R E W O L F B F N R L U A
R S T F E A M T E R R N J
U A E P P B A S K E T D U
T R N B B L L S B P F A O
B U N N Y U S A L E P Y Z
P U O G S A A R S E B O P
T B N A R P K A P L B
B S E E K E G G S S L
A T Y U E T K R
Y D N A C U
T B S M



BUNNY
EGGS
CHICK
JELLYBEAN

BASKET
SPRING
FLOWER
EASTER

GRASS
CANDY
HUNT
DYE

BONNET
SUNDAY
PEEPS
LAMB

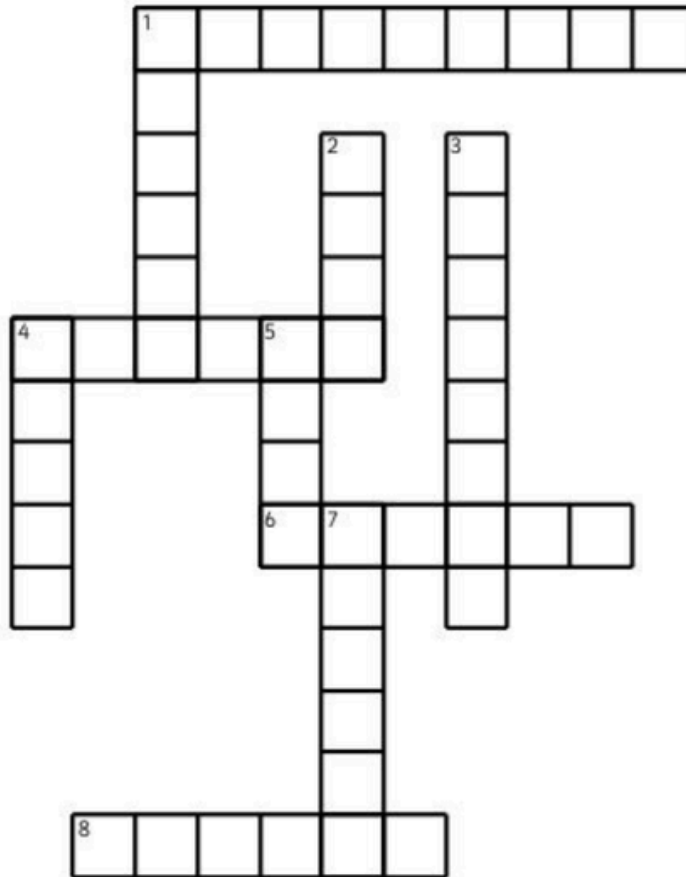




Easter Crossword



Solve the crossword using the list of words and the clues



- basket
- bonnet
- bunny
- chicks
- chocolate
- daffodil
- eggs
- hunt
- parade
- spring

Across

1. Easter eggs are often made out of this treat!
4. Collect your eggs in this.
6. The season in which Easter is celebrated.
8. You may wear one in the Easter parade.

Down

1. These hatch out of real eggs.
2. You may go on an Easter egg ...
3. Cheerful, yellow spring flower.
4. Will he visit you this year?
5. We give chocolate ones at Easter.
7. Show off your Easter bonnet at one!

