

The Willows Whisper

April issue

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. That's not a coincidence either. April comes from the Latin verb "Aperire" which means "to open." Like the flowers and trees, it's a time to start fresh and shed those cool weather layers. With the month comes a wide array of holidays and observances to make every day a reason to celebrate.

From health awareness and art to cuisines and music, April is a month worth celebrating (except Tax Day ☹️). Oh, and we can't forget about April Fool's Day. Starting the month with some friendly pranks always reminds us to not take everything so seriously. No matter how serious or silly the holiday may be, there's surely a day that'll suit your fancy.



How it all started?

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!". Pranks can be quite simple, such as sending people on wild goose chases or quite complicated. After all, it's all about some fun and laughter!

Easter (17th April)

Easter traditions and symbols have evolved over time, though some have been around for centuries. While to Christians, Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, many Easter traditions are not found in the Bible.

The modern-day celebration of Easter in the UK is a mixture of pagan and Christian traditions with a sprinkling of commercialism.

Easter was originally a pagan celebration and was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, Eostre. Later, it was adopted by the Christians to mark the crucifixion and rebirth of Jesus.

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.

Playing silly games such as the egg and spoon race is something we love to do and the aim of the game is to run a race while balancing a hard-boiled egg on a spoon. The first person to finish the race, without dropping the egg, is the winner.

Other traditions include the obligatory Easter egg hunt whereby someone (acting as the legendary Easter bunny, one of the symbols of Easter) hides chocolate eggs around the house or garden and contestants race around to find as many as possible.

You will also notice buns in the shops called hot cross buns, which are eaten to celebrate Easter. These small, lightly sweetened and spiced bread-like buns contain raisins or currants and are eaten toasted with butter smothered on them and a nice cup of tea!





Easter

TRIVIA

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- Q.1. In which country did Easter Bunny originated?
- Q.2. Which celebration immediately precedes Easter?
- Q.3. What is an Australian alternative to the Easter Bunny?
- Q.4. Which plant has come to symbolize Jesus' resurrection?
- Q.5. What is the Friday before Easter usually called?
- Q.6. What was written above Jesus' head on the cross?
- Q.7. What kind of cloth was used to wrap the body of Jesus?
- Q.8. Which U.S. President held the first Easter Egg Roll?
- Q.9. Who did Pilate release instead of Jesus?
- Q.10. What kind of crown did the Romans give Jesus?
- Q.11. Which country boasts the largest Easter egg collection?
- Q.12. Which bread product is associated with Easter?
- Q.13. What is the traditional Easter bread in Russia?
- Q.14. What pagan goddess is often associated with Easter?
- Q.15. What does tradition of Easter egg symbolizes?

- 6). King of the Jews 11). Poland 4). Lily 10). Crown of Thorns
8). Rutherford B. Hayes 3). Easter Bilby 14). Ostara 12). Pretzel
15). Rebirth 1). Germany 5). Good Friday 9). Barabbas 2). Lent
13). Kulich 7). Linen

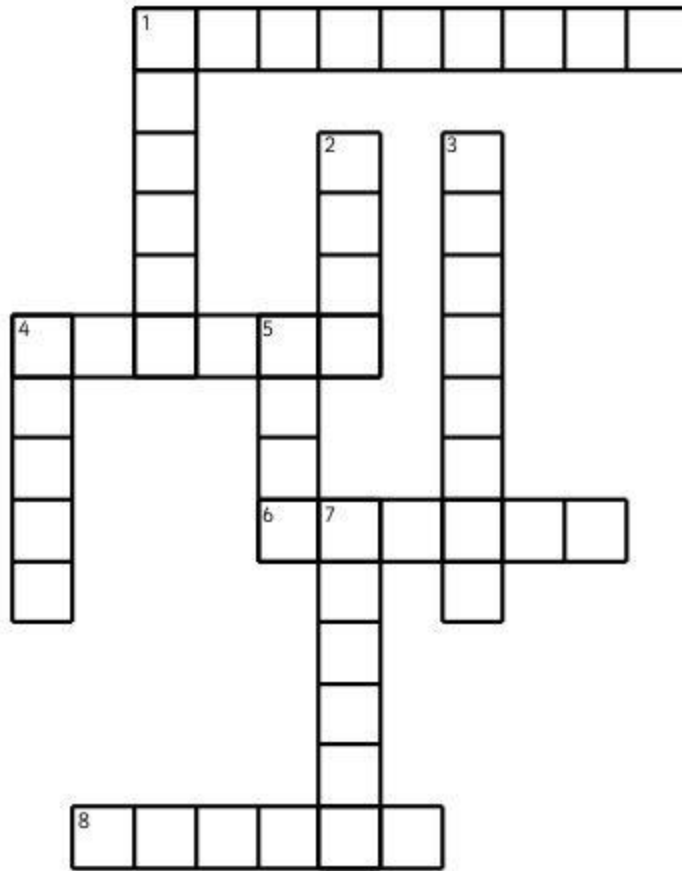




Easter Crossword



Solve the crossword using the list of words and the clues



basket

bonnet

bunny

chicks

chocolate

daffodil

eggs

hunt

parade

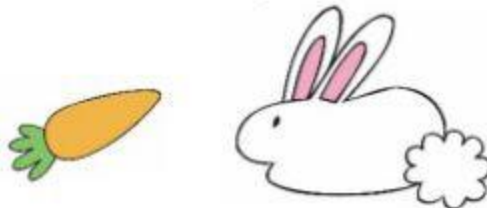
spring

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!



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			
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				R	E	W	O	L	F	B	F	N	R	L	U	A			
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				B	U	N	N	Y	U	S	A	L	E	P	Y	Z			
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				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





March was a very eventful month At the Willows.

Before we welcomed first day of spring, we celebrated an International Woman's Day on 8th and decorated home with some colourful bunting.

We opened our hair salon after period of lockdown due to virus outbreake

We baked delicious cakes!

We celebrated St Patrick's Day with good splash of Baileys

And we wore our red noses for Red Nose Day and hats for Wear a hat Day.



