



OPAL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be a virtual event again this year, taking place on the evening of Wednesday 10th November. Further details on how to access the event will be sent out soon, but if you would like to join the meeting but need some support on using the technology you may like to know that OPAL'S GO ONLINE service is now running face to face services at various locations across our area, as well as continuing with virtual and telephone support. Please do ask your organiser for information on our GoOnline services or contact Jean Toyn on 07923 425 239.

GARDEN TIPS ANIMAL WATCH **TECH TALK** THIS MONTH IN HISTORY ANIMAL WATCH **TECH TALK**

UPGRADE OF FIXED [LANDLINE] TELEPHONE SERVICES

Did you know telephone calls via landline will be different from 2025? The existing analogue network will become fully digital by using the same cables in a different way. It will be comparable to when we changed from the analogue television system to digital. People with internet routers will need telephone handsets which connect to the router to make phone calls. For those without routers a similar piece of equipment will be needed with a compatible handset. Both will require an electrical supply to enable them to work. Challenges with the changeover seemingly unresolved include how to make 999 calls during a power cut—a crucial one for Openreach to solve. Services such as help alarms, burglar alarms and the like should be sorted by individual suppliers. The good news is we will still have our telephone numbers as at present, it is the voice transmission technology that is 'modernising'.
[ref: BT.com]

Thank you Jackie (GoOnline volunteer) for this Tech Talk article.



GARDEN TIPS ANIMAL WATCH **TECH TALK** THIS MONTH IN HISTORY ANIMAL WATCH **TECH TALK**

APPLE DAY - Thursday 21st October is Apple Day, with many Cider producers in particular holding events to celebrate. The National Trust are holding Harvest and Apple Events across several of their properties through the month of October.



Erddig, near Wrexham has a fantastic display of 150 types of apples, grown in their apple orchards, and set out in their historic stable block. All sorts of shapes, colours, sizes and unusual names such as: Pitmaston Pineapple, Pigs Nose Pippin, Winter Banana and Bloody Ploughman! They are hosting talks and tours and you can even buy some of the produce.

Building work was started on Erddig by Joshua Edisbury, High Sheriff of Denbigshire, in 1684. In 1733 Simon Yorke 1 inherited the property and it stayed in the Yorke family for 240 years, with every owner being called either Simon or Philip. Simon Yorke IV inherited the estate in 1922 but faced financial difficulties and became a recluse. Erddig declined, yet he refused to part with anything, hence the large collection of artefacts within the property. After his death his brother Philip III passed the estate on to the National Trust.

Erddig has an extraordinary tradition of honouring it's servants through portraits, photos and poetry, all displayed along the corridors down below stairs. The Yorke's took particular interest in their staff and their wellbeing, which lead to great loyalty with several generations of families serving the family. You can find out much more about Apples, their history and the legends surrounding them at <https://applesandpeople.org.uk>



FUN & QUIZZES

YOUR 5 A DAY!

- 1) In which American state do you find Anchorage?
- 2) What did Alexander Fleming discover in 1928?
- 3) Immersing food in vinegar to prolong its life is known as?
- 4) What river runs through Lancaster?
- 5) What is the capital of Scotland?

BONUS – what do the initials of the answers spell?

RECIPE

NATIONAL TRUST

ERDDIG APPLE SCONES

Ingredients – 450g /1lb SR flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 110g/4oz butter, 50g/2oz caster sugar, 450g/1lb desert apples, milk to mix.



Method - Pre heat oven to 200degrees c/gas mark 6, grease a baking tray. Rub flour into sifted flour and salt until it resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in sugar. Peel and core apples – course grate or finely dice, add to mixture. Add sufficient milk to make a dough. Knead lightly on a floured board, flatten, cut out scones. Brush tops with milk, sprinkle with sugar and bake for 15 – 20 minutes.

In The Spotlight...

GLYN SMITH, HEAD GARDENER AT ERDDIG HALL NATIONAL TRUST

Where were you born? I was born in 1957 in Peterborough. My father was a Newsagent and Stationer. My mother - it could be said was an entrepreneur - owned a general store and hairdressers, later adding a sub post office. She also ventured into Laundrettes, owning four.

What's your earliest childhood memory? I tripped up the house step and broke my ankle aged 3. I was going to fill my tin watering can to water the garden. Maybe that was prophetic. I eventually did become a gardener!

Has gardening always been your job? On leaving school, I joined the local Parks Department as an Apprentice Gardener. I later moved to work at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

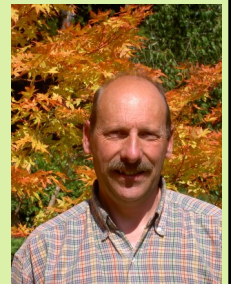
How long have you worked at Erddig? In 1986 I was lucky to be appointed Head Gardener with the National Trust, at Erddig Hall, Wrexham, 35 years ago.

Why is the apple festival at Erddig so special? Apples and other fruits have always been an integral part of the Garden at Erddig. We have lists of the fruit grown here in 1718. I started off displaying and selling our apples around 35 years ago. We started the Apple Festival here 31 years ago. It grew over the years and became our most popular event. In recent years it has had to be scaled back, but we still build our display of apples each year. This year we have 150 different apple varieties for our visitors to see.

What is the best thing about your job? Everyday the Garden is different. What we do depends on the season and the weather. I love to see the garden grow over the year and our ideas and plans come to fruition. From maybe just one little flower shining in wintertime, to a veritable crescendo of colour in summertime. I love seeing the appreciation that the Garden team's efforts bring to others and to see the gardeners themselves develop too.

Do you have a favourite poem or quote? One of my favourite quotes is by Marcel Proust. *'It's not just about making new discoveries, it's about seeing things with fresh eyes'*.

Visit <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/799521> - to find out more about the process of planting a museum orchard and the Erdigg apple display



LAST EDITION'S ANSWERS : NUMBER RIDDLE: 1)The fishing group is grandfather, his son, and his son. 2)50% 3) Twenty 9's 4)None, roosters don't lay eggs! 5) 8: 4 on each side. WHO AM I: Lauren Bacall ANIMAL GROUPS 1)pride 2)murder 3)pod 4)mob 5) flamboyance

OPAL thanks the following sources in this edition : Telephone and Scone image by pixabay.com, National Trust for Scone recipe. For comments, articles & info contact your Organiser or opalreach@opalervices.org.uk

Think about me, not my age