



ATWEST



ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT WEST SOMERSET

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ATWEST TRAVEL CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PASSENGERS!

The photo below shows us at our staff Christmas party held at Dunster Castle Hotel. Most of us managed to get there, despite the weather doing its best to put the kybosh on things, and we had a great time. The food was delicious, the disco energetic (and yes, we did manage to get everyone up dancing - briefly!), and the company most convivial!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas too, and are looking forward to travelling with Atwest in 2011.



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Deb's Joke and Fun Corner!

How do you make anti-freeze? Hide her thermal underwear!

A group of 40 year old girlfriends discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waiters there had tight trousers and nice bums.

10 years later at 50 years of age, the group once again discussed meeting up for dinner. Again, the Ocean View restaurant was chosen, because the food there was delicious and the wine selection very good.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the same discussion arose and the same restaurant chosen because they could eat there in peace and quiet, and it had a beautiful view of the ocean.

10 years later at 70, the tradition was maintained and the Ocean View chosen again because it was wheelchair accessible and even had a lift.

10 years later at 80, the group were again meeting for dinner and after much discussion chose the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before!

With thanks to Mrs Maureen Middleton

Mahatma Ghandi walked bare foot most of the time which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little which made him rather frail, and with his odd diet he suffered from bad breath.

This made him a super-calloused, fragile mystic, hexed by halitosis!

(With apologies to Mary Poppins!!)



Ahh, there's nothing like the wind in my ears!



Sound advice!

**What do you call a dog with daisies on its head?
A collie-flower!**

Two Eskimos sitting in a canoe were chilly so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it!



Deb's (nearly new) Puzzle Page!

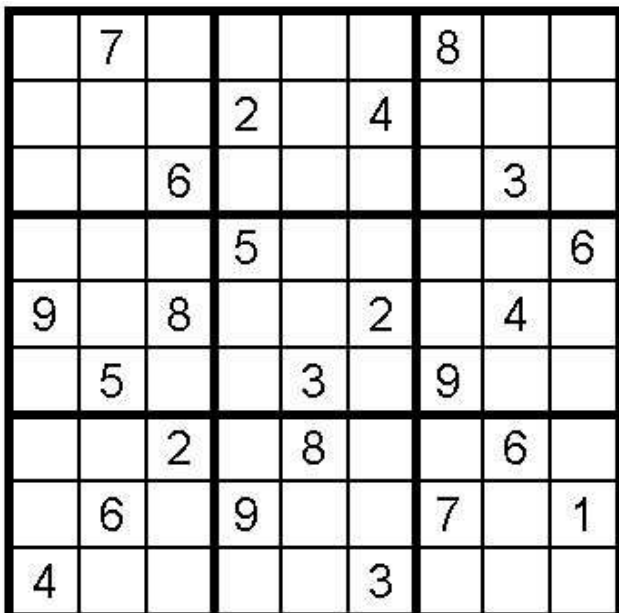
When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open before us. Alexander Graham Bell

(solution to last month's code)



Something new for the New Year
- a medium-difficulty Sudoku!

Good luck!



One for the boys –
all things car!

ACCELERATOR
AUTOMOBILE
AXLE
BATTERY
BRAKE
CARBURETOR
CLUTCH
CRANKSHAFT
CRUISE CONTROL
CYLINDER
DASHBOARD
DIFFERENTIAL
DISTRIBUTOR
ENGINE

EXHAUST
FUEL LINE
GEARS
HALF SHAFT
HEADLIGHT
IGNITION
MUFFLER
PISTON
RADIATOR
SHOCK
ABSORBER
SPARK PLUG
STEERING
SUSPENSION
TAILPIPE
TRANSMISSION
WHEELS

IMPORTANT STUFF!

BUS PASS NUMBERS

We had a reasonable response to our request for you to phone in with your new bus pass numbers if you were issued with a new pass in 2010.

However, we didn't hear from everyone that we needed to so please, if you had a new bus pass in 2010 could you phone the office with the new number and new expiry date (this will be some time in 2015) so that we can keep your registration details up to date.

All new passes have a new number and expiry date so when you are issued with a new pass can you let Debbie or Lloyd know straight away. *Thank you!*

GROUP MEMBERS

When a group is registered with Atwest, each individual member of that group that will be using the transport must fill in a passenger registration form. When new members join they must also complete a passenger registration form if they plan to travel with the group. There are many efficient groups who are great at keeping their group registration up to date, but there are some where we must be missing several members details, or whose details must be out of date.

By law, anyone travelling on our buses must be registered with Atwest so please could group leaders check with the office that their details are complete and up to date. *Thank you!*

LATE DEPARTURES

We had one or two incidences through 2010 where passengers were late back to their designated pick-up points - both on Group trips and Travel Club trips.

For the comfort of other passengers drivers will no longer be able to wait more than 10 minutes at a pick-up point before departure so please could you make every effort to be prompt, or to let another passenger, or the office know if you are going to be delayed.

Could you also make every effort to be prompt to your start pick-up point so that other passengers on route are not kept waiting, *Thank you!*

WEBSITE

After many months of planning, taking photos and generally fiddling about, our newly-designed website went live at the end of November. The address is the same so if you have access to a computer why not take a look!

CERDIC FOUNDRY, CHARD



In November I had two very contrasting trips in the space of a few days. The first was with the Rotary Club of the Quantocks to the Cerdic Foundry in Chard.

I've never been to a foundry before and didn't really have much idea what to expect but it was fascinating.

The manager, Humphrey Davies, showed the group around the whole foundry - the science of the raw ingredients, making the cherry wood patterns and turning the patterns in to moulds. We also saw shelves of sand cores used to make the metal work hollow, and the shed where the finished products are blasted clean, fettled and prepared for dispatch.



By this point in the tour the nightshift staff had arrived and we were able to see the processes of melting down the raw ingredients, and filling the moulds with the molten metal.

It was extraordinary not only to see the whole process, but to be allowed to stand close enough to feel the heat!

The Cerdic Foundry is one of only a handful left in this country, most of which are north of Birmingham! It makes all sorts of products including village signs, wheels for Shepherds' Huts, parts for food processors, engines and trains, and top secret parts for nuclear submarines! The evening was a very special experience!



TAUNTON FLORAL ART



In contrast, the following week I took Carhampton Flower Club to an annual demonstration of flower arranging held in the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre in Taunton. This is the third year that I have driven for this trip, and each year I am astounded by what can be done with flowers, though I have to confess I am not a flower-arranger!

This year the demonstrator was Sue Flight. Not only was she extraordinarily skilled at her craft, but she had a ready supply of anecdotes to keep the audience amused while she put together her arrangements.



The theme for the evening was Christmas, appropriately enough, and each arrangement was made using a different stand, and flowers of complementary or contrasting colours. 5 or 6 different arrangements were created, and in true Blue Peter style, Sue had some behind the scenes that she had prepared earlier!

At the end of the evening all of the arrangements are raffled off and it is a great thrill for the people who get to take one of these creations home.

This last photo shows the ladies of Carhampton Flower Club with Sue Flight, and an arrangement one of them won in the raffle.

It was another memorable evening!



MINEHEAD REVISITED by Mike Prescott



This photo was taken from the Queen's Hall Balcony and shows how the area looked from the late '30s to the early '50s.

All transport passing through the toll gate to go along Warren Road had to pay a toll, all the land to the east belonging to the Luttrells. I remember a chap in uniform in the box.

On the seaward side there was a long row of beach huts stretching from where the roundabout to Seaward Way is now, as far as the golf course. There was a large grass car park to the right, past where the big wheel can be seen in the distance.

The wheel was part of Charlie Heal's Fun Fair that came every year (I first remember it in 1945) just before Whitsun, and stayed until the end of August. In the late '40s and early '50s a couple of us would go and play records on the double turntable by the dodgem cars (and get free rides!).

On the right, this side of the swimming pool, was a large putting green. In the summer the front and the beach would be packed with people - in the days before foreign holidays took over!



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CONCESSIONS

It is very frustrating all round but we haven't yet heard anything about any changes to the concessionary fares, and what the impact may be on you, and therefore our services.

Rest assured, as soon as we know anything we will tell you.

We do appreciate that this is a worrying time and thank you for being so patient in the absence of any information.

FEBRUARY'S TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS

Friday 11th February

BARNSTAPLE (£4 per seat)

Well, the sales might be over but the Pannier Market will be full of goodies and you might still pick up a bargain!

Tuesday 15th February

STAGHUNTERS INN

This was a very popular destination last winter so hopefully the weather will be kind for the views on route, the food will be delicious, and the company conducive!

Monday 21st February

BLACK VENUS INN, CHALLACOMBE

This is another popular lunch destination that should include a scenic run out, delicious food in delightful surroundings, and a scenic route back home – pray for sunshine!

Thursday 24th February

SANDERS GARDEN WORLD

In a kind spring the garden will be bursting into life and there will be lots of lovely plants to buy. On the other hand, it could be under a blanket of snow in which case lunch, indoor plants and gifts will be the order of the day!

Wednesday 2nd March

EXETER (£6 per seat)

I like Exeter for shopping. All the big name stores are there, but it also has independent shops, smaller names and lots of places to eat, all within reasonably easy walking distance. And there's always the Cathedral if the shops are too much!

PLEASE NOTE.... the £1 booking fee has not been included in any costs per seat - it must be added to that price.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BOOK AS MANY TRIPS AS YOU LIKE!

The booking line for **Travel Club** trips will open at 9.00am on Friday 28th January. Please remember that bookings will not be taken before this time.

Booking line number 01643
709701

Anna 21/01/11