

THE HASHLESS TIMES



SkinnyDipper went for an over 8-mile run with Aqua last Sunday. From Beech Hill, where they saw this sign. We are pleased that she submitted it to the Gobsheet since our editorial staff (a generally sour-faced lot) and jobbing journalists (a bunch of world-weary hacks) brightened up considerably when they saw it. Apart from all the other good things Captain Sir Tom Moore did in his life, speaking these words was one of the most memorable because of the hope and optimism that they inspire.

‘Tomorrow will be a good day’ – what a great way to look at life.

It’s all about positive attitude, appreciating what you have and having something to look forward to. Simple things mainly. Spring is on its way, bringing that exciting feeling of renewal. There’s an expectancy of warmth and growth and the sights and sounds we have missed during winter.

For Hashers like us our ‘good day’ will be when we can meet and run or walk again. The time is getting nearer...

It’s (not surprisingly) too easy to take a pessimistic view of the world so let’s take a look at some of the good things that are happening now and will happen very soon:-

Serious Stuff

- 20,478,619 people have been vaccinated against the effects of Covid-19 to date.
- Two 7-year-old boys have been awarded Gold Blue Peter badges for raising £100,000 for people affected by the Yemen crisis. Their lemonade stand initial target was £500!
- Nasa’s Perseverance Rover has landed on Mars and sent us stunning pictures.
- The Great Green Wall – 8,000 Km of trees and plants – is being constructed to transform the lives of millions of people in the degraded African Southern Sahara.
- 3D printing is being used to create artificial limbs for amputees.

Not So Serious Stuff

- A woman in Thailand stumbled across a lump of ambergris on a beach that is worth around £185,000.
- If you have any, Bitcoin is rising in price again. Up to £35.5 yesterday (March 1st).
- A man in Los Angeles has been reunited with his cat that went missing 15 years ago.
- Rishi Sunak will promise in his budget to give everyone in the U.K. £1,000,000 (awaiting source confirmation on this piece of news...)
- Pubs can re-open their outdoor areas on April 12th.

Quite a lot of things to be cheerful about then.

Tomorrow will be a good day. 😊

MATHEMATICS CORNER

Your reporter freely admits that he generally regards maths as a topic that has all the appeal of an aged and furry lump of cheese that may be found at the back of the fridge. Some people love maths and some don't. This writer doesn't.

So it was with some surprise that I found myself fascinated by the following. Not just by the calculation and result but by the wonder that the good D. R. Kaprekar (an Indian teacher and recreational mathematician) had the time, energy and bloody mindedness to discover it.

The number 6174 is known as Kaprekar's Constant and it adheres to the following rule:-

1. Take any 4-digit number that has at least two different digits (leading zeros are allowed).
2. Arrange the digits into ascending and descending order, adding leading zeros if necessary.
3. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number.
4. Continue this procedure and you will eventually obtain the result 6174.

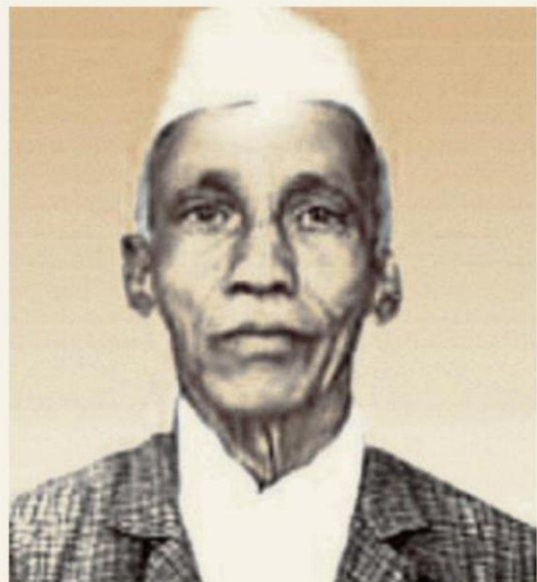
Here's an example:-

$9752 - 2579 = 7173$
 $7731 - 1377 = 6354$
 $6543 - 3456 = 3087$
 $8730 - 0378 = 8352$
 $8532 - 2358 = \mathbf{6174}$

Amazing! And apparently without practical purpose. Rather like much of the internet. How on earth he came up with the idea, or indeed why, is a bit of a mystery. But it is fascinating what a person with a lot of time on their hands and a (presumed) lack of social life can do. Suggest we all go away and think about that before lockdown ends. 😊

Dattaraya Ramchandra Kaprekar

(1905–1986) was an Indian recreational mathematician who described several classes of natural numbers including the Kaprekar, Harshad and Self numbers and discovered the Kaprekar constant, named after him. Despite having no formal postgraduate training and working as a schoolteacher, he published extensively.



THE BH³ QUIZ

A bit of musical knowledge required for last week's quiz. I suspect most readers answered the 20-year-old and older questions better than the very recent ones. 😊

Questions	Answers
1. What is the name of Dua Lipa's 2020 album release?	Future Nostalgia
2. Name the song and the artist for the following lyric: "Maybe I'm foolish, maybe I'm blind, thinking I can see through this and see what's behind"	'Human' by Rag'n Bone Man
3. Matt Goss, Luke Goss and Craig Logan made up which band?	Bros
4. In what year did The Beatles split up?	1970
5. What is rapper P Diddy's real name?	Sean Combs
6. Complete this Spice Girls lyric: "If you wanna be my [BLANK], you gotta get with my friends"	Lover
7. Which two musicians collaborated on Another Way To Die, the theme song to 2008's 007: Quantum of Solace?	Alicia Keys and Jack White
8. Gary and Martin Kemp were in what band?	Spandau Ballet
9. In what decade was pop icon Madonna born?	1950s (1958)
10. Which two country singers famously sang together on 1983 song Islands in the Stream?	Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton

Given the news about the Mars landing, this week we are boldly going where no-one has been before. Even if you don't know all the answers, you'll (I'm sure...) be fascinated to find them out in next week's Gobsheet. Is there [Life on Mars](#)...

Questions	Answers
1. How old is the universe in years (plus or minus 1 billion years)?	
2. How many planets are in the solar system?	
3. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?	
4. What entity has a gravitational pull so strong, light cannot escape from it?	
5. Which NASA space flight was the last manned Moon mission?	
6. What percentage of the solar system's mass does the sun occupy?	
7. How long does it take for the sun's rays to reach earth?	
8. When was the first man-made object sent into space?	
9. Who was the first person to go into space?	
10. Approximately how many stars are there in the Andromeda Galaxy?	

Take good care of yourselves.

On On. [Hashgate](#).

If anyone has something they would like to see in the Gobsheet, either send it to your reporter/editor/tea boy/floor mopper at hashgate@hotmail.com or to Iceman at the address above.