



Quiz of the week

- 1) In P. L. Travers's 'Mary Poppins' series, which family lives at No 17, Cherry Tree Lane, London?
- 2) In 2015, which cyclist became the first Briton to win the Tour de France twice?
- 3) In which county is the Vale of the White Horse?
- 4) Which actress holds the record for the most Academy Award wins?
- 5) A male donkey is called a jack. What is a female donkey called?

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE

May 27, 1916



SIR—this snapshot shows a convalescent enjoying 'Country Life' in a double sense—a lounge in the garden and a copy of your excellent paper, which is much appreciated in our military hospitals.—*Hamish Muir*

Words of the week

Adscititious (adjective)

Additional

Divaricate (verb)

To stretch apart

Erubescant (adjective)

Reddening, blushing

- 1) The Banks family
- 2) Chris Froome
- 3) Oxfordshire
- 4) Katharine Hepburn
- 5) A jenny or jennet

The nature of things

Daubenton's bat

DUSK descends and there are stirrings just above it—as Daubenton's, the water specialists of the bat world, swoop in for dinner—or rather, in their case, breakfast. Mayflies, stoneflies and moths are favourite fare, but flight requires huge amounts of energy, so each bat may eat up to 1,000 bugs per night. Midges and other flying insects, newly hatched, spring out of the water to be rapidly polished off. *Myotis daubentonii* is unusual for its ability to swoop close to the water's surface to catch them, even lifting prey off the water itself, with the aid of its large feet, or scooping up a morsel via the tail membrane.

Although lakes and gravel pits make good hunting country, a river or canal route may take one of these creatures on a journey several miles from its roosting site, which for preference may be a tunnel or cave, the underside of a bridge or a night roost among old trees.

Do bats dream? Perhaps it would be useful to them if they did, for this species, which is very widespread across the country, is big on



sleep, hibernating for up to six months of the year. For this, they seek out the blackened shelter and comparatively stable temperatures of caves, mines and other underground places, such as cellars.

Illustration by Bill Donohoe

Time to buy

Hare clock, £39.95, Richard Bramble (01935 815236; www.richardbramble.com)



Handcrafted Flowers of Liberty picnic hamper, £295, Liberty London (020-7734 1234; www.liberty.co.uk)



Coastal collection hand-printed linen place-mats, £18.50 for a set of two, Helen Round (01752 822817; www.helenround.com)



'It has made me better loving you,' he said on another occasion; 'it has made me wiser and easier and—I won't pretend to deny—brighter and nicer and even stronger'

The Portrait of a Lady, Henry James

Unmissable events

Exhibition
May 25–July 9
'Vibration of Space', Waddington Custot Galleries, 11, Cork Street, London W1. Focusing on the artistic exchange between British painter Patrick Heron and the non-figurative painters of post-Second World War Paris (020-7851 2200; www.waddingtoncustot.com)

May 25–August 11
Surrey Sculpture Exhibition (right), Beaulieu, New Forest, Hampshire. Enjoy the winding sculpture trail through the beautiful gardens and parkland surrounding Beaulieu Abbey, featuring work by both established and emerging sculptors from across the south of England (01590 612345; www.beaulieu.co.uk)

May 26–June 12
'Celebrating Art in the Garden', West Lavington Manor, West Lavington, Wiltshire. An exhibition featuring the work of more than 20 sculptors from the Wiltshire area in the wonderful setting of the five-acre walled garden of West Lavington Manor. Entry fee



£7 (01672 540180; www.friendsofthegarden.org.uk)

Garden
May 28 Plant Lovers' Day, Creake Abbey, North Creake, Fakenham, Norfolk. Now in its ninth year, the 2016 Plant Lovers' Day is a perfect day out for gardening enthusiasts, hosting more than 30 specialist plant nurseries (07801 418907; www.creakeabbey.co.uk)

Food festival
May 28–29
Malton Food Lovers' Festival, Malton, North Yorkshire. Celebrating the finest local produce and cooking,

the town's streets will be lined with stalls of delicious street food and will host talks, tastings, chef demonstrations and live music

ngs gardens open for charity

Melbourne Hall, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73 8EN

May 28 and 29, 1.30pm–5pm. £5, children free
Melbourne is one of the most magical—and important—gardens in England. The gorgeous mid-18th-century house (not open) looks down across a memorable garden view to the wrought-iron Birdcage Arbour made by the village blacksmith Robert Bakewell. To one side is the formal woodland garden dating from 1695–1705, a survivor of extraordinary rarity. Beech-hedge-lined paths cut through the woodland to focal points, the most spectacular of which is Jan van Nost's great lead *Four Seasons* urn. As if the history (Lord Palmerston lived here), setting and architecture are not enough, there are some outstanding plants—all in all, a feast. Visit www.ngs.org.uk



Bug's Life

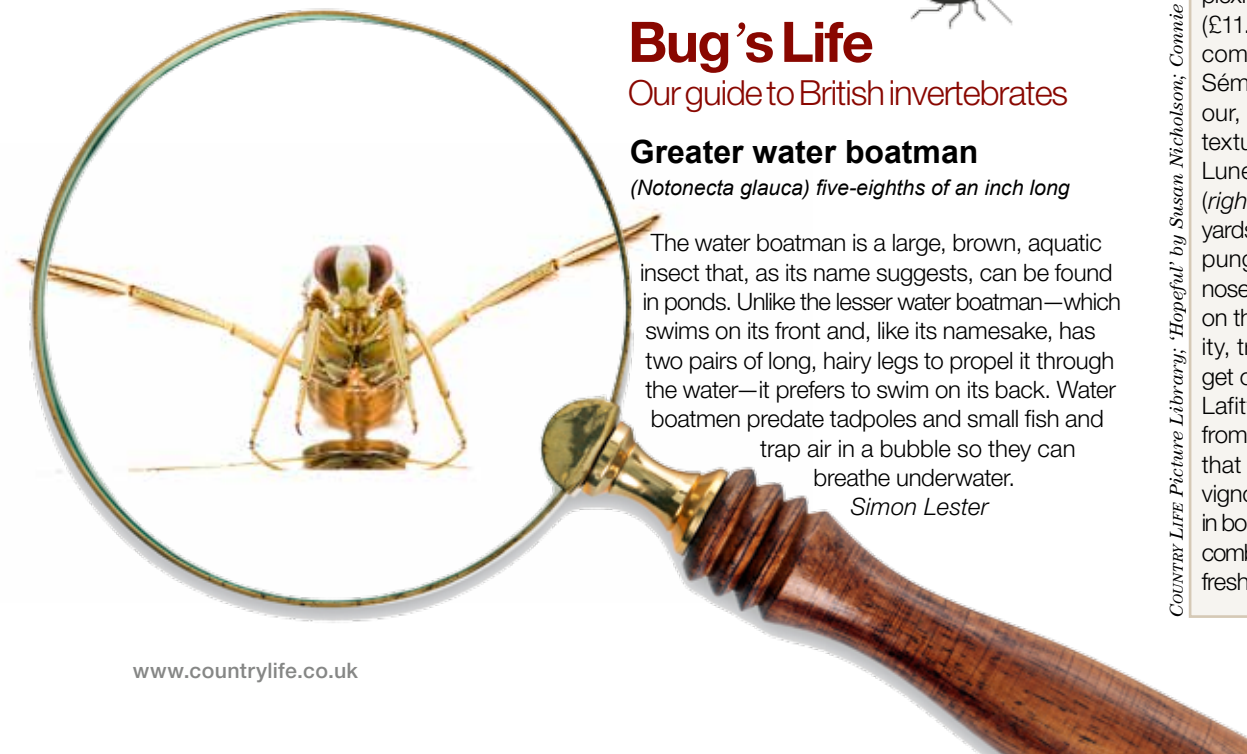
Our guide to British invertebrates

Greater water boatman

(*Notonecta glauca*) five-eighths of an inch long

The water boatman is a large, brown, aquatic insect that, as its name suggests, can be found in ponds. Unlike the lesser water boatman—which swims on its front and, like its namesake, has two pairs of long, hairy legs to propel it through the water—it prefers to swim on its back. Water boatmen predate tadpoles and small fish and trap air in a bubble so they can breathe underwater.

Simon Lester



What to drink this week

Dry white Bordeaux

Crisp, fresh and exciting, dry white Bordeaux is making a comeback, says Harry Eyres

Dry white Bordeaux, especially at the everyday end of the market, has an image problem. It sounds old-fashioned, the kind of thing you might have been offered in a club 50 years ago, lacking the verve and excitement associated with the best Loire or New Zealand Sauvignon-based wines, such as Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé, or the many offspring of Cloudy Bay. This is unfair; standards have been improving steadily at the basic *appellation* level and there has been an exciting renaissance of quality in Pessac-Léognan.

Why you should be drinking it
Basic Bordeaux Blanc, Entre-Deux-Mers and Graves should be crisp and grassy-fresh, sometimes with a bit more body and vinosity than you find in Loire Sauvignons, partly because Sémillon makes up a good part of the blend. From Pessac-Léognan come some of the greatest dry white wines made anywhere: rare and quite pricey.

What to drink

The enterprising team at From Vineyards Direct has picked up two excellent parcels that show some complexity. Graves Blanc Bordeaux 2012 (£11.95; www.fromvineyardsdirect.com) is a blend of Sauvignon and Sémillon and shows a golden colour, lanolin nose and waxy texture—delicious. Clos des Lunes, Lune Blanche 2013 (right, £13.95; www.fromvineyardsdirect.com) is even better; pungent and herbal on the nose, intense, fresh and long on the palate. For top quality, try any vintage you can get of Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc, a wine made from 90% Sauvignon Blanc that doesn't taste like Sauvignon at all. The 2014 (£48 in bond; www.laywheeler.com) combines exotic ripeness with fresh, tense acidity—superb.

