

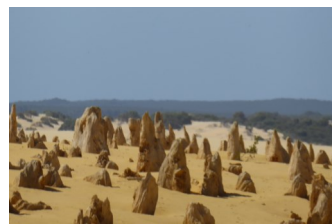
“Short Mat Times”

Dear All

Welcome to the 4th issue of the Newsletter. I am sure that we all thought that by now we would be able to get out and about and be back to playing bowls and meeting up with friends once again. I am hoping that you are all managing to keep yourselves busy and occupied while we still have to be in. If any you are finding it hard going and would like to let off some steam, just get something off your mind or just have a chat then do please feel free to call me , I am very happy to listen. My number is 020 8441 0284 or mobile 07816150924. In the meantime stay safe and well. Enjoy the newsletter . Margaret xx



We would like to be back in Uganda visiting the Gorillas. It was hard work climbing up to these mountain gorillas but well worth the effort when we did find them.. Peter & Margaret



Lyn wishes she was back in Australia or Vietnam



Carol and Tom sharing VE day celebrations with their neighbours,



We were on Holiday but where were we? Well, was Paul enjoying the surf whilst Julia was playing with a giant panda? Is Paul under the thumb or were we just in a big bubble? None of the above. It was a wet rainy day in Melbourne and we went to Artvo. Three hours of great fun were had in this impressive three D art gallery, revealed through the lens of our phone camera. We would love to take you all there and let you loose with your cameras. The special effects are amazing.. Paul & Julia



Remembering a great holiday at Bembridge. Dennis was the star bowler. Jeff

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain." Keep dancing! Ann

Dr Corvid agony uncle. Bowls problems solved

Dr Corvid will answer your bowls problems on this page but will not enter into any correspondence. All advice is taken at your own risk. Please forward your problems to the editor. We will of course change names and places to void any chance of recognition.

Hello Dr Corvid, can you help me with this predicament. My husband and I retired 3 years ago. He had a job where he would be up at all hours with his computer on, doing something for work on the internet. We thought that if we took up bowls it would get him away from computers. The bowls are going well, although my husband is not as 'magnificent' as he would like to be. However, he has now got more involved with the County and likes to help with the scorecards, the adding up and putting the results on the website. The problem is, I now find him up at all hours, with his computer on, doing something for bowls on the internet. In fact, it is worse than before. Last week I caught him looking at a Laptop and an iPad and his phone all at the same time to check the layout of the latest webpage. Please help!

Dr Corvid replies,

Your husband obviously enjoys playing with computers. You do not want to stop him from using his computer but you should try to reduce his usage. You should make sure he gets plenty of all-round exercise not just his fingers. Perhaps you could entice him out for a long walk by telling him there are some pretty 'Windows' along the street. You could tell him there is a big spiders 'WEB' that he can 'Browse' when he gets to the oak tree. Assure him that you have not noticed any 'Bugs' but if you walk through this field, he might see a 'Mouse'. As another incentive you could promise him some 'Spam' and 'Cookies' for tea when you get back to your 'Domain'. This way you can get him away from his computer for a 'Bit' and later you can have a 'Byte'. Always remember, a walk is far more fun than a 'Hard Drive'.

Banana cake recipe from Audrey. Thank you.
Did you know that bananas are the most wasted food in the world.
So use yours up to make this delicious cake.

BANANA CAKE

6 oz, self raising flour
4 oz. butter or soft margarine
4 oz sugar
3 ripe bananas
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon bi-carbonate soda
2 eggs (beaten)



7 inch round cake tin, greased and lined.

Cream together the butter and sugar. Mix together the milk and bi-carbonate soda. Mash the bananas. Mix the mashed bananas with the butter and sugar and then add the eggs. Add the milk and flour alternately and mix well.

Bake as gas 4, 180C or 350F for about 1 hour. Enjoy.

I would like to share with everyone the temperament & understanding of one of our Northiam players. Just before last years County mixed 4s, Jeanette phoned me to see if I had anyone who might join them as they had a player drop out.

I phoned Jan Rogers (known to us as little Jan ,as believe it or not we have 2 Jan Rogers at the Club. Not only did I phone her at 7/00 am (as someone told me she was up early as she lives with her Grandchildren). On the day they played I realised I omitted to tell her if they qualified she would have to go to Solihull. So as they finished one place outside the qualifiers , I was off the hook!!!!!! Until a team dropped out . Now I have to break it to Jan. In a cheery voice she just said "ok". When I told this story at our a.g.m. she looked at me and said..."and I don't get out of bed until 9". So she was entitled to kick me in the shins ,not be cheery & smiley. Although she did say afterwards it was a wonderful experience. Well done Jan. Jeff B

QUIZ PAGES

This quiz comes from Paul and Julia

Examples: 1 F O the C N = One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest

7 D in a W = Seven Days in a

Week

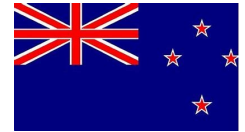
- 1 D at a T
- 2 S to E S
- 3 B G G
- 4 L on a L C
- 5 S of the H B
- 6 C on the S A F
- 7 C of the W
- 8 L on a F S B T
- 9 S on a N
- 10 G B (H O T W)
- 11 L on the L U M
- 12 A at the L S
- 13 U F S
- 14 P in a S
- 15 C in B
- 16 P in a C S
- 17 M (S P D)
- 18 H on a G C
- 19 T M O
- 20 Y M for a C A

Here are the answers to the Musicals

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cats. | 11. Mary Poppins. |
| 2. Sunset Boulevard. | 12. Oklahoma. |
| 3. South Pacific. | 13. Saturday Night Fever |
| 4. Salad Days. | 14. Lion King. |
| 5. Oliver. | 15. Evita. |
| 6. The King and I. | 16. Les Miserables. |
| 7. Carousel. | 17. Top Hat. |
| 8. Fiddler on the Roof. | 18. Starlight Express. |
| 9. Hello Dolly. | 19. Miss Saigon. |
| 10. Sound of Music. | 20. High Society. |



Can you identify the countries these flags belong to?

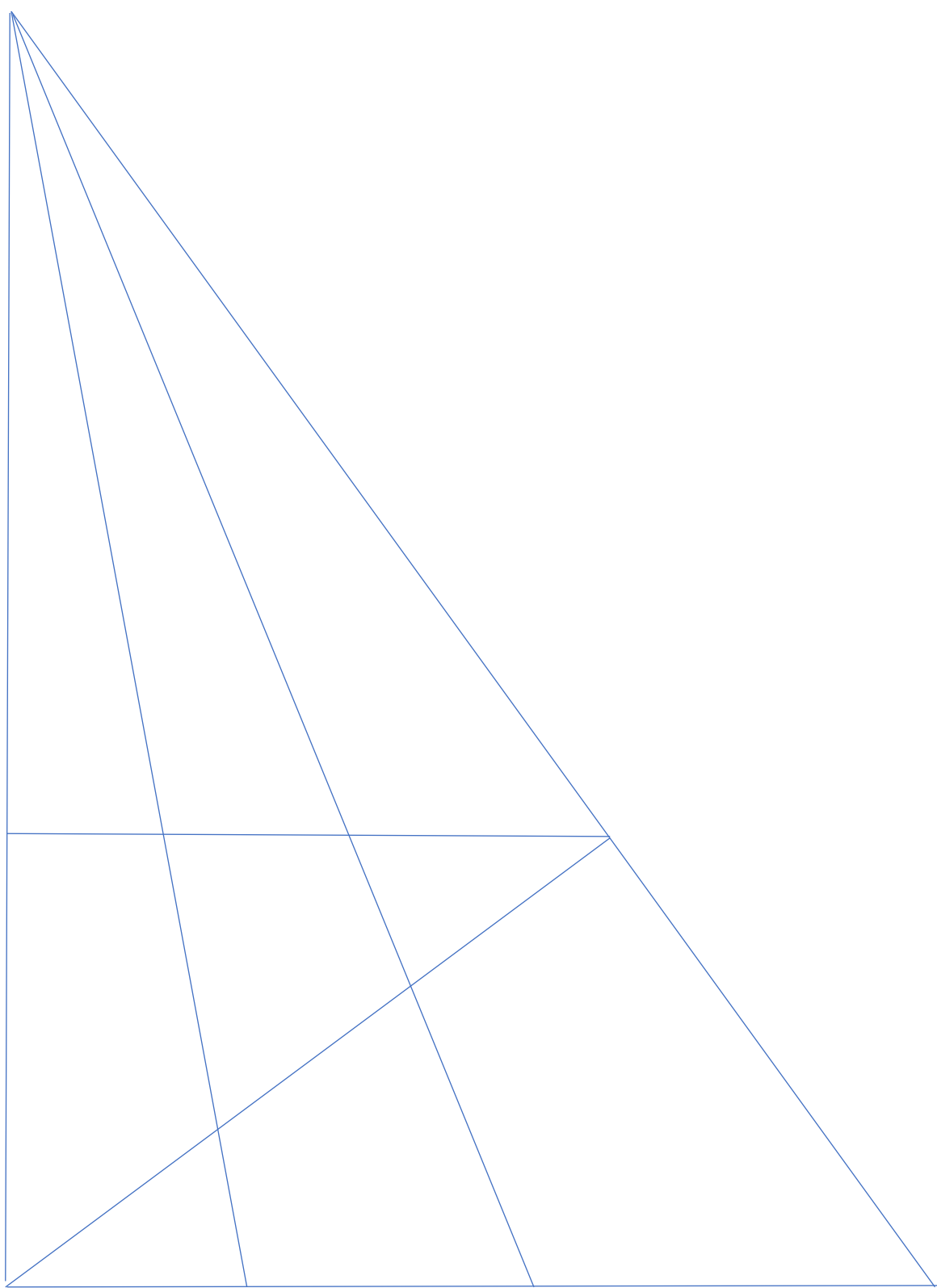


Here are answers to space quiz.

- 1 Yuri Gagarin
- 2 John Glenn
- 3 12
- 4 Buzz Aldrin
- 5 Ed White
- 6 nothing - it was aborted
- 7 step
- 8 golf balls
- 9 Mercury Gemini
- 10 Saturn V moon rocket
- 11 Valentina Tereshkova
- 12 Eugene Cernan
- 13 Sea of tranquility
- 14 250lbs
- 15 7



HOW MANY TRIANGLES CAN YOU FIND ?



Another great article from Brian McGivern. I think we will all need a lot of coaching once we are back playing bowls. Thank you Brian.

THINK ABOUT IT – PART 2 SHOT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

If you ever read the bowls magazines, you may see the occasional picture or diagram of a head of bowls where you are asked “What would you do next?”. My answer is always the same. “I would look at the scoreboard”. The score is a major factor in deciding which shot to play. But it is not the only consideration. In the last article on match tactics we looked at the big picture. In this one, we start to look in more detail by focussing on the things you should think about when you are deciding what shot to play.

1. THE CURRENT SCORE Are you winning or losing? How many ends are left to play? Both of these factors will affect your choice of shot. The previous article in this series touched on the differences between attacking and defensive play. If you are winning comfortably with few ends left you should probably look to play covering bowls to avoid the danger of losing a big count. If you are trailing and the ends are running out, you may want to take a risk on a shot that just might get you back in with a chance. Don't forget, in team games the aggregate score may be important. Think about that before you risk all to try to win your individual game.

2. THE MAT CONDITIONS A lot of competitive matches are now played mat-on-mat, i.e. at an indoor bowls club. With the short mats laid on top of what is a reasonably consistent flat surface, the pace and swing should be roughly the same on all four hands. But they do vary, so watch for subtle differences.

At more traditional venues, e.g. Elm Court, or at our clubs, the mats may all play slightly differently. Is the mat playing faster in one direction than the other? Do the bowls swing more on one side than the other? On some hands it may not be possible to play a draw shot with much chance of success. The ability to read a mat is a major factor in winning bowls matches.

If you have trial ends, use them to find out as much about the mat as you can. Of course, you will want to get a feel for the pace of the mat but you don't score any points for getting close to the jack. Use some trial bowls to see what happens when you play a wide or tight line. Try a weighted shot to see if the bowl bends much.

Fewer games these days start with trial ends. If you are unfamiliar with the mat you need to pick up its characteristics quickly. Watch every bowl that is played and, if you are away from home, pay particular attention to the home team's shot selection. They will know better than you what shots to play and (possibly more importantly) what shots NOT to play.

3. YOUR BOWLS Do your bowls swing? If so, is it with a late hook? Bowls with a lot of bias allow you to play around shorter bowls but, if the mat has a big swinging hand, require more precision when drawing to the centre line. If you are bowling with bowls that take a tighter line you are probably playing at the front end where there is a greater likelihood of a clear draw. You can play the swinging hands more readily than your partners with wide drawing bowls.

4. YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES If you are a consistently accurate draw bowler then that should be your preferred shot selection. If you are confident that you can play a weighted bowl with a good chance of success, this gives you another option. Is your forehand more reliable than your backhand? When considering which shot to play, try to give each option a percentage chance of achieving your objective. If you rate your chances as less than 50%, perhaps look for an alternative shot to play.

5. LEFT OR RIGHT-HANDED? For most players it is easier to play a wide draw line on the backhand because you have more room to adjust your stance. Basically, your body doesn't get in the way. For some of us that is a bigger problem than others. If there is a big swinging side of the mat, right handers find it easier in one direction and left handers in the return direction.

For all short mat bowlers, playing weight is more difficult on the backhand. But, of course, a right hander's backhand is a left hander's forehand. If you have a left hander in your team, you will have more scope to play a weighted shot on either side of the mat.

6. WHAT WILL YOUR OPPONENT PLAY? Before deciding on where you want your next bowl to finish think about what your opponent is likely to play. You could place your bowl somewhere that makes their shot more difficult. Or you could finish in a spot which makes their shot less inviting. You could even play their shot before they do in order to take away a big scoring opportunity.

Is your opponent left or right-handed? The same considerations apply as the previous point. They may have different options if they bowl with the other hand to you.

7. RISK vs REWARD If you are looking at a shot with an element of risk, ask yourself "Is it worth it?" If it goes wrong, what is the damage likely to be. If it goes right, how many more shots will you score? Don't forget that, if you are holding shot and unfortunately give shot away, that is a 2 shot swing on the scoreboard. But, if you are holding one shot and there is a chance to take a bowl out for 5 shots, the extra 4 shots could make all the difference, particularly if you are trailing badly.

As you will have seen, if you read the earlier article on tactics, your choice may be influenced by your assessment of your opponents. The stronger the opposition, the less likely you should be to risk giving them shots.

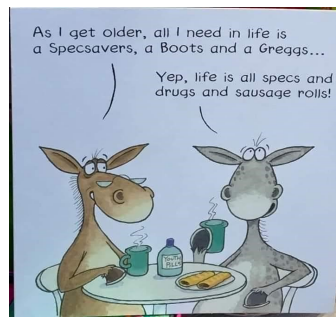
8. WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS? In a singles game, you are on your own. You decide what shot to play and you tell yourself how to play it. Or, in Alan Spicer's case, you tell your bowls where you want them to go. In team play, the skip is responsible for communicating the shot to the player on the mat. But the skip isn't necessarily the best reader of a head. He or she is playing in that position because the selectors think they are the optimum person to be playing the last bowls of an end. All players in a team can and should contribute to the shot selection process. If you have seen a shot that your skip may not have thought of or, maybe, you have spotted a danger that was being overlooked, you should suggest an alternative. Shot selection is a group process and this is particularly true if the shot being proposed presents a significant risk of going wrong. Get the agreement of your teammates before playing an "all or nothing" shot. Sharing the risk is good for team morale.

9. HEAD BUILDING You don't need to get shot with every bowl you play. When coaching tactics and shot selection, one of my favourite questions is "When do you write the score on the scorecard?" Of course, the answer is, when the end is complete and the score agreed. That is the only time it matters who is holding the shot. The early bowls of an end should be played in a way that reduces the chance of dropping a big score and maximises the chances of picking one up. Sometimes, when the majority of bowls have been played in an end, you need to accept that you are not going to win the end and that it's better to drop just one shot. A saving draw for second shot when you are 5 down is worth 4 shots on the score card.

Social bowlers love to draw the shot and don't always care what follows in the end. If they can go home feeling they have played a few good shots they will be happy. And long may that continue. We all play bowls for enjoyment and, if all you need to have a good time is to draw shot occasionally the you should be allowed to do so.

However, when you play at a more competitive level you will find that an early drawn shot very rarely counts when the end is complete. Against better opposition and on better mats the position changes more often during an end and the jack moves a lot. Having watched a lot of competitive bowls at the higher level, I estimate that the jack gets moved from its starting position in as much as 70% of ends. So, shot selection is based on building through an end to its conclusion.

NEXT TIME IN THINK ABOUT IT – PART 3 This article has focussed on the things to consider when choosing the best shot to play. Next time we will look at some of the shots you may choose to play and the best way to execute them.



**Wife: Can you stop yawning when I'm talking to you?
Husband: I'm not yawning, I'm trying to say something!**

Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves

Arsenal have offered to reserve 1500 seats each home game next season for NHS workers.....A spokesman for the NHS said have these people not suffered enough.

This floodlight is capable of illuminating large areas, even in the dark.

Wife: Did I get fat during Quarantine?
Husband: You were never really skinny!
Time of Death: 4/25/20
11:23 pm Cause of Death: Corona virus



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."

Keep the jokes coming!!

Part 2 of Alan Spicer Holiday Memories: Thank you Alan.

Orlando – A Holiday to Remember – Part 2

I really hope you found part 1, which detailed the preparation, planning and touchdown in Orlando, mildly interesting. This part was going to be about the accommodation, transportation, shopping and eating but accommodation is proving hard to condense so this part two will just be about that. Please let me know if you are finding this helpful, informative or just plain boring. If it is the latter then this could be the final part!

Accommodation Whist this subject that can have pages and pages, I will generalise as much as possible. Practically all rooms will take up to 4 people (2 queen beds). If visiting both Disney and Universal is a given then seriously think about splitting your holiday to something like 4 nights Universal Hotel, 10 nights Disney Hotel. We did this last year and it definitely was the best of both worlds!

Disney Resort Hotels The first and most important thing about staying at any Disney owned properties is the closeness and thereby speed at which you get to the parks. In addition, all Disney transportation is free to guests and every day of the week you can get in to one Disney park one hour early and one Disney park at least two hours later than the opening hours of other visitors. You can book your 'Fast Passes' 60 days before your first night in the hotel and then for your whole holiday (30 days for non-Disney guests) and as every hotel is themed, it would be hard not to be immersed in the magic the minute you arrive rather than when you get to your first park. There are other hotels called De-Luxe Villas but are not mentioned here. See <https://www.disneyworld.co.uk/resorts/> for a full list.

Disney Resort Hotels are split into three categories with Value being the cheapest, Moderate (the one we plump for) and De-Luxe, with several hotels within each category.

Value resorts

The **All-Stars Resort** is split into three separate entities, the **Sport, Music and Movies**, and are adjacent to each other. Great for kids but perhaps not for the discerning adult! **Pop Century & Art of Animation** are also next to one another (walkable) and more central than the All-Stars complex. Definitely worth considering if saving a few bob is a necessity. The latter is the newest Value Resort and has the advantage of 1120 suites in addition to 864 rooms. Suites are for up to 6 guests.

The All Stars are serviced just by buses but the other two have buses plus the new gondoliers linking to Epcot and Hollywood Studios via the Caribbean Beach Resort.

Moderate resorts

Port Orleans, Coronado Springs, Fort Wilderness and Caribbean Beach – We have only stayed at the latter (5 times now) and my daughter wouldn't stay anywhere else. It is ideally placed for all the parks, being probably the most central. The Port Orleans has mainly positive reviews and we visited the Coronado Springs and this would be my second choice Moderate Resort. Fort Wilderness is tucked away and has cabins or you could camp!

Port Orleans and Fort Wilderness are serviced by boats and buses, the Coronado Springs just by buses and the Caribbean Beach by gondoliers and buses.

DeLuxe resorts Lots of these and ones that most of you rich retired peeps would want to consider. We have stayed at the **Contemporary** and this is on the monorail that goes to Magic Kingdom (walkable) along with the **Grand Floridian** (Princess Diana and her boys stayed there) and the **Polynesian Village**. The **Wilderness Lodge** is also walkable, just, to Magic Kingdom. The **Animal Kingdom Lodge** has rooms

that overlook Animal Kingdom but is very much out on a limb with regard to the other parks. The **Beach Club** and **Yacht Club** are next to each other and Epcot is walkable. Finally, the **BoardWalk Inn** is between Epcot and Hollywood Studios with Epcot being slightly the nearer one but both can be walked along the waterside pathway – or use bus and boat. It also has the attraction of shops and restaurants right outside the resort. Well worth a second look.

Universal Hotels

There are eight Universal hotels and although they have split these into four categories, the only benefits for the sake of this newsletter is the top of the range Premier hotels. All will give the guest early admission of one hour to not just the two theme parks but also to their own water park – Volcano Bay (Disney does not include their two water parks in early admission). Again, staying on-site means saving time. For more information see <http://www.universalorlandovacations.com/hotel-deals/on-site-resort-hotels>

Premier Hotels

There are three, the **Hard Rock**, **Portofino Bay** and the **Royal Pacific**. If these were in front of you, the positioning is thus; Royal Pacific, Islands of Adventure Park, Universal Studios Park, Hard Rock and Portofino Bay. All are walkable although the latter is a tad further. With the shopping restaurant and entertainment hub in front of the two parks, personally, I would recommend the Royal Pacific or the Hard Rock (we have stayed there). Only these three hotels will give you an Express Pass for the length of your stay (priced currently at \$129 per person per day) and this should be factored in when you look at prices. All three hotels are serviced by buses and boats although you will need a bus to get to Volcano Bay.

Other Categories

Sapphire Falls is a Preferred Hotel, **Cabana Bay Beach** (opened in 2019) and **Aventura** are both Prime Value Hotels and **Endless Summer Dockside** and **Endless Summer Surfside** are Value Hotels. The only thing I can see that differentiates them from each other is price, position and amenities so you pay per money and take your choice.

Other Popular Area

International Drive

I-Drive is long (11 miles) and is to the east of both Disney and Universal with SeaWorld, Discovery Cove (swim with the dolphins) and Aquatica (water park) somewhere in the middle of I-Drive and a couple of miles to the east. Far too many to list but there are hotels and motels of all sizes & budgets and this is an excellent way to save money. See <https://www.internationaldriveorlando.com/> for dinner shows, shopping malls and plenty of other things to do on the drive.

Kissimmee

On Disney's doorstep, the other side of the I-4 freeway. This is the area we stayed in on our very first visit back in 1986. If Disney/Universal are not your priority then this is a feasible option.

Holiday Homes/Villas to Rent

For the larger party/family this works out quite the cheaper option. A word of warning. For two different families/parties, hire two cars not an 8 seater. There will be times when you will want to do different things, or the speed of 'readiness' of the two parties will not quite match and it will save angry words at some time in the holiday. Tend to be a fair way away from at least one of the main park complexes so may not be ideal for first timers.

As before, any specific questions, you are welcome to email me at ahspsr@ntlworld.com.



If you like a bit of art and culture, here are things to try.



A virtual tour of 48 works in the BP Portrait Awards 2020 at the National Portrait Gallery:

Www.npg.org.uk/whatson/bp-portrait-award-2020

The Art Society has some fascinating 20minute lectures on specific works of art at:

Www.Connected.theartsociety.org/talks-lectures

If you have children or grandchildren , aged 5-14, stuck at home the Royal Opera House are running art and craft ideas on learning-platform.roh.org.uk/create-and-learn.

Good gardening tip from Toni and Bill.

To stop snails and slugs eating your plants and seedlings

Chop a clove of garlic and pour 1litre of boiling water over, when it is cool put into a spray bottle, first strained the garlic out, and spray your plants with it , redo when it rains , garlic is toxic to snails and slugs .

We are finding it very effective



Congratulations to Brian and Linda Lipman (St Margaret) who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 3rdMay.



We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. More to enjoy next time.

Keep safe and keep well. Margaret

