

StopPress

The LAL Torbay Students' Magazine

Issue 42 | March 2010 | www.laltorbay.co.uk/stoppress



Spring at last!

It's an extra-special year for Britain's flowers



From Torquay to Turkey

A trip to Istanbul

From Devon to disaster

The fatal expedition of Burke and Wills



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Welcome to StopPress



April has arrived and the school is as busy as ever. We welcome the younger learners who are over here to brush up on their English during the Easter break and we welcome new teachers to the Academic Department.

We've had a bumper crop of new teachers pass our CELTA courses and March saw 23 new candidates complete our in-house teacher training.

With the weather warming up, this month we have a topical look at the effect of the recent cold weather

on the flowers. Our very own travel guru, Frank, presents his take on Turkey; we commemorate a little known event from the other side of the world with close links to Totnes, and find out more of our students' views on films they have seen.

Andy

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Spring at last
After a cold winter it's time for a stunning display of spring flowers.
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Istanbul
Frank Mercer describes a trip to Turkey
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Burke & Wills
The story of a local man's doomed struggle to cross Australia.
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Grammar Spod by Ariane Meier. Additional articles in this edition were submitted by Andy Tyrrell and Tristram Grevatt. Thanks to Kevin Ryland for proof-reading.

We welcome submissions: Please hand any items you would like considered for publication to Andy Tyrrell in Room 1.01, or e-mail stoppress@laltorbay.co.uk

Articles in this magazine are contributed and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of LAL Torbay.

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Read this edition, and past editions of StopPress, at www.laltorbay.co.uk/stoppress

News

Leisure Programme

We regret that some prices for our excursions will increase from the week beginning 5th April. This is due to the increasing costs of running the programme, such as petrol, which has increased in price by 30% in the last year. We will, as always, try to keep the cost of excursions as low as possible to help you get the best out of your time in this beautiful part of England.

Summer School Excellence

After many hours' hard work by permanent staff in Torbay and our seasonal workers, our summer schools have been declared Centres of Excellence.

Who has given us this prestigious title? The EL Gazette, the trade paper for EFL teaching, along with only three other summer school providers in the UK, of which there are many, has awarded this in their April edition.

How is this judged? Well, the British Council monitors and seeks to improve standards of management, teaching, resources and welfare in all organisations teaching English as a foreign language in the UK. This includes year-round schools, such as LAL Torbay, and seasonal centres, usually for Young Learners. They do this through regular inspections including unannounced spot checks and each inspection leads to a report on the organisation's services and facilities.

On the basis of this report, they make a decision as to whether the organisation should be accredited, ensuring organisations provide quality provision, especially appropriately qualified teachers, teaching standards, accommodation standards, supervision, safe premises, with properly-equipped classrooms and recreation areas, publicity materials and proper

emergency procedures.

LAL Summer Schools have been running summer school centres for young learners since 2001, and Mark Cook, the current Summer Schools General Manager, based in our London school, has been responsible for them since 2005. We have four centres in the south of England stretching from Kelly College in Tavistock, Devon, to St Mary's University College in Twickenham, London, also incorporating Taunton School, Taunton, Somerset and St Swithun's School in Winchester, Hampshire.

We are extremely pleased to have been awarded 17 points of excellence in five different aspects of our programme: general management, premises, academic management, pastoral care and leisure programme when inspected by the British Council for accreditation in 2008 and spot checked in 2009, and the EL Gazette has quantified this for their readers. They decided that summer schools with these criteria only would be nominated.

We are not going to be complacent about this, as every year we seek to make improvements in all aspects of the programme, but to have this recognised by a noteworthy publication can only be good for the summer schools and LAL as a professional language organisation.



Film reviews: **Dead Poets' Society**

Level
A2
Pre-Intermediate

I find the movie Dead Poets' Society very interesting. Robin Williams, as all the boys, acts wonderfully.

Everything is very realistic, the feelings of the characters are tangible and we can completely understand the loneliness and the sadness of the students.

It's a good representation of parents' oppression of their children. Dreams can only exist in their mind and not being real. They live in a strict society where their future is already chosen. They can't choose what they are going to do with their lives.

The teacher John Keating, by coming in to the school overturns the protocol. He brings freedom, enthusiasm and sets their mind free.

I think it's a good image of the 50s. Fortunately, children and teenagers can choose today, but it can still be a problem nowadays.

The end may be exaggerated to some people. However, for me, it's the only way that Nils could find an escape in which his father couldn't follow him.

Charlotte Klinke

I watched this film 'Dead Poets Society' during the class over a week. Actually, because I'm not a native speaker, I had to try very hard to understand the whole film. I was happy with the characters when they were happy. When they felt sad, I was sad too. And when Neil was dead I was upset for his father. His father is the one who drove Neil to suicide. He shouldn't have been so strict with Neil. Neil should be the one who decides his life! Being too strict can be a poison and parents ought to let their children be what they want. There is no right to lead their future on their own authority.

When Mr Keating is about to leave the classroom a few boys stand on the desks and say to him "Oh, Captain, my Captain". This last scene was the best scene in the film. I could feel their sincerity. It was really brilliant. When I watched the scene I had goose bumps all over.

Even if I couldn't understand all of it exactly, I am convinced this film is definitely nice. When my English has improved I want to watch this film again. Then it can be a different feeling from now.

Byulsaem Kim

LAL Torbay Film Club **Monsters, musicals, mad comedy, and more!**

If you love watching good films, join us on the second and fourth Fridays of each month to relax, laugh, be thrilled or be moved in our FREE film club.

Please leave your name at the Academic Office (Room 1.01) if you would like to attend our free cinema shows, because we have limited space.

Disaster down under: The Burke & Wills expedition

Next time you go to Totnes, have a look for the memorial dedicated to William John Wills – “Who?” I hear you ask, well, little old Totnes was the birthplace of one of the unsung explorers of the 19th century.

Born on January 5th 1834, William was the second of seven children of Dr. William Wills and Sarah Mary Elizabeth Calley and he went to school in Ashburton and studied chemistry at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

In 1852 William sailed to Australia with his brother, Thomas, where they found work as shepherds in South Melbourne before moving to Ballarat and working in the goldfields. In 1854 their father joined them and opened his own medical practice.

William, always keen to improve himself, soon started to study surveying, he taught himself geometry and trigonometry and by 1858 received a temporary job at the Magnetic Observatory in Melbourne. A year later he was promoted to the job of photolithographer in the Survey Department of the Office of Crown Land and Survey.

In 1860 William, as a surveyor and astronomer, was asked to join an expedition led by the Irish soldier and police officer, Robert O'Hara Burke. The expedition had been put together after the South Australian parliament offered a £2,000 reward to anyone who could cross the continent from Melbourne in the south to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north (a distance of about 2,000 miles or 3,250km).

The expedition left on 20th August 1860. Burke and Wills were joined by 17 other men, 27 camels and 23 horses.

From the beginning of the expedition it was clear that Burke had little or no experience of Bush craft, and his leadership skills were also poor. By the time the group reached the town of Menindee a month later, the expedition's second-in-command and the medical officer had both resigned.

Frustrated by the slow progress and afraid that others might complete the task before him, and win the prize-money, Burke decided to split his expedition group and take only the fastest and fittest men and horses. He left Menindee guided by William Wright. They arrived at Cooper Creek on November 11th and set up a depot. The rest of the expedition thought that Burke would wait for them to arrive so they would not have to travel in the hot Australian

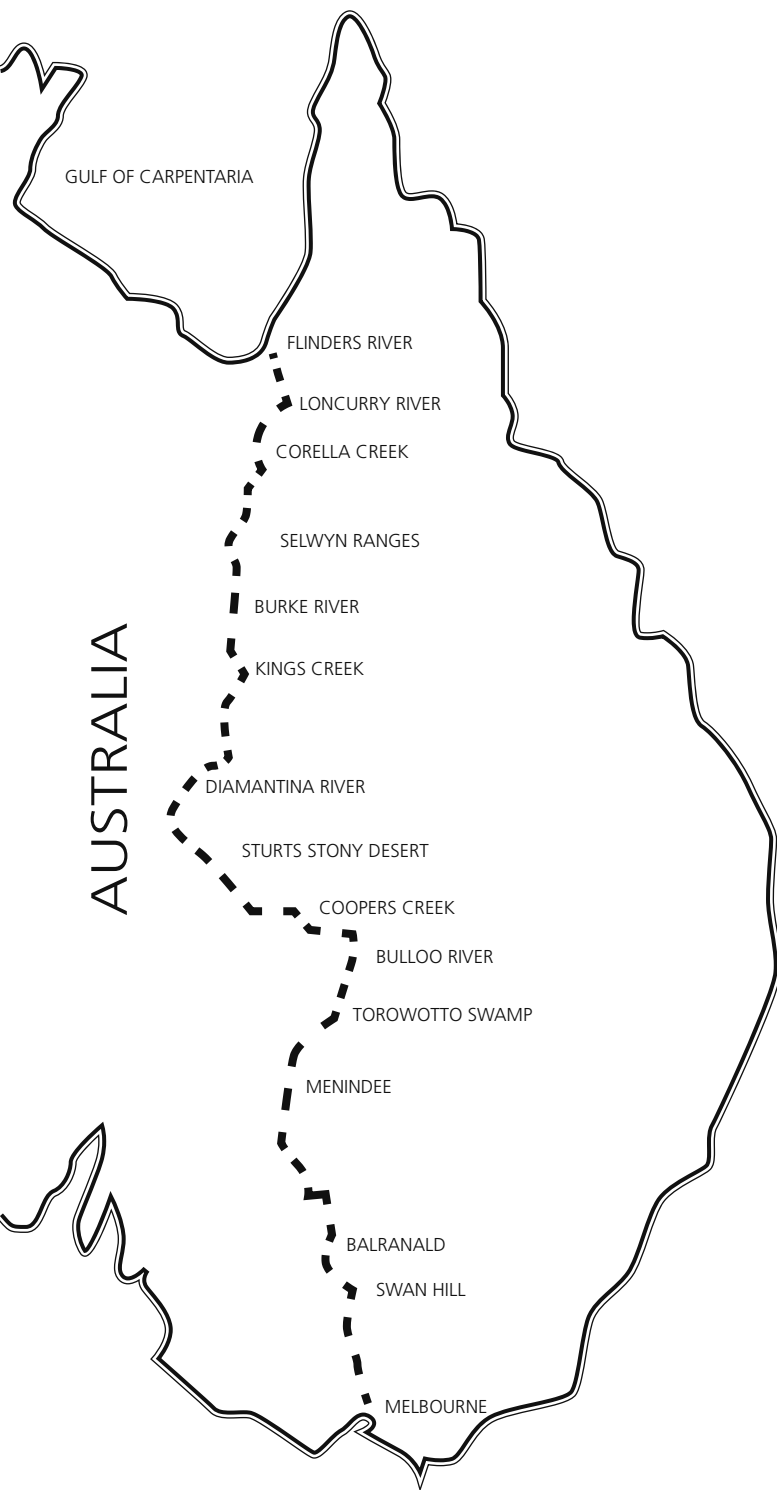


summer. However, Burke's poor leadership showed again, He waited until December and then set off with another splinter group of just seven men, six camels, one horse and enough food for three months.

Despite the fifty-degree temperatures, the small group arrived at the Flinders River delta in February 1861, but they were unable to reach the sea because of the thick mangrove forest swamp. The explorers decided to turn back but only had 27 days of supplies: it had taken them 59 days to get there.

On the return journey the exhausted and starving explorers were forced to shoot and eat four of the camels and the horses and much of their equipment were left behind because they were too weak to carry it. They finally arrived back at Cooper Creek on 21st April to find that it was empty. The rest of the party had left several hours earlier after waiting for five weeks longer than originally planned for the returning group. Burke and Wills decided that they were all too tired to follow; they needed to rest and recover before continuing.

The main party had organised for supplies to be hidden



underground in case Burke's group did return to the camp. Burke, Wills and the others used this food to recover their strength. It was now that Burke made his most fateful decision.

Wills and the other expedition members wanted to follow the other group back to Menindee, but Burke decided that they should try to reach the Cattle station near Mount Hopeless, 240km away through the desert. They wrote a letter explaining their plans and reburied it under the tree in the compound with the remaining supplies. Unfortunately they forgot to change the mark on the tree or the date showing they had been there.

Meanwhile, two of the original group had decided to return to Cooper Creek to see if the others had made it back. They arrived to find that the place was empty and the tree remained untouched. They assumed that Burke and Wills had not returned, so they didn't look under the tree to see if the supplies had been eaten.

Burke, Wills and King travelled less than five miles (8km) per day in the desert heat, they lost the last two camels and were unable to carry enough water to survive so they returned to Cooper Creek. Their supplies were running low so they bartered their sugar for fish and beans with the local Aborigines. This arrangement was working well until Burke foolishly shot his pistol at one of the locals while Wills was away from the camp. The Aborigines fled the area leaving the men with no food supply.

At the end of June 1861 the three men decided to follow the creek upstream in order to find the Aborigine camp. Wills became even weaker and asked to be left at a waterhole with some food and water. Burke and King continued for two more days until Burke also became too weak to continue. Burke died the next day and when King returned to the waterhole he found that Wills had also died.

On 11th September Alfred William Howitt arrived at Cooper Creek and four days later tracked down King who was living with the Aborigine tribe.

The explorers' bodies were returned to Melbourne where they were given a state funeral on Wednesday 21st January 1863. Despite the catalogue of misfortune, mismanagement and poor leadership the expedition had managed to complete the picture of the Australian interior.

» You can see the Wills Memorial on the Plains at the bottom of Totnes, close to the restaurant which also bears his name. The next LAL tour to Totnes is on Wednesday 31 March, price £5.

You can also take a First bus X80 or X81 to Totnes from Paignton (Stagecoach bus passes are not accepted). Please see www.firstwesternnational.co.uk for details.



The 'Dig Tree' on Coopers Creek, where supplies were buried for Burke and Wills. Only a few marks now remain on the tree.



A trip to Istanbul

M. ZEYNEP DAĞDEVİRENOĞLU KUBASECK

From Torquay to Turkey this month, as Frank Mercer tells us about a trip to Istanbul.

Legend says that the Greek adventurer Byzas, before setting out to found a city on the Black Sea trade route, asked the priestess of Apollo for advice. "Look for the city of the blind" was her mysterious answer. As his ship entered the Bosphorus – the narrow channel between the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea – a town appeared on flat land to the East. On the West bank a rocky headland lay empty, with a bay behind it, a perfect shelter from weather or enemies. "They must be blind not to have seen that" someone said, and Byzas remembered the god's advice, landed in the bay and began to build a city on the hilltop, named Byzantium after himself.

For nearly 1000 years it remained a small but important town, changing owners regularly during the wars of Greece and Rome. In about 300 CE, as the Empire became too big for one man to rule from Rome, it was chosen as capital of the Eastern half and renamed Constantinopolis after the reigning emperor of the East. Although its people spoke Greek, they proudly called themselves Romans. Constantinople was the centre of the Orthodox Christian church and missionaries took this religion to South-East Europe and as far as Russia.

The Eastern emperors gave the city some of its most famous monuments. Theodosius built the first line of

great walls to protect it from the land side, and Justinian completed the mighty Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia in Greek) which still stands after 1500 years. Many other fine churches survive, but as mosques. On Tuesday 29th May 1453, after a grim siege, the army of the Turkish sultan Mehmet II "the Conqueror" captured the city, and the new rulers changed its name again. To the Greeks it had been just 'The city' and road signs read "Eis tin polin" (into the city) which the Turks pronounced "Istanbul".

The Sultans of the family of Osman (called "Ottomans" in Europe) ruled in Istanbul until 1922. At its greatest, around 1650, their empire stretched from Hungary to Iraq and from the South of Russia to Algeria, and one after another they and their ministers built monuments to their glory. Their home was the Topkapi Palace, built like Byzas' fort on the tip of the rocky hill over-looking the sea. Next to it are Justinian's "Ayasofya", and the old chariot racing area, the Hippodrome. Beyond it is the mosque of Sultan Ahmet with its six minarets. On the North slope of the ridge, leading down towards the Golden Horn (see map) are the Sultan Beyazit mosque and the enormous covered bazaar area, the "Closed Market". At the top of the ridge further West, one of the grandest mosques commemorates perhaps the greatest sultan of all, Süleyman. He ruled for 46 years and was called "the Lawgiver" by his own people and "the Magnificent" in Europe. The mosque, designed by the Christian-born architect and minister Sinan Pasha, is truly magnificent both for its architecture and its dramatic position.

Level
B1

Intermediate

A bumper crop of spring flowers



MARK ROBINSON

A bitter winter in Britain is finally over, and the rewards are just appearing in a super crop of flowers.

We Brits are famous for talking about the weather. If ever you want to practise your English in the pub or at the bus stop, all you have to do is mention the weather and you'll get a response. In January and February the British Isles suffered the coldest winter in over 40 years: at one point the entire country was covered in snow. At the time we complained (after the novelty had worn off), but very soon we looked forward to spring.

As a result of the cold weather the season of flowers and new life has been delayed and we are now beginning to see spring flowers popping up all over the place.

About half of the daffodils grown in the UK are exported abroad, with the other half sold in Britain. Lincolnshire and Cornwall are England's main daffodil-growing area. In Cornwall, which traditionally experiences a milder climate than Lincolnshire, the season can start in early January, with flowers in Lincolnshire appearing weeks later.

A Cornish flower grower recently commented that his crop was 50% less than at the same time last year as a result of the cold weather.

Gardeners are expecting that there will be a late rush of colour as the plants wake up and begin to bloom throughout March and into April.

At LAL Torbay we have a number of excursions enabling you to get the opportunity to experience the beautiful countryside and spring blooms. If you visit Cockington you

may be lucky enough to see the carpets of snowdrops, bluebells and huge Rhododendron bushes all in bud and ready to explode with pink, red and white colour. Dartington gardens are more formal in structure but, nevertheless, offer chances to witness the wild side of spring in an exceptional annual display of daffodils and crocuses which should be better than ever this year. Coleton Fishacre is another garden that's a great place to visit in the spring.

So keep an eye out for the daffodils, primroses, narcissi and crocuses. Take a deep breath and fill your lungs with the fresh, Devon spring air.

» The next excursion to Dartington Hall is on Tuesday, 30th March. The next excursion to Coleton Fishacre is on 14th April.



SXC.HU/DEIRDRE60

Crocuses



Daffodils



ANDREA KRATZENBERG

Primroses (the county flower of Devon)

Grammar Spod: How about a bunny?



Dear friends of the English language,

As Easter is getting closer and we are all enjoying Easter eggs of all sorts – make sure you try some Cadbury Creme Eggs - I thought I'd keep this month a bit lighter than usual.

We will be looking at how and various words it can be combined with (lexical phrases). But I don't want to bore you with a lengthy explanation so let's get right to it:

- 9) A: Tom, I'd like you to meet the Easter Bunny.
B: How ____ you do? It's nice to meet you.

You can check your answers on page 15.

Happy Easter to all of you – it's been a pleasure!

Best wishes,

Countess Grammar

AM



KOSTAS JARIOMENKO

● **how + about/are/do/far/fast/high/long/much/tall**

Practice

Complete the questions with how and a word from the box above:

- 1) A: How ____ is your house from Richmond Park, Easter Bunny?
B: About three miles.
- 2) A: How ____ coming to my house for tea and biscuits for Easter?
B: Sorry, I'm away that afternoon – hiding Easter eggs.
- 3) A: How ____ did those chocolate eggs cost?
B: I don't know – I found them in the garden where the Easter Bunny hid them for the children.
- 4) A: How ____ you spell Easter?
B: E-A-S-T-E-R.
- 5) A: How ____ have the bunnies been working on these lovely Easter eggs?
B: Just over a month.
- 6) A: How ____ was he driving when the Easter Bunny crashed the sleigh he's borrowed from Santa Claus?
B: Only about fifty miles an hour.
- 7) A: How ____ you feeling now, Bunny?
B: Much better, thanks.
- 8) A: How ____ is the Easter Bunny? Will he fit through the hole in our fence?
B: He is about three foot three.

Coffee Break

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, column and 3 x 3 grid contains the numbers from 1 to 9 once only.

Word finder

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the grid? There are at least 98 words, including one nine letter word.

		2				3	
3						4	
	1	6	4	5		2	9
				2		6	
		5	1		4	7	
		9		3			
8		1		6	7	3	4
		4					6
	9					1	

E	R	H
L	C	O
I	C	N

What's on

Every Saturday

Torre Outdoor Saturday Market
Make sure you take a trip down to this Portobello Road-style market which takes place every Saturday in Brunswick Square, Torre. This market has a lively atmosphere and has stalls selling everything from arts and crafts and antiques to vintage clothing and bric-a-brac.

23/03/2009 to 11/04/2010

The Wonderful World of Rodney Peppé Torquay

The world of toys is celebrated at Torre Abbey in Torquay with an intriguing and colourful exhibition of illustrations, toys and models by the artist Rodney Peppé.
Torre Abbey, Torquay

03/04/2010

Walking the Geopark Trail Wild Flowers

Type: Guided Walk
Desert sands, dry wadi beds & volcanic heights. 400 million years of time seen in a morning! Join John Risdon in viewing the unique Torbay coastline along 3 miles from Goodrington to Broadsands.
Meet: The Seashore Centre
Time: 9.30am (returning on foot or by bus)
Cost: Adults £3; no booking
Seashore Centre, Tanners Road, Goodrington, Paignton
Tel: 01803 606035

Find out all the latest events at www.englishriviera.co.uk

Princess Theatre, Torquay

Princess Theatre
Torbay Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ2 5EZ
01803 290288

31st March 20.00

Rhod Gilbert
RHOD GILBERT & THE CAT THAT LOOKED LIKE NICHOLAS LYNDHURST
Following last year's sell-out tour and sensational performances on 'The Royal Variety Performance', 'Live At The Apollo', and 'Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow', the Welsh Wonder is back on the road with a brand new show. Last year, he punched a shop-assistant over the duvet tog-rating system and went berserk over a mince pie. This year Gilbert's given his show a ridiculous title just to annoy someone in Canterbury. Is he, as he believes, a visionary in a sea of closed minds, or has he, as everyone else believes, got anger-management problems?
One of the hottest names in stand-up today. Catch him while you can.

2nd April 19.30

Elvis On Tour.
ELVIS ON TOUR - THE LEGEND CONTINUES pays tribute to the early days of pure hip-swinging rock n roll, the 68 Come Back Special and Elvis's Las Vegas performances.
This production features LEE 'MEMPHIS' KING, the UK's most successful Elvis impersonator, finalist in "The World's Greatest Elvis" and in the special edition of "The Weakest Link" both on BBC One TV.
With his outstanding band and singers, his spectacular recreation of Elvis Presley on stage is a true 'must see'!!
Don't miss it!

4 April 19:30

That'll Be the Day

6 April 19:30

Dennis Locorriere and Andy Fairweather-Low

7 April 19:30

Swan Lake - Vienna Festival Ballet
add to diary

8 & 9 April 20:00

Girls' Night Out

10 April 17:00

Girls' Night Out

Box Office Numbers:

Ticketmaster: 08702 414 120

Groups (10+ tickets): 01803 380 842

Little Theatre, Torquay

Sat 10th - Sat 17th April 2010 at 7.30pm*

*No performance on Sunday

Stepping Out

The hilarious tap dancing comedy

By Richard Harris

Follow the lives, loves and laughs of a hapless bunch of characters at their weekly tap dancing class, as they prepare for a performance of a lifetime!

Bookings:

The box office is open every morning, Monday to Friday between 10.30am and 1.30pm. During the run of all plays the box office is also open from 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

By Phone: 01803 299330

8	2	1	5	4	3	7	9	6
6	7	9	2	8	4	8	3	5
5	4	3	7	6	9	1	2	8
2	1	8	6	3	5	9	4	7
3	9	7	4	8	1	5	6	2
4	5	6	9	2	7	3	8	1
9	8	2	3	5	4	6	1	7
7	6	4	1	9	2	8	5	3
1	3	5	8	7	6	2	4	9

Word Finder
long (6) fast (7) are (8) tall (9) do
1) far (2) about (3) much (4) do (5)
chlorine, choice, choicer, choilr, choleric,
chore, chronic, chronicle, cinch, circle,
clench, clerical, cliché, clinch, clincher, cline,
cloche, clone, coil, coin, coll, colic, con,
conch, conchle, cone, conic, core, corn,
cornice, corniche, croc, cone, echo,
enrich, enrol, eon, heir, helicon, hen, her,
hero, heroic, heroin, heron, hire, hoe,
hoer, hole, hone, horn, ice, icon, inch, ion,
ire, iron, lei, lice, lichen, lie, lien, line, liner,
lino, lion, loch, loil, lone, loner, lore,
nice, nicer, niche, nil, nor, ochre, oil, once,
one, ore, recall, rein, rellic, rhino, rho, rice,
rich, rlie, roe, role

Solutions

Rear Window



Jazz night in Torquay