

GRETA'S TWEETERS

Birds and Animals from my garden in 2004

4 highlights: A cold bright February afternoon when three roe deer bounded across the field to a young, mixed deciduous plantation. The March mornings when the skylarks' continuous warbling song echoed over my house.

The April day, three curlew flew over calling. I knew they were in the vicinity having heard their evocative quavering call over the previous weeks.

The hoar frost just before last Christmas, a grey heron standing motionless in his smart grey and white plumage, with black stripe down its neck, blending into the white background.



Image courtesy of RSPB

I'm trying to introduce plants which attract insects and have seed heads which provide natural winter food. Infuriatingly the fat-ball appeals to starlings who dominate the smaller birds leaving them to make do with the left-overs. Suitably sated, the starlings are showing an interest in nesting in my new guttering despite anti-bird-strip defences. If anyone has a remedy to deter starlings I'd be very glad to hear it please - 391592.

GG

PS Starlings are NOT a protected species (and very messy nest builders).

But don't they look wonderful when the sun catches the sheen on their feathers? Ed

March Crossword Answers by Alisa

ACROSS: 1 Fish 3 Clifton 8 Spillage 11 You 12 Patrick 15 Climate change 16 Science 17 Top 20 Asterisk 21 Hampden 22 Play **DOWN:** 2 Ship 4 Ire 5 Only 6 Clearance 7 Mountebank 8 Sand castle 9 Gardeners 10 Ice hockey 13 Tin 14 End. 18 Puma 19 Hill 20 Add.

Cheap Chair Air by Maurice Shepherd

Did you go away for Easter
And did you go by air?
And did you use that new firm
You know the *One Chair Air*?

How ever did they get such a name?
A most extraordinary thing
It's all down to the seating
They have seats out on the wing!

Oh, don't look so surprised
I know it's something new
You're not going to get blown off
The seats are fixed down with a screw!

The stewardess said "Look down there
You can just make out a ship
Don't lean over to far Gran
Or it will be a one-way trip!"

Gran said "It's got rather chilly
Oh blast, there goes my specs
In fact I'm cold all over
Because my shirt's up round my neck".



The stewardess said "Come inside
There is just one spare seat
You will soon get warm in there Gran
Because you have to pedal with your feet!"

Can you see those pedals Gran
Underneath that seat?
They are anti-thrombosis
And they supply us with the heat".

Gran said "I want to see the driver
And have a look around
I want to know how he gets it up
And how he gets it down".

She was taken to the cabin, the captain was pedalling like mad
He said this drives the propellers and keeps us up in the air
If they had to fit an engine
You would have to pay more fare.

Gran said to the captain "Can I have a go
It's something that I'd like
They used to call me ton-up Gran
When I was out and about on my bike".

The Captain said "Don't stop pedalling
Just head towards the stars".
And the last thing we heard of dear old Gran
She was pedalling them around Mars.

ABINGDON FAYRE

The sixth annual **ABINGDON FAYRE AIR & COUNTRY SHOW** will be taking place on Sunday 1st May, at Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire.

The show is open to the public from 10am, with proceeds for the fifth year going to the Douglas House Respite Centre in Oxford, a specialist Centre looking after terminally ill young adults.

Many exhibits will be on display: 19th Century Settlement Village, Craft section, Miniature Steam Engines, Sea Cadets & Kennington Bands, Vintage and Classical Vehicles, Tractors and Motorbikes, Amusements and Trade Stands.

Over 70 various Aircraft will be hopefully flying into Abingdon for static display which will include historic and modern types: Tiger Moth biplanes, WW2 Harvard, 1950s Hunter jet and Wasp Helicopter, RAF Hawk jet, RAF Merlin & Royal Naval Lynx helicopters.

Special appearance by a Polish Naval M28 Bryza Maritime Patrol aircraft.

The 2 hour flying display starts early afternoon and includes Nostalgia, Aerobatics & High speed thrills from the WW2 Lancaster Bomber through to the RAF Jaguar Jet Strike Fighter.

Adult £6, OAPs £4 Child 5-15yrs £3, Under 5s Free!
Entry into the Show is strictly via the Westgates off Gozzards Ford.

More information can be obtained from the Official Website: www.abingdonfayre.com or 01235 529142.

Advance Warning: Some Display Rehearsals by RAF aircraft will take place early Saturday afternoon.



To get an article included please write to the editor by 20th month latest