



BH TIMES



Autumn 2015

British Hills Newsletter, Volume 10

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Autumn

There is a time of the year that many hold dear
A time when the wind howls long into the night
A time when leaves shed their cloaks of green
And dawn colours of a brilliant dream

Red, green, yellow and gold
Brilliant hues for all to behold
They change for us, to show their majesty
This beautiful kaleidoscoped tapestry

When the day grows short and shadows grow long
And dance amongst the bonfire's song
Lovers sit under this blanket of warmth
And gaze longingly into its hearth

It is a time of magic and a time of wonder
When mountains ring with late season thunder
Leaves shiver in the crisp cold night
And dance their dance, under the harvest moon's light

When children dress as witch, zombie and ghost
And run through the streets amassing a host
Candies and treats to share with their friends
And wish that All Hallows Eve never would end

When grandparents sit and rock on their porch
And wonder if soon they will pass on their torch
For the next generation, this is their fate
Just as with Autumn, Winter will not wait

But she still has some time, to dazzle us all
With brilliant colours and feelings of Fall
So take your time and enjoy the sights
The beautiful days, and the mysterious nights
For Autumn is a very special time of the year
A time of warmth, colour, love and cheer
So enjoy this time, for it cannot last
Soon will arrive, Winter's chill blast

These final words I will give them to you
If this year, there is one thing you do
Please go out, enjoy this season's sights
For Autumn is the one, that does everything... just right...

Jason Harris

Seasonal Wonders in the UK and Japan

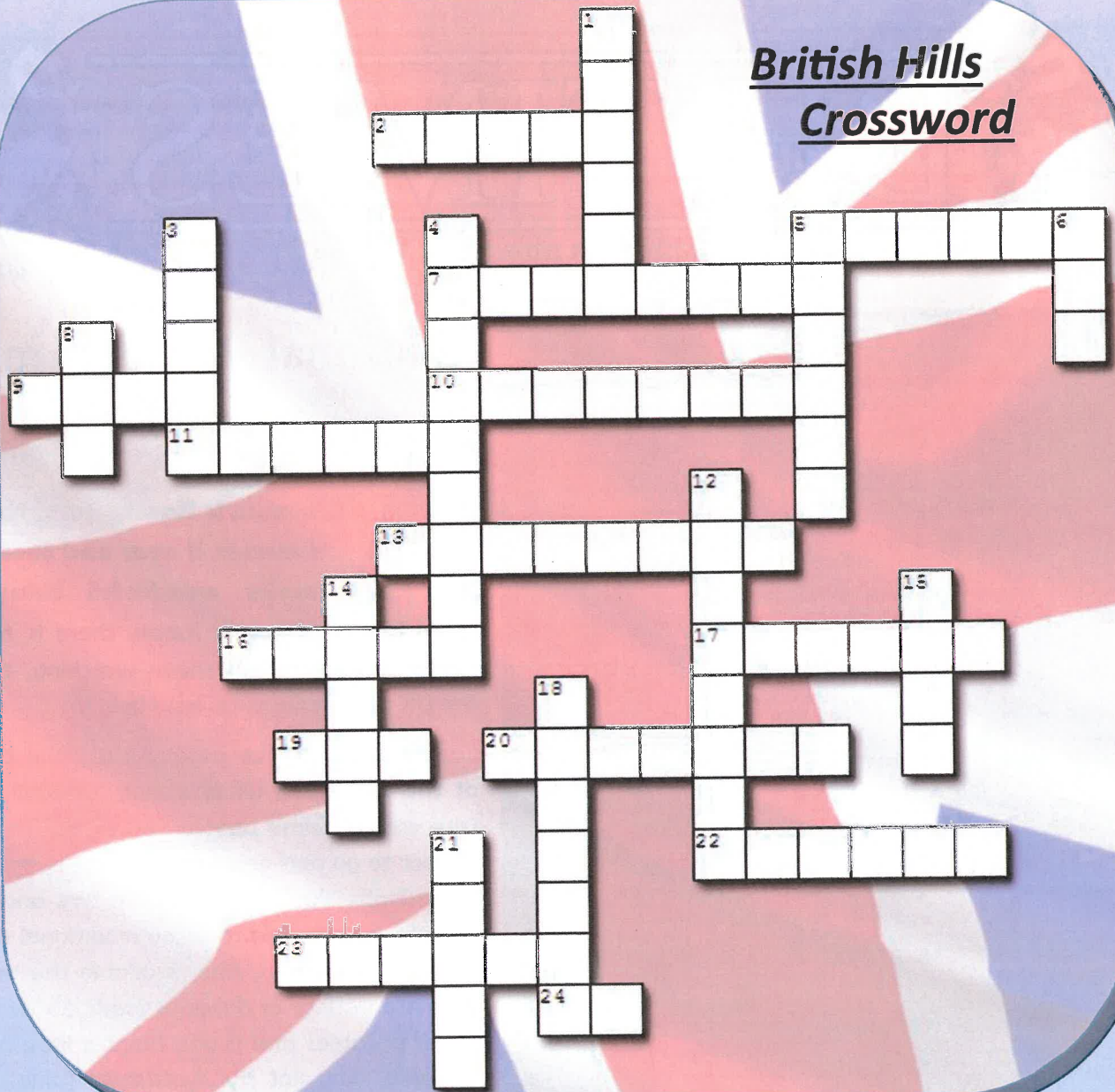
Autumn is finally here, the hot summer is over and there are many wonderful things to look forward to. In Japan, there is *tsukimi* which literally means moon-watching, and in the UK there is Guy Fawkes Night.

Japanese people usually enjoy the beauty of the full moon while eating *tsukimi dango* (rice cakes). Some people also choose this time of year to go and enjoy nature with their family and friends. You can pack up a tent and drive into the countryside to enjoy traditional camping for a few days. Also available this time of year is a variety of delicious foods, for example sweet potatoes and if you have a little money to spare, why not try *matsutake* (pine mushrooms).

In the UK, there are also many things to enjoy in autumn. Among some of the autumn thrills are festivals like Guy Fawkes Night and Hallowe'en. On Guy Fawkes Night we recall a plot in which a criminal tried to blow up the parliament buildings in England. Luckily he was caught before he could complete his act. We have firework displays and create small bonfires in our gardens on November 5th to remember this event. In the UK in autumn, people often enjoy watching the autumn leaves falling, playing conkers and taking afternoon strolls in the park. It is also a great time to see some of the animals that live in the wild in the UK. Everyone can enjoy all, or some of, these lovely things that autumn has to offer.

Tom Renton

British Hills Crossword



Across

2. A famous British spy from action films is called Mr Bond or 007. This is his first name (J).
5. The British-English spelling of "color" (C).
7. Guy Fawkes Night is a popular bonfire and firework festival in England. It takes place on the 5th of this month (N).
9. There are two of these animals outside the Manor House. They are the animal of England (L).
10. In 2012, London hosted this international sports event (O).
11. The Welsh flag has a large red mythical animal on it. Known to breath fire, this is the name of the creature (D).
13. Love-chan is this breed of dog (L).
16. The white cliffs of Dover, and the small white sticks used by teachers to write on blackboards in schools, are both made from this kind of rock (C).
17. The name of the large river which runs through London (T).
19. The most popular drink in England (T).
20. "Bangers and mash" is a famous British food. "Mash" is mashed potatoes, and a "banger" is this (S).
22. The capital city of England (L).
23. Chandeliers, like the one hanging above the entrance hall in the Manor House, come from this European country (F).
24. An informal and friendly way to say "thank you" in central and northern areas of England (T).

Down

1. This is the name of a famous sea monster who lives in the "Loch Ness" in Scotland (N).
3. The name of money in England is this (P).
4. The name of the British flag as one word (U J).
5. The British-English word for 'potato chips' (C).
6. The flag of England has two colours, white and this colour (R).
8. If a man in England is "knighted" by the Queen, this word is used for his name instead of "mr" (S).
12. The most popular sport in England, known as 'soccer' in the US (F).
14. England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and this place make up the United Kingdom (W).
15. The skin of this animal can be found lying on the King's bed (B).
18. This is used in tennis and is spelled "racket" in America (R).
21. Winnie the Pooh, or Pooh-san in Japan, is a famous British children's storybook character. This is his favourite food (H).

Crossword Answers
 Across: 2.James 5.Colour 7.November 9.Lion 10.Olympics 11.Dragon 13.Labrador 16.Chalk 17.Thames 19.Tea 20.Sausage 22.London 23.France 24.It
 Down: 1.Nessie 3.Pound 4.Unionjack 5.Crisps 6.Red 8.Sir 12.Football 14.Wales 15.Bear 18.Racquet 21.Honey



A

recent government announcement this year suggested that a new speaking test for third grade Junior High School students will aim for a level equivalent to that of the 3rd grade eiken test. Therefore, it is useful to look at what language is required for this speaking test and the structure of the test. The best way to find this out is to look at the virtual speaking test on the Eiken website http://www.eiken.or.jp/eiken/exam/virtual/grade_3/

Some basic skills to practise for this test are:

- confident body language and eye contact when standing and/or sitting in a one-to-one situation
- what to say when giving and receiving items, such as “Thank you.”, “Here you are.”
- greetings such as “Good morning”, “Goodbye” and “Thank you for your time.”
- questions to clarify meaning such as “Could you repeat that please?”, and “Do you mean ...”
- answering comprehension questions after short reading passages of about 30 - 40 words in length
- speed reading of these short texts and looking for key words in them that may be new to you.
- reading these short texts smoothly, without pauses
- pronouncing new sounds such as “Th”, “S”, “L versus R” and “V versus B”

Good luck with your speaking and practise hard!

English Challenge

In each line there is an extra word that should not be there. Find that extra word in each line and cross it out. The word in the first line has been done for you.

A New Flag for New Zealand?



New Zealand is considering changing its current flag to a new one. The reason for doing this is there are some New Zealanders who think that the current flag is too much similar to Australia’s flag, and that it does not represent New Zealand’s very uniqueness. In modern times, New Zealand has changed its status from being a colony of the United Kingdom (with the Union Jack in the current flag), to becoming a newest nation, with its own history and unique blend of cultures.

There are three steps to decide whether to be change the flag or not. Step one has already finished. There was an open, public submission of flag designs and over 10 000 more were submitted. From these, an expert panel decided on the best four ranking, which are pictured above. New Zealanders now have from November 20th to December 11th to choose their best favourite flag from these four designs. This flag will then be voted to on against the current flag in March next year, when New Zealanders will finally decide to change their flag or change not.

If a new flag is chosen, it will be a wonderful opportunity for New Zealand to raise its self profile on the world stage and create a something that represents New Zealand’s modern identity. If the current flag were remains, then New Zealand also has a wonderful opportunity to retain its strong links with its history and the United Kingdom. Either both way, the process and the result are of great interest to many people in around the world.

Andy Lankshear

Answers: (1) so, (2) much, (3) very, (4) form, (5) newest, (6) be, (7) more, (8) ranking, (9) best, (10) to, (11) change, (12) self, (13) a, (14) were, (15) both, (16) in

Animism, anthropomorphism, and a famous blue train

In 2005, during my first trip to Japan, I saw *Kikansha Thomas*' smiling face in a shop window and laughed aloud. I hadn't seen him since I was eight years old and I had never expected to see him on the other side of the world. He had a different name in England (I knew him as *Thomas the Tank Engine*), but there he was.

At the time, I didn't think too deeply about it. After all, other British characters such as Winnie the Pooh and Shaun the Sheep are now very popular in Japan. However, it was not until I went to university that I discovered a possible reason behind their popularity. The key words are *animism* and *anthropomorphism*.

Animism is the belief that a life force can exist in all things. In Shinto, the predominant faith system in Japan and a religion unique to the country, animism is hugely important. Ever since writing first began in Japan, people have believed that spirits (*kami*) exist in everything around them, from waterfalls to rocks, trees, and even man-made objects such as swords, musical instruments and temples.

Anthropomorphism is when human-like features, from physical things such as ears and eyes to personalities, are added to objects or animals. Once again, one can easily find examples of this in old Japanese tales, such as cat demons (*bakaneko*) turning into human form but keeping their tails or animal ears.



This is the most popular vacuum cleaner in Europe. His friendly name and face are a perfect example of how anthropomorphism can turn a normal product into a beloved character.



In modern Japanese society, evidence of animism and anthropomorphism can be found almost everywhere. If you travel to see the beautiful Mt. Fuji, you can buy handkerchiefs and t-shirts with little *Fuji-chan* mascot characters on them. Also, if you look at almost any modern *animé* series you can find characters with cat ears, or robots with human shape, features or personalities (*Gundam* and *Mighty Atom/Astroboy* for example). Even the famous robot by Honda, Asimo, is designed to look, speak and move like a human. Perhaps this could explain why Thomas, an anthropomorphised steam train, has found a welcome home in Japan.

Brett A. Smithson

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