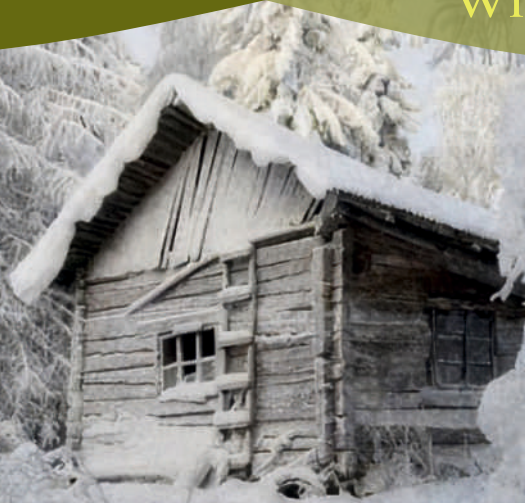




Odds and Ends from Keepers Cottage

Winter 23/24



ONE KIND WORD CAN WARM
THREE WINTER MONTHS

Welcome to odds and ends from Keepers Cottage, a collection of useful tips on living well, interesting collections of poems and prose from various sources and of course little clips of gamekeeping life, past and present.



www.thegamekeeperswelfaretrust.com
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We are almost through January 2024 as I write, and we probably have now got used to writing the new year date!

Snow has arrived; keeping warm is a priority, especially with log burners and open fires is a never ending job!



If you know anyone struggling with keeping warm in the gamekeeping community do let us know, we are here to help. Don't forget our Nurse Advice Clinic either – here to help on any issue, any time by phone or online.

Meantime the pheasant season is almost over and whilst many are looking forward to the next season there are those who are retiring, moving on or been made redundant. This is never easy, and we would emphasise we are here to support you in whatever situation you are in. Retirement is an inevitable life changing event which can be a smooth transition if sufficient planning is in place but not always possible. Moving home, a change of financial circumstances, or ill health can be really difficult to adapt to. We are here to help for anything affecting you, in your work, your family, or future.

To that end we are planning a Roadshow with speakers and expertise on hand to discuss anything from firearms and shotgun licensing to housing, financial planning and health.

Dates and venues will be advertised in our next issue as well as social media and magazines.

Take care, don't get too stressed on the keepers days, and keep warm for those indoors.

Very best wishes, Helen

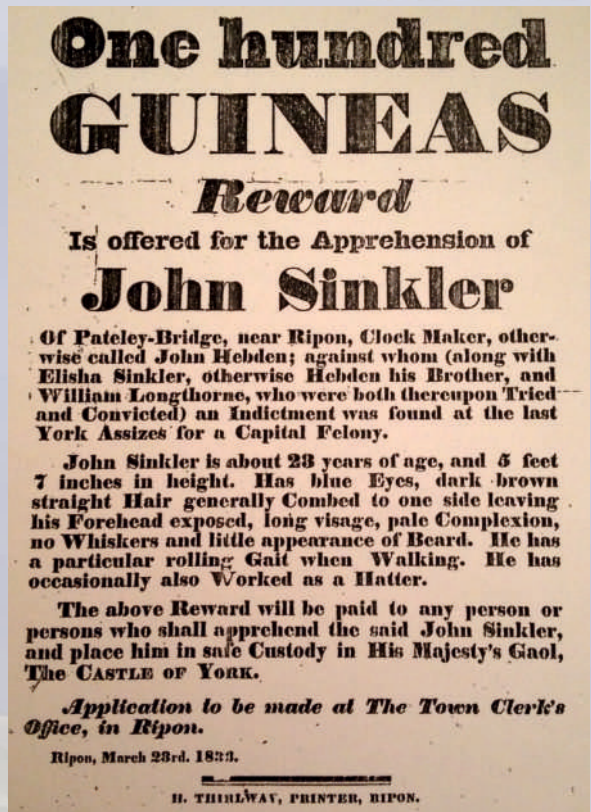
History

Elisha and John Sinkler (alias Hebden) of Pateley Bridge were notorious local poachers who often had violent encounters with local gamekeepers. Early in August 1831, they severely beat up a gamekeeper named Barker, employed by Mrs. Lawrence of the Studley Estate on Dallowgill Moor.

Arrest

Arrest warrants were issued by the Ripon Liberty Justices and on 18 September the Ripon Liberty Head Police Officer, Samuel Winn, together with Thomas Dinsdale, the Ripon Sergeant-at-Mace and two Ripon Constables, Thomas Binns and Thomas Sweeting, went to Stonebeck near Pateley Bridge to arrest the brothers. They captured Elisha but his brother, John, and a young man named William Longthorne effected a rescue. A violent struggle took place during which Thomas Dinsdale was knifed. New warrants were issued and notices offering 10 guineas reward for each brother and Longthorne were posted throughout the area.

On 16 November 1832, Elisha was captured and delivered to York Castle to await trial at York Assizes. William Longthorne was also captured and delivered to York for trial.



**One hundred
GUINEAS**
Reward
Is offered for the Apprehension of
John Sinkler
Of Pateley-Bridge, near Ripon, Clock Maker, otherwise called John Hebden; against whom (along with Elisha Sinkler, otherwise Hebden his Brother, and William Longthorne, who were both thereupon Tried and Convicted) an Indictment was found at the last York Assizes for a Capital Felony.
John Sinkler is about 23 years of age, and 5 feet 7 inches in height. Has blue Eyes, dark brown straight Hair generally Combed to one side leaving his Forehead exposed, long visage, pale Complexion, no Whiskers and little appearance of Beard. He has a particular rolling Gait when Walking. He has occasionally also Worked as a Hatter.
The above Reward will be paid to any person or persons who shall apprehend the said John Sinkler, and place him in safe Custody in His Majesty's Gaol, The CASTLE OF YORK.
Application to be made at The Town Clerk's Office, in Ripon.
Ripon, March 23rd. 1833.
H. THIRLWAY, PRINTER, RIPON.

Sentencing

They were tried on 5 March 1833 and were convicted of being accessories to wounding with intent to murder and sentenced to be hanged. This sentence was later commuted to transportation.

Elisha sailed for Australia on 30 May 1833 and arrived there on 18 October. He spent his first months at the Convict Settlement at Port Arthur and was later hired out to work on a local farm. In 1841, he was granted a pardon and returned to England where he resumed his poaching.

In 1843, he was involved in another stabbing incident and appeared before York Assize Court where, on 4 March, he was sentenced to transportation for life. He was sent to Australia for a second time but it is not known to which settlement he was allocated. He was again pardoned in 1856 and returned home.

His brother, John, had evaded capture for 10 years despite the posting of further reward notices, until he was finally caught in March 1843. He was sentenced to death with an intimation that the sentence would be commuted to transportation, which was finally set at 15 years. He left for Australia on 13 March 1844. It is not known to which settlement he was allocated or exactly when he returned home.

After their return home, the brothers had enough money to purchase property in the area and continued their poaching.

In 1871, they appeared before Ripon Court for poaching and threatening a gamekeeper. This time Elisha was fined £2 with costs and John was sentenced to two months hard labour in the Liberty Prison.

The Frock

I've got to buy a frock
It's hard to go clothes shopping
when you live in wellies and jeans,
it's those or old pyjamas
there's not much in between.
I tend to get my work clothes
from the local agri' store,
but they are sadly lacking
if you need a little bit more.

I got some decent trousers
in the Marks and Spencer sale,
and a blouse that's quite eye catching
off their bargain basement rail
But I have been invited
to a wedding in the spring,
and I need to get an outfit
and some classy looking bling.

The first shop that I go in
has a pretty flowery dress
but I look like Edna Everage
and I'm getting in a stress.

The assistant tries to help me
and insists I try some on,
whilst I'm stood there in old knickers
with the creosote stains on.

I get a lacy number
stuck tight around my arms,
the curse of country living
the arms of those who farm.

It's getting quite depressing
and I'm running out of time,
I'm squashed in a pink two piece
and she says I look divine.

But I see myself in the mirror
and I look like a landrace sow,
I don't have the heart to tell her
so all I can say is wow.

I wriggle out of the pig suit
and hang it back on the rail,
but she corners me by the counter
and I stifle a heartfelt wail.

This time she's found her trump card
she holds it up with glee,
she says it is so perfect
for someone just like me.

I see the satin ribbons
I take in the yards of lace,
she stands there so triumphant
a smile across her face.

I look like Annie Oakley
crossed with an ugly sister,
she scampers round me proudly
her voice hushed to a whisper.
"Oh madam you look perfect
that dress is so attractive",
but the colour is bright yellow
and I'm feeling radioactive.

This time I make a run for it
and escape out through the door,
before the dear assistant
can "help" me any more.

I think that I will give up
and have a look online,
and return to jeans and sweatshirts
and a bottle full of wine.

Jan Millward©

Sayings & Phrases

Dead As A Doornail – This expression can be traced back to 1350, but could be even older. In the days before screws were commonly used in carpentry, nails secured one piece of wood to another. Unlike screws however, nails could often loosen over a period of time. To prevent this, it became common practice, particularly on large medieval doors, that when a nail was hammered through the wood it would be flattened or clinched on the inside. The process of flattening the nail would mean that the nail would be 'dead' as it couldn't be used again.



Read The Riot Act – The Riot Act was first introduced in 1715. It allowed local authorities the power to disperse unlawful gatherings of more than 12 people on the streets of England's towns and cities. The Act was passed by a nervous government in response to the growing threat from [Jacobite](#) Catholics opposed to the new Hanoverian King George I. The law required the local magistrate to read a proclamation aloud to the crowd that included the following stern warning;

“Our sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the King”

Failure to observe such a warning was severe and could include imprisonment with hard labour for up to two years.

Flash In The Pan – The expression denoting all show with little substance derives from the late 17th century and the days of the flintlock musket. A small charge of gunpowder loaded into a pan was intended to ignite when struck by the flint and light the main charge of powder thus propelling the musket ball down the barrel and into the advancing enemy. If the main charge failed to ignite the gunpowder loaded into the pan flared up without a bullet being fired and this was known as a 'flash in the pan'.

Here are Mary's top tips

1 Sort it out

“My house is tidy, but definitely not immaculate!” says Mary.

“I like to keep on top of things, though, so every so often, I'll sort out the chaos in my wardrobe and clear out some clothes.

“I also clean out kitchen cupboards and drawers every six months — I empty them, use a clean cloth and hot soapy water to wash all surfaces, and dry thoroughly.

“I'd suggest lining pan drawers with ridged rubber matting.”

2 Iron candle wax off a carpet

“If some spilt wax has got onto a wool carpet, place kitchen roll or greaseproof paper on top of the affected area, then iron it,” says Mary.

“The wax will melt and stick to the paper — simple!

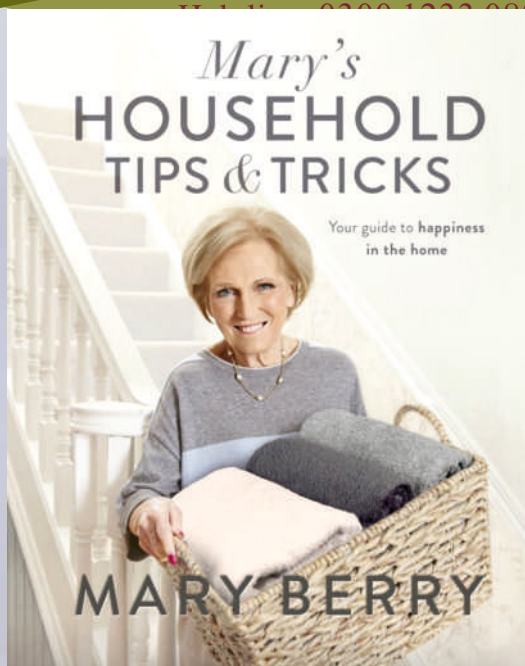
“Do take care with synthetic carpets, though, as they don't deal well with the heat!”

3 Clean your machines

“To clean a dishwasher, run a wash with white vinegar. Use around 250ml placed in a container on the bottom rack, then just run a normal cycle and it will be like a new machine,” Mary explains.

“For the washing machine, run an empty cycle to clear the drum, and add a cut lemon to a short empty cycle, to keep the machine fresh.

“To pep up your microwave, put a cut lemon in a bowl of water and microwave on full power for one minute — the condensation will release stains around the sides and make it easy to simply wipe clean.”



Mary's Household Tips & Tricks, published by Michael Joseph, £20.00. (Georgia Glynn Smith/Michael Joseph/PA Photo)

4 Use nuts to help fade furniture scratches

“Break an oily nut — such as a walnut — in half, and rub the exposed area over scratches in the wood,” Mary says.

“The oil of the nut should help them to fade and appear less noticeable.”

5 Steam clean your floors

“I use a steam mop to clean my tiled floors and I don't think it's too much to say that it's changed our lives,” says Mary.

“Steam mops are quick to heat up and can be used on any sealed floor surface with minimum effort.”

6 Wear rubber gloves and get stuck in to properly clean a toilet

“To remove hard water and limescale toilet stains, wear rubber gloves, flush the cistern and remove a mugful of water from the bowl — I use a tin mug — so you can see the rim of the limescale line clearly,” Mary reveals.

“While the water level is low, pour or spray the loo cleaner around the limescale in the bowl.

“Make sure you get the product around the top and where water drips down the back of the bowl, too.

“Leave for 30 minutes, then rub with a fine scourer or brush. Pour the water in mug back into bowl, then brush and flush the cistern again.”

7 Use onions to rid paint smells

“If you have newly-painted walls, counteract the smell by cutting two onions into quarters and leaving them cut up on a plate overnight,” says Mary.

8 Protect the floor when you're partying

“Protect carpet if you're having a party by using rolls of polythene film,” Mary says.

“Make sure you buy the appropriate film for the floor surface — the one for carpet shouldn't be used on hard flooring.”

9 Keep flowers fresh

“When putting cut flowers in a vase, remove any leaves which come below the water, otherwise they'll make it turn green and smell,” Mary reveals.

“To clean irregularly-shaped vases or containers, use a handful of rice and a good glug of white vinegar. Swirl around briskly, so the rice can clean corners, before rinsing and drying.”

10 Clean windows the old-school way

“A mixture of vinegar and water is a traditional solution,” says Mary.

“Alternatively, use a pre-packaged cleaning spray and a micro fibre cloth.”

Updates in pensions and PIP



Department
for Work &
Pensions

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is required to review the level of benefits and State Pensions each year. This briefing sets out the main benefit, pension and tax credit rates that have been announced for the 2024/25 financial year.

Inflation-linked benefits and tax credits will rise by 6.7% from April 2024, in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate of inflation in September 2023.

The basic and new State Pensions will be uprated by 8.5% from April 2024, in line with the Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) index from May to July 2023.

Universal Credit allowances in 2024/25

Due to the increase in line with CPI, in 2024/25 Universal Credit standard allowances will increase:

From £292.11 to £311.68 per month for single people aged under 25

From £368.74 to £393.45 per month for single people aged 25 and over

From £458.51 to £489.23 per month for joint claimants both aged under 25

From £578.82 to £617.60 per month for joint claimants both aged 25 and over

Pension rates in 2024/25

The full rates for 2024/25 will be:

£221.20 per week for the new State Pension
(for those reaching State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016) – up from £203.85 in 2023/24.

£169.50 per week for the basic State Pension (the core amount in the old State Pension system) – up from £156.20 in 2023/24.

Recipe

Kaitlyn Best advice for adults:
“When in doubt, eat chocolate cake!”

Method

- STEP 1** Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Butter the base and sides of two 20cm round sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment.
- STEP 2** In a large bowl, beat together 200g golden caster sugar, 200g softened unsalted butter, 4 large eggs, 200g self-raising flour, 2 tbsp cocoa powder, 1 tsp baking powder, ½ tsp vanilla extract, 2 tbsp milk and a pinch of salt until pale.
- STEP 3** Divide the mixture between the prepared tins. Bake for 20 mins or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.
- STEP 4** Leave to cool in the tin for 10 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- STEP 5** For the buttercream, put 100g chopped milk chocolate in a heatproof bowl and melt in the microwave, stirring every 30 secs. Leave the melted chocolate to cool for 5 mins.
- STEP 6** Mash 200g softened butter and 400g icing sugar together with a fork, then switch to a wooden spoon or electric beaters, if you have them.
- STEP 7** Sift in 5 tbsp cocoa powder with a pinch of salt and pour in the melted chocolate and 2 tbsp milk. Mix again until smooth.
- STEP 8** On a cake stand or large plate, sandwich the cakes together with half of the buttercream, then spread the rest on top. Decorate with chocolate shards, if you like.
- STEP 9** To make chocolate shards: melt 50g dark chocolate and pour it onto a tray lined with baking parchment or foil.
- STEP 10** Now melt 25g milk chocolate and 25g white chocolate and drizzle them over the dark chocolate before it sets.
- STEP 11** Shake the tray gently to level the mixture then leave to set somewhere cool. Chop into shards.

Ingredients

For the cake

- 200g golden caster sugar
- 200g unsalted butter, softened plus extra For the tins
- 4 large eggs
- 200g self-raising flour
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp milk

For the buttercream

- 100g milk chocolate, chopped
- 200g butter, softened
- 400g icing sugar
- 5 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp milk

For the chocolate shards (optional)

- 50g dark chocolate
- 25g milk chocolate
- 25g white chocolate

Micks Diary Winter 2023/4



This winter will be remembered for Noah's Arc conditions, and it has carried on into 2024. The rain is just relentless, and it is rare to experience a dry day or even just a few hours. Here we are challenged just getting about to feed, but the pheasants are remarkably resilient and both keeping in and flying well.

On a shoot day last week, a bonus to see was a large flock of Waxwings taking advantage of the last of the berries on the edge of the woods. Barn owls seem to do well in milder wetter winters with voles and other rodents relatively easy to access and are regularly seen in all the rough grassed areas. There are usually species which benefit from alternative weather!

In the River Ure and many others, the most adverse effect of the last few months heavy rain has been flooding. This has washed out the Salmon redds which are basically the gravelly areas in which salmon lay their eggs. Time will tell whilst there are fishermen everywhere keen to test out their rods as soon as seasons open, especially with limited opportunity in 2023.

This is always the time of year when keepers are almost looking forward to the end of the season and all the other jobs, principally vermin control to catch up on. Not to say fox control is not on-going when possible. Often a battle of wits for the wily fox and tales of crafty behaviour they are known for.... Don't get me on the long story of the white dog fox... some other time perhaps....



Helpline: 0300 1233 088



Weather sayings:

If the goose honks high, fair weather; if the goose honks low, foul weather. Birds flying low, expect rain and a blow.

If the lark flies high, expect fair weather. If the rooster crows on going to bed, you may rise with a watery head.

Pink Flags Now Available



Heather



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