

Website Winter Wednesday Wise Words

Week 1 : Sunday Newspapers page

A green Christmas means a full churchyard.

A truism which can be found in most European languages and cultures. If there is not enough frost and snow to kill the bugs, the winter death toll (particularly among the very old and very young) is higher. We should be thankful for the recent cold spells!

Week 2 : Maps page

Decisions are made by those who show up.

Jed Bartlett in *The West Wing*. Another truism – you can't affect things if you are not taking part.

Week 3 : History page.

It's not me that can't keep a secret, it's the people I tell! **Abraham Lincoln**. I like this amusing and self-deprecating comment – and it is so true!

Week 4 : Tennis page

You get what you expect.

Three young female tennis players recently all said to me that they did not expect the permanent, loyal and trusting relationship that was embodied in many of their parents' and grandparents' marriages. I thought this was rather sad but a wise man responded with the aphorism above. So, raise your expectations in all things and you may raise the results!

Week 5 : Americans page

A woman will sometimes forgive the man who tries to seduce her, but never the man who declines an opportunity when offered. **Charles Maurice de Talleyrand**.

I have no personal experience as to whether this is true or not but feel free to write in with your own experiences!

Week 6 : Parish Council page.

If you can't say anything nice about someone, don't say anything at all. I can remember my mother saying this but **Liz Brewer** has brought it to my more recent attention.

Week 7 : (St. Valentine's Day,) Free to a Good Home page

Female French novelist **George Sand** said: **There is only one happiness in life: to love and be loved.**

But **Vincent Van Gogh** responded: **It's so easy to love; the hard thing is to be loved.**

Female English novelist **George Eliot** was more philosophical: **Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love.**

And American poet **Dorothy Parker** raised an interesting question: **If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?**

Week 8 : ALF page

He was right, so right, as he sped along
But he's just as dead now as if he'd been wrong.

Generally thought to relate to sailor Johnny or Michael or Edward O'Day (sources vary). O'Day was insisting on his navigation rights and presumably met a watery grave under some tramp steamer. Today, it is a very useful tip for staying out of trouble on the roads using defensive driving techniques.

Week 9 : Post boxes page

Fine words butter no parsnips

This proverbial saying is English and dates from the 17th century. It expresses the notion that words count for nothing and that action means more than flattery or promises.

Every project needs a driver.

Robert Brech (probably on his tombstone!) Committees rarely drive successful projects, only a driver does that.

Week 10 : Bus times page

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

The phrase was initially coined by Christian anarchist writer Elbert Hubbard in a 1915 obituary he penned and published for dwarf actor Marshall Pinckney Wilder.

And it is quoted by Joanna Trollope in *The Best of Friends*

Week 11 : Medical Services page

You find the time for the things you want to find time for.

Other ones worthy of note!

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
Origins unclear but recorded as far back as 1659.

Well-behaved women rarely make history.
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich.

In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins - not through strength but by perseverance.

If you can't forecast right, forecast often.

Young men are apt to think themselves wise enough, as drunken men are apt to think themselves sober enough. Philip Chesterfield

Old age is not for wimps Uncle Ronald Brech

A diplomat who says "yes" means "maybe", a diplomat who says "maybe" means "no", and a diplomat who says "no" is not a diplomat. Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

I'm sure they mean well (David Gradwell)

Many of the most-trodden paths lead nowhere (Liz Fox's father)

Never put jam in the toaster (Ian Bullock)

