

Nil Desperandum

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Never Alone



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Wise words...

Confucius said:

"By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest."

There are other ways to gain wisdom too, but those above are a good start.

Born in 551 BC, Confucius was a Chinese teacher and philosopher whose principles can still be applied to Chinese beliefs and traditions today, as well as philosophy across the globe.

He also said:

"At home, a young man should be a good son, when outside he should treat others like his brothers, his behaviour should be one of trustworthy and proper, and should love the multitude at large and keep himself close to people of benevolence and morality. If after all these activities, he has any energy to spare, he should read widely to stay cultivated."

As well as:

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."

Round we go...

Did you know that on 21st October 1520, a fleet of five ships, led by Ferdinand Magellan in search of a passage to the Pacific, first entered the waterway that now bears his name. They sailed between the mainland tip of South America and the island of Tierra del Fuego toward the Pacific Ocean.

Magellan was a Portuguese navigator and explorer who sailed under the flags of both Portugal and Spain. Unfortunately, he was killed in the Philippines, but one of his ships continued westward to Spain, successfully accomplishing the first circumnavigation of Earth.

Government lockdown rules summarised.....



You have secretive organs in the centre of your head

Source: paper by Katherine J. Wu, The New York Times, at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/19/health/saliva-glands-new-organs.html> in October 2020: Reference: Radiotherapy and Oncology paper

Unbeknown to the medics before, there appears to be a fourth pair of large salivary glands, tucked into the space where the nasal cavity meets the throat. Oncologists have stumbled on a "previously unnoticed" pair of salivary glands while studying the effect of radiotherapy on salivation and swallowing.

The elusive glands are inaccessible and can be spotted only with very sensitive imaging, such as positron emission tomography and computed tomography. Researchers say the glands could help to explain why cancer treatment can cause dry mouth and swallowing problems, especially because doctors haven't known to spare the organs from damage.

The article says:

"A team of researchers in the Netherlands has discovered what may be a set of previously unidentified organs: a pair of large salivary glands, lurking in the nook where the nasal cavity meets the throat. If the findings are confirmed, this hidden wellspring of spit could mark the first identification of its kind in about three centuries."

Smiling is Infectious
by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!



Cuba and Adlai Stevenson's moment of glory



Picture Credit: "UI352533" by Ninian Reid is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Do you remember the Cuba Crisis, in 1962? Here's a reminder:

On 23rd October 1962, Manhattan, in New York, USA - Adlai Stevenson, US Ambassador to the United Nations, makes a point of order at the start of the United Nations Security Council session concerning Cuba. The US has urged the council to approve a resolution calling for the dismantling and withdrawal of Soviet-supplied missile bases from Cuba under the supervision of the United Nations.

Image by © Bettmann/CORBIS

The Washington Post reported is like this ([here](#)):

Millions of Americans were glued to their television sets on that fateful day in October 1962 as Adlai Stevenson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said he had "one simple question" for his Soviet counterpart: "Do you, Ambassador Zorin, deny that the U.S.S.R. has placed, and is placing, medium- and intermediate-range missiles and sites in Cuba? Yes or no – don't wait for the translation – yes or no?"

Valerian A. Zorin, the poker-faced Soviet ambassador, squirmed in his chair. The Kremlin had failed to inform him about the deployment of Soviet missiles to Cuba. He had no instructions from Moscow. Trying to wiggle out of the trap that Stevenson had set for him, Zorin equivocated. "I am not in an American courtroom, sir. . . . You will have your answer in due course."

Stevenson, an intellectual politician who usually shied away from confrontation, twisted the knife. "I am prepared to wait for an answer until Hell freezes over, if that is your decision. I am also prepared to present the evidence in this room." After waiting for the laughter over Zorin's discomfiture to subside, Stevenson proceeded to unveil a series of poster-size black-and-white photographs putting the lie to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's claim that the Soviet Union did not have offensive weapons deployed in Cuba.

Almost Unbelievable... Silly Laws

Excerpted from:
<https://www.thelawyerportal.com/blog/top-10-weirdest-laws-around-world/>

Salmon

Did you know that *The Salmon Act* of 1986 in Great Britain makes it illegal to 'hold' salmon under suspicious circumstances? If you are interested, it is enshrined in Section 32 of that Act. It is an offence in England and Wales for anyone who receives or disposes of any salmon in circumstances where they believe or could reasonably believe that the salmon has been illegally fished. The maximum penalty is two years imprisonment. The next time you order smoked salmon in a restaurant, take a look around to see if anyone is watching your every move.

Chickens

If you own chickens in Quitman, Georgia, it is against the law to let them cross the road – whether they want to get to the other side or not. You have to ensure that your chickens are under your control at all times. If you drive around 280 miles north of Quitman you will arrive in Gainesville Georgia where there is a law requiring you to eat fried chicken with your bare hands. Keep your knives and forks well away from them.

Light Bulbs

In Victoria, Australia's second most populated state, it was illegal to change a light bulb unless you were a licensed electrician but the 1998 Electricity Safety Act updated this law, thankfully!

Smiling in Milan and walking your dog in Turin

It is a legal requirement in Milan, Italy, to smile at all times except at funerals or in hospitals. Apparently, the law was prescribed by a city regulation from Austro-Hungarian times that was never repealed. Glumness is met with a fine.

It is against the law not to walk your dog at least three times a day in Turin. If you break the law, you will be fined up to 500 euros. To enforce the law, Turin police rely mainly on the help of snitches spotting cruel treatment by neighbours. Turin has the most stringent animal protection rules in the country. They even ban fairgrounds from giving away goldfish in bags.

Too much wind

In Florida, it is illegal to pass wind in a public place after 6 pm on Thursdays, although this law has never really been enforced.

Donkeys in the bathtub

It is against the law to have a sleeping donkey in your bathtub after 7 pm in Arizona, USA. This law was introduced due to a public menace case in 1924. A merchant used to allow his donkey to sleep in a bathtub. The town was flooded when a local dam broke, and the donkey was washed a mile down the valley. The donkey survived, but locals spent a lot of time and effort to save the poor animal.

Come in, and use the loo

In Scotland, if someone knocks on your door and requires the use of your toilet, you must let them enter because it is illegal to deny the use of your toilet.

Digging a hole

The French town of Sarpourenx makes it a legal requirement to have bought a burial plot before dying. The mayor issued an edict forbidding people from dying within the city limits unless they had previously purchased a burial plot in a local cemetery. People who die anyway will be severely punished. Although what kind of punishment you give the dead is uncertain.

If you get stung by a bee...

Written by Otto Somodi and added to by Martin Pollins

Why bees are important

What has black and gold stripes, translucent wings and a furry body? The answer is the bee. We may take bees for granted, but we need them because they're vital for stable, healthy food supplies. Across the planet, they are the most important pollinator of food crops. They also pollinate many of the trees and flowers that provide habitats for wildlife.

Getting Stung

Bees, wasps, and other related insects do sting, but only if threatened. A bee only stings under two conditions: to protect the colony or when it is frightened. Stinging is the bee's defence mechanism. When a bee stings, barbs in the lance of the sting cause it to stick firmly into the victim, leaving behind the venom sac and glands when the bee is brushed away. The venom sac muscles continue to pump venom into the victim after they have been torn away from the dying bee. That's why getting the sting out quickly is essential.

Pain and swelling are common symptoms, but these usually go away within a day or two. Bee sting venom contains proteins that affect your skin cells and the immune system, causing pain and swelling around the sting area. For people with a bee sting allergy, bee venom can trigger a more serious immune system reaction.

Only the female workers and the queen bee can sting, something the males or drones cannot do. The queen bee has a smooth sting which she uses to kill other queens within a colony while surviving herself.

If you happen to get stung:

- ❖ if the sting is still in the skin, scrape off as quickly as possible, regardless of the method.
- ❖ wash the affected area with water.
- ❖ apply a cold compress (such as a flannel or cloth, cooled with cold water) or an ice pack to any swelling for at least 10 minutes.
- ❖ raise or elevate the affected area, if possible, as this can help reduce swelling.
- ❖ avoid scratching the area of the sting to reduce the risk of infection.
- ❖ there is no scientific evidence that traditional home remedies, such as vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, are effective.

The pain, swelling and itchiness can last a few days. Ask your pharmacist about medicines that can help, such as painkillers, creams for itching and antihistamines.

When to get Medical Advice

Contact your G.P. or call NHS 111 for advice if any of these apply:

- ❖ you're worried about a sting.
- ❖ your symptoms do not start to improve within a few days or are getting worse.
- ❖ you've been stung or bitten in your mouth or throat, or near your eyes.
- ❖ a large area (a 10cm or more patch of skin) around the sting becomes red and swollen.
- ❖ you have symptoms of a wound-infection, such as increasing pain, swelling or redness.
- ❖ you have symptoms of a more widespread infection, such as a high temperature, swollen glands and other flu-like symptoms.

Severe Allergic Reaction

A severe allergic reaction to bee stings is potentially life-threatening and requires emergency treatment. About two per cent of people develop hypersensitivity, which may lead to anaphylaxis, which can lead to shock. In very rare cases, this can be life-threatening.

Dial 999 for an ambulance immediately if you or someone else has symptoms of a severe reaction following a bee sting, such as:

- ❖ feeling light-headed or faint.
- ❖ breathing difficulties.
- ❖ wheezing.
- ❖ fast heartbeat.
- ❖ nausea, vomiting.
- ❖ confusion and anxiety.
- ❖ collapsing or losing consciousness.

Multiple Bee Stings

Generally, insects such as bees and wasps are not aggressive and only sting in self-defence. In most cases, this results in one or maybe a few stings. When someone disrupts a hive and gets stung, the stinging bee releases pheromones to warn other bees of danger, encouraging them to attack and sting the intruder. This often results in multiple stings.

If you get stung more than a dozen times, the accumulation of venom may induce a toxic reaction and make you feel quite sick. Signs and symptoms include:

- ❖ nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.
- ❖ headache.
- ❖ a feeling of spinning (vertigo).
- ❖ convulsions.
- ❖ fever.
- ❖ dizziness or fainting.

You should call 999 and seek emergency hospital treatment if you have any of the symptoms mentioned. Multiple stings can be a medical emergency in children, older adults, and people with heart or breathing problems or other underlying conditions.

Picture Credit: "The Queen" by Johan J. Ingles-



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A thirsty bee has a drink of water for its journey.

Preventing Stings

There are some simple precautions you can take to reduce your risk of being stung by bees:

- ❖ remain calm and move away slowly if you encounter wasps, hornets or bees – don't wave your arms around like a windmill or swat at them.
- ❖ cover any exposed skin by wearing long sleeves and trousers.
- ❖ wear shoes when outdoors.
- ❖ apply insect repellent to exposed skin – repellents that contain 50% DEET (diethyltoluamide) are thought to be the most effective.
- ❖ avoid using products with strong perfumes, such as soaps, shampoos and deodorants – these can attract insects rather than repelling them.
- ❖ take care around flowering plants, rubbish, compost, stagnant water, and in outdoor areas where food is displayed or served

Bees, and honeybees in particular, will sting only when they perceive a threat to their hives, but when they are away from the hive foraging, they will rarely sting unless someone steps on them or handles them roughly. And when a bee stings, they die.

We need Bees

Not all bees are the same – globally, there are over 20,000 known species, of which around 270 species have been recorded in the UK. One of these is the famous honeybee, mainly kept by beekeepers in colonies of managed hives. They are important to us, and we cannot live without them. Pollinators like bees and butterflies help pollinate around 75% of our plants and 35% of our food crops—including fruits and vegetables.

Caution:

No content in Nil Desperandum is advice and should never be used as a substitute for direct medical advice from your doctor or other qualified clinician, medical practitioner or specialist.

Newspapers for the masses

This is amazing... before 28th November 1814, you couldn't buy a newspaper as we know it today for love or money (as the saying goes). Then, suddenly, newspapers became available to a mass audience for the first time. However, newsbooks had been printed in Britain in the 1640s – the first weekly English newsbooks appeared in November 1641, on the eve of the civil war.

The *Times* of London led the pack to be the first one printed by automatic, steam-powered presses. The presses were built by German inventors Friedrich Koenig and Andreas Friedrich Bauer. It started a revolution: within a year, *The Times* had a circulation of approximately 5,000 readers.

Read more at:

- <https://blog.oup.com/2014/11/newspaper-publishing-history/> and
- *The Invention of the Newspaper: English Newsbooks 1641-1649*, Joad Raymond

Thumbs Up

Archaeologists have found something interesting about the hands of ancient humans who were able to hold tools with surprising precision. Neanderthal thumbs were far more adept at handling tools than previously thought. A comparative study in 2020 even suggests early man could have held a hammer the same way as we do today. However, the landmark research also indicates Neanderthals may have found precision grips far more taxing.



The research findings may provide an insight into how the two types of humans were matched in terms of technological abilities, even explaining why the Neanderthals disappeared and Homo Sapiens thrived.

Modern humans (*Homo sapiens* or *Homo sapiens sapiens*) are the only surviving members of the hominin clade, a branch of great apes characterised by erect posture and bipedal locomotion; manual dexterity and increased tool use; and a general trend toward larger, more complex brains and societies.

Many people think that we are the only species of the human genus that ever walked on this planet. It's not true. Read an article on *15 types of Human Species* ([here](#)). Also, there's an article in *The Times* ([here](#)) that's worth reading.

Picture Credit: "Neanderthal Family (detail of diorama)" by Kojotisko is marked with CC0 1.0

The myth of the Lambton Worm



The Lambton Worm is a legend from County Durham in North East England. The story takes place around the River Wear and is one of the area's most famous pieces of folklore, having been adapted from written and oral tradition into pantomime and song formats.

This is the story, from the Middle Ages... a wild, rebellious character, a young noble man called John Lambton, the heir of Lambton, the fine estate and hall by the side of the swift-flowing Wear, went fishing on a Sunday instead of going to church. He was warned not to fish on a Sunday by a witch or a wise old man but did so, nevertheless. He ignored the warning that no good can come from missing church. Instead of catching a fish, he caught a worm. He threw the worm (a young dragon) down a well, where it continued to grow, but John was unaware of this as by then, he had gone on the Crusades.

He returned to his village from the Crusades to find that the worm had grown into a fearsome dragon terrorising nearby villages, eating sheep, preventing cows from producing milk, and snatching small children. Other knights had tried to defeat it but had failed.

John sought advice from the witch or wise man of Brugeford on how to kill the dragon, and help was agreed for a price. The price was that John would have to slay the first creature he met after killing the dragon, or he would be cursed. John agreed and was given a suit of spiked armour to fight the beast to prevent it coiling up and crushing him.

John had cleverly arranged with his father before going into battle that he would blow his hunting horn if he had succeeded in killing the beast and, on hearing it, his father would release his faithful hound. John would kill the dog and complete his bargain.

John and the beast engaged in a fearsome fight, and the suit of armour did its work. With a mighty blow, John struck off the beast's head and, as planned, he blew his horn. His father hearing the sound of victory grew excited and forgot to release the dog instead he ran to greet his son and became the first living thing John saw after his battle. But John could not bring himself to kill the old man; instead he slew the dog, but the curse had been set. The next nine generations of Lambtons died violent deaths.

From: *More English Fairy Tales 1894* by J Jacobs.

Picture Credit: "Dragon" by wili_hybrid is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

I didn't know that...



Picture Credit: "Ewan McGregor - TIFF 09" by csztova is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Ewan McGregor, well known for his role as the young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the 'prequel' *Star Wars* films and an international superstar, has an older brother who is a former Tornado GR4 pilot (and now a flight instructor) in the Royal Air Force; Colin McGregor's pilot call sign is "Obi Two".

The most British thing ever said

On 12th March 1938, a formal luncheon was given by the British government for the German ambassador Joachim Von Ribbentrop.

Ribbentrop is reported to have said to Winston Churchill "Don't forget that if there is a war, we will have the Italians on our side".

After a brief pause, a puff on his cigar and a sip of champagne Churchill's alleged response was "Well dear boy, that's only fair. We had them last time".



Plenty to laugh about...



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Great Advertising...



CLICK HERE TO WATCH>>>

<http://onesmartplace.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Tool-Station-Humour.mp4>

What can happen to you when you fall down a rabbit hole

On 26th November 1865, "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll was published in America. Actually, that's not quite true. It's not the right name of the popular Nursery Rhyme or the right name of the man who wrote it.

Although *Alice in Wonderland* is how we know it, its full name is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. And the right name of the English author we know as Lewis Carroll was Charles Dodgson.

It tells of a young girl named Alice, who falls through a rabbit hole into a subterranean fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre, twisting and turning logic on its head and giving the story lasting popularity with both adults and children.

The first king of motor racing

Inspired by an article in the Daily Telegraph 24/11/2020, by Jim White at: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/formula-1/2020/11/24/sir-henry-oneal-de-hane-segrave-motor-racings-biggles-led-life/>
Other sources: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sir-Henry-O'Neal-de-Hane-Segrave> and https://bluebird-electric.net/henry_segrave.htm



The Germans tried to kill him but failed, although he was shot in the wrist and foot. **Sir Henry O'Neal de Hane Segrave** (22 September 1896 – 13 June 1930) was an early British pioneer in land speed and water speed records. Segrave, who set three land and one water record, was the first to hold both titles simultaneously and the first to travel at over 200 miles per hour (320 km/h) in a land vehicle. He died, nearly 34 years of age, in an accident in 1930 shortly after setting a new world water speed record on Windermere in the Lake District. The Segrave Trophy was established to commemorate his life.

Picture Credit: [Cropped] "File:Bundesarchiv Bild 102-09944, Sir Henry Segrave.jpg" by Unknown is licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

Britannica.com records some interesting background to Segrave's life: *'Segrave was educated at Eton and Sandhurst and served with the Royal Air Force in World War I. He won the French Grand Prix (1923) and the San Sebastian Grand Prix (1924) in Spain. He was the first racing driver to wear a crash helmet. He also won the 200-mile (322-kilometre) race at Brooklands in England three times (1921, 1925, and 1926).*

In 1926 he first broke the land speed record, driving a Sunbeam at 152.33 miles per hour. He improved on that on 29th March 1927, at Daytona, Florida when, driving a 1,000-horsepower Sunbeam with a World War I aero-engine, he became the first driver to exceed 200 miles per hour as he established a new record of 203.79 miles per hour.'

Jim White put it aptly in a Daily Telegraph article, 'Segrave was 'motor racing's Biggles, who led a life so extraordinary it seems like fiction.'

The Stone of Scone

Stone of Scone, also called Stone of Destiny, Scottish Gaelic Lia Fail - stone that for centuries was associated with the crowning of Scottish kings and then, in 1296, was taken to England and later placed under the Coronation Chair. The stone, weighing 336 pounds (152 kg), is a rectangular block of sandstone (almost certainly of Scottish origin) measuring 26 inches (66 cm) by 16 inches (41 cm) by 11 inches (28 cm). A Latin cross is its only decoration.

It may only be a sandstone block (weighing nearly 340 pounds), but it was the seat upon which the ancient kings of Scotland were crowned. After beating the Scots in 1296, King Edward I of England set off for home with the Stone as a spoil of war. King Edward's army had barely reached English soil when he made a sudden and mysterious return trip to Scone, possibly because rumours abounded that what he had was a copy. The King eventually returned to London with a stone that remained in Westminster Abbey for six and a half centuries after the English captured it - until it was stolen again in 1950. Its primary connection with Scotland has always been acknowledged. Shakespeare refers indirectly to the Stone in his play "Macbeth," where Scone is named the place for Macbeth's and Malcolm's coronations.

In November 1996, the Stone was returned to Scotland and is now in Edinburgh Castle.

Read more at: [Historic Mysteries](#), [HERE](#)

History of Pantomime

Sources: [Pantomime Scripts](#) | [Limelight Scripts](#)
[The History of Pantomime \(historic-uk.com\)](#)



Picture Credit: "Snow White - Run Through 3" by fabola is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Origins

The origins of British Pantomime probably started in the middle ages. They blended the traditions of the Italian "Commedia dell'Arte" and the British Music hall to produce the art form that is Pantomime. "Commedia dell'Arte" was a type of travelling street entertainment which came from Italy in the 16th century.

It had a repertoire of stories that were played out in fairgrounds and marketplaces. The troupes were often made up of family members who would inherit their characters, costumes, masks and stories from their parents or grandparents. Nowadays, pantomimes are nearly always based on well-known and loved children's stories such as Peter Pan, Aladdin, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and so on.

Ingredients (what every pantomime must have)

- 'Goodies' and 'Baddies'. It's not a proper pantomime unless it has a fairy Queen and the Demon King.
- The 'Principal Girl'. Nearly always played by the prettiest female in the cast.
- The Chorus and the Juveniles. The element of song and dance in Pantomime is extremely important as is some well-choreographed slapstick.

Like every good story, a pantomime has a plot and characters and of course, an ending. The plot is straightforward: The girl dressed as a boy who is the son of a man dressed as a woman, will win the other girl (surprisingly dressed as a girl!), with the assistance of a person(s) dressed in an animal skin, or something along those lines. The confusion is part of the fun.

Goodies and Baddies

Every pantomime has, or rather must have, goodies and baddies as [Limelight Scripts](#) explains ([here](#)):

The fairy Queen and the Demon King appear in all pantos, although their exact guise and title may differ. From Old King Rat to modern Fairy Liquid, Peter Pan and Hook, names vary according to the location and topicality of shows, but certain stage directions nearly always hold strong. Good enters from stage right and Evil from stage left. This tradition of Evil entering from the sinister side goes back to the mystery plays and the few working star traps [through which the demon used to be projected in a puff of smoke] can always be found in the down stage left position. This tradition seems to echo medieval times when the entrances to heaven and hell were placed on these sides.

Remote Amazon forest reveals ancients' rock art

Excerpted from article by Dalya Alberge in The Guardian on 29th November 2020 at: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/nov/29/sistine-chapel-of-the-ancients-rock-art-discovered-in-remote-amazon-forest>

Picture Credit: "Parque Nacional Chiribiquete, Colombia" by JBPpress is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



Parque Nacional Chiribiquete, Colômbia
Com platôs e pinturas rupestres, o Parque Nacional Chiribiquete, na Bacia Amazônica, foi declarado Patrimônio da Humanidade tanto por sua natureza como por sua relevância cultural. Cerca de 75 mil pinturas pré-históricas documentam cenas de caça, batalhas, danças e cerimônias em torno do Culto do Jaguar.

Tens of thousands of ice-age paintings across a cliff face shed light on people and animals from 12,500 years ago: One of the world's largest collections of prehistoric rock art has been discovered in the Amazonian rainforest. Hailed as "the Sistine Chapel of the ancients", archaeologists have found tens of thousands of paintings of animals and humans created up to 12,500 years ago across cliff faces that stretch across nearly eight miles in Colombia.

The site is in the Serranía de la Lindosa where, along with the Chiribiquete national park, other rock art had been found. The documentary's presenter, Ella Al-Shamahi, an archaeologist and explorer, told the *Observer*: "The new site is so new, they haven't even given it a name yet."

Extinct ice age animals



Picture Credit: "File:Pleistocene mammals of Chile.jpg" by Art by Jorge González. Published by Sergio Soto-Acuña; Rodrigo A. Otero; David Rubilar-Rogers; Alexander O. Vargas is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

Their date is based partly on their depictions of now-extinct ice age animals, such as the mastodon, a prehistoric relative of the elephant that hasn't roamed South America for at least 12,000 years. There are also images of the palaeolama, an extinct camelid, as well as giant sloths and ice age horses. These animals were all seen and painted by some of the very first humans ever to reach the Amazon. Their pictures give a glimpse into a lost, ancient civilisation. Such is the sheer scale of paintings that they will take generations to study. The discovery, by a British-Colombian team, funded by the European Research Council, was made in 2019 but has been kept secret until now as it was filmed for a major **Channel 4** series to be screened in December 2020: *Jungle Mystery: Lost Kingdoms of the Amazon*.

Talking Dog for Sale

A Dublin man sees a sign outside a Kerry farmhouse: 'Talking Dog for Sale'...

He rings the bell. The owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden.

The man sees a very nice-looking Black Labrador Retriever sitting there on a brick path.

"Do you really talk?" He asks the dog.

"Yes!" The Labrador replies, very politely.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks, "So, tell me your story!"

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I joined the Garda."

"In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world drug lords, because no one imagined that a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years."

"But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger, so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Dublin airport to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dirty dealings and was awarded several medals. I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired!"

The man is amazed. He went back into the house and asked the Kerryman how much he wanted for the dog.

"Ten quid!" The owner says.

"£10? But this dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bastard. He's never been out of the garden!"



What are endorphins?

Ever feel amazing after a good, hard workout? You may have heard that tiny neurochemicals released by your body are what causes your “high”. These neurochemicals are called endorphins. While endorphins might make you feel good after a long jog, there’s a lot more to know about the role they play in regulating your body.

The word *endorphin* comes from putting together the words “*endogenous*,” meaning from within the body, and “*morphine*,” which is an opiate pain reliever. In other words, endorphins got their name because they are natural pain relievers.

Endorphins consist of a large group of peptides. They are produced by the central nervous system and the pituitary gland. Since *endorphins* act on the opiate receptors in our brains, they reduce pain and boost pleasure, resulting in a feeling of well-being. *Endorphins* are released in response to pain or stress, but they’re also released during other activities, like eating, exercise, or sex.

What’s their purpose?

Not all of the roles that *endorphins* play in the body are entirely understood. We do know that endorphins are important to reduce pain and enhance pleasure.

Endorphins are involved in our natural reward circuits and are related to important activities like eating, drinking, physical fitness, and so on. They also surge during pregnancy. They minimise discomfort and pain and maximise pleasure. This helps us to continue functioning despite injury or stress.

Since humans naturally seek to feel pleasure and avoid pain, we’re more likely to do an activity if it makes us feel good. From an evolutionary standpoint, this helps ensure survival.

Humans are social creatures, and we thrive in communities. *Endorphins* have been shown to help reinforce social attachments. While this may not be entirely true anymore, in early human history, people who stuck together in social groups were better able to survive and reproduce.

Well, now you know what *endorphins* are, you probably feel better.



Picture Credit: "Fitness Classes" by Nottingham Trent University is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Take your time... What’s the only difference in the two pictures



Foxy Labour



vive la différence

It’s strange that there are very few words in the English language that have a gender differentiation; the most prominent of them all is blond (a man with gold coloured hair) and blonde (a woman with gold coloured hair).

“Trials of the Century”

Based on an article by Michael Ray at: <https://www.britannica.com/list/order-in-the-court-10-trials-of-the-century> Michel Ray earned a B.A. in history from Michigan State University in 1995. He was a teacher in the Chicago suburbs and Seoul, South Korea, before joining Britannica as a freelancer in 2000.

Picture Credit: "Criminalizing lawyers activists journalists" by AK Rockefeller is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



The spectacle of the driven prosecutor, the impassioned defence attorney, and the accused, whose fate hangs in the balance, has received ample treatment in literature, on stage, and on the silver screen. More than once, such events have been excitedly referred to as "the trial of the century!" But which one really steals the scene? Here are ten significant, scandalous, or sensational trials in history. This list was adapted from a post that originally appeared on the Britannica Blog.

Trial of Socrates

Reviled by those he sought to serve, Socrates was tried in the Senate to threaten Athenian democracy in 399 BCE, formally on charges of impiety and corrupting the youth. He was ultimately condemned to death by poisoning (the poison probably being hemlock). Socrates' trial and death raise vital questions about the nature of democracy, the value of free speech, and the potential conflict between moral and religious obligation and the state's laws.

Trial of Galileo

As one of the most prominent proponents of the Copernican model of the solar system, Galileo faced trial at the hands of the Inquisition in 1633. During his first appearance before the Inquisition, he was confronted with an edict recording that he was forbidden to discuss the Copernican theory. In his defence, Galileo produced a letter from Cardinal Bellarmine, by then dead, stating that he was admonished only not to hold or defend the theory. In what can only be called a plea bargain, Galileo confessed to having overstated his case. He was pronounced to be vehemently suspect of heresy and was condemned to life imprisonment and was made to abjure formally. In 1992 the Catholic Church finally admitted its error at the Inquisition, and in 2000 Pope John Paul II gave a formal apology for the trial of Galileo and other sins of the church.

Salem witch trials

Between May and October 1692, the Massachusetts Bay Colony town of Salem was overrun with hysteria over suspected witches. Stimulated by voodoo tales told by a West Indian slave, Tituba, a few young girls claimed they were possessed by the devil and subsequently accused three Salem women, including Tituba, of witchcraft.

As Tituba and other accused persons were pressured and consequently incriminated others in false confessions, public hysteria over the threat of witchcraft mounted throughout Massachusetts. Nineteen "witches" were eventually convicted and sentenced to hanging, while many others were imprisoned. By September 1692, the climate of mass hysteria had begun to wane, and public opinion first stopped and then condemned, the trials. The governor dissolved the special court in October and released the remaining prisoners.

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The Trial of Lizzie Borden

More than a century after her acquittal on charges of brutally axe-murdering her parents, Lizzie Borden remained in the popular consciousness thanks to the nursery rhyme "*Lizzie Borden took an axe; And gave her mother forty whacks; And when she saw what she had done; She gave her father forty-one.*" So, what happened? On 4th August 1892, Lizzie's father left home to conduct his business, leaving in the house, besides his wife, an Irish maid (Bridget Sullivan) and Lizzie. On his return, he settled on a couch for a nap. About 11:15 am, Lizzie said she discovered her father dead, repeatedly struck in the head with a sharp instrument. Upstairs, his wife was found, even more brutally mutilated; examination proved that her death had preceded her husband's by an hour or so. It was found that Lizzie had tried to purchase prussic acid (a poison) on August 3, and a few days later, she was alleged to have burned a dress in a stove. Nevertheless, in June 1893, a jury acquitted her, given that there was only circumstantial and no hard evidence against Lizzie.

Black Sox Scandal

One of the darkest hours in baseball history occurred in 1921 when eight members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox were indicted on charges of having 'thrown' that year's World Series in what was dubbed the Black Sox Scandal. Court records suggest that the eight players received \$70,000 to \$100,000 for losing five games to three. Despite their eventual acquittal, the accused players were banned from baseball, and Shoeless Joe Jackson's role in the scandal was immortalised in the phrase "*Say it ain't so, Joe.*"

Scopes Monkey Trial

The 1925 "Scopes Monkey Trial" pitted two of the most skilled orators of the era, William Jennings Bryan (for the prosecution) and Clarence Darrow (for the defence), against each other in a debate over the teaching of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. In March 1925, the Tennessee legislature had declared unlawful the teaching of any doctrine denying the divine creation of man as taught by the Bible. World attention focused on the trial proceedings, which promised confrontation between fundamentalist literal belief and liberal interpretation of the Scriptures. The judge ruled out any test of the law's constitutionality or argument on the validity of the theory, limiting the trial to the single question of whether John T. Scopes had taught evolution, which he admittedly had. He was convicted and fined \$100. On appeal, the state Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the 1925 law but acquitted Scopes on the technicality that he had been fined excessively. The law was repealed in 1967.

Sacco-Vanzetti Case

This case involved the controversial murder trial in Massachusetts that extended over seven years (1920–27) and resulted in the execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. The trial resulted from the murders in South Braintree, Massachusetts, on 15th April 1920, of F.A. Parmenter, paymaster of a shoe factory, and Alessandro Berardelli, the guard accompanying him, to steal the payroll that they were carrying. On 5th May, Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian anarchists who had immigrated to the United States in 1908, were arrested for the crime. On 31st May, they were brought to trial and later were found guilty. All attempts for retrial on the ground of false identification failed. On 18th November 1925, Celestino Madeiros, then under a sentence for murder, confessed that he had participated in the crime with the Joe Morelli gang. The state Supreme Court refused to upset the verdict because at that time, the trial judge had the final power to reopen on the ground of additional evidence. The two men were sentenced to death on 9th April 1927. A storm of protest arose across the US, and the governor of Massachusetts appointed an independent committee to investigate. Still, on 3rd August 1927, the governor refused to exercise his power of clemency. Demonstrations proceeded in many cities throughout the world, and bombs were set off in New York City and Philadelphia, but all to no avail as Sacco and Vanzetti, still maintaining their innocence, were executed on 23rd August 1927.

The Charles Manson Trial

Manson spent much of his youth in juvenile reformatories in West Virginia before heading to California in 1967. There, by 1968, he had become the leader of the "*Family*," a communal religious cult dedicated to studying and implementing his eccentric religious teachings, which were drawn from science fiction as well as the occult and fringe psychology.

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<<<< Manson's hold over his followers was graphically illustrated in 1968–69 when the Family carried out several murders on Manson's orders. The most famous victim was actress Sharon Tate, wife of motion-picture director Roman Polanski, who was killed in her Los Angeles home along with three guests. In 1971, Manson was sentenced to death, but, following the abolition of capital punishment in California in 1972, his sentence was commuted to life in prison.

The Trial of O.J. Simpson

O.J. Simpson was a Hall of Fame football star and who would forever be associated with a brutal double murder, a low-speed freeway chase in a Ford Bronco watched live by millions on television, and a brilliant trial defence by an all-star team that included Alan Dershowitz and Johnnie Cochran. 12th June 1994, Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were stabbed to death outside her home in Los Angeles. After that "chase" and thoughts that Simpson might commit suicide, he was arrested and charged with the two murders, pleading not guilty. Simpson's eventual acquittal on 3rd October 1995—despite what seemed to many to be overwhelming physical evidence—owed much to Cochran's summation of the state's evidence: "If it [a bloody glove found at the crime scene] doesn't fit, you must acquit." That wasn't the end for Simpson. In a separate civil trial decision in 1997, he was found liable for the deaths and was ordered to pay \$33.5 million in damages to the families.

The Impeachment and Trial of President Bill Clinton

What initially began as a probe into Arkansas real estate dealings turned into a five-year investigation headed by independent counsel Kenneth Starr that ultimately focused on President Bill Clinton's relationship with a White House intern named Monica Lewinsky. Clinton denied the charges under oath and emphatically in a press conference ("I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky"), but evidence emerged that the president had lied. On 19th December 1998, the House of Representatives approved two articles of impeachment for perjury and obstruction of justice—only the second time a president had been impeached. On 12th February, the Senate acquitted the president of the charge of perjury by a vote of 55–45, with 10 Republicans joining the 45 Democrats. The vote on the charge of obstruction of justice was 50–50, with 5 Republicans joining the Democrats. Several senators who voted for acquittal were critical of the president's behaviour but said that the charges had not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt or, even if they had, did not constitute the "high crimes and misdemeanours" specified by the Constitution as grounds for removal from office.

What is Psephology?

It's a noun and it means the study of elections.

The word comes from Greek psêphos "small stone, pebble." (The Greeks used pebbles in counting and arithmetic functions; the ancient Athenians also used pebbles to cast votes in elections and trials.) The element -logy is the completely naturalised combining form used in the names of sciences (geology, biology) and bodies of knowledge (theology, astrology).

The 20th-century British historian R.B. McCallum wrote in a personal letter that while with C.S. Lewis and other heavy-hitting philologists, he proposed the term electionology, which so offended the sensibilities of Lewis and the others that they proposed the etymologically correct psephology, avoiding the dreadful Latin-Greek hybrid. Psephology entered English in the mid-20th century.

Source: Dictionary.com



What is the difference between an Astrolabe and a Sextant?

To answer the question, you need to understand what these are and what they are used for.

Astrolabe

Wikipedia describes an Astrolabe like this:

It's an ancient astronomical device that equates to a handheld model of the universe. Its various functions also make it an elaborate inclinometer and an analogue calculation device capable of working out several kinds of problems in astronomy.



Picture Credit: "BD479 Astrolabe" by listentoreason is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Historically used by astronomers, it can measure the altitude above the horizon of a celestial body, day or night; it can be used to identify stars or planets, to determine local latitude given local time (and vice versa), to survey, or to triangulate. It was used in classical antiquity, the Islamic Golden Age, the European Middle Ages and the Age of Discovery for all these purposes.

Some people might have trouble with the word *inclinometer* – it's an instrument used to measure the tilt angle from the true vertical line or horizontal plane concerning the earth's surface.

Sextant



Picture Credit: "Sextant" by mcarpentier is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Wikipedia describes a Sextant (used for navigation), like this:

A sextant is a doubly reflecting navigation instrument that measures the angular distance between two visible objects. The primary use of a sextant is to measure the angle between an astronomical object and the horizon for celestial navigation. The estimation of this angle, the altitude, is

known as sighting or shooting the object, or taking a sight. The angle, and the time when it was measured, can be used to calculate a position line on a nautical or aeronautical chart—for example, sighting the Sun at noon or Polaris at night (in the Northern Hemisphere) to estimate latitude.

... and when used for astronomical observations, like this:

Sextants for astronomical observations were devices depicting a sixth of a circle, used primarily for measuring the positions of stars. They are of significant historical importance but have been replaced by transit telescopes, astrometry techniques, and satellites such as Hipparcos.

My wife left me
today, she says I
put sports ahead
of our relationship.
We were together
6 seasons.

The Industrial Revolution in World History

This selection is from *The Industrial Revolution in World History* by Peter N. Stearns.

Countries sending spies to steal business secrets is not a recent phenomenon. During the Industrial Revolution, spies swarmed across Britain in attempt to steal its secrets:

"There were spies everywhere in eighteenth-century Britain. Though they disguised themselves in a variety of ways, they all had one ambition – to unearth the secrets of Britain's industrial success. They came from many different European countries, from Russia, Denmark, Sweden and Prussia, but the most eager of the spies were from Britain's greatest rival, France. Many were very erudite men who posed as disinterested tourists, compiling reports which they presented as purely academic treatises. Others posed as workmen in the hope of getting close to some fiendishly clever piece of machinery. And wherever the spies failed to gain entry, they were often reduced to lurking around local inns, hoping to engage knowledgeable workmen in conversation and induce them to cross the Channel for some splendid reward."

"It was already evident to the French and other Europeans that Britain was gaining an industrial lead in the first half of the eighteenth century. There was, for example, the newly acquired technique of smelting iron with purified coal or 'coke' instead of charcoal, a fuel which was becoming prohibitively expensive. There were processes for the preparation of raw wool, which were trade secrets and much sought after, as were some of the arcane skills of watchmakers. In the absence of any really reliable textbooks or journals that might disseminate information on how things were done, the most effective way to steal an innovation was simply to bribe a skilled workman to leave his employer."

"Indeed, in 1719 the British government had passed a law forbidding craftsmen to emigrate to France or any other rival country and put a penalty on attempted enticement. At that time the chief concern was the loss of iron founders and watchmakers. But after the mid-century it was the astonishing developments in textiles which were the chief target of foreign spies and the subject of protectionist legislation outlawing the export of tools and machinery as well as skilled men. It was in this trade that the English turncoat, John Holker, the master of all French spies, began an extraordinary career which spanned half a century of rapid innovation."

Credits:

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Comment from Martin Pollins

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The Taung child



Picture Credit: "Taung Child" by Ryan Somma is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

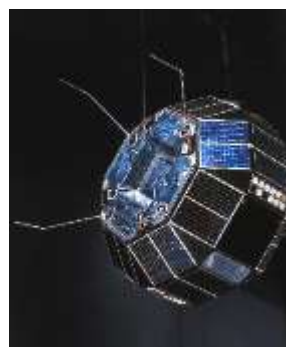
Way back in 1924 (on 28th October of that year), quarrymen of the Northern Lime Company in Taung, South Africa were busy digging away when one of their number (Miner M.de Bruin) discovered an infant fossil skull. It is around 2.5 million year's old.

In the early part of the 20th century, the workers at limestone quarries in South Africa routinely found fossils from the tufa formations that they mined. In case you are not familiar with tufa formations, you'll be interested to know that tufa is a variety of limestone formed when carbonate minerals precipitate out of ambient temperature water. And it's highly porous.

The fossil was identified by the anthropologist Raymond Dart as a new hominin species, *Australopithecus africanus* and was called "Taung child".

The Taung skull is in the repository at the University of Witwatersrand. Dean Falk, a specialist in brain evolution, has called it "the most important anthropological fossil of the twentieth century."

The Sattelite called Prospero



The first and only Earth satellite launched by Great Britain, Prospero was launched with a British Black Arrow missile on 28th October 1971. The launch took place from the rocket-testing facility at Woomera, Australia.

Prospero weighed 145 pounds (66 kg) and was primarily designed to test the efficiency of various technical innovations, such as a new telemetry system and solar

cell assemblies. It also carried detectors to measure the density of high-speed micrometeoroid particles of space dust in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

It was built by the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough in Hampshire and was initially called *Puck*.

Picture Credit: "X3 satellite 'Prospero', with associated handling equipment (satellites; space satellites)" by British Aircraft Corporation is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

WW II: Muslims and the Waffen-SS

Sources:

Quora.com - text by Jim Holloway and Lucas Hofler

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Waffen_Mountain_Division_of_the_SS_Handschar_\(1st_Croatian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Waffen_Mountain_Division_of_the_SS_Handschar_(1st_Croatian))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Waffen_Grenadier_Division_of_the_SS

Who were they?

The 13th Waffen Mountain Division of the SS "Handschar" (1st Croatian) was a mountain infantry division of the Waffen-SS, an armed branch of the German Nazi Party that served alongside but was never formally part of the Wehrmacht during World War II. From March to December 1944, it fought a counter-insurgency campaign against communist-led Yugoslav Partisan resistance forces in the Independent State of Croatia- this was a fascist puppet state of Germany that included almost all of modern-day Croatia, all of modern-day Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as parts of Serbia. It was given the title *Handschar*, named after a local fighting knife or sword carried by Ottoman policemen during the centuries that the region was part of the Ottoman Empire. It was the first non-Germanic Waffen-SS division, and its formation marked the expansion of the Waffen-SS into a multi-ethnic military force, or that was its intention. It was composed of Bosnian Muslims (ethnic Bosniaks) with some Catholic Croat soldiers and mostly German and Yugoslav Volksdeutsche (ethnic German) officers and non-commissioned officers. It took an oath of allegiance to both Adolf Hitler and the Croatian leader Ante Pavelić.

Background

Although intended to be a Muslim division, with German officers, not enough signed up to it - the Bosnian Muslim community leaders mostly opposed the attempt to turn Muslim Bosnians and Serbs against each other. But, at the same time, they did appeal to the Nazi authorities for protection from atrocities being carried out by the fascist Ustaša Croatian forces.

A significant number of Bosnian Muslims joined *Handschar*, though probably fewer than joined Tito's non-sectarian Partisans. The *Handschar* were distinguished by their brutality, but it should be seen in the context of the extreme racism and proud savagery of the Ustaša forces against Serbs, Muslims, Roma, Jews, and opposition Croats. Of course, the Nazis played on pre-existing grievances and earlier episodes of ethnic conflict in the region.

As for what the Nazis thought of Muslims, there is some evidence that Hitler - like Churchill - admired Muslims' supposed willingness to die for a cause, but most Muslims suffered from the fatal handicap (in Nazi eyes) of not being German, not Aryan, and not even White. They tried to incite Muslims living under the colonial rule of their British and French enemies to rise up against their rulers - just as the British had done with Lawrence of Arabia in the First World War - but few took the bait, perhaps remembering how the Arabs had felt betrayed first time around. Instead, Muslims, albeit unenthusiastically, joined the allied armies.

Muslims joined both the Wehrmacht (Legion Freies Arabien) and the Waffen SS (13. "Handschar" and 21. "Skanderbeg") but for different reasons, depending on the area where they came from, Middle East or the Balkans. The Germans hoped to enrol a significant number of Arab Muslims in the Wehrmacht and use their anti-British and anti-colonial sentiments against the Allies. They were seen as a useful and, if rightly motivated, even fanatical tool that could be used against the Allies, nothing more. A *means to an end* might be a good way to describe them.

Mutinies in the Wehrmacht & Waffen-SS

Excerpted from Axis History, [here](#)

Mutinies that took place in German units below is based on a list compiled by George Lepre with additional information from other forum members of Axis History.

- **1943:** The first *Handschar* mutiny occurred in Villefranche de Rouergue on 16th – 17th September 1943 within SS-Geb.Pi.Btl.13. An infiltrated communist agent started the affair, and five German officers were murdered. The mutiny was quelled within hours by elements of the battalion loyal to the Germans, and order was quickly restored.
- **1944:** A brutal mutiny occurred within two battalions of the 30th SS Division on 27th August 1944 in France. The Russians, Ukrainians, and Poles who belonged to the unit no longer wanted to serve with the SS, so they murdered over 200 Germans and deserted to the Allies. The French organised them as a new battalion within the Foreign Legion's 13e Demi-Brigade, and they fought on the Allied side until the capitulation. The men were returned to the Soviet Union after the war and sent to the Gulag.

The second *Handschar* mutiny occurred on 21st October 1944 within the Div. Stabsjäger Kompanie. The men simply deserted *en masse*. The Germans managed to contact the mutineers, but the latter refused to return to the division. They later joined the Partisans.

There was a mutiny within the 36. SS-Division (popularly known as the *Sondereinheit "Dirlewanger"*) and a regiment commander was lynched by former concentration camp inmates who had been released and sent to the unit as replacements. A mass desertion took place in Hungary in December 1944.

- **1945:** A Georgian mutiny took place in the Netherlands on the island of Texel in March 1945. The Georgians refused to fight the Western Allies and murdered their German officers. The mutiny was quelled, although some Georgians survived.

FURTHER READING

A Violent Defection – How a Battalion of Ukrainian SS Troops Mutinied and Joined the French Resistance, by MilitaryHistoryNow.com at:

<https://militaryhistorynow.com/2017/07/30/double-cross-how-a-battalion-of-ukrainian-ss-volunteers-mutinied-and-joined-the-french-underground/>



Picture Credit: "File:Men of the Handschar division waiting for food in the Balkan Mountains, Bosnia, March 1944. (49492152336).jpg" by Julius Jääskeläinen is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Cnut's invasion of England: setting the scene for the Norman conquest

Excerpted from an excellent paper by Dr Eleanor Parker at: <https://www.historyextra.com/period/viking/cnuts-invasion-of-england-setting-the-scene-for-the-norman-conquest/>



Picture Credit: "Canute, Tallinn" by tm-tm is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The 1066 battle of Hastings is one of the most famous dates in medieval history. It's a date that's drummed into us during our history lessons at school. But it is often forgotten that the Norman conquest was preceded by another invasion of England some 50 years earlier – led by a Danish warrior called Cnut the Great in 1015–16.

He was also known as Canute and was king of Denmark, England and Norway; together often referred to as the North Sea Empire. Yet, after the deaths of his heirs within a decade of his own and the Norman conquest of England in 1066, this legacy was lost and largely forgotten.

What happened?

In the summer of 1013, the Danish king Svein, accompanied by his son Cnut, launched an invasion of England – the first of the two successful conquests England would witness in the 11th century, but by far the less well known.

Scandinavian armies had been raiding in England off and on for more than 30 years, extracting huge sums of money from the country and putting King Æthelred under ever-increasing pressure, but Svein's arrival in 1013 seems to have been something different – a carefully-planned, full-scale invasion. The invasion progressed with devastating speed: within a few weeks, all the country north of Watling Street – the ancient dividing-line between the north and south of England – had submitted to the Danish king. Next, the south was subdued by violence, and, before the end of the year, Æthelred and his family had been forced to flee to Normandy.

Svein, now king of England and Denmark, ruled from Christmas to Candlemas, but died suddenly on 3rd February 1014. The Danish fleet chose Cnut to succeed him, but the English nobles had other ideas: they contacted Æthelred, still in refuge in Normandy, and invited him to come back as king. They said, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* tells us, "that no lord could be dearer to them than their natural lord, if he would govern more justly than he had done before". In response, Æthelred promised to be a better king, to forgive those who had deserted him, and to "remedy all the things of which they disapproved". On these terms, the agreement was made, and Æthelred returned to England. This time he managed to drive out Cnut, and the fleet went back to Denmark.

When Cnut returned in 1015, Æthelred was ill, and England was divided: large parts of the country submitted to the Danes, while Edmund struggled to put an army together.

Only after Æthelred died in April 1016 did southern England finally unite behind Edmund, and six months of war followed, and the Danes were eventually victorious. Edmund died six weeks later (likely by wounds received in battle or by disease, but some sources say he was murdered), and Cnut was finally sole king of England.

When Cnut died in 1035, after ruling for nearly 20 years, he was buried in Winchester, the traditional seat of power of the kings of Wessex. His empire did not long survive him. After the early death of Harthacnut, Cnut's son by Emma, Æthelred's son Edward regained the English throne – "as was his natural right", the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* says. During his reign, Edward had to deal with those, like Earl Godwine and his sons, who had risen to power under Cnut, but before long, the impact of the Danish Conquest would be overshadowed by the second and more famous conquest of the 11th century.

Credit:

Dr Eleanor Parker is Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Anglo-Norman England at the University of Oxford. She blogs about medieval England at www.aclerkofoxford.blogspot.co.uk. You can follow her on Twitter @ClerkofOxford

Sargassum seaweed

Excerpted from <https://www.encyclopedia.com/medicine/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/sargassum-seaweed>



Picture Credit: "sargassum muticum 10" by Wanderin' Weeta is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Sargassum seaweed is a type of seaweed found along the coasts of Japan and China. Two species, *Sargassum fusiforme* and *Sargassum pallidum* are both referred to as sargassum seaweed or gulfweed in English and hai zao in Chinese.

The seaweed is a brown algae with leafy segments supported at the ocean's surface by air bladders. Many species of sargassum are found worldwide. In fact, the Sargasso Sea, an area of the Caribbean near the West Indies, is named for its large floating masses of sargassum seaweed. However, as used in healing, sargassum is usually of Asian origin and has been used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) since at least the 8th century AD. In TCM, it is characterised as having a cold nature and a salty, bitter taste.

The primary use of sargassum seaweed is to treat goitres. If you don't know, a goitre is a nodule in the neck caused by enlargement of the thyroid gland. The thyroid needs iodine to produce a critical hormone, thyroxine, that regulates body metabolism. When not enough iodine is consumed in the diet, the thyroid gland enlarges. The primary natural sources of dietary iodine are sea salt, fish, and vegetables that live in the ocean. In the days before mechanical refrigeration, it was often difficult for people living far from the sea to get enough iodine in their diets. Today, widespread refrigeration or freezing of fish and rapid transportation to inland markets has made iodine deficiency and goitres rare in the developed world. In addition, commercial salt manufacturers often produce a version of their product, called iodized salt, that is available in supermarkets and has iodine artificially added. However, iodine deficiency is still a global problem and a major cause of mental and learning disabilities.

Biscuit History



The term biscuit comes to English from the French biscuit (bis-qui), which itself has a Latin root: *panis biscotus* refers to bread twice-cooked.

Picture Credit: "DSC04851-Jammie Dodgers" by suzyhazelwood is marked with CC0 1.0

The Romans certainly had a form of biscuit, what we'd now call a rusk, and, as the name suggests, it was essentially bread that was re-baked to make it crisp. By the 14th century, the word biscuit had appeared in English, and the definition was broadening. Twice-baked biscuits were still popular, both savoury and sweet. But other forms, related to pancakes were also becoming more common. Wafers were one of the longest-lasting medieval biscuits, made of a sweetened batter cooked over a fire and could be moulded or rolled as technology improved.

These biscuits weren't just functional but pleasurable as well. They were often eaten at the end of the meal, as a digestive, a role which biscuits would continue to play until the 20th century.

The original long-lasting savoury biscuits didn't die out - as ship-building techniques changed and European populations grew, expanding across the globe, they became a vital part of naval provisions. The age of exploration morphed into the period of conquest and colonisation, and sailors spent increasingly long amounts of time at sea. Ships took on fresh food where they could find it, but the staple ration was preserved - meat and ship's biscuit. The earliest surviving example of a biscuit is from 1784, and it is a ship's biscuit. They were renowned for their inedibility and were so indestructible that some sailors used them as postcards.

Source: article by Dr Annie Gray at: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/the-history-of-the-biscuit/>

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, army and navy rations relied heavily on biscuits. Lizzie Collingham says in her book, *The Biscuit: The History of a Very British Indulgence*, 'dastardly bakers delivered damp, adulterated sacks of biscuit, which quickly contained more weevils than flour. This eventually led to the industrialisation of the baking process, both by the navy itself and by civilian (mostly Quaker) manufacturers, who boasted of their refined, untouched-by-human-hand products, meant only for the middle classes and aristocracy. Huntley & Palmers, Peek Frean, McVitie's, Jacob's, Carr's and Lang's all had their heyday in the 19th century.'

Source: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-humble-biscuit-has-a-noble-history>

Biscuits, as we know them, were developed in the Middle Ages. People were supposed to fast certain foods during Lent, the 40 days before Easter. They were also supposed to confess their sins. The old word for confessing was *shrive*, so the day when confessions were made was *shrive* or *shriven Tuesday*. Later it became *Shrove Tuesday*. At that time, making pancakes was a useful way of using up food like butter, eggs and milk before fasting.

The Tudors were fond of sweet foods (if they could afford them). The rich ate preserved fruit, gingerbread, sugared almonds and jelly. But, in the 16th century, sugar was costly, so most people used honey to sweeten their food.

Along came Marzipan, which was introduced into England in the Middle Ages. The Tudors used the paste, made of almonds and sugar, to make edible sculptures of animals, castles, trees and people, called subtleties. From the Middle Ages, people ate simnel cakes. Simnel was originally the name of fine flour.

At Christmas time, the Tudors enjoyed mince pies, but they had far more significance than today in that they had 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and the apostles, they contained fruit (raisins, currants, prunes) and spices (cloves, mace, black pepper, saffron) and also mutton (the mix sounds revolting) to represent the shepherds. The fashion was for them to be shaped like a crib, but Oliver Cromwell banned this practice.

The Tudors also had Christmas pudding - shaped like a sausage and contained meat, oatmeal and spices. Twelfth Night cake was a fruitcake baked with an item like a coin or dried bean - whoever found it became King or Queen or host for the evening's entertainment. Banbury cakes were first mentioned in 1586. Meanwhile, scones were first mentioned in the early 16th century.

In Tudor times, people ate spiced buns on Good Friday. The first mention of crosses on them was in the 18th century. So by the 1700s, people were eating hot cross buns. Meanwhile, bread and butter pudding also became a typical dish in the 17th century. Eccles cakes also date from the 18th century.

Several new biscuits were invented in the 19th century. *Nice Biscuits* were created about 1860. Other new biscuits included the *Garibaldi* (1861) and the *Cream Cracker* (1885). The Digestive was invented in 1892 by Alexander Grant. In the 20th century, new biscuits were introduced. *Custard Creams* were created in 1908, and *Bourbons* were invented in 1910. Ruth Wakefield invented chocolate chip cookies in 1938. *HobNobs* were introduced in 1985. A chocolate variety was introduced in 1987.

Excerpted from: <http://www.localhistories.org/biscuits.html>

Oldest ship's biscuit

A 215-year-old biscuit dating from the Battle of Trafalgar was sold by Mayfair auction house Dix Noonan Webb in April 2018. The biscuit belonged to Able Seaman Thomas Fletcher, a gunner on board HMS Defence in 1805. It is believed to be the oldest surviving ship's biscuit in the world and predates one from 1852 on show at a museum in Denmark. According to the Royal Museums in Greenwich, the ship's biscuit was a vital part of the crew's diet at sea before canned food was introduced, with beef in tins officially being issued in 1847. Also known as "hardtack", they were made of flour, salt and water.

Take the Biscuit (old saying)

The saying comes from a disparaging reference to the Roman Catholic sacrament formally called extreme unction, part of which is holy communion. If you take the wafer — contemptuously the biscuit — you are nearing the end of your life.

The Empire Biscuit

An Empire biscuit is a sweet biscuit eaten in Scotland and other Commonwealth countries. It is popular in Northern Ireland, and it is an iconic dish in Winnipeg, Canada. It was initially known as the "Linzer biscuit" and later as the "Deutsch biscuit". With the outbreak of World War I, it was renamed: in England to Empire biscuit, in Scotland to Belgian biscuit because Belgium had just been invaded, but in Northern Ireland, it remains known as the German biscuit or biscuit bun. In Scotland, the name now varies depending on the region, with the northeast typically calling it a double shortbread and the West an Empire biscuit. In Northern Ireland, it is commonly found with a jam and coconut topping. It is also known as the "Belgian biscuit" due to being topped in a similar way to a Belgian bun, which is made of pastry or dough. There also exists a biscuit, not unlike the *Jammie Dodger*, which is referred to as a Linzer biscuit. The *Jammie Dodger* is a biscuit named after Roger the Dodger, a comic book character featured in *The Beano*, which first appeared in 1953.

Tobacco, Coffee and other Discoveries by Sir Walter Raleigh

Picture Credit: "DSC04851-Jammie Dodgers" by suzyhazelwood is marked with CC0 1.0



Sir Walter Raleigh (also spelt Raleigh) born c. 1552 (or 1554), died 29th October 1618, was an English landed gentleman, writer, poet, soldier, politician, courtier, spy and explorer. He was a cousin of Sir Richard Grenville and younger half-brother of Sir Humphrey Gilbert. He is best known for popularising tobacco in England and was one of the most notable figures of the Elizabethan era. He was born to a Protestant family in Devon, the son of Walter Raleigh and Catherine Champernowne. Little is known of his early life, though in his late teens

Raleigh rose rapidly in the favour of Queen Elizabeth I and received his knighthood in 1585. He was instrumental in the English colonisation of North America and was granted a royal patent to explore Virginia, paving the way for future English settlements. In 1591, he secretly married Elizabeth Throckmorton, one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, without the Queen's permission, for which he and his wife were sent to the Tower of London. After his release, they retired to his estate at Sherborne, Dorset.

In 1594, Raleigh heard of a "City of Gold" in South America and sailed to find it, publishing an exaggerated account of his experiences in a book that contributed to the legend of "El Dorado". After Queen Elizabeth died in 1603, Raleigh was again imprisoned in the Tower, this time for being involved in the Main Plot against King James I, who was unfavourably disposed towards him. In 1616, he was released to lead a second expedition in search of *El Dorado*. During the expedition, men led by his top commander ransacked a Spanish outpost in violation of his pardon terms and the 1604 peace treaty with Spain. Raleigh returned to England and, to appease the Spanish, he was arrested and executed in 1618.

Raleigh's family was highly Protestant in religious orientation and had several near escapes during the reign of Roman Catholic Queen Mary I of England. In the most notable of these, his father had to hide in a tower to avoid execution. As a result, Raleigh developed a hatred of Roman Catholicism during his childhood and proved himself quick to express it after Protestant Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558. In matters of religion, Elizabeth was more moderate than her half-sister Mary.

In 1569, Raleigh left for France to serve with the Huguenots in the French religious civil wars. In 1572, Raleigh was registered as an undergraduate at Oriel College, Oxford, but he left a year later without a degree. He finished his education in the Inns of Court, and in 1575, was admitted to the Middle Temple, having previously been a member of Lyon's Inn, one of the Inns of Chancery. At his trial in 1603, he lied, saying that he had never studied law for some reason that is not immediately apparent.

In 1584, Queen Elizabeth granted Raleigh a royal charter authorising him to explore, colonise and rule any "remote, heathen and barbarous lands, countries and territories, not actually possessed of any Christian Prince or inhabited by Christian People," in return for one-fifth of all the gold and silver that might be mined there. This charter specified that Raleigh had seven years in which to establish a settlement or else lose his right to do so. Raleigh and Elizabeth intended that the venture should provide riches from the New World and a base from which to send privateers on raids against the treasure fleets of Spain. Raleigh himself never visited North America, although he led expeditions in 1595 and 1617 to the Orinoco River basin in South America in search of the golden city of *El Dorado*. Instead, he sent others in 1585 to found the Roanoke Colony, later known as the "Lost Colony". A story about this appeared on page 15, of Nil Desperandum in March 2021.

An Hilarious Skit

Listen to Bob Newhart 'speaking to Sir Walter Raleigh' about tobacco (and coffee) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIKbtLrBZ0k>

A young Bob Newhart runs an hilarious skit on the discovery of tobacco in the American colonies by 'Walt' (Sir Walter Raleigh).

Don't monkey about...



Once upon a time, there lived a poor, but wise cap seller. Every day, after selling his caps, he took the route through the jungle back home for an afternoon nap. One day, he was too tired. He decided to take a nap under a tree in the forest itself.

Leaving his basket of caps aside, he fell off to sleep, without noticing the monkeys on the tree. When he woke up, he realised that his caps weren't where he left them. He looked around and finally spotted the monkeys on the tree. The monkeys were wearing his caps.

The cap seller thought of a smart way to get his caps back. He took off his cap and dusted it. All the monkeys imitated him. He then tossed the cap in the air and caught it midway. The monkeys did the same. He finally took off his cap, and threw it on the ground in frustration. The monkeys fell for his trick, and threw their caps down as well. The wise cap seller picked up all his caps and fled.

20 years later the cap seller's grandson, took up the same profession. He took the same jungle route back home every afternoon. One fine day, he wasn't feeling too well, and happened to take a nap under the same tree, that his grandfather had chosen 20 years ago.

When he woke up, he was faced with the same situation his grandfather had to face two decades before. Since he was aware of that incident, he decided to trick the monkeys into doing the same thing. He took off his hat and waved it to them. The monkeys took off their caps and waved them back at him. He then wore the hat back. The monkey put on their hats as well. He finally took off his hat and threw it on the ground, just as his grandfather had. On doing this, one monkey got off the tree and came to the ground.

He then slapped the cap seller hard, snatched the cap he had flung to the ground, climbed back onto the tree and shouted *, "You're not the only one who had a grandfather!"

* they were talking-monkeys!



Bumps on the head

Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrenology>
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/inside-the-mind/human-brain/phrenology.htm>



Picture Credit: "Charles Dickens' belief in phrenology" by Gresham College is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Phrenology (from Ancient Greek *phrēn* 'mind', and (*logos*) 'knowledge') is a pseudoscience that involves the measurement of bumps on the skull to predict mental traits. It is based on the concept that the brain is the organ of the mind and that certain brain areas have localised, specific functions or modules. Although both of those ideas have a basis in reality, phrenology extrapolated beyond empirical knowledge in a way that departed from science. The central phrenological notion that measuring the contour of the skull can predict personality traits is discredited by empirical research. The idea that one's skull could give hints to someone's intelligence and personality first popped into the head (or mind) of German physician Franz Gall in the late 1700s when he was a medical student. He noticed that classmates with larger eyes and more expansive foreheads seemed more adept at memorising long passages. He concluded from this that one's emotional characteristics were not dictated by the heart, as was generally assumed at the time, but from somewhere in the head.

The principal British centre for phrenology was Edinburgh, where the Edinburgh Phrenological Society was established in 1820.

Phrenology is today considered as pseudoscience. The methodological rigour of phrenology was doubtful even for the standards of its time, as many authors already regarded phrenology as pseudoscience in the 19th century.

But hang on a minute: could an examination of the lumps and valleys on your head guide you to the right lover, give clues to the kind of parent you'd be or help determine your career path? Phrenologists in the 19th century thought so, and they convinced hordes of people to pay to have their heads examined. Live events were considered both educational and entertaining, with speakers often conducting onstage head examinations.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were curious enough to have the heads of their children read by phrenologists. Novelists such as Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and the poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson not only accepted the principles of this brain-based personality theory but exploited it in the characters they created.

By the mid-1800s, interest in phrenology was at an all-time high. People scrambled to attend phrenology lectures, have their heads read and even style their hair to show off their most pronounced head bumps. Practical applications grew to include using phrenology readings to defend or treat convicted criminals, discern one's love of children and determine the compatibility of two people in marriage.

It's had its day: Phrenology was a relatively primitive and simplistic study of the brain that is no longer viewed as valid (regarded as a pseudoscience). The best you can say about it is that it helped publicise the idea that the brain has different parts with specialised functions.

The Mysterious Mansion at Mark Cross

Introduction

A Victorian mansion, previously used as an orphanage and ballet school before it became the Jameah Islameah secondary school in 1992, located in Mark Cross, a small village near Crowborough, made the headlines in 2006 but has remained a place of mystery and intrigue. The school has had no pupils for around 15 years and was closed down after alleged links to Al-Qaeda and Abu Hamza, although no arrests were made.

The ballet school was forced to close by 1990 after suffering financial struggles. The Jameah Islameah Charity bought the building towards the beginning of the 1990s and soon opened an independent Islamic school, located on a 54-acre site with residential facilities for male pupils aged 11 to 16.

The Islamic School

There had been allegations that the school was used in the training and recruitment of terrorists. The Wikipedia website ([HERE](#)) notes that according to testimony from Al Qaeda suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, in 1997 and 1998, Abu Hamza and groups of around 30 of his followers held terrorist training camps at the school.

On 1st September 2006, the Jameah Islameah school was searched by up to a hundred police officers after a series of anti-terrorism raids across London and the Southeast as part of their anti-terrorist operations, although no arrests were made. The local Sussex Police held a cordon around the site for 24 days in an operation that allegedly cost over £1 million. At about the same time, the Metropolitan Police searched the buildings and grounds and the lake.

On 9th February 2007, the Department for Education and Skills closed the school, citing a failure to meet certain required educational standards. The school had not been operating at the time, due to lack of students.

The Ballet School

The main Victorian building began life as St Michael's Orphanage. In the 1920s, it later became St Joseph's College, a Roman Catholic Junior Seminary until 1970, before being converted into a ballet school. The Legat School of Ballet, formed by Nicholas Legat and his wife Nadine in London, moved to the Mark Cross site in the 1970s and became residential. The ground floor of the main building holding academic lessons. The first floor housed two large dance studios and an art studio, while the second-floor attic was used for dormitories. The annexe to the rear housed staff and senior pupils aged over 16. A third dance studio was housed in a wooden hut beside the rear driveway and several prefabricated buildings to the rear were used for academic lessons and dormitories.

The church building was converted into a theatre, and other facilities such as a swimming pool and tennis courts were also provided. Many famous names from the world of ballet were associated with the school, including *Eunice Bartell*, *Pearl Gaden*, *Anna Lendrum*, *Hans Meister* and *Laverne Meyer*.

The buildings were severely damaged during the storm of 1987, during which the roof of the bell tower collapsed. By 1990, with falling admissions, the Ballet School had begun to struggle financially (despite taking on pupils from the nearby Bush Davies School of Education and Theatre Arts, which had ceased the previous year) and could not afford the repair bill. The closure came in July 1990.

Sources: Wikipedia, as above and <https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/history/inside-abandoned-east-sussex-school-5780111>

15 great places for Sunday lunch in Sussex

Excerpted from: <https://www.sussexlife.co.uk/home/sussexs-best-sunday-roasts-1-6896710>

Last October, Sussex Life ran an article about 15 great places to have Sunday lunch in Sussex. The county is blessed with fantastic pubs and restaurants, and Sussex Life is right when it says that the best Sundays revolve around a hearty roast lunch with friends and family.

Here's the selection:

- **The Sussex Yeoman, Brighton:** Located right next to Brighton Station on Guildford Road, this pub won Best Sunday Roast at the Brighton & Hove Food & Drink Awards. They have an enormous choice of seven different roasts.
- **Shepherd and Dog, Fulking:** You won't find too many places more idyllic than this one in the humorously named Fulking. Your dog is more than welcome to join you in the pub as you take your pick of five different roasts.
- **The Glass House Restaurant at Wickwoods, Albourne:** Set in a beautiful orangery overlooking the gardens, the restaurant is AA rosette awarded and offers traditional roasts and other main courses.
- **Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead:** This Elizabethan manor house, north of West Hoathly, is a fabulous hotel with a traditional, luxurious feel, serving Sunday lunch in the wood-panelled restaurant. Afterwards, you can explore the 35-acre garden developed by the late horticulture writer William Robinson.
- **The Duke of Cumberland Arms, near Midhurst:** The food is always good at this lovely 16th century country pub which sits on a hillside in Henley near Haslemere - a spot on the Sussex-Surrey border - providing beautiful views to Leith Hill. The menu boasts unfussy, hearty dishes and are done well - such as sausage, mash and onion gravy, venison with seasoned vegetables and, of course, the classic roast.
- **The Mermaid Inn, Rye:** This delightful old pub is situated on the lovely, cobbled Mermaid Street in the medieval citadel of Rye. Enjoy excellent Sunday roasts (vegetarians are well catered for) with beamed sloping ceilings, a huge inglenook fireplace, and creaky floorboards to provide atmosphere.
- **Busby & Wilds, Brighton:** Located in Kemp Town village, tucked away behind elegant Sussex Square in Rock Street, this stylish restaurant is popular with locals and has a laid-back atmosphere. The Sunday lunches are delicious and include traditional meat roasts as well as alternatives for vegetarians.
- **The Cat Inn, West Hoathly:** The food is always good at this cosy 16th century pub which welcomes dogs. The Sunday lunch menu changes with the season but usually includes traditional meat roasts and hearty pub fare such as pie and mash. And there's Ashdown Forest nearby if you want to wander along to work up an appetite or help your digestion afterwards.
- **The Barley Mow, Selmeaton:** On the A27 between Brighton and Eastbourne, The Barley Mow has stunning views of the South Downs that are best enjoyed from their beer garden on a warm summer day. In the winter months, this coaching inn - considered one of the oldest in the county - provides the perfect atmosphere for your Sunday lunch in the countryside. **Earl of March, Lavant:** You can explore the history and heritage of nearby Chichester before heading out to this village near the river of the same name for a fine roast in a classic country pub setting.
- **The Better Half, Hove:** This stylish old pub in Hove Place has a wonderfully dark interior and a friendly, laid back atmosphere to go with a top-notch Sunday roast (or vegetarian option) plus puds such as creme brulee and sticky toffee pudding.

- **Amberley Castle, Amberley:** Better known as a hotel, this sophisticated, dreamy castle also boasts a fantastic restaurant where you can enjoy a wonderful Sunday roast within the historic Queen's Room which has a roaring fire and a 12th century barrel-vaulted ceiling.
- **The Earth and Stars, Brighton:** Another previous winner in the Brighton & Hove Food & Drink Awards, this pub on Windsor Street has been serving the local community since 1881. Here, you will be catered for whatever your dietary requirements are. The selection of roasts is accompanied by many options for vegetarians.
- **Corner House, Worthing:** This Worthing pub won Newcomer of the Year a few years ago at the Celebration of Sussex Life Awards. They serve up delightful Sunday roasts.
- **The Marine, Eastbourne:** Just a couple of streets back from the water's edge, this traditional pub is perfectly positioned for you to enjoy a relaxed Sunday stroll along the coast. If you visit at Christmas you'll love the selection of seasonal decorations hanging from the ceiling. The pub's popularity in the local area is such that booking for lunch is an absolute must. Take your pick of one of the many drinks on offer from local sources or further afield to perfectly complement your meal.



Picture Credit: "Sunday Roast - Aged Black Angus Prime Rib" by CCFoodTravel.com is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Advertisement in Mid-Sussex Times

Tuesday, 19th November 1940

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Germans Living under Nazi rule: 1933-1945

Excerpted from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zy79p39/revision/1> • https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/data/uploads/history/files/Microsoft_Word_-_Revision-booklet-for-Living-Under-Nazi-Rule-1933-45.pdf • <https://www.tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Topic-1-Establishing-the-dictatorship.pdf> • <https://www.historyextra.com/period/second-world-war/life-nazi-germany-ww2-women-children-regime-persecution/>

Picture Credit: "Public Domain: Hitler with other Nazis by Unidentified (NARA)" by pingnews.com is marked with CC-PDM 1.0



"While the Nazis perpetrated atrocities against Jews and others they deemed second-class citizens, many other Germans were simply living their lives. They went to school, joined clubs, got married, went to work, went shopping. They did everything that every normal person does – but they did it before the backdrop of one of the darkest periods in history. Yet, in the shadows of everyday life in Nazi Germany, horror became quotidian. Government officials indoctrinated children as school curriculums were shifted to push the radical new political agenda. Propaganda films took over classrooms, and teachers who stepped out of line risked being reported. Worse yet, families deemed undesirable were marked and ushered into ghettos in Germany's occupied territories. Their shops were vandalised, and they were harassed on the streets. The disabled were forcibly sterilized. Millions of people were forced into work camps and ultimately exterminated. Soon, war broke out. Husbands rushed off to the front lines to fight and die while their wives and sometimes children worked in factories, hid in shelters, or escaped into the countryside and even abroad. But throughout it all, life went on."

From: <https://allthatsinteresting.com/life-in-nazi-germany>

When September 1934 arrived, Adolf Hitler was *der Führer*, the dictator who ruled all aspects of German life. His Nazi dictatorship could make whatever laws it wished as it had removed all democracy and any other threat to its power. This brutal and heavy-fisted control lasted until 1945.

But, if we were to rewind to January 1933, things looked very different, and total power was far from inevitable. Hitler had just been appointed as Chancellor (similar to Prime Minister). However, he still had many obstacles to overcome before he could establish the Nazi dictatorship of which he dreamed, such as:

- As Chancellor, Hitler was not the most powerful man in Germany. That was the President, Paul von Hindenburg.
- Germany in 1933 was a democracy. Although the Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag (the German Parliament), it did not have majority seats. It needed the consent of others to pass any laws. The Nazis only had 37% of the votes, meaning over 60% of the population did not fully agree with their ideas.
- There were many individuals and groups in German society who detested the Nazis and their ideas.
- There was a real danger of a power struggle within the Nazi Party that could endanger Hitler's position as leader.

Nazi Germany was a totalitarian state after Hitler became *der Führer*, which means that he and his government sought to control every aspect of life. It was also one in which those deemed 'enemies of the state' were ruthlessly persecuted. The German population experienced this in four areas:

1. The Police State
2. The Economy
3. Social Policy
4. Persecution

The Police State

- *The Schutzstaffel (SS)*. The SS was responsible for ensuring the population remained under control and any potential threats to the Nazis were dealt with. It oversaw the Gestapo (secret police), which spied on ordinary Germans, it ran concentration camps where enemies of the state were sent and it ran the death camps that murdered millions.
- *Control of the legal system*. All judges had to swear an oath of loyalty to the Führer and all lawyers had to join the Nazi Lawyers' Association. It was made harder to defend people placed on trial for suspected crimes and the death penalty was used much more widely than before.
- *Propaganda and censorship*. Joseph Goebbels ran the Ministry of Propaganda, whose job it was to convince the German people to embrace Nazi rule. This was achieved through control of the press, radio and the arts, and through rallies and sporting events.

There was only limited resistance to the Nazis, mostly because the police state was so effective at crushing dissent. It is hard to know exactly how much opposition there was to Hitler and his regime, though religious figures, underground Social Democratic Party (SPD), communists, and the young did provide some resistance.

The Economy in Nazi Germany

Hitler achieved virtually full employment through rearmament, National Service and marginalising groups like the Jews (who lost their jobs and were not included in unemployment figures). However, living standards for working-class Germans did not really improve and workers were expected to take part in Nazi Party schemes like *Strength Through Joy*, which gave them cheap holidays, in return for giving up their trade union rights.

The Nazis aspired to achieve autarky, or economic self-sufficiency, but in general the economy was geared towards preparing for a future war. As such, workers were expected to work long hours for modest pay and to toe the line.

Social Policy in Nazi Germany

The Nazis' social policies affected two groups in society the most – women and young people:

- Women were expected to fulfil a very traditional, subservient role; they were expected to embrace a life based around the '3 Ks' of Kinder, Küche, Kirche (Children, Kitchen and Church). It was their duty to produce and raise children, to secure the future of the Reich. They were encouraged to give up work and received loans and awards for having lots of children.
- Young people were a particular target for the Nazis' propaganda, as they represented the future. The school curriculum was altered to promote Nazi ideology, and all young people were expected to join a Nazi youth organisation such as the Hitler Youth. Hitler famously stated, "When an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side,' I calmly say, 'Your child belongs to us already. You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time, they will know nothing else but this new community.'"
- In addition, the Nazis sought to control or limit the influence of Christianity. They set up an official state church, called the Confessing Church, which adapted protestant teachings to Nazi ideology. Also, despite signing a Concordat with the Pope, Hitler promised to leave the Catholic Church alone if it stayed out of politics, the Nazis attempted to infiltrate it and placed restrictions on worship.

Persecution in Nazi Germany

Nazi ideology centred on the idea of the master race, the belief that the Aryan race of northern Europe was superior to all others and that some races were sub-human. Nazis also believed any weaknesses in the Aryan race, such as disabled people, should be weeded out to maintain racial purity. As such, many groups in Nazi Germany were subject to persecution involving sterilisation, 'euthanasia', imprisonment in concentration camps and the loss of civil rights. The racial group targeted most was Germany's Jews. Their rights were progressively taken away, including their German citizenship, before the horrors of the Holocaust during World War Two saw 6 million Jews from across Nazi-occupied Europe murdered. >>>>

<<<< Hitler and the Nazis had firm views on race. They believed that certain groups were inferior and were a threat to the purity of the Aryan race. Many groups were targeted for persecution, including Slavs (Eastern Europeans), gypsies, homosexuals and the disabled - but none more so than the Jews.

Nazi racial beliefs

The Nazis' racial philosophy taught that Aryans were the master race and that some races were 'Untermensch' (sub-human). Many Nazi scientists at this time believed in eugenics, the idea that people with disabilities or social problems were degenerates whose genes needed to be eliminated from the human bloodline. The Nazis pursued eugenics policies vigorously. The policy of persecution included:

- **Sterilisation** - To keep the Aryan race pure, many groups were prevented from reproducing. The mentally, physically and disabled, including the deaf, were sterilised, as were people with hereditary diseases.
- **Euthanasia** - Between 1939 and 1941, over 100,000 physically and mentally disabled Germans were killed in secret without the consent of their families. Victims were often gassed - a technique that was later used in the death camps of the Holocaust.
- **Concentration camps** - Homosexuals, prostitutes, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, alcoholics, pacifists, beggars, hooligans and criminals were often rounded up and sent away to camps. During World War II, 85% of Germany's gypsies died in these camps.

The Nazis' Persecution of the Jews

The group most heavily targeted for persecution by the Nazis were the Jews of Germany. The outbreak of World War Two brought the horror of mass killings and the Final Solution, but the period 1933 saw a gradual increase in persecution, reaching a turning point during *Kristallnacht* in November 1938. Up to then, there had been a progressive erosion of their rights, but Jews had not been physically threatened or attacked. When their businesses and homes were destroyed, and their synagogues were burnt down, many concluded that their time in Germany was up. Those who could flee did so, and a scheme to evacuate Jewish children to Britain called the *Kindertransport* began.

What was it like living under the Nazis?

- Most teachers in Nazi Germany were required to join the National Socialist Teachers League, which mandated that they take an oath of loyalty and obedience to Hitler. If their lessons did not conform to party ideals, they risked being reported by their students or colleagues.
- Children were evacuated from cities to live in *Kinderlandverschickung* camps for safety from air raids. Many were separated from their families.
- Schools received a new curriculum that focused on racial biology and population policy. Teachers regularly showed propaganda films in the classroom and worked racial politics into every part of education.
- The state-run labour programme both helped lessen the effects of unemployment and created a Nazi-indoctrinated workforce, requiring each young man to serve for six months.
- Mentally challenged children were forcibly sterilised to keep them from breeding. They were, initially, taught in separate classrooms but then considered to be "unteachable." Later, children like these would be killed to remove them from the population.
- The Nazis were a male supremacist organisation. This was part of the general racist doctrine that governed the Nazi ideology. They believed that politics was for men, so there weren't any women in any positions of power in Nazi Germany. There was a so-called Reich women's leader, Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, but she had no influence on Nazi politics at all. She just spoke to organised women.
- As the war raged on, more and more women were made to enter the workforce, but not in any position of importance.
- In 1945, when Allied troops took Germany, many officials, fearing reprisals, committed suicide.

Wikimedia Commons and other sources

Key People

Adolf Hitler, head of the Nazi Party and Dictator of Germany 1933-1945
Joseph Goebbels, in charge of Nazi propaganda.

Ernst Röhm, leader of the SA. Murdered during the Night of the Long Knives.

Hermann Göring, formed the Gestapo and head of the German police from 1933.

Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS.

Rudolph Hess, Deputy Leader of the Nazi Party.

Wilhelm Frick, Nazi leader who was made Minister of the Interior in 1933.

Marinus Van der Lubbe, Communist who was accused and executed for starting the Reichstag Fire.

President Hindenburg, President of the Weimar Republic until his death in 1934.

General Blomberg, head of the Reichswehr (German army)

Franz von Papen, Vice-Chancellor – not a member of the Nazi Party.

Simple Maths

A Single Number

1. Think of a number.
2. Multiply it by 3.
3. Add 6.
4. Divide this number by 3.
5. Subtract the number from Step 1 from the answer in Step 4.

The answer is 2.

Same Three-Digit Number

1. Think of any three-digit number in which each of the digits is the same. Such as 333, 666, 777, and 999.
2. Add up the digits.
3. Divide the three-digit number by the answer in Step 2.

The answer is 37.

Memorising Pi

To remember the first seven digits of pi, count the number of letters in each word of this sentence: "How I wish I could calculate pi."

This becomes 3.141592.

Finger Multiplication Tables

Everyone knows you can count on your fingers. But, did you realise you can use them for multiplication? A simple way to do the "9" multiplication table is to place both hands in front of you with fingers and thumbs extended. To multiply 9 by a number, fold down that number finger, counting from the left.

Examples:

- To multiply 9 by 5, fold down the fifth finger from the left. Count fingers on either side of the "fold" to get the answer. In this case, the answer is 45.
- To multiply 9 times 6, fold down the sixth finger, giving an answer of 54.

Source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/math-tricks-that-will-blow-your-mind-4154742>



Picture Credit:
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How effective was medieval medicine?

By Martin Pollins

Excerpted from: <https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/medieval-medicine-cure-black-death-what-caused-plague-epidemic-leprosy-sweating-sickness/>
<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/hole-in-the-head-trepanation/>
<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sll/disciplines/english/lion/medicine.shtml>
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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxg6wxs/revision/1>



How effective was medieval medicine to combat the diseases of the time? Dr Elma Brenner (the Wellcome Collection's medieval specialist) wrote about this on History Extra, the official website for BBC History Magazine ([here](#)). She asks whether medieval scholars could grasp the causes of these epidemics and explores the medical treatments available to counter them.

Picture Credit: "Ring around the rosie" by Thad Zajdowicz is marked with CC0 1.0

There were many sicknesses around that needed attention and eradication. Some are covered in Dr Brenner's article:

The Black Death: The worst plague outbreak of them all (in Europe 1347–51) was blamed on an inauspicious planetary alignment. It was terrifying and killed up

to 60% of the population. Doctors were powerless to treat it. This illness appeared in two main forms: pneumonic plague, which affected the lungs and made the sufferer cough up blood, and bubonic plague, which caused swellings (buboes) on the body, especially in the groin and armpits. Modern-day scientists have identified the cause as the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, carried by wild rodents. The bubonic form was transmitted to humans via fleas, but the pneumonic form, the most lethal strain, was transferred from person to person through the air.

The French physician and surgeon Guy de Chauliac witnessed the epidemic in Avignon in 1348, where it had spread rapidly from Italy. After falling into a gravely dangerous fever, De Chauliac was one of the few to recover from bubonic plague. He identified the primary cause as a conjunction of planets in the sign of Aquarius in 1345, thus corrupting the air.

The Pox: Although the pox only affected Europeans in the 1490s, it immediately caused great anxiety and fear. This sexually transmitted disease, roughly equivalent to modern-day syphilis, caused pain and unsightly swellings and could attack the nose and the face. Contemporaries linked it to prostitutes and immoral behaviour.

Leprosy: After the plague, leprosy is the disease most synonymous with the Middle Ages. It was undoubtedly a major issue for contemporaries, judging by its prominence in medieval literature, art, documents and saints' lives. Comparatively few people developed leprosy since it isn't heavily contagious, but those who did get it suffered skin sores, facial disfigurement and even blindness in some cases.

Dysentery: In late medieval England, outbreaks of an epidemic illness known as 'the bloody flux' or 'dysentery' were reported. This intestinal infection, causing blood-filled diarrhoea, manifested mainly in crowded, dirty conditions. Though thoroughly unpleasant and deadly, it was much less frequent than plague epidemics.

Bubonic plague: The most intensely feared killer in medieval Europe was pestilential illness. The Black Death of 1347–51 was unprecedented and decimated more than half of the population in some areas. Following another epidemic in the 1360s, there were recurrent plague outbreaks in England, France, Italy and elsewhere well into the 17th century.

The Sweating Sickness: This disease was almost exclusively confined to England. I wrote about the sweating sickness in the June 2021 edition of Nil Desperandum (page 14).

Seeing a Doctor

Most people in Medieval times never saw a doctor. They were treated by the local 'wise-woman' who was skilled in using herbs, or by the priest, or the barber, who pulled out teeth, set broken bones and performed other operations. The cures available were a mixture of superstition (magic stones and charms were very popular), religion (for example, driving out evil spirits from people who were mentally ill) and herbal remedies (some of which are still used today). Monks and nuns also ran hospitals in their monasteries, which took in the sick and dying.

With many wars going on at the time, doctors and barber surgeons had plenty of practice in treating wounds and broken bones. They were able to set broken bones in plaster and seal wounds to stop them from getting infected. They knew how to use alcohol or plants like *mandragora* to send people to sleep or dull the pain of operations if that's what you might call it. They could even remove diseased parts of the body, for example, the gall-bladder, and deliver babies by Caesarean section.

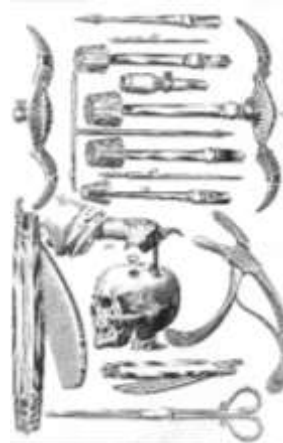
In the middle ages, dentists were called *dentatores*, who had also learnt a great deal from Arab specialists. They had files, forceps, and many other tools and could remove decay, fill holes, strengthen loose teeth with metal wires, or even fit false teeth made of ox-bone. Holes were thought to be caused by tiny worms in the teeth. But only the rich could afford the services of the *dentatores*. Anyone else with a loose or aching tooth went to have it pulled out at a booth in the fair or market or by the barber.

Since many illnesses were potentially deadly, the best approach was prevention: staying healthy through a balanced lifestyle. When sickness did occur, attention to food and drink, exercise and other kinds of activity, as well as one's emotions, could bring about recovery.

Whilst today there are antibiotics to treat infections, no such treatments existed in the Middle Ages. People were aware that wounds, childbirth and surgery were all dangerous moments because of the risks of infection. Medieval people knew what infections were but were unable to do much to treat people struck down by them. In medieval times, knowledge about the causes of disease was limited, so there was little chance of preventing it. There were very few doctors about - most were educated men from the higher ranks of society who learned through practice rather than by attending a medical school. But they had strange ideas: for example, some doctors told patients not to bathe, as this would open the pores and allow the disease in. Other doctors thought it was domestic animals that spread the plague and other diseases.

In the 1350s, it was not a good time to be ill. Medieval doctors did not have a clue what caused disease. The average life expectancy was perhaps 30-35, that's if you were lucky enough to survive early childhood - infant mortality was extremely high where 20% of children died before their first birthday, and many women died in childbirth. Nearly a thousand years after the fall of Rome, medicine in Europe had regressed and returned to a more primitive outlook, with the only treatment on offer continued to be a mixture of herbal remedies, bleeding and purging, and supernatural ideas. But, recently, historians have suggested that despite the primitive approach,

many medieval treatments were successful, especially the herbal remedies. Nevertheless, there were other types of cures used in the Middle Ages that many people would certainly not consider today, especially one called **trepanning** (also called trepanation, or trephination), the oldest surgical procedure known to humanity. Patients needed it 'like a hole in the head', if you'll forgive the pun - having a hole cut in their skull to let fevers out of the body. Most died from this treatment.



Picture Credit: "File:Woodall 'The surgeons mate': trepanning instruments Wellcome L0020372.jpg" is licensed under CC BY 4.0

The British High Street By Martin Pollins

Excerpted from: <https://www.lovemoney.com/galleries/53030/wellknown-brands-that-have-disappeared-from-uk-high-streets> • <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7834883/Ten-brands-vanished-struggling-British-High-Street-decade.html> • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeman,_Hardy_and_Willis • <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/2783365/Why-the-old-shoe-retailers-are-on-their-uppers.html>



You might be forgiven if you haven't noticed that several once-famous brand names have disappeared from the high street. Vanished, gone forever, their pursuit for profit and growth failing against the twin threat of online

shopping and spiralling rents. Other reasons for failure include failing to innovate, poor marketing, failing to cater to customers' needs and not moving with the times. Here are some names that you won't see on your high street today:

BHS (British Home Stores): The UK brand of BHS shut its doors for good in June 2016. Originally founded in 1928, the popular retailer had accumulated debts of more than £1.3billion, including a pension deficit of £571million. BHS bosses had attempted to negotiate a rescue deal more than two months before the closure which eventually fell through.

John Collier (the window to watch): John Collier was a British chain of shops selling men's clothes. It was started in Leeds in 1907 by Henry Price and expanded to over 399 stores across the country, most of which traded under the Fifty Shilling Tailors brand. In 1958, the company was sold to UDS, which renamed it John Collier. It continued to trade within UDS until 1983 when UDS itself was sold to Hanson plc, who sold it to a management buy-out team. In 1985, the company was sold to the Burton Group, but the brand was discontinued and no longer exists.

Borders: This international book retailer first appeared in Britain in 1998. It broke away from its American parent company in 2007 to become recognised in its own right. Something you couldn't have with online shops was the comfortable browsing experience of books, music and film complemented by Borders' in-house coffee shops. But it wasn't enough. It collapsed in June 2009 in the face of mounting debts blaming its declining sales on a rapidly changing market that stemmed predominantly from the increasing availability of digital books.

Toys R Us: The American toy store outlet Toys R Us was founded in its modern iteration in 1957 and was a popular destination for parents to treat their children to an assortment of branded games and electronics. But it was forced to close all of its stores in Britain and America in April 2018, blaming the brand's lack of innovation and the unnecessary burden of warehouse space costing a fortune in rent. More than 3,000 jobs were lost when the company went bust.

Staples: Staples was a stationery store that disappeared from Britain's High Street in 2016 after its UK branches were sold to restructuring firm Hilco. The management's plans for a multi-million merger with its fellow American supplier Office Depot in May 2016, was abandoned on competition grounds.

Shoe Shops: In 1891, a shoemaker called John Sears set up a small shoe manufacturing business in his workshop. His humble enterprise became the Sears, the vast conglomerate that encompassed shipbuilding, Selfridges, William Hill the bookmakers and the Mappin & Webb jewellery chain. At its peak in the 1980s, Sears' footwear division - the British Shoe Corporation (BSC) - accounted for one in four pairs of shoes sold in Britain. But Britain's footwear industry was starting to show its age and was in deep trouble: declining sales, rising shop costs and a flurry of fashionable and cheap entrants into the sector eventually changed how and where we buy shoes. Freeman, Hardy Willis was a major chain of footwear retailers in Britain, established in 1875. For many years, there was a branch in nearly every town in the UK. In 1929, the company was acquired by Sears plc, and went on to own the Trueform, Curtess, Dolcis, Manfield, Saxone, and Lilley & Skinner brands. In the early 1990s the British Shoe Corporation converted approximately half of its 540 Freeman Hardy Willis branches into Hush Puppies shops. It sold the remainder to an entrepreneur whose business empire collapsed within a year. After providing "Shoes For All The Family" since 1875, Freeman Hardy Willis was no more by 1996. Forty-four former FHW branches were sold to Stead & Simpson. British Shoe Corporation itself closed in 1998.

Picture Credit: See above, [Cropped] "Day 17 - Blockbuster" by Hornbeam Arts is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Littlewoods: Littlewoods was a great little shop that many people were sad to see leave the British high street, although it's still around as a catalogue. It was founded in the early 1920s by John Moores of Liverpool and was originally intended as a betting shop but flourished into more of a department store, and at one time in its history, the shop was the largest family-owned retail firm in the UK. It ceased operations in 2005, and in the end, just under half of its shop locations were sold to Primark.

Tandy Electronics: Tandy was a serious contender to the Dixons and Comet chain stores, but it ultimately couldn't compete on the high street with the other competitors and lost out. Tandy seems to exist in a limited form online, but it's definitely not the electronics store we knew. At one point, it had over 222 shops worldwide, but now they are all gone.

Virgin Megastores: This was definitely one of the biggest names to disappear from the High Street. Virgin Megastores were a fantastic place for movies, video games and music. Virgin Megastore still exists in the Middle East and North Africa and still runs over 44 stores in these regions.

Focus: Focus was a big DIY chain that couldn't keep up with the competition. In 1998, investors decided to swallow up some of the company's main competitors and made a move for Do It All DIY. Focus and Do It All joined forces to become the aptly-named Focus Do It All, complete with a brand new logo. But it couldn't be saved from administration after trying to weather the recession and in early 2011, the closure of 120 Focus Do It All stores resulted in 3,000 job losses.

Poundworld: Poundworld was around for years competing against other £1 stores, but it went the same way as so many other stores and was lost, closing in August 2018. The chain, founded in the mid-1970s, became one of the biggest pound shop mainstays on the high street, opposite its number one competitor Poundland.

Woolworths: Also known as Woolworth's and even Woolworth, Woolworths was one of the best-loved high street stores of the nation for decades. It was the largest department store chain back in 1979, and at its peak, it had over 800 shops in the UK but closed down in the 2000s - every now and then, there is talk of a Woolworth's revival, especially as people seem to remember the brand with fondness. But it hasn't happened yet.

Athena: Remember Athena? It was that random high street chain that always had generic artwork in the window. Athena was founded in 1964 and enjoyed a fairly successful run before going into administration in 1995 due to a massive decline in profits. Some shops remained open in Exeter, but the last one finally closed its doors in 2014. However, you might not be aware that Athena still exists as a thriving internet business. It seems to sell plenty of generic travel posters and album covers, but it was always worth a look!

Blockbuster: Before the days of Netflix, Blockbuster soared as the UK's most popular video rental shop. But as a result of such high competition online, it went into administration in September 2010 and again in 2013, closing its remaining stores that year.

C&A: C&A was a classic high street store originating in the Netherlands but headquartered in Brussels. It first began operating in the UK in 1922, and business quickly started booming. However, competition from other department stores over the years meant that C&A couldn't keep up with new trends and started looking increasingly out of place. It was hit with a downturn in the UK clothing market and didn't manage to survive. In 2000/2001, the company closed all of its UK stores bar 11 locations which rival Primark acquired.

And that's not all

It doesn't end there: many other shops are absent from our high streets, although some have an online presence. To name but a few: MFI, Gamleys, Gadget Shop, Past Times, Army & Navy Stores, Ailders, Tie Rack, Principals, Dewhurst the Butchers, Comet, Austin Reed, Banana Republic, Laura Ashley, Monsoon, Oasis, Dunn & Co, Accessorize, MacFisheries and Thomas Cook. Sadly, the list grows ever longer.

Click [here](#) for defunct department stores of the UK.

Finally, why not read *Who's gone bust in retail*, published by the Centre for Retail Research, available at: <https://www.retailresearch.org/whos-gone-bust-retail.html>

The Grave of the Unknown Warrior



A month before Armistice Day in 1920, British authorities decided that an Unknown Warrior, someone whose identity shall never become known, was to be interred at Westminster Abbey.

When hostilities in World War I ended, the bodies of the fallen were exhumed and reburied in nearby cemeteries, but many of

them could never be identified. These were the men that the Unknown Warrior needed to represent – the men who would be forever missing, presumed dead. The idea was to help the British nation grieve for up to half a million soldiers who were lost or unidentified.

The grave of the Unknown warrior is at the west end of the nave of Westminster Abbey is the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried here on 11th November 1920. The grave, which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur. On the tomb is an inscription composed by Herbert Ryle, Dean of Westminster.

The Unknown Warrior may have come from any of the three services, Army, Navy or Air Force, and from any part of the British Isles, Dominions or Colonies. Despite efforts to discover his identity, it remains a mystery to this day. As such, he can represent all those who died who have no other memorial or known grave.

Coinciding with the unveiling of the permanent Cenotaph in Whitehall, with only three and a half weeks to organise the ceremony, plans were put in place swiftly to ensure that the occasion would befit the sacrifice of the Unknown Warrior, and all those who had lost their lives during the First World War.

It was as late as 6th November 1920 when the ship HMS Verdun was chosen to take the coffin of the Unknown Warrior from Boulogne to Dover. A letter from the Admiralty to the Commanding Officer provided clear instructions on how the coffin was to be treated.

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery used an historic gun carriage in 1920, which is still used today. The Unknown Warrior was carried in a coffin made of English Oak and adorned with a Crusader's sword from King George V's personal collection.

The 1920 plans for how the coffin would arrive and for the ceremony are detailed in a blog on the National Archives website ([here](#)) by William Butler. He looks at the planning for the event using records held in the National Archives collection.

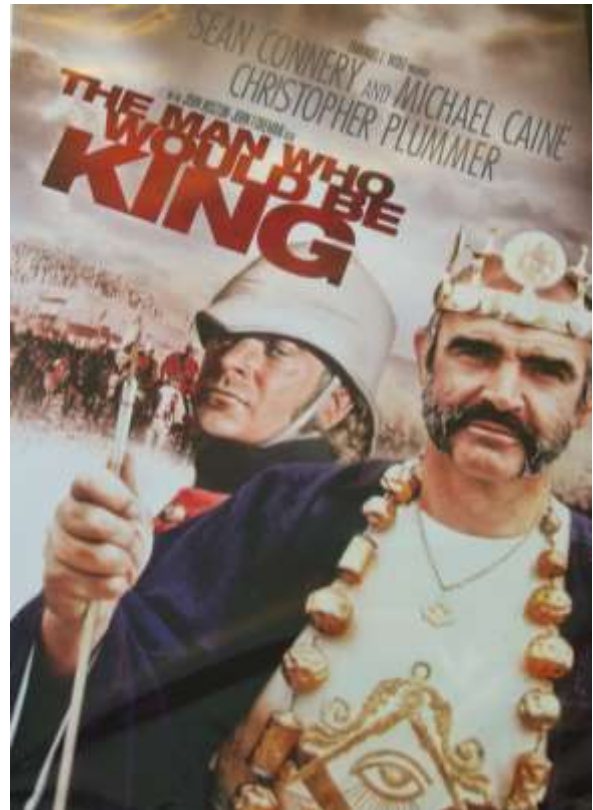
The Westminster Abbey website ([here](#)) records these details:

The idea of such a burial seems first to have come to a chaplain at the Front, the Reverend David Railton (1884-1955), when he noticed in 1916 in a back garden at Armentières, a grave with a rough cross on which were pencilled the words "An Unknown British Soldier". In August 1920, he wrote to the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle, through whose energies this memorial was carried into effect. The body was chosen from unknown British servicemen exhumed from four battle areas, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres. (some sources say six bodies but confirmed accounts say four). The remains were brought to the chapel at St. Pol on the night of 7th November 1920. The General Officer in charge of troops in France and Flanders, Brigadier General L.J. Wyatt, with Colonel Gell, went into the chapel alone, where the bodies on stretchers were covered by Union Flags. They had no idea from which area the bodies had come. General Wyatt selected one, and the two officers placed it in a plain coffin and sealed it. The other three bodies were reburied. General Wyatt said they were re-buried at the St Pol cemetery, but Lt. (later Major General Sir) Cecil Smith says they were buried beside the Albert-Baupaume road to be discovered there by parties searching for bodies in the area.

Picture Credit: "File:Tomb of the Unknown Warrior - Westminster Abbey - London, England - 9 Nov. 2010.jpg" by Mike from England is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Man Who Would Be King

Picture Credit: [Cropped] "The Man Who Would Be King" by NoWin is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Rudyard Kipling's *The Man Who Would Be King* was Sean Connery's best and also his favourite movie, according to Joan Wall on Quora ([here](#)).

The greatest adventure tale filmed. It's better than all the swashbucklers and shoot 'em ups made before or after, she says. It's a saga, depth, character development, and rousing. Sean Connery and Michael Caine are superb together, oozing charisma. They bounce off each other with a few laughs along the way. Through battles, politics, greed and jealousy, the two would-be kings, buddies, gallop until the final explosive showdown. The last scene is the most effective and memorable of all. A fitting end to a marvellous film. The best ending to a movie ever made. This fable is not just an adventure but a clear-sighted warning, without illusions, about the downside to imperialism.

The Man Who Would Be King is a 1975 Technicolor adventure film adapted from the 1888 Rudyard Kipling novella of the same name. It was directed by John Huston and starred Sean Connery, Michael Caine, Saeed Jaffrey, and Christopher Plummer as Kipling (giving a name to the novella's anonymous narrator). This adaptation of Kipling's famous short story tells the story of Daniel Dravot and Peachy Carnahan, two ex-soldiers. The film follows the two rogue ex-soldiers, former non-commissioned officers in the British Army, who set off from late 19th-century British India in search of adventure and end up in faraway Kafiristan, where one is taken for a god and made their king.

READ MORE

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_Who_Would_Be_King_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_Who_Would_Be_King_(film))

WATCH A VIDEO

<https://ok.ru/video/232649394706>

Finish with a Smile

An Irishman, Englishman and a Scot walk into a bar. The barman looks up and asks: "Hang on a minute, is this some kind of a joke?"

A man walks into a pub, orders a Scotch and munches some peanuts from a bowl placed on the bar.

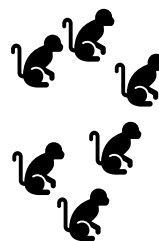
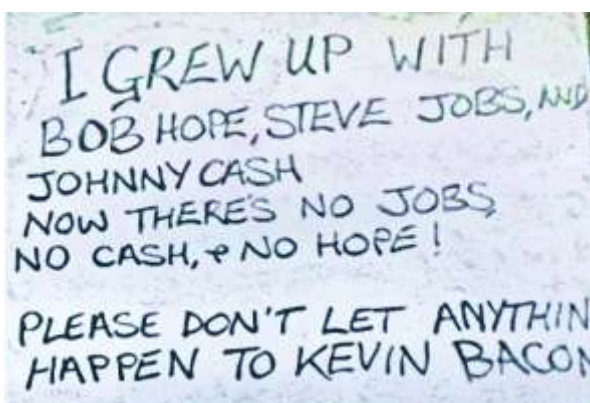
Suddenly he hears this quiet voice "Ah! A magnificent Macallan pure malt - that is a fine choice and judging by the cut of your suit you are a very refined man, and a handsome man if I might say".

He looks around and there is nobody else in the place. The voice begins again, "Your shoes are Churches or Cheney aren't they? And so beautifully polished - a military man sir? An officer perhaps in a noble regiment and Sandhurst-trained I would wager." He then realises the voice is coming from the peanuts!

He thinks he must be ill. He is shaken and decides he needs a cigarette. (This is back in the days pubs had cigarette machines and it was ok to smoke in them). He gets to the machine and just as he is about to put his money in the machine, he hears a second voice. "Look at the state of you! Eugh! Your suit stinks of tobacco, and the cut is way too young for you." Again, there is nobody in the pub - and the voice continues "OH? My mistake, you just look old and haggard beyond your years. Probably due to the smoking. What a wreck."and now he realises the voice is coming from the cigarette machine!

He hurries back to the bar and calls the barman "Please call an ambulance - something is terribly wrong with me. I imagined the peanuts saying all sorts of nice things about me and then I went to the cigarette machine and imagined it said horrid things about me".

The barman replies "Ah no Sir, its not you... the peanuts are complimentary and the cigarette machine is completely out of order"...



A delivery driver broke down on the side of the road with a trailer full of monkeys. An Irishman pulled over to offer help. The driver asked the Irishman if he would take the monkeys to the zoo and offered him £30 for his trouble.

The Irishman said "yeah, of course" and he drove off to take the monkeys to the zoo.

Two hours later the delivery driver was still broken down, awaiting recovery, when he saw the Irishman driving back the other way with a car full of monkeys. "Why haven't you taken the monkeys to the zoo," he asked.

The Irishman replies "Yes, I have but we've got £10 left so we're going to the cinema now."