Nil Desperandum

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club

ISSUE 25 April 2022 Never Alone

Index:

Continued:

Nil Desperandum

ISSUE 25 April 2022 Never Alone

The Box: An Oral History of Television from 1920-1961

This selection on Delancey Place is from a book of that title, by Jeff Kisseloff, page(s): 45-48, published by ReAnimus Press, 2013, © Copyright 1995 by Jeff Kisselof.

Betty Goodwin, clown-white makeup, Miss Patience, and the earliest days of television:

"Studio 3H at Rockefeller Center was a radio studio until 1933, when its doors were suddenly locked to all but a few NBC employees. Teams of carpenters and electricians were allowed inside. They were followed by stagehands carrying crates filled with strange equipment and engineers and technicians who presumably knew what to do with the stuff. Something big was going on, but few knew just what. Then in 1936, NBC threw open the doors, revealing a full-fledged television studio. At twenty by fifty feet, it was not very large. Camera movements were limited, and the low ceilings meant the hot lights were dangerously close to the performers and crew.

"That year, NBC's inaugural broadcast was aired exclusively for RCA licensees. The show opened with an introduction by radio commentator Betty Goodwin, an attractive, personable brunette. She was selected to host the show at the last minute when the veteran radio announcer, George Hicks, walked off the set, disgusted with the chaos in the studio. Ms Goodwin introduced a number of acts, including the cabaret singer Hildegarde, comedian Ed Wynn, members of the Rockettes, and a coterie of RCA executives eager to get their own mugs on the air. The twenty-minute show was followed by a press demonstration in November.

"The New Yorker, for one, took a dim view (literally) of those proceedings, reporting that faces looked like they were mounted on watered silk. 'President Roosevelt's face not only came and went,' the reporter wrote, 'it came and went under water.' There was still work to be done, but make no mistake about it; television was on its way.

"BETTY GOODWIN BAKER: I was a feature writer with the Seattle Times until I was fired the morning after I eloped with Bernie Goodwin. They had a rule during the Depression that they fired anybody who had other means of support, so in January 1934, we decided I would go to New York and forage for work. I had letters to the head of NBC and Henry Luce at Time.

"In New York, I was terribly disillusioned with Luce because he only offered me twenty¬-five dollars a week. Also, it wasn't in fashion, which I wanted to do. "He sent me to Edna Woolman Chase at Vogue. Here was this enormous grey-haired sternfaced woman, who had scared her own daughter to death, and I decided I didn't want to spend another five minutes with this woman who looked just like Queen Mary.

"Then I went to see the president of NBC [owned by RCA]. By then I didn't care what he offered me, I would have swept out the place, but being an old newspaperwoman, I was hired as an assis¬tant to Abe Schecter, who was their head of news. …

"In 1936, I was sent to the Democratic and Republican conventions. Mostly, I escorted Dorothy Thompson, who had signed on to be a commentator. CBS had Clare Luce, and these two were rivals. Dorothy used to say, 'Oh, Clare Luce, she just climbed up by her bra straps.' …

"The convention was the maddest kind of escapade. The engineers were working out of hotel bathrooms. We had to put up with all kinds of inconveniences, so it wasn't surprising that right after the convention [president of RCA David], Sarnoff gathered us together to tell us about some crazy new scheme. He figured the kind of people who lived through a convention were the people he wanted involved.

"We were sitting in this congratulatory meeting when Doc Morton says, 'You'll be work¬ing with the RCA engineers, and we're going to be able very soon to make public our achievements in television.'

"We said, 'In what?'

"'Television, it's just like radio except with pictures.'

"Then they ushered us into this horrible studio that had been closed off. It was a huge room full of more machines, more engineers, more lights, more chalk marks on floors; it was completely unlike anything we had ever seen. It was like some mad Hollywood studio. The cameras were these huge big black dinosaurs on wheels. They had people screaming from the control room. We were just bug-eyed by the whole thing.

"They were planning this inaugural show for RCA license holders with Grace and Edd Albert, Jean Sablon, Hildegarde, and a fashion show segment. Of course, the main thing was David Sarnoff announcing that television would be open to the public for the '39 World's Fair. I was supposed to assemble the fashion show, and go on to introduce the fashion models and tell what they were wearing. …

"I had to find out what the engineers needed for the fashions. They said nothing on your face would show unless you wore chalk white and black makeup, so all the clothes had to be sharp black or white.

"We had hired Eddie Senz, a Hollywood makeup man, to do our makeup. He said to me, 'Oh, the eyebrows are terrible,' and he plucked my eyebrows out. I haven't had any since! Then he smeared chalk-white clown makeup all over my face and gave me brown eyebrows and lips. I didn't care. It was all so much fun.

"In the meantime, the engineers would call me on the intercom by the hour to come down to the studio so they could test the cameras. You had to stand where the chalk marks were, and the second that red light went on, you were on.…

"The lights were so hot. Finally, I said, 'Look, I can't do this, I'm getting blisters on my cheeks.' I got them a mannequin I named Miss Patience. We gave her a whole wardrobe, and she did their testing.

"She was my real contribution to television. They could experiment with all different shades of makeup on her without having her bum up under those lights.

"George Hicks was the announcer picked to introduce General Sarnoff at the beginning of the show. He was chosen rather than Ben Grauer because Hicks was blond and tall, and Ben was short and dark. Poor George. Every day, they kept changing his script. Finally, he blew his stack and said, 'This is just driving me crazy.'

"Not only did George bow out, but so did Ben Grauer and all of the well-known personalities. They wouldn't touch television with a ten-foot pole. In radio, they simply had to read what the advertising agency gave them. For this, they had to prepare for hours and hours, and they weren't making any money from it because there were no commercials. I didn't complain because I had always done ad-libbing, so I was given the job of announcing the show and introducing Mr Sarnoff. …

"The day of the show, Bonwit's sent over a black gown with a wide red cummerbund. On the screen, the cummerbund made the woman look like she had been sawed in half and had a missing middle. The people who watched it on television thought it was funny as hell."

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

The Life and Times of Gloria Vanderbilt

Sources: • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloria_Vanderbilt
• https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/style/gloria-vanderbilt-death-dead.html
• https://www.biography.com/personality/gloria-vanderbilt
• https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a28067965/gloria-vanderbilt-children-family/ • https://www.oregonlive.com/business/2019/06/the-amazing-life-of-gloria-vanderbilt.html • https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2019/06/gloria-vanderbilt-obituary

Picture Credit: "Gloria Laura Vanderbilt" by aeroman3 is marked with CC PDM 1.0

Meet the Lady

Best known for her fashion design and tumultuous personal life, actress, writer and artist Gloria Vanderbilt Laura Vanderbilt (1924 –2019) became an iconic figure in American popular culture during the 20th century. She was a member of the Vanderbilt family (once the richest family in the world) of New York and the mother of CNN television anchor Anderson Cooper.

Her father, Reginald Vanderbilt, was the great-grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the creator of a railroad empire and one of America's first millionaires. Her mother, Gloria Morgan, was a young woman who loved parties more than parenthood*.

* Source: https://www.biography.com/personality/gloria-vanderbilt

During the 1930s, Gloria was the subject of a high-profile child custody trial in which her mother, Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt, and her paternal aunt, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, each sought custody of her and control over her trust fund. Called the "*trial of the century*" by the press, the court proceedings were the subject of wide and sensational press coverage due to the wealth and prominence of the involved parties and the scandalous evidence presented to support Whitney's claim that Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt was an unfit parent.

Her Life and Loves

Gloria was married four times, divorced three times, and had four children (all sons). She maintained a romantic relationship with photographer and filmmaker Gordon Parks for many years until he died in 2006. Other relationships included Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra, Howard Hughes and Roald Dahl, with other relationships along the way.

Her 4th marriage, on Christmas Eve 1963, was to author Wyatt Emory Cooper. The marriage lasted 15 years until he died in 1978 while he was undergoing open-heart surgery.

In the 1970s, Vanderbilt launched a line of fashions, perfumes, and household goods bearing her name. She was noted as an early developer of designer blue jeans and set new trends in fashion marketing.

Her Death

Her death on 17th June 2019 was announced in the New York Times: *"Gloria Vanderbilt, the society heiress who stitched her illustrious family name into designer jeans and built a $100 million fashion empire, crowning her tabloid story of a child-custody fight, of broken marriages and of jet-set romances, died on Monday at her home in Manhattan. She was 95."*

Are Solstice and Equinox different?

Sources: • https://www.britannica.com/story/whats-the-difference-between-a-solstice-and-an-equinox • https://weatherworksinc.com/news/equinox-solstice
• https://www.sporcle.com/blog/2019/04/whats-the-difference-between-a-solstice-and-an-equinox/

The first thing to say is that there is a difference. Astronomical seasons are when we mark the change from winter to spring, spring to summer, and so on. They are based on ***solstices*** and ***equinoxes*** which equate to the tilt of the Earth. There is a winter and summer Solstice, then an autumn and spring (vernal) equinox.

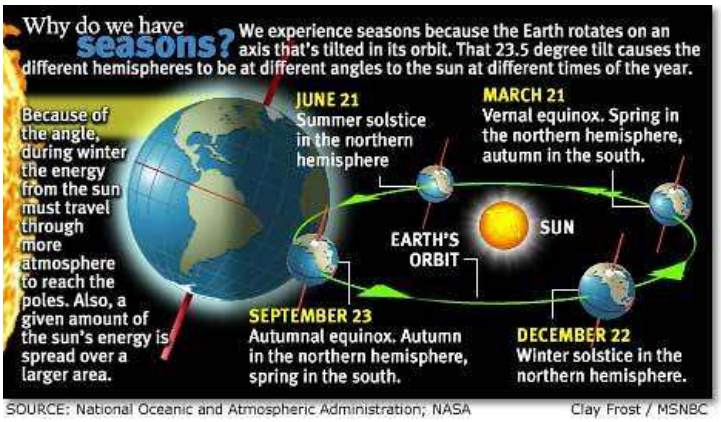
While the ***solstices*** result in a change in the length of night and day, the ***equinoxes*** do not. The summer and winter solstices result in the longest and shortest day of the year, respectively, while the equinoxes result in an equal amount of daylight and darkness received across the whole of Mother Earth. The winter solstice is when the Earth is closest to the sun; however, the tilt of the Earth is away from the sun in the northern hemisphere. This is opposite in the summer when the Earth is farther from the sun, but the tilt of Earth's axis is towards the sun. This tilt causes varying levels of direct sunlight based on the time of year and is the reason why there are four seasons.

Solstices

Like equinoxes, solstices occur twice a year. They are used to mark the points in time when the sun's path is at its farthest point from the Equator. The Northern Hemisphere will typically experience the summer solstice on or around June 20th or 21st. The winter solstice occurs in late December between the 21st and 22nd. Much like their names imply, the solstices are used to mark the transition from spring to summer and from autumn to winter, but these seasons will be experienced in opposite ways in the Northern and Southern hemispheres

Equinox

An equinox happens twice a year, marking the beginning of the spring and fall seasons. On an equinox, most places on Earth will receive roughly the same amount of daytime as nighttime. Unsurprisingly, the word equinox actually comes from two Latin terms that imply an equal length of day and night. *Equi* means "equal," and *nox* means "night." So the word translates simply to "equal night."



Picture Credit: "Solstices and Equinoxes" by Vince_Lamb is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

VIDEO
There's a great video (here) that will clear up any remaining confusion you may have.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Living in Haywards Heath

Source: • https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/homes-and-gardens/places-to-live/what-it-s-like-to-live-in-haywards-heath-7245424 • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Muster_Green • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haywards_Heath_railway_station

Location
Haywards Heath is a town in the Mid Sussex District of West Sussex, within the historic county of Sussex. Fantastic transport links make Haywards Heath a hot spot for commuters. Ideally situated for commuting to London and Brighton, Haywards Heath offers the perfect blend of rural and urban living.

Despite the glorious West Sussex countryside being just on its doorstep, London can be reached in less than two hours by car via the A23 and M25, while Brighton is about half an hour down the A272 and A23. Chichester is just over an hour away, and Gatwick airport is only 30 minutes up the road. The town's railway station forms part of the Brighton main line and is served by regular direct trains to both London Victoria and London Blackfriars, getting you to the capital within an hour. Trains to Brighton are only 20 minutes, and run throughout the day. Despite these major towns being within easy reach, Haywards Heath's positioning on the edge of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty means that country walks in rolling hills are also just a stone's throw away.

The Railway
The London and Brighton Railway opened its main line from a junction with the London and Croydon Railway at Norwood as far as Haywards Heath on 12th July 1841, a coach service was provided to take passengers on the remainder of their journey towards Brighton. The remainder of the line to Brighton opened shortly after on 21st September of the same year. The original station was designed by the architect David Mocatta and included a central passing line and an awning over the platform. The station retained its importance as a junction following the construction of the line to Lewes from Keymer 3 miles (4.8 km) to the south. From 1846, the railway became the London Brighton and South Coast Railway.

History
The place-name was first recorded in 1261 as Heyworth, then in 1359 as Hayworthe, in 1544 as Haywards Hoth (i.e. 'heath by the enclosure with a hedge'), and in 1607 as Hayworths Hethe. There is a local legend that the name comes from a highwayman who went under the name of Jack Hayward. Whether this tale is fact or fiction, a signpost depicting him stands proudly on Heath Road as a marker of the town's history, the site where he is believed to have once roamed.

Other noted historical events in Haywards Heath's history** include:

- The opening of the Sussex County Lunatic Asylum (later called St Francis Hospital) in 1859. The superintendent here was, for many years, Dr Lockhart Robertson, later Lord Chancellor's Visitor and brother of the eminent ophthalmologist, Dr Argyll Robertson.
- The opening of Bannister's Cattle Market, the 12th largest in the UK at one point, in 1859. This was closed to make way in 1989 for a Sainsbury's supermarket .
- Victorian and Edwardian villas were built as early commuter settlements in 1894.
- The opening of the Eliot Cottage Hospital, later King Edward VII Eliot Memorial Hospital, in 1906, named after the benefactor, Alice Annie Eliot (1864–1904)
- Schemes in the 1920s to help families on low incomes to become self-sufficient, resulting in the building of Franklands Village in the 1930s.
- Housing in Haywards Heath has been expanded significantly in recent years due to the creation of Bolnore Village, located to the south-west of the existing town.

** Source: https://kids.kiddle.co/Haywards_Heath

Haywards Heath and the English Civil War
It has only recently been discovered that Haywards Heath also played a decisive role in the English Civil War. The Battle of Muster Green (also known as the Battle of Haywards Heath) was a minor battle of major significance that took place during the first week of December 1642 on and around the then much larger Muster Green in Haywards Heath during the first year of the First English Civil War. A Royalist army under Colonel Edward Ford, High Sheriff of Sussex, marching from Chichester to seize Lewes for the King, encountered a smaller but more disciplined Parliamentarian army under Colonel Herbert Morley waiting for them on Muster Green.

After Royalist musketeers fired "some" volleys, Morley's cavalry broke through the Royalist's advanced guard and, with the Parliamentarian infantry charging simultaneously, fought hand-to-hand; at least an hour of fighting ensued in which 200 Royalists were killed, wounded, or captured, resulting in the surviving Royalist forces routing and the Parliamentarians emerging victorious, saving Lewes from a Royalist assault, and pushing back Ford's 1642 Royalist invasion of Sussex. The battle site of the Battle of Muster Green became and remained the furthest any large Royalist force advanced through Sussex during the English Civil Wars.

Borde Hill House
In 1598, Borde Hill House was built by Sir Stephen Borde, whose family lived in Cuckfield for generations. The house is a stunning Elizabethan stately home that forms part of a 2,300-acre estate, lying mostly in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It sits on the outskirts of Haywards Heath and today, the spectacular gardens (now a registered charity) are open to the public, featuring exotic and rare trees that were collected from all corners of the world in the early 1900s.

Growth of the Town
The London to Brighton railway in 1841 put Haywards Heath officially put on the map. The people of Cuckfield had opposed the train-line running through their parish, so a railway station opened in Haywards Heath in July 1841 as an alternative. It started the area's rapid expansion, soon outgrowing Cuckfield,

The early 20th century saw a significant increase in housing; in the 1920s, a scheme was drawn up to provide accommodation for families on low incomes, culminating in the building of Franklands Village in the 1930s, which has since developed into its own community as have the more recent developments at Borde Hill, Rocky Lane, and Penlands Green. By June 2019, Haywards Heath was home to nearly 40,000 people, with nearly 20% being aged over 65.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Queen Victoria's sister, Feodora

Sources: • https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/princess-feodora-queen-victoria-sister-who-life/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_Feodora_of_Leiningen • https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/arts-and-culture/a25949250/princess-feodora-victoria/ • https://inews.co.uk/culture/television/queen-victorias-sister-who-was-princess-feodora-in-real-life-and-what-happened-to-her-275221 • https://www.historyofroyalwomen.com/the-royal-women/queen-victorias-siblings/

Picture Credit: Public Domain. Princess_Feodora_of_Hohenlohe-Langenburg by Sir William Rossl.jpg

As a young child, the future Queen Victoria often walked in Kensington Gardens, wishing onlookers a cheerful "Good morning!" The little princess was never permitted to be alone for an instant. During these walks, her mother, Victoire, the Duchess of Kent, held one of her hands. Victoria's older half-sister, Princess Feodora, held the other hand. The trio became a familiar sight near Kensington Palace and were described by one observer as "a group of exquisite loveliness.*

* Source acknowledgement: https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/princess-feodora-queen-victoria-sister-who-life/

Who was Princess Feodora of Leiningen?

Princess Feodora of Leiningen (Anna Feodora Auguste Charlotte Wilhelmine; 7th December 1807 – 23rd September 1872) was born in Amorbach, Bavaria. She was the only daughter of Emich Carl, Prince of Leiningen (1763–1814), and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld (1786–1861). Feodora and her older brother Carl, the 3rd Prince of Leiningen, were maternal half-siblings to our Queen Victoria. Feodora is a matrilineal ancestress (through women only) of Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and of Felipe VI of Spain.

Feodora's father, Emich Carl, died in 1814. Four years later, Victoire remarried, to Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III, while her son Carl remained in Leiningen to complete his education.

On 29th May 1818, Feodora's mother remarried - to Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III. The following year, when the duchess's pregnancy was reaching full term, the household moved so that the new potential heir to the British throne could be born in Britain.

Relationships with Victoria

Feodora and Victoria had the same mother, Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. Feodora enjoyed a very close relationship with her younger half-sister Victoria, who was devoted to her. Feodora was one of only a few other children with whom Victoria was allowed regular interaction. Feodora maintained a lifelong correspondence with Victoria and was granted an allowance of £300 (equivalent to c £30,000 today) whenever she could visit Britain. She was a member of the royal party at Victoria's coronation in 1838.

Feodora's Marriage

In early 1828, Feodora married Ernst I, Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg (1794–1860), at Kensington Palace. The match was arranged by Queen Adelaide of Great Britain, as Prince Ernst I was her first cousin. Prior to that, she had only met him twice. After their honeymoon, she returned to the German Confederation, where she lived until her death in 1872.

In the Operating Theatre

A doctor is operating on a patient. He says to his assistant: *"Helium please"* so the assistant wheels over a tank of helium.

The doctor proceeds to put a mask on the patient so he can inhale the gas, but the patient doesn't respond to the treatment.

The doctor turns to his assistant again. *"Curium please"*.

The assistant produces a syringe full of the nuclear medicine. The doctor injects the patient, but again he doesn't respond to the treatment.

The doctor turns again to his assistant: "*Barium please*".

The theatre assistant looks surprised. *"Barium, why on earth do you need barium?"*

The doctor says: *"Well if you can't helium, and you can't curium, the only thing left is to barium!"*

Add to your Vocabulary: Nescience

Here's an unusual word: ***Nescience.*** It means: *"lack of knowledge, ignorance"*.

Nescience comes straight from Late Latin *nescientia*, a noun formed from *nescient,* the stem of *nesciēns*, the present participle of *nescīre* "to be ignorant, not to know," and the Latin (and Greek) noun suffix *-ia*.

In Latin (and other archaic Indo-European languages, with the exception of Greek), *ne-* was the original negative for sentences: thus, the pair *sciō* "I know," and *nesciō* "I don't know."

The usual sentence negative in Classical Latin is *nōn*, probably from earlier *noenum* "not one (thing)," itself a strengthening of *ne* with *oenum* (Classical Latin *ūnum*).

Something similar happened in English, the adverb *not* being a reduced form of *nought* (also *naught*), a compound of the negative adverb *ne* and the noun *wiht* "thing, wight." *Nescience* entered English in the first half of the 17th century.

Source: Dictionary.com

The War of Jenkins' Ear

In 1731, Spanish sailors boarded the British brig *Rebecca* off the coast of Cuba and sliced off the left ear of its captain, Robert Jenkins of the East India Company. This traumatic auriculectomy was used as a pretext by the British to declare war on Spain in eight years later in 1739, a conflict that is now known as the *War of Jenkins' Ear* (known as Guerra del Asiento in Spain).

The *Rebecca,* supposedly carrying a cargo of sugar from the British colony of Jamaica to London, lay becalmed off Havana. She was overtaken by the 16-oared Spanish sloop *San Antonio*, captained by Juan León Fandiño. The Spaniards fired several shots in the direction of the *Rebecca* and demanded to search her for contraband. During the skirmishes that followed, Jenkins' ear was sliced off. Cropping ears was a relatively common punishment at the time, which may explain why the British public's initial response was relatively tepid when the news reached England.

Sources: • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_Jenkins'_Ear • https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3711623/

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Victorian England's 'Female Lawrence of Arabia': Gertrude Bell

Sources: • https://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/gertrude-bell.htm
• https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Gertrude-Bell/
• https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/mar/12/iraq.jamesbuchan
• https://www.biography.com/news/gertrude-bell-biography-facts • http://gertrudebell.ncl.ac.uk/
• https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/06/the-woman-who-made-iraq/305893/
• https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/gertrude-bell/
• https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/gertrude-bell-tragedy-of-her-letters-from-baghdad/

Picture Credit: "File:CairoConference1921.jpg" by Beaugosses at English Wikipedia is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Archive photo taken at the Cairo Conference- 1921. Seated: from right: Winston Churchill, Herbert Samuel. Standing first row: from left: Gertrude Bell, Sir Sassoon Eskell, Field Marshal Edmund Allenby, Jafar Pasha al-Askari

'Queen of the Desert' and the *'Female Lawrence of Arabia'* are just two of the names attributed to the intrepid female traveller - Gertrude Bell. At a time when a woman's role was still very much in the home, Bell proved what an accomplished woman could achieve in life. However, while Bell is often celebrated for her efforts in the Middle East, she remains a complicated historical figure for many people.

Beginnings
Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell was born on 14th July 1868, in Washington New Hall in what was then County Durham. Her family was considered affluent and progressive – at the time, the family was purported to be the sixth richest family in Britain. After losing her mother at a young age, she developed a close relationship with her father, Sir Hugh Bell, 2nd Baronet, a wealthy mill owner who became an important mentor throughout Gertrude's life. Her grandfather was the industrialist, Sir Isaac Lowthian Bell, a Liberal Member of Parliament in the time of Disraeli.

Bell's unique educational and professional path began at Oxford, where she became the first woman to earn a first-class honours degree in modern history. She attended Lady Margaret Hall, one of the only colleges in Oxford that accepted women. Soon after graduation, she developed a passion for travel and accompanied her uncle, Sir Frank Lascelles, to Tehran, Persia, where he served as the British minister. Bell later went on to chronicle the journey in her book, "*Persian Pictures.*"

Passions
But Bell's passion for linguistics wasn't enough for her - she also loved mountaineering - scaling the Matterhorn in 1904. She was also passionate about archaeology. But it was her work with the British government in the Middle East that is perhaps the biggest part of her legacy. After her initial request for a Middle East posting was denied at the start of World War I, Bell began volunteering with the Red Cross in France.

She eventually gained a position working with T.E. Lawrence, otherwise known as "Lawrence of Arabia," in the Arab Bureau, based in Cairo, Egypt.

Iraq
Bell also played an instrumental role in bringing King Faisal to power in Iraq in 1922. Her efforts to preserve the region's cultural heritage, resulted in the locals often addressing her as "khutan," which means "queen" in Persian and "respected lady" in Arabic. King Faisal later named Bell as the director of antiquities at the new National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad. The museum was Bell's last passion project.

Personal Life
With so much of her time taken up by travelling, educational pursuits and pastimes, Bell never married or had any children. Bell was unlucky in love: the first man she fell for was Henry Cadogan, a member of the foreign service she had met while visiting Iran in 1892. The couple shared a love of literature, including the poetry of Rudyard Kipling and the stories of Henry James.

Unfortunately for Bell, her father vehemently disapproved of the match. Later Bell became enamoured with a married British officer, Dick Doughty-Wylie. According to an article in the *Telegraph* newspaper, the pair exchanged numerous letters expressing their affection for each other. Bell wanted Doughty-Wylie to leave his wife for her, and his wife threatened suicide if he did. The whole tragic mess ended when Doughty-Wylie, who was awarded the Victoria Cross, was killed on the battlefield at Gallipoli in 1915 *.
* Source: https://www.biography.com/news/gertrude-bell-biography-facts and also https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/06/the-woman-who-made-iraq/305893/

Bell had been in poor health when she died in July 1926 in Baghdad at the age of 57, but some felt she took her own life with an overdose of sleeping pills. She was unhappy at what had become a life of administration, wanted another adventure, and had never found the soulmate she'd yearned for. King Faisal arranged a military funeral for her and Bell was laid to rest in Baghdad's British Civil Cemetery.

Gertrude Bell Archive
The books and papers of Gertrude Bell were given to Newcastle University Library by Gertrude's half-sister, Lady Richmond, although part of the Doughty-Wylie (see reference above) correspondence came from St. Anthony's College, Oxford.

Research and resources related to Gertrude have been brought together on the Gertrude Bell research website. This website includes the Gertrude Bell Archive itself, resources for schools, media, and events to understand an extraordinary woman from multiple perspectives.

The Film
Queen of the Desert is a 2015 American epic biographical drama film written and directed by Werner Herzog and is based on the life of British traveller, writer, archaeologist, explorer, cartographer and political officer - Gertrude Bell. You can watch it here.

Picture Credit: Screenshot from the trailer of *Queen of the Desert*, starring Nicole Kidman, Robert Pattinson, Damian Lewis. Jay Abdo and Jenny Agutter.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Mysteries Galore

Are you interested in unsolved crimes involving strange deaths or missing persons? They exhibit some truly baffling unsolved mysteries, whether they be unexplained disappearances, murders, or even bizarre supernatural occurrences. So far as the authorities are concerned, they were complete mysteries at the time and have remained so ever since – a little Edgar Lusgartenish perhaps…

The Body in a Wych Elm Tree

Perhaps a German spy ring was behind the death of a woman found inside a hollowed-out Wych Elm tree in Worcestershire during World War II. The unidentified victim was discovered by a group of boys in Hagley in 1943. The poor woman had cloth stuffed in her mouth, and her severed hand was buried nearby. Graffiti nearby asked *Who put Luebella in the Wych Elm?* so the victim subsequently became known as Bella. Police considered the possibility that Bella had been working as a prostitute or was a gipsy. They noted wych elms were thought to offer protection against witches.

One woman told police officers her Dutch lodger had boasted about putting "his Dutch piece in a tree". Then in 1953, a letter to the Express & Star newspaper claimed Bella was murdered by a German spy ring. The publication of MI5 files detailing the capture of a German spy with a picture of the actress Clara Bauerle in his pocket led to speculation that Clara was Bella. Then, to add to the mystery, poor Bella's skeletal remains have disappeared from Birmingham University. West Mercia Police said the reason for the disposal "was not known".

Martin Allen - The Boy Who Never Arrived

Source: http://shorturl.at/ms679

On the afternoon of 5th November 1979, 15-year-old Martin Allen finished school and spent some time hanging around King's Cross station in London with his friends. Then he joined his train for the journey home. But Martin never arrived home and was reported missing. A witness later recalled seeing a nervous-looking boy resembling Martin in the company of an unidentified man at Gloucester Road station that same day. The man was holding the boy's shoulder and warning him not to run away.

Over the years, there have been strange developments in this case. In 1998, a shrine to Martin Allen was found inside the home of an alleged paedophile. This person matched the description of the man last seen with Martin, but authorities could not connect him to the disappearance.

Martin's family believe there is a massive cover-up surrounding his case, particularly when they were informed that files and evidence related to Martin's disappearance were destroyed in a flood, and that a police officer inexplicably took some other files with him when he retired and moved to Spain.

It has been speculated that Martin's disappearance may be connected to a scandal involving an organised paedophile ring, in which children were allegedly delivered to high-profile figures at a brothel known as the Elm Guest House during the 1970s and 1980s. One anonymous witness came forward to claim he was a victim of the ring and had been molested by a Member of Parliament during his childhood. He also claims to have personally witnessed the murder of three other boys, one of whom may have been Martin. Yet, despite these allegations and enquiries, Martin Allen's disappearance remains unsolved - no viable clues and no explanations.

The Andrew Gosden Mystery

Source: http://shorturl.at/ms679

One of the strangest British missing person's cases involves a 14-year-old boy named Andrew Gosden. Andrew lived with his parents and sister in Doncaster. On the morning of 14th September 2007, he left home for school as usual. But he never arrived. Later that day, Andrew's parents realised something was very wrong when they discovered his school uniform was still in his bedroom. Apparently, after his family left the house that morning, Andrew returned home to change his clothes. He then emptied his bank account of £200 before arriving at Doncaster station, where he purchased a train ticket to King's Cross station in London. He would be captured on CCTV footage there at approximately 11:20 AM. That was the last confirmed sighting of him. Since Andrew had no known problems, his family were completely baffled by his decision to travel to London. He left no note to explain his actions and took very few items with him. Perhaps the strangest detail of all is that Andrew insisted on purchasing a one-way train ticket, even after being informed that a return ticket would cost only £1 more.

A year after Andrew's disappearance, an unidentified man spoke into the intercom at the doorway to Leominster Police Station in Hertfordshire, claiming to have information about the case. When an officer arrived to answer the door, the man had disappeared. There is still no trace of Andrew Gosden or any explanation for his mysterious train trip.

The Inventor Who Vanished

Source: http://shorturl.at/ms679

One of the most bizarre unsolved disappearances of all time involves renowned French inventor Louis Le Prince. On 16th September 1890, while on a train heading to Paris, he vanished without a trace from a moving train. Le Prince was a French artist and the inventor of an early motion picture camera, possibly being the first person to shoot a moving picture sequence using a single lens camera and a strip of (paper) film. His work may have been slightly in advance of the inventions of other contemporaneous moving-picture pioneers and years in advance of that of Auguste and Louis Lumière, and William Kennedy Dickson (who did moving image work for Thomas Edison).

Le Prince was never able to perform a planned public demonstration in the US because he mysteriously vanished from the train in September 1890. His body and luggage were never found, but, over a century later, a police archive was found to contain a photograph of a drowned man who could have been Le Prince. The unconfirmed reasons for his disappearance are many, with theories including a murder set up by Edison, suicide, secret homosexuality, intentional disappearing in order to start a new life, and a murder by his brother over their mother's will.

The Physicist Who Disappeared

In 1932, Ettore Majorana, one of the top physicists in the world, discovered the neutron. Six years later, he disappeared. He is not well known as he rarely published his findings, some of which were groundbreaking. Two months after his first lecture in 1938, Ettore Majorana didn't show up to one of his classes. Antonio Carrelli, the Director of the Naples Physics Institute, was immediately worried, having previously received two cryptic letters from him.

In September 1939, WW2 began. Around that time, quite a few rumours arose that Majorana had been kidnapped by Nazis and was working in a laboratory in Berlin. However, as the German nuclear programme didn't actually exist until 1939 (a year after Majorana's disappearance), that theory doesn't add up. So, where did he go? Nearly 70 years after his disappearance, in March 2011, a witness made a statement that he had met Majorana in Argentina a few years after World War 2, and in February 2015, prosecutors in Rome finally officially closed the investigation, declaring that Majorana was alive in Venezuela between 1955-1959. They concluded that his disappearance was a personal choice. Do you believe that?

The Lord who Vanished

Picture Credit: "1974 - West Midlands Police - Lord Lucan" by West Midlands Police is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Earl of Lucan, commonly known as Lord Lucan, disappeared after being suspected of murder. His marriage had collapsed late in 1972, and he moved out of the family home in Belgravia to a property nearby. A bitter custody battle ensued, which Lucan lost. On the evening of 7th November 1974, Sandra Rivett, the nanny of Lucan's children, was bludgeoned to death in the basement of the Lucan family home. Lady Lucan was also attacked; she later identified Lucan as her assailant. Lucan phoned his mother, asking her to collect the children, and then drove a borrowed Ford car to a friend's house in Uckfield and later left the property and disappeared. The Ford was found abandoned in Newhaven, its interior stained with blood and its boot containing a piece of bandaged lead pipe similar to one found at the crime scene. The police issued a warrant for Lucan's arrest a few days later, and the inquest into Rivett's death named him as her murderer. Notwithstanding continuing interest in Lucan's fate and reports of hundreds of alleged sightings, Lucan has not been found, despite a police investigation and widespread press coverage. He was declared legally dead in October 1999.

Contributed by

Martin Pollins

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

The Sussex Connection with Bluebird

Sources for the story below: • https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Kenneth_Norris • https://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/news/new-sculpture-unveiled-burgess-hill-honour-norris-brothers-717237 • https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Lewis_Hunt_Norris • http://www.cherrymortgages.com/historic_britain/Bluebird_Electric_Cars_Collection_Herstmonceux_Museum_Campbell_Hall.htm • https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-19160845 • https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/6783252.men-who-made-the-bluebird/

Picture Credit: "Bluebird" by Jez B is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Campbells

Malcolm Campbell

The Bluebird story stars with Malcolm Campbell (1885-1948) racing cars in 1910. In 1912, he suffered the first of many near-fatal accidents at the famous Brooklands race track. This car was christened *Blue Bird*, after a stage play by Maurice Maeterlinck, and the name was used for all later vehicles and those raced by his son, Donald Malcolm Campbell (although Donald used the single word form).

Malcolm Campbell first broke the land speed record at Pendine Sands, Carmarthenshire, in September 1924. He worked for Combined Operations during the Second World War, but he later suffered from glaucoma – possibly due to his disdain for safety goggles.

For the rest of the decade, Campbell notched up more records on water. Following his sixth – 260.35mph in May 1959 – he made an attempt on the land record that nearly proved fatal. In July 1964, he finally claimed the land speed prize at Lake Eyre salt flats in Australia, recording a speed of 403.14mph.

Donald Campbell: "Living with death as a shadow at his shoulder."

Following a path set by his father, Donald Malcolm Campbell, C.B.E. (1921-1967), was a British car and motorboat racing driver. He broke eight world speed records in the 1950s and 1960s. His first, but unsuccessful, attempt at the water speed record took place in August 1949. He eventually triumphed six years later, taking a new, jet-powered Bluebird to 202.32mph on Coniston Water.

He remains the only person to set both land and water speed records in the same year (1964). His father was the holder of 13 world speed records.

Donald Campbell died on 4th January 1967 while attempting another speed record on Coniston Water in Cumbria. He was exceeding 300 mph when he crashed and sank.

Picture Credit: "Donald Campbell, Speed Ace" by Hammerhead27 is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

He was driven by a desire to push the limits of speed and endurance. In a way, he saw himself as competing for headlines with Neville Duke, the test pilot, who helped the Campbell team with its breathing apparatus, and with the formula one racing ace, Stirling Moss. Like them, "*he lived with death as a shadow at his shoulder.*"

Source: https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Donald_Campbell

The Norris Brothers

Kenneth Norris

Kenneth William Norris (1921-2005), the son of William and Florence Norris, was born in Cuckfield, Sussex. William Norris was an engine fitter at the Burgess Hill gas works. Kenneth (and his brothers) went to Grammar School, after which he was apprenticed at Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft in Coventry. At 24, he managed their mechanical testing department and was part of the team that developed the AW52 Flying Wing. At 31, he and two of his brothers set up a design company (Norris Brothers) with two of his brothers in 1952. The following year saw the company's first major project - the design of a new Bluebird, the K7, for Donald Campbell, which set seven water speed records between 1955 and 1964.

* The successor to this, using a gas turbine propulsion system, was the one in which Donald Campbell crashed and died in 1967.

Lewis Norris

Lew (Lewis) Hunt Norris (1924-2009) was, like his older brother Kenneth, an engineer and designer of land and water speed record vehicles. He attended Lewes Grammar School and was later apprenticed at Harland and Wolff in its London shipyard, building landing craft for D-Day in WWII. Later, he worked at Kine Engineering Co of Horley as works manager, where another brother (Eric) was the accountant. Donald Campbell was part-owner of Kine. He and Ken set up Norris Brothers (a design company) in 1952.

Memorial unveiled to Norris Brothers in Burgess Hill

The Norris brothers had their engineering office above the TSB bank in Church Walk, Burgess Hill. They designed Donald Campbell's legendary Bluebird cars and boats. Fifty years after Donald Campbell died at Conniston, a sculpture called *Bluebird Contained* (designed by artist Steve Geliot) was unveiled to the public on the Green Circle Network by Sir Nicholas Soames, along with leader of Burgess Hill Town Council Pru Moore, Burgess Hill town mayor Jacqui Landriani.

Original Bluebird powerboat restored in Polegate

The Bluebird powerboat used by Sir Malcolm Campbell to break the world water speed record in the 1930s has been restored to its former glory. Karl Foulkes-Halbard, the owner of Bluebird K3 has spent 22 years on the project at Filching Manor Motor Museum, near Polegate, East Sussex. The boat broke the water speed record twice in 1937 and once in 1938 at 130mph (209km/h). Mr Foulkes-Halbard told the BBC: "*It's an incredible piece of British marine history. She was built by the firm Saunders-Roe on the Isle of Wight and commissioned by Sir Malcolm Campbell.*"

Source: BBC article, 7/8/2012, at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-19160845

Filching Manor Motor Museum** is the home of the last remaining intact Bluebird boat - K3 Rolls Royce-engined speedboat driven by Sir Malcolm Campbell to take the world water speed record. The speedboat is the only world record boat that survives intact and well worth visiting.

** See: http://www.speedace.info/filching_manor_motor_museum.htm

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Can't swallow properly? Read this…

Excerpted from • https://dailycaring.com/why-do-seniors-have-trouble-swallowing/
• https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/swallowing-problems-dysphagia/
• https://www.healthline.com/health/difficulty-in-swallowing#causes
• https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/dysphagia

Introduction

Some older adults have trouble swallowing food or liquids. This condition is called ***dysphagia*** in medical parlance and it's serious as it could cause all sorts of problems such as malnutrition, dehydration, weight loss or aspiration pneumonia*.

* Aspiration pneumonia is a lung infection caused by food or liquid particles in the lungs - a leading cause of hospitalisation and death among residents in nursing homes.

Humans have 50 pairs of muscles and nerves to help them swallow. In other words, there are lots of things that can go wrong and lead to problems swallowing. The inability to swallow foods or liquids easily, isn't always indicative of a medical condition. In fact, this condition may be temporary and can go away on its own.

Here, you'll discover what dysphagia is, why it's so serious, the common signs of dysphagia, and what causes it.

What is dysphagia?

Dysphagia simply means difficulty swallowing. Whilst it can happen at any age but is more common in older adults, especially those with acid reflux. It's estimated that 15% of seniors and up to 68% of nursing home residents are affected by dysphagia. Dysphagia is important to be aware of because it can cause serious health problems for older people. Signs of dysphagia include:

- Coughing while eating or drinking
- Choking on food, liquids, or medication
- A gurgly sounding voice, especially after eating or drinking
- Difficulty swallowing food or drinks
- Drooling

People with dysphagia have difficulty swallowing. They may even experience pain while swallowing (odynophagia). Some people may be completely unable to swallow or may have trouble safely swallowing liquids, foods, or saliva. When that happens, eating becomes a challenge.

What causes dysphagia?

There are many potential causes of dysphagia, so getting checked out by a doctor is important.

Any condition that weakens or damages the muscles and nerves used for swallowing may cause dysphagia. For example, people with diseases of the nervous system, such as cerebral palsy or Parkinson's disease, often have problems swallowing. Additionally, stroke or head injury may weaken or affect the coordination of the swallowing muscles or limit sensation in the mouth and throat.

Common causes include:

- Teeth in bad condition or having poorly fitting dentures
- Normal ageing (weakening of mouth/throat muscles)
- Acid reflux
- Stroke
- Cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's or dementia
- Cancer of the mouth, throat, or oesophagus
- Taking certain medications

Treating Dysphagia

Treatment usually depends on the cause and type of dysphagia. Many cases of dysphagia can be improved with careful management, but a cure isn't always possible. The NHS offers suggestions (here) to treat dysphagia, which include:

- speech and language therapy to learn new swallowing techniques
- changing the consistency of food and liquids to make them safer to swallow
- other forms of feeding – such as tube feeding through the nose or stomach
- surgery to widen the oesophagus by stretching it or inserting a plastic or metal tube (stent)

You can read more about treating dysphagia here.

Yummy, all those beans!

Received this from a cousin in Canada. It looks yummy!

It's called **15 Bean Soup with Ham Recipe** - a hearty, stick-to-your-ribs kind-of soup loaded with heart-healthy beans, diced tomatoes, fresh onions, celery and carrots with plenty of spice and flavor. And, we understand, this soup freezes beautifully!

You can access the recipe, here.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

The Juanita Moody and Cuba Story

Source: • https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/juanita-moody-woman-helped-avert-nuclear-war-180976993/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_Missile_Crisis

On the brink of nuclear war in 1962, America's bold response to the Soviet Union depended on an unknown spy agency operative, Juanita Moody, whose story (*produced in partnership with* Atellan Media) was told by David Wolman in the March 2021 issue of Smithsonian Magazine, here. The following text is a brief excerpt.

Picture Credit: [Extracted from] "Juanita Moody" by austinmills is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Information about Juanita Moody

- 1942: Began studying at Western Carolina University.
- 1943: Entered duty with US Army's Signal Security Agency, moving rapidly into challenging cryptanalytic assignments.
- 1952: Joined NSA, where she was promoted to increasingly important areas of responsibility.
  During the Cuban Missile Crisis, she supervised NSA's daily and sometimes minute-by-minuteSIGINT production and reporting, often providing impromptu telephone briefings to high-level government and military leaders.
  Revolutionised NSA reporting and placed the first NSA integree into the Wite House Situation Room.
- 1976: Moody became the first recipient of the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement.
- Died in 2015.

Juanita Moody's Story

On Sunday 14th October 1962, the 38-year-old code-breaking wizard Juanita Moody left the National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters at Fort Meade, Maryland. Moody, head of the NSA's Cuba desk, walked to her car having just learned that the US Air Force was sending a U-2 spy plane over Cuba to take high-altitude photographs of military installations across the island. This was a highly dangerous mission at a time when tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union were worsening by the day. American political and military leaders and the intelligence community believed that the Soviet military was up to something dark and secretive in Cuba.

What unfolded over the next two weeks was arguably the most dangerous period in the history of civilization as we know it. Even today, the Cuban Missile Crisis how America's top agents, military leaders, diplomats, intelligence analysts and elected officials failed to anticipate and uncover the build-up of a nuclear arsenal less than 100 miles away, provides more questions than answers. The name of Juanita Moody is still largely unknown outside the agency, as is her contribution to averting Armageddon.

Bay of Pigs

On 17th April 1961, paramilitary soldiers (led by the CIA) stormed Cuba's Playa Girón, in a brief and doomed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro, known as the Bay of Pigs. The surprise attack was in complete disarray almost from the start and precipitated a rapid escalation of disharmony between the United States and the Soviet Union. Before the Bay of Pigs, Castro had (we are told) been lukewarm about Soviet overtures and support. When the superpower 100 miles away tried to remove him, he changed his mind, leading directly to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Even today, even though so much about the Cuban Missile Crisis has been made public, Moody's groundbreaking report, dated February 1962, remains classified. We only know so much, but not all.

The Cuban Missile Crisis*

In response to the presence of US Jupiter ballistic missiles in Italy and Turkey and the botched 1961 ***Bay of Pigs Invasion***, Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev agreed to Cuba's request to place nuclear missiles on the island to deter a future invasion.

Picture Credit: "Nikita Khrushchev" by tonynetone is licensed under CC BY 2.0

An agreement was reached during a secret meeting between Khrushchev and Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro in July 1962, and the construction of several missile launch facilities started later that summer.

The Cuban Missile Crisis, also known as the *October Crisis of 1962*, *the Caribbean Crisis* or *the Missile Scare*, was a one month, four days (16th October to 20th November 1962) confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union which escalated into an international crisis when American deployments of missiles in Italy and Turkey were matched by Soviet deployments of similar ballistic missiles in Cuba. The confrontation is often considered the closest the Cold War came to escalating into a full-scale nuclear war.

* Source: Wikipedia

Picture Credit: "50 verdades sobre Fidel Castro" by Antonio Marín Segovia is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Outcome of the Crisis

- Publicised removal of the Soviet Union's nuclear missiles from Cuba.
- Non-publicised removal of American nuclear missiles from Italy and Turkey.
- Agreement with the Soviet Union that the United States would never invade Cuba without direct provocation.
- Creation of a nuclear hotline between the United States and the Soviet Union

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was president of the US between 1961-63 and one of the most popular presidents ever. No event tested Kennedy more fully than the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962, and his management of this crisis remains highly controversial, not least because of the Bay of Pigs attempt, led by CIA operatives, to kick Cuba's incumbent leader out of office.

Picture Credit: "John F. Kennedy Cuban missile crisis of October 1962 a" by thesmuggler- Night of the Swallow' is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

The man who invented potato crisps

Excerpted from: • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Kitchiner • https://madeupinbritain.uk/Potato_Crisp • https://www.mashed.com/124850/the-strange-history-of-potato-chips/ • https://www.potatoprocess.com/what-are-difference-of-potato-chips-and-potato-crisp/

William Kitchiner M.D. was an English optician, inventor of telescopes, amateur musician and cook. He also invented potato crisps.

Kitchiner became a celebrity chef and was a household name during the early 19th century as a cook. His cookbook, *The Cook's Oracle* (with a fancy Latin name: *Apicius Redivivus),* was a bestseller in the United Kingdom and the United States. The book had eleven ketchup recipes, including two for mushroom and tomato ketchup and one for oyster, cockle, and mussel ketchup.

Unlike most food writers of his time, he cooked the food himself, washed up afterwards, and performed all the household tasks he wrote about. He travelled around with his portable cabinet of taste, a folding cabinet containing his mustards and sauces. He was also the creator of *Wow-Wow* sauce, which sounds disgusting. Look at the ingredients and think gooey, lumpy Worcester or HP sauce: it was made from port, wine vinegar, parsley, pickled cucumbers (or pickled walnuts), English Mustard and mushroom ketchup in a base of beef stock, flour and butter. Ugh!

If the idea of Wow-Wow sauce appeals to you, and you want to treat your loved one, there's a recipe for it here.

But back to crisps. The Romans didn't have crisps, Henry VIII didn't have crisps, cavemen didn't have crisps.

The Americans claim that in 1853, New York chef George Crum served up a meal for Cornelius (Commander) Vanderbilt, who sent it back to the kitchen because the fries were too thick. In response, Crum fried up some super-thin potato shavings and the crisp was born. Not so. Kitchiner got there first - his cookery book was released in the US in 1829, 24 years earlier, and it contained a recipe for "*Potatoes fried in Slices or Shavings*".

Divided by a common language?

In the United States, a crisp is a fruit dessert with a sweet crumb topping, completely unrelated to potatoes. Chips are thin slices of potatoes that are fried and served cold. In Great Britain and Ireland, we know exactly what crisps are.

Actually, it doesn't matter whether you call them chips or crisps, they're one of the most popular snack foods in the world.

A good place to start is the Science Direct website (here) for technical information, history, facts and figures and more.

Big Business

Today, Walkers factory in Leicestershire is said to be the largest globally. It produces 11 million packs of crisps *every day* from *800 tons* of potatoes. It requires more than *350,000 tons of potatoes* a year.

France and the United States eat the most potato chips. Kitchiner was onto something big – the world turnover of crisps is around £12 billion a year.

The Clink

Sources: • https://www.clink.co.uk/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Clink

History

The Clink was a prison in Southwark and operated from the 12th century until 1780. The prison served the *Liberty of the Clink*, a local manor area owned by the Bishop of Winchester rather than by the reigning monarch. As the Liberty owner, the Bishop kept all revenues from the *Clink Liberty*, and could put people in prison for failing to make their payments. As the Bishop, he could also imprison heretics. The *Clink* prison was situated next to the Bishop's London-area residence of Winchester Palace. *The Clink* was possibly the oldest men's prison and probably the oldest women's prison in England.

The origins of the name "*The Clink*" are possibly onomatopoeic, deriving from the sound of striking metal as the prison's doors were bolted, or the rattling of the chains the prisoners wore, or even the sound of the blacksmith's hammer closing the irons around the wrists or ankles of prisoners. Whatever the etymology, it resulted in the development of the expression, nowadays slang, "*to be thrown in The Clink.*"

During its remarkably long span, besides the usual drunken vagrants, vagabonds and other seemingly petty criminals, *The Clink* also housed more historically significant criminals, including debtors, heretics, drunkards, harlots, and religious adversaries. The gaolers (aka jailers) were very poorly paid, but found other ways to supplement their income. This meant that prisoners with money and friends on the outside were able to pay the gaolers to make their time inside better.

Throughout its long existence, *The Clink* suffered several attempts for its destruction through rebellion, such as during the Peasant's Revolt in 1381, or during Jack Cade's rebellion of 1450, both of which resulted in the rebuilding of *The Clink*, with the latter resulting in a new, two-storey men's prison on the site of what is now *The Clink Prison Museum*.

Somehow or other, *The Clink* survived until 1780, when Lord George Gordon, dissatisfied with the favours granted to Catholics during the 'Papists Act' as a result of the American War of Independence, assembled The Protestant Association and broke into *The Clink,* releasing all of the prisoners and burning the building to the ground. *The Clink* was never rebuilt. Today, all that remains of Bankside's once most notorious prison is the stonework of Winchester Palace, the passage 'Clink Street' and that which has been preserved within *The Clink Prison Museum*, including an original wall.

The Clink Prison Museum

Built on the original site, *The Clink Prison Museum* presents the scandalous truth of Old Bankside through a hands-on educational experience. There are opportunities to view archaeological artefacts, experience the sights, sounds and smells of the prison, handle torture devices, and view and hear all about the tales of torment and many misfortunes of the inmates of the infamous *Clink Prison*.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Chickens, Eggs and Humans

Sources • https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egg_as_food
• https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-the-chicken-conquered-the-world-87583657/
• https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/aug/24/how-did-the-chicken-a-shy-forest-bird-migrate-around-the-globe-new-zealan

Despite being non-migratory and lacking the ability for long-distance flying, the spread of chickens around the world is intimately linked to the movement of people. The Guardian article from 2016 sheds light on how and when it happened.

Bird Eggs
Bird eggs have been valuable foodstuffs since prehistory (the period of human history between the use of the first stone tools by hominins* c. 3.3 million years ago and the invention of writing systems), in both hunting societies and more recent cultures where birds were domesticated.
* Hominins are species regarded as human, directly ancestral to humans, or very closely related to humans.

To Eat or to Cockfight, that is the Question
Many archaeologists believe that chickens were first domesticated not for eating but for cockfighting. Even if that is not right, the attraction was not the chicken itself but its eggs (from jungle fowl native to tropical and subtropical Southeast Asia and Indian subcontinent) before 7500 BC. Chickens were brought to Sumer and Egypt by 1500 BC and arrived in Greece around 800 BC, where the quail had been the primary source of eggs. Proof of this is that in Thebes, Egypt, the tomb of Haremhab, dating to approximately 1420 BC, shows a depiction of a man carrying bowls of ostrich eggs and other large eggs, possibly those of the pelican, as offerings. In ancient Rome, eggs were preserved using several methods and meals often started with an egg course.

Progress?
In the Middle Ages, eggs were forbidden during Lent because of their richness. Egg scrambled with acidic fruit juices were popular in France in the seventeenth century; this may have been the origin of lemon curd.

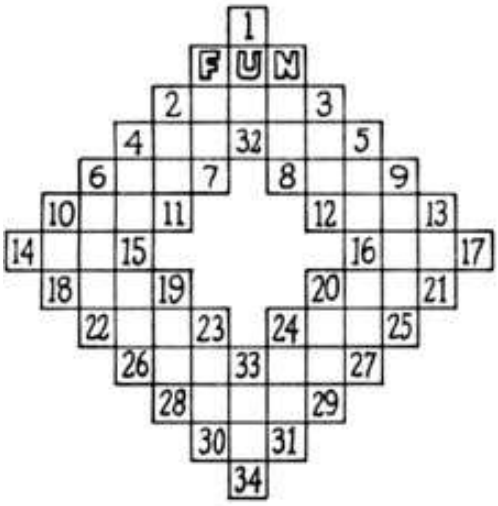
The dried egg industry developed in the 19th century, before the rise of the frozen egg industry. In 1878, a company in St. Louis, Missouri used a special drying process to turn egg yolk and egg white into a light-brown, meal-like substance - the production of dried eggs significantly expanded during World War II.

A Sacred Animal
The Smithsonian article (here) reminds us that chickens were, and still are, a sacred animal in some cultures. The prodigious and ever-watchful hen was a worldwide symbol of nurturance and fertility. Eggs hung in Egyptian temples to ensure a bountiful river flood. The lusty rooster (a.k.a. cock) was a universal signifier of virility—but also, in the ancient Persian faith of *Zoroastrianism*, a benign spirit that crowed at dawn to herald a turning point in the cosmic struggle between darkness and light. For the Romans, how a chicken behaved before a battle could provide clues on how the enemy could be beaten.

Domestication
Charles Darwin was the first to suggest that all domestic chickens can be traced back to the red junglefowl *Gallus gallus*. Sites in China provide the earliest archaeological evidence for domesticated chickens and chicken bones have been found dating to 10,000-8000 years ago (see here). But, it seems that most, if not all, bones identified as chicken are, in fact, ring-necked pheasants, a species common in China, instead (see here and here). Evidence from China regarding the early domestication of chickens remains controversial, but chicken remains from the Indus Valley in northern India suggest that domesticated chickens were present in southern Asia 4,000 years ago.

The man who invented Crosswords

Source: • https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/nine-amazing-merseyside-men-women-13338846 • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wynne



Liverpool's Arthur Wynne produced the world's first crossword puzzle in 1913. It appeared in *New York World* and had most of the features we would recognise in a crossword today, although it was originally called a "Word-Cross Puzzle".

Wynne's father was the editor of the local newspaper, the *Liverpool Mercury*. Age 19, Arthur Wynne emigrated to the United States in June 1891, settling for a time in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He later moved to New York City and worked for the *New York World* newspaper.

His crosswords were initially diamond shaped with no black squares, but he devised the important elements of intersecting words on horizontal and vertical lines, which were clued with numbers.

Wynne later pioneered the grid pattern of black and white squares in a symmetrical shape which is now instantly recognisable as a crossword.

Crossword Buffs
The clues to the first crossword (and hyperlink to the solution) can be found at https://www.crosswordtournament.com/more/wynne.html

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Most Haunted places in Sussex

Sources: • https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/hampshire-haunted-locations-7290658 • https://www.worthingherald.co.uk/news/people/16-sussexs-most-haunted-places-3018645 • https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/sussexs-most-haunted-places-spooked-4184143 • https://www.hauntedrooms.co.uk/haunted-places/Sussex • https://www.hauntedrooms.co.uk/haunted-places/sussex

Some of Britain's most tumultuous historical moments and paranormal activity are said to have taken place in Sussex. In fact, Sussex has quite a sinister history and has been the scene of much tragedy since it first welcomed settlers in the 5th century.

Perhaps the strangest place of all is Chanctonbury Ring. This ancient hill fort dominates a hilltop above the village of Washington inside the South Downs National Park, in an excellent position both militarily and historically. Over the years, it has been the site of many paranormal encounters and other mysteries.

Picture Credit: "Chanctonbury Ring" by andyaldridge is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

In September 2020, Fred Humphries wrote on GreatBritishLife (here) about nine of the most haunted locations in Sussex where you may have a ghostly close encounter. Below, are some of the places he mentioned. Come on, be brave and read on…

- **Bodiam Castle** – this late 14th century castle near the River Rother, has seen its fair share of Sussex history, and so inevitably, it has produced many ghostly tales through the years.
- **Batemans** – Rudyard Kipling's 17th century country house near Burwash is also thought to be its most famous spectre.
- **Brighton's Theatre Royal in New Road*** – the most famous haunted location in the City is where the Lady in Grey - perhaps the spirit of former theatre manager Mrs Nye Chart - has been seen by many visiting actors.
- **Clayton Tunnel** – the tunnel is notable for its imposing Gothic folly evocatively referred to as Clayton Tunnel North Portal with a single-storey cottage on the top**, as well as the railway crash in 1861 that killed 23 people. The tunnel is still in use today, and reports of screams, cries and the din of metal crashing together have been made ever since. Charles Dickens' 1866 horror-mystery novel *'The Signal-Man'* is believed to have been inspired by the crash.

* I had an office above the Theatre Royal in the mid-1960s, but I never met Mrs Chart!
** In the mid-1940s, my school chum Maurice Russell lived in the cottage.

Worthing Herald compiled a list of some of Sussex's spookiest sites. They include:

- **Hellingly Hospital** – after the former psychiatric hospital closed in 1994, there were reports of crying, footsteps and strange mists in its empty corridors.
- **Michelham Priory, Hailsham** - the manor is said to be haunted by several ghosts, including the ghost of former owner Thomas Sackville.
- **Cowdray House, Midhurst** - the Grey Lady's haunting path is known as Lady's Walk, and it is said ghostly voices of children can be heard in the gatehouse.

SussexLive has several stories from haunted houses and castles in the region. Two of them are:

- **The Mermaid Inn** – this Grade II listed building in the medieval citadel of Rye is teeming with ghost stories and legends. It's one of the most haunted inns in the UK - in fact, there are ghostly tales linked to nearly every room. The most famous tale is about the Hawkhurst Gang, local smugglers who used it in the 18th century. The gang, their wives and mistresses are said to haunt the building to this day.
- **Amberley Castle** - a tragic tale of lust and unrequited love haunts Amberley Castle. This Grade I listed building dates back to the 12th century, first as a hunting lodge then a fortified manor house in the 14th century.

National Trust, which owns some of Britain's oldest properties, with some going back to as early as the 12th century, has a web page devoted entirely to their most haunted places. It's worth a visit: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/our-most-haunted-places

The world's best track sprint cyclist

Sources: • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reg_Harris • http://www.classicrendezvous.com/British_isles/Harris_Reg/R_Harris_main.htm

Do you remember this sportsman? His name is Reginald Hargreaves Harris OBE, and he was a British track racing cyclist in the 1940s and 1950s. He came from a poor, working-class background born during the Depression, who escaped the Lancashire mills to completely dominate his sport. He won the world amateur sprint title in 1947, two Olympic silver medals in 1948, and the professional title in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1954. He is said to have had a ferocious will to win, and it made him a household name in the 1950s.

Picture Credit: "Reg Harris" by Pete Hurford is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Harris' amateur world championship achievements were celebrated in 1947 when *Cycling Weekly* awarded him his own page in the *Golden Book of Cycling.*

In World War II, Harris joined the 10th Hussars in the North Africa Campaign as a tank driver but was wounded, transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps, and in 1943 was invalided out of the services as being medically unfit. He liked to joke that he was one of the few men to leave the army less fit than when he joined.

He surprised many people with a comeback - winning a British title in 1974 at the age of 54.

Chris Hoy described Reg Harris: *"A legend of the sport... I got tired of people telling me I wasn't as fast as him"*

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Remember the Winter of Discontent?

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_of_Discontent https://libcom.org/history/1978-1979-winter-of-discontent https://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/28522/16-01-2019/the-1979-winter-of-discontent

Cast your mind back to the winter of 1978/79, to the time of the *Winter of Discontent*. It was driven by a combination of different social, economic and political factors which had been fermenting for over a decade. Taking place during 1978–79, it was characterised by widespread strikes by private, and later public sector trade unions demanding pay rises greater than the limits Prime Minister James Callaghan and his Labour Party government had been imposing to control inflation against Trades Union Congress (TUC) opposition.

Some of these industrial disputes caused great public inconvenience, exacerbated by the coldest winter in 16 years, in which severe storms isolated many remote areas of the country.

The factors that provoked the widespread stoppage of work by thousands of British workers in the winter of 1978-79 began with the Labour government of James Callaghan's attempt to enforce limits on pay rises to curb inflation. Inflation had reached a height of nearly 26.9% in August 1975. In the same year, Harold Wilson's Labour government, wanting to avoid increasingly large levels of unemployment, agreed a voluntary incomes policy with the TUC that would cap pay increases for workers at limits set by the government.

Strikes Galore

A strike by workers at motor manufacturer Ford in late 1978 was settled with a pay increase of 17 per cent, well above the 5 per cent limit to which the government was holding its own workers with the intent of setting an example for the private sector to follow, after a resolution at the Labour Party's annual conference urging the government not to intervene was passed overwhelmingly.

At the end of 1978, a road hauliers' strike began, coupled with a severe storm as 1979 began. Later in the month, many public workers followed suit as well. These actions included an unofficial strike by gravediggers working in Liverpool and Tameside, and strikes by rubbish collectors, leaving mountains of uncollected rubbish in London's Leicester Square and elsewhere (see picture above). Additionally, NHS ancillary workers formed picket lines to blockade hospital entrances with the result that many hospitals were reduced to taking emergency patients only.

Resentment

The unrest had deeper causes besides resentment of the caps on pay rises. Labour's internal divisions over its commitment to socialism, manifested in disputes over labour law reform and macroeconomic strategy during the 1960s and early 1970s, pitted constituency members against the Labour party's establishment.

Many of the strikes were initiated at the local level, with national union leaders largely unable to stop them. Union membership, particularly in the public sector, had grown to be more female-membered and less white, and the growth of the public sector unions had not brought them a commensurate share of power within the TUC.

After Callaghan returned from a summit conference in the tropics at a time when the hauliers' strike and the weather had seriously disrupted the economy, leading thousands to apply for unemployment benefits, his denial that there was "mounting chaos" in the country was paraphrased in a famous *Sun* headline as "Crisis? What Crisis?"

The Crisis that shouldn't have happened*

In 1969, James Callaghan MP led a successful cabinet revolt against the document 'In Place of Strife', an attempt by Harold Wilson's Labour government to put legal shackles on the trade unions and their right to take industrial action. The proposals, put forward by the then employment minister Barbara Castle, were consequently abandoned. If the proposals had become law, many of the strikes which, a little under ten years later (the 'Winter of Discontent'), would have been illegal, and by then, prime minister James Callaghan would have had stronger powers to deal with the crisis. But it was not to be.

* Source: https://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/28522/16-01-2019/the-1979-winter-of-discontent

Enter Margaret Thatcher, exit Labour

The 1978/79 strikes marked the largest stoppage of labour in Britain since the 1926 General Strike. Bizarrely, it happened when the country was led by Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan - a left-wing leader who relied on the union's support.

Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher's acknowledgement of the severity of the situation in a Party Political Broadcast a week later was seen as instrumental to her victory in the general election held four months later after Callaghan's government fell to a no-confidence vote.

Once in power, the Conservatives, who under Thatcher's leadership had begun criticising the unions as too powerful, passed legislation, similar to that proposed in a Labour white paper a decade earlier, that barred many practices, such as secondary picketing, that had magnified the effects of the strikes.

Thatcher, and later other Conservatives like Boris Johnson, have continued to invoke the Winter of Discontent in election campaigns; it would be 18 years until another Labour government took power. In the late 2010s, after the more left wing Jeremy Corbyn became Labour leader, some British leftists argued that this narrative about the Winter of Discontent was inaccurate and that policy in subsequent decades was much more harmful to Britain.

In the abstract** of *"The Beginning of Labour's End? Britain's 'Winter of Discontent' and Working-Class Women's Activism." International Labor and Working-Class History,* Tara Martin of the University of Manchester wrote: *"In the midst of the freezing winter of 1978 and 1979, strikes erupted across Britain. In what became infamously known as the Winter of Discontent, workers struck against the Labour government's attempt to curtail wage increases. The defeat of this incomes policy and Labour's subsequent electoral defeat ushered in an era of unprecedented political, economic and social change for Britain. Conservative victory under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher, not only seemed to signal the dissolution of 'traditional' working-class ties to the Labour Party, but it also suggested that British working-class politics might finally be on its last leg. Furthermore, a potent social myth developed around the Winter of Discontent, one where 'bloody-minded workers' brought down a sympathetic government and 'invited' the ravages of Thatcherism upon the British labour movement."*

** Source: *International Labor and Working-Class History*, no. 75, 2009, pp. 49–67. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/27673141. Accessed 11th March 2021.

The term "Winter of Discontent" is an allusion to *a famous quote* from Shakespeare's play Richard III. It is credited to Albert (but known as, Larry) Lamb, while editor at The *Sun* in an editorial on 3rd May 1979.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Influential Women of Britain

Sources: • https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/diversity-in-science/influential-british-women-science/ • https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/vogue-25-the-women-shaping-2018
• https://britishheritage.com/history/famous-british-women-history
• https://www.history.co.uk/article/british-women-who-changed-the-world
• https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/british-women-who-have-changed-the-world-inspiring-a3784506.html
• https://www.britain-magazine.com/carousel/10-greatest-women-in-british-history/
https://www.britain-magazine.com/carousel/10-greatest-women-in-british-history/
https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/news/most-inspirational-women-575925
https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/british-women-who-have-changed-the-world-inspiring-a3784506.html
https://www.history.co.uk/article/british-women-who-changed-the-world
https://www.hellomagazine.com/news/20190312707 86/inspirational-british-women-in-history/
https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/women-in-history/
https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/women-in-history/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_Greatest_Britons
https://www.srgtalent.com/blog/greatest-british-scientists
https://www.history.com/topics/british-history/margaret-thatcher
https://history.blog.gov.uk/2019/11/28/the-first-woman-of-british-parliament/
https://www.historyextra.com/period/modern/quotes-women-motivational-inspirational-positive-history-international-womens-day/
https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/alice-mary-smith-first-known-british-woman-compose-symphony/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gracie_Fields
https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/World-War-One-Women-at-War/
https://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item102878.html

Picture Credit: "'Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher passing at age 87" by LCBGlenn is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Certainly, an Influential Woman, although not a Scientist

In 2010, to celebrate its 350th anniversary, The Royal Society (here) asked a panel of experts - all leading female scientists or science historians - to vote for the ten women in British history who have had the most influence on science. Professors Lorna Casselton, Athene Donald, Uta Frith and Julia Higgins, all Fellows of the Royal Society, and Dr Patricia Fara, an eminent historian of science, made up the panel. The title of this article really goes beyond science, but let's start with the ten scientists they chose:

Caroline Herschel (1750-1848)

Caroline Herschel was born in 1750 in Hannover, Germany, but moved to England with her brother, the astronomer William Herschel, in 1772. She became William's general assistant and helped him by writing down his observations and helping him produce reflective telescopes. Caroline occupied herself with astronomical theory and mastered algebra and formulae for calculation and conversion as a basis for observing the stars and managing astronomical distances. Caroline joined her brother when he was appointed royal astronomer at the court at Windsor and served him as his scientific assistant. Between 1786 and 1797, she discovered eight comets and discovered fourteen nebulae, began a catalogue for star clusters and nebulae patches, and compiled a supplemental catalogue to Flamsteed's Atlas, which included 561 stars with a comprehensive index.

Mary Somerville (1780-1872)

Mary Somerville's first scientific investigations began in the summer of 1825 when she carried out experiments on magnetism. In 1826 she presented her paper entitled "*The Magnetic Properties of the Violet Rays of the Solar Spectrum*" to the Royal Society. The paper attracted favourable notice and, aside from the astronomical observations of Caroline Herschel, was the first paper by a woman to be read to the Royal Society and published in its Philosophical Transactions. In 1827, Lord Brougham began correspondence with Mary to persuade her to write a popularised rendition of Laplace's Mecanique Céleste and Newton's Principia. He hoped that she could reach a larger audience by communicating the concepts clearly through simple illustrations and experiments that most people could understand. *The Mechanism of the Heavens* was a great success, probably the most famous of her mathematical writings.

Mary Anning (1799-1847)

Mary Anning was an early British fossil collector and palaeontologist. She spent her life working in Lyme Regis. Her skill in locating and preparing fossils, as well as the richness of the Jurassic era marine fossil beds at Lyme Regis, resulted in her making several important finds. These included the skeleton of the first ichthyosaur to be recognised and the first two plesiosaur skeletons ever found, the first pterosaur skeleton found outside of Germany, and some important fossil fish. Her observations also played a key role in the discovery that coprolites, known as bezoar stones at the time, were fossilised faeces. Anning's gender and social class prevented her from fully participating in the scientific community of early 19th century Britain, and she did not always receive full credit for her contributions. Despite this, she became well known in geological circles in Britain and beyond, although she struggled financially for much of her life. After her death, her enormous contribution to palaeontology was largely forgotten.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917)

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was a pioneering physician and political campaigner. She was the first Englishwoman to qualify as a doctor. Female physicians were unheard of in the 19th century Britain and her attempts to study at several medical schools were denied. In 1865 she passed the Society of Apothecaries examinations and gained a certificate that enabled her to become a doctor. The Society then changed its rules to prevent other women from entering the profession this way. In 1866 she established a dispensary for women in London, and in 1870 was made a visiting physician at the East London Hospital. Despite obtaining a medical degree from the University of Paris, the British Medical Register refused to recognise her qualification. In 1872, Anderson founded the New Hospital for Women in London (later renamed after its founder), staffed entirely by women. Anderson's determination paved the way for other women, and in 1876 an act was passed permitting women to enter the medical professions. In 1883, Anderson was appointed dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, which she had helped to found in 1874, and oversaw its expansion. In 1902, Anderson retired to Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. In 1908, she became the mayor of the town, the first female mayor in England. She was also a member of the suffragette movement, and her daughter Louisa was a prominent suffragette.

Hertha Ayrton (1854-1923)

Hertha Ayrton (née Marks) attended Girton College, Cambridge University, where she studied Mathematics and received a B.Sc. degree from the University of London. Afterwards, she worked as a private mathematics tutor for a time. She began her scientific studies by attending classes in physics at Finsbury Technical College given by Professor William Ayrton, whom she married in 1885. Aryton assisted her husband with his experiments in physics and electricity, becoming an expert on the subject of the electric ark and published several papers from her own research in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of London and The Electrician. She published her widely acclaimed work The Electric Arc in 1902. Ayrton was elected the first female member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1899. In 1902 she became the first woman nominated a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, although because she was married, she could not be elected to this distinction. In 1904, Ayrton became the first woman to read her own paper before the Royal Society on 'The origin and growth of ripple-mark'. She received the Royal Society's Hughes Medal for her investigations in 1906.

Kathleen Lonsdale FRS (1903-1971)

Kathleen Lonsdale was an early pioneer of X-ray crystallography, a field primarily concerned with studying the shapes of organic and inorganic molecules. In 1945, Lonsdale was the first woman, along with microbiologist Marjory Stephenson, admitted as a fellow to the Royal Society. She was the first female professor at University College, London, the first woman named president of the International Union of Crystallography, and the first woman to hold the post of president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. She accepted her achievements as a pioneering woman scientist with characteristic humility. In 1966, the "lonsdaleite, " a rare form of meteoric diamond, was named for her.

Lonsdale was born in January 1903 in Newbridge, Ireland, but grew up in England and won a scholarship to attend County High School for Girls in Ilford. At the age of 16, she enrolled in Bedford College for Women in London, where, in 1922, she received degrees in mathematics and physics. William Henry Bragg, the 1915 Nobel Laureate in Physics, was so impressed with her academic performance that he invited her to work with him and a team of scientists using X-ray technology to explore the crystal structure of organic compounds. Londsdale worked with Bragg intermittently until he died in 1942.

Lonsdale and her husband, Thomas Jackson Lonsdale, were committed pacifists. They worked toward world peace, as well as prison reform. During World War II, she and her husband gave shelter to refugees, and in 1943 Lonsdale spent a month in jail for refusing to register for war duties and then refusing to pay a fine of two pounds. In 1956, she wrote a book in reaction to extensive nuclear testing by the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain entitled Is Peace Possible?

In 1956, Lonsdale was named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and in 1957 she received the Davy Medal of the Royal Society. In 1966, she became the first female president of the International Union of Crystallography, and in 1968 the first woman to hold the post of president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Elsie Widdowson FRS (1908-2000)

Elsie Widdowson grew up during the First World War in London. She studied Chemistry at Imperial College London and took the BSc examination after two years. As a graduate, she worked with Helen Archbold (later Helen Porter, FRS) who steered her into one of the most remarkable scientific careers of the century. She took doctorates at Imperial College and at the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1976 and in 1993 a Companion of Honour.

Widdowson specialised in the scientific analysis of food, nutrition and the relationship between diet before and after birth and its effects on development. She entered into a 60-year partnership with Professor RA McCance in 1933. Their joint recognition that contemporary nutritional tables were substantially wrong cemented a highly creative collaboration, which revolutionised the way the world assessed nutritional values, how it investigated problems of dietary deficiencies and how mammalian development was perceived.

Famously, Widdowson became involved in nutritional problems faced in Britain during the Second World War, particularly experimenting with minimal diets. Over long periods of self-deprivation, McCane and Widdowson showed that health could be maintained on a diet so small that others believed starvation would be inevitable. She was also consulted on the careful dietary policy needed to remedy the effects of gross starvation suffered by Nazi concentration camp victims and later investigated the impact of different types of bread on the recovery rates of malnourished children in the general population of Germany.

Widdowson spent most of her working life in Cambridge at the Medical Research Council Unit of Experimental (later Investigative) Medicine and the Dunn Nutrition Unit.

Dorothy Hodgkin FRS (1910-1994)

Dorothy Hodgkin (née Crowfoot) read for a degree in chemistry at Somerville College, University of Oxford, in 1928. In 1932 she moved to the University of Cambridge to carry out doctoral research. In physicist John Desmond Bernal's laboratory, she extended his work on biological molecules, including sterols (the subject of her thesis), and helped him to make the first X-ray diffraction studies of pepsin, a crystalline protein. She returned to Oxford in 1934, where she remained until her retirement in 1977. Crowfoot established an X-ray laboratory in a corner of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and almost immediately began work taking X-ray photographs of insulin. In 1939 when Australian pathologist Howard Florey and his colleagues at Oxford succeeded in isolating penicillin, they asked Hodgkin to solve its structure. By 1945 she had succeeded, describing the arrangement of its atoms in three dimensions.

Hodgkin's work on penicillin was recognised by her election to the Royal Society, in 1947, only two years after a woman had been elected for the first time. In the mid-1950s, Hodgkin discovered the structure of vitamin B12.

Nominated more than once for the Nobel Prize, she won in 1964 for her work on penicillin and vitamin B12. The following year she was made a member of the Order of Merit to recognise her contribution to science. Hodgkin devoted much of the latter part of her life to the cause of scientists in developing countries, especially China and India, and to improved East-West relations and disarmament. From 1975 to 1988 she was president of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958)

Rosalind Elsie Franklin was a British biophysicist, physicist, chemist, biologist and X-ray crystallographer who made contributions to the understanding of the fine molecular structures of DNA, RNA, viruses, coal and graphite. She went to Newnham College, Cambridge in 1938 and passed her finals in 1941, but was only awarded a degree titular as women were not entitled to degrees at that time. She received a PhD from Ohio University in 1945. Franklin is best known for her work on the X-ray diffraction images of DNA. Her data was a part of the data used to formulate Crick and Watson's 1953 hypothesis regarding the structure of DNA. Unpublished drafts of her papers show that she had determined the overall B-form of the DNA helix. Her work supported the hypothesis of Watson and Crick and was published third in the series of three DNA Nature articles. After finishing her portion of the DNA work, Franklin led pioneering work on the tobacco mosaic and polio viruses. Franklin died from ovarian cancer at the age of 37, four years before Crick, Watson and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962 for their work on DNA. Franklin could not receive the prize as Nobel Prizes cannot be awarded posthumously, but she received no mention in the acceptance speeches. Although Franklin's contribution to the 'discovery' of DNA is now widely recognised, there remains a lingering sense that her contribution was unjustly overlooked and undervalued. Her contribution was not recognised in many science books until the 1990s.

Anne McLaren FRS (1927-2007)

An exceptional scientist, Anne McLaren made fundamental advances in genetics which paved the way for developing in vitro fertilisation. Her groundbreaking work led to the birth of the first test-tube baby.
She was the daughter of a wealthy family of industrialists and was awarded a scholarship to read Zoology at Oxford, where she studied the genetics of rabbits. As a researcher in London, she worked with mice, studying the effects of super ovulation on fertility. Working with John Biggers, she produced the first litter of mice grown from eggs that had developed in tissue culture and then been transferred to a surrogate mother, paving the way for embryo transfer in human IVF. She worked at the Institute of Animal Genetics in Edinburgh for 15 years, before returning to London as Director of the MRC Mammalian Development Unit, developing projects on reproductive immunology, contraception and chimeras.

Aside from her scientific achievements, she was committed to negotiating the ethical and legal implications of genetics research. She encouraged honest discussion and believed science needed to engage the public to gain its trust. Later, at the Gurdon Institute, she continued research on stem cells. She became the first female officer of the Royal Society in 331 years when she was appointed as their Foreign Secretary between 1991-1996 and travelled widely, becoming a role model for women in science. She was also a research fellow at King's College, Cambridge. Dame Anne spent the next 15 years at the Institute of Animal Genetics in Edinburgh, where she continued researching the reproduction, growth and genetics of mice. Her greatest achievement came in 1958, with the first successful delivery of mice that had grown as embryos outside the mother's womb. This groundbreaking work paved the way for the world's first test-tube baby in 1978. In the 1960s and 70s, Dame Anne was involved in pioneering research into immuno-contraception, DNA hybridisation and chimaeras. From 1974, she was director of the MRC Mammalian Development Unit at UCL until her retirement in 1992.

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Caravans, Campervans and Motorhomes

Sources: • https://blog.haven.com/history-caravan/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorhome
• https://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/newsandevents/nccw/100-years-of-the-caravan/
• https://www.harrogatecaravanpark.co.uk/blog/the-history-of-the-caravan/

It was the 19th century before a recognisable form of the caravans we know today began to appear, although they were horse-drawn and extremely basic. The first 'luxury caravan' was developed by Dr William Gordon Stables in 1885 and was constructed out of mahogany and maple wood. At first, caravans were seen as the ultimate luxury item and were exclusive to and became popular with the wealthy upper classes from around 1901. The Eccles car-pulled caravan was the first commercial touring caravan and came on the market in 1919 when the first car-towed caravan entered commercial production in the UK. The date marks the rise of caravanning for leisure and the start of the growth of the camping and caravanning industry.

A 1926 Eccles caravan is shown below. It's a far cry from today's vehicles:

Picture Credit: "1926 Eccles Caravan" by sv1ambo is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Naomi Woodstock wrote about the history of caravans in a blog in 2014 (see here).

There is a long-standing history of caravans being ingrained in British culture, which of course, encouraged me to find out more. In England, the origins of the caravan go back to the early 1800s. At that time, they were more functional as they were used for shelter by farmworkers, travelling circus folk and fairground showpeople. Travelling communities of Romanies used horse-drawn caravans.

In Dickens' novel "The Old Curiosity Shop" of 1840, one of the characters, Mrs Jarley, travelled the country with her waxworks show in a caravan that was described as '*…not a shabby, dingy, dusty cart, but a smart little house upon wheels, with white dimity curtains festooning the windows, and window-shutters of green picked out* with panels of a staring red.' It was these communities that provided the inspiration for leisure touring caravans which then inspired the development and production of static caravans.

Motorhomes/Campervans

The term *motorhome* is sometimes used interchangeably with *campervan*, but the former can also be a larger vehicle than a campervan and intended to be more comfortable, whilst the latter is more concerned with ease of movement and lower cost.

Motorhomes usually have sleeping spaces for 2–8 people. Each sleeping space is either fixed or converts from another part of the motorhome's interior, usually a fold-out sofa. A kitchenette area contains cooking equipment, the type of which differs depending on the motorhome make and model, but generally, it has a kitchenette, an oven, hob, refrigerator, and sink.

More luxurious models may also have a microwave. A small bathroom with a shower, sink and toilet is usually also located in a motorhome.

On smaller motorhomes, the toilet may be of the "cassette toilet" type, which is a kind of portable toilet or container-based toilet. The toilet sometimes swivels to provide extra room and can be accessed from outside the motorhome for easy emptying. Larger motorhomes usually have a separate shower cubicle.

Picture Credit: "Airstream" by TonyHall is licensed under CC BY 2.0

A motorhome also has a cab area with a driver and passenger seat. These seats often swivel to become part of the living space. A dinette area provides a table and seating space typically used for eating meals. A lounge may also be included, consisting of either a U-shaped sofa located in the rear of the motorhome or a side lounge.

Add-ons for all of the above can include air conditioning, piped music mobile wi-fi and television.

Campervans may be equipped either with a "pop-up" roof which is raised during camping or a fixed roof, either shared with the commercial van that forms the basis of the vehicle (commonly a "high-top" model) or as part of a custom coach-built body.

Picture Credit: "Redcar Volkspower 2010" by Gary Robson is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

The world's biggest dome

Sources: • https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/architecture/brunelleschis-dome.htm
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence_Cathedral
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filippo_Brunelleschi

Picture Credit: "File:View of the Duomo's dome, Florence.jpg" by Frank K. is licensed under CC BY 2.0

A competition was held in 1418 to design a dome for the cathedral in Florence. To everyone's surprise (and shock, too), a goldsmith and sculptor - *Filippo Brunelleschi* – was selected. Yet he had no formal training as an architect or engineer and was widely mocked and derided when he first proposed his design for the dome. But he had the last laugh as his out-of-the-box thinking is probably what put this enduring Italian landmark on the map and helped solidify his reputation as one of the world's most famous innovators in art and engineering. He is considered to be a founding father of Renaissance architecture, and is now recognised as the first modern engineer and planner.

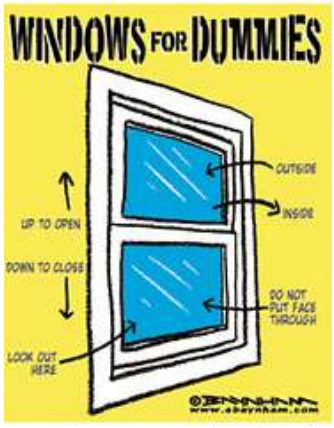
The objective wasn't simple: the dome would have to be almost 150 feet (46 metres) across and have to start 180 feet (55 meters) above the ground, on top of the existing walls of the church, which had been built in 1296.

The other major issue was this: the building plans didn't include pointed arches or the use of flying buttresses – these are inclined beams that carry a half arch projecting from the walls of a structure to a pier that supports the weight of a roof, dome or vault. Both of these elements were commonly used in the traditional Gothic style employed by rival cities like Milan. And they were the only known elements that could actually hold up a structure as monumental as the dome of a cathedral — whoever won the contest would need to envision some way around their absence.

Brunelleschi's solution was to build two domes instead of one — one nested inside the other. The inner dome was constructed with four horizontal stone and chain hoops which reinforced the octagonal dome and resisted the outward spreading force that is common to domes, eliminating the need for buttresses.*

* Source: https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/architecture/brunelleschis-dome.htm

Work on the dome began in 1420 and was finished in 1436. The cathedral was consecrated by *Pope Eugene IV* on 25th March 1436, (the first day of the year according to the Florentine calendar). It was the first 'octagonal' dome in history to be built without a temporary wooden supporting frame. It was one of the most impressive projects of the Renaissance period.



Picture Credit: "humor" by taisau is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Received via Facebook

April Fool's Day

Some say the day was initially inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, written in 1392. In the 'Nun's Priest's Tale', the poet describes how the vain rooster Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox, 32 days since the beginning of March, which coincides with April 1:

Whan that the month in which the world bigan
When the month in which the world began,
That highte March, whan God first maked man,
Which is called March, when God first made man,
Was compleet, and passed were also,
Was complete, and passed were also,
Syn March [was gon], thritty dayes and two,
Since March had gone, thirty days and two,
Bifel that Chauntecleer in al his pryde
Befell that Chauntecleer in all his pride

Source: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/april-fools-day-2021-pranks-jokes-history-facts/

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

"Supposedly" vs "Supposably": Is there a difference?

Some people think *Supposably* is a synonym of *Supposedly* or that it's not a real word at all. Here's the shocking truth: *Supposably* is a real word and has been used since at least the 1700s. However, it may not mean quite what you think it does.

What does *Supposedly* mean?

Let's start with the word most people know. The word *supposedly* means "according to what is accepted or believed, without positive knowledge." *Supposedly* is an adverb based on the word *supposed. Supposedly* is used to express doubt that something is what people say it is. It's a synonym of the word *allegedly.*

The word *supposedly* is used when a person has heard information about something, such as from the news or the rumours doing the rounds. At the same time, they aren't sure if the information is actually true. For example, a person may say that the dinosaurs are *supposedly* extinct if they don't believe the dinosaurs are really gone.

What does *Supposably* mean?

Supposably means "as may be assumed, imagined, or supposed." *Supposably* is an adverb based on the word *supposable.* If something is *supposable,* it means that it is possible or conceivable. Therefore, *supposably* is a synonym of the adverbs *possibly* and *conceivably.* If something can *supposably* happen, it means it is within the realm of possibility that it can happen. It is often used with words such as *might, may*, or *could.*

For example, it is correct to say that a dog may *supposably* be friends with a cat. Although they aren't (usually) the greatest of pals, there is plenty of evidence of cats tolerating dogs and the other way round. On the other hand, it would be incorrect to say that pigs could *supposably* fly. Pigs do not have wings and so flying is impossible.

How to use *Supposedly* and *Supposably*

The easiest way to know which word you should use is to see if you want to say that something is *supposed* to be a certain way or if it is *possible* for something to be a certain way. Here are some more examples of correct uses of *supposedly* and *supposably*:

- My son *supposedly* bathed the dog but she smells like a dustbin!
- Although it is very unlikely, a skydiver could *supposably* survive jumping out of an airplane without a parachute.
- *Supposedly*, the Egyptians built the pyramids.
- They set the betting odds at a million to one, which means that they believe that a celebrity chef might *supposably* defeat the professional boxer in a boxing match somehow.

Source: https://www.dictionary.com/e/supposedly-vs-supposably/

Can you spot the difference?

Most people don't get it. Are you one of them?

The first fuel gauge tells you that your fuel cap is on the offside of your car, while the second gauge tells you the cap is on the nearside.

Strange - in all the years I've been driving, I didn't know that.

Credits:
Top, here
Bottom, here

On the Buses

Sources: • https://www.onthisday.com/articles/the-first-people-to-hop-on-a-bus
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_transport_in_the_United_Kingdom
• https://omegatour.co.uk/the-history-of-buses/ • https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Walter_Hancock

The first omnibus service in the United Kingdom was started by John Greenwood between Pendleton and Manchester in 1824, although stagecoach services had existed for many years before then. Before motors, electricity or engines etc., came along - horse-drawn coaches had been used from the 16th century quite simply because horses were the most popular method of public transportation and were readily available.

In the 1820s, George Shillibeer was working away in Paris, where he had been commissioned to build some unusually large horse-drawn coaches of a "novel design". The design worked, and the coach was very stable. It could transport a group of people, perhaps two dozen, at a time. The coach was introduced into the streets of Paris in 1827. Shortly afterwards, Shillibeer was commissioned to build another coach by the Newington Academy for Girls, a Quaker school in Stoke Newington, London. This coach had a total of twenty-five seats and entered history as the first school bus. Shillibeer launched London's first omnibus service two years later, running from Paddington along the New Road to Bank. The service soon grew popular, as it began to run four return journeys every day, carrying 22 people on each bus.

Walter Hancock was a pioneer in the nascent steam-driven road vehicle sector. *Grace's Guide to British Industrial History* (here) notes that between 1824 and 1836, at his Stratford works in East London, Hancock constructed several steam road vehicles, one of these being a three-wheeled four-seater car. By June 1829, Hancock invented a steam carriage that regularly travelled from Fulham to Brompton and carried eight passengers at twelve miles per hour.

To carry people, first, it was horses, then steam vehicles. And then along came Fyodor Apollonovich Pirotsky. He was a Ukrainian engineer and inventor of the world's first railway electrification system and electric tram – it opened in Russia in 1880.

The first internal combustion engine bus or a motor bus was used in 1895. Benz & Cie was an organisation that invented the motored bus. More specifically, Carl Benz came up with the idea – because sales of his vehicles were initially slow, it didn't take long for Carl to start looking for further potential uses for the technology. That's when he came up with the idea of a bus. It went into service 18th March 1895 and was a huge breakthrough for the transportation industry.

Moving forward 30 years, the first bus service was introduced, travelling from London to Bristol and back.

'On the Buses' was a British TV sitcom broadcast on ITV from 1969 to 1973. It was created by Ronald Chesney and Ronald Wolfe, who wrote most of the episodes. It spawned three spin-off feature films and a stage version. Despite the writers' previous successes with *The Rag Trade* and *Meet the Wife* with the BBC, the corporation rejected *On the Buses*, not seeing much comedy potential in a bus depot as a setting. The comedy partnership turned to Frank Muir, Head of Entertainment at London Weekend Television, who loved the idea; the show was accepted, and despite a poor critical reception, became a hit with viewers.

Picture Credit: "File: Reg Varney (1972).jpg" by Hans Peters / Anefo is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Do you know your Parliaments?

Sources: • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Parliament
• https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/survey/parliament-1604-1610
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blessed_Parliament • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rump_Parliament
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addled_Parliament • https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/westminsterhall/ • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Useless_Parliament
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barebone%27s_Parliament
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Parliament_of_Queen_Anne
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Parliament_of_Queen_Anne

The political turmoil in England in the 17th century caused names to be given to the various Parliaments sitting (or not sitting, as the case may be) during that time. Take a look at the year 1604 (the Blessed Parliament) and stay with it until 1705 (the 2nd Parliament of Queen Anne) – the list of sources above is a good place to start,

The History of Parliament Online website* explains (here) what was happening in 1603/4 and sets the scene for the next 100 years :

Following the accession of Scotland's King James VI as James I of England in March 1603, it was originally envisaged that Parliament would meet in the autumn, but the widespread plague meant that Parliament did not assemble until March 1604. For James, the chief purpose of this first meeting of the new reign was to bring about the statutory union of England and Scotland, for as he explained in his opening address to the Members of both Houses, he hoped 'no man will be so unreasonable as to wish him to be a husband to two wives'…

The timeline from 1604 to 1705 is shown below, with **explanatory text added** for some of the entries:

- **Blessed Parliament, 1604:** The 1st Parliament of King James I was summoned by King James I on 31st January 1604 and assembled on 19th March that year. It was known as the *Blessed Parliament* and took place in five sessions, interrupted by Holy Days and the Gunpowder Plot.
- **Addled Parliament, 1614:** The Parliament of 1614 was the second Parliament of England of the reign of James VI and I, which sat between 5th April and 7th June 1614. Lasting only two months and two days, it saw no bills pass and was not even regarded as a Parliament by its contemporaries. However, for its failure, it has been known to posterity as the *Addled Parliament*.
- 3rd Parliament of King James I, 1621
- 4th Parliament of King James I, 1624
- **Useless Parliament, 1625:** The *Useless Parliament* was the first Parliament of England of the reign of King Charles I, sitting only from June until August 1625. It gained its name because it transacted no significant business, making it 'useless' from the king's point of view. Parliament adjourned to Oxford on 1st August, and was dissolved 11 days later, having offended the king.
- 2nd Parliament of King Charles I, 1626
- 3rd Parliament of King Charles I, 1628
- **Short Parliament, April 1640:** *The Short Parliament* was a Parliament of England that was summoned by King Charles I of England on 20th February 1640 and sat from 13th April to 5th May 1640. It was so called because of its short life of only three weeks.
- **Long Parliament (1), November 1640:** *The Long Parliament* was an English Parliament that lasted from 1640 until 1660. It followed the fiasco of the Short Parliament (convened for only three weeks during early 1640 after an 11-year parliamentary absence. In September 1640, King Charles I issued writs summoning a parliament to convene on 3rd November 1640. He intended it to pass financial bills, a step made necessary by the costs of the the Bishops' Wars in Scotland. The Long Parliament received its name because, by Act of Parliament, it stipulated it could be dissolved only with the agreement of the members; and those members did not agree to its dissolution until 16th March 1660, after the English Civil War and near the close of the Interregnum (the period so-called being between the execution of Charles I on 30th January 1649 and the arrival of his son Charles II in London on 29th May 1660 which marked the start of the Restoration).
- Oxford Parliament, 1644
- **Long Parliament (2), 1645:** By 1645, a considerable proportion of the house had been removed, being expelled for various reasons, disabled for supporting the King, killed in the Civil War or lost through natural causes. Their seats were left vacant for several years and were filled by new elections after around 1645, so that new members of Parliament supplemented those that had survived since 1640.
- **Rump Parliament (1), 1648:** *The Rump Parliament* was the English Parliament after Colonel Thomas Pride purged the Long Parliament on 6th December 1648 of those members hostile to the Grandees' intention to try King Charles I for high treason.
- **Barebone's Parliament, 1653:** *Barebone's Parliament*, also known as the Little Parliament, the Nominated Assembly and the Parliament of Saints, came into being on 4th July 1653 and was the last attempt of the English Commonwealth to find a stable political form before the installation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. It was an assembly entirely nominated by Oliver Cromwell and the Army's Council of Officers. It acquired its name from the nominee for the City of London, Praise-God Barebone**. After conflict and infighting, on 12th December 1653, the members of the assembly voted to dissolve it. It was preceded by the *Rump Parliament* and succeeded by the *First Protectorate Parliament*.

  ** Praise-God Barebone (last name also spelt Barbon or Barbone; c. 1598–1679) was an English leather-seller, preacher and Fifth Monarchist (of the extreme Puritan sect). He is best known for giving his name to the *Barebone's Parliament* of the English Commonwealth of 1653.
- First Protectorate Parliament, 1654
- Second Protectorate Parliament, 1656
- Third Protectorate Parliament; 1659
- Rump Parliament (2), 1659
- Long Parliament (3), 1660
- Convention Parliament, 1660
- Cavalier Parliament, 1661
- Habeas Corpus Parliament, 1679
- Exclusion Bill Parliament, 1680
- Oxford Parliament, 1681
- Loyal Parliament, 1685
- Convention Parliament, 1689
- 2nd Parliament of King William III and Queen Mary II, 1690
- 3rd Parliament of King William III, 1695
- 4th Parliament of King William III, 1698
- 5th Parliament of King William III, 1701
- 6th Parliament of King William III, Dec 1701
- **1st Parliament of Queen Anne, 1702:** *The 1st Parliament of Queen Anne* was summoned by Queen Anne of England on 2nd July 1702 and assembled on 20th August 1702 (but prorogued until 20th October 1702). Its composition was 298 Tories, 184 Whigs and 31 others, representing a large swing to the Tories since the previous election.
- **2nd Parliament of Queen Anne, 1705:** *The 2nd Parliament of Queen Anne* was summoned by Queen Anne of England on 2nd May 1705 and assembled on 14th July 1705. Its composition was 260 Tories, 233 Whigs and 20 others, but in practice the House was evenly divided. 151 (26 per cent) of the members had no previous parliamentary experience.

Westminster Hall is the oldest building in Parliament and virtually the only part of the ancient Palace of Westminster which survives in almost its original form.
Picture Credit: "Westminster Hall virtual tour 1400" by UK Parliament is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Peeping Tom or Big Brother from Space

Sources: Eavesdropping from Space, Simply Science, Economist 17/3/2021 • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Positioning_System • https://www.gps.gov/systems/gps/ • https://www.gps.gov/ • https://www.loc.gov/everyday-mysteries/item/what-is-gps-how-does-it-work/ • https://movies.mxdwn.com/reviews/classic-movie-review-enemy-of-the-state/

What is it?

The Global Positioning System (GPS), originally Navstar GPS, is a satellite-based radio-navigation system owned by the US government and operated by the United States Space Force. It is one of the global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) that provides geolocation and time information to a GPS receiver anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. Obstacles such as mountains and buildings block the relatively weak GPS signals. GPS does not require the user to transmit any data, and it operates independently of any telephonic or internet reception, though these technologies can enhance the usefulness of the GPS positioning information. The GPS provides critical positioning capabilities to military, civil, and commercial users around the world. The United States government created the system, maintains it, and makes it freely accessible to anyone with a GPS receiver.

Who started it?

The GPS project was started by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1973, with the prototype spacecraft launched in 1978 and the full constellation of 24 satellites operational in 1993. Originally limited to use by the United States military, civilian use was allowed from the 1980s following an executive order from then-President Ronald Reagan.

It would be hard to imagine life without the Global Positioning System (GPS). Whether guiding drivers around unfamiliar roads, helping runners keep track of the miles they rack up around their local park or simply pointing to a lost set of keys, GPS has become an essential, invisible layer in our everyday lives.

What does it do?

When selective availability was lifted in 2000, GPS had about a five-metre (16 ft) accuracy. The technology relies on a constellation of satellites that orbit the Earth and transmit radio signals toward the planet's surface. By picking up the signals from several satellites at once, a receiver on the ground can calculate their position on Earth, precise to a few metres.

Modern military satellites can do much more than find your location. By bouncing radio waves off the surface of the Earth, some systems can build up extremely detailed pictures of what is going on there—some are reportedly even capable of detecting enemy submarines by measuring the tiny disturbances left by their wakes in the curvature of the ocean surface. And you are probably by now familiar with the high-resolution pictures and video that satellites record for reconnaissance or to guide missiles.

Until now, most of these technologies have remained within armed forces or wrapped up in secretive intelligence agencies. A big part of that has been down to cost—building a satellite and launching it into space are eye-wateringly expensive. That has been changing in recent years. A new generation of small satellites that can be built and launched cheaply brings to civilians capabilities that were once the preserve of governments alone.

Technical Stuff (see: https://www.gps.gov/systems/gps/)

The Global Positioning System (GPS) provides users with positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services. This system consists of three segments: the space segment, the control segment, and the user segment. The US Space Force develops, maintains, and operates the space and control segments.

- ***Space Segment:*** The space segment consists of a nominal constellation of 24 operating satellites that transmit one-way signals that give the current GPS satellite position and time. LEARN MORE
- Control Segment: The control segment consists of worldwide monitor and control stations that maintain the satellites in their proper orbits through occasional command manoeuvres, and adjust the satellite clocks. It tracks the GPS satellites, uploads updated navigational data and maintains health and status of the satellite constellation. LEARN MORE
- ***User Segment:*** The user segment consists of the GPS receiver equipment, which receives the signals from the GPS satellites and uses the transmitted information to calculate the user's three-dimensional position and time. LEARN HOW GPS IS USED

The Global Positioning System (GPS) tells you exactly where you are on Earth – at any time and in any weather

The US Library of Commerce gives these examples of GPS in use:

- Minnesota scientists use GPS to study movements and feeding habits of deer.
- Surveyors used GPS to measure how the buildings shifted after the bombing in Oklahoma City.
- GPS helps settle property disputes between land owners.
- Marine archaeologists use GPS to guide research vessels hunting for shipwrecks.
- GPS data has revealed that Mt. Everest is getting taller.

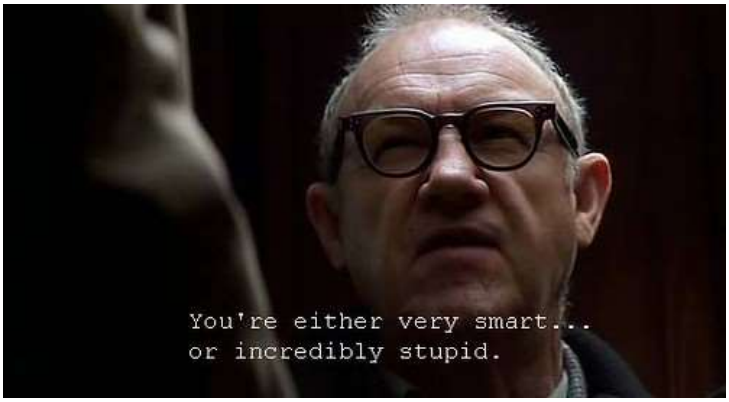
GPS answers five questions simultaneously:

1. "Where am I?"
2. "Where am I going?"
3. "Where are you?"
4. "What's the best way to get there?
5. "When will I get there?"

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Enemy of the State (1998) is one of those films that grabs your attention very quickly. It follows the inner workers of the NSA (National Security Agency) and stars Will Smith, Gene Hackman, Jon Voight, Jason Robards, Gabriel Byrne and Jack Black. It's about a murder linked to the the passing of a new piece of counter-terrorism legislation that would allow the NSA practically unlimited power to spy on citizens of the United States for fear of anyone being a suspected terrorist.

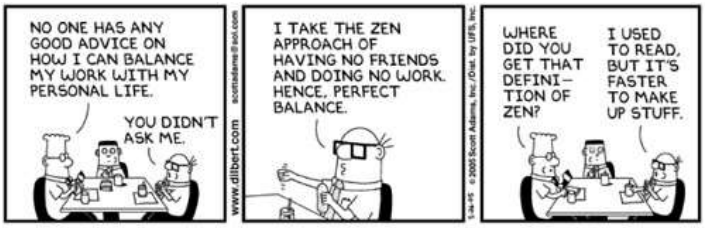
The video is available on Amazon here.

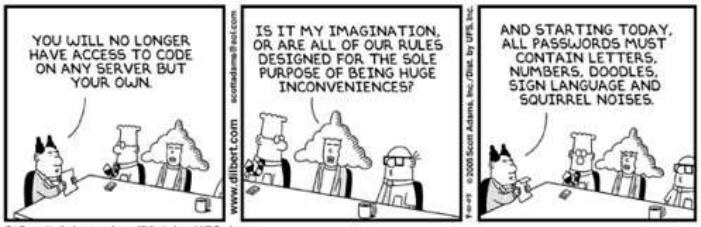


Picture Credit: "enemy-of-the-state-smart1" by Elder Kid is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com

Finish with a Smile





Contributed by Duncan Reeves

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club. Editorial contributions please to mpollins@onesmartplace.com