

# Nil Desperandum

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*Isolated but not alone*



Battle of Britain Day is on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 2020 is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The painting above is of Pilot Officer Keith Gillman, age 19 years, of 32 Squadron photographed by the press at Hawkinge on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1940, but killed just one month later over the channel in sight of his home at Dover. The painting, by George A Campbell, is from that photograph and it was presented to his step-son Winston Ramsey, editor of *After the Battle* publications, for his 40th birthday. Keith Gillman is remembered on Panel 8 of the Runnymede Memorial. Reproduced by kind permission of Winston Ramsey (Credit: George A.Campbell/*After the Battle*).



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\* See also **Understanding Philosophy** a new publication from Haywards Heath & District Probus Club for those interested in the subject, led by **David Waite**



Humour contributed by Alan Tatnall

## These old words may sound naughty but...

Don't get your knickers in a twist—these old words (from Dictionary.com) don't mean what you think, even if they do sound a bit raunchy. Read on for some brazen, harmless fun! Whether you're a professional linguist, casual word-lover, or raging grammarphobe, one thing's for sure: people get a buzz from learning old words, especially if the words sound funny, or even slightly rude (which they aren't). See what you think:

- **Butt shaft:** Needless to say, butts aren't at play here. What is at play is the archer's arrow; a **butt shaft** is a "blunt or barbless arrow." *Butt shafts* might not be useful to Katniss (we'll never really know), but the word apparently appealed to Shakespeare.
- **Coverslut:** It wouldn't be nice at all if *coverslut* was the word for any bandaid-wearing nudie on the cover of an erotic magazine (truth be told, it's sometimes hard to tell the mainstream mags from the *Maxims*). In the 1600s, a *coverslut* was a kind of apron women wore while out gardening or cooking to conceal the signs of their dirty work—because, how horrid! *Slut* didn't have the **pejorative** or sexually explicit sense it does today, but it did refer to "untidiness" or "slovenly appearance."
- **Dick-pot:** *Dick-pot* is a word from the 1700s referring to the **earthenware** pots people filled with hot embers or coals to warm their cold tootsies. According to Ann Elizabeth Baker, writing in the 1800s, *dick-pots* were favoured by little old ladies who put them under their petticoats to keep them warm while darning, knitting, and tatting lace.
- **Dream-hole:** Look, the term *dream-holes* could be a perfectly and wholly nonsexual reference to a person's ears. No? Just trying to keep everything decent! Upon closer investigation, the term *dream-holes* really does have a lovely and refreshing air about it, just like the breezes *dream-holes* allowed to waft through. These were slender openings cut into medieval watchtowers enabling guards to look out and sunshine and fresh air to flow in. Churches also use *dream-holes* to intensify the sound of bells chiming.
- **Fuksheet:** Oh dear. *Fuksheet*. In Middle English, the *fuk* in *fuksheet* meant "sail." More specifically, the *fuksheet* was the sail located on the *fukmast* and both *fuk* mechanisms were located at the front of the ship.
- **Scarpenis:** Ouch. This sounds like a very unpleasant condition that a **urologist** could readily handle. That, or a snake charmer. Moving right along, *scarpenis* is a disastrous Scottish mispronunciation of the French word *escarpines*, meaning "slippers." In an 1880s etymological dictionary of the Scottish language (with a title 31 words long), the lexicographer cites a Scottish poem in which "**thair dry scarpenis, baythe tryme and meit; thair mullis glitteran on thair feit.**" Here's a shot-in-the-dark translation: "their dry slippers both trim and meet (Old English for "proper, suitable"); their mules (another type of shoe) glitter on their feet."
- **Slut-hole:** We'll prevent your minds from slumping into the sewer by informing you that, on the basis of *slut*'s original reference to literal dirt, *slut-hole* was a Victorian slang term for the trash can (or *bin*, as Brits prefer). If a receptacle for waste wasn't around, both the heap of trash itself and the general vicinity of the smelly heap also went by *slut-hole* or *slut's hole*. And to make sure we air out all the dirt on *slut*, the **precursor** to today's *dust bunnies* was *slut's wool*.
- **Tetheradick:** British sheep farmers once used unique counting systems to keep track of their herds. The numbers varied depending on the rural area and the dialect spoken. In the Lake District of Northwest England (home to William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter), *tether* meant "three" and *dick* was "ten." Add them together and *tetheradick* means "thirteen."
- **Tittynope:** Perhaps Shakira was thinking of the word *tittynope* in 2001 when she lyrically declared, "lucky that my breasts are small and humble so you don't confuse them with mountains." This is unlikely given the association could only be made had the singer lived in 1700s Yorkshire, England. Three hundred years ago, **tittle** meant "tiny." A *tittynope* was a small quantity of a tasty treat: a *tittynope* of pie, cake, or beer.
- **Assart:** In medieval English, an *assart* was a plot of land that was **deforested** and primed for farming. For example: *o'er yonder hill lies my assart*. You can also use this as a verb, as in *the farmer assarted his land before planting*.



You can build your vocabulary with new words, definitions, and origin stories every day of the week. Register (free) at [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)

## Message from Murat

Our Lunch Secretary, David Hart, received a courtesy call from Murat at the Lindfield Golf Club. Murat sends his compliments to our members and looks forward to being able to be of service again, just as soon as possible.



## Whilst on Grandfather's knee...

Grandchild: "I know where flies go to in winter."

Grandfather: "Really, where is that?"

Grandchild: "Up your nose because I can see their legs hanging down."



Contributed by Brian Bridges

## QUIZ for September

Contributed by our own Quizmaster, David Waite



1. What late eighteenth-century English engineer was called 'The Man of Iron' and has a town named after him?
2. Who invented the first printing press in Europe and when?
3. Who wrote the novel Pride and Prejudice?
4. What in the English legal system does the law of torts relate to?
5. Who was the principal actor who starred in the film Henry the Fifth in 1944-1945?
6. When was The United States declaration of independence of the thirteen states from the Kingdom of Great Britain?
7. Which countries do T'ai Chi and Yoga derive from?
8. What was the date of the first Oxford v Cambridge boat race?
9. What is the highest pitch singing voice?
10. Which location was the London to Brighton railway going to pass though before it was decided upon Haywards Heath?
11. How many farthings were in two shillings and sixpence and a halfpenny?
12. Which Shakespeare play commences with the following: 'Oh for a muse of fire that would ascend the brightest heaven of invention a kingdom for a stage princes to act and monarchs to behold the swelling scene'?
13. When was The National Trust founded?
14. Can you work out how many new words you can derive from the word 'Barnacle' (Can you beat sixteen)?
15. What is the square root of one hundred and forty-four?
16. Who was Britain's first Labour Prime Minister?
17. Why do we drive on the left-hand side of the road?
18. What was the year of death of Sir Winston Churchill?

Answers are on the last page

## How to be a Master of Oratory

From *The 35 Greatest Speeches in History* at: <https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/the-35-greatest-speeches-in-history/>

Great oratory has three components: style, substance, and impact.

**Style:** A great speech must be masterfully constructed. The best orators are masters of both the written and spoken word, and use words to create texts that are beautiful to both hear and read.

**Substance:** A speech may be flowery and charismatically presented, and yet lack any true substance at all. Great oratory must centre on a worthy theme; it must appeal to and inspire the audience's finest values and ideals.

**Impact:** Great oratory always seeks to persuade the audience of some fact or idea. The very best speeches change hearts and minds and seem as revelatory several decades or centuries removed as when they were first given.



## Picture Perfect

My Guard Dog (Ruby) in training as a ball girl for Wimbledon 2021. She can be very Nastase about giving the ball back!

Contributed by



Martin Pollins



Socially Distant: Pigeons queuing for the Spa in my garden

## Pill Perfect



Picture Credit: "It looks like you have nothing to worry about" by DES Daughter is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

## Plural Words You Didn't Know Existed

Doesn't it seem like every time you learn a grammar rule, you have to learn its exceptions? Take plurals, for example. You can add an -s or -es to most words to create a plural ... **except for when you can't**. Then there are plurals that look nothing like the original noun, and some that have created their own rules. Plurals can be so odd, we just had to dedicate a slideshow to them! Let's start with *spaghetti*.

Yes, *spaghetti*. Next time you dive into a hot plate of *spaghetti*, take a moment to appreciate each individual *spaghetto*. The word *spaghetti* is from the Italian *spago* meaning "thin rope, twine." It's amazing to think that this beloved, stringy pasta has been a plural all along. Early on in its time in English *spaghetti* was spelled "spaghetti," as in Eliza Acton's pivotal 1845 cookbook *Modern Cookery*, but by 1885 the plural pasta assumed its currently accepted form.

### kine

If you think the plural of *cow* is *cows*, you're right. But, if you want to impress your *bovine* buddies with your knowledge of, oh, Old English, try try *kine*. *Kine* is an archaic (read: not often found outside musty old books) plural of *cow*. Without wandering too far into the pasture (we'll let the cows, er, *kine*, do that), *kine* survives from the Old English *cȳna*, which is a plural form of *cū*—"cow."

Fun fact: *kine* is the only noun in English whose plural shares no letters with its singular form!

### passersby

When a person is seen passing by a scene either casually or by chance, they are considered a *passerby*, but on a busy street, one passerby is just a member of a crowd of *passersby*. Instead of pluralising the act of passing, as would the incorrect "passerbys," this clever word pluralises the *passer* or *passers* themselves, indicating that multiple people might be getting a quick glimpse of the same thing.

*Passerby* was first recorded around 1560–70, and it's a combination of *pass by* and *-er*. Makes sense that the *passer* would be plural then, doesn't it?

### nibblings

If you're lucky enough to have several nieces or nephews (and you can't always recall their names), refer to them as your *nibblings*. *Nibblings* is a gender-neutral term that encompasses both nieces and nephews. The word *nibling* was coined in 1951 by Samuel Martin, who was a professor of Far Eastern languages at Yale University.

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## dice

As a noun, **dice** is the irregular plural form of **die**, a small cube typically marked on each side with one to six spots and used in pairs for games of chance. From the Middle English *dees*, an interchangeable singular and plural form, **dice** was reborn as a verb with to **dice** meaning to chop something into small die-sized cubes.

You can trace the etymology of **dice** all the way back to the Latin *dare* meaning "to give," or in this case "to cast."

## Prii

In 2011, Toyota stated that when you see many of the company's Prius cars parked together, they're called a **Prii** ... if you want to get all fancily (and **facetiously**) Latin on it.

To determine the plural, Toyota ran a six-week campaign, during which they invited online communities to participate in the discussion. More than 1.8 million votes were cast, and the company says **Prii** beat out its four competitors: *Prius*, *Priuses*, *Priem*, or *Pri*.

*Prius* is a Latin word that means "coming before" and is related to *prior* and *primary*. *Priora* is also an acceptable Latin plural for *prius*, if you must get technical about it.

## doldrums

OK, this was a trick question. There are some nouns that commonly exist only in the plural form, like *doldrums*. These are called *plurale tantum* (Latin for "plural only"). *Doldrums* means "feeling listless or despondent" and dates back to 1795–1805. It stems from the obsolete word *dold* ("stupid"). **Dolt** also comes from this word.

## opera

Music history buffs know an **opus** is "a piece of classical music by a particular composer." It's typically followed by the number, which indicates when the piece was written, such as Chopin's *Études*, Op. 10 and 25. In Latin, *opus* means "work, labor, a work."

Technically, the plural of *opus* is **opera** (thanks again, Latin). However, the native English plural, *opuses*, is also acceptable.

## sphinxes

Planning a trip to Egypt? Be sure to see the Great Sphinx of Giza. A **sphinx** is an imaginary creature "having the head of a man or an animal and the body of a lion." If you want to see more *sphinxes*—yep, that's the technical Greek plural of *sphinx*—you can visit the Sphinx of Hatshepsut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Sphinx of Taharqo at the British Museum in London, or take an online tour.

Excerpted from **Dictionary.com**



## We love our Pets

Around 1600 years ago the Romans left Britain but many of the cats they owned were left behind. When the Vikings invaded Britain about 1,000 years ago it is thought that they took some of the domesticated cats (that the Romans had left behind) back to Norway with them. The Romans had many pets, from cats to apes, but favoured the dog above all others. The dog is featured in mosaics, paintings, poetry, and prose.



There is some confusion about the origins of the domestic cat, with uncertainty about where and when in time cats were domesticated. Some scientists even argue that cats domesticated themselves.

In the last several hundred years, there has been a massive increase in the number of animals kept purely for companionship and pleasure. Statista ([here](#)) say that the most popular individual pet owned in the United Kingdom is the dog, with 25 percent of people owning one. In total, **40 percent of the UK population own a pet**. Over **90 percent of pet owners in the UK** say that owning a pet makes them feel happy and 88 percent feel that pet ownership improves their overall quality of life. In recent years, there has been a **growing awareness of the very positive effects** this relationship can have on human health and psychological well-being, and a recognition of the therapeutic value of animal companions.

It was the ancient Egyptians who were the first to name their domesticated animals. Don't forget that *Abuwtiyuw*, the guard dog to a Pharaoh, is thought to have been named in 2,280 BC.

### The First Domesticated Cats

Source: [https://www.omlet.co.uk/guide/cats/the\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_cat/](https://www.omlet.co.uk/guide/cats/the_history_of_the_cat/)

For a long time, it was believed that the Egyptians domesticated cats around 4,000 years ago. Geographically this makes sense because DNA evidence suggests that modern day domestic cats share a common ancestor with the African wildcat. However, in 2004 a nine and a half thousand-year-old Neolithic grave in Cyprus was excavated and revealed the remains of a cat buried with a human, suggesting that humans kept cats long before the 4,000-year mark.

Other studies have suggested that domestication of cats could have started as much as 12,000 years ago when agriculture boomed in the Middle East's Fertile Crescent (a crescent shaped area of fertile land around Egypt and Syria). It is thought that the increased agriculture brought in more vermin and the cats followed.

The Telegraph reported on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 that the first named pet in the UK has been revealed as cat called **Mite** who lived in the 13th-century in Beaulieu Abbey, a Hampshire monastery. This story was corrected a few days later in a Letter to the Editor: "*Pangur Bán*" is an Old Irish poem, written about the 9th century at or around Reichenau Abbey. It was written by an Irish monk, and is about his cat. **Pangur Bán**, 'White Pangur', is the cat's name, Pangur meaning 'a fuller'.

Britain had been a centre for dog breeding since Roman times, and one of the first formal competitive dog shows was held in Newcastle in 1859 for the Pointer and Setter breeds. Still, little was known about the inheritance of various characteristics until Charles Darwin published *The Origin of the Species* in 1859. Since that time, dog breeding has become more formalized with the establishment of strict breed standards.

### The Death of a Pet

Great grief was shown over the death of a dog or cat and the family would shave their eyebrows to mark their bereavement. **Tomb** paintings of the **Pharaoh** *Rameses the Great* depict him with his hunting dogs (presumably in the Field of Reeds) and dogs were often buried with their masters to provide this kind of companionship in the afterlife. The intimate relationship between dogs and their masters in Egypt is made clear through inscriptions which have been preserved.

### Contributed by



Martin Pollins

## The Fastest Way to Connect to Wi-Fi on Your iPhone



Do you know how to connect to Wi-Fi, or change the network you're using, directly from your iPhone or iPad's Control Center? This method is much quicker than sorting through the Settings app to find available networks. Let's get started learning how to connect to a specific Wi-Fi network, or change the network you're connected to, via the Control Center.

1. Open the Control Centre:  
On an iPhone X (10) or later, or an iPad running iOS 12 or later, swipe down from the upper-right corner of the screen. For iPhones earlier than the X (10), swipe up from the bottom of the screen.

2. Touch and hold the Network Settings

card at the upper-left of the Control Center.

3. A menu will pop up; touch and hold the Wi-Fi icon.
4. You'll see a list of Wi-Fi networks within range.
5. Tap a network from the menu to connect.
6. If the network requires a username and password, you'll be automatically taken to Settings, and a window will appear where you can enter that information, then tap Join.

Your device will remember the username and password once you've joined a network, so all you'll need to do next time is tap the name in the Wi-Fi menu to join. Any time you'd like to change the network you're using, follow the same steps, and tap a different option on the Wi-Fi network list.

Did you enjoy this tip? Sign up [here](#) to get the tip of the day delivered right to your inbox by iPhone Life.

iPhoneLife

Contributed by



Martin Pollins

## Bluebell Railway re-opened on 7<sup>th</sup> August 7<sup>th</sup> - Bluebell's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday

The Bluebell Railway reopened on 7<sup>th</sup> August. For details, and how to book tickets, goto <https://www.bluebell-railway.com/>



Picture Credit: "323 "Bluebell", Horsted Keynes" by nigelmenezies is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

## The Doolittle Raid



Vintage B-25 Mitchell bombers on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010 flying over the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, during a memorial flight honouring the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders.

Picture Credit: "100418-F-5964B-1537" by AirmanMagazine is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

The Doolittle Raid, also known as the Tokyo Raid, was an air raid on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1942 by the United States on the Japanese capital Tokyo and other places on Honshu during World War II. Sixteen U.S. Army Air Forces B-25B Mitchell medium bombers were launched without fighter escort from the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier USS Hornet deep in the Western Pacific Ocean, each with a crew of five men, in the first air operation to strike the Japanese archipelago.

The air raid was given the name Doolittle after Jimmy Doolittle who had never been a Captain or a Colonel prior to that action, when his rank was Lieutenant Colonel – he was promoted to Brigadier General after the raid.

There's a great source of information about the raid at <http://www.childrenofthedoolittleraiders.com/doolittle-raiders-history/>

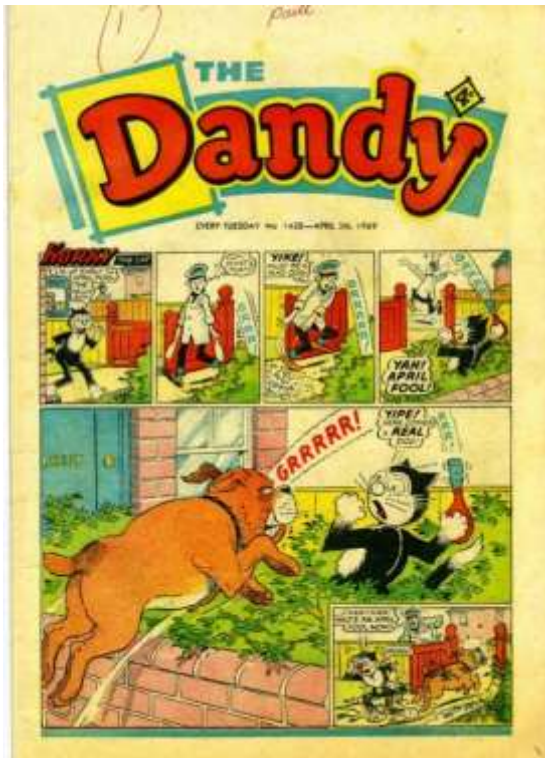
Wikipedia ([here](#)) records that 'the bombing raid killed about 50 people, including civilians, and injured 400. Fifteen aircraft reached China but all crashed, while the 16<sup>th</sup> landed at Vladivostok in the Soviet Union. Of the 80 crew members, 77 survived the mission.'

Doolittle initially believed that the loss of all 16 of his aircraft would lead to his court-martial, but instead he received the Medal of Honor and was promoted two ranks to Brigadier General.

Encyclopaedia Britannica ([here](#)) records that 'following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt demanded that the U.S. military find a way of striking back directly at Japan. The only possible method was with carrier-borne aircraft, but standard naval planes had too short a range—carriers launching them would have to sail dangerously close to Japan's well-defended coast. Instead a special unit of USAAF B-25 Mitchell bombers, far larger than naval aircraft, was trained under Colonel James Doolittle to take off from the carrier USS Hornet. They were to drop their bombs on Japan and then fly on to land in an area of China controlled by the pro-Allied Nationalists.'



## Spiffing Days: Remember these?



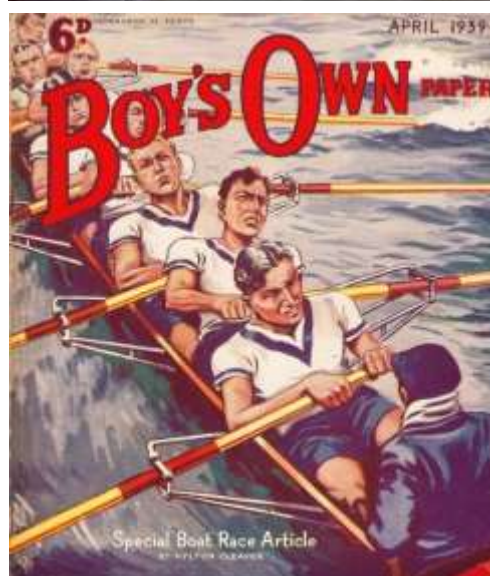
Picture Credit: "Dandy 1969" by Kollage Kid is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



Picture Credit: "Beano 1969" by Kollage Kid is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



Picture Credit: "eagle comic october 7 1955-10-7 Page 01" by Robin Hutton is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

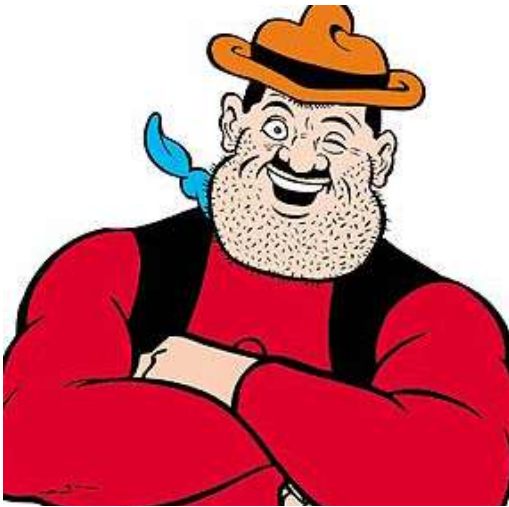


Copyright acknowledged: <https://heartheboatsing.com/2018/05/30/comic-cuts-a-few-hints-on-the-subject-of-oarsmanship/>



Picture Credit: "Rupert Bear 1970" by oddsock is licensed under CC BY 2.0

## Desperate Dan explains



Picture Credit: Desperate Dando, by Doctor Lucid - This image was marked with a [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#) license.

The term **Nil Desperandum** (pronounced ɔ̃spəˈrændəm) comes from Latin and means, literally: *nothing to be despaired of, or never despair*.

Hey, while we're at it, here are a few more for you to chew on (much healthier than tobacco!):

**ab initio** - *from the beginning*: Commonly used referring to the time a contract, statute, marriage, or deed become legal. e.g. The couple was covered *ab initio* by her health policy.

**ad hoc** - *for this*: Generally, signifies a solution designed for a specific problem or task, non-generalizable, and not intended to be able to be adapted to other purposes.

**ad infinitum** - *to infinity*: To continue forever.

**ad valorem** - *according to value*: An ad valorem tax is a tax whose amount is based on the value of a transaction or of property. It is typically imposed at the time of a transaction, as in the case of a sales tax or value-added tax (VAT).

**affidavit** - *he has sworn*: A formal statement of fact.

**ante** - *before*: For example, an antenuptial agreement is a contract between two people that is executed before marriage.

**bona fide** - *in good faith*: Implies sincere good intention regardless of outcome.

**Caveat emptor** - *Let the buyer beware*: In addition to the general warning, also refers to a legal doctrine wherein a buyer could not get relief from a seller for defects present on property which rendered it unfit for use.

**compos mentis** - *having command of mind*: Of sound mind. Also used in the negative "Non compos mentis", meaning "Not of sound mind".

**de facto** - *in fact*: Literally "from fact"; often used to mean something that is true in practice but has not been officially instituted or endorsed. "For all intents and purposes".

**de futuro** - *concerning the future*: At a future date.

**de minimis** - *about the smallest things*: Various legal areas concerning small amounts or small degrees.

**dramatis personae** - *persons of the drama*: People who figure prominently in something (such as an event).

**et al.** - *and others*: Abbreviation of *et alii*, meaning "and others".

**et cetera** - *and other things*: Generally used in the sense of "and so forth".

**ex facie** - *on the face*: If a contract is blatantly and obviously incorrect or illegal, it can be considered void *ex facie* without any further analysis or arguments.

**ex gratia** - *by favour*: Something done voluntarily and with no expectation of a legal liability arising therefrom.

**ex post facto** - *from a thing done afterwards*: Commonly said as "after the fact."

**habeas corpus** - *May you have the body*: A writ used to challenge the legality of detention. Orders the detaining party to "have the (living) body" of the detained brought before the court where the detention will be investigated.

**ibid.** - *in the same place*: Abbreviation of *ibidem*, meaning "in the same place. Used when citing sources, to indicate the cited source came from the identical location as the preceding one.

**ignorantia juris non excusat** - *Ignorance of the law does not excuse*: A principle that states that not having knowledge of a law is not an excuse for breaking it.

### Contributed by



Martin Pollins

### Extracted from my publication:

*Glossary of Latin Phrases and Maxims used in the Law*  
Please email me at [mpollins@onesmartplace.com](mailto:mpollins@onesmartplace.com) for a free copy.



## My Ventures into Beekeeping

Contributed by Otto Somodi

Have you ever thought of those unsung heroes whose hard work and sacrifice enable you to enjoy delicious fresh fruit and vegetables every year? No, not the farmers, or the pickers who work from dawn to dusk at minimum wage or less. Think of the pollinators!

Without pollinators your diet would be very restricted, for up to 80% of the food we eat is dependent on pollinators, honeybees in particular. Honeybees perform an essential job in pollinating a wide range of farm crops, vegetables, fruit and many wild plants.

No animal has been written more about since ancient times than honeybees. Their social cohesion, diligence, industry and sacrifice is unparalleled in the natural world. And, of course, they can give us delicious honey - well, we steal it from them!



The once familiar honeybee is fast becoming a rarity. There used to be many wild colonies of bees, living mostly in trees and old barns, but these have nearly all died and the bees now survive because of beekeepers, mostly amateurs. I joined their ranks about ten years ago.

But then I had the good fortune of having been introduced to beekeeping by a lovely old lady when I was at the impressionable age of twelve growing up in a village near Sevenoaks. That initial fascination never left me.

About ten years ago, with retirement looming, I took a classroom and field-based beekeeping course at Plumpton College. The

course, which spanned a season, provided a solid foundation. It covered the latest techniques, husbandry and threats to the bees' survival.

After the course I just had to get my own bees. Enthusiasm overruled common sense and rather naïvely, I rushed to a local supplier and bought a colony at great expense. Sadly, the colony was not healthy and the bees were dead within a year. Fortunately, a beekeeper from Wakehurst came to the rescue and gave me a swarm - their descendants are still in my back garden.



Over the years I have made lots of friends through beekeeping from all walks of life. Most are caring, decent, lovely people. Dare I say, however, I also met one or two who were a bit over the top oddballs, misguided eco-warriors even.



As one of the trainers at our local association's apiary it is a real pleasure to teach beekeeping to beginners and in particular to introduce beekeeping to a younger generation. Sadly, the training programme had to be postponed for 2020.



Other than just keeping bees, I am also the local volunteer swarm collector. I was called out at least a dozen times this year alone.







I followed up each call, even during lockdown, as swarm collection is deemed 'essential service'. Most people are grateful when an awkward swarm is removed and the bees are given a good home. However, one or two have been known to be a bit awkward. One fellow even asked me to pay for the bees I collected from his garden as he heard that bees were valuable. There are others who try to use you as a free pest controller, expecting you remove wasps, hornets as well as bumble bees. Swarm collectors leave them alone.

What can you do to support pollinators, those unsung heroes? Most important, avoid using pesticides in your garden and provide an environment that protects pollinator health by planting and preserving wild habitats.



...and remember



## 'Until the End of Time'

Extracted from a book of that title written by Brian Green ©, published by Alfred A. Knopf

Burial sites from hundreds of centuries ago indicate that humans had thoughts of the afterlife on their minds even in those years:

"About one hundred thousand years ago, somewhere in the Lower Galilee region of present-day Israel, a child who was four, maybe five years old, maybe playing quietly, maybe making mischief, suffered a traumatic blow to the head. The child's gender is unknown, but let's imagine she's a little girl.

"The cause of the injury is obscure too. Stumbling down a steep rocky hill, falling from a tree, receiving excessive punishment? What we do know is that the impact gashed the front right side of her skull, causing brain damage, which she endured until the age of twelve or thirteen, when she died.

"These facts have been gleaned from skeletal remains found at Qafzeh, one of the most ancient of all burial sites, whose excavation began in the 1930s. Although the remains of twenty-six others were also found at the site, the burial of the young girl is distinctive. Antlers from two deer were laid across the girl's chest with one end resting on her palm, an arrangement according to the researchers that provides evidence of a ceremonial burial.

"Could the antlers be an unintentional ornament? Possibly. But it is easy to follow the research team's judgment and envision Qafzeh II, as the child is known, being laid to rest in a ritual enacted a hundred millennia ago by early humans who were reflecting on death, struggling to grasp what it means, and, perhaps, thinking about what might follow.

"Tentative though conclusions about events so distant surely are, excavations of burials from later eras make the interpretation yet more plausible. In 1955, in the village of Dobrogo, about two hundred kilometers northeast of Moscow, Alexander Nacharov was operating an excavator for the Vladimir Ceramic Works when he noticed that intermingled with the yellowish brown loam he'd scooped up were bones. They turned out to be the first of many that would be unearthed over the next few decades at Sunghir, one of the most celebrated burial sites of the Paleolithic era.

"One grave is particularly stunning: a boy and a girl, ages approximately ten and twelve at death, were buried head-to-head in what looks like an eternal melding of two young minds. Interred more than thirty thousand years ago, their remains are adorned by one of the most elaborate collections of grave goods ever discovered. Headgear made from decorated arctic fox teeth, ivory armbands, more than a dozen ivory spears, perforated ivory disks, and - bringing a smile to fans of Liberace - more than ten thousand carved ivory beads that were likely sewn into the children's burial garb. Researchers have estimated that at the furious pace of one hundred hours per week, it could easily have taken an artisan more than a year to make these ornaments.

"The investment provides at the very least a strong hint that ritual burials were part of a strategy to transcend the finality of death. The body might cease, but some vital quality, which might be enhanced or appeased or honored or gratified by elaborate burial accessories, would carry on."

See also:



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<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/paleolithic-burial-sunghir/>

### Comment from Martin Pollins

Delanceyplace is a FREE brief daily email with an excerpt or quote they view as interesting or noteworthy, offered with commentary to provide context. There is no theme, except that most excerpts will come from a non-fiction work, mainly works of history, and they hope will have a more universal relevance than simply the subject of the book from which they came. And there is not necessarily an endorsement, and in some cases an excerpt may be particularly controversial, and Delanceyplace may disagree with some or all of it, but nevertheless deem it worth noting.

Eclectic excerpts delivered to your email every day





## I didn't know that! - Who were the Habsburgs?

The family of Habsburg ruled Austria for nearly 650 years, from a modest beginning as dukes protecting the border of Germany, they became emperors of Austria and of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. The House of Habsburg, also officially called the House of Austria, is one of the most influential and distinguished royal houses of Europe.

**Wikipedia says of the Habsburgs:** The Habsburg Monarchy (or *Habsburg Empire*) is an umbrella term used by historians for the numerous lands and kingdoms of the Habsburg dynasty, especially for those of the Austrian line. Although from 1438 until 1806 (with the exception of 1742–1745) a member of the House of Habsburg was also Holy Roman Emperor, the Empire itself is not considered a part of the Habsburg Monarchy.

The formation of the Habsburg Monarchy began with the election of Rudolf I as King of Germany in 1273 and his acquisition of the Duchy of Austria for his house in 1282. In 1482, Maximilian I acquired the Netherlands through marriage. Both these territories lay within the Empire and passed to his grandson and successor, Charles V, who also inherited Spain and its colonies and ruled the Habsburg Empire at its greatest territorial extent.

The abdication of Charles V in 1556 led to a broad division of the Habsburg holdings between his brother Ferdinand I, who was his deputy in the Austrian lands since 1521 and the elected king of Hungary and Bohemia since 1526, and his son Philip II of Spain. The Spanish branch (which also held the Netherlands, Burgundy and lands in Italy) went extinct in 1700. The Austrian branch (which also had the Imperial throne and ruled Hungary, Bohemia and all the crowns entailed to them) was itself divided between different branches of the family from 1564 until 1665, but thereafter it remained a single personal union.

The Habsburg monarchy was thus a union of crowns—with no single constitution or shared institutions outside of the Habsburg court itself—composed of territories within and outside the Holy Roman Empire, united only in the person of the monarch. The composite state became the dominant form of monarchies on the European continent in the early modern era. The unification of the Habsburg monarchy took place in the early 19th century. From 1804 to 1867 the Habsburg Monarchy was formally unified as the Austrian Empire, and from 1867 to 1918 as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It collapsed following defeat in the First World War.

Contributed by



Martin Pollins

In historiography, the Habsburg Monarchy (of the Austrian branch) is often called "Austria" by metonymy. Around 1700 the Latin term *monarchia austriaca* came into use as a term of convenience. Within the empire alone this vast monarchy included the original hereditary lands, the *Erblände*, from before 1526; the lands of the Bohemian crown; the formerly Spanish Netherlands from 1714 until 1794; and some fiefs in Imperial Italy. Outside the empire it encompassed all the lands of the crown of Hungary, as well as conquests made at the expense of the Turks. The dynastic capital was Vienna, except from 1583 to 1611, when it was in Prague.

### The Habsburg Defect

Brian Bridges kindly alerted me to the Habsburg Jaw or Chin, a condition marked by a protrusion of the lower jaw. It has long been associated with inbreeding due to the high prevalence of consanguineous marriages in the Habsburg dynasty. However, it is thought that mandibular prognathism, the medical name for the condition, may also be the result of a dominant major gene. Like many royal families, the Habsburgs made strategic marriages to consolidate their power, often to close relatives. And while the dynasty's regalia was glittery and their palaces splendid, the royals themselves were markedly less easy on the eyes:

Generation after generation, of Habsburg monarchs had sharply jutting jaws, bulbous lower lips and long noses. In short, they were really ugly!

### Further Information

Amazon books have several book formats for sale on this topic, some of which are (click through for the links below):

- [The Habsburgs: The Rise and Fall of a World Power](#) by Martyn Rady
- [The End of the Habsburgs: The Decline and Fall of the Austrian Monarchy](#) by John Van der Kiste
- [The Battle of Znam: Napoleon, The Habsburgs and the end of the 1809 War](#) by John H Gill
- [The Fiume Crisis: Life in the Wake of the Habsburg Empire](#) by Dominique Kirchner Reill
- [The Habsburgs \(Dynasties\)](#) by Benjamin Curtis
- [The Habsburg Empire: A New History](#) by Pieter M. Judson
- [The Habsburg Empire: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Martyn Rady
- [The First World War and the End of the Habsburg Monarchy, 1914-1918](#) by Manfred Rauchensteiner
- [Men Under Fire: Motivation, Morale, and Masculinity among Czech Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1918 \(Austrian and Habsburg Studies\)](#) by Jiří Hutečka
- [A History of the Habsburg Empire 1273-1700](#) by Jean Berenger and C.A. Simpson




## Music to make you feel happy

Click here to listen to [André Rieu \(official video 2020\)](#)



## Interesting Facts

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/14-of-the-most-interesting-facts-ever-2013-7>

- There are more possible iterations in a game of chess than there are atoms in the known universe. 
- Cleopatra lived closer in time to the Moon landing than to the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza.
- It can take a photon 40,000 years to travel from the core of the sun to the surface, but only 8 minutes to travel the rest of the way to earth.



It would take 1,200,000 mosquitoes, each sucking once, to completely drain the average human of blood. Ugh!

- Basically, anything that melts can be made into glass. You just have to cool off a molten material before its molecules have time to realign into what they were before being melted.
- Written language was invented independently by the Egyptians, Sumerians, Chinese, and Mayans.
- Honey does not spoil. You could feasibly eat 3000- year-old honey.

## Very strange facts

Go to your pack of playing cards: Find the Kings and you'll see that the King of Hearts doesn't have a moustache.



## Recommended Film: 1917

During WWI, two British soldiers are given seemingly impossible orders to cross 'No Mans Land' to deliver an urgent message stopping a futile attack on enemy positions. An enjoyable exciting film, gutsy and down-to-earth, devoid of Hollywood glamour treatment.

This British WWI film was produced in 2019 and was directed, co-written, and produced by Sam Mendes. The film stars George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman, with Mark Strong, Andrew Scott, Richard Madden, Claire Duburcq, Colin Firth and Benedict Cumberbatch in supporting roles.

**Contributed by Brian Bridges**

## Amusing Stories to Cheer...



{with apologies to ladies with blonde hair} A blonde is walking back home from her trip to the local fishmongers. A cat walks up to her, sniffing the air.

"Hmmm, what's in the bag?" says the cat.  
 "Well, mister talking-cat, I've got some fish for my supper" says the blonde.  
 "Oh my goodness!" says the cat. "How I do love fish".  
 "Sorry mister cat, I'm afraid there isn't enough to share" the blonde says apologetically.  
 "Oh please" begs the cat "Fish is my favourite food in the whole world".  
 "Sorry. If I'd known, I'd have bought extra" states the blonde.  
 "Tell you what" pleads the cat "If I can guess how many fish are in the bag could I have one please".  
 "Look" says the blonde "If you can guess how many fish are in the bag you can have both of them".



Many years ago, a British explorer was searching for lost ruins in a remote jungle. The humidity was overwhelming, and the insects kept biting. Eventually the explorer sees a clearing lit up by the midday sun. Being British, he decides to make his way in that direction to try and get away from the pesky insects.

To his surprise, the clearing has been caused because some huge trees have been knocked down and the sunlight could filter through. The explorer decides to investigate and follows a line of trees that have all been knocked down.

Many fallen trees later, the explorer comes upon a gigantic elephant - probably the biggest elephant he has ever seen! On top of the elephant is a tiny pygmy.

"Hey, wot-ho old chap!" exclaims the explorer! "What in the blazes is going on here?"  
 "Um elephant trouble" complains the pygmy. "Um elephant knocks down um trees".  
 "Jeepers! That's not um good" says the explorer. "I mean, erm, that's not good".  
 "Had to kill um elephant" says the pygmy. "Elephant um nuisance".  
 "But you're so tiny" says the explorer. "There's no way you could have killed such a gigantic elephant".  
 "Killed um elephant with um club" claims the pygmy proudly.  
 The explorer frowns in disbelief. "Well it must be a frightfully blooming big club" he says.  
 "Yeah there's um about 300 of us now" says the pygmy.



Cecil decides to treat himself and goes to a posh French restaurant for his evening meal. "Bonjour monsieur" says the waiter, "Table for one?"  
 Being observant, Cecil notices the waiter's name-tag and replies "Good evening, Mr Jefais. Oui!". (Cecil had recently purchased an English-French dictionary)

"It's pronounced je-fay, not je-fays!" explains Monsieur Jefais, trying to hide his annoyance. "Would monsieur

care to see le menu?". "Certainly" replies Cecil "And a wine list as well if possible".

"Un moment" says the waiter and walks to the counter. He returns shortly and hands Cecil the menu and wine list.

"Garcon!" exclaims Cecil a few moments later, desperately attempting to impress with his rather pathetic knowledge of the French language.

Monsieur Jefais rolls his eyes and replies "Oui Monsieur, have you decided?" "Indeed I have" Cecil declares. "I will have the lemon squid and a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon" embarrassingly pronouncing the T and the G.

"Ah sacre bleu, a wonderful choice" exclaims Jefais. "Perhaps Monsieur would care to choose the squid himself" and points to a large tank where several squid are happily swimming around.

"Oh no I couldn't eat them live" states Cecil, wondering what he's got himself into with all this foreign cuisine. Perhaps he should have gone to the chippy instead.

Jefais laughs "But of course not Monsieur. Rest assured they will not be alive when your meal is served". Cecil breathes an audible sigh of relief. He sidles over to the tank. "They're all a bit funny looking - they have those green hairy lips. Are you sure they're ok to eat?"

"But of course, monsieur - they are a delicacy" Jefais responds politely, wondering why he'd ever decided to move to Britain in the first place. Cecil chooses the squid he wants and Mister Jefais retreats to the kitchen. Once there he takes hold of a mallet and proceeds to wallop the poor squid on the head. Just before the mallet strikes the squid flinch and they look terribly frightened. Jefais is shocked! How could he be so cruel? He tried again and this time one of the squid looks up at him with tears pouring from its eyes.

"It is no use I cannot do zis" whispers Jefais, woefully regretting not paying attention in his photography classes. "Zay are so harmless".

"Hans" Jefais calls out. "HANS".

Hans, the German dishwasher, ever so slightly annoyed, responds "Da, vot do you vont?"

"Zees squid - you must kill them. It is part of your job description!" exclaims Jefais. Jefais hands Hans the mallet.

Hans decides there isn't enough time to check his contract and raises the mallet high. Once again the squid flinch, tears streaming from their eyes. Hans is mortified! "I cannot!" he squeals. "Look at zem, zey are too frightened".

And now the moral of the story is...

Hans that does the dishes can be soft as Jefais, with mild green hairy lipped squid!!!





## About Movies

Here I go again, sharing some of my life with you. This time it's to give you some information about the film industry with which I've been involved since 2002/3.

### American Movies

The American Film Institute's Top 100 Funniest Films was announced 20 years ago (in June 2000). The films were chosen by a panel of 1,800 people in the movie industry from a list of 500 movies compiled by the Institute. Please click [here](#) for details. In the meanwhile, here are the top 10 films up to the year 2000 - you might be surprised at some of the selections:

1. Some Like It Hot (1959)
2. Tootsie (1982)
3. Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying About And Love The Bomb (1964)
4. Annie Hall (1977)
5. Duck Soup (1933)
6. Blazing Saddles (1974)
7. M\*A\*S\*H (1970)
8. It Happened One Night (1934)
9. The Graduate (1967)

### British Films

Not to be outdone, the British Film Institute published its own list (the Top 100 British movies from 1935-1998): here are the top 10 up to 2000:

1. The Third Man," 1949
2. "Brief Encounter," 1945
3. "Lawrence of Arabia," 1962
4. "The 39 Steps," 1935
5. "Great Expectations," 1946
6. "Kind Hearts and Coronets," 1946
7. "Kes," 1969
8. "Don't Look Now," 1973
9. "The Red Shoes," 1948
10. "Trainspotting," 1996

### Top Film Quotes etc (BBC Online)

The unflappable secret agent 007 would keep his cool over the news that his immortal line "Bond, James Bond" has been judged the top film quote of all time. The line, first spoken by Sean Connery in his debut Bond adventure Dr No, in 1962, beats one-liners from Mae West, Humphrey Bogart and Robert De Niro in a list drawn up by film experts. It was put together to tie in with the publication of the new Guinness Book of Film which provides details of 1,000 great movies. The company I helped from a fledgling start in the early 2000s (Movision Entertainment Limited) worked with Mr De Niro in *Bridge of San Luis Rey*, with F. Murray Abraham, Kathy Bates and Harvey Keitel. Movision made several fine films including *The Statement* with Michael Caine, Tilda Swinton and Jeremy Northam. Perhaps the best known film we produced was *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons and Joseph Fiennes.

Anyway, I digress, sorry, back to film quotes - a panel of 10 critics and experts used their combined film knowledge to draw up a top ten of the most memorable comments from 71 years of talkies, heralded by Al Jolson's "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! You ain't heard nothing yet" in *The Jazz Singer*. The panel judged vintage scripts to have plenty of staying power with six of the 10 drawn from the first 15 years of the genre. Beyond that there is only one taken from each of the more recent decades: the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s. Of course, many of the lines most often repeated over the years have been misquotes. Film buffs will know that Humphrey Bogart never actually said "Play it again, Sam" in *Casablanca*, but instead "Play it" and "Play it Sam". Nor did Clint Eastwood say the word "punk" in his famous Dirty Harry line "Go ahead, make my day".

The top ten film quotes of all time have been judged to be:

1. "Bond, James Bond." - Sean Connery, Dr No (1962).
2. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine." - Humphrey Bogart, *Casablanca* (1942).
3. "It's not the men in your life that counts, it's the life in your men." - Mae West, *I'm No Angel* (1933)
4. "I'll be back." - Arnold Schwarzenegger, *The Terminator* (1984).
5. "Would you be shocked if I changed into something more comfortable?" - Jean Harlow, *Hell's Angels* (1930).
6. "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get." - Tom Hanks, *Forrest Gump* (1994).
7. "I could dance with you 'til the cows come home. On second thoughts, I'd rather dance with the cows 'til you came home." - Groucho Marx, *Duck Soup* (1933).
8. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn." - Clark Gable, *Gone With The Wind* (1939).
9. "You talkin' to me?" - Robert De Niro, *Taxi Driver* (1976).
10. "Gimme a visky with ginger ale on the side - and don't be stinchy, beby." - Greta Garbo, *Anna Christie* (1930).



Contributed by



Martin Pollins



Picture Credit: "File:Winston Churchill, Parliament Square, London (14117724283).jpg" by Tim Buss from North County, San Diego, California, USA is licensed under CC BY 2.0

## A Very Brief Encounter in a Lift

**Contributed by Reg Homes**

The recent attacks on the statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, in the wake of the "Black Lives Matter" protests, led me to recall my very brief encounter with him.

During a parliamentary recess in the late 1950s I had an assignment in the offices of the Official Reporters (Hansard) in the House of Commons which were then situated on an upper floor in a suite of rooms with sound-proof cubicles overlooking the Thames and Westminster Bridge.

Members and officials could, in those days, readily access the House of Commons via a door which was situated at the far corner of the large quadrangle below Big Ben and beside Westminster Hall. All that was required for admission was a flash of your departmental pass at the police constable at the gate in Parliament Square who would nod you through, and again to the custodian attending the entrance door.

The lift to the upper floors, the old gated type with an attendant, was situated along the corridor a few yards from the door, where I waited for the lift to descend. Within a few seconds a large car arrived at the entrance and out stepped Sir Winston Churchill with his son-in-law Christopher Soames and it was evident that they too would be taking the lift. Clutching my small attaché case I retreated into a small recess opposite the lift. They both entered the lift, some words were said and the lift attendant then beckoned me to join them. I had completed my service with the RAF a few years earlier and given the austere times in

the 1950s, I was still reasonably trim. There was just sufficient space as I slipped into the lift behind the attendant without rubbing shoulders with the occupants and stood motionless for the next few minutes until Sir Winston and Christopher Soames departed at the first floor. I recall the exchange of some pleasantries but only with Christopher Soames.

Sir Winston was then near the end of his parliamentary career and later succeeded to the position of Father of the House. His life and times are well documented and in subsequent years his reputation may have lost a little of its lustre. But in old age he retained the aura of a great man to a young man in the 1950s whose boyhood during the war years was marked by the force of character and eloquence of Winston Churchill, as he then was.

His statue surely deserves greater respect than some at the present time seem prepared to accord it.

## IT HAPPENED HERE: Maresfield

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century various military camps were set up in and around the Ashdown Forest but only one achieved longevity, namely Maresfield. The land on which it was situated as originally owned by a German national Count Alexander Otto Hugo Wladimir Münster of Derneburg. However, at the outbreak of WWI in 1914, he fled to Germany and in May 1915, by order of the Chancery Division of the High Court, the estate was seized by the Crown under the *Trading with the Enemy Act*. A military camp was then set up, initially comprising of tented accommodation but these were gradually replaced by wooden huts.

Various regiments present during WWI included the West Kents, Hampshire Yeomanry, Royal Engineers, Canadian Horse Artillery and the Royal Garrison Artillery Officer Cadet School. Recruits in 1917, included Ralph Vaughan Williams who gave his occupation as Doctor of Music.

From 1921, the Royal Corps of Signals training centre was present until 1924 when the camp was closed. Interestingly, the former garrison theatre built in 1916 survives as Uckfield's charismatic Picture House.



Canadian Horse Artillery on Ashdown Forest

1941 saw Maresfield reopen with the arrival of various regiments including the Royal Tank Corps and on 3 July 1944, a V1 flying bomb, shot down by fighters, exploded within the camp damaging buildings and motor transport and wounding two men.

Post war, the Army School of Signals were in occupation until moving to Blandford in 1967. The Intelligence Corps also at Maresfield training Russian linguists moved to Templar Barracks at Ashford, Kent and were probably the last military presence - leaving around 1972. Briefly used as a camp for Ugandan refugees expelled by Idi Amin, the buildings were gradually removed, and the area taken over as a training centre by the East Sussex Fire Brigade who remain in occupation today.

Current expansion includes a John Lewis Stores Depot, a Premier Inn with a Costa Coffee cafe, and a Waste Disposal Site. Across the A22 by-pass the former camp gymnasium is now in use as a sports/bowls centre.

Contributed by Brian Bridges

### Comment from Martin Pollins

My wife and our two children lived in Maresfield Park for around 17 years. I remember the Münster estate well. It is enormous. My wife's paternal grandfather trained in the military in Maresfield Park in the First World War and we have managed to find an old photograph of some of the soldiers at the time, which is shown below. The 'stick' like items held by the two soldiers on the ground and one in the front row, are telescopes. The men who used these 'sticks' were part of *Scout and Sniper Section* and were called *Spotters*. Their duties were to observe the enemy from the front line and sketch the German positions which were then sent to Divisional HQs for evaluation by the Intelligence Officers.

The area used as a training centre by the East Sussex Fire Brigade is located just before Maresfield Park, off the A272.



## In what film did an actor break character but somehow it got left in the film?

Stuart McCormack posted this question on Quora.com. He says his favourite is Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau disguised as playboy Guy Gadboi.

He's chatting up Lady Litton (Catherine Schell), half his fake moustache missing and sipping his Kahlua and ginger ale. When he murders a famous quote Schell completely loses it... again. They tried a number of times but could not film the scene without her cracking up (and choking on her drink!), so Blake Edwards chose the best one and left it in the film.

Here's a screen shot from the film which you can see, [here](#).





## Resurrection with Pepsi Cola



In the 1960s, Pepsi Cola launched a new slogan:  
**Come Alive With the Pepsi Generation.**

Sadly, when it arrived in China it met with a very negative response because, in Chinese, the slogan translated to:

**Pepsi brings your relatives back from the dead.**

The commercial was primarily focused at the hip youth of the day. See the 1963 commercial, [here](#). It features clips from the 1963 and 1964 Pepsi TV commercial, and includes the then-popular jingle, as well as idyllic print advertising stills from Pepsi, and includes the first introduction of Diet Pepsi in 1964. The picture above is a screenshot from the commercial.

## Battle of Britain 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Battle of Britain Day is on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 2020 is the 80<sup>th</sup>



Picture Credit: "20100905\_Duxford MH434" by Andy G Leonard is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

anniversary. The picture on the front page is from a painting of Pilot Officer Keith Gillman, 32 Squadron who was famously photographed at RAF Hawkinge on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1940, his picture being used by newspapers and magazines to epitomise the Battle of Britain 'Fighter Boy'. Sadly, he met his death on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1940, shot down within sight of his hometown of Dover, the picture of him being published on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1940, a week before he went missing. He was the first pilot from his squadron lost in the Battle of Britain. You can see his picture [here](#) and [here](#), the latter one taken from the front page of Picture Post, with the caption: **The Men against Goering.**

## New exhibition will celebrate 'The Jam' and Brighton's role in mod culture

The August 2020 edition of Sussex Life (here) announced that an exhibition planned for next year about The Jam will celebrate mod culture and Brighton's central role. Words: Jeremy Blackmore, [here](#).

*"It's said at a moment of despair but serves to underline the importance of Brighton as a meeting point for mods, a place to find community with like-minded young people."*

*"In truth, mod was about far more than the skirmishes with rival rockers at seaside resorts depicted in the film – indeed some believe contemporary newspapers often exaggerated the extent of any violence."*

*"Instead mod was about a common outlook, embracing change and modern philosophy in all its forms and throwing off the shackles of a pre-war way of thinking."*

*"Commentators believe the movement grew out of the late-1950s beatnik coffee bar culture in London, attuned to modern jazz and frequented by students. By the early 1960s, its soundtrack had been replaced by R&B music. It attracted working-class teenagers with money to spend who adopted a smart dress sense and rode scooters, which they used to congregate in Brighton and other seaside towns."*

*"The flourishing 1960s music scene, which itself did so much to cast off old norms, provided new heroes with bands like The Who and Small Faces becoming mod icons and Carnaby Street setting the latest fashions."*

*"In 1973, The Who released landmark album Quadrophenia, into which songwriter Pete Townshend distilled everything it meant to be a mod..."*

From a local viewpoint, it's interesting to note that, in the 1960s, several pop groups including **The Who** and **The Hollies** played at the now demolished Downs Hotel in Keymer, opposite Stafford House. **Georgie Fame, The Move, The Action, Eden Kane, Long John Baldry, Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, Deep Purple,**



Picture Credit: "We are the MODS We are the MODS,....." by jeffedoe is licensed under CC BY 2.0

**Acker Bilk** and many more also appeared.

## VJ Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day (or Victory over Japan Day) marking the surrender of Japan, occurred on 15 August 2020. The day in 1945 ended one of the worst episodes in British military history, during which tens of thousands of servicemen had been forced to endure the brutalities of Japanese prisoner of war camps. The official surrender documents weren't signed until 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945 aboard the USS Missouri battleship in Tokyo Bay.

## A story about one of our Founders



RNLI 13-20 arriving at Selsey on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017, a screenshot from a youtube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJr2d2Tmptg> - It shows the arrival of the new RNLI Shannon Class lifeboat at Selsey escorted in by the old Selsey Lifeboat Tyne class "Voluntary Worker" with Hayling Island and Littlehampton Inshore Atlantic 85 Lifeboats.



Picture Credit: "RNLI LIFEBOAT" by Leo Reynolds is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

This story is about Eric Rowse and his wife Denise and the RNLI Lifeboat that bears their name. Grateful thanks are due to our Life Member Alan Carver as I was alerted to it by him.

### About Eric Rowse, Founder Member of our Probus Club

Eric Rowse was a founder member of Haywards Heath & District Probus Club when it was formed in 1985 and remained a member until his death in 1994. Denise continued her association with our Club for a further 10 years after Eric died. Eric served in the Royal Navy in WW2 and he and his wife were keen sailors. They were qualified to sail and navigate the boat owned by the sailing club of the Bank of England (for which they both worked) on ocean cruises.

### About the New Lifeboat Station at Selsey

At the end of June 2017, and after several years of fundraising, and the construction of a brand-new lifeboat station, the crew and support team at RNLI Selsey finally welcomed its state-of-the-art Shannon Class lifeboat, named 'Denise and Eric'. The lifeboat was named after major donors Denise and Eric Rowse. The lifeboat station was constructed by Reside Construction who are based in the Test Valley, near Romsey, Winchester, and Southampton.



Picture Credit: "File:Selsey Lifeboat Station.jpg" by Djm-leighpark is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

### About the 'Denise and Eric'

The Reside website, click [here](#), explains that this new lifeboat had been designed in-house by RNLI naval architects who have harnessed cutting-edge technology to ensure the new lifeboat meets the demands of a 21st century rescue service and allow the RNLI's volunteer crew to do their lifesaving work as safely as possible in all weather conditions. Highly manoeuvrable and able to operate in shallow waters, the Shannon also has safety features including spine-protecting crew seats and the latest information monitoring system to reduce the likelihood of injury to volunteers during search and rescue operations.

The Denise and Eric is numbered RNLI 13-20 (apparently corresponding to the time it arrived at its new home on 24th June 2017, 1:20pm). The Selsey Lifeboat's website has useful and interesting details about the Denise and Eric at:

<https://www.selseylifeboats.co.uk/Boats/DeniseAndEric.html>

The 'Shannon class' all-weather lifeboat needs six crew at a time with three shore-based helpers. Lifeboats do not come cheap. The Denise and Eric all-weather boat has a £2.1m price tag. Meanwhile, full protective clothing and equipment costs £2,400 for each crew member.

The Denise and Eric is mentioned in an article in Sussex Life on 4th August 2020 at: <https://www.sussexlife.co.uk/people/selsey-lifeboat-new-coxswain-1-6777035>

### About the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)

As a charity, the RNLI is dependent on the generosity of the public. The services it provides encompass not just the lifeboats but also a seasonal lifeguard service, coastal safety, research and education programmes, and a flood-response role.

The organisation has 238 lifeboat stations around the 19,000-mile coastline of the UK and Ireland with a total fleet of over 400 vessels, including those held in reserve.

As well as at Selsey in Sussex, there are lifeboats stationed at Littlehampton, Shoreham Harbour, Brighton, Newhaven, Eastbourne, Hastings and Rye Harbour.

Story from Alan Carver  
Words by Martin Pollins



## What is Philosophy?

Firstly, the word 'Philosophy' is derived from the Greek 'philo' (love) and Sophia (wisdom). It can be described as a theory or attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour. It's the search for meaning, for greater understanding, for answers to the questions surrounding our existence, our purpose, and the universe itself. Philosophy enables us to adopt a wider and more informative perspective to our lives and to understand and therefore appreciate how the development of cogent ideas have been formulated over circa two thousand years. It is not primarily a question of learning facts but of looking in a wider and more informative perspective of how our wonderful world functions and how human endeavour has contributed to our understanding of how we live our lives.

The subject extends back over approximately two thousand five hundred years origination in Greece, China and India with strong contemporary linkages to our present day lives. From an academic perspective, Philosophy is studied through exams from GCSE, A Level and University Degrees throughout the United Kingdom. There are also many University of The Third Age Philosophy Groups around the country including three Groups in Haywards Heath.

Both as a discipline and as a general personal outlook, philosophy is centred upon the desire to think and reflect upon why things are what they are, how we should lead our lives, how far we can be certain about what we know and what meaning there is, if any, to our existence. The same questions are asked about religion and science but where religion affords answers based upon faith or belief, philosophy uses reasoning and where science provides answers, philosophy seeks explanations.

**philosophy is centred upon the desire to think and reflect upon why things are what they are...**

The subject has many strands that provide an interesting and informative insight into why and how we think and seek to objectively consider why and how we pursue philosophy. I have provided a list of main and applied Philosophy subjects to accompany this text which I hope you will find interesting. I would be happy to discuss any of these topics at a later date if readers wish me to do so.

Philosophy rests upon two deep and fundamental questions. The first is 'What Is There' and the second 'What Matters'.

### What is There?

The first of these questions is about the nature of reality. What exists? What kind of things exist? This raises the question of knowledge. How can we know and say anything about reality, about the world and ourselves? What is knowledge? What is the most suitable means to acquire such detail? Such means would incorporate reason, truth, and meaning and would involve logic, perception, thought, theorizing, understanding, empiricism (learning by experience), rationalism (reason), proof of data through scientific analysis. This subject is the source of, for example, Philosophy of The Mind, Logic and Epistemology.

### What Matters

The second question relates to 'value' namely about Ethics, and Politics which the philosopher Aristotle saw as continuous with ethics. It is about the good life and the good society, the question of our obligations and responsibilities, our judgements about wrong and harm and how to remedy them, about how to live, and how to lead our lives both individually and socially. It is also about aesthetics namely relating to the quality of the lived experience. Taking all of these considerations together, this question about value is about humanity relationships, society and the meaning of life.

A further point that is shown by reflection on the great adventure of philosophy is that the subject is a highly consequential enterprise. It began as a reflective and serious enquiry into reality and as it matured, a number of central themes duly emerged.

Efforts to answer them have taken many forms. But progress has been made. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, philosophers who were interested in the structure, properties and behaviour of the material universe such as Copernicus, Galileo and Newton (the word scientist was not introduced until the 1830's) were so influential.

They began to find positive ways to enable them to answer their questions. The result was the birth of modern science. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, philosophers interested in what we now call psychology, sociology, linguistics and philology then gave birth to the social sciences. In the twentieth century, philosophy and logic played a major role in the rise of computing and cognitive science.

We still do not know what ultimately exists. We still wrestle with problems about what is good and right, about how society should be organised, about meaning and value, and especially about the quest for the good and worthwhile life. Many people in fact do not think much about these factors, preferring instead to take a pre-packed set of views from some tradition, typically a religion, from which most individuals 'cherry-pick' what is convenient and ignore what is inconvenient. But philosophy is the refusal to be lazy about the great questions. It monitors and examines that area of 'eureka' that is knowledge, looking out into the dark of ignorance to see shapes which are there.

**philosophy is the refusal to be lazy about the great questions**

Even though some people shy away from accepting the challenge to think, they still find themselves often enough confronted by a philosophy relating to what is right and what is wrong, about what choice is to be made in some fundamental respect about what it all means. Therefore, everyone is essentially a philosopher at times; everyone takes part and that makes us all players in this wonderful subject.

We can also look at collective responsibility and this term relates to subjects such as Political Philosophy and its close relationship to Economics. An example can emanate from this connection in the form of what is termed *Cost Benefit Analysis* and the analysis of social costs. For example if a government decision as to the significance of capital outlay to provide social benefits, creates both monetary and social costs, how can the latter items be taken into account – not just at the current time but also from a future time perspective as to how costs may increase or decrease. Such decisions taken by government require clear foresight and analysis.

Another collective example is the philosophical subject of Jurisprudence (The Philosophy of Law). In this regards we can examine both Acts of Parliament and Case Law (ie what is decided in the Law Courts). Both bases have important consequences both for the present and the future.

This concludes my introduction to the subject of Philosophy which I hope you have found to be of interest. It should also be read in the context of the two schedules that accompany this text (see next page) relating to Philosophy subjects. This month sees the launch of a separate publication called *Understanding Philosophy* as a supplement to *Nil Desperandum*. We plan to publish it 4 times a year.

**By David Waite**



There's a short video on Philosophy and Aristotle from the School of Life at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csiW4W\\_DYX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csiW4W_DYX4)



Picture Credit: "Aristotle (384-322 BC)" by Tilemahos Efthimiadis is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



## New life in an old sauce

See also: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OK\\_Sauce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OK_Sauce)

O.K Sauce is a brand of brown sauce which is manufactured in the United Kingdom. It was first made by George Mason & Company and later by Colmans. Its first factory was called the Chelsea Works (formerly a swimming pool) in London.

O.K was the highest-selling brown sauce in London as late as the 1970s. It was withdrawn from the British market in the 1990s, but Unilever continue to produce it for export to the Asian market where it is in great demand. The brand has been owned by Unilever since 1995.

### The Name



Picture Credit: [Cropped extract] From Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OK\\_Sauce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OK_Sauce)  
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There is a great deal of controversy over the source of the name. My recollection from when I was growing up in the 1940s and 1950s was that there was a story on the reverse side of the bottle claiming that the "OK" name came from a military background (I think there was a soldier blowing/playing a bugle) and the name meant 'Orl Korrekt', but I may be wrong.

Equally puzzling is that originally OK seems to have been spelled most of the time as O.K. (with two full stops) whereas today it is often spelled O.K with one full stop.

Another theory on the origins of 'OK', is that it is derived from the 'Ok' used during the time of the London Blitz to inform people there had been "zero killings" in the latest air raids. But this seems to be bunkum as the air raids happened in 1940-1, whereas O.K sauce was created in 1928, long before the Blitz in WW2.

### George Mason & Co is established

Source: <http://letslookagain.com/tag/ok-sauce-history/>

Henderson Brand (1805 – 1893) introduced A1, probably the first brown sauce, from 1862. He employed two nephews, George and John Mason. The brothers entered into business for themselves, as competitors to Brand, from 1880. They established a small factory on King's Road, Chelsea, and their first products, O.K Sauce and beef and chicken extracts, were said to be direct imitations of Brand & Co products.

In 1928, production was transferred to a purpose-built at 265 Merton Road, Southfields, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The company's official title was George Mason & Co Ltd. However, George Mason left the firm before World War I and the company was run by the Cooper family, initially by Percy Cooper, then by his son Rex Cooper as Chairman and MD.

Rex's son, Brian, together with Rex's sister Betty (Urwin), oversaw the changeover to Colmans. In addition to O.K Sauce, other sauces and chutneys were made. The factories continued to make sauces until 1969 when the owners of the company sold it off to Reckitt and Colman at Norwich. The products had a Royal Warrant which ceased around the time of the takeover. All production was transferred to Norwich.

Colmans continues to make O.K Sauce and other condiments. O.K Sauce's main market is today in the Far East and UK domestic Chinese communities.

### A New Life in the Old Sauce

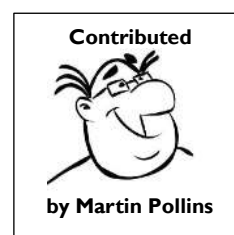
Although most supermarkets and grocery stores stopped selling the brown sauce decades ago, O.K Sauce has become a feature of Asian food, particularly Chinese and Cantonese cuisines. It is manufactured in the UK and is made from a savoury blend of tomatoes, vinegar and tamarind, with sweet hints of molasses, dates, apples and raisins. The sauce is often mixed with aromatic spices and sometimes even anchovies.

Strangely, many Asian recipes refer to OK sauce but then go on to say 'use brown table sauce, such as HP® or Daddies®': neither of these sauces (although unarguably 'brown') are actually the O.K sauce made by Colmans in the UK.

### Spike Milligan and O.K Sauce

Read: *Adolf Hitler: My Part in his Downfall* (Spike Milligan War Memoirs). Published by Penguin; Available at Amazon - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Adolf-Hitler-Downfall-Milligan-Memoirs/dp/0241958091>

Spike Milligan's legendary war memoirs are a hilarious and subversive first-hand account of WW2, as well as a fascinating portrait of the formative years of this comic genius, most famous as writer and star of *The Goon Show*. His memoirs have sold over 4.5 million copies since they first appeared. O.K Sauce is mentioned by Spike in his books, perhaps as if it played some part in Hitler's downfall.



## Finish with Humour



Picture Credit: "Google Guys @ Dilbert" by ~C4Chaos is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

## QUIZ for September 2020: Answers

1. Thomas Telford
2. Johannes Gutenberg in 1440
3. Jane Austen
4. A tort is a wrongful act. This major civil (as distinct from criminal) legal subject relates to negligence and nuisance cases and based upon statutes and case law in courts.
5. Laurence Olivier
6. 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776
7. China and India
8. 10<sup>th</sup> June 1829
9. Soprano
10. Cuckfield
11. 122
12. Henry the Fifth
13. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1895
14. Barn, Clear, Ace, Ear, Earn, Near, Clean, Ale, Ran, Bar, Lace, Brace, Race, Real, Care, Are, Clan, Bean. (18)
15. Twelve
16. James Ramsay MacDonald
17. This answer goes back a few hundred years to a time when we travelled on horseback or in a horse coach. As many people were/are right-handed if you were confronted by a highway robber, your right hand was free to draw your sword or pistol.
18. 1965

## A selection of Applied Philosophy subjects

Animal Rights	Anthropology
Equality in Society	Human Conflict
'Ockham's Razor' – Science and God	Philosophy of Art
Philosophy Of Economics	Philosophy of the Environment
Philosophy Of History	Philosophy of Music
The Advent Of Science	The Dichotomy of an increasing population and 'The Small Island' of the UK
The History and Development of Democracy	
The History and Development of Feminism	
The Paradox of Liberalism	Robotics – The Limits of Humanity
Scepticism In Philosophy	What Is Meant By Friendship?
What Constitutes Happiness?	

To be read in conjunction with the article on page 14, by David Waite

## Primary Philosophy subjects

**Aesthetics.** (the branch of philosophy which deals with questions of beauty and artistic taste.)

**Axiology.** (the study of the nature of value and valuation – what constitutes value in the eye of an individual.)

**Ethics.** (the study of moral and social behaviour.)

**Greek, Indian and Chinese philosophy.** (the basis and also compare and contrast.)

**History of philosophy subjects.** **Jurisprudence.** (philosophy of law.)

**Logic.** (including the study of inference, reasoning, probability, modality, mathematical reasoning, fallacies, probability and much else.)

**Metaphysics** (a generalised subject comprising the makeup, function and organisation of reality, the nature of time and space, the relation of mind to body.)

**Moral Philosophy** (The branch of philosophy that contemplates what is right and wrong)

**Ontology** (the specific study of 'being' or existence for humans and animals.)

**Philosophy of language.**

**Philosophy of the mind.**

**Philosophy of science.**

**Political philosophy.**

**The study of major philosophers.** (eg from Socrates to Satre.)

**Utilitarianism.** (a philosophy of moral behaviour that states the best actions are those that produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people.)

**What constitutes knowledge.** (epistemology.)

To be read in conjunction with the article on page 14, by David Waite



Humour contributed by Alan Tatnall