

# Nil Desperandum

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club

ISSUE 22

January 2022

Never Alone



© Neil Moralee 2016

Picture Credit: "A stranger in a foreign land" by Neil Moralee is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/)

## Index:

1. KS: The sinking of British Submarine
1. Face masks in WWII
2. Fear comes in many guises
2. The Battle of Rorke's Drift
3. The Peking Man
4. The World's Greatest Fossil Collector
5. The strange accidental death of a Scottish Baronet
5. The Canterbury Puzzle
6. The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries: Amazing Fossils and the People Who Found Them
7. Two lovely Brighton Churches
8. The Ritual Execution of Cromwell
9. Mary Clarke and Black Friday
9. The Royal Society
10. Fun at the Fair in Victorian Times
10. How They Dug the Victoria Line

## Continued:

10. A reminder - You never had it so good
11. Fame after Death
12. The Saltdean Lido
13. WW II Pastimes during Lockdown
16. The Stephen King-Hall Newsletters
16. What do you call a group of Ducks?
17. The Great Northern War
18. Dreadnought, Fear Nothing
18. Royal Navy Slang
19. Stonehenge may have started as a stone circle in Wales
20. Everything you wanted to know about Brighton's Clock Tower
21. Brighton Station
22. Brighton and Sussex Celebrities –present and past
24. Finish with a Smile



## K5: The sinking of British Submarine

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 1921, K5 was lost with all hands in the English Channel - the worst submarine disaster of peacetime up until that point. British Newspapers Archive looked at how the tragedy was reported in the pages of the *Weekly Dispatch (London)*. The loss of K5, a British submarine that had played a prominent part in the Battle of Jutland, was Britain's worse peacetime submarine disaster up until that point (the worst was the sinking of HMS Thetis on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1939, in Liverpool Bay).

HMS K5 was one of the K-class submarines that served in the Royal Navy from 1917-1921. At the end of the war in 1918, K5 was part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Submarine Flotilla based at Rosyth, along with six others of the K-class.

K5 left Torbay on 19 January 1921 with the K8, K10, K15 and K22 as part of the Atlantic Fleet. She sank en route to a mock battle in the Bay of Biscay. All fifty-seven officers and men were killed. A battery cover and a sailor's ditty box were all that was recovered. K5 had signalled its intention to dive when 120 miles southwest of the Scilly Isles. She never surfaced, and it was presumed that she had exceeded her safe depth.

### Ditty Boxes

Ditty boxes (see [here](#)) date back to 1620 and were made by whalers and sailors. It is believed that the word 'ditty' is a corruption of the tail end of the word 'commodity'. According to *Rick Jolly's book Jackspeak: a Guide to British Naval Slang and Usage*, a ditty box (now redundant) was a lockable container in which a sailor kept his most prized or unusual possessions.

### The K-Class of Submarines (see [here](#))

The K class of submarines was the brainchild of Admiral Jellicoe. At 339 ft long, they were nearly twice the size of most other submarines. They were made this long to achieve a top speed on the surface of 24 knots. Unfortunately, this meant that the bow could be at crush depth when the submarine dived whilst the stern was still near the surface. Incredibly, the submarines were steam-driven.

### An Expert's Theory (see [here](#))

Retired Rear-Admiral S.S. Hall wrote in *The Times* on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1921, under the heading **An Experts Theory**: "... it may be taken as certain that the loss of the vessel was due to some delay to checking the downward momentum gained by the vessel being overtrimmed in diving, either by admitting compressed air too slowly to too many tanks at one time, to tanks only partially full, or to a sea connection being closed prematurely."

The waters where the battle exercises were taking place were so deep that the vessel would have been crushed, losing control due to the intake of water. Admiral Hall wrote that it was "not clear why the 'K' class should be taken for cruises in the Atlantic in winter." He describes the submarines as 'freaks' designed especially for the conditions of the North Sea during World War I.

### A Disaster but not Unexpected?

K13, also a steam-propelled First World War K class submarine of the Royal Navy, had suffered a similar fate during her acceptance trials in early 1917 when she foundered with the loss of 32 of those on board. She was salvaged and recommissioned as HMS K22.

### READ MORE:

The Calamity K-Class Submarines of the First World War, by Jan Meecham at: <https://janmeecham.wordpress.com/2017/04/17/the-calamity-k-class-submarines-of-the-first-world-war/>

## Face masks in WWII

Inspired by a story by Gavin Mortimer in *The Spectator*, at: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/britain-s-first-face-mask-debate>



Picture Credit: "1941 Gas Mask Drill" by theirhistory is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

In the midst of WWII, just as in the Covid pandemic, the same argument was raging, with the country split between those who wanted the wearing of gas masks to be made compulsory on pain of financial penalty and those who strenuously argued that it should be an individual choice. The threat facing Britain in 1940 came not via sneezes and other droplets from Covid-infected friends and acquaintances but from a frenzied Nazi war machine expected to launch an aerial gas attack at any minute.

In 1938, Neville Chamberlain's government, aided by a coterie of academics and intellectuals, launched its own 'Project Fear'. Books were written and official pamphlets distributed, warning the public of the likely death toll in the event of a prolonged German air offensive. Privately, the Ministry of Health predicted that 600,000 Britons would die in the first six months of the aerial war, with a further 1.2 million wounded.

In 1938, the government began issuing gas masks to the entire British population, and most people had one when the war started on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939. Even the evacuees leaving Britain's larger cities for safety in the countryside when the mass evacuation began on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, carried their masks with their other possessions. The government requested that people carry their mask with them at all times in its flimsy cardboard container; there was no obligation, but it was strongly recommended.

Among those in London who refused to carry a mask in the war was author George Orwell. In Orwell's opinion, only about 20 per cent of Londoners carried gas masks, and they were looked down on by the 80 per cent who didn't have a mask. Orwell was not alone in refusing to wear a mask: the novelist H. G. Wells, the famous novelist, and Kingsley Martin, the editor of *The New Statesman*, both wrote articles claiming they were unwilling to carry gas masks. At the time, someone wrote to the *Yorkshire Post* suggesting two shillings as a 'suitable fine for those caught without a mask'. But Churchill's government resisted calls to introduce fines.

John Simkin on Spartacus Educational ([here](#)) wrote an interesting blog about gas masks and the moves by the British government pre-WWII. In his blog, titled: *Gas Masks in the Second World War killed more people than they saved*, he says that the British government asked its scientists at the Porton Down laboratory to design a civilian respirator that could be mass-produced at a unit cost of two shillings (old money). The result was the General Civilian Respirator. In 1936, a disused mill in Blackburn became a gas mask assembly plant where, by the time of the Munich Crisis of 1938, more than 30 million gas masks had been manufactured. By the time war broke out on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, the government had planned to issue a gas mask to everyone living in Britain and, over the next few weeks, 38 million gas masks were distributed to regional centres.

After the war, doctors noticed that factory workers who had been employed in making the masks were showing abnormally high numbers of deaths from cancer at a rate three times the normal incidence of lung or respiratory cancers – bizarrely killing more people than were saved by wearing a mask.

## Fear comes in many guises

### EXAMPLES OF PHOBIAS

**Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia** is one of the longest words in the dictionary — and, ironically, is the name for fear of long words. **Sesquipedalophobia** is another term for the same phobia. Some psychiatrists don't officially recognise this phobia — what are they frightened?

You've heard about palindromes, haven't you? They're words that are read/spelled the same front and back. Some people are frightened of them, believe it or not. **Aibohphobia** is the (unofficial) fear of palindromes, the word itself being a palindrome.

**Arithmophobia**. If you hate playing the lottery or doing mental arithmetic, you might have this phobia, which is the fear of numbers.

It all depends on whether you're nutty or not but

**Arachibutyrophobia** is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth.

Then there's **Ablutophobia** which is the persistent, abnormal, and unwarranted fear of bathing, washing, or cleaning.

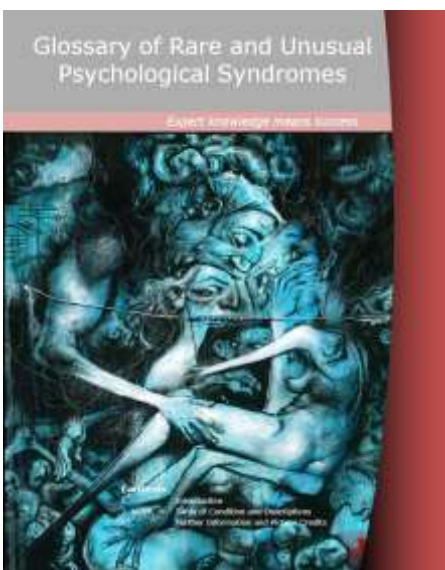
Heard of **Trypophobia**, which is the fear of holes. It's an aversion to the sight of irregular patterns or clusters of small holes or bumps. It's not officially recognised as a mental disorder, but may be diagnosed as a specific phobia if excessive fear and distress occur.

### WHAT'S THE REASON?

Imaginary noises in your head. Sudden changes in your speech. Involuntary hand movements. These are among the symptoms associated with several physical and mental disorders that sound too strange to be true — but they're real.

Little is known about what causes some of these conditions, and diagnosis can be tricky. But the good news is that many of these disorders are rare, and the symptoms are often temporary or treatable.

Worldwide, about 450 million individuals have some sort of mental illness. Whereas such illnesses as anxiety disorder, depression, and eating disorders are widely known and seen more commonly in the population, there are a plethora of rare psychiatric conditions that physicians may encounter.



### MORE INFORMATION

If this subject interests you or you're just curious and want to know more, why not read my *Glossary of Rare and Unusual Psychological Syndromes*. It's free and available on the [OneSmartPlace website here](https://www.onesmartplace.com).

## The Battle of Rorke's Drift



Picture Credit: Screenshot from video of the 1964 film ZULU at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjD\\_cpFc69E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjD_cpFc69E)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 143 years ago, 50 British soldiers, 30 of whom were sick and wounded patients in a field hospital, successfully held off a force of 4,000 Zulu warriors in Natal, South Africa, at a place known as *kwajimu* ("Jim's Land") in the Zulu language.

In 1879, the Zulu nation handed colonial British forces a resounding defeat in battle. A nearby regiment of the British Army took over a station run by a missionary and his daughter as a supply depot and hospital under the command of Lieutenant John Chard and his subordinate Gonville Bromhead. Unable to abandon their wounded soldiers even in these dire circumstances, the regiment heroically defended their station against the Zulu warriors.

The Battle of Rorke's Drift (also known as the Defence of Rorke's Drift) lasted 10 hours, from late afternoon, around 4:20 pm, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1879 until just before dawn the following morning. By the end of the fighting, 15 soldiers lay dead, with another two mortally wounded. Surrounding the camp were the bodies of several hundred Zulus.

The massive but piecemeal attacks by the Zulu on Rorke's Drift came very near to defeating the much smaller garrison, but they were consistently repelled. Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders, along with a number of other decorations and honours.

### Introducing Michael Caine in a major role

The 1964 film ZULU depicted the events at Rorke's Drift during the Anglo-Zulu War. The film was directed by American screenwriter Cy Endfield and produced by Stanley Baker and Cy Endfield, with Joseph E. Levine as executive producer.

The film starred Stanley Baker and introduced Michael Caine in his first significant role. The supporting cast included Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, James Booth, Nigel Green, Paul Daneman, Glynn Edwards, Ivor Emmanuel and Patrick Magee. Future South African political leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi played the part of Zulu King Cetshwayo kaMpande, his great-grandfather. Richard Burton spoke the opening and closing narration.

You can see a clip from the film at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raBNUUjI-fY>



## The Peking Man

Sources: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180201092031.htm>  
 • <http://www.cenieh.es/en/press-room/news/first-study-of-the-only-original-fossils-conserved-of-peking-man> • <http://www.cenieh.es/en> • <https://www.britannica.com/place/Zhoukoudian>  
 • <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21328502-500-lost-treasures-peking-mans-bones/>  
 • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking\\_Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peking_Man)



Picture Credit: [Cropped]  
 "File:Sculpture of Peking Man at the Zhoukoudian Museum.jpg"  
 by BleachedRice is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

Following on from the story about the Piltown Man (see *The Ape-Man Hoax*, page 11 Nil Desperandum December 2021), we can now introduce you to the Peking Man.

Scientists have been studying for the first time the original fossil remains conserved of 'Peking Man.' Six teeth belonging to *Homo erectus* were found in the mid-twentieth century at the Middle Pleistocene archaeological site at Zhoukoudian, Beijing municipality, 26 -30 miles southwest of the central city.

Scientists from the Centro Nacional de Investigación

sobre la Evolución Humana (CENIEH) form part of the team which published a paper in the journal Scientific Reports, studying for the first time the original fossil remains conserved of "Peking Man."

The archaeological and paleontological material (including numerous human remains) at this Chinese site, declared a UNESCO World Heritage, was lost during World War II while being shipped to the United States. Currently, there only exist six original teeth, recovered between 1949 and 1959 and in 1966, which are described and compared in this work led by Xing Song, of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of Beijing, in which María Martín-Torres, director of the CENIEH, and José María Bermúdez de Castro, coordinator of the hominid Paleobiology program, have also participated. "Since they were lost, for research on the fossil humans found at the site during the 1930s, plaster replicas of very poor quality have been used, as well as the descriptions and sketches that the researcher Franz Weidenreich left us," comments Bermúdez de Castro.

### *Homo erectus pekinensis*

The human fossils were initially attributed by the Canadian anthropologist Davison Black to the species *Sinanthropus pekinensis*. Later on, in the 1950s, these fossils were included in the species *Homo erectus*. As Martín-Torres explains, for a long time, the idea was held that this species was a direct ancestor of modern humanity, and "all the human fossils found in what we call the Far East and in the current islands of Indonesia have been attributed systematically to *Homo erectus*."

Several recent studies point out differences among all these fossils, which are considered as normal variations within the species.

According to the authors of this paper entitled "The fossil teeth of the Peking Man," there are similarities between the teeth of Zhoukoudian and those of other Chinese archaeological sites from a similar period, but they also highlight the differences from other teeth ascribed either to *Homo erectus* or other species of hominins from Africa and Europe.

It is hoped that this latest work will open the doors definitively to a revision of all the human fossil material from the Far East.

The site, including some four residential areas, has yielded the largest known collection of fossils of the extinct hominin *Homo erectus*—altogether some 40 incomplete skeletons, which are commonly known as the **Peking man** fossils. Remains of anatomically modern humans (*H. sapiens*) have also been excavated there. The discoveries at Zhoukoudian have proved vital to advancing the study of **human evolution**.

The hominin remains were found within a series of scree- and loess-filled clefts (inaccurately referred to as "caves") in a limestone cliff. In 1921 the Swedish geologist and fossil hunter **J. Gunnar Andersson** became intrigued by tales of "dragon bones" that local people found in the clefts and used for medicinal purposes. Andersson explored the clefts and discovered some quartz pieces that could have been used as early cutting tools. This discovery gave credence to his theory that the bones were actually human fossils. In 1927, the Canadian anthropologist **Davidson Black** retrieved a hominin molar from the site. On the basis of that finding, he identified a previously unknown hominin group, which he named *Sinanthropus pekinensis* (i.e., Peking man). Large-scale excavations began in 1929.

In the following years, archaeologists uncovered complete skulls, mandibles, teeth, leg bones, and other fossils from males and females of various ages. The specimens were eventually classified as *H. Erectus*. Many of the fossil-bearing layers have been dated, and the results suggest that the site was first occupied more than 770,000 years ago and then used intermittently by *H. Erectus* until perhaps 230,000 years ago. If these dates are correct, Zhoukoudian documents the relatively late survival of this species.

Further discoveries at the site demonstrated that the Peking man was fairly technologically sophisticated. Stone scrapers and choppers and several hand axes indicated that Peking man devised various tools for different tasks. Excavators also claimed to have uncovered ash deposits consisting of charred animal bones and stones, indicating that Peking man had learned to use fire for lighting, cooking, and heating. This discovery resulted in a drastic revision of the date for the earliest human mastery of fire. A reanalysis of the site in 1998, however, revealed no evidence for hearths, ash, or charcoal and indicated that some of the "ash" layers were, in fact, water-laid sediments washed into the sites from the surrounding hillsides. The bones and stones were charred not by human activity but by lightning-induced fire.

During World War II, the more notable fossils were lost during an attempt to smuggle them out of China for safekeeping; they have never been recovered. Following the war, excavations resumed, and many more fragments of *H. Erectus* were unearthed; however, some areas remain unexcavated. In 1987 Zhoukoudian was placed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. In 1995 concern over the deterioration of the clefts, parts of which were in danger of collapsing led to the establishment of a joint UNESCO-China project to preserve the site and encourage investigations there.

## The World's Greatest Fossil Collector

Sources: and excerpts from:

• [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Anning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Anning) • <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/mary-anning-unsung-hero.html> • <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2021/02/01/fossil/> • <https://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/collection/mary-anning/> • <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-54510746>



Mary Anning was an English fossil collector, dealer, and palaeontologist who became known worldwide for discoveries she made in Jurassic marine fossil beds in the cliffs along the English Channel at Lyme Regis in Dorset (the place of her birth (1799) and death (1847)). She is famous for discovering several important fossils (called snake stones and devil's toenails), including the first complete *Plesiosaurus* (a long-necked marine reptile) ever found and the first *pterosaur* fossil found in the British Isles. Mary made more incredible discoveries in her life, including a flying reptile called a *Dimorphodon*. Her findings included the first correctly identified *ichthyosaur* (a dolphin-like marine reptile) skeleton.

While Mary was growing up, George III was king. The war between the British and Napoleon's French army raged on, and Jane Austen had written *Sense and Sensibility*. But she very nearly didn't have a life: From the moment she was struck by a bolt of lightning at only 15 months of age when sadly the three older girls taking care of her all died, Mary's life was marked for greatness. She had been introduced to fossils by her father, an amateur fossil collector. As with many women and girls in Lyme Regis and elsewhere at the time, Mary had little formal education. But she was able to read and taught herself geology and anatomy. On most days, Mary went fossil hunting with her faithful dog called Tray.

The Anning family were religious dissenters – they were Protestants who separated from the Church of England - and were very poor. Out of nine or ten children, only Mary and her older brother, Joseph, survived to adulthood. By the age of 10, Mary was exploring Dorset's Jurassic history and two years later, with Joseph she uncovered a 17ft long *ichthyosaur* skeleton, re-introducing this dinosaur to the 19<sup>th</sup> century after an absence of millions of years.

Mary's findings contributed to changes in scientific thinking about prehistoric life and the history of the Earth. Her observations played a key role in the discovery that *coprolites*, known as *bezoar* stones at the time, were fossilised faeces.

Mary struggled financially for much of her life. However, her friend, geologist Henry De la Beche, painted *Duria Antiquior*, the first widely circulated pictorial representation of a scene from prehistoric life derived from fossil reconstructions, basing it mainly on fossils that Anning had found, and sold prints of it for her benefit and support.

### Recommended Reading

*Remarkable Creatures* is Tracy Chevalier's stunning new novel on the life and times of Mary Anning, available from Amazon, [here](#).

### Lasting Memories

The Lyme Regis Museum (which coincidentally is situated on the site of Mary Anning's birthplace) records that Mary Anning's discoveries were some of the most significant geological finds of all time. They provided evidence that was central to the development of new ideas about the history of the Earth. Her opinions were sought, and she was acknowledged as an expert in many areas, including the rather unglamorous *coprolites* (fossil faeces).

Charles Dickens wrote an article about Mary Anning's life in February 1865 in his literary magazine *All the Year Round*. He said: "The carpenter's daughter has won a name for herself and has deserved to win it."

In 2010, the Royal Society included Mary Anning in a list of the ten British women who have most influenced the history of science.

You can watch a BBC film, *The life and work of Mary Anning*, at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNOh-85\\_Dmc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNOh-85_Dmc) (a screen clip from which is shown left)

There's another film by The National Film and Television School online at: <https://youtu.be/11UOC5zu1I>

Mary's story has been transformed to the big cinema screen as **Ammonite**. Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan play Mary Anning and geologist Charlotte Murchison. The film had its UK premiere in October 2020. "*Mary Anning was three things you didn't want to be in 19th-century Britain - she was female, working-class and poor*," says Anya Pearson, who is campaigning for a statue in her honour. "*This was a time when even educated women weren't allowed to own property or vote, but despite this horrendous upbringing, she was able to do all these incredible things.*"

Mary Anning's death in 1847 was recorded by the Geological Society (which did not admit women until 1904), and her life is commemorated by a stained-glass window in St Michael's Parish church in Lyme.

### The Statue

More than 170 years after her death, Mary Anning's inspiring story is taught in schools, and a campaign, supported by Sir David Attenborough and Professor Alice Roberts, is under way to erect a statue in her honour. Evie Swire, 13, began campaigning for the statue two years ago, claiming there were more statues in the UK of men called John than there were of all women. "*She's done all these amazing things and sadly has been lost in history*," Evie says.

Eve Swire's *Mary Anning Rocks* project recently selected sculptor Denise Dutton to create the statue, which would be erected on the seafront. A crowdfunding appeal to fund it was launched in November 2020.



Picture Credit: "Mary Anning's Plesiosaur" by JF Sebastian is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)



## The strange accidental death of a Scottish Baronet

Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Graham-Montgomery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Graham-Montgomery)  
<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/verdict-accidental-death-the-strange-case-of-the-scottish-aristocrat-killed-on-the-midland-railway/>

In a Blog dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 on the National Archives website, Chris Heather wrote: “The Midland Railway Accident Register covering the year 1902 (RAIL 49111061), at page 68, I came across a most fascinating discovery: the fatality of the Scottish Baronet, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Henry Gordon Graham-Montgomery. On Friday, 7 November 1902, the Baronet was on board the train travelling down from Edinburgh to St Pancras, London. At around 07:00, there was a tragic accident near Manton station in Lincolnshire. The entry in the Register simply states that the Baronet was: ‘supposed to have fallen out of the train. Verdict – Accidental Death’.”

Graham-Montgomery met with his violent death when he was hit by a train near Seaton Junction railway station, Lincolnshire. He had apparently opened the door of a compartment while the train was in motion, and fallen on the line, where he was hit by a passing train on the neighbouring track. His head was badly injured, and one foot was severed. He died 10 minutes after the accident.

He inherited the title of the Baronet Montgomery of Stanhope in June 1901, becoming the fourth holder of this title, and acquired Stobo Castle, located within the Scottish borders, in Peeblesshire. Educated at Eton College and commissioned into Britain’s oldest continuously serving Army regiment, the Coldstream Guards, in 1869 as a Lieutenant, he served his country in the Anglo-Egyptian War in 1882. In 1889, he retired from the British Army, retaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He was unmarried, and in later life, he served as the Deputy-Lieutenant for Kinross and Peeblesshire. On his death (at age 52), the title and estate were inherited by his brother, Sir Basil Templer Graham-Montgomery, 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet.

### Was it an accident, or could it have been suicide or murder?

The inquest into the circumstances of the accident, as reported in newspapers at the time, arrived at a verdict of ‘Accidental Death’.

Surprisingly, the coroner did not consider or ask whether the carriage door was faulty. Also, the notion that suicide may have been a motive on the part of the Baronet was dismissed at an early stage owing to the testimony of his brother, and successor to his title.

The suggestions that the Baronet may have been the victim of theft by an assailant can probably be dismissed as being most unlikely: the Baronet had £9 0s 8d (some £1,300 in today’s value) in his pockets, together with other valuables - a cigar case and a silver match box.

Comments from Suzanne Pringle are published in Chris Heather’s blog. She drew attention to a similar incident in May 1902. A Marianne Stopford Claremont (previously McNeill-Hamilton and Nee Ewing), who was also a member of the Scottish aristocracy, was found dead by the railway line in London. The report in the Evening Telegraph (5<sup>th</sup> May 1902) suggested she was in good health, had never considered suicide and had an adequate independent outcome. The inquest suggested accidental death, having fallen from a train after waking up thinking she was at the station. Is this what happened to the Baronet?

Dave Howard is another reader who raises some interesting points. He says that with the speed of communications as would have existed in 1902 together with the probable involvement of two county police forces – Rutland County Constabulary and Lincolnshire Constabulary and the doubtful involvement of The Midland Railway’s own police - efficiency in investigating the cause of death would not have been great. See [here](#).

Acknowledgement: The material featured on the National Archives website is subject to © Crown copyright protection and licensed for use under the Open Government Licence unless otherwise indicated.

## The Canterbury Puzzle

Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/01/26/stained-glass-window-thomas-beckets-miracles-displayed-correctly/>



Picture Credit: “Martyrdom of St Thomas Becket” by Lawrence OP is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Following on from the story of the murder of Thomas Becket (see page 19, Issue 19, October 2021), it hardly brought a quiet life for the (probable) perpetrator, King Henry II. It was more than a murder – it was an assassination for Becket was cut down, literally, by knights loyal to King Henry II on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1170, and it shook medieval England to the core. It forced the King into a humiliating public penance. Even now, more than 850 years after that terrible event, Becket’s story is still being told, but this time the murder itself is not centre-stage – it’s the stained glass windows in Canterbury Cathedral that are the subject of focus.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the windows and other artefacts were vandalised, but a Thomas Becket stained glass window, made shortly after his death to depict his miracles, has been in the wrong order for hundreds of years - see report in *The Telegraph* on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, [here](#).

The windows – which have been described like a “medieval graphic novel” showing healings attributed to Thomas Becket – were hung in his shrine, but new research has revealed that vandalism and repair 350 years ago left the panels and their miraculous plots mixed up.

A complete stained-glass window from Canterbury Cathedral is being loaned to the British Museum for a major new UK exhibition on Thomas Becket, telling the story of one of the most shocking acts of sacrilege in English history.



Picture Credit: “toilet humour .. India” by Nick Kenrick, is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

## The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries: Amazing Fossils and the People Who Found Them

This selection (pages 282-283) from the book of that name, by Donald R. Prothero, published by Columbia University Press, © Copyright 2019 Donald R. Prothero.



Jurassic Park's famed Velociraptor was actually a dinosaur that palaeontologists refer to as Deinonychus:

"Deinonychus was not only an amazing creature, but its anatomy completely forced a rethinking of the 'slow sluggish' dinosaur image. Its tail was long, straight, and pointed and was held rigid by a truss of crisscrossing struts of bone from the vertebrae (now turned to stone). With such a rigid structure, the tail could not have dragged on the ground, instead serving like a tightrope walker's balancing pole. Deinonychus was completely bipedal, yet to use the huge slashing claws on its feet, it would have to leap up and strike with its entire foot. This simply was impossible for a sluggish reptile that was slow and inactive.

"This is the animal that thrilled movie audiences watching the Jurassic Park movies – except instead of calling it by the proper name, Deinonychus, author Michael Crichton and director Steven Spielberg opted to call the dinosaur Velociraptor. According to some accounts, Crichton was misled by a 1988 book by dinosaur artist Greg Paul, who falsely argued that Velociraptor and Deinonychus were the same dinosaur, making Velociraptor the first valid name. Other accounts suggest that Crichton just thought Velociraptor was easier to read, spell, and pronounce or that it sounded cooler than the correct name.

"Unfortunately, the movies got the science completely wrong. First of all, the actual Velociraptor was the size of a large turkey. In addition, Velociraptor is only known from Mongolia, yet the expedition finds it in 'Snakewater, Montana' (which was actually filmed in Red Rock Canyon State Park, California, where the beds yield Miocene mammals, not dinosaurs). Third, Velociraptors and most small predatory dinosaurs had feathers. There are even specimens of Velociraptor from Mongolia with quill knobs on their arm bones showing where their largest feathers are attached.

"Thanks to Crichton and the movies, the general public now has a slightly more accurate image of what dinosaurs (especially the 'raptors') looked and acted like, but everyone attaches the wrong name to the animal that has become so famous. For example, the Toronto NBA team is called the 'Raptors' but shows images of the large dromaeosaurs like Deinonychus – even though the name they use is that of the turkey-sized Velociraptor.

"This small but bad choice by Crichton and the moviemakers still drives palaeontologists crazy! The other annoying mistake is the fact that Velociraptor/Deinonychus had feathers, something we've known since 1996. The moviemakers refuse to put feathers on their dinosaurs, so the science is not up to date in the last three Jurassic Park movies. Only the first movie was relatively accurate for its time."

### 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

 Delanceyplace.com



Picture Credit: "Black Humour" by mikecogh is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



## Two lovely Brighton Churches

Sources: <http://www.stbartholomewsbrighton.org.uk/>

• [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Bartholomew%27s\\_Church,\\_Brighton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Bartholomew%27s_Church,_Brighton)

• <https://stpetersbrighton.org/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Peter%27s\\_Church,\\_Brighton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Peter%27s_Church,_Brighton)

### St Bartholomew's



St Bartholomew's is Anglo-Catholic in its tradition and is dedicated to the apostle Bartholomew. Bartholomew. The neo-gothic building is located on Ann Street, on a sloping site situated between Brighton railway station and the A23 London Road, adjacent to the New England Quarter development. It is notable for its height – dominating the streets around it and being visible from many parts

of the city – and its distinctive red-brick construction, but the exterior is unusual and severe, especially because of the building's height and the manner in which it towers above nearby streets of low-level buildings.

In 1868, Arthur Douglas Wagner had built a temporary church on Providence Place, a back street parallel with the main London Road, and a school accommodating 400 pupils. After the death of his father, Reverend Wagner resolved to build a more impressive new church in the same area. The original plan submitted to the Town Council in 1871 consisted of a combined church and school building, 322 feet in length, 46 feet wide, and 41¾ feet high. This was amended shortly afterwards to reduce the number of bays in the interior from 13 to 11½; the additional space formed a "courtyard" area between the church and the existing school building, which was to be retained.

A Brighton-based architect, Edmund Scott, was commissioned by Wagner to undertake the design work for the new church. The building work was undertaken by a Brighton company, Stanning & Co., at the cost of £18,000 – considerably less than the £25,000 spent on St Peter's church around 50 years previously, under Arthur Wagner's father's supervision Henry Michell Wagner. Building work began on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1872, but Wagner's plans changed again to favour a significantly taller structure. When they were submitted on 16 September 1873, the revised plans reduced the length to 170 feet but widened the building to 59 feet and, most significantly, proposed a height of 135 feet to the roof's ridge. The cross on the roof at the south end adds a further nine feet.

Construction based on the new plan started shortly after its submission and continued for 19 months. The official opening was on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1874, while building work was still taking place, and with free seating throughout (for up to 1,500 worshippers), it became the first church in Brighton to offer universal free entrance from the date of opening.

Openness and a relative lack of division into smaller sections characterise the interior, giving an impression of vast space enhanced by the uninterrupted height: the church is effectively one large hall.

A remarkable debate took place at the Town Council in 1893, at which it was reported that the overall height of the building was two feet higher than the one approved in the plans of 1873. Records of the debate indicate that a variety of derogatory descriptions of the building were made, including, it is suggested: "a cheese warehouse", "a Noah's Ark in brick", "a monster excrescence", "a brick parallelogram", "a huge barn", "uselessly large, painfully ugly and sadly out of place", and "Wagner's folly".

References to "Noah's Ark" are sometimes still bandied about today, mainly about the shape and dimensions of the building.

The church is a Grade I-listed building, being "of outstanding or national architectural or historic interest". Its size gives it distinctive acoustics and can accommodate large numbers of people, making it an ideal venue for classical and other music concerts.

### St Peter's



Picture Credit: "Lilac Church / St. Peter's" by Dominic's pics is licensed under CC BY 2.0

When I was at school in Brighton in the early 1950s, my class was tasked with drawing St Peter's (inside and outside) – so I got to know it quite well. St Peter's is part of the HTB network (which seems to be a sort of franchise) of churches (see [here](#)) with, in its own words, 'a shared vision to play our part in the evangelisation of the nation, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society.' The other churches in the network are Holy Trinity Hastings, Harbour Church Portsmouth and St John's Crawley.

St Peter's also works closely in Brighton with St Cuthman's Whitehawk and St. Matthias Fiveways. It is located near the city's centre, on an island between two major roads, the A23 London Road and A270 Lewes Road. It was built to a design by Sir Charles Barry (then only in his 20s but later was the architect of the Houses of Parliament) in 1824–28 and is arguably the finest example of the pre-Victorian Gothic Revival style. It is a Grade II\* listed building (24<sup>th</sup> March 1950). A spire was designed by Barry in 1841, but it was never built.

The church was built as a result of a competition in 1824 to design a new chapel on the Steine. The foundation stone was laid by the Vicar of Brighton, the Revd R. J. Carr, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1824. There was an acute shortage of churches at the time. Six years earlier, there had been only two Brighton churches serving the spiritual needs of 18,000 inhabitants. It was the parish church of Brighton from 1873 to 2007 and is sometimes unofficially referred to as *Brighton's Cathedral*. It was built in an approximation of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century Perpendicular or Late Gothic style, typical of the so-called Commissioners' churches, of which St Peter's was one.

Barry's hexagonal apse was demolished in 1898 to make way for a much larger, straight-ended chancel designed by Somers Clarke and J. T. Mickelthwaite, built in Sussex sandstone, its warm hue contrasting with the cold, white appearance of the Portland stone in which the rest of the church was built. The building work continued until 1906.

The church has a selection of stained-glass windows, most of which are by Charles Eamer Kempe. St Peter's has a large pipe organ built in 1888 for the Hampstead Conservatoire of Music by Henry Willis and brought to Brighton in 1910. It is the sole survivor of three almost identical instruments in the town, the others having been at the Dome Pavilion and in Hove Town Hall.



## The Ritual Execution of Cromwell

Sources: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house/history-and-stories/the-execution-of-charles-i/#gs.s5532e> • <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/civilwar/overview/rump-dissolved/> • <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Restoration-English-history-1660> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rump\\_Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rump_Parliament) • <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Oliver-Cromwell/>



On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1661, Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell, who had died on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1658 from kidney disease or a urinary tract infection, was ritually executed. His execution marked the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of Charles I, the monarch he deposed.

Picture Credit: "Statue of Oliver Cromwell outside the Palace of Westminster" by ell brown is licensed under CC BY 2.0

This all sounds a bit too much. What was going on, and why did it happen?

### Cromwell's rise to power

The summer of 1642 saw the outbreak of the first English Civil War between the Royalists (the supporters of King Charles I who claimed that the King should have absolute power as his divine right as king), and the Parliamentarians who favoured a constitutional monarchy and later the abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords completely.

Colloquially, Royalists were called Cavaliers in reference to the Latin *caballarius*, meaning horseman. Parliamentarians were referred to as 'roundheads' because many Puritan men wore their hair cropped in what would today be described as a 'bowl cut' in contrast to the long ringlets favoured by the Royalists. Cromwell was a committed member of the parliamentary army from the very beginning. He was swiftly promoted to second in command as lieutenant-general of the Eastern Association Army, parliament's largest and most effective regional army, followed by a further promotion to second in command of the newly-formed main parliamentary army, the New Model Army, in 1645. When Civil War once again flared up in 1648, Cromwell's military successes meant that his political influence had greatly increased. December 1648 saw a split between those MPs who wished to continue to support the King and those such as Cromwell (known as the 'rump parliament'), who felt that the only way to halt the civil wars was through Charles' trial and execution. Indeed, Cromwell was the third of 59 MPs to sign Charles' death warrant.

### What happened to Charles I and why?

Charles I became heir when his brother Henry died in 1612. Charles had many admirable personal qualities, but he was very shy and insecure. In short, he was a complete flop, lacking the basic essentials for leadership. But he was stubborn and refused to compromise over power-sharing – qualities that finally ignited civil war.

Seven years of fighting between Charles' supporters and Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentarians claimed the lives of thousands. Charles was convicted of treason and executed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1649 outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London.

### The Exhumation and Posthumous Execution of Oliver Cromwell

The role of Oliver Cromwell had been effectively that of the monarch – he was offered the Kingship although he turned it down, preferring to describe himself as a 'constable or watchman' of the Commonwealth. Cromwell's role as the first Lord Protector was akin to that of a monarch involving "the chief magistracy and the administration of government". He ruled Britain during the only period in its history as a republic.

Cromwell's body was exhumed from Westminster Abbey on 30 January 1661, the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of Charles I, and was subjected to a posthumous ritual execution, as were the remains of several others. After hanging at Tyburn, Cromwell's head was cut off and displayed on a pole outside Westminster Hall until 1685. Questions arose as to whether the body exhumed was that of the Lord Protector. It is widely suggested that Cromwell's body had been reburied in several places between his death in September 1658 and exhumation in January 1661, to protect it from vengeful royalists. The stories suggest that his bodily remains are buried in London, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, or Yorkshire. The fact is, nobody knows for sure. The vacant Cromwell vault was later used as a burial place for Charles II's illegitimate descendants. In Westminster Abbey, the site of Cromwell's burial was marked during the 19<sup>th</sup> century by a floor stone in what is now the RAF Chapel reading: "The burial place of Oliver Cromwell 1658–1661".

### DEFINITIONS

- **New Model Army:** The New Model Army of England was formed in 1645 by the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War and was disbanded in 1660 after the Restoration.
- **Long Parliament:** In September 1648, at the end of the Second English Civil War, the Long Parliament was concerned with the increasing radicalism in the New Model Army. The Long Parliament began negotiations with King Charles I. The members wanted to restore the King to power but wanted to limit the authority he had. The King conceded militia power but little else.
- **Pride's Purge:** Pride's Purge is the name commonly used for an event that took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1648, when soldiers prevented MPs considered hostile to the New Model Army from entering the House of Commons. Despite defeat in the First English Civil War, Charles I had retained significant political power.
- **The Rump Parliament:** The Rump may have started out as a radical experiment, but the social conservatism of the majority of its members was quickly revealed as it cracked down on radicals in the Army. In 1649-51, Cromwell won a series of military victories on several fronts against enemies of this new regime - those in Ireland being particularly brutal and bloody and which evoke strong feelings even to this day. Cromwell expected the Rump to take advantage of these signs of God's Providence (as he saw it) to push through religiously inspired reformist legislation. However, the Rump only showed distrust towards the growing power of the Army and was primarily concerned with legislation ensuring its own survival. Cromwell finally became so frustrated that on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1653, he led an armed force into the Commons Chamber (as Charles I had done in January 1642) and forcibly dissolved the Rump, stating: "You have sat too long for any good you have been doing lately ... In the name of God, go!"
- **The Barebones Parliament:** In place of the Rump Parliament, Cromwell established a Nominated Assembly in July 1653, popularly known as the Barebones Parliament. The 144 Members of this Parliament were not elected but selected by Army officers for their "godly" religious fervour. This hand-picked group went some way in satisfying Cromwell's wishes, but ultimately it scared the conservative in him and his colleagues with some of its measures for legal and social reform, and for its hostility to the Army.
- **The Restoration:** The Restoration means the restoration of the monarchy in England in 1660. It marked the return of Charles II as King (1660–85) following the period of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. The bishops were restored to Parliament, which established a strict Anglican orthodoxy.

### VIDEO

There's an excellent clip of the 1970 film Cromwell at:

[https://youtu.be/wDsAn\\_u70tw](https://youtu.be/wDsAn_u70tw)

You can see how Richard Harris (Oliver Cromwell) deals with Alec Guinness (King Charles I) as the King storms the House of Commons.

## Mary Clarke and Black Friday

Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Jane\\_Clarke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Jane_Clarke) • <https://spartacus-educational.com/VWclarkeM.htm> • <https://suffragettestories.omeka.net/bio-mary-clarke> • [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mary\\_Jane\\_Clarke](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mary_Jane_Clarke) • <https://peoplepill.com/people/mary-jane-clarke> • <https://www.brightonandhove.news.org/2021/01/05/sculptor-delivers-model-for-brighton-suffragette-statue-to-mayor/>



Picture Credit: "File:Black Friday pamphlet 01.jpg" by Georgiana Margaret Solomon is licensed under CC BY 4.0

Mary Jane Clarke (née Goulden) was born in Salford and was one of ten children: her older sister, the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst being one of them. She was educated at the *École Normale Supérieure*, one of Paris' most selective and prestigious graduate schools.

In December 1895, she married John Clarke but left him in 1904 and lived with her niece Sylvia Pankhurst.

In the early days of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), Mary acted as Emmeline Pankhurst's deputy as registrar in Manchester. By February 1906, she was fully involved in the WSPU and the next year was appointed a WSPU organiser. In 1909, she led a suffragette group, including Irene Dallas, to Downing Street and was arrested and sentenced to one month in prison for her trouble. That year, she became WSPU Organiser for Brighton, campaigning and speaking at meetings, including in the Dome and Hove Town Hall.

In full flow, Mary took part in the protests when many women were assaulted by the police, known as *Black Friday* on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1910. Mary was arrested a few days later for window-smashing and given a one-month sentence in HM Prison Holloway. Released on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1910, Mary spoke at a suffragette event, travelled to Brighton for another meeting and returned to London but died on Christmas Day at her brother's home in Winchmore Hill, London. She was the first of three women who died due to police violence during the protest outside Parliament on *Black Friday* and was the first suffragette to die for women's right to vote.

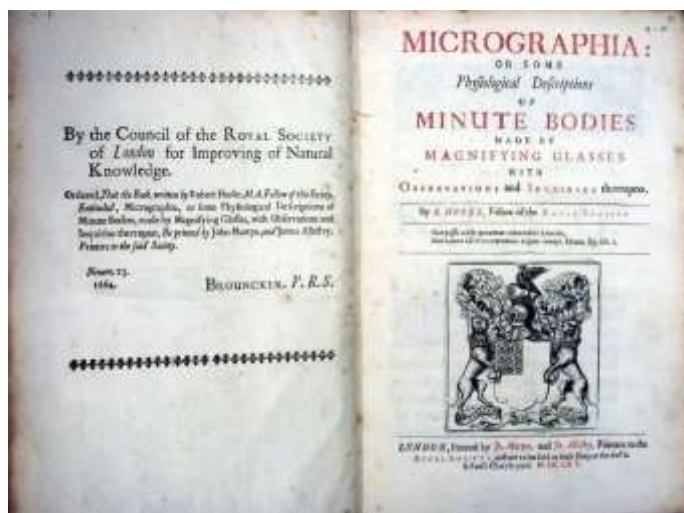
### Brighton Statue

In 2018, a campaign was started to have a statue of Mary Jane Clarke placed in the Pavilion Gardens Brighton. The design by sculptor, Denise Dutton, was approved in 2020 by the Mayor of Brighton & Hove. It has all-party support and charitable purposes for education and human rights awareness, as 'an image of female courage and political leadership, encouraging women and girls to participate in civic life and fostering a better understanding of women's history.'

In January 2021, the sculptor completed and delivered a bronze maquette (miniature or scale model) of Mary Clarke, presenting it to Brighton and Hove mayor Alan Robins. The ceremony marked the start of a fundraising drive by the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal to raise funding towards the £60,000 cost of the statue. The maquette depicts Mary Clarke on her release from prison a few days before she died on Christmas Day 1910 at the age of 48. *The appeal said: "She wears a suffragette sash and on her left arm carries a last few copies of Votes for Women, the suffragette newspaper she regularly sold in Brighton."*

## The Royal Society

Source: <https://royalsociety.org/about-us/history/> and Wikipedia



Picture Credit: "Title-page and Royal Society imprimatur" by University of Glasgow Library is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Royal Society formally called *The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge*, is a learned society and the United Kingdom's national academy of sciences. Founded on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1660, on the initiative of 12 men following a lecture by Sir Christopher Wren (then professor of astronomy at Gresham College, London), the Royal Society was granted a royal charter by King Charles II as "The Royal Society". It's a Fellowship of some 1,600 of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

The Royal Society's motto '*Nullius in verba*' is taken to mean 'take nobody's word for it'. It is an expression of the determination of Fellows to withstand the domination of authority and to verify all statements by an appeal to facts determined by experiment.

The Society has a variety of functions and activities. It supports modern science by disbursing several £million a year to fund approximately some 600 research fellowships for early and late career scientists and innovation, mobility, and research capacity grants.

The early years of the Society saw revolutionary advancements in the conduct and communication of science. Hooke's *Micrographia* and the first issue of *Philosophical Transactions*, were published in 1665 alone. *Philosophical Transactions*, which established the important concepts of scientific priority and peer review, is now the oldest continuously published science journal in the world.

The Society published Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, and Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment demonstrating the electrical nature of lightning. They backed James Cook's journey to Tahiti, reaching Australia and New Zealand, to track the Transit of Venus. They published the first report in English of inoculation against disease, approved Charles Babbage's Difference Engine, documented the eruption of Krakatoa and published Chadwick's detection of the neutron that would lead to the unleashing of the atom.

Past Presidents of the Society include Sir Isaac Newton FRS, 1703–1727. Newton was one of the earliest Fellows of the Royal Society, elected in 1672. Since 1967, the Society has been based at 6–9 Carlton House Terrace, a Grade I listed building in central London that was previously used by the Embassy of Germany.



## Fun at the Fair in Victorian Times

Excerpted from: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/saddlescombe-farm-and-newtimber-hill/features/history-devils-dyke-victorian-funfair>

- <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/brighton-what-do-sussex-uk-what-places-see-visit-top-attractions-best-pier-beach-sea-a7770011.html>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s\\_Dyke,\\_Sussex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s_Dyke,_Sussex)
- <https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/discover/2011/07/08/image-of-the-month-summer-picnic-on-devils-dyke/>



Picture Credit: "Devil's Dyke" by Trainiac is marked with CC PDM 1.0

Brighton first found popularity as a tourist destination in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when it had the cachet of being the weekend getaway for the Prince Regent – and it's been known as a fun, flirty seaside town ever since.

The Brighton and Hove beaches may have been an irresistible attraction for the Victorians, but there was major competition just up the road – or rather over the hill but not far away at the theme park area known as Devil's Dyke, an historic beauty spot on the South Downs Way named after the huge dry valley that carves its way through rolling chalk grassland. It is a misconception common amongst local residents of Brighton that the valley was formed by some kind of glacial action – the Devil's Dyke V-shaped dry valley is the result of something called solifluction (the gradual processes in which a mass moves down a slope related to freeze-thaw activity) and river erosion.

As Brighton enjoyed more and more royal favour, the Dyke's natural beauty grew in fame, and high society could be seen cantering out of the town to enjoy the majestic landscape and coastline. While beach-seekers flocked to the fashionable resort of Brighton, thrill-seekers were lured to the playground amusements at Devil's Dyke.

Victorian revellers from London headed for the South Downs beauty spot to delight in the latest pleasure rides and attractions offered by Britain's leading funfair. It became a serious tourist attraction, served by a branch railway line from Hove. It was a great attraction for the Victorians, with over 30,000 visitors on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1893, Whit Monday in the United Kingdom. There were plenty of things to do that day – a camera obscura, merry-go-rounds, funfair, bicycle railways, coconut shies, bandstands, and even an observatory. Fortune tellers were there too at what was then called the *Devil's Dyke Adventure Park*.

To cap it all, there was a funicular railway and Britain's first aerial cable car (although also described as an aerial railway). Perhaps competition from Volk's electric railway (which had opened in 1883) on Brighton's seafront was too much for the rail attractions at Devil's Dyke as the cable car, and funicular railway had a relatively short life.

The Devil's Dyke did not remain untouched by war. At the start of the First World War in 1914, the funfair, which had brought so much joy to Victorian families, was pulled down and replaced by a military bomb testing ground as its geography provided an ideal site for that use.

The remains include the longest 'dry' valley in the UK, the ruined ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort, and the Victorian funfair remnants. Historic England has information about the hill fort at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1014953>

### Archives Film

See what it was like and join in the fun: Devil's Dyke was a place of fun and excitement for the Victorians as shown in a Huntley Archives film at: <https://youtu.be/SWAwnVYJ3YM>

## How They Dug the Victoria Line



A BBC documentary in association with BTF using footage adapted from the earlier BTF documentaries about the construction of the Victoria Line, is available at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwRRSJ\\_wtlg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwRRSJ_wtlg&feature=youtu.be)

As one reviewer put it, 'Absolutely brilliant. You don't get films like this anymore.'

Another reviewer said: '...this was my England, that "get it done" attitude of the 1960s!'

Interestingly, the equipment seen at the end of the documentary was decommissioned in 2011 and can now be seen in the electric railway museum in Coventry.

## A reminder - You never had it so good



Sir Harold Macmillan, who led Britain from 1957 to 1963, was the last British Prime Minister born in Queen Victoria's reign.

Picture Credit: Picture available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, © Crown copyright duly acknowledged.

His hereditary peerage (1984), when he became Earl of Stockton, was one of the last three to be conferred. He was also the last Prime Minister to have served in the First World War and the last to wear a moustache while in office.

## Fame after Death

Sources: <https://www.scoopwhoop.com/People-Talent-Only-Recognized-After-Death/>  
<https://www.technologynetworks.com/ti/lists/4-scientists-that-were-disregarded-during-their-time-277692> • <https://www.famousscientists.org/7-scientists-whose-ideas-were-rejected-during-their-lifetimes/> • <https://www.livescience.com/46723-most-overlooked-scientists.html>  
<https://www.biography.com/news/alice-ball-female-scientists>  
<https://www.mynewlab.com/blog/inventors-way-ahead-of-their-time/>

There are many famous people who continue to live with us long after their death, through their lifetime's work long. Whether they sought recognition or not, none of them could have known just how famous they would become posthumously. Here is a selection of just a few of them, with apologies for the omission of other worthy candidates:

- **Hedy Lamarr:** Hedy Lamarr was an Austrian-American actress, inventor, and film producer. She appeared in 30 films (including *Algiers*, *Samson and Delilah* and *White Cargo*) over a 28-year career from the 1930s.



Picture Credit: "Hedy Lamarr 1914 - 2000" by oneredsf1 is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

- As well as starring in several hugely popular films during the golden age of cinema, Lamarr also developed a radio guidance system for Allied torpedoes as World War II broke out. With the help of composer George Antheil, this unlikely duo used *spread spectrum* and *frequency hopping* technology to defeat the threat of radio jams caused by opposing forces. The technology pioneered by Lamarr has gone on to form the foundation of Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and GPS, all of which are hugely influential in modern life.
- **Charles Babbage:** More than 100 years before the first computer was built, English mathematician, Charles Babbage designed the programmable general-purpose computer in 1837. Known as the analytical engine, the computer was complete with an arithmetical unit, control flow loops and memory. Although Babbage ran out of money and could not complete his computer, his designs and concepts were tested in 1991, and the results indicated the analytical engine would have been successful. The incomplete mechanisms of Babbage's machine can be found today in the London's Science Museum.
- **Ludwig Boltzmann:** Boltzmann developed equations and formulas which explain the properties of atoms and how they determine the physical nature of matter. It transpired that proposing a theory that disproves other laws of physics (and scientists) thought to be correct at the time does not make you particularly popular or appreciated. After years of fighting for atom theory to be accepted, Boltzmann committed suicide. This was only three years before Ernest Rutherford discovered the nucleus of an atom, proving Boltzmann's theory.
- **Maria Merian:** Born in Germany in 1647, naturalist Maria Merian had an unusual interest in insects, specifically butterflies, which were considered an unworthy and repulsive subject to study at the time. Nevertheless, she observed and took copious notes on their life cycle by observing them directly. Despite her significant discoveries about insect metamorphosis, her findings were dismissed by scientists, mainly due to the fact she wrote in German rather than Latin, which was the designated language of science. Merian's scientific discoveries and paintings of the natural world would make her one of the leading entomologists and scientific illustrators of her lifetime.

- **Alfred Wegener:** Wegener believed that Earth's continents move slowly. Over millions of years, they can move a long way. Between 1912 and 1929, he published a stream of fossil and rock evidence to support his theory. He died on an expedition to Greenland in 1930. Wegener's theory of continental drift was rejected by most other scientists during his lifetime. It was only in the 1960s that continental drift finally became part of mainstream science.
- **Rosalind Franklin:** American biologist James Watson and English biologists Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins are widely recognized for the revolutionary discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. But British biophysicist Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958) played a critical but unsung role in the discovery. Using X-ray crystallography techniques, Franklin imaged the twisted molecule that contains life's blueprint. She took the famous "Photo 51" that clearly showed DNA's helical structure.
- **Lise Meitner:** Meitner (1878-1968) is often cited as one of the most glaring examples of a woman who should have been awarded a Nobel Prize. The Austrian physicist helped discover nuclear fission, the splitting of atoms in a nuclear reaction or in radioactive decay that releases massive amounts of energy. German chemist Otto Hahn performed the first experiments on nuclear fission but could not explain his results. In 1939, Meitner, who was corresponding with Hahn, published the first paper to use the word "fission" in nuclear physics, explaining that the uranium atom splits when bombarded by neutrons. But it was Hahn who was awarded the 1944 Nobel Prize in chemistry for the work. Meitner turned down an offer to join the secretive Manhattan Project in 1943, saying she wanted nothing to do with the atomic bomb. The chemical element *Meitnerium*, discovered in 1982, was named after her.
- **Vincent Van Gogh:** Gogh died in 1890 having sold only one painting in his lifetime (for the sum of £109). Widespread recognition of his artistic work only came about after 1910. He was a shy child with low self-esteem but later discovered his love for drawing and painting, and then developed his artistic career after his teens. Later he drifted into depression and suffered from epilepsy, which led to his death. After his demise, around 2000 pieces of his art were discovered which are valued at £millions today.
- **Emily Dickinson:** The works of poet Emily Dickinson that described her personal thoughts on death, mortality and nature only came to light after her death in 1886. She was a shy recluse and barely published any of her poems during her lifetime. After Emily's death, her sister Lavinia discovered 40 hand-bound volumes of nearly 1,800 of her poems which were then published.
- **Gregor Johann Mendel:** Mendel, a scientist, died in 1884, but his profound work was not recognized until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He gained posthumous fame as the founder of the modern science of genetics. He discovered the basic principles of heredity through experiments in his monastery garden with the pea plants, but his discovery was mostly misunderstood by the contemporary scientific community.
- **Galileo Galilei:** Although Galilei, an Italian astronomer, died in 1642, his theories were only accepted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He played a major role in the scientific revolution by providing treasured information and astrological tools to the scientific world. He built the first telescope and discovered sunspots, moon craters and many other celestial bodies in outer space. In his time, he was often criticised by those heavily involved in religion, who believed that the world was fixed and did not revolve around the sun.
- **Johannes Vermeer:** Vermeer died in 1675, but he was only recognised for his talent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Vermeer never gained recognition for his talent during his lifetime. While he made a living as a painter, he wasn't that famous beyond the city of Delft, and was certainly never wealthy.



Picture Credit: "Girl with a Flute by Johannes Vermeer" by National Gallery of Art is marked with CC0 1.0



## The Saltdean Lido

Sources: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1380905>  
 • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saltdean\\_Lido](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saltdean_Lido) • <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/10145430.the-chequered-history-of-saltdean-lido/> • <https://saltdeanlido.org/brief-history>  
 • <http://www.modernistbritain.co.uk/post/building/Saltdean+Lido/>



Picture Credit: "IMG\_0574" by Scotticus is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

### Historic England describes Saltdean Lido:

*Lido with ancillary building. 1938, designed by RWH Jones in Moderne style, refurbished c1964 and c1997. The 1964 north library and community centre extension is of lesser interest.*

**MATERIALS:** Reinforced concrete with sprayed cement finish painted white. The flat roofs are overlaid with concrete tiles or bituminous felt. Metal Crittall windows with horizontal glazing bars throughout.

**PLAN:** Symmetrical ancillary building of two storeys with projecting centre and curvilinear wings originally comprising changing rooms to the ground floor sides with central cafe, sun terraces and solarium above. The pool is rectangular except for the north-east side, which has an elliptical shape following the curve of the ancillary building.

**EXTERIOR:** The central block of the ancillary building is semi-circular in plan, and the first floor has a projecting concrete canopy with metal pipe railings linking across almost the full width of the wings. The canopy is supported on five slender concrete piers, which are carried up as vertical supports or mullions in the glazed first-floor walls. The recessed ground floor has tall casement windows and side entrances into the centre of the building. The first floor has 14 full-height French windows. In the centre of the curved fascia are projecting large letters 'SALTDEAN LIDO' and metal railings...

Saltdean Lido at Saltdean Park Road, Saltdean, in the city of Brighton and Hove, is an Art Deco Lido designed by architect Richard William Herbert (RWH) Jones. It was originally listed at Grade II by English Heritage for its architectural and historical importance. Its status was upgraded further to Grade II\* on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The Daily Telegraph described the Art Deco style as "particularly glorious, with its elegant, curved lines – rather like a statefully ocean liner."

The Lido was built in 1937-38 to designs by the architect Richard Jones. With an admission charge of only 6d (old money), it was hailed as the most innovative design of its type in Britain, having a tea terrace, sun deck, and Rotunda café perched on the flat roof and distinctive curved wings at either end. Other features were:

- A 140ft by 66ft crescent-shaped pool with aerating fountains, large enough for 500 bathers
- 3-tiered diving board
- Children's paddling pool
- American-style Soda Fountain
- Ballroom for restaurant/dances

The nearby Grand Ocean was also designed by architect RWH Jones having the classic moderne styling of the age, not dissimilar to the Saltdean Lido. RWH Jones seems to have been rather busy as he also designed residential properties Teynham House, Curzon House and Marine View located on Chichester Road East and Marine Drive, Saltdean.

### The Lido Opening and Closure

Johnny Weissmuller, who opened the Lido in 1938, was an Olympic Swimmer and Hollywood actor at the time. In the 1920s he was one of the fastest swimmers in the world and had won an impressive five swimming gold medals and a bronze medal at water polo. In the 1930s, he became a Hollywood leading man, which was not too difficult given his impressive physique and athleticism. He was probably best known for his role as Tarzan.



Picture Credit: "TARZAN 1934 Johnny Weissmuller" by LALO VAZQUEZ is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

After opening in 1938, Saltdean Lido enjoyed just three summer seasons before 'The Battle of Britain' forced it to close its doors. In 1940, with dog fights taking place in the skies across Southern England, the spectre of war had become a reality on the mainland. One German fighter plane opened fire on the Lido's bathers, but miraculously nobody was hurt, although it was enough to force the closure of the site.

In the war, the Lido was requisitioned by the National Fire Service – who also requisitioned the Ocean Hotel. The Lido's pool was used as a water tank, and the grounds were used by instructors and fire officers for training exercises. It was during this period that the Lido's iconic neon-lit art deco sign was taken down and lost.

Although the pool was closed to the general public during the war, the male changing rooms were used for church services, and the female changing rooms became a Sunday School.

The fire service left in 1945 but the Lido remained closed and was left neglected for a further 19 years.

### Chequered History

In 1958, Butlins unsuccessfully attempted to buy the derelict Lido for development. They already owned (from 1953) and operated the luxury Grand Ocean at Saltdean.

Local newspaper, *The Argus*, featured a story about the ups and down of the Lido in an article in January 2013:

*'In 1994, 57 years after it was first opened, the Lido was closed by Brighton council. It did not reopen again for four years, until 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998. The reopening also saw the newly installed heat pump at work with temperatures measuring a warm 71 degrees. It was the ideal place to spend the bank holiday weekend.'*

### Re-Opening

In 1998, the Lido was reopened by Sports Minister Tony Banks – not quite as well-known as Johnny Weissmuller. The restoration was achieved through a public and private sector partnership costing £2 million.

## WW II Pastimes during Lockdown

Source: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/fun-at-home-entertainment-second-world-war>

If you were getting fed up with the Coronavirus lockdown, spare a thought for those at home during World War II. Air raids, separation from loved ones and food rationing put the population under great stress. People could still go out, of course, but the range of entertainment available at home was very limited. How did people cope and occupy their time indoors or when confined in shelters?



London home.  
© IWM D 12058

This image (left) is of a wartime family enjoying some 'downtime' is typical of those used by the Ministry of Information for public information and propaganda campaigns. Dad reads the newspaper while Mum darns some tights ('Make Do and Mend'), and the children play quietly or broaden their minds with suitable reading material. This photo was taken in 1942 of the Chillingworth family in front of the fire in the living room of their suburban



Like today, music in the home was hugely popular, but unlike today it was a more social activity. And as with many other things in wartime, you were often forced to make your own. In the picture above, seventy-year-old Mrs Bugler, in 1943, is entertaining local soldiers with a piano recital at her home in East Dean in Sussex.

© IWM D 13251



© IWM D 10718

Arthur White was captured in the picture above practising with his trumpet in a hostel for 'colonial' merchant seamen in North Shields, County Durham, in 1942.



© IWM D 5163

And the group above was photographed enjoying an evening of music and singing during the festival of Eid, marking the end of Ramadan, with members of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps in Woking in 1941.



© IWM D 1631

A gramophone was the usual way to play recorded music. It served to cheer up people confined for long hours in an air-raid shelter, as in the picture above taken in North London during the Blitz in 1941 - as long as you brought the right records!



© IWM D 12274

In those days, there was no Wi-Fi, but you could still go 'wireless', listening to your favourite radio programs as other family members read the newspaper or knitted. This family was pictured in Taunton, Somerset, on a Sunday afternoon in 1942. The BBC was the main vehicle for official announcements and played a vital role in helping to support public morale.



Comedy was its most important weapon – for example, ITMA ('It's That Man Again') was a hugely popular show, with almost 40 per cent of the population tuning in every week.



Knitting was another favourite activity. Here, Mrs Irene Stacey (left) and her mother Sarah Jones knit garments for Irene's new baby at their home in Bristol in 1942. Her husband was serving in North Africa.

© IWM D 10440



Knitting could also help pass the time in a railway arch bomb shelter like this one in Bermondsey, London, in 1940. This family has made themselves at home, bringing many of their possessions. The man behind makes sure the clock is telling the right time.

© IWM D 1596



© IWM D 8987

Cigarettes were not rationed, but the troops had priority and civilians were urged to limit their consumption. And many still had doubts about how appropriate it was for women.

This racy photograph was taken as part of a promotional campaign for a brand of Turkish cigarettes.



© IWM D 18234



© IWM H 37554; H 37555

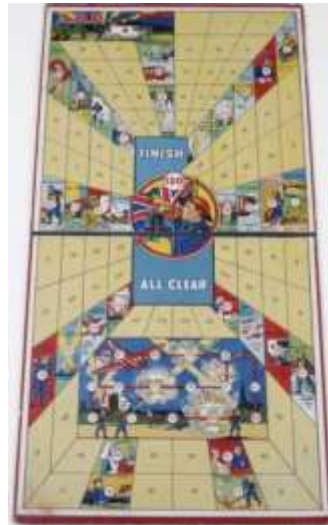
There were more active ways of passing the time. Parlour games were a popular distraction, as shown in the image above (left), taken in April 1944. It features Lance Bombardier Jack Grundy of the Royal Artillery, on leave at the family home in Irby, Cheshire. Here, Jack and his friend Bob Milliron from the US Army transfer dried peas between plates by means of sucking through a straw. Jack's wife Dorothy is the umpire, and other members of the family are avid spectators. In this thrilling game featured in the image on the right, participants have to pass a matchbox to one another, using only their noses. This image was snapped by Lt. Tenner in April 1944.



© IWM H 37556

Here the family gets the chance to indulge in a bit of cross-dressing, in this photograph also taken by Lt. Tenner in 1944. As the original caption explains: "Another game is for a gentleman to put ladies clothing on and vice-versa, the winner being the one who dresses completely in the shortest time." The original wartime caption also specifies that American Bob thoroughly enjoyed the party.

© IWM EPH 3826; EPH 2521  
© IWM EPH 4080, EPH 520



The IWM has examples of more traditional board and card games that wartime families could while away the time. 'Vacuation', described modestly by its makers Pepys Games as 'the most amusing ever card game', was based on the government evacuation scheme for

children. The cards featured humorous caricatures of children, teachers and householders and the aim was to get rid of all your cards as soon as possible.

'War Planes' was a standard deck of cards, but each featured a silhouette of an RAF or German aircraft, making it educational for members of the armed forces, the Observer Corps and amateur plane-spotters everywhere.

'Night Raiders', in which players attempted to bomb an enemy factory, was based on 'Snakes and Ladders', except you went up searchlights and came down if you landed on a flak explosion or German night-fighter. It was probably not something to get out if you had a relative in RAF Bomber Command.

'ARP' was a race game, with rewards and forfeits along the way, inspired by government air raid precautions set up before the war. Players started with the air raid warning going off and finished at the sound of the 'all clear'.



© IWM D 18484

And if all else failed... the pubs were still open. Alcohol was not rationed, but only beer was readily available, and its supply and strength varied considerably because of shortages. Here, labourer Price Evans sinks a pint in the 'Wynnstay Arms' in the village of Ruabon in Denbighshire, Wales, 1944.



Drinking at home was nowhere near as common as it is today, but a tipple or two was one way of coping with life in an air raid shelter, as here in North London in 1940.

© IWM  
D 12058

### © Copyright and Acknowledgement

The information in this article is derived from the Imperial War Museum (IWM), © copyright of Imperial War Museums (© IWM). The copyright in the material hosted on IWM's websites is the property of IWM as well as other third parties including the Crown. The IWM Non-Commercial Licence is equivalent to the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial Licence. We acknowledge the copyright status of the material.



## The Stephen King-Hall Newsletters

Source: <https://sites.google.com/site/kinghallconnections/7900-the-next-ten-years-1929-1939>



Stephen King-Hall was educated at Lausanne, Switzerland and at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. He fought in the First World War between 1914 and 1918, with the Grand Fleet, serving on HMS Southampton and 11th Submarine Flotilla. He gained the rank of commander in the service of the Royal Navy in 1928 before resigning in 1929.

Picture Credit/Attribution: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Stephen\\_King-Hall\\_in\\_1917.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Stephen_King-Hall_in_1917.jpg) By Bain, Library of Congress, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

### The King-Hall Newsletters

This story is not about King-Hall's service in the Royal Navy but rather about the newsletters he wrote about the Nazis in August 1939.

Some six weeks before World War II erupted, the Nazis were up in arms about a letter signed by Stephen King-Hall, sent from Britain by mail to an undisclosed number of Germans. The Nazis claimed that it "incited the German people against their Government." On 14th July 1939, the New York Times reported that the Nazis had accused the British Foreign Secretary (Lord Halifax) of participating with Stephen King-Hall in urging Germans to rise up against Hitler and the Nazis.

The *King-Hall Connections* website describes the events at the time, and they are very interesting.

The story starts with Danzig: a semi-autonomous city-state that existed between 1920 and 1939, consisting of the Baltic Sea port of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) and nearly 200 towns and villages in the surrounding areas. It was created on 15th November 1920 in accordance with the 1919 Treaty of Versailles after the end of World War I. The Free City included the city of Danzig and other nearby towns, villages, and settlements that were primarily inhabited by Germans. It was highly coveted by Nazi Germany\*.

\* So much so that on 28th August 1939, Adolf Hitler said: "I make a clear demand. Danzig and the Corridor must be returned [to Germany]. If fate should force us to fight again, I should be fighting to right a wrong." Source: Sheffield Daily Telegraph 28/8/1939, page 6.

King-Hall had visited Danzig in May 1939 and felt compelled to do something to avoid war with Germany. He concluded that German people should be made aware of what the Nazis were really up to. Failing to get support for action at home, he decided to stage a private war on Goebbels by launching a German language version of his newsletter to a carefully selected audience of influential Germans. It set the proverbial cat among the pigeons - the first reaction of the Nazis was to give the newsletter enormous publicity by publishing large extracts and then trying to ridicule them.

Reich Minister of Propaganda, Paul Goebbels, wrote a lengthy response running to several thousand words published in most of the leading German newspapers. King-Hall wrote a second newsletter in mid-July 1939, moving from the non-controversial to information more damaging to the Nazis.

This led to a complete change of policy. The full resources of the German secret police and postal services were employed to prevent the newsletters reaching their destination. However, King-Hall and his friends put the newsletters in different sorts of envelope, posted at differing times and days and posted in different countries. By mid-August 1939, third, fourth and fifth newsletters had been dispatched in random batches from several countries including Ireland, Belgium and Holland.

Apart from in Germany (and oddly in Britain too), the King-Hall initiative received worldwide publicity. Goebbels had complained that the British press had ignored his letter of early July 1939. King Hall remedied this oversight by arranging for it to be printed in the *Daily Telegraph* on 12th August 1939. By the time the last King-Hall newsletter had been posted, the effects of the project were being eclipsed by the rapidly deteriorating relations between Germany and Poland, and the war was probably inevitable after the Russian-German Non-Aggression Pact had been signed (on 28th August 1939). It had come too late and did not have time to have effect. Things might have turned out differently if King-Hall had started posting his newsletters earlier – who can say?

One feature of King-Hall's initiative is that it certainly touched a raw nerve in the Nazi machine - it so enraged the Nazi leadership to the extent that was out of all proportion to its importance. On 3rd September 1939, the day when Britain declared war on Germany, in a Radio broadcast from Berlin, Adolf Hitler rejected the British ultimatum to withdraw German forces from Poland. It was the last official communiqué to be received in Britain from Germany before the war started. The memorandum ended with these words:

*"The intention communicated to us by order of the British Government by Mr King Hall, of carrying the destruction of the German people even further than was done through the Versailles Treaty is taken note of by us, and we shall therefore answer any aggressive action on the part of England with the same weapons and in the same form".*

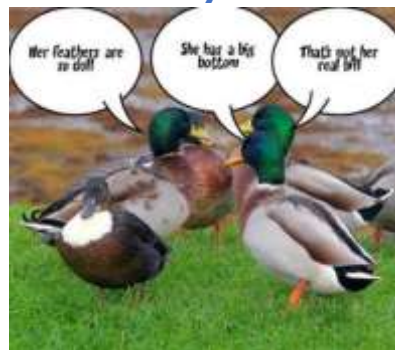
The King-Hall newsletters were not able to prevent the war. However, it was a remarkable achievement that the Nazi leadership was so disturbed and infuriated by them that King-Hall was honoured with a mention of his name in the final sentence, of the final paragraph, of the final document that the British Government received before a state of war existed.

### VIDEO

A video in which Stephen King-Hall answers Dr Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda chief, is available at:

<https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/434933>

## What do you call a group of Ducks?



Did you know that ducks are capable of a high degree of independent activity from birth? They are called precocial - it means that ducklings can walk and leave their mother's nest just a few hours after hatching.

When it comes to group names, ducks have one of the most varied name lists around: groups of ducks on land have been known as a *flock*, *herd*, *badling* (see below), *brace* (a pair of ducks), *safe*, *sord*, *sore*, and *waddling*. Groups of

ducks on the water have been known as a *bunch*, *paddling* (see below), and *raft*, and groups of ducks in flight have been known as a *skein*, *string*, and *team*.

It seems both *badling* and *paddling* co-exist. However, *badling* is used for a group of ducks on land. In some extremes, it may be a small group of ducks that is not as big as a *flock*. You may not use this term for other waterfowls. It only applies to ducks.

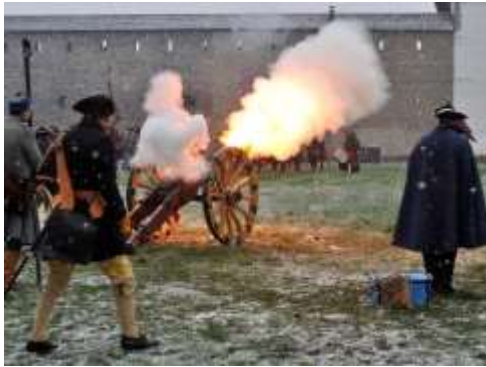
Picture Credit: "Gossiping Ducks." by foxypar4 is licensed under CC BY 2.0



## The Great Northern War

Excerpted from:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Northern\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Northern_War)
- <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/frederick-william-the-great-electors/frederick-i-of-brandenburg/the-great-northern-war/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Second-Northern-War>
- <https://www.geni.com/projects/Great-Northern-War-1700-1721/15226>
- <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/great-northern-war>



The Great Northern War (1700–1721) was a conflict in which a coalition, led by Peter the Great - Tsar of Russia, successfully contested the supremacy of the Swedish Empire in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe.

Picture Credit: "Narva Winter Battle" by VisitEstonia is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

It was the main military conflict of Peter the Great's reign, ending in a Russian victory over Sweden that made Russia an important European power and expanded Russia's borders to the Baltic Sea, including the site of St. Petersburg. The war led to Sweden losing much of the territories it had previously acquired. From about the middle of the 16th and 17th centuries, Sweden had amassed lands in Germany, Norway and Denmark. Sweden's Baltic empire, focused along the Gulf of Finland, also gave it more power. Though the Great Northern War started in 1700, the causes of it had been fermenting throughout the 1690s. Britannica.com (here) sets the scene well:

*Sweden's expansion in the Baltic Sea coastlands during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries had antagonised the neighbouring states: Russia's access to the Baltic was blocked by Swedish-held Karelia, Ingria, Estonia, and Livonia; Denmark-Norway resented its loss to Sweden of provinces in the Scandinavian peninsula, especially Scania (Skåne), and was also aggrieved by Sweden's alliance with the ducal house of Holstein-Gottorp, which contained Denmark from the south and prevented the Danish crown's reabsorption of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein: the German princes disliked Sweden's power in the Holy Roman Empire, and Brandenburg in particular coveted Swedish Pomerania; and many magnates of the Polish republic still thought of Swedish Livonia as Polish by right.*

An anti-Swedish coalition was created from 1697 to 1699 and included Russia, Denmark and Saxony-Poland. These three states believed that a 15-year-old king (Charles XII) would be a soft target. They also shared a belief that Sweden, by the 1690s, was a spent force and that her territory was waiting to be cut up by a superior force. The young boy king had inherited the crown of the Swedish Empire, and his neighbours saw an opportunity to attack. To their surprise, young Charles XII of Sweden turned out to be a fearsome opponent who initially repelled their assaults - and then sought revenge.

In the early years of the Great Northern War, Sweden managed to force Denmark-Norway and Poland out of the war. On the other hand, Russia stayed in, despite having suffered a great loss at the Battle of **Narva**.

The initial leaders of the anti-Swedish alliance were Peter I (Peter the Great) of Russia, Frederick IV of Denmark-Norway and Augustus II the Strong of Saxony-Poland-Lithuania. Frederick IV and Augustus II were defeated by Sweden under Charles XII and forced out of the alliance in 1700 and 1706, respectively, but rejoined it in 1709 after the defeat of Charles XII at the Battle of Poltava. George I of Great Britain and the Electorate of Hanover joined the coalition in (1714 for Hanover) and (1717 for Britain), and Frederick William I of Brandenburg-Prussia joined it in 1715.

- **Russia:** When the rulers of Russia, Denmark and Saxony-Poland offered alliances to Peter the Great in 1698 and 1699, he saw an opportunity to recover Ingria, the small territory at the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland that Russia had lost to Sweden in 1618. Possession of **Ingria** would once again give Russia access to the Baltic Sea - which seems to have been Peter's principal aim. Peter built a European-style army and a navy based in the Baltic to achieve this aim. The war also served as a major stimulus to Peter's reforms.
- **Denmark:** Charles V of Denmark wanted to regain **Scania** and other territories on the Swedish mainland lost by Denmark to Sweden during the Seventeenth Century. Denmark also wanted to remove Swedish troops from the Duchy of Holstein-Gottorp - a Swedish satellite state.
- **Saxon-Poland-Lithuania:** Augustus II of Saxony-Poland was known as Augustus the Strong, and in 1697, he was elected king of Poland - hence his combined title of Saxony-Poland. Augustus wanted to conquer **Livonia** to put an end once and for all to Swedish economic predominance in the Baltic. He wanted to develop Poland's industrial base by using Poland's raw materials and Saxony's economic know-how. However, he could not do this while Sweden remained a commercial rival in the Baltic.

The war ended with the defeat of Sweden and Charles XII of Sweden killed in battle leaving Russia as the new dominant power in the Baltic region and as a new major force in European politics.

A desire to acquire territories lost in earlier conflicts, which was what this war was all about, has harrowing similarities with Nazi Germany's aims culminating in World War II.

### VIDEOS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dPIIPzyWjg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3p5hNsxeE7o>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4-v0PnuZP8>

### READING

- The Great Northern War (The Portal Wars Saga Book 2), by James E Wisher, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- Armies of the Great Northern War 1700–1720: 529 (Men-at-Arms), by Gabriele Esposito and Giuseppe Rava, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019
- The Swedish Army of the Great Northern War, 1700–1721: 26 (Century of the Soldier), by Lars Ericson Wolke, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- By Defeating My Enemies: Charles XII of Sweden and the Great Northern War (Century of the Soldier), by Michael Glaeser, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020
- The Great Northern War: New Perspectives (The Danish Commission for Military History), by Michael Hesselholt Clemmesen (Author), Niels Bo Poulsen (Author), Anna Sofie Schoning (Author), 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018



Picture Credit: Screenshot from video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3p5hNsxeE7o>

## Dreadnought, Fear Nothing

Sources: • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Dreadnought](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Dreadnought)  
• [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Dreadnought\\_\(1906\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Dreadnought_(1906))  
• <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Dreadnought-British-battleship>



Picture Credit: "1918 HMS Dreadnought - Randall Wilson" by aeroman3 is marked with CC PDM 1.0

### A Deadly Fighting Machine

In 1906, HMS *Dreadnought* was launched. Described as a deadly fighting machine, it transformed the whole idea of warfare and sparked a dangerous arms race.

Several ships and one submarine of the Royal Navy have borne the name HMS *Dreadnought* in the expectation that they would "dread nought" or "fear nothing". The first English ship carrying the *Dreadnought* name was a 40-gun ship built in 1553. MS *Dreadnought* (1856) was a hospital ship, formerly named HMS *Caledonia*. The 1906 HMS *Dreadnought* was one of the Royal Navy's most famous vessels; battleships built after she was referred to as 'dreadnoughts', and earlier battleships became known as pre-dreadnoughts.

HMS *Dreadnought* (S101) was the UK's first nuclear-powered submarine, launched in 1960 and decommissioned in 1980.

HMS *Dreadnought*'s entry into service in 1906 represented such an advance in naval technology that her name came to be associated with an entire generation of battleships. Admiral Sir John "Jacky" Fisher, First Sea Lord of the Board of Admiralty, is credited as the father of *Dreadnought*. Shortly after he assumed office, he ordered design studies for a battleship armed solely with 12 in (305 mm) guns and a speed of 21 knots (39 km/h; 24 mph). He convened a "Committee on Designs" to evaluate the alternative designs and to assist in the detailed design work. Innovations included:

- HMS *Dreadnought* was the first battleship of her era to have a uniform main battery (all big gun ship), rather than having a few large guns complemented by a heavy secondary armament of smaller guns.
- She was also the first capital ship to be powered by steam turbines, making her the fastest battleship in the world at the time of her completion.

### The launch of HMS *Dreadnought* in 1906

The launch of HMS *Dreadnought* on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1906 sparked a naval arms race as navies around the world. The launch of the ship was an eminently newsworthy event, made even more attractive by the attendance of King Edward VII. The development of the HMS *Dreadnought* was partly a response to the German navy's expansion since 1898. The British government had adopted the policy of 'two power standing', meaning that the British fleet should outnumber the combined fleets of two other powers. As Germany built more ships, so Britain, to maintain its advantage, responded with its own shipbuilding programme.

### Technical Data

HMS *Dreadnought* displaced 18,000 tons (over 20,000 tons full load), was 526 feet (160 m) long, and carried a crew of about 800. Its four propeller shafts, powered by steam turbines instead of the traditional steam pistons, gave it an unprecedented top speed of 21 knots.

It was big and fast and had formidable firepower. The move to all-big-gun designs was accomplished because a uniform, heavy-calibre armament was seen to offer advantages in both firepower and fire control. The newest 12-inch (305 mm) guns had a longer range and fired heavier shells than a gun of 10-inch (254 mm) or 9.2-inch (234 mm) calibre. Another possible advantage was fire control.

### In Action

Ironically for a vessel designed to engage enemy battleships, her only significant action was the ramming and sinking of German submarine SM U-29, becoming the only battleship confirmed to have sunk a submarine. HMS *Dreadnought* did not take part in the Battle of Jutland in 1916 as she was being refitted at the time. Nor did HMS *Dreadnought* participate in any of the other First World War naval battles. In May 1916, the ship was relegated to coastal defence duties in the English Channel and did not rejoin the Grand Fleet until 1918. The ship was reduced to reserve in 1919, sold for scrap two years later and broken up in 1923.

### VIDEO

Watch a video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CG-BwUDuwv>

### READ (all available from Amazon)

- *The World Encyclopedia of Battleships: An illustrated history: pre-dreadnoughts, dreadnoughts, battleships, and battlecruisers from 1860 onwards, with 500 archive photographs*, by Peter Hore, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- *Battleship Dreadnought (Anatomy of The Ship)*, by John Roberts 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- *Dreadnought - The Ultimate Battleships*, by Campbell McCutcheon, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019



## Royal Navy Slang

### Freeze the balls off a brass monkey:

A monkey was a brass tray where cannonballs stored. In cold weather, brass contracted, and balls fell over.

### Let the cat out of the bag/swing a cat:

The cat refers to the cat's nine tails, which was a multi-tailed whip used as a severe form of discipline. The 'cat' – as it was

often known – was kept in a cloth bag.

**Long shot:** The term refers to firing a canon beyond its range - with little chance of success

**Over a barrel:** Sailors were often strapped over a barrel before being flogged.

**Pipe down:** At the end of the day, sailors would have to obey a call from bo'sun's pipe, stop talking, turn out lights and go to sleep.

**Piping hot:** The bo'sun would blow on a pipe to tell mess masters that food was ready and to go and collect it while still hot.

**Pull your finger out:** Cannons were primed with a little gunpowder in the ignition hole. A sailor would keep it in place with his finger and had to 'pull his finger out' just before firing.

**Square meal:** A sailor's plate or tray was a wooden square.

**Taken Aback:** A ship is said to be taken aback through a sudden wind shift or careless steering of the sails billow in reverse. It has now come to mean taken by surprise or given a shock.

**Three sheets to the wind:** This is an expression indicating lack of control of sail and being in a high state of intoxication.

**True colours:** Naval etiquette, which allows false colours or flags to be displayed when approaching an enemy ship, insists that true colours are flown once the battle begins and fire is exchanged.

### Want more Slang?

There are literally hundreds and hundreds more at:

Book: *JackSpeak: Guide to British Naval Slang and Usage*, book by Rick Jolly and Tugg

Websites: <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/18-royal-navy-slang-phrases-256086>  
<https://navymuseum.co.nz/explore/by-themes/customs-and-traditions/jackspeak-naval-slang/>  
[https://arkroyal.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=145](https://arkroyal.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=145)  
<https://owlcation.com/humanities/JackSpeak---The-Language-of-the-Royal-Navy->



## Stonehenge may have started as a stone circle in Wales



Picture Credit: "Stonehenge" by Rhubarble is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Stonehenge is regularly in the news. It is a good mystery story with great uncertainty that just will not go away. Here's a round-up of recent news activity and press comments.

**English Heritage** describes Stonehenge as:

*"... perhaps the world's most famous prehistoric monument. It was built in several stages: the first monument was an early henge monument, built about 5,000 years ago, and the unique stone circle was erected in the late Neolithic period about 2500 BC. In the early Bronze Age, many burial mounds were built nearby. Today, together with Avebury, Stonehenge forms the heart of a World Heritage Site, with a unique concentration of prehistoric monuments."*

### Cambridge University Press

From: Research Article, *Antiquity*, Volume 95, Issue 379, February 2021, pp. 85 - 103  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2020.239> [Opens in a new window]  
Copyright © The Author(s), 2021. Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Antiquity Publications Ltd

The abstract from Cambridge University Press, [here](#) says: The discovery of a dismantled stone circle—close to Stonehenge's bluestone quarries in west Wales—raises the possibility that a 900-year-old legend about Stonehenge being built from an earlier stone circle contains a grain of truth.

Radiocarbon and OSL dating of Waun Mawn indicate construction c. 3000 BC, shortly before the initial construction of Stonehenge. The identical diameters of Waun Mawn and the enclosing ditch of Stonehenge, and their orientations on the midsummer solstice sunrise, suggest that at least part of the Waun Mawn circle was brought from west Wales to Salisbury Plain.

This interpretation complements recent isotope work supporting a hypothesis of migration of both people and animals from Wales to Stonehenge.

### BBC Two

This story was also covered by the BBC, [here](#): One of Britain's biggest and oldest stone circles has been found in Wales - and could be the original building blocks of Stonehenge. Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of the Waun Mawn site in Pembrokeshire's Preseli Hills. They believe the stones could have been dismantled and rebuilt 150 miles (240 km) away on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

The discovery was made during filming for BBC Two's *Stonehenge: The Lost Circle Revealed*. The Welsh circle, believed to be the third biggest in Britain, has a diameter of 360ft (110m), the same as the ditch that encloses Stonehenge, and both are aligned on the midsummer solstice sunrise.

You can see a short video of the discovery at:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56029203#>

### The Guardian

The Guardian reports ([here](#)) on the dramatic discovery linking Stonehenge to its original site – in Wales: The ancient myth about Stonehenge, first recorded 900 years ago, tells of the wizard Merlin leading men to Ireland to capture a magical stone circle called the Giants' Dance and rebuilding it in England as a memorial to the dead. Geoffrey of Monmouth's account had been dismissed, partly because it was historically unreliable (as were other claims) although the monument's bluestones came from a region of Wales that was considered Irish territory in his day.

Now a vast stone circle created by our Neolithic ancestors has been discovered in Wales with features suggesting that the 12<sup>th</sup> century legend may not be complete fantasy after all.

### New Scientist

New Scientist says ([here](#)) that the origins of Stonehenge have long been a mystery. Now new discoveries show that the iconic monument may have started as a stone circle in Wales that was dismantled and rebuilt 280 kilometres away at its current location on Salisbury plain. This is the conclusion of a team of archaeologists who uncovered the remains of what appears to be Britain's third-largest stone circle, in the Preseli hills of west Wales. Stonehenge was built in several different phases between about 3000 and 2000 BC, starting with a large circular ditch and bank together with a circle of 2-metre-high bluestones just inside. Later, these bluestones were moved, and bigger structures made from boulders known as sarsens were built.

### Scientific American

Detailed testing of the chemical signature of Stonehenge's most prominent large stones has pinpointed where they came from. For more than four hundred years, archaeologists and geologists have tried to determine the geographical origins of the stones used to build Stonehenge thousands of years ago. Pinning down the source of the large blocks, known as sarsens - that form the bulk of the monument - has proved especially elusive. Researchers have resolved the mystery: 50 of the 52 extant sarsens at Stonehenge came from the West Woods site in Wiltshire, some 25 kilometres to the north of Stonehenge. The findings were published on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in *Science Advances*. Read about it [here](#).

### Stonehenge-like Structure in Lake Michigan

In a separate story, while scanning underneath the waters of Lake Michigan for shipwrecks, archaeologists found something a lot more interesting than they bargained for: they discovered a boulder with a prehistoric carving of a mastodon, as well as a series of stones arranged in a Stonehenge-like manner. Read about it [here](#).

### Was Stonehenge built with bits of an older Welsh Stone Age monument

A team of scientists, led by Mike Parker Pearson from University College London, reported in the journal *Antiquity* that the stone circle they had unearthed in Wales' Preseli Hills is believed to have been dismantled and moved 175 miles to Salisbury Plain and reconfigured as Stonehenge. Pearson hypothesised both that Stonehenge was made to **commemorate the ancestors** of those who built it and that Stonehenge's first stage may have served to unite the people of southern Britain. *"Maybe most of the people migrated, taking their stones – their ancestral identities – with them, to start again in this other special place,"* he said in a news release, read [here](#). *"This extraordinary event may also have served to unite the peoples of east and west Britain."*

## Everything you wanted to know about Brighton's Clock Tower

Sources: <https://brightonjournal.co.uk/10-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-brightons-clock-tower/>  
<http://brightonbits.blogspot.com/2012/01/time-ball-works-again.html>  
<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/4397507.whats-up-with-the-golden-ball-in-brighton-clock-tower>  
<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/jubilee-clock-tower-245732#>  
<https://www.brightonandhoveindependent.co.uk/news/new-book-explores-brighton-and-hoves-unusual-treasures-beaten-track-1003052> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clock\\_Tower,\\_Brighton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clock_Tower,_Brighton)  
<https://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/places/placeclock/clock-tower/clock-tower-5>  
<https://statues.vanderkrogt.net/object.php?webpage=ST&record=gbse033>  
<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/6746064.clock-tower-officially-unveiled/>



The famous Clock Tower in Brighton was built in 1888 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee (and is why it is sometimes referred to as the 'Jubilee Clock Tower'). The architectural style is classical with baroque touches, and the impressive piece of architecture with the mast on top is over 90 feet tall. It cost £2,000 to build, and despite architectural criticism and proposals for removal, it is still a

focal point for the city, located at the junction of West Street, North Street, Western Road and Queens Road.

Monochrome photographic print of The Clock Tower, North Street, Brighton with sandbagged Police Post, during the Second World War. Picture Credit: "Photographic Print" by Brighton Museums is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

A contemporary account of the Clock Tower's 1888 unveiling, published in 1889, is reproduced [here](#). An excellent model of the Clock Tower is housed in Brighton Museum.

### How it all started

In 1887, Brighton Council decided to host a competition to choose the right architect to design the structure. The competition was won by London-based architect, John Johnson and the tower was completed at the start of 1888 when The White Lion Commercial & Family Hotel occupied the area that became the Regent cinema and ballroom in the 1920s. Today, Boots the Chemist occupies the site.

### The Structure

The clock tower was built by JT Chappell and donated by James Willing whose name, and the date of Queen Victoria's jubilee appear on the clock face. There are portraits on the structure: on the west, the Princess of Wales, on the south, Prince Albert, on the east, the Prince of Wales, and on the north, Queen Victoria. They are flanked by columns and topped by pediments with four projecting hulls giving directions to (west) Hove, (south) the sea, (east) Kemp Town, and (north) Brighton railway station. The weathervane bears the initials JW (James Willing).

The structure was Grade II listed by English Heritage in August 1999, a status given to "nationally important buildings of special interest". Of particular interest is the gilded globe or time ball on the mast. The use of opal glass for the clock faces allowed illumination by gas jets at night. These are switched on and off automatically.

Originally, it was designed so that passing ships could set their chronometers by it. The time ball was controlled by a landline from Greenwich Observatory. The tower itself stands 75 feet high on a red granite base with four seated female statuettes - the allegorical figures on the corners are seated women said to represent the four seasons.

### The Gilded Time Ball

Local inventor Magnus Volk (responsible for Britain's oldest surviving electric railway *Volk's Railway*, an eccentric sea-based railway line, a pioneering electric car and Brighton's first telephone link) designed a time ball for the clock tower.

The gilded time ball, weighing about 100 kg, was originally designed to rise up the mast as every hour approached and then, on a telegraph signal from Greenwich, drop down again as the hour was struck. It was turned off soon after the tower was inaugurated in 1888. Nearby residents had complained about the noise created by the wind (a sea breeze perhaps) whistling in the longitudinal slots up which the ball rose. The noise apparently frightened passing horses and kept people awake at night. To cure the problem the slots were covered in, and from 1902, the ball rose no more.

The clock is maintained every year by an engineer employed by Brighton and Hove City Council to ensure that it is in good working order. But the time ball of the antique mechanism remains motionless, even though the city council has spent large amounts restoring the whole clock tower in the past. The last major restoration was in 2002 - the £100,000 restoration cost, which dwarfed its original cost - was paid for by the city council, Boots the Chemist and the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove.

### Trivia

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2002, the clock tower was officially unveiled after 18 months under wraps for repairs and restoration. Before the official ceremony, children from nearby Middle Street school sang carols. The Argus ([here](#)) reported that among the guests at the ceremony was Joy Crawshaw from Chichester, whose great-grandfather, Henry Howell Hewlings, was largely responsible for the Clock Tower in 1888, although in what capacity is unknown. Apparently, Mr Hewlings was disgusted when the council sent him a rate demand for it. He refused to pay up, and in revenge, it is said that the council built public toilets under the clock tower. But no more: Sadly those facilities, and other toilets in the city, have been closed.

### Memorial Stone: 20<sup>th</sup> January 1888



Picture Credit: "Brighton Clock Tower" by Ian Ozsvald is licensed under CC BY 2.0



## Brighton Station

Sources: • [https://www.brightontoyuseum.co.uk/index/Category:History\\_of\\_Brighton\\_Ra](https://www.brightontoyuseum.co.uk/index/Category:History_of_Brighton_Ra)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brighton\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brighton_railway_station) • <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/entry/1380797> • <http://www.thepostmagazine.co.uk/brightonhistory/genteel-watering-place-day-trippers-paradise> • <https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/discover/2015/02/26/railways-in-brighton/> • <https://spartacus-educational.com/RABrightonST.htm>



Picture Credit: "BRIGHTON Railway Station, Old Postcard by Valentine Postmark Brighton 1908" by mark's vintage topographical postcards is marked with CC.PDM 1.0

The construction of Brighton Railway Station and the London to Brighton railway line in 1840/41 transformed the town. Until the 1840s, the only way to get to Brighton from London was by coach, and the journey was long and uncomfortable. Most visitors until 1840 either had important business in Brighton or were wealthier travellers coming for the benefits of the sea air. With the opening of the railway line to Brighton, for the first time, Londoners were able to easily get to the town for a day out by the seaside. With this huge influx of holidaymakers with spending money in their pockets, the town's population grew enormously.

Brighton railway station is the southern terminus of the Brighton main line and the principal station serving the city of Brighton, East Sussex. It is 50 miles from London Bridge via Redhill. It was built by the London & Brighton Railway initially connecting Brighton to Shoreham-by-Sea, along the coast to the west, and shortly afterwards connecting it to London Bridge to the north and the county town of Lewes to the east. In 1846, the railway became the *London Brighton and South Coast Railway* following mergers with other railways with lines between Portsmouth and Hastings.

The London & Brighton Railway building started in July 1838 and was completed in September 1841. Over 3,500 men and 570 horses were used to build the railway and cost £2,634,059 (£57,262 per mile).

Originally, in 1840, several other locations were considered. A location for Brighton Station at or near *The Level* in the Lewes Road was suggested. This would have been more convenient for visitors than the location finally chosen and would have allowed a comparatively easy route to London. But having a valley on each side would have made it difficult to build connecting branch lines - to Hove and Shoreham to the west and Lewes to the east. The station was finally constructed by building up on the side of between two locations, by excavating a vast amount of material from the chalk hillside and nestling the station into the resulting brick-shored cliff at the top of Trafalgar Street and Queens Road. This location provided enough height for the London Road Viaduct to straddle the valley area to the east to give a route to London and allow routes to the west what would have been more difficult if the station had been nestling at the bottom of a valley.

Nevertheless, the site finally chosen presented many problems and is 0.5 miles from and 70 feet (21 metres) above sea level.

### The Station Building

The passenger station was constructed as a three-storey building in an Italianate style, designed by David Mocatta in 1839–40, which incorporated the head office of the railway company. Baker & Son were paid the handsome sum of £9,766 15s for the station building between May and August 1841.

John Urpeth Rastrick built the platform accommodation consisting of four pitched roofs, each 250 ft long (76 metres). It opened for trains to Shoreham on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1840 and to London on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1841. Further extensions to the station took place during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but only a limited number of additional platforms could be added because of the awkward sloping site. By the late 1870s, the facilities were inadequate for the ever-growing traffic volume. So the existing platforms were lengthened to be able to accommodate two trains. The three separate roofs were replaced by an overall roof during 1882/1883 so that today, the station has an impressive large double-spanned curved glass and iron roof covering all the platforms. It was substantially renovated in 1999 and 2000.

The concourse includes food shops, cafés, a newsagent and other food and retail outlets. The front of the station often sees stalls and street food vans. Following a request by Labour MP Peter Kyle in 2014, a street piano was added to the concourse, with a vintage Southern Railway logo inscribed thereon. Brighton Station was listed at Grade II\* on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1973 by Historic England/National Heritage. This listing means that the building is "of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve it."

Historic England describes the station building ([here](#)): "*The original station, of which only the forebuilding remains in part, is of 1841 by David Mocatta; it was enlarged, and the platforms extended, in 1852-4; the train sheds date from 1882-3 and were designed by HE Wallis, and the canopy in front of the station is of the same date. Stucco to the original building, roof obscured by a parapet; additions in yellow and brown brick in English and Flemish bonds with red brick dressings, and some timber; the train sheds of cast- and wrought iron with a roof of glass and timber.*"

Just how impressive it all was can be gauged by the Brighton Gazette's report of 16<sup>th</sup> September 1841: "*The Brighton Terminus is a beautiful structure, and with the iron sheds in the rear, will not suffer from comparison with any railway terminus in existence. The offices and waiting rooms are most commodious and are furnished with every convenience for passengers.*"

Further development work, linking the railway station to the centre of town, also happened at this time with the building of Queens Road down towards the sea at West Street. The new road was partly paid for by the *London & Brighton Railway Company*, and led to a new commercial area, complete with hotels, public houses and shops.

Picture Credit: "Brighton Railway Station" by Rain Rabbit is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



## Brighton and Sussex Celebrities – present and past

Sources: <https://brightonjournal.co.uk/the-blue-plaques-of-brighton-the-legacy-of-important-figures-in-our-city/> • <https://jollyexplorer.com/20-celebrities-living-it-large-in-brighton-uk/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_people\\_from\\_Brighton\\_and\\_Hove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_from_Brighton_and_Hove) • <https://www.myguidebrighton.com/travel-articles/famous-celebrities-living-in-sussex> • <https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/19-celebrities-you-not-realised-4213571> • <http://www.westsussex.info/authors.shtml> • <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/17703143.famous-people-sussex-according-wikipedia/>

Sussex is or previously was home to many famous names from music to TV and movies and sport and politics. Some of them are as shown below. Apologies to the many others not mentioned, including David Gilmour (Pink Floyd), Katie Price, David Walliams, Fatboy Slim, Heather Mills, Julian Clary, Ken Livingstone, Nick Berry, Nick Cave, Dora Bryan, Peter Andre, Robin Cousins, Romesh Ranganathan, Dame Julie Walters, Sir Paul McCartney, Roger Daltrey, Stephen Tompkinson, Cate Winslet, Kate Blanchett, Zoe Ball, Holly Willoughby, Martha Gunn and Zoella and many more.

### PRESENT

**Sally Gunnell, Olympic athlete, lives in Steyning:** A star of the 400 metres hurdles, Sally Gunnell won over the hearts of Brits everywhere in 1992 when she won gold in the event at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. She is the only female British athlete to have won Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth titles, and was the first female 400 metres hurdler in history to win the Olympic and World titles and break the world record. She was born in Essex but is now settled in Steyning, Sussex with her family.

**Chris Eubank, Professional Boxer:** Christopher Livingstone Eubank, the former professional boxer competed from 1985 to 1998. He held the WBO middleweight and super-middleweight titles between 1990 and 1995 and is ranked by BoxRec as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best British super-middleweight boxer of all time. He reigned as world champion for over five years, was undefeated in his first ten years as a professional and remained undefeated at middleweight. Eubank developed a reputation for eccentricity. He purchased the *lord of the manor rights* in Brighton at auction in 1996 and used the ancient right of this position to appoint a town crier. In 2006, he launched a last-minute rescue bid to restore Brighton's historic West Pier. Known for his unique sense of style, Eubank has won the *Britain's Best Dressed Man* award many times.

**Piers Morgan, TV and News, lives in Newick:** Piers Stefan Pughe-Morgan has been a controversial figure throughout his career and is never far away from the top stories hitting the headlines. He began his career in 1989 in Fleet Street as a writer and editor for several British tabloids, including *The Sun*, *News of the World*, and the *Daily Mirror*. In 1994, aged 29, he was appointed editor of the *World's News* by Rupert Murdoch, making him the youngest editor of a British national newspaper in more than half a century. Morgan is a fan of Arsenal football club and was an outspoken critic of former Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger and called for his sacking on many occasions.

**Daley Thompson, Decathlete, lives in Hove:** Francis Morgan Ayodélé Thompson, CBE (known as Daley Thompson), is a former British decathlete. A former Crawley resident, he now lives alone in Hove. He won the decathlon gold medal at the Olympic Games in 1980 and 1984 - and broke the world record for the event four times. With four world records, two Olympic gold medals, three Commonwealth titles, and wins in the World and European Championships, Thompson is considered by many to be one of the greatest decathletes of all time.

**Steve Ovett, Brighton-born but now living in Australia:** Stephen Michael James Ovett OBE was a middle-distance runner. He was the gold medalist in the 800 metres at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and set several world records for 1500 metres and the mile run and a world best at two miles. In 1987, a bronze statue of Steve Ovett was erected in Preston Park, but it was stolen in 2007 and later replaced in 2012 with a copy of the original. He now lives in Australia.

### PAST



#### Vera Lynn lived in Ditchling:

English singer Dame Vera Lynn enchanted fans for more than 80 years. She lived in Ditchling from the 1960s and was loved throughout the land. With songs like *White Cliffs of Dover* and *We'll Meet Again*, Dame Vera, 'The Forces Sweetheart', was a popular singer in the 1940s and 1950s and continued to release songs until 1982 when her final song, *I Love This Land*, was released to mark the end of the Falklands Conflict.

Picture Credit: "File:Vera Lynn (1962).jpg" by Eric Koch / Anefo is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

#### Mrs Maria Fitzherbert lived at 55 Old Steine (now Steine House/YMCA):

Maria Anne Fitzherbert (née Smythe, previously Weld) was the mistress of the Prince Regent, Maria Fitzherbert lived at this address in Brighton from 1804 until she died in 1837, at the age of eighty. The building, which is now the YMCA, housed the now-infamous Fitzherbert. Fitzherbert was born at Tong Castle in Shropshire.

#### William Ewart Gladstone lived at the Adelphi Hotel, Pool Valley:

William Ewart Gladstone was the Prime Minister during the reign of Queen Victoria. Gladstone had a sixty-year career within British politics and was Prime Minister for four terms. He frequently stayed at Lion Mansions Hotel and the Adelphi Hotel abutting the Albion Hotel, near the Palace Pier and Pool Valley. Gladstone started in the Conservative Party as a 'High Tory' before joining the breakaway 'Peelite' faction, which became the new Liberal Party in 1859.

**Eleanor Marx lived at 6 Vernon Terrace:** Jenny Julia Eleanor Marx (sometimes called Eleanor Aveling and known to her family as *Tussy*) was the English-born youngest daughter of Karl Marx. She was a socialist activist who also worked as a literary translator. She worked for most of her life within politics and believed in the arts as a socialist and feminist tool. In 1898, she committed suicide by poison after finding out her long-time partner Edward Aveling had secretly married a young actress a year before.

**George Jacob Holyoake lived at 36 Camelford Street:** George Jacob Holyoake was the last man in England to be jailed for atheism (1851). He was a social reformer and the first president of the Brighton Equitable Co-operative Society. In 1842, Holyoake and fellow socialist Emma Martin formed the Anti-Persecution Union to support free thinkers or those who thought differently to the government, in danger of arrest.

**Max Miller lived at 25 Burlington Street:** One of Brighton's most famous residents, Max Miller, the comedian and entertainer, lived in Brighton from 1948 until his death. Over his long career, Miller called Brighton his home. This was to the extent he preferred to only play in the south of England to return to his "beloved home."

**Sir Rowland Hill, lived at 11 Hanover Crescent:** Sir Rowland Hill was a postal reformer. He introduced the penny post and the Penny Black stamp in 1840. His continued promotion for letter boxes led to the public and private ones we have today. He was so influential in the history and legacy of Britain that his final resting place is Westminster Abbey. His accreditation with the basic concepts of the modern postal stamp and system led to him receiving a 'Knights of the Bath' medal and receiving the 'Fellowship of the Royal Society' award.

**Sir Laurence Olivier lived at 4 Royal Crescent:** Actor-director and film star Sir Laurence Olivier lived in Brighton from 1961-1979. Along with his contemporaries, Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud were part of a trinity of male actors who dominated the British stage of the mid-20th century. He commuted to the National Theatre on the Brighton Belle train and in 1972 fought to keep kippers on the iconic train's Breakfast menu.





**Dr Richard Russell lived at the Royal Albion Hotel, Old Steine:** Dr Richard Russell is partly responsible for the development of Brighton into a desired seaside resort. He was famous for his 'seawater cure', which claimed it could help with a multitude of ailments and illnesses. He lived and worked from a house on

the site of the Royal Albion Hotel from 1753 to 1759.

Picture Credit: "Dr Richard Russell" by Simon Harriott is licensed under CC BY 2.0

**Doreen Valiente lived at Tyson Place, Grosvenor Street:** Doreen Valiente was known as the 'Mother of Modern Witchcraft.' She remains the most influential woman in the world of modern Witchcraft. Her fame and achievements are only surpassed by her popularity and respect among the world's Pagan community. She was responsible for writing much of the early religious liturgy (practices and rituals) within 'Gardnerian Wicca.' She was the high priestess of Gerald Gardner's Bricket Wood coven and moved to Brighton to live out her final years.

**Rudyard Kipling lived at The Elms, The Green, Rottingdean:**

Joseph Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay (now Mumbai), India in 1865 during the 'British Raj', the era when India was part of the British Empire. Educated in England, he is famous as the author of an array of works like 'Just So Stories,' 'If' and 'The Jungle Book.' He lived in Rottingdean from 1897- 1903 before moving to Batemans at Burwash, East Sussex, where he lived until he died in 1936. On her death, his wife gifted Batemans to the National Trust.



**Magnus Volk lived at 128 Dyke Road:** By all accounts, Magnus Volk was a very clever man with a particular focus on anything that used electricity for functionality. The son of a German clockmaker, he was born in Brighton. In his early 30s, he built Brighton's electric railway (now the world's oldest electric railway) having brought the first telephone service to Brighton in his late 20s. His house in Dyke Road was the first in the area to have electricity, followed later by some of Brighton's public buildings. After the first electric railway, some

13 years later, he launched the Brighton to Rottingdean Seashore Electric Railway, which became better known as the *Daddy-Long-Legs*. Along the way, Volk found time to design and build Britain's first electric motor car. He also designed the church hall at the rear of the congregational church in Hassocks. Clearly, he was a very busy man.

Picture Credit: "File: Magnus Volk (Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove, copyright BY-SA).jpg" by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

**Martha Gunn lived at 36 East Street, Brighton:** Martha was possibly the most famous of the "dippers", certainly the most famous in Brighton. Dipper" was the name given to the operator of a bathing machine used by women (and some men) bathers. Modesty was maintained when the dipper pushed the machine into and out of the water and helped the bather into and out of the water.

**King George IV lived in the Royal Pavilion:** We have George IV (George Augustus Frederick) to thank for the Royal Pavilion Estate that stands today. George IV was the eldest child of King George III and Queen Charlotte. He led an extravagant lifestyle that contributed to the fashions of the Regency era. He was a patron of new forms of leisure, style and taste. He commissioned John Nash to build the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.

**John Logie Baird FRSE:** The Scottish inventor, electrical engineer, and innovator first demonstrated his working television system in January 1926. He went on to invent the first publicly demonstrated colour television system, and the first purely electronic colour television picture tube, earning him a prominent place in television's history. From December 1944, he lived at 1 Station Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, immediately north of the station and subsequently died there less than two years later.

### THE LITERARY GIANTS

Over the years, Sussex has produced its fair share and more in the literary field:

- Important 17<sup>th</sup> century poet **William Collins** was second in influence only to Thomas Gray. He started and ended his life in Chichester. The true value of his writing was only appreciated fully after his death.
- **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**, one of the greatest poets of the English Language, lived in an inspirational place in Sussex – on top of Blackdown, the highest place in West Sussex, in Aldworth, the house he built in 1869.
- 17<sup>th</sup> century playwright **Thomas Otway** was born in Trotton near Midhurst in 1652 and was brought up in neighbouring Woolbeding. His two masterpieces are *The Orphan* and *Venice Preserved*.
- Romantic poet **Percy Bysshe Shelley** grew up at Warnham near Horsham, and his somewhat erratic life and work are celebrated in Horsham Museum.
- **HG Wells** was brought up at Uppark, where his mother was on the payroll, and he went to school and taught in Midhurst for a while. Wells soon moved to London but remembered West Sussex in works such as the story of *The Invisible Man*.
- **John Galsworthy**, playwright and author of the *Forsyte Saga*, bought a large house in Bury near Pulborough in 1926 and lived there until his death seven years later.
- Irish novelist and trades unionist campaigner **Brian Behan** moved to Shoreham in 1964 after an arm injury ended his career as a bricklayer.
- **Peter J. James**, the British writer of crime fiction, was born in Brighton, the son of Cornelia James, the former glovemaking to Queen Elizabeth II.

Sussex, often thought by outsiders to be some sort of rural adjunct to London, has a cultural identity as unique as any other English county. It was the last Anglo-Saxon kingdom to be Christianised and has a centuries-old reputation for being separate and culturally distinct from the rest of England and is perhaps why it has attracted so many clever and talented people over the years. And it is thanks to pioneers such as Magnus Volk, Dr Richard Russell and Martha Gunn and many others, Brighton became the famed city it is today.



Picture Credit: "George IV / Prince Regent statue, Royal Pavilion, Brighton" by IvorF is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



### Finish with a Smile



Picture Credit: "1937 Dandy01Desperate&Keyhole" by Briany Najar is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



Picture Credit: "1938Dandy-DesDan(MnstrComic1939)" by Briany Najar is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



Picture Credit: "1959-11-07 Ken\_ReidJonah" by Briany Najar is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



Contributed by Duncan Reeves