

Nil Desperandum

Published for Haywards Heath & District Probus Club

ISSUE 21

December 2021

Never Alone



Picture Credits: Snow Village - "Santa Klaus village" by Luca Amorosi is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
Santa - "Christmas decorations - Santa caught without a coffee" by Kevin Dooley is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Index:

1. Sir Humphrey explains Brexit
1. The Brighton Co-op
1. Mistaken Identity?
2. A Christmas Carol and why Charles Dickens went to Court
2. We Three Kings of Orient Are...
2. One Liners
3. Beautiful Pan Flute version of 'You Raise Me Up'
3. What are 'Kippers on Horseback'?
3. Eureka, Vaseline!
3. The Treaty of Ghent
4. Barings: The Sixth Great Power
4. An elephant walks into a pub...
4. Ancient chat room using early version of Windows...
5. Remember the Good Old Days?
5. Eleemosynary
5. Tudor Treasures
6. A Peak at the Past
6. Operation Underworld
7. Food History: Here's a short summary to whet your appetite
7. Eating in the fifties...
8. A few quaint British phrases
9. Facts about Napoleon Bonaparte you might not know
9. A surprise moment at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials
9. Do you remember the Temperance Building Society?
10. Grimm News
10. The Ape-Man Hoax

Continued:

10. O Henry
10. 100-year-old whisky bottles hidden in walls of US home
11. A sticky situation: The Christmas pudding palaver of 1952
11. A brief history of Boxing Day
12. How Christmas was nearly lost
12. It's true: Kangaroos can communicate with humans
13. How 'A Farming Dick Barton' became 'The Archers'
14. The Monroe Doctrine – what is it?
14. Politicians
15. Serbia and its capital city
16. What is a Virus?
16. Ben Ferencz: "We must live in a world where the rule of law replaces the rule of force."
16. Freedom of Speech
17. Oxymorons
17. Darwin's Tubercle
17. More Humour
18. The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries
19. Rare Blood Types
19. Denmark and labour strikes
20. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert: A marriage made in heaven or a union of misery?
20. Who was Miguel de Cervantes?
21. Evacuation!
23. Sussex CCC – Some Personal Reflections
23. Cricket in Sussex
23. Fast Electric Car Charging Requires Cooler Cables
24. Finish with a Smile
24. Take the "Bathtub test"





Sir Humphrey explains Brexit

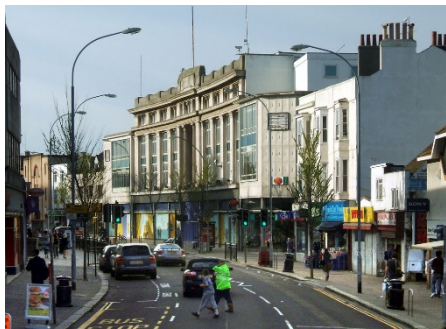
Picture Credit: Screenshot from YouTube video

It's funny, but there's a tinge or more of truth in it... In case you didn't see it on TV, you really must watch it now. The video is available at: https://youtu.be/IFBgQpz_E80

The Brighton Co-op

Excerpted from and acknowledgement to:

<https://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/places/placeshop/co-operatives/co-operatives#:~:q=co-op&hl=en>
<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/10835550.brighton-and-hoves-vital-role-in-co-op-origins/>



It started with the Brighton Co-operative Benevolent Fund Association, which was based on the communal ideas of social pioneer Robert Owen. Formed on 1st January 1828, it opened a shop at 31 West Street. It was the first co-operative retail shop in the country. Eighteen years later, the

Sussex Joint Stock Co-operative Friendly Society was founded by trade union pioneer George Henderson with a store at 100 Trafalgar Street near Brighton Station.

The Brighton 'Co-op' itself was founded at a meeting at the Coffee Palace, 29 Duke Street, near Hanningtons (as it was then), on 26th November 1887. It started with only 200 members, and the first store was opened at 32 North Road on 16th May 1888. By 1914, membership had risen to 4,414. After the war, it increased rapidly to 10,000 by 1921 when other Sussex societies were subsumed into it. Many new shops were opened across Sussex, and a new bakery was established in 1920 at Portland Road, Hove, which was joined by a large laundry in 1934. I remember the bakery well as my first wife's father worked there for many years.

The Argus puts it well:

For many people in Brighton, the Co-op was an important part of their lives. Every shopper was a potential member of the movement and, once in, you received a dividend on your purchases. Many older Brightonians can still recall their membership number, which had to be recited at the till.

A key date is 1900, when 96 London Road was purchased as the main office. Most people's memory of the Co-op is of the imposing shop in London Road, Brighton, which opened in 1931 and somehow or other staggered on until 2007.

Picture Credit: "Co-op Department Store, London Road" by Dominic's pics is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Mistaken Identity?

Donald Trump met with the Queen of England, and he asked her, "Your Majesty, how do you run such an efficient government? Are there any tips you can give me?"

"Well," replied the Queen, "the most important thing is to surround yourself with intelligent people."

Trump frowned, and then asked, "But how do I know the people around you are really intelligent?"

The Queen took a sip of tea. "Oh, that's easy; you just ask them to answer an intelligent riddle."

The Queen pushed a button on her intercom. "Please send Boris Johnson in here, would you?"

The Prime Minister walked into the room and said, "Yes, Your Majesty?"

The Queen smiled and said, "Answer me this, if you would, Boris. Your mother and father have a child. It is not your brother and it is not your sister. Who is it?"

Without pausing for a moment, he answered, "That would be me."

"Yes! Very good," said the Queen.

"Trump went back home to ask Mike Pence the same question. Mike, answer this for me. Your mother and your father have a child. It's not your brother and it's not your sister. Who is it?"

"I'm not sure," said Pence. "Let me get back to you on that one." He went to his advisers and asked everyone, but none could give him an answer. Finally, Pence ran in to his friend Jack Murphy in a restaurant the next night. Pence asked, "Jack, can you answer this for me? Your mother and father have a child and it's not your brother or your sister. Who is it?"

Jack Murphy answered right back, "That's easy, it's me!"

Pence smiled, and said, "Thanks!"

Pence then went back to speak with Trump. "I did some research and I have the answer to that riddle: It's my friend Jack Murphy!"

Trump got up, stomped over to Pence, and angrily yelled, "No, you idiot! It's Boris Johnson!"

Picture Credit: "Donald Trump and Mike Pence - Caricature" by DonkeyHotey is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



A Christmas Carol and why Charles Dickens went to Court

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carol



A Christmas Carol is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London in 1843. It recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

The book is divided into five chapters, which Dickens titled "staves". Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions, including carols and newer customs such as Christmas trees. He was influenced by the experiences of his youth and by the Christmas stories of other authors.

Dickens had written three Christmas stories before the novella and was inspired following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged School, one of several establishments for London's street children. The treatment of the poor and the ability of a selfish man to redeem himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. There is discussion among academics as to whether this is a fully secular story or a Christian allegory.

Dickens was determined to write a blockbuster that would remind people of the happy and fun activities that used to occur during the celebration of Christmas but had fallen victim to the Industrial Revolution, as well as reviving an old custom of telling ghost stories on Christmas Eve. Raising social awareness of the plight of the poor was another reason for the book, but most of all was the desire, or rather need, to make a large profit to pay off his creditors. Published on 19th December 1843, the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve; by the end of 1844, thirteen editions had been released.

Legal Action

The story was illicitly copied in January 1844. Charles Dickens took legal action in the Chancery Division against the publishers, who went bankrupt, further reducing Dickens's small profits from the publication. He went on to write four other Christmas stories in subsequent years. In 1849 he began public readings of the story, which proved so successful he undertook 127 further performances until 1870, the year of his death. *A Christmas Carol* has never been out of print and has been translated into several languages; the story has been adapted many times for film, stage, opera and other media.

MORE INFORMATION

See: E. T. Jaques. Charles Dickens in Chancery, at <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=SoNaAAAAAAAJ&pg>, published by Longmans, 1914. There's also a video from National Archives at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4YEHsqmikk&feature=youtu.be> that's well worth viewing.

Picture Credit: "God bless Tiny Tim Project 365(3) Day 185" by Keith Williamson is licensed under CC BY 2.0

We Three Kings of Orient Are...

Source: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/we-three-kings-of-orient-are/>



Picture Credit: "Adoration of the Magi" by Lawrence OP is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

How many kings followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem?

The answer?

It's none. Look up the original story in the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12. Notwithstanding the famous Christmas carol penned by John Henry Hopkins Jr. (of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, USA), Jesus's visitors from the east are Magi: technically, a title for Zoroastrian priests, but Matthew's usage follows the Greco-Roman notion that Magi were dream interpreting astrologer-astronomers from Persia or Mesopotamia who possessed secret knowledge ("magi" and "magic" are etymologically related). Matthew's Magi weren't commonly portrayed as kings until the thirteenth century, inspired by Psalm 72:10-11, which was interpreted as a foretelling of the Adoration of the Magi. The author of the source article, Mary Joan Winn Leith, says:

Even if we substitute "Magi" for "kings", there is still a "does-not-compute" aspect to the question: Matthew never specifies the number of Magi. The now-standard number, three, did not appear until the third century when the Church father Origen derived it from the three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The number has varied. While Origen was contemplating three Magi in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, away to the east in Syria, someone composed a wonderfully strange story called The Revelation of the Magi. It exists in a single Syriac (closely related to Jesus's Aramaic) manuscript in the Vatican Library and was not published in English until 2010. It recounts the story of the twelve Magi and their journey from a remote kingdom that seems to be China.

One Liners

The doctor said that I had no magnesium in my body. I said, "0Mg!"

I applied for a job at the Citroen factory. I had to send in 2CVs.

What do you get if you cross a motorway with a fridge? Killed.

My wife left me because of my obsession with pasta. I'm cannelloni now.

Beautiful Pan Flute version of 'You Raise Me Up'



You raise me up - pan flute | Du hebst mich auf Panflöt...

Although the pan flute dates back to ancient times, the music it plays is still enjoyed by people all around the world. David Doring is a musician known for his talents playing the popular folk instrument. In this video, Doring plays "You Raise Me Up" while travelling through the countryside in a horse-drawn buggy.

Doring's beautiful rendition of the tune, along with the tranquil pastoral setting, makes this performance mesmerising to watch and listen to.

David was born in Kazakhstan, and by the age of six, he had already started to learn how to play the violin. When he reached the age of 12, he listened to Edward Simoni and spontaneously switched to playing the pan flute.

Click here: <https://www.reshareworthy.com/man-plays-pan-flute-of-you-raise-me-up/>

What are 'Kippers on Horseback'?

I spotted this strange **question** recently. It reminded me that my father used the words but as the answer to some question or other that I asked him. He came from the East End of London, where many strange sayings originated. Such as (in answer to my question 'where is it') he would say 'In Annie's room behind the clock'.

Back to the kippers... For the life of me, I can't think what question I might have asked my father that had him explain to me the answer being 'Kippers on Horseback'.

It turns out to mean (taken from the 1954 book entitled 'Good Housekeeping's Book of Entertaining') that *Kippers on Horseback* are small pieces of smoked herring with a wrapping of smoked bacon.

It sounds horrible!

A little research ([HERE](#)) about the word 'kipper' enabled me to discover this: In medieval tournaments, a *kipper* was a person employed by a knight, usually a vassal of the knight such as a slave, serf, or peasant. Kippers might also be fighters of non-knightly status, who therefore did not fight on horseback. The function of the kipper was to follow his knight in combat and retrieve armour or arms from fallen adversaries. If the adversary was not completely subdued and ready to surrender these, the kipper would bang on the armour-clad opponent with various blunt non-lethal instruments, like heavy sticks or clubs, to knock him unconscious to gather the spoils without further protest.

Eureka, Vaseline!

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaseline>

Did you know that Vaseline was 'invented' in the US? The petroleum jelly-based product is now owned by British-Dutch company Unilever who bought it in 1987. Products include plain petroleum jelly and a selection of skin creams, soaps, lotions, hair tonic, cleansers, and deodorants. In many languages, the word "Vaseline" is used as generic for petroleum jelly. For example, in Portugal, the Unilever products are called *Vaselina*, and in Brazil and some Spanish-speaking countries, the Unilever products are called *Vasenal*.



Picture Credit: "Vaselineを撮ってみる #shoot1230" by chidorian is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

It all started in 1859 when Robert Chesebrough went to the oil fields in Titusville, Pennsylvania, and learned of a residue called "rod wax" that had to be periodically removed from oil rig pumps. The oil workers had been using the substance to heal cuts and burns. Chesebrough took samples of the rod wax back to Brooklyn, extracted the usable petroleum jelly, and began manufacturing a medicinal product he called Vaseline. He was granted a patent in the US in 1872.

Apparently, the name "Vaseline" is said by the manufacturer to be derived from German Wasser "water" and the Greek *elaion* "olive oil".

There's an interesting history about the wonder jelly at:

<https://www.vaseline.com/arabia/en/who-we-are.html>

The Treaty of Ghent

Source: <https://www.onthisday.com/photos/treaty-of-ghent>



Picture Credit: "A Hundred Years Peace: The Signature of the Treaty of Ghent (Belgium), 1814" by Toronto Public Library Special Collections is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. Relations were restored to "status quo ante bellum", the situation which existed before the war, which meant there were no boundary changes.

The Treaty took effect in February 1815. Both sides signed it on 24th December 1814, in the city of Ghent, United Netherlands (now in Belgium). The US ratified the treaty in February 1815 under President James Madison.

Barings: The Sixth Great Power

This Delancey Place selection - from *The Sixth Great Power: A History of One of the Greatest of All Banking Families, The House of Barings, 1762-1929*, by author Philip Ziegler, publisher: Borzoi Boo, published by Alfred A Knopf, Inc, Copyright 1988 by Barings Brothers & Co. Ltd and P.S. & M. C. Ziegler & Co., page(s): 127-129.

The early 1800s were the dawn of office life as it came to be practised over the next two centuries. These practices came from the banks that arose to service the needs of the burgeoning Industrial Revolution. These firms were "making it up as they went along." One such firm was the highly prestigious Baring Brothers banking firm. In this passage, we see the efforts of the recently hired Joshua Bates to try and impose structure to the business of Alexander Baring and his family:

"The house as reorganized by Joshua Bates was altogether more orderly than it had been under his predecessors. Alexander Baring understood the need for a system. 'You should well impress on your mind the importance in a counting-house of many clerks is the necessity of minute punctuality,' he told his nephew Thomas. 'It is not generally a Baring virtue and therefore requires some self-command. This is more important in the management of business than genius or higher talent, and you may rely upon it that your business will move unsatisfactorily and in some degree unsafely unless you attach importance to the apparent trifling circumstance of minute discipline.' But he himself had rarely found time or inclination to practise what he preached, and though Holland kept the clerks to their office hours, he had little idea of more sophisticated measures to improve the running of the office.

"With Bates's arrival [to manage the firm], a new system is apparent in the records of Baring Brothers. ... His advice to himself in his diary on how to run the office is typical both of the man and his regime. 'Having been generally successful in business, we have become too free and open in our conduct and have incurred risks that it will not be wise to repeat. A system of secrecy should be encouraged and ... none but clever persons admitted into the office. A rigid economy should also be enforced as much as in less prosperous times. Avoid all pride, ostentation and unnecessary show.'

"The regulations laid down for the clerks suggest that their life was austere but not over-taxing. Juniors arrived at 9.30 a.m., seniors at 10 a.m., there was an hour for lunch, and all left at 5 p.m. except when the international mail was departing. Anyone under the age of sixty had to sign a book on arrival; after one's sixtieth birthday, it was presumably hoped the habit of punctuality would have been finally inculcated. 'Unnecessary conversation in the Office, one with another,' was deplored, as were visits by friends or disappearances from the office on personal affairs. 'When it is considered that these Regulations, on ordinary days, only require attendance for the Superior Clerks about Six Hours per day, and the Junior Six and a Half Hours, and Two Hours additional on Post and Packet Days, it cannot be thought severe,' concluded the notice somewhat defensively. 'It is therefore insisted on that the short time be devoted earnestly to the duties of the office.'

"William Rathbone, who joined Barings in 1840, would not have felt this unreasonable. He found his life 'full of very hard and varied work, but of perfect health and freedom from anxiety or disturbance or worry of any kind'. Bates was an exacting but not unreasonable taskmaster, he 'had the knack of seeing everything without appearing to take any trouble to do so'. Humphrey Mildmay's son Henry Bingham was taken on in 1845, initially to copy letters. His handwriting was not considered to come up to the required commercial standards and he was sent to take lessons from an expert in the Gray' Road. His only complaint was that he had to work on Saturday afternoons.

"In 1828, Labouchère took a young American, Russell Sturgis, to Bishopsgate. Sturgis was amazed by the volume of business transacted. The postage on the letters each day amounted to £25. Sturgis remarked that the partners must have an easy time of it since all they had to do was sign their names and was told that on that one day, they would have 3000 cheques to sign for French dividends and 500 for American. (The same was still true in 1912, when Patrick Shaw-Stewart, confronted by 500 dividend warrants, cursed the day he had opted to sign with his full name rather than as P. Stewart.) The ritual was that all the letters, often 200 a day, were looked at by Bates, inspected more meticulously by Mildmay and then distributed around the office.

"An immense part of the burden was borne by Bates, who personally handled almost all the correspondence with the United States as well as making regular visits to Exchange to buy and sell bills, draw and remit. 'This requires promptness and decision and a degree of experience,' wrote T. W. Ward, who visited Bishopsgate when the new partnership was forming. He noticed how conscientious Bates was in his attendance compared to his colleagues or those from other houses; 'This is an advantage Bates has – he is devoted to business and willing to labor.'"

Reader's Note:

Barings Bank was a British merchant bank based in London, and the world's second-oldest merchant bank after Berenberg Bank, Baring's close collaborator and German representative. It was founded in 1762 by Francis Baring, a British-born member of the German-British Baring family of merchants and bankers. The bank collapsed in 1995 after suffering losses of £827 million (£1.6 billion in 2019) resulting from unauthorised investments, primarily in futures contracts, conducted by an employee working at its office in Singapore.

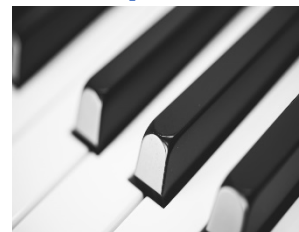
Comment from Martin Pollins

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

An elephant walks into a pub...



Contributed by Duncan Reeves

An elephant walks into a pub where there's a pianist playing in the corner. As the elephant listens to the music, a tear trickles from his eye. The pianist asks, 'Bring back any memories?'

And the elephant says, 'Oh yes indeed. I recognise the white keys.'

Ancient chat room using early version of Windows...



Contributed by Duncan Reeves

Remember the Good Old Days?



Picture Credit: "I I - Adverts - Billy Cotton & Archie Andrews Xmas at the Prince Of Wales - Norman Wisdom in Aladdin at the London Palladium" by Bradford Timeline is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Eleemosynary

This is an unusual word. It's an adjective and is not easily pronounced as [el-uh-mos-uh-ner-ee, -moz-, el-ee-uh-]. The word means: *of or relating to alms, charity, or charitable donations; charitable.*

According to the people at Dictionary.com, the word comes from the Medieval Latin adjective *eleēmosynārius*, a derivative of the Late Latin noun *eleēmosyna* "alms," used by Christian Latin authors (Tertullian, St. Augustine of Hippo). There's some Greek lurking in the background as the Latin *eleēmosyna* is a borrowing from Greek *eleēmosynē* "pity, mercy, compassion" (and "alms" in the Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate), a derivative of the adjective *ele(e)inós* "rousing compassion."

Eleemosynary entered the English language in the first half of the 17th century.

Example Usage

When a church collects money to then redistribute to the poor in its neighbourhood, it performs an eleemosynary function.

Tudor Treasures

Found in the garden

Based on a story at <http://e.historyextra.com/q/12EGPVoi5laTiWYfVkrNmPcK/wv>

A family in the New Forest, Hampshire hit the headlines when in the midst of the Corona Virus lockdown last year, they unearthed a hoard of Tudor coins while weeding their garden. The treasure trove – 63 gold coins and one silver coin – dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries: some were minted from the time when Henry VIII sat on England's throne.

Unusually, some of these gold crowns are branded with the initials of Henry VIII's first three wives: "K" for Catherine of Aragon; "A" for Anne Boleyn; and "I" for Jane Seymour. According to Barrie Cook, curator of early modern and medieval coins at the British Museum, <http://e.historyextra.com/c/11Scttrrobji0UYehCDJdLBUt2UA>, no English monarch had put their spouse's initial on coins before – and, as Henry famously remarried multiple times, the initials were soon outdated.

Perhaps because of this need to restamp coinage with the initial of each new wife, the practice fell out of favour. Notably, later wives Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Katherine Parr's initials were all absent on Henry VIII's coins.

When the coins were first hidden in the ground – probably in 1540 – they were worth £24 (£14,000 today). According to Cook, this was a "great deal of money, certainly more than the annual wages of the average person".

Found under the floorboards

Based on: <https://advisor.museumsandheritage.com/news/archaeologist-unearts-600-year-old-treasure-trove-under-flooring-at-norfolk-tudor-house/>

Also, last year, an archaeologist unearthed a 600-year-old treasure trove under flooring at a Norfolk Tudor house. The sole archaeologist who worked through coronavirus lockdown in the attic rooms of Oxburgh Hall, discovered a plethora of historic artefacts underneath the floorboards, with some items dating back six centuries.

The objects were located during a fingertip archaeological search by Matt Champion while £6 million repairs were being conducted on the manor house's roof. Other more recent items discovered included an empty box of Terry's chocolates dating from during the Second World War.

The haul, which is one of the largest of its kind at a National Trust property, includes a page from a rare 15th-century illuminated manuscript. This was spotted by a builder when light caught the gold leaf and bright blue of the illuminated initials amongst the excavated underfloor rubble.

Found on the seabed



Picture Credit: "The Mary Rose Museum - Portsmouth Historic Dockyard - The Upper Decks" by ell brown is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

It wasn't until 1982 that the Mary Rose was finally raised from its watery grave on the Solent seabed. A huge team of divers, archaeologists and scientists was involved in raising the ship and the project broke new ground in diving and conservation techniques. Read about it [here](http://e.historyextra.com/c/11Scttrrobji0UYehCDJdLBUt2UA).

The Mary Rose, now on dry land, is at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, where the new Mary Rose Museum is located. The ship was named the best buried treasure in Britain by the Guardian newspaper in 2019.

A Peak at the Past

Bridlington and Quay Gazette.

AND EAST YORKSHIRE ADVERTISER.

With PICTORIAL SUPPLEMENT, Price 2d.

No. 549.

BRIDLINGTON QUAY, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1884.

(PRICE ONE PENNY.)

PAID IN ADVANCE... 1s. 1d. per Quarter
CREDIT 1s. 1d. per Quarter

EDUCATION.

CHEAP MUSICAL INSTRUCTION

BY
MR. J. MOWBRAT WILSON,
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,
Organist of Christ Church (established nearly 40 years)

PIANOFORTES TUNED.

At No. 6, MOWBRAT TERRACE,
HILDBRITHORPE.

BALEMORE HOUSE, PORT TERRACE
BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

MR. GEORGE FOX,
LATE ORGANIST OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, and
Formerly Organist of the Trinity Church, Bridlington, and Christ Church, Bridlington Quay, after 27 years' experience, has removed to his new premises, at the Quay, Pianofortes, and is singing.
Papers attended at their own residences, or invited at Port Terrace.

Terms moderate at any time in application.
Country Papers specially arranged for.

NOW OPEN.

THE HILDBRITHORPE ART GALLERY.

MR. R. HUDSON (of Sheffield),
has opened his Picture and the Visitors that he has now opened the above gallery, where he is showing a Fine Collection of
OIL PAINTINGS AND WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, &c.

ADMISSION FREE. ENTRANCE FROM NELSON STREET.

J. T. A. ALLERSTON,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
and
MARINE ARTIST.
WELLINGTON HOUSE,
(Near to Christ Church)
BRIDLINGTON QUAY.


FRITH'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF YORKSHIRE,
COMPRISING VIEWS OF
Bridlington Quay, Flamborough Head, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Flay, and Scarborough; York (the Minster, &c.), Beverley Minster, Bolton Abbey, Fountains Abbey, Ripon, Birmah, Harrogate, and other Places of Interest in the County.

A LARGE SELECTION OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS
Kept in Stock at
Charles Forster's, "Gazette" Office, Bridlington Quay,
And also at
Mrs. Purby's, King Street.

Frith's Series may be had either Mounted or Unmounted, and in several sizes.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH
ON GOLD, SILVER, VULCANITE, DENTAL ALLOY OR CELLULOID.

of the Best Quality
and Workmanship at Reasonable Prices.



ARTIFICIAL TEETH
adapted on the most approved principles.
Teeth carefully stopped with Gold and other suitable Fittings.

MISS BARTHOLOMAN'S
DEPOT.
FOR THE SALE OF LADIES' WORK
FROM FRITH'S, BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

Articles of every description are sold and Made to Order.

In Connection there is a Groceries Agency,
CIRCULATING LIBRARY, AND
Register Office for Servants.

The Well-known
BRIDLINGTON QUAY BUTTERSCOTCH.
WATCH REPAIRS.
J. E. RUTTER,
PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER
JEWELLER, &c.

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF
WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELLERY
PROPERLY & SKILFULLY REPAIRED
on the Premises.

ESTABLISHED 1880.
MRS. E. DALE,
GENERAL AND FURNISHING IRONMONGER,
12, KING STREET, BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

Deals in WASHING, WRINGING and MANGLES MACHINES, Feeders and Fire Irons.
Electro Plated Goods. Cutlery. Oldcloth Patterns, from the Best Manufacturers.
A NEW and WELL SELECTED STOCK OF TUBS—Including the wood supported ones—the Strongest Made.
LEFT IN STOCK.

ROWATT'S PATENT ANUCLAPING AND PATENT LORNE LAMPS.
The most Useful and Economic Light Producers Extant.
BATHS FOR SALE OR HIRE.

Benevolence, Pains, and Colic Cures. ALL ORDERS and REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

WILKINSON'S ENGLISH WATCHES.
J. WILKINSON,
WATCH MANUFACTURER, JEWELLER and OPTICIAN,
4, KING STREET, BRIDLINGTON QUAY.

Has one of the FINEST STOCKS OF ENGLISH MADE WATCHES IN THE KINGDOM, which cannot be surpassed for Honest Workmanship, Strength & Good Timekeeping.
Every Watch sold during the Five Years he has been in Business, has given satisfaction.

PRICES STRICTLY MODERATE.

Silver English Levers from £3. | Gold English Levers from £8.

Foreign Watches with English Movements and Hall Marked Cases, at Equally Low Prices and Guaranteed. Ladies' and Gent's Second Hand Watches from 15s. upwards.
N.B.—The Noted Watch, Clock, and Jewellery Repairing Establishment.

Electro-Plate and Fancy Goods Suitable for Presentation in great Variety.
Electro-Plated Spoons and Forks from 12s. 6d. per dozen. In all Patterns, unequalled.
Agent for the Patent Sugar Crusher, called "The Taster," 8s. 6d., 12s., and 15s. per dozen.

Spectacles to suit all Sights from 6d. per pair.
Telescopes and Opera Glasses.

JOHN LAWSON & SONS,
(Late Crump's Burlington Arcade, Removed from Promenade),
43, KING STREET, CORNER OF MAJOR STREET,
Respectfully informs the Clergy, Gentry, Visitors, and the Public generally, that they have
OPENED THE ABOVE SHOP
With a Well-selected STOCK OF BEST SHEFFIELD PLATED GOODS,
Consisting of Tea and Coffee Pots, Crust Frames; Table, Dessert, Spoons and Forks; Tea, Egg, Meat, and Cold Plates; and other useful articles. A Large Assortment of "Jewellers' Goods," Pins, Combs, Sewing Machines, and a General Assortment of Sheffield Hardware, Buttons, Razors, Pens and Pocket Knives, &c. &c.

Gold and Silver Brooches, Rings, Trinkets, Jet Brooches, Necklets, Pins, and Brooches. Ladies' Leather Bags, Baskets. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Purse. Baskets, Hair, Tooth, and Clothes Brushes. A Large Quantity of Children's Toys, &c. &c. Also an Assortment of France

JOHN RHODES,
ACCOUNTANT, Appraiser and House Agent, Rent and Debt Collector. N.E.—Im-
mediate settlements. Agent for County Life and Provident Office. Office—The Baths, North Flats, Opposite Sailors' (Detest) Bridlington Quay.

[A CARD.]

M. BOAK,
ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHER,
PIER HOUSE,
FACING THE HARBOUR.

BRIDLINGTON QUAY
EXCELSIOR ADVERTISING VAN
WILL PARADE DAILY DURING THE SEASON.

Parties requiring advertising space should make application to
W. H. COLLINS,
Wincher Cottage (near National School),
Bridlington.

SAILORS' and WORKING MEN'S CLUB
INSTITUTE.

OPEN DAILY, FROM 8 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

Terms of Membership, Four Shillings per Annum, or One Penny per Day.

N.B.—A GOOD ROOM, adapted for Lectures, Concerts, &c. TO BE LET on Reasonable Terms.

Apply to
J. W. FOSTELL, Hon. Sec.

W. GREENING,
PAPERHANGER, &c.,
PROSPER STREET, BRIDLINGTON QUAY.
DESIRS to call the attention of his Friends and the Public to his Extensive Stock of
PAPERHANGINGS,
which for price and quality cannot fail to give entire satisfaction to all who may favour him with their support.

All orders neatly executed on the shortest notice in Town or Country.

POOL'S BATHS,
QUEEN'S SQUARE, QUEEN STREET,
BRIDLINGTON QUAY.
Prices —

The Bridlington and Quay Gazette was published in the East Yorkshire coastal town of Bridlington (noted for being the 'Lobster Capital of Europe'). The title ran between 1874 and 1914. Priced at one penny (or two pence if taken with the 'pictorial supplement'), it made a weekly appearance every Saturday containing advertisements, local news and correspondence from readers. The front page of the edition from 26th July 1884 is shown above.

Circulating in 'Bridlington and district,' a feature of this title was a 'carefully arranged list of visitors during the season.' Bridlington, like its Yorkshire cousin Scarborough, was 'an important watering place,' and so the *Bridlington and Quay Gazette* provides a useful record of these summer visitors.

Source and Acknowledgement:
<https://blog.britishtownpaperarchive.co.uk/2020/12/14/new-titles-14-december-2020/>

Operation Underworld

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Underworld



Operation Underworld was the US government's code name for the cooperation of Italian and Jewish organised criminals from 1942 to 1945 to counter Axis spies and saboteurs along the US northeastern seaboard ports, avoid wartime labour union strikes, and limit theft by black-marketeers of vital war supplies and equipment.

In the first three months after the Attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, the U.S. lost 120 merchant ships to German U-boats and surface raiders in the Battle of the North Atlantic and in February 1942 the cruise ship *SS Normandie* – a captured French ship that was being refitted as a troop ship in the Port of New York – was allegedly sabotaged and sunk by arson. The Mafia boss, Albert Anastasia, claimed responsibility for the sabotage but after the war, Axis records showed no sabotage operation had existed and no evidence has ever been produced on the Allied side to indicate there had been underworld sabotage.

It seems that despite what was thought at the time, the loss of the *SS Normandie* was almost certainly just an accident.

Picture Credit: "File:SS Normandie in NYC Harbor at Pier.jpg" by *SS Normandie in NYC Harbor.jpg*; Albert Julius Szunyog derivative work: Altair78 (talk) is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Food History: Here's a short summary to whet your appetite

Main source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_food



Did you know that, perhaps two million years or so ago, the discovery of the use of fire may have created the sense of sharing food as a group? It was around that time that the 'invention' of cooking took place, and a move away from eating only nuts and berries to meat-eating started. Strangely, only 40,000 years ago, our ancestors began eating fish

too. Then, around 30,000 years ago, flour started to be used - likely processed into unleavened bread.

Moving to more modern times, today's ubiquitous "pizza" first appears in a Latin text in 997 AD from the southern Italian town of Gaeta, which claims that a tenant of certain property was required to give the bishop of Gaeta 'duodecim pizze' ('twelve pizzas') every Christmas Day, and another twelve every Easter Sunday.

In 1516 AD, William IV, Duke of Bavaria, adopted the Reinheitsgebot (purity law), perhaps the oldest food-quality regulation still in use in the 21st century, according to which the only allowed ingredients of beer are water, hops and barley-malt. Momentously, 19 years later, Spanish conquerors first saw potatoes, followed some 40 years later by British adventurers to the New World. The potato was first domesticated in the region of modern-day southern Peru and extreme northwestern Bolivia. It has since spread around the world and become a staple crop in many countries.

In the early Middle Ages, cereals remained the most important staple food. Barley, oats and rye were eaten by the poor. Standard foods included bread, porridge, and gruel. Fava beans and vegetables were important supplements to the cereal-based diet of the lower orders. Meat was expensive and prestigious. Game was common only on the tables of landowners. The most available butcher's meats were pork, chicken, and other domestic fowl. However, beef, which required greater investment in land, was less common. Cod and herring were mainstays among the northern populations; dried, smoked or salted, they made their way far inland, but a wide variety of other saltwater and freshwater fish was also eaten. The meals people ate were controlled by the seasons, geography, and religious restrictions. For most people, food supply was limited to what the nearby lands and oceans could provide. Peasants made do with what they could, primarily cooking over an open fire, in a cauldron or on a spit. Their ovens were typically outside of the home, and made on top of clay or turf. Foods were highly spiced, and many of these were expensively imported, often from outside Europe. The Middle Ages diet of the upper class and nobility included manchet bread, a variety of meats like venison, pork, and lamb, fish and shellfish, spices, cheese, fruits, and a limited number of vegetables.

The invasion of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 changed many things about what we ate. Some say that until then, English food was basically turnips and not much else. That's not true - don't forget that the Romans were here before the French and brought with them The Romans brought a variety of exotic foods, including game (rabbits, pheasants, brown hare), vegetables (cabbage, leeks, onions, turnips), fruit (grapes) and nuts (walnuts). They also introduced herbs and flavourings such as garlic, pepper, basil and thyme. But there's no doubt that the influx of the French passion for food, changed our habits forever after 1066. Just as Heston Blumenthal has done!

Picture Credit: "File:Hestonregentspark.jpg" by Brian Minkoff- London Pixels is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Eating in the fifties...

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere, perhaps Italy.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and was never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh. Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible. 'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Cooking outside was called camping. Seaweed was not a recognised food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The things we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... were elbows, hats and mobile phones.

Contributed by
Peter Nilsson

A few quaint British phrases

Sources: <http://britainandbritishness.com/2017/01/20-quaint-british-phrases.html>
<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/88-british-phrases-that-confuse-anybody-who-didn-t-grow-up-in-the-uk-a3686021.html>

A little bird told me

Meaning to receive information from a secret informant, the root source is thought to be from the Bible, Ecclesiastes 10-20. William Shakespeare makes reference to it in Henry IV, Part 2: *As far as France: I heard a bird so sing, Whose musick, to my thinking, pleas'd the king.*

A few sandwiches short of a picnic

Someone that lacks common sense might be described, unkindly, as *a few sandwiches short of a picnic*. The phrase was first documented in the BBC's "Lenny Henry Christmas Special" in 1987.

A turn up for the books

It means an unexpected stroke of good luck.

A fly in the ointment

Meaning a small defect that impairs the value of something, its origins are from the Bible, Ecclesiastes 10:1 (King James Version): *Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.*

A nod is as good as a wink

This 16th-century English phrase is shortened from "a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse". It means that a subtle signal is sufficient to indicate agreement to undertake something borderline illegal or an understanding of sexual innuendo. Monty Python famously played with the phrase in a sketch known as "Nudge Nudge", where Eric Idle uses the modified phrase "a nod's as good as a wink to a blind bat."

A sight for sore eyes

This means a welcome or pleasing sight. It was first recorded in 1738 by the Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, and poet Jonathan Swift in A complete collection of genteel and ingenious conversation: *The Sight of you is good for sore eyes.*

Bob's your uncle

The British equivalent to "Hey presto!" or "Et voila!" This phrase is used to describe a process which seems more difficult than it actually is.

Bog-standard

Something that is "bog-standard" is completely ordinary with no frills, whistles, embellishments, or add-ons. Its origins are somewhat unclear, but a "bog" is another word for a toilet in British slang, adding to the connotations that something "bog-standard" is unglamorous and unspecial.

For all intents and purposes

Meaning in a practical sense or in every important respect. It originates from English Law, and first appeared in an Act adopted under Henry VIII in 1547.

Spend a penny

This we all know is a British euphemism for using a public lavatory. In the 19th century, a door lock in pay toilets required a penny to be inserted to enter the chamber. The price has gone up since then!

As keen as mustard

This means to be very enthusiastic, eager to do or want something. In 1672, "as keen as mustard" appeared in William Walker's books *Phraseologia Anglo-Latina*.

Like a fish out of water

Someone in an unfamiliar and often uncomfortable situation. Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, used the phrase: *...a monk when he is cloisterless; Is like to a fish that is waterless*

Eat humble pie

To submissively admit one's fault or make an apology. In the 14th century, nobility feasting on game—especially deer—would leave the heart, liver, and entrails for the humble servants.

Pardon my French

It means to excuse one's swearing or bad language. It comes from the 19th century fad for using French expressions in conversation and apologising for it afterwards.

Storm in a teacup

This is simply an over-reaction to a small or unimportant incident. The origins of the phrase probably date as far back as 52BC, with Cicero's *De Legibus* which contains the Latin phrase "*Excitabat fluctus in simpulo*", meaning the same as our modern-day "storm in a teacup" or the American version "tempest in a teapot".

Chinese whispers

Chinese whispers are rumours that have been circulated and watered down until they only vaguely resemble the truth. The phrase comes from the game with the same name, commonly played at children's parties. A phrase is whispered around a circle, and the last person to hear the phrase has to guess what the initial phrase was.

Fell off the back of a lorry

The phrase is a euphemism for something that is acquired without payment ... if you know what we mean. Nudge nudge. Wink wink... (it's been obtained fraudulently, stolen, pinched).

Flogging a dead horse

A fruitless attempt to get more out of something that is dead or has expired; to try to arouse interest in something that is a hopeless cause.

Full of beans

This is used to describe someone that's energetic, lively, or enthusiastic. might be described as "full of beans."

Stone the crows

There have been a few attempts to explain the origin of this odd phrase. The more prosaic suggestion — that it alludes to the practice of throwing stones at crows — is much more likely. The phrase appears to have originated in Australia.

Give me a tinkle on the blower

This means, quite simply, "Give me a call" or "ring me." The phrase is sometimes shortened to "give me a tinkle." "Tinkle" refers to a phone's ring, while "blower" is slang for telephone and refers to the device that predated phones on Naval ships. Sailors would blow down a pipe to those below, where a whistle at the end of the pipe would sound to spark attention.

Gone for a Burton

This refers to a person who has died or to something that is broken, the origin of the term is somewhat of a mystery although some say it means something to do with going to Burton's the tailor for a new suit etc.

Hanky-panky

Mischiefous behaviour, dishonest or shady activity. Also a term for sexual shenanigans. It was first recorded in 1841 in the first edition of London's *Punch* magazine: *Only a little hanky-panky, my lud. The people likes it; they loves to be cheated before their faces.*

See a man about a dog

This means excusing oneself from company whilst concealing the true purpose. The 1866 play *Flying Scud* by Irish playwright Dion Boucicault is thought to contain the earliest known use: *Excuse me, Mr Quail, I can't stop; I've got to see a man about a dog.*

Sod's law

A British axiom that boils down to the idea that: "If anything can go wrong, then it definitely will go wrong." "Sod's law" is often used to explain bad luck or freakish acts of misfortune.

Spanner in the works

An event that disrupts the natural, pre-planned order of events could be described as a "spanner in the works." It describes the mayhem caused when something is recklessly thrown into the intricate gears and workings of a machine.

Facts about Napoleon Bonaparte you might not know



Picture Credit: "Napoleon Bonaparte" by foundin_a_attic is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Napoleon Bonaparte died on 5th May 1821 on the island of St. Helena in the south Atlantic. His military prowess and leadership have been studied throughout the years, and he is regarded as a battlefield genius, but people have also been fascinated with the life – and quirks – of the first emperor of France. Australia's Readers Digest has put together

15 things you probably didn't know about Napoleon, which you can read about in an article at: <https://www.readersdigest.com.au/true-stories-lifestyle/history/15-facts-napoleon-bonaparte> Here are some of them:

- He wrote a romance novel titled *Clisson et Eugénie*, which was a thinly veiled autobiography about his relationship with Desirée Clary.
- Often credited with originating the phrase "a picture is worth 1,000 words," what Napoleon actually said, as quoted in *L'Arche de Noé*, was: "A good sketch is better than a long speech."
- Although Napoleon wanted to be buried on the banks of the Seine, when his remains were returned to France in 1840, he was interred with other French military leaders in Les Invalides in Paris.
- Some speculate that Napoleon had a photographic memory and could instantly recall vast amounts of information, such as troop numbers and map details.
- Napoleon was a battlefield genius. He began his military career as an artillery commander and was an expert on military technology. He was an innovator in his development of the visual (signal or semaphore) telegraph for long-distance communication, but during the Napoleonic wars, the British were more advanced than the French in some military devices, such as explosive rockets.
- While on a campaign in Egypt, Napoleon learned that his wife Joséphine was having an affair and wrote a distraught letter to his brother. The letter was intercepted by the British and published in newspapers, causing Napoleon great embarrassment.
- Napoleon jailed 13 Catholic cardinals for not attending his second marriage. And Napoleon's officers kidnapped Pope Pius VII and held him captive for five years.
- It's illegal for anyone to give a pig the name *Napoleon* in France.

A guest is ordering at a restaurant, "Do you think you could bring me what that gentleman over there is having?"

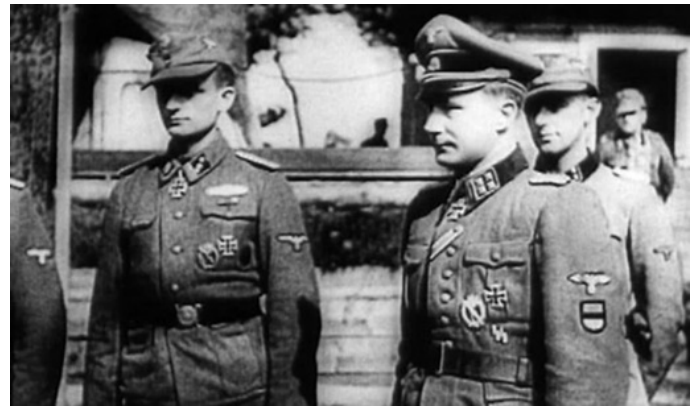
The waiter looks at him sternly, "No sir, I cannot do that. I'm very sure he intends to eat it himself."

Patient: Oh Doctor, help me...I'm starting to forget things.

Doctor: Since when have you had this condition?

Patient: What condition?

A surprise moment at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials



Nuno Oliveira wrote on Quora.com (with the picture as above, rights duly acknowledged) that it is almost completely unknown to the general public and a great surprise about the trial: part of the guarding of prisoners and facilities was carried out by Baltic soldiers ex-Waffen SS who by the time were serving with the Americans.

See: <https://www.quora.com/What-was-the-greatest-single-surprise-moment-at-the-Nuremberg-War-Crimes-trials/answer/Nuno-Oliveira-88>

Do you remember the Temperance Building Society?

As a sixteen-year-old articled clerk in the mid-1950s, now I was sent to Worthing with a senior audit clerk and started to learn the job of being an auditor. The destination was the Temperance Building Society. Frankly, I can't remember too much about the auditing assignment, and even if I could remember, professional etiquette prevents any sharing of what I found or learned, but what I can tell you is that it was not exciting work.

Over the years, I often wondered what happened to the Temperance Building Society and, out of curiosity, I looked it up the other day. The full name was the Temperance Permanent Building Society. It merged with the Bedfordshire Building Society in 1974 and was renamed Gateway Building Society with its Registered Head Office being in Regent Street, London. The Administrative Headquarters remained in Worthing, West Sussex. Gateway itself was taken over by the Woolwich in 1987 and after becoming a PLC, Woolwich itself became part of Barclays Bank in the 2000s.

In my research, I came across an organisation called Graces' Guide, the leading source of historical information on industry and manufacturing in Britain. Their web publication contains 144,680 pages of information and 230,362 images on early companies, their products and the people who designed and built them found something about the Temperance Permanent Building Society, from 1891 – long before my time! If you go to: https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Temperance_Permanent_Building_Society you will find that the Society was established in 1854 and by 1891 was offering shares paying an astonishing 4% pa in interest.

Ah, those were the days.

Grimm News

Source: <https://www.onthisday.com/people/jacob-grimm>



Picture Credit: "Grimm's Fairy Tales - Grimm Brothers" by graffiti living is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Snow White was included in the first edition of *Grimms' Fairy Tales* and numbered Tale 53. The Grimms completed their final revision of the story in 1854. The fairy tale features such elements as the magic mirror, the poisoned apple, the glass coffin, and the characters of the Evil Queen and the Seven Dwarfs. The seven dwarfs were first given individual names in the 1912 Broadway play *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and then given different names in Walt Disney's 1937 film.

Jacob Grimm, also known as the discoverer of *Grimm's Law of Linguistics*, was more generally an academic and lexicographer. Together with his brother Wilhelm, Jacob was the instigator of the mammoth "Deutsches Wörterbuch", the largest German dictionary ever compiled. Begun in 1838, it was published in parts from 1852. Unfinished at the brothers' death, it was finally completed by later scholars in 1961. Jacob Grimm is also the author of *Grimm's Law* (also known as the First Germanic Sound Shift). First observed by Rasmus Christian Rask, Grimm was the first to publicise it fully.

The Ape-Man Hoax

Sources: <https://www.onthisday.com/articles/pitdown-man-skull-hoax>
http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1937349_1937350_1937363,00.html

Hailed as one of the Crimes of the Century, the March 2007 *Time* article (*The Fake Ape-Man*, 1912) described a strange claim to fame by a Sussex solicitor. The "first Englishman" he was proudly called when the anthropologist Charles Dawson found his skull in 1911. For decades, *Pitdown Man* was cited along with Neanderthal man and Heidelberg man as an example of early hominid life in Europe, aged about 375,000 years.

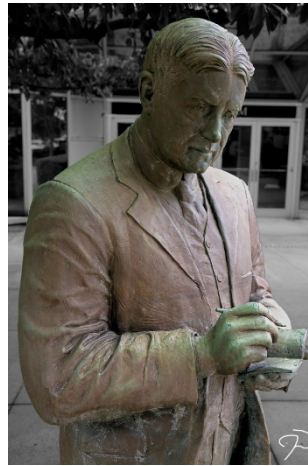


In 1953, the fragments, including a jawbone, were tested: they did not contain enough fluorine to be the age that Dawson had claimed; worse, the jawbone was that of a 10-year-old orangutan, its teeth ground down to simulate age, and a crude chemical wash applied to the bone to make it appear ancient. No one knows who perpetrated the hoax: Dawson had died in 1916. Very quickly, however, *Pitdown* became a synonym for phoney; and England's claim to antiquity was cut short by several hundred thousand years.

O Henry

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O._Henry
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/O-Henry>



William Sydney (born Sidney) Porter (1862–1910), better known by his pen name O. Henry, was an American short story writer. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, and later moved to Texas in 1882. It was there that he met his wife, Athol Estes. In 1902, after the death of his wife, Porter moved to New York, where he soon remarried. It was while he was in New York that Porter's most intensive writing period occurred, with Porter writing 381 short stories.

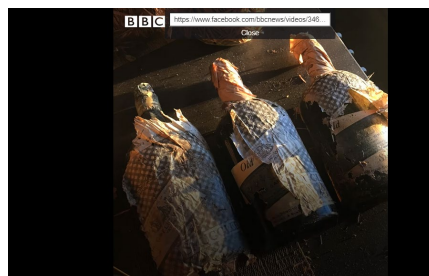
Picture Credit: "O. Henry" by Jim Dollar is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

While in prison on a charge of embezzlement from his bank employer, he began writing short stories to support his young daughter Margaret. His first published story was "*Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking*" (1899). He used a pseudonym, Olivier Henry, only once and changed his pen name to O. Henry, not wanting his readers to know he was in jail. He published 12 stories while in prison. After serving three years of the five-year sentence, he was released for good behaviour.

Porter's works include "*The Gift of the Magi*", "*The Duplicity of Hargraves*", and "*The Ransom of Red Chief*". His stories are known for their surprise endings and witty narration, romanticising the commonplace—in particular, the life of ordinary people in New York City. His stories expressed the effect of coincidence on character through humour, grim or ironic, and often had surprise endings, a device that became identified with his name. Porter also wrote poetry and non-fiction.

100-year-old whisky bottles hidden in walls of US home

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-55323840>



A US couple carrying out restoration work at their home found something they didn't expect, hidden behind wooden planks - lots of 100-year-old whisky bottles, which are worth a small fortune.

In 1922, the United States government banned the production, transport and sale of alcohol across the country. The nationwide ban was known as the *prohibition era* and lasted for 13 years.

Today, the secrets of those who tried to evade and profit from the alcohol ban are still being uncovered. You can watch a video ([here](#)) as the ancient and historic booze is discovered.

The picture above is a screen print from the video.

A sticky situation: The Christmas pudding palaver of 1952

Source: <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a-sticky-situation-the-christmas- pudding-palaver-of-1952>



Picture Credit: "The Empire Christmas Pudding: A Christmas Pudding Recipe / Recette: pouding de Noël de l'Empire" by BiblioArchives / LibraryArchives is licensed under CC BY 2.0

The original recipe for the *Empire Christmas Pudding*, as it was originally known, was published in an advertisement developed by London ad agency H. P. Benson in 1925 and financed by the Australian Dried Fruits Board. It promoted dried fruits from Australia and, in following years, produce from other outposts of the British Empire.

New regulations in 1952 required all imported Christmas puddings to list and label their weight and ingredients. The pudding problem was taken seriously, and unlabelled puddings could not be sold and could potentially result in prosecution, although, so far as is known, nobody suffered that fate.

It was amid growing concerns about the correct licensing and labelling of the famous pudding that a countrywide survey was undertaken in 1952. Plymouth came out at the top of the Christmas pudding league table with 1,617 homemade Christmas puddings and 1,536 imported Christmas puddings, but they were all listed with ingredients. Lancaster languished in the 'Christmas pudding spotlight' with 1,152 unlabelled, imported Christmas puddings.

The origins of the Christmas pudding can be traced back to medieval times, but it wasn't until the Victorian era that the Christmas pudding we know and love took on the recognisable form we know today. In a 2012 festive blog, Rebecca Simpson explained that in the 1940s/1950s, the Christmas pudding was hot debate. Committees and policy on Christmas Pudding Labelling was brought in after World War II to ensure that Christmas puddings did not go below the net weight of 17oz (with 1oz leeway) and that they contained the right ingredients — such as having no less than 15% added sugar, minimum oils and fats (not less than 9%) and mixed dried vine fruits (not less than 40%).

A brief history of Boxing Day

Sources: <https://www.historyextra.com/period/prehistoric/brief-history-boxing-day-christmas-traditions/>
<http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1868711,00.html>
<https://www.trafalgar.com/real-word/brief-history-boxing-day-christmas-tradition/>



Picture Credit: "Boxing Day Sale, Manchester" by HelenHates Peas is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

Boxing Day, which had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with boxing, is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day, thus being the second day of Christmastide. Though it originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor, today, Boxing Day is less about gifting boxes and more about shopping for bargains in the sales in the High Street shops or Shopping Malls.

Boxing Day originated in the United Kingdom and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. Boxing Day is on 26th December, although the attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place either on that day or one or two days later.

The best clue to Boxing Day's origins can be found in the song "Good King Wenceslas." According to the Christmas carol, Wenceslas, who was Duke of Bohemia in the early 10th century, was surveying his land on St. Stephen's Day (26th December) — when he saw a poor man gathering wood in the middle of a snowstorm. Moved, the King gathered up surplus food and wine and carried them through the blizzard to the peasant's door.

King Wenceslas didn't start Boxing Day, but the Church of England might have. During Advent, Anglican parishes displayed a box into which churchgoers put their monetary donations. On the day after Christmas, the boxes were broken open and their contents distributed among the poor, thus giving rise to the term Boxing Day. Well, maybe.

Boxing Day has been a national holiday in England, Wales, Ireland and Canada since 1871. The annual Boxing Day fox hunts — which were held all over the English countryside for hundreds of years — were imperilled in 2005 when Parliament banned the traditional method of using dogs to kill the prey.

The Irish still refer to the holiday as *St. Stephen's Day*, and they have their own tradition called hunting the wren, in which boys fasten a fake wren to a pole and parade it through town. Also known as *Wren Day*, the tradition supposedly dates to 1601, to the Battle of Kinsale.

In parts of Europe, such as Catalonia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Scandinavia, Boxing Day is celebrated as a second Christmas Day. In the Bahamas, Boxing Day is celebrated with a street parade and festival called *Junkanoo*, in which traditional rhythmic dancers called gombey fill the streets with their elaborate costumes and headdresses. It sounds fairly energetic, but a good way to work off the excesses of Christmas Day food.

An Australian soldier arrives at the Western front in World War One.

Next morning, he reports to the commanding officer.

"Good to see you Private Bruce, we only need brave soldiers here - so tell me have you come here to die?"

Bruce replies: **"Nah Mate I came Yes to die".**

How Christmas was nearly lost

Sources and Excerpted from: • <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puritans>
• https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/carols_history.shtml
• <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20141219-when-christmas-carols-were-banned>
• <https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/victorian-christmas-what-like-dickens-royals-turkey-tree/>



Picture Credit: [Crown Copyright acknowledged] "Pictured are Chelsea Pensioners taking part in the annual Soldiers' Charity Carol Service in The Royal Hospital Chelsea." by Defence Images is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but they weren't Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, and were sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22nd December. Christmas, rejoicing the birth of Jesus, then started to be celebrated at the same time as the solstice, so the early Christians started singing Christian songs instead of pagan ones.

By the late 1630s, Puritans were in alliance with the growing commercial world, with the parliamentary opposition to the royal prerogative, and with the Scottish Presbyterians with whom they had much in common. Consequently, they became a major political force in England and came to power due to the First English Civil War (1642–1646).

Not many people know that during the Puritans' rule of England, a period marked by limited religious toleration, there was no longer a legal requirement to attend the parish church on Sundays (for both Protestants and Catholics). Celebrating on 25th December was forbidden, as was singing yuletide songs. People should dress modestly, and participating in happy things like dancing, theatricals and enjoyment were regarded as sinful.

Oliver Cromwell, the statesman responsible for leading the parliamentary army (and later Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland), was on a mission to cleanse the nation of its most decadent excesses. He claimed that the Church of England had not been fully reformed and that it should become more Protestant. At the top of his removal list was Christmas and all its festive trappings. Cromwell and his fellow Puritans regarded joyous singing and related Christmas festivities as not only abhorrent but sinful. In 1644, an Act of Parliament effectively banned the festival, and in June 1647, the Long Parliament passed an ordinance confirming the abolition of the feast of Christmas.

But the voices and festive spirits of English men, women and children were not to be so easily silenced. For the nearly two decades when the ban on Christmas was in place, semi-clandestine religious services marking Christ's nativity continued to be held on 25th December, and people continued to sing in secret. Christmas carols essentially went underground. Carols would not be silenced.

It's true: Kangaroos can communicate with humans

Sources and Excerpted from: • <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/12/16/whats-up-skip-kangaroos-really-can-talk-to-us.html>
• <https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9055767/amp/Kangaroos-use-intense-gaze-communicate-humans-study-says.html>
• <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/dec/16/whats-that-skip-researchers-kangaroos-communicate-talk-people> • <https://youtu.be/NCRqoa2vNQk>



Picture Credit: "Chatting With a Kangaroo" by MTSofan is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Research shows that non-domesticated animals such as the iconic Australian marsupial can seek to engage with humans to help them solve problems, according to an [article](#) published on the University of Sydney website in December 2020.

Animals that have never been domesticated, such as kangaroos, can intentionally communicate with humans, challenging the notion that this behaviour is usually restricted to domesticated animals like dogs, horses or goats, a first of its kind study from the [University of Roehampton](#) in London and the [University of Sydney](#) has found. The research paper was published in [Biology Letters](#).

The research revealed that kangaroos gazed at a human when trying to access food that had been put in a closed plastic container. The kangaroos used 'gazes' to communicate with the human after trying and failing to open the container themselves, a behaviour that is usually expected for domesticated animals like dogs. Even horses are resigned to using powerful eye contact due to their inability to point with arms or legs like primates. Now, this study shows kangaroos – marsupial mammals that have never been domesticated – do the same.



Picture Credit: "Skipper the Bush Kangaroo Jigsaw" by thenoodleator is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The research was done on a small scale, interacting with just 11 kangaroos from various species. It was the first research of its kind conducted on marsupials.

The classic TV show Skipper, about a child speaking with a highly intelligent kangaroo, might not be as fictional as we once thought.

How 'A Farming Dick Barton' became 'The Archers'

Sources: <http://www.thearchers.co.uk/history/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Archers



The Archers is a British radio soap opera that has come a long way since its launch in 1950 by Godfrey Baseley. Starting as a pilot series of five episodes, it ran for a week starting from 29th May 1950. Initially, broadcast to the English Midlands, once the BBC got hold of the recordings, they decided that they wanted to run with it nationally. Since then, nearly 20,000 episodes have been aired, and it is the world's longest-running drama.

It was initially billed as *an everyday story of country folk* and now, as a *contemporary drama in a rural setting*. At the start, the farm was called Wimberton but has since changed to Brookfield. The programme name 'A Farming Dick Barton' later became 'The Archers.'

Popularity

To say that The Archers is popular is an understatement. In February 2019, a panel of 46 broadcasting industry experts, listed The Archers as the second-greatest radio programme of all time. Partly established with the aim of educating farmers following World War II, The Archers soon became a popular source of entertainment for the population at large, attracting nine million listeners by 1953.

One thing led to another, and the BBC moved the timing of The Archers to 6:45 in the evening to allow more people to tune in to the program. Back then, it ran five times a week, featuring episodes that were fifteen minutes long. The time was cut to 12½ minutes in 1998. In 1964, BBC realised that the demand for the show was huge, and they began airing repeat shows on the subsequent afternoons to help people catch up on the dramatic episodes. Before then, listeners could catch up by listening to the weekly omnibus edition.

The Setting

The Archers' story is set in the fictional village of Ambridge in the (again fictional) county of Borsetshire, in England. Borsetshire is situated between what are, in reality, the contiguous counties of Worcestershire and Warwickshire, south of Birmingham in The Midlands. Ambridge is possibly based on the village of Cutnall Green, although various other villages claim to be the inspiration for Ambridge. The Bull, Ambridge's pub, is modelled on The Old Bull in Inkberrow, whereas Hanbury's St Mary the Virgin is often used as a stand-in for Ambridge's parish church, St Stephen's.

The Archers Characters (or rather, some of them)

It's a long story, so please try to keep up. To make it easy, it's only a fraction of the story and focuses only on part of the Archer family...

Jill Archer née Patterson (born 3 October 1930) (Patricia Greene) is the widow of Phil Archer and matriarch of the family. She was his second wife, and with him had four children: twins Shula and Kenton and David and Elizabeth. She is busily involved in village life and supports her children by taking on child-minding duties. Jill is an active member of the Women's Institute, opened up a holiday cottage business, and is teaching her grandson, Josh, how to keep bees.

Jill has a less traditional outlook on life than her late husband, who had been a Justice of the Peace, reflected in her opposition to both fox hunting and private education. Following a burglary at Glebe Cottage, she was asked by David and Ruth to return to Brookfield, which subsequently became permanent. In 2019, she surprised her family by announcing that she had met a new man - Leonard Berry, a widower who she met while visiting the Laurels. Since then, Jill and Leonard have enjoyed a cosy companionship, complicated slightly when Leonard thought Jill wanted them to get married - when she made it clear that she had no desire to have another husband, they happily resumed their relationship.

Christine Barford née Archer, formerly Johnson (born 21 December 1931) (Lesley Saweard, formerly played by Pamela Mant and briefly Joyce Gibbs), is the younger sister of Phil. A skilled horsewoman, she ran the local riding stables for many years. In the early 1950s, she was a close friend of Grace Fairbrother who later married her brother Phil. Christine married Paul Johnson; it was discovered she was infertile, and they adopted a son, Peter.

In the mid-1970s Paul deserted the family, and he was later killed in a helicopter crash in Germany. In 1979 Christine married George Barford, a gamekeeper, which was seen as a class transgression, even though her uncle, Tom Forrest, was also a gamekeeper, and colleague of her future husband. Her marriage to George lasted over 25 years and was happy, but latterly they experienced difficult times as their house burned down due to an arson attack by Clive Horrobin. George died peacefully whilst they were waiting for the house to be re-built. Christine lived with Peggy Woolley for some years but in 2018 suffered a fall and went into The Laurels initially for respite but is intending to take up a place in an assisted living flat. She lost her capital in a fraud perpetrated by associates of Matt Crawford.

Peggy Woolley, née Perkins, formerly Archer (born Margaret Perkins, 13 November 1924) (June Spencer, briefly played by Thelma Rogers), is the widow of Phil's elder brother, Jack Archer, and Jack Woolley. When married to Jack Archer, they managed (and later owned) the Bull. After many years of close friendship, Peggy married Jack Woolley. Peggy has two daughters, Jennifer and Lillian, and a son, Tony, by her first husband. She is indulgent of her grandchildren and has provided several of them with significant financial support. Although she was something of a left-wing firebrand in her youth, she is now very conservative, living in The Lodge, which was the gatehouse for Grey Gables.

Jennifer Aldridge, (née Archer, formerly Travers-Macy) (born Jennifer Elizabeth Archer, 1945) (Angela Piper) is the older daughter of Peggy Archer (and step-daughter of Jack Woolley). She is married to Brian Aldridge.

Well, that was a whistlestop 'tour', wasn't it. It comes from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_The_Archers_characters, where there's much more waiting for you to catch up on. Angela Piper joined the cast of The Archers in June 1966. She featured in an article on 19th December 2020 (page 58), in the Telegraph Magazine, in which she said: "Part of the show's magic is that it's comforting, like an old pair of carpet slippers."

For Archers Addicts

What was the "real" reason why Grace Archer was killed in 1955? What happened to Doris Archer's secret sister? Why did radio chiefs complain about Dan Archer's "indelicacies"? What was the plot that nearly killed Peggy Archer? Who threatened resignation over Shula's sex life? Why was Princess Margaret unhappy at Grey Gables?

If you are an Archers addict, you may want to read *The Archers: The History of Radio's Most Famous Programme 50th Anniversary Edition Paperback – 11 May 2000*, by William Smethurst (Author), available from Amazon [here](#).

Picture Credit: (above) "File:Archers studios Sep 2017.jpg" by Chemical Engineer is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

The Monroe Doctrine – what is it?

Sources and excerpts from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monroe_Doctrine
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Monroe-Doctrine>



Picture Credit: "5 James Monroe" by the US Department of State is marked with CC PDM 1.0

The *Monroe Doctrine* was the cornerstone of United States protectionist foreign policy that opposed European colonialism in the Americas. It argued that any intervention in the politics of the Americas by foreign powers was a potentially hostile act against the United States. It began in 1823, although the term "Monroe Doctrine" itself was not coined until 1850.

When it was issued, it was a time when nearly all Latin American colonies of Spain and Portugal had achieved or were at the point of gaining independence from the Portuguese and Spanish Empires. It stated that further efforts by various European states to take control of any independent state in the Americas would be viewed as "the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." At the same time, the doctrine noted that the U.S. would recognise and not interfere with existing European colonies nor meddle in the internal affairs of European countries.

The Doctrine gained its name from President James Monroe, who enunciated it during his seventh annual State of the Union Address to Congress. He said the New World and the Old World were to remain distinctly separate spheres of influence. The separation intended to avoid situations that could make the New World a battleground for the Old-World powers so that the U.S. could exert its influence undisturbed. By the end of the 19th century, Monroe's declaration was seen as a defining moment in the foreign policy of the United States and one of its longest-standing tenets. The intent and impact of the doctrine persisted for more than a century, with only small variations, and would be invoked by many U.S. statesmen and several U.S. presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

Great Britain shared the general objective of the Monroe Doctrine and even wanted to declare a joint statement to keep other European powers from further colonizing the New World. The British feared their trade with the New World would be harmed if the other European powers further colonised it. In fact, for many years after the doctrine took effect, Britain, through the Royal Navy, was the only nation enforcing it, as the U.S. lacked sufficient naval capability. The full document of the Monroe Doctrine, written chiefly by future-President and then-Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, is long and couched in diplomatic language, but Monroe made four basic points:

- (1) the United States would not interfere in the internal affairs of or the wars between European powers;
- (2) the United States recognised and would not interfere with existing colonies and dependencies in the Western Hemisphere;
- (3) the Western Hemisphere was closed to future colonisation; and
- (4) any attempt by a European power to oppress or control any nation in the Western Hemisphere would be viewed as a hostile act against the United States.



A police officer called the station on his radio.
 "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."
 "Have you arrested the woman?"
 "Not yet. The floor's still wet."

Politicians

While stitching a rather deep cut on the hand of a 75-year old farmer whose hand had been caught in the squeeze gate while moving cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man.

Eventually, the topic got round to politicians and their role as our leaders.

The old farmer said, "well as I see it most politicians are 'post turtles'."

Being unfamiliar with the term, the doctor asked the old man what a *post turtle* was .

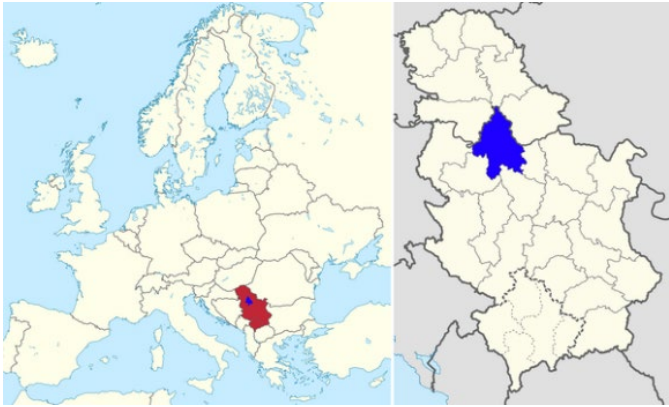
The old man said, "when you're driving down a country road, and you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top , that's a *post turtle*."

The old farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face , so he continue to explain: "you know the *post turtle* didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do when he's up there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function , and you just wonder what kind of dumb person put him up there to begin with."

The doctor thought to himself: "Hmm, that's the best explanation of a politician I've ever heard."

Serbia and its capital city

Excerpted from: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Belgrade>
<http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/cities/belgrade/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Serbia



Picture Credit: "File:Belgrade in Serbia and Europe.png" by Zoupan is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Belgrade (Serbo-Croatian Beograd: "White Fortress") is the capital city of Serbia. It lies at the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers in the north-central part of the country. To the north and west of Belgrade lies the Pannonian Basin, which includes the great grain-growing region of Vojvodina. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe and the only one built on the confluence of two rivers.

The city is located at the convergence of three historically important routes of travel between Europe and the Balkans:

- an east-west route along the Danube River valley from Vienna to the Black Sea;
- another that runs westward along the valley of the Sava river towards Trieste and northern Italy; and
- a third running southeast along the valleys of the Morava and Vardar rivers to the Aegean Sea.

The most significant landmark in Belgrade is the Beogradska Tvrđava – an imposing fortress at the confluence of the Danube and the Sava rivers. The fort is a testament to the city's strategic importance to the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Serbian and Austrian empires.

Brief History of Belgrade: There is evidence of Stone Age settlements in the area. The city grew up around an ancient fortress on the Kalemegdan headland. The first fortress was built by the Celts in the 4th century BCE and was known by the Romans as Singidunum. It was destroyed by the Huns in 442 and changed hands among the Sarmatians, Goths, and Gepidae before it was recaptured by the Byzantine emperor Justinian. It was later held by the Franks and the Bulgars, and in the 11th century became a frontier town of Byzantium. In 1284 it came under Serbian rule, and in 1402 it became the capital of Serbia. The Ottoman Turks besieged the city in 1440, and after 1521 it was in their hands except for three periods of occupation by the Austrians (1688–90, 1717–39, and 1789–91). In 1804, Belgrade became the Serbian capital during 1807–13, but the Turks recaptured it. The Serbs were given control of the citadel in 1867 when Belgrade once more became the capital of Serbia. From 1921 Belgrade was the capital of the three successive Yugoslav states. The city's rapid population growth since World War II resulted primarily from the migration from rural areas of Serbia following industrialisation. Most of the inhabitants are Serbs; the largest non-Serb groups are Croats and Montenegrins. Since World War II, Belgrade has become an industrial city that produces motors, tractors and combines, machine tools, electrical equipment, chemicals, textiles, and building materials. It is the largest commercial centre in Serbia.

Since ancient times, the city has been known by many names – Alba Bulgariae, Alabanandor, Nandoralba, Nandorfejarvar, Griechisch Weissenburg, Alba Graeca, Castelbiancho... but the name of the fortress that, when looked at from the Pannonian side and the rivers appear white, remained until today: WHITEcity (BEOgrad – Belgrade). Today, Belgrade is a modern European city with a population of about 1.7 million people.

Brief History of Serbia: The Romans conquered parts of Serbia in the 2nd century BC, in 167 BC when conquering the West, establishing the province of Illyricum and the rest of Central Serbia in 75 BC, establishing the province of Moesia. Srem was conquered by 9 BC and Bačka and Banat in 106 AD after the Trajan's Dacian Wars. Interestingly, seventeen Roman Emperors were born in present-day Serbia. By the early 6th century South Slavs, present throughout the Byzantine Empire in large numbers, merged with the native population (Dacians, Illyrians, Thracians) and assimilated them, forming the base of the ethnicity of modern Serbs.

Serbia, officially the Republic of Serbia, is a landlocked country situated at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe in the southern Pannonian Plain and the central Balkans. Its population is a little over 8.7 million. It can trace its roots back to Yugoslavia, which came into existence after World War I in 1918 and constituted the first union of the South Slavic people as a sovereign state, following centuries in which the region had been part of the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary. Its name was changed to the *Kingdom of Yugoslavia* on 3rd October 1929. Then came World War II. Yugoslavia was invaded by the Axis powers on 6 April 1941. In 1943, a Democratic Federal Yugoslavia was proclaimed by the Partisan resistance, and in November 1945, the monarchy was abolished. More name changes followed: Yugoslavia was renamed the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in 1946 when a communist government was established. In 1963, the country was renamed again as the *Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*. After an economic and political crisis in the 1980s and the rise of nationalism, Yugoslavia broke up along its republics' borders into five countries, leading to the Yugoslav Wars. Eventually, after several attempts to achieve some form of federacy, Montenegro and Serbia each became independent states in 2006, while Kosovo proclaimed its independence from Serbia in 2008.

Some famous Serbs (apologies for not naming all of them) include:

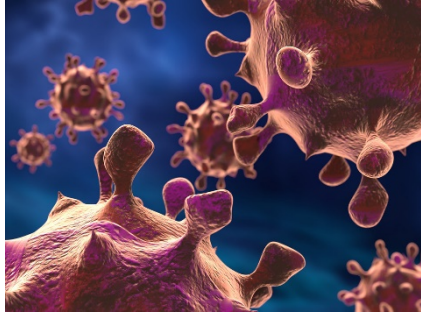
- **Nikola Tesla:** this renowned genius of the 20th century is responsible for many discoveries and inventions. Some of the most famous ones are the first hydroelectric power plant, alternating current, the induction motor, the system for the production and distribution of electricity and over 700 other patents.
- **Novak Đoković:** one of the world's best tennis players, apart from being one of the most famous Serbs, he has been proclaimed the best athlete of the year a number of times.
- **Karl Malden:** in Serbia Malden as known as the first Serb (actually of Serbian-Czech descent) who managed to win the prestigious award of the American film academy – the Oscar. If you were to ask anyone in Hollywood whether they knew someone named Mladen Sekulović, they would probably say they had never heard of him. But if you were to ask people about Karl Malden, you would get a smile, a nod and a "yes"! And how could you not?
- **Mihajlo Idvorski Pupin:** one of the founders of the NASA agency, who together with Nikola Tesla and Milutin Milanković, is considered one of the greatest and most brilliant Serbian minds.
- **Volter Bogdanić:** a three-time Pulitzer prize winner, Bogdanić embarked on journalism in 1973 and got the first of these prestigious awards working as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal.
- **Dušan Čarls Simić:** is one of the most authentic *avant-garde* poets, a Pulitzer prize winner and the owner of the US Poet Laureate title.

What is a Virus? Researched by Martin Pollins

Excerpted from:

<https://theconversation.com/what-is-a-virus-how-do-they-spread-how-do-they-make-us-sick-133437>

- <https://microbiologysociety.org/why-microbiology-matters/what-is-microbiology/viruses.html>
- <https://www.immunology.org/public-information/bitesized-immunology/pathogens-and-disease/viruses-introduction>



Picture Credit: "bacteria/viruses" by johnvoo_photographer is licensed under CC BY 2.0

The Microbiology Society explains that:

'Viruses are the smallest of all the microbes. They are said to be so small that 500 million rhinoviruses (which cause the common cold) could fit onto the head of a pin. They are unique because they are only alive and able to multiply inside the cells of other living things. The cell they multiply in is called the host cell. A virus is made up of a core of genetic material, either DNA or RNA, surrounded by a protective coat called a capsid which is made up of protein. Sometimes the capsid is surrounded by an additional spikey coat called the envelope. Viruses are capable of latching onto host cells and getting inside them.'

John Goulding, Imperial College London, UK, defines a virus as:

'an obligate intracellular parasite. Each viral particle, or virion, consists of a single nucleic acid, RNA or DNA, encoding the viral genome surrounded by a protein coat, and is capable of replication only within the living cells of bacteria, animals or plants. Viruses are classified into different orders and families by consideration of the type of nucleic acid present (RNA or DNA), whether the nucleic acid is single- or double-stranded, and the presence or absence of an envelope.'

There is a one-page introduction to viruses written by John Goulding on the British Society of Immunology website, available at:

<https://www.immunology.org/file/135/download?token=bWvWMGcG>

Viruses only exist to make more viruses. The virus particle attaches to the host cell before penetrating it. The virus then uses the host cell's machinery to replicate its own genetic material. Once replication has been completed, the virus particles leave the host by either budding or bursting out of the cell. Viruses don't just infect humans; basically, any organism can be infected - from bacteria to horses, from seaweed to people.

Sounds pretty nasty, and you might ask some serious questions, such as: why are they here? Or were they here on Earth before humans? Has Earth become an inhospitable place to live? *TheConversation.com* Newsletter of 13th March 2020 (see [here](#)) asks even more questions: What is a virus? How do they spread? How do they make us sick? Do read the article and see if it makes things clearer. I certainly do not have the answers to these questions. That's the domain of scientists, microbiologists or virologists. But it's an interesting area of study.

Etymology

One question I can answer is: Where does the word virus come from? It is based on a Latin word for *poisonous secretion* or *slimy liquid, poison*. In late Middle English, it denoted the venom of a snake. See:

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/virus>

READ MORE

Well worth reading is a 2008 article, *Where did viruses come from?* by Ed Rybicki, a virologist at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, at: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/experts-where-did-viruses-come-fr/>

Ben Ferencz: "We must live in a world where the rule of law replaces the rule of force."

Source: https://www.cbc.ca/documentarychannel/m_docs/prosecuting-evil-the-extraordinary-world-of-ben-ferencz

You might well ask, who was Ben Ferencz and what did he do when he was only 27 years of age that was extraordinary?

Benjamin Berell Ferencz by profession, was an American lawyer and pacifist. He turned 100 in March 2020. He was an investigator of Nazi war crimes after World War II and the chief prosecutor for the United States Army at the Einsatzgruppen Trial, one of the 12 military trials held by the U.S. authorities at Nuremberg, Germany. His life-long crusade has been to campaign for the fight for law, not war.

At Christmas 1945, Ferencz was honourably discharged from the Army with the rank of sergeant. He returned to New York, but was recruited only a few weeks later to participate as a prosecutor in the Subsequent Nuremberg Trials in the legal team of Telford Taylor. Taylor appointed him chief prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen Case—Ferencz's first case. He prosecuted 22 Einsatzgruppen Nazis responsible for murdering over a million Jews. All of the 22 men on trial were convicted; 13 of them received death sentences, of which four were eventually carried out. Called the biggest murder trial in history, Ferencz was only 27 at the time, and it was his first case. He would go on to advocate for restitution for Jewish victims of the holocaust and later the establishment of the International Criminal Court.



There's a trailer to a video by Barry Avrich: *Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz*, at <https://youtu.be/meDbZemxuK4>

Freedom of Speech

Areopagitica is the name given to a prose polemic by the English poet, scholar, and polemical author John Milton opposing licensing and censorship, in a speech for *the Liberty of Unlicenc'd Printing* to the English Parliament on 23rd November 1644. Wikipedia says it is among history's most influential and impassioned philosophical defences of the principle of a right to freedom of speech and expression.

Areopagitica was published at the height of the English Civil War. It takes its title in part from Areopagitikos (Greek), a speech written by Athenian orator Isocrates in the 4th century BC.

Milton (who was not a member of parliament) did not intend for his work to be an oral speech to that assembly. Instead, it was distributed via pamphlet, thus defying the same publication censorship which he argued against. As a radical, Milton had supported the Presbyterians in Parliament, and would later work as a civil servant for the new republic, but in this work he argued forcefully against Parliament's 1643 *Ordinance for the Regulating of Printing*, also known as the *Licensing Order of 1643*, in which Parliament required authors to have a license approved by the government before their work could be published.

Oxymorons

Sources: <https://people.howstuffworks.com/oxymorons.htm>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxymoron>
<http://www.oxymoronlist.com/category/oxymoron-quotes/>

An oxymoron is a short phrase, usually two words, that is contrary or incongruous. A contradiction in terms, if you like, although some people do not like that explanation, and is perhaps best avoided in certain contexts. A classic oxymoron can be found in the seafood section of your grocery shop or supermarket: *jumbo shrimp*. Yes, "jumbo" means something is big, but "shrimp" is a slang way to call someone small or short. So "jumbo shrimp" is an oxymoron.

Officially, an oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines two seemingly contradictory or opposite ideas to create a certain rhetorical or poetic effect and reveal a deeper truth. Generally, the ideas will come as two separate words placed side by side. The most common type of oxymoron is an adjective followed by a noun. The term "oxymoron" comes from Greek, where "oxy" means "sharp or acute," and "moros" means "dumb or foolish" (It's the source of the English word moron). So oxymoron is itself a sort of oxymoron. The term is first recorded as Latinized Greek *oxymōrum*, in Maurus Servius Honoratus (c. AD 400).

Sometimes oxymorons are used more for satire or sarcasm than for pure wordplay purposes. These are sometimes called "rhetorical oxymorons." Think of "military intelligence" or "airline food." They aren't technically opposites like our old favourite "jumbo shrimp," but anyone who's eaten food on an aeroplane will get the joke. Then there are some people who will say a particular two-word phrase is an oxymoron when there's no real contradiction between the two words, and it doesn't seem like they're making a joke. So here is a list of clear oxymorons ("clear oxymoron" being a kind of oxymoron itself):

- act naturally • advanced BASIC (as in programming) • alone together
- awfully good • awfully pretty • bad luck • baggy tights • bittersweet
- big baby • black light • civil war • clearly confused
- clearly misunderstood • constant variable • controlled chaos
- crash landing • cruel kindness • dark light • deafening silence
- dull roar • even odds • foolish wisdom • friendly fire
- farewell reception • genuine imitation • good grief
- growing smaller • live recording • make haste slowly
- minor crisis • mud bath • negative income • old boy • old news
- only choice • open secret • original copy • poor health
- random order • seriously funny • small crowd
- square ring (boxing) • sweet sorrow • true lies • true myth
- unbiased opinion • virtual reality • walking dead • weapons of peace
- working vacation

Oxymorons in Sayings and Quotes

Some well-known phrases and quotations make use of oxymorons. Seeing these used in context may provide a better idea of how and why they're used.

- "I like a smuggler. He is the only honest thief." - Charles Lamb
- "I can believe anything, provided that it is quite incredible." - Oscar Wilde
- "And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true." - Alfred Lord Tennyson
- "Modern dancing is so old fashioned." - Samuel Goldwyn
- "A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business." - Henry Ford
- "I am a deeply superficial person." - Andy Warhol
- "We're busy doing nothing." - Bing Crosby
- "No one goes to that restaurant anymore. It's always too crowded." - Yogi Berra
- "A joke is an extremely serious issue." - Winston Churchill
- "I generally advise persons never ever to present assistance." - P.G. Wodehouse
- "Parting is such sweet sorrow." - William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet (c. 1591–1595)

Darwin's Tubercle

Sources: <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-most-fascinating-science-facts/answer/Euan-Jones-17>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwin%27s_tubercle
<https://www.britannica.com/science/ear/Tympanic-membrane-and-middle-ear>

Not commonly known is that Darwin's Tubercle (or auricular tubercle) is an ear condition present from birth, which often shows as a thickening on the helix at the junction of the upper and middle third of the ear. It is so-called because its description was first published by Charles Darwin in the opening pages of *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, as evidence of a vestigial feature (meaning, a very small remnant of something that was once greater or more noticeable) indicating common ancestry among primates which have pointy ears. However, Darwin himself named it the Woolnerian tip, after Thomas Woolner, a British sculptor who had depicted it in one of his sculptures and had first theorised that it was an atavistic (a throwback from the past) feature. From a monkey or a gorilla?



Picture Credit: "File:DarwinsTub.jpg" by Darwinstubercle is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

The *pointy ears* feature is present in approximately 10.4% of the Spanish adult population, 40% of Indian adults, and 58% of Swedish school children. This acuminate nodule represents the point of the mammalian ear. The trait can potentially be bilateral (meaning it is present on both ears) or unilateral, (present on only one ear). There is mixed evidence regarding whether the bilateral or unilateral expression is related to population, or other factors. Some populations express full bilateral, while others may express either unilateral or bilateral. However, bilateral appears to be more common than unilateral.

Two studies in 1937 indicate that older men tend to have greater expression of Darwin's tubercle than do older women.

There's a good summary on Britannica.com, [here](#), where Darwin's Tubercle is described as:

"a little prominence known as Darwin's tubercle is seen along the upper, posterior portion of the helix; it is the vestige of the folded-over point of the ear of a remote human ancestor."

More Humour

Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers? He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

What did the egg do when it saw the frying pan? It scrambled.

Why does everyone love hard-boiled eggs in the morning? They're hard to beat.

A bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey and cola." "Why the big pause?" asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure; I was born with them."

The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries

This Delancey Place extract is from a book with the above title, by Donald R. Prothero, published by Columbia University Press, Copyright 2019, Donald R. Prothero, page(s): 223-231

Picture Credit: "Sue (Tyrannosaurus rex) at the Field Museum, Chicago, IL" by Dallas Krentzel is licensed under CC BY 2.0



Our understanding of the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex* has developed significantly in recent decades:

"[From the initial discovery of a fossil skeleton in 1900,] *Tyrannosaurus* became one of the most popular of the dinosaurs and was a cultural icon. It first appeared in the 1918 silent film *Ghost of Slumber Mountain* and later in the 1925 stop-motion version of *The Lost World* (based on the 1912 novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). *Tyrannosaurs* made an appearance in the original 1933 version of *King Kong* and in the 2005 Peter Jackson remake. They have appeared in everything from movies to TV shows (for example, the 'Sharptooths' of the *Land Before Time* series and *Barney the Dinosaur* on PBS Kids TV). *Tyrannosaurus rex* was the star and the major villain of the first four *Jurassic Park/Jurassic World* movies. It has been featured in parade floats and turned into thousands of items of merchandise. There was even a rock band called 'T. rex.' It is hard not to be impressed by a huge predator, towering over visitors to the museum. The late palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould said that his first sight of this skeleton at age five both terrified him and inspired him to become a palaeontologist.

"In the 114 years since it was first discovered and described, a lot has been learned about *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The most obvious change is the posture of the dinosaur, as can be seen in the changing position of the mounted skeletons. The original American Museum mount that Osborn supervised depicted it as very reptilian, dragging its tail and walking in a tripodal posture.

"During the Dinosaur Renaissance in the 1970s and 1980s, palaeontologists began to rethink bipedal dinosaur posture. It made more sense that they were active, fast-moving predators, with their bodies balanced on their hind legs in a bird-like stance. This configuration was confirmed by the fact that large theropod trackways never show tail drag marks, and some theropods (such as *Deinonychus*) have a stiffening network of elongate extensions of their vertebrae preserved in their tails. (This is similar to the ossified trusswork of tendons in duck-billed dinosaurs and the long extensions of the vertebrae in sauropods.)

"During the 1970s, palaeontologists studying the original, upright *Tyrannosaurus rex* mounts realized that the pose was impossible. It would cause their limbs to become disjointed, the tail to bend to an impossible degree, and weaken the joint between the skull and neck. When the American Museum revamped their dinosaur halls in 1992, they remounted their *Tyrannosaurus rex* (Brown's fourth specimen), which Osborn had put in the kangaroo pose in 1915 with the spine in the horizontal position (only 77 years later). Thanks to the *Jurassic Park* book by Michael Crichton, and the movie by Steven Spielberg in 1993, most people are now familiar with this horizontally balanced version of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and the archaic, tail-dragging version seen on many toys and sculptures and images looks odd to us.

"The size estimates of *Tyrannosaurus rex* have also changed over time. Currently, the largest known relatively complete skeleton is in the Field Museum of Natural History and is nicknamed 'Sue' (after Sue Hendrikson, who discovered it). It measures 3.66 metres (12 feet) at the hips and is 12.3 meters (40 feet) in length, and the number of tail vertebrae is not a guess (as we saw with many incomplete dinosaurs, such as the sauropods, in chapter 10).

"This is the longest preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil we have - there's a good chance that some individuals were larger. Given that the maximum length of known specimens is not guesswork, it's surprising that there are a wide range of weight estimates. Over the years, the weight numbers have been as low as 8.4 metric tonnes (9.3 tons) to 14 metric tonnes (15.4 tons), but most modern estimates place it between 5.4 metric tonnes (6 tons) and 8 metric tonnes (8.8 tons). A study by Packard and colleagues in 2009 tested the methods used to estimate the dinosaur weights on elephants of known weight and argued that most of This [sic] is a common pattern among some birds and mammals that have high infant mortality rates, then rapid growth to adult size, and finally high death rates as adults due to battles over mating and the stresses of reproduction.

"Many scientists have tried various methods to see if *Tyrannosaurus rex* shows sexual dimorphism (differences in males and females), but no study has been convincing so far. Only one specimen has been conclusively demonstrated to be female as it had medullary tissue in a number of bones. This bone tissue is only found in female birds that are laying eggs; they lay down spongy porous medullary tissue in their bones as they divert calcium to their eggs and embryos.

"One of the most significant changes in how we think about *Tyrannosaurus* concerns its body covering. For almost a century, it was rendered as a big scaly reptile, a lizard on steroids. The only known skin impressions of *Tyrannosaurus* preserve a mosaic of small scales. In the 1990s, discoveries in China produced many fossils of dinosaurs, birds, and mammals with soft tissues preserved, especially in lake shales, which are low in oxygen and formed in stagnant water. These produced a small tyrannosaur called *Dilongparadoxus*, which clearly showed filamentous feathers or fluff on its body. When a larger tyrannosaur, *Yutyrannus halli*, was found in China, it too was covered with a coat of feathers. Given that these animals are very closely related to *Tyrannosaurus rex* and all other tyrannosaurs, it is extremely likely that the iconic dinosaur of the five *Jurassic Park* movies was not the scaly lizard that the movie makers created but a bird-like creature with a coating of down or at least feather tufts over much of its body. Of course, by the second movie (*Jurassic Park: The Lost World*), the filmmakers stopped listening to palaeontologists and continued to show all the dinosaurs as scaly lizard-like creatures, without adding feathers to any of them. This was truly sad for many of us in paleontology. The original novel and movie was up to date with the current state of dinosaur research in the early 1990s, but they abdicated their efforts to keep the movies current and just gave the audience the scaly monsters they had come to expect."

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

Rare Blood Types

Excerpted from an article by Jennifer Walker-Journey at: <https://health.howstuffworks.com/human-body/systems/circulatory/rare-blood-type.htm> and other sources



Picture Credit: "Thank you, anonymous donor." by makelessnoise is licensed under CC BY 2.0

We all know this, don't we: Some blood types are more uncommon than others. If you've ever searched the internet for the rarest blood type, you may have come up with more questions than answers.

The short answer: AB negative is the rarest of the eight main blood types. AB negative blood is rare across the world, though percentages can range from 0.06 per cent to 3 per cent of a country's population. But the truth is, there are dozens of other blood types far rarer than AB, and newer, even rarer, ones could yet be discovered.

What is blood made of?

Everyone's blood, regardless of their type, contains plasma. Suspended in plasma are the following components:

- White blood cells, which fight infection
- Platelets, which aid in clotting
- Red blood cells, which transport oxygen throughout the body and remove carbon dioxide

On the surface of the red blood cells are proteins and sugars. They are called antigens. They serve as markers to characterise each cell type.

Blood types

A blood type is a classification of blood, based on the presence and absence of antibodies and inherited antigenic substances on the surface of red blood cells. These antigens may be proteins, carbohydrates, glycoproteins, or glycolipids, depending on the blood group system. There are four main antigens that make up the four main blood groups. They are known as A, B, AB and O:

- **A** blood types have the A antigen,
- **B** blood types have the B antigen,
- **AB** blood types have both A and B antigens.
- **O** blood types have neither A nor B antigens.

The Rh System

Like the ABO system, the positive or negative component of your blood type refers to molecules being present or absent on the surface of your red blood cells. The full Rh blood group system includes around 50 different red blood cell antigens, but the most important one is a protein called RhD. If you have the RhD protein on your red blood cells, you're Rh positive. If you don't have it, you're Rh negative. This positive or negative attribute divides the four major blood groups into eight types. Since blood type is genetic, the people in some countries will have more of one blood type than another, depending on the ethnic makeup of the country.

Why knowing your blood type is important

Knowing your blood type is important because it tells medical professionals which blood you can receive if you need a blood transfusion. Receiving the wrong blood type could result in a life-threatening immune response.

- People who have the AB positive blood type are called "universal recipients," meaning they can receive blood from people with any blood type (but they can only donate to people with their blood type).
- People with O negative blood are called "universal donors" as their blood type is compatible with all other blood types (but they can only receive O negative blood).
- People with O positive blood can donate to other positive blood types (like A positive or AB positive), making O blood in high demand, whether positive or negative.

People with rarer blood types face challenges when it comes to transfusions as finding compatible donors in times of crisis can be difficult.

The Rarest Blood Types

It is possible for someone to have a complete absence of Rh antigens. These people have a blood type referred to as Rhnull. It was first discovered about 50 years ago in an Aboriginal Australian and is extremely rare — less than 50 people have been known to have Rhnull blood.

Rhnull is sometimes referred to as "golden blood." That's because it's worth its weight in gold, at least in the sense that it is considered a "universal" blood that anyone with rare types of blood within the Rh system could use in times of crisis. But the crux is that people with Rhnull blood can only receive blood from Rhnull donors.

There are other types of blood that are as rare, if not rarer, than Rhnull. As of 2019, the **International Society of Blood Transfusion**, a scientific society that promotes the study of blood transfusions, recognised 360 blood group antigens, of which 322 were clustered within 36 blood group systems. It noted that the remaining 38 antigens were currently unassigned to a known system.

These numbers are ever-changing, with new blood group antigens being added to the various blood group systems and, occasionally, antigens being made obsolete based on new data. What all that means is that it's somewhat impossible to determine which is the rarest blood type of them all.

Can blood change?

It's very rare — but possible — for someone's blood type to change. It can take place through the addition or suppression of an antigen, which can happen during an infection, malignancy or because of an auto-immune disease.

Another cause of blood type changing happens during a bone marrow transplant. People who receive bone marrow from someone with a different ABO type will eventually switch to the donor's blood type.

Denmark and labour strikes

4th January 1961 marked the end of the world's longest strike as barbers' assistants in the Danish capital Copenhagen returned to work after a dispute lasting 33 years. More recently, on 16 June 2008, nurses along with child and youth educators in the Danish regions returned to work after eight weeks of strike action. The strike had been called due to their disagreement with the settlement proposal offered by the employer, Danish Regions (Danske Regioner), in connection with the renewal of collective agreements in the public sector in the early spring of 2008. Almost 350,000 hospital appointments, treatments and surgeries were postponed due to the strike, despite an effective emergency support plan. Elderly people relying on the eldercare sector received only essential care, and thousands of children had to accompany their parents to work. It was expected that the government would use its right to intervene if the social partners failed to reach a settlement, as has happened before in similar conflicts. However, the government abstained from using this option, perhaps because the emergency plan seemed to function effectively.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert: A marriage made in heaven or a union of misery?

Excerpted from: <https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/queen-victoria-marriage-prince-albert-unhappy-husband/>



On 10th February 1840, Queen Victoria Prince Albert, in St James's Palace chapel, in what was the first marriage of a reigning queen of England since Mary I in 1554.

Picture Credit: "Queen Victoria & Prince Albert's Wedding" by Lea Ann Belter Bridal is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

To the outside world, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were the golden couple, exemplars of traditional family values. Yet, as Jane Ridley reveals in this excellent article, behind the romanticised veneer, Albert's thirst for power was putting the marriage under intense pressure.

After the sudden and tragic death of Prince Albert in 1861, the grief-stricken Queen Victoria dedicated herself to memorialising her marriage as a perfect union. She composed large parts of the first biography, *The Early Years of the Prince Consort* (1867).

At Frogmore, the royal burial ground at Windsor, she built a mausoleum and commissioned the sculptor Marochetti to create effigies of herself and the prince lying side-by-side – though it would be another 40 years before she would take her place beside her beloved Albert. Thanks, in part, to the queen's efforts, her marriage to Albert, Prince of the German duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, came to be seen as one of the great love matches of all time, celebrated (with varying degrees of accuracy) in films such as *The Young Victoria* and, more recently, the ITV drama *Victoria*.

As Queen Victoria's journal shows, from the moment she saw the prince arriving at the foot of the staircase at Windsor in 1839, she was smitten. Five days later, she summoned him to her blue closet and proposed to him. But the marriage was not the romantic happy-ever-after story that Victoria constructed. It was far more complex than that.

Like all dynastic marriages, this was an alliance with a political agenda. As the second son of a minor German duke (Coburg is smaller than the Isle of Wight) and a mere Serene Highness, the lowest grade in the royal hierarchy, Prince Albert was Victoria's poor relation, although the two were first cousins. But what he lacked in rank and wealth, he made up for with education and self-confidence, and he had been trained from his teens by King Leopold of Belgium, the cousins' mutual uncle, to marry Victoria and take over the British throne.

Albert began his quest for power immediately after the marriage. Within months he had moved his writing desk next to the queen's. At first, Victoria resisted Albert's attempts to remove her trusted governess, Baroness Lehzen, from control of the court.

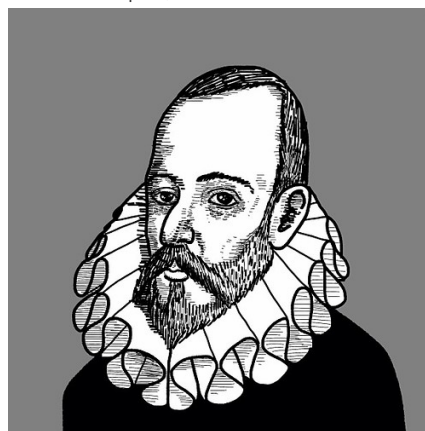
But as one pregnancy followed another in quick succession – seven of Victoria's nine children were born in the first ten years of the marriage – the queen was in no condition to resist. Albert fired Lehzen and assumed control of the household, introducing much-needed reforms and economies.

Read the full story [here](#).

Jane Ridley is a professor of history at the University of Buckingham and author of several works on the Victorian era, including *Victoria* (Allen Lane, 2015). This article was first published in the September 2017 issue of *BBC History Magazine*

Who was Miguel de Cervantes?

Sources: Wikipedia, Britannica.com



Picture Credit: "Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra" by Marco Colin is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0



The other day, I was Googling for writers on the subject of communications between dogs – yes, rather odd, I know, but I was interested to know if anyone had written about this subject. It was then I came across Miguel de Cervantes (in full Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra). Born around 1547, he was a Spanish writer (you'd probably guess that from his name). He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the Spanish language, and one of the world's pre-eminent novelists - best known for his novel *Don Quixote*.

Much of Miguel's early life was spent in poverty and obscurity, many of its details are disputed or unknown, and the bulk of his surviving work was produced in the three years preceding his death. Despite this, his influence and literary contribution are reflected by the fact that Spanish is often referred to as "the language of Cervantes".

But back to dogs: Cervantes wrote *The Dialogue of the Dogs* – a short story originating from the fantasy world of Ensign Campuzano, a character from another short story, *The Deceitful Marriage*. It's about two dogs that talk to each other at night and chat about the adventures and journeys they've had with their owners through several cities in the south of Spain. Cervantes, talking through the dog Cipion, analyses the literature and the reality.

Google Books describe *The Dialogue of the Dogs*: 'Given the gift of speech for a day, two dogs set about satirizing humans, their supposed superiors. In an exchange reminiscent of the ancient Greek Dialogues, they recount their experiences under their various masters. But whether butcher, constable, merchant, or gipsy, each is decried as corrupt to the core. Through the scathing Berganza and the critical Scipio, Cervantes delivers an ingenious critique of the morality of 16th-century Spain and a timeless and telling portrayal of the heart of man.'

Evacuation!

Source: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-evacuated-children-of-the-second-world-war>



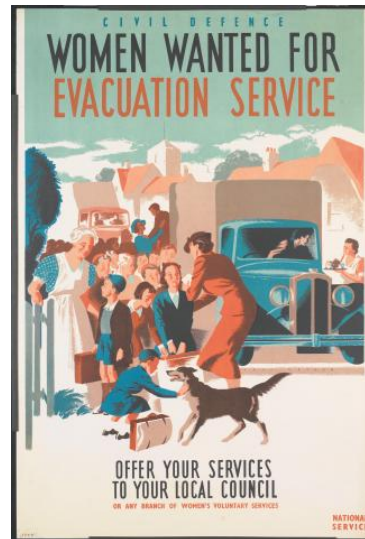
Picture Credit:
Southern Railways
poster for services
evacuating women
and children,
September 1939 ©
The Rightsholder
(Art. IWM PST 3362)

World War II: The First Wave of Evacuations, 1st September 1939

Evacuation was voluntary, but the fear of bombing, the closure of many urban schools and the organised transportation of school groups helped persuade families to send their children away to live with strangers. The schoolchildren in this photograph assembled at Myrdle School in Stepney at 5 am on 1st September 1939. The adults accompanying them are wearing arm bands, which identify them as volunteer marshals.



(Evacuation scheme, 1939 © D 1939A) Schoolchildren who had assembled for evacuation at Myrdle School in Stepney at 5 am on 1st September 1939. © IWM (D 1939A)



Women Wanted for Evacuation Service poster © IWM (Art.IWM PST 15092)
© IWM (Art.IWM PST 15092)

Recruiting Volunteers

Evacuation was a huge logistical exercise that required thousands of volunteer helpers. The first stage of the process began on 1st September 1939 and involved teachers, local authority officials, railway staff, and 17,000 members of the **Women's Voluntary Service (WVS)**. The WVS provided practical assistance, looking after tired and apprehensive evacuees at railway stations, and

providing refreshments in reception areas and billeting halls. Volunteers were also needed to host evacuees.

Leaving The Cities

Children were evacuated from cities across Britain. The children in the next photograph are evacuees from Bristol who have arrived at Brent railway station near Kingsbridge in Devon, 1940. Parents were issued with a list detailing what their children should take with them when evacuated. These items included a gas mask in case, a change of underclothes, night clothes, plimsolls (or slippers), spare stockings or socks, toothbrush, comb, towel, soap, facecloth, handkerchiefs and a warm coat. The children pictured here seem well-equipped for their journey, but many families struggled to provide their children with all of the items listed.



(IWM (D 2587)) A group of evacuees from Bristol arriving at Brent railway station near Kingsbridge in Devon, 1940.
© IWM (D 2587)

Continued on next page >>>>

>>>>> Continued from previous page >>>>>

Life in the Countryside

Evacuees and their hosts were often astonished to see how each other lived. Some evacuees flourished in their new surroundings. Others endured a miserable time away from home. Many evacuees from inner-city areas had never seen farm animals before or eaten vegetables. In many instances, a child's upbringing in urban poverty was misinterpreted as parental neglect. Equally, some city dwellers were bored by the countryside or were even used for arduous agricultural work. Some evacuees made their own arrangements outside the official scheme if they could afford lodgings in areas regarded as safe or had friends or family to stay with.



Evacuees on a nature walk through the countryside surrounding the Dartington estate in Devon. © IWM (D 3101)

Nursery School



Many stately homes in the English countryside were given over for use as nursery schools or homes for young children evacuated from cities across the country. This lithograph print is one of a series of five entitled 'Children in Wartime' by artist Ethel Gabain. This work was commissioned in 1940 by the War Artists Advisory Committee, which wanted a record of the civilian evacuation scheme.

A Nursery School: Watlington Park, by Ethel Gabain. © IWM (Art.IWM ART LD 263)

Returning Home Against Advice

By the end of 1939, when the widely expected bombing raids on cities had failed to materialise, many parents whose children had been evacuated in September decided to bring them home again. By January 1940, almost half of the evacuees returned home. The government produced posters ('Don't do it, Mother') like the following picture, urging parents to leave evacuees where they were while the threat of bombing remained likely.



Don't Do it, Mother - Leave the Children Where They Are, issued by The Ministry of Health © IWM (Art. IWM PST 3095)

Another Wave Of Evacuations

Additional rounds of official evacuation occurred nationwide in the summer and autumn of 1940, following the German invasion of France in May-June and the beginning of **the Blitz** in September. Evacuation was voluntary, and many children remained in the cities. Some stayed to help, care for or support their families.



© IWM LN 6194) A policeman helps young evacuees and the nun escorting them at a London station on 18 May 1940.
© IWM (LN 6194)

© The rights holder (IWM HU 36234)

Laura Clouting edited the IWM article. Other IWM staff members contributed to writing an older version of this piece.

© Copyright and Acknowledgement

Information 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 and other third parties, including the Crown.

Sussex County Cricket Club – Some personal thoughts

By Robin Barton

My interest and love of cricket from childhood came from my grandfather, John George Bell. He was one of three brothers who were great club cricketers in their day for Sutton CC.

Since moving down to Sussex in 1976, I began to take great interest in and support Sussex CCC, and in 2016, following the sad loss of my wife to cancer, I decided to get more involved in Sussex cricket and joined the club as a member. This has brought many happy and enjoyable summer days at Hove and elsewhere, watching and supporting Sussex. Hove is a mere 15-minute train journey from my hometown Haywards Heath.

Sussex CCC was formed in 1839 when Lord Sheffield was a generous benefactor who later went on to become President of the club, and he staged several matches at Sheffield Park. There followed a substantial reorganisation in August 1857 when the club was reconstituted after a period of decline. Most games were held at the Royal Brunswick Cricket Ground at Hove, south of the present ground and by the sea. The inaugural first-class match took place in 1864. The current county ground was purchased in 1886.

Over the years, many great cricketers have played for Sussex, and perhaps three of the most famous that I recall, who all went on to play for England, were the legendary batsman "Lord" Ted Dexter, who sadly passed away this year, brilliant fast bowler John Snow and wicket-keeper Jim Parks. Over the years, Sussex sides also became well known for family representation, such as the Parks, Langridge, Lenham and Buss brothers, respectively.

Although Hove has been their main ground, Sussex has also played at several delightful "out grounds" such as Arundel Castle, Horsham CC and the Saffrons at Eastbourne. I have enjoyed visiting Arundel and Horsham, where Sussex has played one first-class county match each season.



Picture Credit: "Sussex County Cricket Club, Hove Ground" by Loz Flowers is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

And finally, I even have a family connection to Sussex CCC! It was brought to my attention by a cousin who is keen on family trees and had researched a branch of the family in Australia. A distant cousin from Tasmania, Australia, came over in 2016 to play a stint in the Sussex CCC T20 team, and I saw him play one game at Hove. His name is George Bailey. He played for Tasmania and was also an international cricketer for Australia, mainly in their one-day team. In 2017, he was over here again enjoying playing spells with both Middlesex and Hampshire, and during that time, I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know this nice young man at a family party hosted by my brother at his Hampshire home. George's story and his love of cricket are documented in his book "Cricket in the Genes", published in 2018, mentioning my grandfather and his brothers.

Cricket in Sussex

It is commonly believed that cricket was developed in Sussex and the neighbouring counties of Kent and Surrey. Records from 1611, see [HERE](#), show that the sport was documented in Sussex; this is also the first reference to adults playing cricket. The first reference to **women's cricket** is also from Sussex and dates from 1677; a match between two Sussex women's teams playing in London is documented from 1747.

Formed in 1839, Sussex County Cricket Club is believed to be the oldest professional sports club in the world (see [HERE](#)) and is the oldest of the **county cricket** clubs. Sussex players, including **Jem Broadbridge** and **William Lillywhite**, were instrumental in changing underarm bowling to roundarm bowling, which later developed into overarm bowling. For some time, roundarm bowling was referred to as 'Sussex bowling'.

Sussex's 'golden era' was in the 2000s when the club won 8 competitions, including the County Championship three times, winning the County Championship for the first time in 2003. Formed in 1971, the **Sussex Cricket League** is believed to be the largest adult cricket league in the world, with 335 teams (as of 2018).

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket_in_Sussex

Fast electric car charging requires cooler cables

Source: ReviewGeek on 11/11/21, [HERE](#).

Ford and Purdue University researchers have developed a new, patent-pending charging system that solves one of the biggest problems with electric vehicles (EVs). Of course, we're talking about the charging time it takes to top off a battery versus spending a few minutes at a garage pump.

Aside from range, charging time is one of the biggest problems for current electric vehicles. There's plenty to love about EVs, but having to sit for 20-30 minutes and wait for the battery to recharge isn't ideal, which is why Ford's new cooling cables promise to recharge an electric vehicle in roughly 5-minutes.

Even with DC fast charging appearing at more locations, most vehicles with ideal battery, charger, and cable conditions still take upwards of at least 20 minutes. Most Tesla systems can handle upwards of 520 amps of current, which is quite a lot. However, Ford and Purdue can deliver over 2,400 amps to their vehicles, resulting in drastically faster charging times. And while Ford and its partners at Purdue University didn't go into too much detail, as this is a patent-pending system, it all comes down to keeping the charging cables as cool as possible.

Just like charging a phone, or anything else for that matter, the electric current creates heat. This is especially true for electric vehicles, and by using liquid-cooled cables, the current can be higher and remain at higher amps at the same time.

According to Ford and Purdue, the charging cables have a liquid inside at first, which can then change to vapour and absorb large amounts of heat in the process. Similar to what we see in air conditioners and other cooling systems. They've managed to bottle that into cables, which will hopefully result in super-fast charging systems.

Picture Credit: "Viz Comic - Baxter Basics the atypical corrupt Tory MP robs a bank" by norbetl. is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Finish with a Smile



THE Male Online



Take the "Bathtub test"

During a recent visit to my doctor, I asked him: "how do you decide whether or not an older person should be put into an old people's home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Ah!, Now I understand," I said, "a normal person with a full complement of marbles would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," he said, "a normal person would pull the plug. Now, do you want a bed near the window?"

ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THIS ON OR DO YOU WANT THE BED NEXT TO MINE?

