

Nil Desperandum

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Never Alone



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Broadway: The American Musical

This selection is from a book with that title (pages 238-242), published by Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, © Copyright 2004, 2010, 2019, Michael Kantor and Laurence Maslon (authors).

Lerner and Loewe overcame the odds and turned George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* into *My Fair Lady*, Broadway's first true blockbuster:

"When Oscar Hammerstein tells you a show won't work, odds are it probably won't work. Lyricist Alan Jay Lerner encountered Hammerstein at a Democratic rally in 1952 and mentioned that he and Frederick Loewe were struggling to adapt George Bernard Shaw's social comedy *Pygmalion* into a musical. Hammerstein acknowledged that he and Rodgers had tried to crack the same property for more than a year (although there is no documentation of their attempt) and gave up; despite its appeal, *Pygmalion* was simply not musical-comedy material. Lerner had to sigh and agree; however, two years later, he and Loewe took another shot at it. The result was the greatest success the American theater had ever seen.

"Lerner and his partner came together by chance at New York's Lambs Club, a watering hole for show biz types, in 1942. They were the most unlikely pair since Rodgers and Hart. Loewe, seventeen years Lerner's senior, was a German emigre with an Austrian background who had studied piano with Kurt Weill's teacher. Loewe was also a seemingly effortless fount of rhapsodic melodies and a confirmed old bachelor who sought the company of undemanding young ladies to cheer him on at his beloved *chemin-de-fer* tables. Lerner was the son of New York Jewish privilege, educated at Choate and Harvard, an obsessive-compulsive go-getter with an addiction to serial monogamy (he had two more wives than Henry VIII). The team doctored an out-of-town flop in 1942 but went on to write several other Broadway shows, including *Brigadoon*, a huge hit in the 1947 season.

"Lerner and Loewe were but one of several teams approached in the early 1950s by an eccentric movie producer named Gabriel Pascal, who owned the film rights to numerous plays by Shaw. No one was able to give Pascal the musical he wanted, which raises the questions, why was it so hard to adapt the play, and, if it was so hard, why would anyone keep trying? The answer to the second question is George Bernard Shaw, one of the theater's true titans, a prodigious playwright, critic, speechmaker, social philosopher, and resident intellectual to the world. His new plays were eagerly awaited in London and New York and his older plays were revived frequently because they always offered wonderful parts for great actors.

"*Pygmalion*, written in 1912, was a popular success in its day, playing around the world. It was made into a well-regarded 1938 film (for which Shaw received an Academy Award for his screenplay), and it had been revived on Broadway as recently as 1945 with Gertrude Lawrence.

"Like of all Shaw's plays, it was written as a social critique. A phonetics professor named Henry Higgins wagers that he can 'make a duchess' of a young

Cockney flower girl by instructing her in the socially acceptable standards of the English language. A pioneering socialist, Shaw was far more concerned with breaking down the arbitrary boundaries of the British class system than he was in writing a romantic lark, but to his continued dismay, from the moment the play opened, audiences wanted the misogynistic Higgins to renounce his ways and run off with the transformed flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, at the final curtain.

"The chief difficulty in adapting the play was that it was never a love story. Its only passion was for social equality, not between its leading characters. When Lerner returned to the project, after Pascal's death in 1954, he approached the problem from a different angle. Rather than attempt to shoehorn Shaw's play into musical-comedy conventions – a romance, a comic subplot, a colourful dancing chorus – Lerner realized 'there was enough variety in the moods of the characters Shaw created, and we could do *Pygmalion* simply by doing *Pygmalion* ... and adding the action that took place between the acts of the play.' Lerner fought the adaptation battle on two fronts: he developed the needs and desires of the main characters, while dramatizing events that are only referred to, or occur offstage, in the play.

"This liberating approach allowed Lerner to create scenes that expressed Shaw's intentions in more theatrical ways. For example, in the play, Eliza's mastery of the King's English is given a disastrous test run at a small tea party; Lerner transposes the scene to the highly public Ascot racing day, allowing Eliza to commit a similar verbal gaffe in front of a company of aristocrats resplendent in Cecil Beaton's exquisite Edwardian costumes. Lerner also knew that at its heart the play contained that ageless musical-comedy scenario, the *Cinderella* story. No one in the audience could be immune to the sight of the former 'draggled-tailed guttersnipe' dressed to the nines, about to take her place among dukes and duchesses at the Embassy Ball. The project began to seem irresistible.

"Such sophisticated effects would have fallen flat without the perfect company of actors and creative staff. Lerner and Loewe flew to London to enlist the services of England's redoubtable comedian of manners, Rex Harrison. But Harrison came with two problems: he was a prickly perfectionist and he had never sung in a musical; he was convinced he never could. Lerner and Loewe solved the latter problem by creating songs for Higgins that trod lightly on the melody, allowing the words to skip along. The kind of talk-singing required was just right for Harrison and allowed for a greater verbal dexterity that also suited his character. Harrison's personality would remain a problem, but that could be solved with diplomacy.

"For the role of Eliza, given by theatrical tradition to grand actresses far older than the character's eighteen years, Lerner turned to a bright new face who was close to Eliza's age. Julie Andrews, who began her career as a child entertainer in England, made her Broadway debut in 1954 in a British musical pastiche called *The Boy Friend*. Lerner and Loewe were easily persuaded that Andrews had the requisite poise and charm to embody their leading character. She turned down an offer to star in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Pipe Dream* (their only

huge flop) and eagerly awaited a firm commitment from Lerner and Loewe. ...

"*My Fair Lady* would run for more than six years – 2,717 performances – and would make a Broadway star out of Julie Andrews and transform Harrison into an international celebrity. It was the most eagerly awaited show ever to arrive in London's West End; when Harrison, Andrews, and other members of the New York company opened at the Drury Lane Theatre there in 1958, they launched a four-year run. It has played in almost every capital in Europe and South America, was recorded in nearly every language and sold to the movies for \$5 million. Columbia Records had put up the show's entire investment – \$400,000 – in order to procure the recording rights; according to Lerner, twenty years after the show opened it had grossed \$800 million for the record company and its creators. *Oklahoma!* might have been the musical theater's first phenomenon, but *My Fair Lady* was its first blockbuster."

Comment from Martin Pollins

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What is A Writ of Habeas Corpus?

The *Habeas Corpus* Act (strengthening a person's right to challenge unlawful arrest and imprisonment) was passed in England on 27th May 1679. A writ of *habeas corpus* is used to bring a prisoner or other detainee (for example, an institutionalised mental patient) before the court to determine if the person's imprisonment or detention is lawful.

A habeas petition proceeds as a civil action against whoever (usually a prison official) is holding the defendant in custody. *Habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is an ancient and fundamental principle of English constitutional law. It originated through the common law and has been confirmed and regulated by several statutes that date back to the Magna Carta. *Habeas corpus* is still available in the United Kingdom today, although its importance and use have lessened due to extensive statutory protections to protect a person's liberty. Ultimately, it provides a remedy in cases of illegal restraint or confinement by testing the legality of a person's detention.

Do you fancy living to 150 or even longer?

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In May 2018, *The Independent* newspaper published an article with this heading: “There is someone alive today who will live to be 1,000 years old: Why we are living longer than ever?” If it’s true, should we be excited or worried?

The article* aroused my curiosity, especially when I read: “For most of recorded human history, average life expectancy has been between 20 and 40 years. In Britain, it was only in the mid-1800s that this figure consistently rose above 40 years. Today in the UK, the average life expectancy is about 80 years. The main reason for this extraordinary advance is the fall in infant mortality - Researchers are getting a better understanding of the ageing process and thus the ways in which it could be slowed, halted or even reversed.”

* The article in *The Independent* is an extract from a book titled ‘Longevity: Why We are Living Longer than Ever and the Discoveries that May Allow Us to Live to 1000’ by Dr David Goldhill, which is available from Amazon in paperback (£10) and Kindle (£4.97 or £0 on Kindle Unlimited)



Picture Credit: “Old friends” by Ed Yourdon is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

With a few exceptions, the oldest human being ever recorded was a French woman (**Jeanne Calment**) who was age 122 when she died in 1997. Two exceptions to that record stand out:

- **Thomas Parr** was an Englishman who died in 1635 and claimed he lived to the ripe old age of 152 (and nine months). You can read about the lively old chap [here](#).
- **Zaro Aga** was a Kurdish man who claimed to be one of the longest-living people ever. He died on 29th June 1934 in Istanbul,

Turkey. He was aged 170 when he died (born in 1764). But there is a debate about his actual age when he died - according to the death certificate provided by his Turkish doctor, Zaro Aga's age was 157.

People are living longer

Medical advances over the last few centuries and better access to healthcare facilities have helped increase our survival rates. In 1851, less than half of people born in England or Wales had a birthday after age 50.

But a **BBC article** warns that longer lives may be a myth: In September 2018, the Office for National Statistics confirmed that, in the UK at least, **life expectancy** has stopped increasing. Beyond the UK, these gains are slowing worldwide. The BBC article says: “This belief that our species may have reached the peak of longevity is also reinforced by some myths about our ancestors: it’s a common belief that ancient Greeks or Romans would have been flabbergasted to see anyone above the age of 50 or 60, for example.”

In the 1st Century, Pliny** devoted an entire chapter of *The Natural History**** to people who lived the longest. Among them, he lists the consul M Valerius Corvinus (100 years), Cicero's wife Terentia (103), and a woman named Clodia (115 – and who had 15 children along the way), and the actress Luccia who performed on stage at 100 years old.

** Pliny (Gaius Plinius Secundus) was a Roman author, a naturalist and natural philosopher, a naval and army commander of the early Roman Empire, and a friend of emperor Vespasian. He wrote the encyclopaedic *Naturalis Historia* (Natural History), which became an editorial model for encyclopaedias.

*** Read it [here](#).

Scientific American reported on 25th May 2021 ([here](#)) that researchers**** have looked at how long we can live if, by luck and the right genes, we avoid death from cancer, heart disease or getting hit by a bus or train. Leaving aside the nasty things that usually kill us, our body's capacity to cope with everything thrown at it still fades with time. They postulate a maximum life span for humans at somewhere between 120 and 150 years, with 150 was the “absolute limit” any healthy human body would be able to sustain. The *Telegraph* ([here](#)) said that thousands of volunteers in the US and UK contributed data to the study, which looked at both blood samples and daily step counts, collected using an iPhone app. The researchers' findings were published on 25th May 2021 – see [here](#). You might want to restrict your reading to the Abstract only as it gets very technical after that.

**** The research was conducted using data from UK Biobank, a major biomedical database (UK Biobank website: www.ukbiobank.ac.uk; UK Biobank project ID 21988). The research was carried out by Singapore-based company Gero in collaboration with the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York.

The research group used Artificial Intelligence to analyse the health and fitness information provided by volunteers and blood samples to conclude that a person's lifespan is dependent on two points: biological age and resilience. Biological age is a calculation associated with lifestyle, stress and chronic diseases rather than your actual age, while resilience relates to the

speed at which a person returns to good health after responding to a stressor.

An **article** on Forbes.com caught my attention. Sergey Young, longevity expert and founder of the Longevity Vision Fund ([here](#)), which invests in breakthrough technologies that hope to increase the human lifespan, wants to ‘bust’ some myths about what longevity really means and specifically what living to 150 (and beyond) might look like. Briefly, this is a summary of what the article said:

- ❖ Due to wear and tear, the human body doesn't typically last much beyond 100 years, but revolutionary approaches in medicine will push boundaries of what was previously thought possible and offer solutions to renew and replace our body parts.
- ❖ In the future, medicine will go from a one-size-fits-all approach to highly personalised healthcare, focused on early diagnostics and treatment, and assisted by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence.
- ❖ 150-Year lifespans and population growth may not lead to widespread food shortage because the food industry will be transformed in the future – through practices such as vertical farming, growing produce in commercial greenhouses and availability of plant-based ‘meat’.
- ❖ As lifespans lengthen, current social paradigms will become more diverse - for example, in a 150-year lifespan, it may become the norm to have various relationships, including multiple marriages.
- ❖ As to whether people will be able to properly finance their pension and retirement plans to cover a much longer post-work age, it is a valid concern. But a change of attitude, better planning, and availability of more appropriate professionals could help overcome these worries.

What if we lived up to 150 years?

The European Parliament, in a European Parliamentary Research Service paper ([here](#)), asked: *What if we lived up to 150 years?*

The paper says that coupled with a declining fertility rate, if we lived up to 150 years, it would lead to a drastic change in demographics, with a considerable shift in balance towards an elderly population. Our social and physical environments would be significantly altered from a wide range of perspectives, resulting in major shifts in our framing of the education-work-retirement cycle; our household make-up; and our healthcare system, including the role of assistive technologies, for example.

Conclusion

My conclusion is: Humans are never going to be able to live beyond 150 years of age – not on planet Earth anyway. Was it pre-ordained thus - the Bible says in Genesis. 6:3:

Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

Mind you, I could be wrong. There's a new book out by Dr David Goldhill which tells you all you need to know about how/why people can live for a very long time – even up to 1000 years. It may sound far-fetched, but there are good reasons to believe he might be right. “Longevity” is available on Amazon [here](#).

From Hero to Traitor

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- <https://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-benedict-arnold>

I tested something the other day. I asked a few of my colleagues and acquaintances a simple enough question: “Who was Benedict Arnold?”

One or two suggested he was the fellow who invented the common American breakfast or brunch dish, consisting of two halves of an English muffin, each topped with bacon, a poached egg, and hollandaise sauce.

Others freely admitted they’d vaguely heard of the name but couldn’t remember anything more.

Arnold, the Hero

Benedict Arnold was born on 14th January 1741, a British subject, the second of six children. Arnold was descended from a Rhode Island founding family.

He was an American military officer who served during the Revolutionary War. He fought with distinction in the American War of Independence for the American Continental Army, rising to the rank of major general. He led and served with honour at Ticonderoga, Quebec and Saratoga. Arnold was seriously wounded at Saratoga, and Washington put him in charge of the city of Philadelphia after the British ended their occupation.

When Washington asked Arnold to rejoin his Army as a top commander, Arnold instead requested command of the Hudson Valley region and the facility at West Point, New York. *Benedict Arnold* often fought with other officers and Congress.

Arnold had a fatal tendency to criticise and even ridicule those with whom he disagreed. George Washington understood Arnold’s shortcomings but valued Arnold’s usefulness on the battlefield. Arnold’s request was granted, and General George Washington gave Arnold his full backing.

Arnold, the most hated man in America

On 21st September 1780, Revolutionary War hero *Benedict Arnold* turned his back on his country after a secret meeting near the Hudson River with a top British official – Major John André. It was not the first time they had met, but it was the last and it was a disaster for both men.

Major John André was a top aide to British commander Sir Henry Clinton. The young, popular major also led the British spy network and had been in secret talks with Arnold for some time. The plan was that

Arnold would arrange for the British army to take over the American facility of West Point. The British believed the acquisition of West Point would give their military control of the Hudson Valley, a potentially important blow to American independence. The price was said to be £20,000* plus a British military command for Arnold.

* In 1781, Benjamin Franklin wrote to the Marquis De Lafayette about Arnold’s treason after American agents seized a letter that said Arnold only received £5,000 for his acts. Franklin compared Arnold to Judas and said it was “a miserable bargain especially when one considers the quantity of infamy he has acquired to himself and entailed on his family.” The History.com website ([here](#)) suggests that Arnold received £6,000 for switching sides.

The secret face-to-face meeting occurred after a months-long conspiracy communicated through coded letters. *Benedict Arnold* gave André plans of the colonial military base at West Point — making Arnold one of America’s most notorious traitors.

But fate conspired against both men. The British ship HMS Vulture, which had taken André to the meeting, was forced from the scene by American gunfire. André was captured as he attempted to rejoin British lines on foot.

Within a month of their meeting, Major André was executed under Washington’s orders for espionage, while Arnold fled to a British side that barely bade him welcome. The British and many Americans saw Arnold as an unprincipled mercenary and blamed him for the death of the popular Major André. Many people resented that it was André, not Arnold, who swung from the gallows.

Arnold was able to flee to Britain after the war was concluded. Although well-received by King George III and the Tories, he was frowned upon by the Whigs and most Army officers.



Picture Attribution: Thomas Hart, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain. File URL: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Benedict_Arnold_1_color.jpg

He was lambasted in the English press and blocked from taking up positions in the army and the East India Company. In 1787, he moved to Canada to a merchant business with his sons Richard and Henry, but he was extremely unpopular there and returned to London permanently in 1791. Having failed in several business ventures in Britain and Canada, he died in England in 1801, at age 60. He was buried without military honours.

In the Wall Street Journal ([here](#)), it records that Ms Joyce Lee Malcolm, a historian at George Mason University’s law school, described how tensions between George Washington and the Continental Congress, whose members had adopted this wary civilian view of the military, fuelled ever-greater discontent within the Continental Army. With low pay and poor supplies compounding the problem, many officers resigned. Ms Malcolm suggests that Arnold—helped along by his prickly personality and the trauma of a crippling wound—reacted by switching sides.

Why did Benedict Arnold defect to the British?

Historians have expressed several theories about why *Benedict Arnold* became a traitor, citing greed, mounting debt, resentment of other officers, a hatred of the Continental Congress, and a desire for the colonies to remain under British rule.

Arnold had been badly wounded twice in battle and had lost his business in Connecticut, which made him profoundly bitter. He certainly grew resentful of several rival and younger generals who had been promoted ahead of him and given honours that he thought he deserved. Especially galling was a long feud with the civil authorities in Philadelphia which led to his court-martial.

He was also convicted of two minor charges of using his authority to make a profit. General Washington gave him a light reprimand, but it merely heightened Arnold’s sense of betrayal. Nonetheless, he had already opened negotiations with the British before his court martial even began. He later said in his own defence that he was loyal to his true beliefs. Arnold was extremely ambitious and had a jealous personality. He knew that he was distrusted and disliked by senior military officers on both sides. Washington was one of the few who genuinely liked and admired him, but it looks as if Arnold thought that even General Washington betrayed him.

Arnold most likely betrayed his country because he was in dire financial straits. Whatever the reason, the words “Benedict Arnold” became synonymous with treason or becoming a traitor. At West Point, Arnold’s name was erased from a series of monuments honouring the Revolutionary War generals.

Was Billy Sidis the smartest person ever?

Source and Further Reading:

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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_James_Sidis
- <https://www.npr.org/2011/01/23/132737060/mee-t-william-james-sidis-the-smartest-guy-ever>



Picture Credit: Unknown author - The Sidis Archives, Public Domain.

Sidis, shown in the picture above in his 1914 graduation photograph, received his degree from Harvard University *magna cum laude* at age 16. He qualified for admission when he was nine, but he was not invited to attend until age 11, when the faculty thought he would be more mature.

Source: Biographer Amy Wallace (Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 3.0).

Who was William James Sidis?

William James (Billy) Sidis was an American child prodigy with exceptional mathematical and linguistic skills. He is notable for his 1920 book *The Animate and the Inanimate*, in which he speculated about what he called 'the origin of life in the context of thermodynamics'.

The son of two Ukrainian Jews who emigrated to America in the late 1800s, William Sidis was born in New York on April Fool's Day, 1898. He was named after one of his father's friends and colleagues, the philosopher William James, who originated the idea of a "stream of thought."

Parents, Boris and Sarah, both intellectuals despite difficult upbringings, believed in treating their son as an adult, insisting that everything young Billy did, he did so in pursuit of knowledge. Billy's parents shared a philosophy: *To give their son the tools to think, to reason and to learn.*

By two years old, William was reading the New York Times and tapping out letters on a typewriter from his high chair – in both English and French. He wrote one such letter to the department store Macy's, inquiring about toys.

Sidis was raised in a particular manner by his father, psychiatrist Boris Sidis, who wished his son to be gifted. Sidis first became famous for his precocity and later for his eccentricity and withdrawal from public life. Eventually, he avoided mathematics altogether, writing on other subjects under a number of pseudonyms.

He entered Harvard at age 11 and, as an adult, was claimed to have an extremely high IQ and to be conversant in about 25 languages and dialects.

When William (Billy) Sidis was barely three years old, the story goes, he taught himself a language: Latin. By the time he was 6, he had added Russian, French, German, Hebrew, Armenian and Turkish to his lengthy linguistic resume — along with Latin and his native tongue, English.

His mother, Sarah, a doctor, read him Greek myths as bedtime stories. His father, Boris, a budding superstar in the nascent field of psychology, eschewed physical activity for young Billy, instead engaging his son in debates about psychology and other academic pursuits.

Billy clutched his volume of Shakespeare on entering first-grade school. He graduated from primary school in seven months. He wrote at least four books between the ages of 6 and 8. And at eight, he passed both the Harvard Medical School anatomy exam and the entrance exam to get into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His IQ was thought to be 50 to 100 points higher than that of Albert Einstein.

William James Sidis was perhaps, as National Public Radio suggested in 2011, the smartest guy ever.

As it turns out, for all his intelligence and all his early accomplishments, the smartest guy ever had an often-troubled and all-too-short life. It's a life that might serve today as a cautionary tale for those who are supremely academically talented, and those who come in and out of their very special sphere.

As Billy raced through primary school and into high school — he finished the four years of high school in six weeks — the press began to notice. By 1909, when he entered Harvard as an 11-year-old, he was a full-blown media sensation. For much of his young life, with a few gaps here and there, the press followed him closely, something that Billy came to loathe.

William — he was called that once he entered Harvard — showed an early proficiency in languages, but later became a veritable genius in mathematics, too, devising a series of logarithmic tables. He held his first lecture, with Harvard faculty on hand, in 1910. He was still just 11.

"His method of thinking is real intellect. It is not automatic. He does not cram his head with facts. He reasons," Comstock said, according to the Wallace biography. *"I predict that young Sidis will be a great astronomical mathematician. He will evolve new theories and invent new ways of calculating astronomical phenomena. I believe he will be a great mathematician, the leader in that science in the future."*

But William's future took turns that no one expected, and not for the better.

Living with his Genius

Life was not easy at Harvard. Although his schoolwork was unquestioned, William failed miserably outside of the classroom. He had no interest in girls or any aspect of social life and was often ridiculed by his much older classmates.

Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Sidis moved west to work on a graduate degree at what is now Rice University in Houston. He taught several classes, too, but lasted less than a year there before returning to Boston. He enrolled in Harvard Law School, though he never obtained a law degree or pursued a career in law.

In 1919, struggling to adjust to life outside of an academic setting, he was arrested and sentenced to 18 months in jail for his part in a socialist demonstration in Boston. Boris kept him from prison by confining him to a sanatorium for a year in New Hampshire. After his release and a year in California, William returned to the East Coast, where for years, he worked a series of uninspiring jobs, writing self-published manuscripts and teaching on the side.

In 1925, his most famous work, *"The Animate and the Inanimate"* — the publisher says it touches on "the origins of life, cosmology, the potential reversibility of the second law through Maxwell's Demon, among other things" — was published to little fanfare. In it, William suggests the existence of what are now known as black holes.

By then, though, the media had declared the one-time boy genius a bust. He retreated even more from the public eye.

William James Sidis died of a cerebral bleed in 1944. He was just 46 years old.

The Challenges of Giftedness

William Sidis remains the premiere case study of a "failed" child prodigy. Over the years, education experts, the media, and everyday parents of non-prodigies have pointed fingers at Boris and Sarah for being too pushy, too concerned about their son's academics, and not worried enough about producing a well-rounded child. William's story still fuels the debate on how a gifted child should be raised and whether giftedness is something that is inherited — as Boris and Sarah believed — or if it's more influenced by environment.

Major academic studies have looked into child prodigies and how they fare in later life. A famed one, the *Terman Study of the Gifted* (originally known as *Genetic Studies of Genius*), was begun in 1921 by Stanford psychologist Lewis Terman. It followed more than 1,500 students for more than 80 years.

The Terman study has been criticised by many over the years. But its findings, in large part, still hold up, and its data continues to be used by social scientists today. *"Terman's work, following these people over 50+ years, even past the end of his lifetime, showed that most [prodigies] did in fact turn out to be well adjusted as adults and successful,"* Matthews said.

Missing: Amelia Earhart's last flight

Source and Further Reading:

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- <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/others/news/amelia-earharts-last-journey-reconstructed-246930>



Picture Credit: "Amelia Earhart" by aeroman3 is marked with CC-PDM 1.0

On 2nd July 1937, a little over 17 months before I was born, a brave, determined woman and her navigator, Fred Noonan, flew toward a tiny Pacific Island called Howland Island. It was to be one of the last stops on her attempt to fly around the world. Nearing the destination, Amelia Earhart radioed the *Itasca*, a United States Coast Guard cutter sailing off Howland's coast, to ask it to guide her onto land with radio signals. What happened next is an unsolved mystery.

This story started in December 1917 when Earhart visited her sister in Toronto, over the Christmas period. Earhart saw the returning wounded soldiers from the ongoing Great War. She trained as a nurse's aide from the Red Cross, she began work with the Voluntary Aid Detachment at the former barracks building that had become Spadina Military Hospital. The next year, the Spanish flu pandemic reached Toronto. Earhart was engaged in arduous nursing duties but soon became a patient herself, suffering from pneumonia and chronic sinusitis. Chronic sinusitis significantly affected her flying and activities in later life, and sometimes even on the airfield, she was forced to wear a bandage on her cheek to cover a small drainage tube.

Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927, inspired several women to dream of being the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. In April 1928, Earhart received a telephone call that would change the course of her life. The call was from Amy Phipps Guest, an extremely wealthy American who had formulated preliminary plans to attempt the transatlantic flight from England. Guest's plans met with opposition from her family, and after accepting the trip was too perilous to try, she offered Earhart the chance of a lifetime by agreeing to sponsor the project.

Solo Firsts & Plans for Round the Globe

On 20th May 1932, 34-year-old Earhart set off from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, intending to fly to Paris to emulate Charles Lindbergh's 1927 solo flight.

After a flight lasting 14 hours, 56 minutes, Earhart landed in a field near Londonderry, Northern Ireland. As the first woman to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic, Earhart received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress, the Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honour from the French Government, and the Gold Medal of the National Geographic Society from U.S. President Herbert Hoover.

On 11th January 1935, Earhart became the first aviator to fly solo from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, California. In April of that year, she flew solo from Los Angeles to Mexico City. The next record attempt was a nonstop flight from Mexico City to New York.

Between 1930 and 1935, Earhart set seven women's speed and distance aviation records in various aircraft. By 1935, recognising the limitations of her "lovely red Vega" aircraft in long, trans-oceanic flights, Earhart mulled, in her own words, a new "prize ... one flight which I most wanted to attempt – a circumnavigation of the globe as near its waistline as could be".

The race to fly around the world

First attempt

On 17th March 1937, Earhart and her crew flew the first leg from Oakland, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii. Due to mechanical problems, the aircraft needed servicing in Hawaii – in the end, the plane ended up at the US Navy's Luke Field on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. The next destination was to be Howland Island, a small island in the Pacific but the flight never left Luke Field – during take-off, the forward landing gear collapsed, and both propellers hit the ground. With the aircraft severely damaged, the attempt was called off, and the plane was shipped by sea to the Lockheed Burbank facility for repairs.

Second attempt

While the aircraft was being repaired, additional funds were raised, and preparations were made for a second attempt. This time flying west to east, the second attempt began from Oakland to Miami, Florida. The flight's opposite direction was partly the result of changes in global wind and weather patterns along the planned route since the earlier attempt. On this second flight, Fred Noonan was Earhart's only crew member. The pair departed Miami on 1st June 1937 and, after numerous stops in South America, Africa, the Indian sub-continent, and Southeast Asia, arrived at Lae, New Guinea, on 29th June 1937. At this stage, about 22,000 miles of the journey had been completed. The remaining 7,000 miles would be over the Pacific Ocean.

On 2nd July 1937, Earhart and Noonan took off from Lae Airfield. Their intended destination was Howland Island, a flat sliver of land 6,500 ft long and 1,600 ft wide and 2,556 miles away. The aircraft departed Lae Airfield with about 1100 gallons of fuel. At around 3pm Lae time, Earhart reported her altitude as 10000 feet but that they would reduce altitude due to thick clouds. At about 5 pm, Earhart reported her altitude as 7000 feet and speed as 150 knots.

Their last known position report was near the Nukumanu Islands (formerly Tasman Islands), about 800 miles into the flight.

In preparation for the trip to Howland Island, the US Coast Guard had sent the cutter *Itasca* to the island. The cutter offered many services, such as ferrying news reporters to the island, but it also had communication and navigation functions. The plan was for the cutter to communicate with Earhart's aircraft via radio; transmit a radio homing signal to make it easy to find Howland Island without precise celestial navigation; do radio direction finding if Earhart used her 500 kHz transmitter; use an experimental high-frequency direction finder for Earhart's voice transmissions, and use her boilers to "make smoke" (create a dark column of smoke that can be seen over the horizon). Through a series of errors and/or misunderstandings, all of the navigation methods failed to guide Earhart to Howland Island. Sporadic signals were reported for four or five days after the aircraft's disappearance, but none yielded any understandable information. Nobody knows what happened next, but there are plenty of theories.

Theories for disappearance

Most historians hold to the simple "crash and sink" theory, but several other possibilities have been proposed, including several conspiracy theories, some of which are:

- ❖ **They landed elsewhere:** It has been suggested that Earhart and Noonan survived and landed somewhere else but were either never found or killed, making en-route sites like *Tarawa* unlikely. Proposals have included the uninhabited *Gardner Island* (400 miles) from the vicinity of Howland, the Japanese-controlled *Marshall Islands* (870 miles at the closest point of *Mili Atoll*), and the Japanese-controlled *Northern Mariana Islands* (2,700 miles from Howland).
- ❖ **Crash and sink theory:** Many researchers believe that Earhart and Noonan simply ran out of fuel while searching for Howland Island, ditched at sea, and died.
- ❖ **Gardner Island hypothesis:** The Gardner Island (Nikumaroro) hypothesis assumes that Earhart and Noonan, having not found Howland Island, would not waste time searching for Howland. Instead, they would turn to the south and look for other islands.
- ❖ **Japanese capture theory:** Another theory is that Japanese forces captured Earhart and Noonan, perhaps after navigating to a location within the Japanese South Seas Mandate.

The search goes on

Several expeditions have tried to locate the plane's wreckage. By studying Earhart's final radio transmissions and calculating what is known about the aircraft's fuel supply, researchers have narrowed their search to a 630-square-mile area of ocean. You can read what National Geographic say [here](#).

In 2021, an image suggesting Amelia Earhart's plane was submerged at the Taraia spit in Nikumaroro lagoon (formerly Gardner Island) was seen. It is believed it may be Earhart's final resting place. Visit <https://roadtoamelia.org/> to discover more.

A Brief History of Pub Names in Britain

Sources and Further Reading:

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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pub_names
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Picture Credit: "West Wycombe 163: The Red Lion" by Peter O'Connor aka anemoneprojectors is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Why do Pubs have names?

Pub names are used to identify and differentiate public houses. Many pubs are centuries old, from when their customers were often illiterate, but they could recognise pictorial signage. The number of pub signs increased in 1393 when King Richard II passed a law that required landlords to display signs so that royal ale tasters could locate pubs easily to inspect the ale and collect taxes. The origin of Pub signs goes back to Roman times when the 'Tabernae' would hang vine leaves outside to show that they sold wine. One of the first Roman tavern signs was the 'Bush'. Early Pubs hung long poles or ale stakes, perhaps to stir the ale, outside their doors. If both wine and ale were sold, then both bush and pole would be hung outside.

Pub names have a variety of origins, from objects used as simple identification marks to the coats of arms of sovereigns, aristocrats and landowners. Other names come from historical events, livery companies, occupations and sports or craftsmen's guilds.

The most common Pub names

The two surveys often cited of most common Pub names are by the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), who say the most common names in 2007 were:

According to BBPA

- ❖ Red Lion
- ❖ Royal Oak
- ❖ White Hart
- ❖ Rose and Crown
- ❖ King's Head
- ❖ King's Arms
- ❖ Queen's Head
- ❖ The Crown

According to CAMRA

- ❖ The Crown
- ❖ Red Lion
- ❖ Royal Oak
- ❖ Swan
- ❖ White Hart
- ❖ Railway
- ❖ Plough
- ❖ White Horse

Pubs Galore

A more current listing can be found on the Pubs Galore site ([here](#)), updated daily as pubs open/close and change names. The top ten were:

- ❖ Red Lion
- ❖ Crown
- ❖ Royal Oak
- ❖ White Hart
- ❖ Swan
- ❖ Plough
- ❖ Railway
- ❖ White Horse
- ❖ Kings Arms
- ❖ Ship

A selection of Pub names

The Red Lion

The Red Lion is the most common pub name in Britain. Debrett say it rose in popularity following the union of the Scottish and English crowns in 1603 when King James I and VI of Scotland ordered that the heraldic red lion of Scotland be displayed on all buildings of importance.

The Royal Oak and The Rose and Crown

The Royal Oak is Britain's third most common pub. It refers to Charles II, who hid from pursuing Roundheads in an oak tree after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Edward III used a golden rose as a personal badge, and two of his sons adapted it by changing the colour: John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, used a red rose, and Edmund of Langley, 1st Duke of York, used a white rose. The conflicts between their descendants are collectively called the Wars of the Roses. In 1485 Henry Tudor, a descendant of Lancaster defeated Richard III of the York dynasty and married Richard's niece Elizabeth of York. Since then, the combined red-and-white Tudor rose, often 'crowned', has been a symbol of the monarchy of England. The name *Rose and Crown* celebrates the end of the War of the Roses.

Pubs named after Animals

Names like *Fox and Hounds*, *Dog and Duck*, *Dog and Gun*, *Hare and Hounds*, etc., refer to shooting and hunting. Animal names coupled with colours, such as *White Hart* and *Red Lion*, are often heraldic. A white hart corresponds to the badge of King Richard II, while a red lion was a badge of John of Gaunt and a blue boar was a badge of the Earls of Oxford. Other examples include:

- ❖ Bald Faced Stag Inn (Finchley) - An inn notorious as it was frequented by murderers in the past.
- ❖ Black Horse, perhaps named in memory of a black horse ridden by the highwayman Dick Turpin.
- ❖ Bull Inn - named in memory of 'bull-running' - a practice made illegal in 1835, which involved chasing a bull through the streets of a town until it was weakened, then slaughtering it for its meat.
- ❖ The likes of pubs called *Fox and Hounds*, *Hare and Hounds* and the *Dog and Gun*, often refer to hunting or shooting.

Heraldic Pub names

The ubiquity of heraldic pub names shows how important heraldry has been in the naming of pubs. The simpler symbols of the heraldic badges of royalty or local nobility give rise to many of the most common pub names. Five common colours (heraldic tinctures) are gules (red); sable (black); azure (blue); vert (green); and purpure (purple). The metals are or (gold) and argent (silver), although in practice, they are usually depicted as yellow and white. Examples of Pub names, including items appearing in coats of arms, include:

- ❖ Antlers: although this is often seen as a derivation of Richard II's white hart emblem, it may also be an echo of a pagan figure, *Herne the Hunter*.
- ❖ Black Griffin: a pub in Lisvane, Cardiff, named after the coat of arms carried by the lords of the manor.
- ❖ Blue Boar, the name of many pubs in Westminster, Norwich, Billericay, Maldon, Witney and elsewhere, from the badge of the Earls of Oxford.
- ❖ Eagle and Child, Oxford, derived from the arms of the Earls of Derby, was a meeting place of the Inklings (an informal literary discussion group associated with J. R. R. Tolkien at the University of Oxford).
- ❖ Elephant and Castle: apocryphally a corruption of the words "Infanta of Castile", more probably taken from the crest of the Cutlers' Company.
- ❖ White Hart: the livery badge of King Richard II of England. It became so popular as an inn sign in his reign that it was adopted by many later inns and taverns.
- ❖ White Horse: the sign of the House of Hanover, adopted by many 18th-century inns to demonstrate loyalty to the new Royal dynasty. A white horse is also the emblem of the County of Kent. The name can also refer to the chalk horses carved into hillsides.

Pubs referring to occupations

Some Pub names that incorporate the word 'Arms' bear reference to working occupations of past times. The signs for such Pubs may show people undertaking their work or the arms of the appropriate London livery company. This class of name may be only just a name, but there are stories behind some of them, for example:

- ❖ Artillery Arms (such as at Bunhill Row, London EC1: next door to the headquarters of the British Army's oldest regiment).
- ❖ Blacksmith's Arms, (such as in Wisbech) with the pun of the actual blacksmiths arms and their strength.
- ❖ Bricklayer's Arms, (such as in Hitchin, Hertfordshire: The first landlord, William Huckle, who opened this pub in 1846, was a bricklayer by trade).
- ❖ Carpenters Arms - A series of pubs, related to the occupation or more likely to the guild of carpenters.
- ❖ Mechanics Arms (now renamed the *Old Neighbourhood*), near Stroud, Gloucestershire. In this context a mechanic was a bonesetter).
- ❖ Shipwrights' Arms, (for example, in Wisbech, named for the men employed by the local shipbuilders).



Picture Credit: "File: The Thatched Inn - geograph.org.uk - 36516.jpg" by Nigel Freeman is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Nephilim – a tall Story?



Picture Credit: "David and Goliath by Robert Temple Ayres" by Fried Dough is marked with CC PDM 1.0

I am guilty of reading random things - perhaps too much, some might say. The other day, I came across something that meant absolutely nothing whatsoever to me.

I tried to guess what it meant, but failed miserably. As is my wont, my wanderlust for learning about things that I know nothing about and general thirst for knowledge, took me on a journey of discovery.

I'm talking here about some mysterious beings or people mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. The name given to them is "The Nephilim".

Large and Strong *

Wikipedia says of the Nephilim: They are large and strong; the word Nephilim is loosely translated as giants in some Bibles but left untranslated in others. Some traditional Jewish explanations interpret them as fallen angels. The main reference to them is in Genesis, but the passage is ambiguous, and the identity of the Nephilim is disputed. According to Numbers 13:33, they later inhabited Canaan at the time of the Israelite conquest of Canaan. A similar or identical biblical Hebrew term, read as "Nephilim" by some scholars or as the word "fallen" by others, appears in Ezekiel 32:27.

The Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon (1908) gives the meaning of Nephilim as "giants", but watch out: etymologies of the word are "all very precarious". Many suggested interpretations assume that the word is a derivative of Hebrew verbal root n-p-l, "fall". Robert Baker Girdlestone argued in 1871 that the word comes from the hipil (a verbal stem formation in Biblical Hebrew) causative stem, implying that the Nephilim are to be perceived as "those that cause others to fall down".

The majority of ancient biblical versions—including the Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament), Theodotion (translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek), Latin Vulgate, Samaritan Targum**, Targum Onkelos***, and Targum Neofiti****—interpret the word to mean "giants". Symmachus, who translated the Old Testament into Greek, interprets it as "the violent ones", and the translation by Aquila***** has been interpreted to mean either "the fallen ones" or "the ones falling [upon their enemies]."

* Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nephilim> Text under CC-BY-SA license

** The Samaritans, defined [here](#), were half-Jew, half-Gentile. The race came about after the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. Certain people from the nation of Israel stayed behind. These people intermarried with the Assyrians producing the Samaritans. Targum means 'translation' or 'interpretation.'

*** Targum Onkelos (or Onkelos) is the primary Jewish Aramaic translation of the Torah, accepted as an authoritative translated text of the Five Books of Moses and thought to have been written in the early 2nd century AD. It is traditionally attributed to Onkelos, a famous convert to Judaism.

**** Targum Neofiti or Targum Neophyti, composed in Talmudic Israel (c.30 - c.70 CE), is the largest of the Western interpretations of the Torah, or Palestinian Targumim - consisting of 450 folios.

***** Aquila (meaning an eagle) was a Jew whom St. Paul found at Corinth on his arrival from Athens. (Acts 18:2) (in 52 AD).

There are so many interpretations and translations of what is known as the Bible that people everywhere can be excused if they are confused – despite the text above and the explanations I have provided, it's by no means clear. One thing is for sure: The stone from David's sling certainly had the effect of causing Goliath 'to fall down'.

The Nephilim and the great flood

The Nephilim may have been one of the primary reasons for the great flood in Noah's time – the Bible says God's disapproval of these fallen angels was the reason for the flood. See what you believe: If you do a Google search, you will find pros and cons for this theory.

Criticised, but was it unfair?

The biblicalarchaeology.org website ([here](#)) says: "It was once claimed that the mating of the sons of god and the daughters of Adam that resulted in the Nephilim caused the flood, and this caused the Nephilim to have a negative reputation. This was believed because the next verse (Genesis 6:5) is the introduction to the flood narrative and because their name means "fallen ones."

However, as they say, it is unlikely that this interpretation is correct because Genesis 6:4 presents nothing but praise for the Nephilim, and no criticism is present. In addition, the name "fallen ones" is likely a reference to their divine paternity transforming—falling—into the human condition, albeit an almost superhuman condition.

Was Goliath a Nephilim?

The giant Goliath is best known for engaging in a losing battle with David - a formidable opponent who, compared to his own size, was minute. Many theorists believe that Goliath was a descendant of the Nephilim of Genesis 6. Yet other theorists, whilst acknowledging that

Goliath was a giant, say he was not Nephilim (read [here](#) for a discussion on this).

Further Reading

Worth reading is what Britannica.com says ([here](#)): 'Nephilim, in the Hebrew Bible, [were] a group of mysterious beings or people of unusually large size and strength who lived both before and after the Flood. The Hebrew word nefilim is sometimes directly translated as "giants" or taken to mean "the fallen ones" (from the Hebrew naphal, "to fall"), but the identity of the Nephilim is debated by scholars.'

There are many books on Amazon that refer to the Nephilim in their title. One that caught my eye is *The Rise and Fall of the Nephilim: The Untold Story of Fallen Angels, Giants on the Earth, and Their Extraterrestrial Origins* – by Scott Alan Roberts (Author), published by New Page Books. The book (kindle edition) is available from [here](#).

The Amazon description of the book tempts you to buy the book to find out what it all means – that is, if you are curious about such things:

'The ancient books of Genesis and Enoch tell us that spirit beings known as the Watchers descended to the Earth, had sex with women, and begat a hybrid race of offspring known as the Nephilim. Such tales are as old as humanity itself. These histories and accounts of visitations and subsequent mixed-blood, alien-human races comprise the bulk of the world's myths, legends, religions, and superstitions.'

What if the old spiritualities and religions weren't just legends?

What if there was something living and breathing beneath the surface, a tangible interlinking of religious thought and spirituality, science and myth, inter-dimensionality and cold, hard fact? The Nephilim walked among us... and still do today.'

No one really knows exactly who or what were the Nephilim. However, the Bible gives us clues about who the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" were ([Genesis 6:1-4](#)).

Below is a picture of a skeleton believed to be that of a Nephilim.



Picture Credit: "Nephilim-giant-skeleton" by dionisosolympian is marked with CC PDM 1.0

Seas and Oceans – what's the difference?

Sources and Further Reading:

- <https://www.vedantu.com/biology/difference-between-sea-and-ocean>
- <https://www.geographyrealm.com/what-is-the-difference-between-a-sea-and-an-ocean/>
- <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/oceanorsea.html>
- <https://www.dictionary.com/e/ocean-vs-sea/>

In general, as Dictionary.com explains, the words *ocean* and *sea* are often used interchangeably to refer to the big body of salt water that covers most of Earth. The Earth is primarily an ocean planet that is 71% covered in water. However, technically speaking, an *ocean* is one of the big five (or seven) divisions of this expanse (like the Atlantic and the Pacific), while a *sea* is a smaller portion of this (such as the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Arabian Sea, the South China Sea, and the Red Sea, and many others) - typically one that is bounded in some way by smaller landmasses.

Oddities

- ❖ Some bodies of water are surrounded by land, but they are big enough to be considered seas, such as the Black Sea.
- ❖ The relatively calm portion of the Atlantic Ocean known as the Sargasso Sea (see below) is not bounded by any land but is instead defined by its location between ocean currents.
- ❖ Not every body of water considered to be a sea has the word *sea* in its name. The Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of Bengal fit the criteria to be regarded as seas. Hudson Bay is considered an inland sea.
- ❖ Not all water expanses with a *sea* in their name are a sea at all - the Caspian Sea and the Dead Sea are saltwater lakes, as is the Sea of Galilee.

Sargasso Sea

The exception to the definition of a sea is the Sargasso Sea. The Sargasso Sea is a sea within the open ocean. It is the only sea in the world without a land boundary.



Attribution: Map showing the location of the Sargasso Sea with arrows showing the direction of the currents. Image: MediaWiki Commons, public domain

What is an ocean?

According to Dictionary.com, the ocean usually means “the vast body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth’s surface.” You can think of this as one big, unbounded body of water in which the continents are islands.

This vast expanse—the *world ocean*, as it is sometimes called—has been divided into sections, roughly based on the position of each section between continents.

Each of these sections is called an *ocean*, and each has a specific name: the Pacific Ocean (from the east coasts of Asia and Australia to the west coasts of the Americas), the Atlantic Ocean (from the east coasts of the Americas to the west coasts of Europe and Africa), the Indian Ocean (between the east coast of Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and the west coast of Australia), the Arctic Ocean (in the extreme global north), and the Antarctic Ocean (in the extreme global south).

The Pacific and the Atlantic are the biggest oceans and are so big that they are further divided into the North Atlantic and South Atlantic; and the North Pacific and South Pacific. If you count these divisions, you will end up with a list of seven *oceans* (instead of five).

The world’s oceans supply at least half of the world’s oxygen and store about 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere. Oceans also influence the Earth’s climate through a constant transfer of heat from the Equator towards the poles. Evaporation from the ocean’s surface brings rain to much of the Earth’s land surfaces.

What is a sea?

Again Dictionary.com have an explanation for what people mean when they say the sea. Often, it can mean the same thing as the *ocean* —the enormous, connected body of salt water that covers most of the planet. More specifically, though, a sea is “a division of these waters, of considerable extent, more or less definitely marked off by land boundaries.”

What are the seven seas?

In fact, there are more than fifty seas in the world. So why are we so used to hearing that there are seven (see above)?

Many geographers and historians believe that, in the ancient world, it most commonly referred to as the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Red Sea. But this likely varied in different parts of the world where different bodies of water were known.

How to use ocean vs sea

In the most general sense, *sea* and *ocean* are often used interchangeably to refer to the massive body of salt water that covers most of the planet.

The technical distinction used for the purposes of geography is that an *ocean* is one of the five (or seven) divisions of these waters, while a *sea* is a smaller portion of the ocean, most often one bounded by land in some way.

Both *sea* and *ocean* are commonly used in phrases and compound words like *seaside*, *oceanside*, *seawater*, *ocean liner*, *seascape*, and many more. These terms are typically used in the general sense of the words or refer specifically to whatever body of water is nearby.

Both *ocean* and *sea* can also be used in similar figurative ways to refer to a large expanse, as in a *sea of people*, or a great amount, as in an *ocean of possibilities*. *Sea* is perhaps more commonly used in poetic ways.

In the example below, the Indian Ocean is shown as an open body of water. The two areas of water that are partially enclosed by land are named the Red Sea and the Oman Sea.



Attribution: Map showing the Indian Ocean, the Oman Sea, and the Red Sea. Map: [Epmistes](#), [MediaWiki Commons](#), public domain.

Other differences

The depth of an *ocean* is considerably greater than the sea. The deepest *ocean* in the world is the Pacific Ocean with a depth of around 10,924 metres. By comparison, the deepest sea in the Caribbean Sea with a depth of only 6946 metres. The area of an *ocean* is greater than that of a *sea*: for example, the Pacific Ocean covers an area of 60 million sq miles - whereas the largest sea, the Mediterranean, covers an area of about 1.14 million sq miles.

Conclusion

Well, now you know. *Seas* are smaller than *oceans* and are usually located where the land and *ocean* meet. Typically, *seas* are partially enclosed by land.

Bedelands Local Nature Reserve

Sources and Further Reading:

- <http://bh-green-circle.org.uk/sites/bedelands-local-nature-reserve/>
- <http://coronationmeadows.org.uk/meadow/valebridge-common-field-burgess-hill>
- <https://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/help-point/tourist-information/local-attractions-things-to-do/bedelands-farm-local-nature-reserve/>
- https://www.trainspots.co.uk/lopage.php?ts_number=1340
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/bedelands-farm-lnr/>

At 33 hectares (80 acres), *Bedelands Local Nature Reserve* is the largest green site in Burgess Hill. It lies northeast of the town and is signposted from Maple Drive and Valebridge Road. Access to it is from the playing fields next to Burgess Hill Town Football Club, off Maple Drive, and from Coopers Close. Other entry points are from a footpath near Valebridge Close and from beneath the viaduct in Valebridge Road.

The area comprises several areas of ancient woodlands - such as Big Wood - wildflower meadows, and a large mill pond. The meadows have never been ploughed and so support a wide variety of wildflowers, including some rare species. The woods are broadleaf, with much hornbeam and hazel understorey. Mid Sussex District Council owns the site, and the *Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network* helps to maintain it.

Said to have originally been part of the Manor of Keymer, it was farmed as pasture before its ownership by Mid Sussex District Council. There are seven meadows set in ancient woodlands, with a great profusion of wildlife, including the protected Hazel Dormouse. Wildflowers are abundant, so much so that the Millennium Seedbank and High Weald Landscape Trust both harvest seeds here. Wildflower meadows like these are becoming increasingly rare in the UK, with only about 3% of their original number surviving today.

The Nature Reserve consists of ancient meadows, woodland, hedgerows, and ponds. Since 1994, in consultation with the District Council and the University of Sussex, the Friends group have been surveying the wildlife and keeping records so that a comprehensive management plan can be devised and implemented for the conservation of all the flora and fauna and the public's enjoyment.

The Nature Reserve is a *Site of Nature Conservation Importance* (SNCI). Valebridge Meadow was designated a Coronation Meadow in 2013.



Picture Credit: "File:Valebridge Pond - [geograph.org.uk](https://www.geograph.org.uk) - 843905.jpg" by Simon Carey is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



Picture Credit: "Glade" by Dominic's pics is licensed under CC BY 2.0

The River Adur and a large Mill Pond run along the northern boundary, with the London to Brighton railway along the eastern side.

There are a few smaller ponds, as well as a fenced Dipping Pond, complete with platform, which is frequently booked by children's groups and schools.

This beautiful site is regularly enjoyed both by local residents and by visitors from further afield.

Bedelands Farm Crossing

You'll find a simple foot crossing over the main railway line just to the North of Wivelsfield Station on the northern edge of Burgess Hill at World's End. A stile on either side of the line needs to be crossed to access the foot crossing.

It is about a seven-minute walk from Wivelsfield Station, which can be seen looking to the south from the crossing. And, if you look to the North, you can just about see Haywards Heath station through the tunnel in the distance.

Access is via a walk through the paths and fields of Bedelands Nature reserve or down the path from Valebridge Road, where there is limited parking.

Take a walk through Bedelands with Richard Vobes

You can watch Richard Vobes (aka *The Bald Explorer*) as he wanders through Bedelands on YouTube [here](#).



Picture Credit: This is a screenshot from that video shown above. All rights of Richard Vobes and The BaldExplorer are duly acknowledged.

Female entrepreneurs

Sources and Further Reading:

- <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/574385/historical-female-entrepreneurs>
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- <https://ehstheolngun.net/2019/03/07/the-age-of-entrepreneurship-new-insights-into-female-business-proprietors-in-victorian-britain/>
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- <https://ehstheolngun.net/2018/03/13/are-businessmen-from-mars-and-businesswomen-from-venus-an-analysis-of-female-business-success-and-failure-in-victorian-and-edwardian-england/>
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- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/womens_work_01.shtml



Picture Credit: [Cropped] "Dame Anita Roddick plaque" by J'Roo is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Introduction

Researching this topic revealed some surprising results. For example, I was unaware that nearly 30% of businesses in Victorian Britain were owned and run by women.

This is a big subject, and it doesn't do it justice to try to cover it in a page or two. All that can be managed is to focus on a few aspects and leave it to you to read further from the sources above, or the reading referred to in the article.

To start at a comparatively recent time, Dame Anita Roddick comes to mind. She is remembered as one of Britain's leading female entrepreneurs and the founder of *The Body Shop*. In 1976, she opened the doors to her first shop in Brighton, becoming interested in environmental activism early in her world travels. From small beginnings, simply as a way of living, it quickly emerged into a business with more than 2,100 stores and more than 77 million customers, operating in more than 20 countries. Sadly, she died in 2007 from a brain haemorrhage at the age of 64.

Back in time

You need to go back nearly 4,000 years ago, to 1870 BC, in the city of Assur in northern Iraq, for the first or one of the first female entrepreneurs. In that place, at that time, was a woman called Ahaha who discovered a case of financial fraud. She had invested in long-distance trade between Assur and the city of Kanesh in Turkey - she and other investors had pooled silver to finance a donkey caravan delivering tin and textiles to Kanesh to exchange for more silver. The trouble was that her share of the profits had disappeared in a puff of smoke. It is not known whether or not she got her money back.



Picture Credit: "Layland Arcade, Lord Street, Southampton, Lancashire" by mirrobertwade (wadey) is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

A recent book (published in 2020) gives new insight into a remarkable group within this community: women who grabbed opportunities that opened for them and took on roles more typically filled by men at the time.

These Assur women became the first-known businesswomen, female bankers and female investors in the history of the world.

At that time, 'complex' financial instruments and business structures enabled this trading to work. For example, 'naruqqum', which literally meant "bag", a joint-stock company in which Assyrian investors pooled their silver to fund merchant-led caravans over many years.

The merchants also used business parlance:

- ❖ "The tablet is dead" meant that a debt had been paid, and the clay-tablet contract recording it was therefore cancelled.
- ❖ "Hungry silver" referred to silver that was not invested but idly sitting around instead of being put to profitable economic use.

Cécile Michel, a senior researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France, is the author of the book, titled *Women of Assur and Kanesh: Texts from the archives of Assyrian Merchants*.

Source/Excerpted from:

<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20210111-the-secret-letters-of-historys-first-businesswomen>

Victorian Times

Women formed a sizeable part of this business population, owning 27-30% of all businesses between 1851 and 1911. Compare that with statistics from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, which show that 21% of businesses were women-led in 2017. While nowadays, the sectors with the highest proportions of female involvement include education and the health services, where women constitute 50% of owners, in Victorian Britain, the most women-dominated sectors were clothing manufacturing and personal services. In 2017, manufacturing was one of the lowest sectors for female business participation at 12% - unchanged from 1901.

While many Victorian manufacturing businesses run by women were related to the textile industry, there were also many women running more traditionally masculine trades, such as Eliza Tinsley, who in 1871 owned a nail and chain manufacturing firm in Dudley, Staffs, employing 4,000 people.

Source/Excerpted from: LSE Blog [here](#).

Case Studies: 17th and 18th Century

An article by Pamela Sharpe. Lecturer in Social and Economic History at University of Bristol Tasmania, Australia ([here](#)) sets the scene about women entrepreneurs:

'Women inhabited some unlikely settings in the early modern world, and in some cases, their impact extended well beyond the confines of their home and the local community.'

'Case studies of British businesswomen in the early industrial era establish their presence in the areas of long-distance trade, heavy industry, and high finance. Research on specific families or regions has revealed that from about 1650 to 1780, women owned and actively manipulated a good deal of family and business capital. The fashion trade offered scope to businesswomen who could exploit "separate spheres" to their own advantage.'

'Women edged out of overseas trade during this period in favour of the expanding domestic retail sector, particularly for luxury goods. By the late eighteenth century, as the infant mortality rate dropped and life expectancy increased for the middle orders, more sons survived, fewer women were left widows, and younger women were more occupied with childcare. While changing social attitudes emphasised the ideal of "separate spheres" for men and women, changing demographics formed the practical underpinning of these social conventions.'

In recent years, the number of women-owned businesses has risen exponentially. But female entrepreneurship is not just a hallmark of the modern era: Since as early as the 17th century, women have been forging their own paths in various trades. From merchants to ironmasters to dressmakers, these historic women shattered glass ceilings and broke stereotypes and rose to the top of their industries.

An analysis of female business success and failure in Victorian and Edwardian England by The Economic History Society [here](#), concludes:

'This research indicates that Victorian and Edwardian businesswomen were perfectly able to trade in a fashion similar to the one of their male counterparts and, if anything, they were more successful. This leads to a basic and probably intuitive policy implication: if we want more women to successfully engage in business, all we have to do is to remove the economic, social, and cultural barriers that limit their access to opportunities.'

Recommended Reading

The Foundations of Female Entrepreneurship. Enterprise, Home and Household in London, c.1800-1870, written by Alison Kay, published by Routledge, 2009, ISBN: 9780415431743; 186pp.; Price: £90.00.

You can read the review [here](#).

Diogenes

Sources and Further Reading:

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- https://www.worldhistory.org/Diogenes_of_Sinope/
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Diogenes-Greek-philosopher>
- <https://iep.utm.edu/diogsino/#H2>

Picture Credit/ATTRIBUTION: John William Waterhouse, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7a/Waterhouse-Diogenes.jpg>



Introduction

Diogenes (also known as *Diogenes the Cynic*) was a Greek philosopher, born in Sinope, an Ionian colony on the Black Sea coast of modern-day Turkey, in 412 or 404 BC and died at Corinth in 323 BC. He was one of the founders of Cynic philosophy*. You might say he was the ultimate polemicist – arguing, criticising and taking an opposite view on almost everything. Mr Disputatious would be a good 21st century name for him.

* Cynicism is a school of thought of ancient Greek philosophy as practised by the Cynics. The Cynics were a Greek philosophical sect that stressed stoic self-sufficiency and the rejection of luxury.

Controversial but Honest

It is an understatement to say that Diogenes was a controversial figure. His father minted coins for a living, and Diogenes was banished from Sinope when he took to the debasement of currency. After being exiled, he moved to Athens and pursued criticism of the many cultural conventions of the city. Diogenes began practising what may best be described as extreme anti-conventionalism. He modelled himself on the example of Heracles and believed that virtue was better revealed in action than in theory.

He used his simple lifestyle and behaviour to criticise the social values and institutions of what he saw as a corrupt, confused society. He had a reputation for sleeping and eating wherever he chose in a highly non-traditional fashion and took to toughening himself against nature.

When Plato was asked what sort of man Diogenes was, he responded, “A Socrates gone mad” Plato’s label is representative, for Diogenes’ adaptation of Socratic philosophy has frequently been regarded as one of degradation**.

** Source: Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, [here](https://www.iep.utm.edu/diogsino/#H2).

He declared himself to be a cosmopolitan and a citizen of the world rather than claiming allegiance to just one place. There are many tales about his dogging Antisthenes’ footsteps and becoming his “faithful hound”.

Diogenes made a virtue of poverty. He begged for a living, and his sleeping chamber was a large ceramic jar, or pithos, in the marketplace. He became notorious for his philosophical stunts - he is best known for holding a lantern (or candle) to the faces of the citizens of Athens, claiming he was searching for an honest man. He rejected the concept of “manners” as a lie, instead advocating complete truthfulness at all times and under any circumstance whatsoever.

He was known for brutal honesty in conversation and paid no attention to any kind of etiquette regarding social class, and seems to have had a problem in matters of toiletry engaging openly in doing things in public what others (he claimed) did furtively in private.

Diogenes criticised Plato, disputing his interpretation of Socrates, and sabotaged his lectures, sometimes distracting listeners by bringing food and eating during the discussions. He was also noted for having mocked Alexander the Great.

Diogenes was as bizarre as one could get in the ancient Greek world. Some say he was a raving lunatic. He was certainly brash, coarse, crass, unruly, and obscene. He took great pride in his disregard for the thoughts and esteems of others. Yet still to the present day, Diogenes is highly regarded for his commitment to truth and living according to his beliefs.

Death

There are conflicting accounts of Diogenes’ death. His contemporaries alleged he had held his breath until he expired, although other versions of his death say he had become ill from eating raw octopus; or to have suffered an infected dog bite.

When asked how he wished to be buried, he left instructions to be thrown outside the city wall so wild animals could feast on his body. When asked if he minded this, he said, “Not at all, as long as you provide me with a stick to chase the creatures away!” When asked how he could use the stick since he would lack awareness, he replied: “If I lack awareness, then why should I care what happens to me when I am dead?” To the end, Diogenes made fun of people’s excessive concern with the “proper” treatment of the dead. The Corinthians erected to his memory a pillar on which rested a dog of Parian marble.

Diogenes Syndrome

Diogenes’ name has been attached to a behavioural disorder characterised by apparently involuntary self-neglect and hoarding. The disorder afflicts the elderly and is quite inappropriately named, as Diogenes deliberately rejected common standards of material comfort and was anything but a hoarder. The name itself is also often criticised as Diogenes believed he was helping himself.

Quotations by Diogenes of Sinope

- ❖ “It is not that I am mad, it is only that my head is different from yours.”
- ❖ “Of what use is a philosopher who doesn’t hurt anybody’s feelings?”
- ❖ “It is the privilege of the gods to want nothing, and of godlike men to want little.”
- ❖ “I am a citizen of the world.”
- ❖ “The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.”
- ❖ “It takes a wise man to discover a wise man.”
- ❖ “I have nothing to ask but that you would remove to the other side, that you may not, by intercepting the sunshine, take from me what you cannot give.”
- ❖ “Blushing is the colour of virtue.”
- ❖ “In a rich man’s house, there is no place to spit but his face.”
“When someone reminded him that the people of Sinope had sentenced him to exile, he said, “And I sentenced them to stay at home.”
- ❖ “Dogs and philosophers do the greatest good and get the fewest rewards.”
- ❖ “The art of being a slave is to rule one’s master.”
- ❖ “Poverty is a virtue which one can teach oneself.”
- ❖ “When asked the proper time for lunch, he said, “If a rich man, when you will; if a poor man, when you can.”
- ❖ “No man is hurt but by himself.”
- ❖ “What I like to drink most is wine that belongs to others.”
- ❖ “The only way to gall and fret effectively is for yourself to be a good and honest man.”
- ❖ “And at last, becoming a complete misanthrope, he used to live, spending his time in walking about the mountains; feeding on grasses and plants, and in consequence of these habits, he was attacked by the dropsy, and so then he returned to the city, and asked the physicians, in a riddle, whether they were able to produce a drought after wet weather. And as they did not understand him, he shut himself up in a stable for oxen, and covered himself with cow-dung, hoping to cause the wet to evaporate from him, by the warmth that this produced. And as he did himself no good in this way, he died, having lived seventy years.”
- ❖ “Behold! I’ve brought you a man.”
- ❖ “No man is hurt but by himself.”
- ❖ “As a matter of self-preservation, a man needs good friends or ardent enemies, for the former instruct him and the latter take him to task.”
- ❖ “You are a simpleton, Hegesias; you do not choose painted figs, but real ones; and yet you pass over the true training and would apply yourself to written rules.”
- ❖ “I am Diogenes the Dog. I nuzzle the kind, bark at the greedy and bite scoundrels.”
- ❖ “If I gained one thing from philosophy is that at the very least, I am well prepared to confront any change in fortune.”

The Olympic Games

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- <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Olympic-Games>
- <https://olympics.com/ioc/ancient-olympic-games/the-athlete>
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- <https://www.history.com/topics/sports/olympic-games>
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- <https://www.thoughtco.com/list-of-the-olympic-games-1779620>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Games
- <https://olympics.com/ioc/ancient-olympic-games/history>
- <https://www.penn.museum/sites/olympics/olympicorigins.shtml>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/greek_olympics_01.shtml
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- <https://www.ancientolympicgames.org/athletes/>
- <https://www.imagininghistory.co.uk/post/5-weird-facts-about-the-ancient-olympics>
- <https://olympics.com/ioc/ancient-olympic-games/the-sports-events>



Picture Credit: "Zeus" by craftsmen is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Ancient Games

The ancient Olympic Games were a series of athletic competitions among representatives of city-states and one of the Panhellenic Games of Ancient Greece. They were held in honour of Zeus (see above), and the Greeks gave them mythological origin. The first Olympic Games are traditionally dated to 776 BC. They were held every four years, or Olympiad, which became a unit of time in historical chronologies. They continued to be celebrated when Greece came under Roman rule in the 2nd century BC.

In the beginning, there were fewer events, and only free men who spoke Greek could compete, instead of athletes from any country. Their last recorded celebration in ancient times was in AD 393, under the emperor Theodosius I, but archaeological evidence indicates that some games were still held after this date. The ancient games likely ended under Theodosius II, possibly in connection with a fire that burned down the temple of the Olympian Zeus during his reign. The prizes for the victors were wreaths of laurel leaves. Other important sporting events in ancient Greece included the *Isthmian Games*, the *Nemean Games*, and the *Pythian Games*.

Together with the Olympics, these were the most prestigious games, and formed the *Panhellenic Games*. Some games, such as the *Panathenaia of Athens*, included musical, reading and other non-athletic contests in addition to regular sports events. The *Heraean Games*, held in Olympia as early as the 6th century BCE, were the first recorded sporting competition for women.

The Oldest Olympic Sports

A foot race, known as *Stadion*, was the (first and only) event at the Olympics until 724 BC. Three more foot races, several combat sports, and equestrian events comprised the ancient Olympic sports. Most of these sports are still in the Games today, albeit in a modified form.

Events

- ❖ *Running (Stadion)* – the most prestigious event and still competed today, as the 200m sprint.
- ❖ *Double-Stade Foot Race (Diaulos)* – still competed today as the 400m race.
- ❖ *Long Distance Running (Dolichos)* – still competed: the nearest equivalent is the 5000m race.
- ❖ *Wrestling (Palé)* – still competed today and requires two competitors.
- ❖ *Pentathlon (Discus Toss, Javelin Throw, Long Jump, Stadion, and Wrestling)* – not competed as such today, but the individual events (discus, javelin, and long jump) still exist and as do the men's decathlon and women's heptathlon.
- ❖ *Boxing (Pygmachia)* – unlike boxing today, in ancient times, it was very rough, and deaths during a bout were not uncommon.
- ❖ *Four-Horse Chariot Racing (Tethrippon)* – requiring chariots and horses and is not competed today.
- ❖ *Pankration* – more dangerous than boxing and wrestling, it is no longer played.
- ❖ *Hoplite Race (Hoplitodromos)* – no longer played. Other foot races were competed in the nude, but the hoplite race required athletes to wear heavy armour and tested the muscular strength and endurance of athletes.

Source: <https://www.oldest.org/sports/olympic-sports/>

The Ancient Olympic Stars

- ❖ *Theagenes of Thasos* - a pugilist who claimed he won 1,300 bouts in a 22-year career.
- ❖ *Leonidas of Rhodes* - a versatile athlete, won the wreath in three categories at the 164, 160, 156 and 152 Olympic Games, with 12 Olympic victories to his credit.
- ❖ *Gaius Appuleius Diocles* - a Roman chariot racer in the second century A.D. During a 24-year career, he competed in over 4,200 races, winning 1,462 and finishing second 861 times.
- ❖ *Diagoras of Rhodes* - a champion boxer and the patriarch of one of the most famous sporting families of ancient Greece.
- ❖ *Chionis of Sparta* - a versatile track and field athlete, specialising in the stadion and diaulos races, and his record of three consecutive victories was not replicated for nearly 200 years.
- ❖ *Milo of Croton* - a wrestler known for his larger-than-life feats of strength and substantial appetite.

The Olympic Truce

The Olympic Truce, or *ekecheria*, is based on an ancient Greek tradition, dating back to the 8th

century B.C. All conflicts ceased during the period of the Truce, which began seven days before the opening of the Olympic Games and ended on the seventh day following the closing of the Games, so that athletes, artists, their relatives and pilgrims could travel safely to the Olympic Games and afterwards return to their countries.

The Modern Games



Picture Credit: "1948 Olympic Games Poster" by thehistory is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The modern Olympic Games (aka Olympics) are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in various competitions. The Games are considered the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating.

The modern Olympic Games are normally held every four years, alternating between the Summer and Winter Olympics every two years in a four-year period. Their creation was inspired by the ancient Olympic Games, held in Olympia, Greece from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894, leading to the first modern Games in Athens in 1896. The IOC is the governing body of the Olympic Movement with the Olympic Charter defining its structure and authority.

The evolution of the Olympic Movement during the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in several changes to the Olympic Games. Some of these adjustments include the creation of the Winter Olympic Games for snow and ice sports, the Paralympic Games for athletes with disabilities, the Youth Olympic Games for athletes aged 14 to 18, the five Continental games (Pan American, African, Asian, European, and Pacific), and the World Games for sports that are not contested in the Olympic Games. Before the 1970s, the Olympic Games were officially limited to competitors with amateur status, but in the 1980s many events were opened to professional athletes. Currently, the Games are open to all, even the top professional athletes in basketball and soccer. This was not a concern of the Greeks as ancient athletes often received prizes worth substantial sums of money: the word *athlete* is an ancient Greek word that means 'one who competes for a prize' and was related to two other Greek words, *athlos* meaning 'contest' and *athlon* meaning 'prize.'

The History of Sport

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Picture Credit/ATtribution: British Museum, CC BY 2.5 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5>>, via Wikimedia Commons

The history of sports extends back to ancient times. The physical activity that developed into sports had early links with ritual, warfare and entertainment. Team sports were used to train and to prove the capability to fight in the military and to work together as a team.

Early Evidence

Sport goes back a long time - as the following examples show:

- ❖ Cave paintings found in the Lascaux caves in France appear to depict sprinting and wrestling in the Upper Paleolithic period around 15,300 years ago.
- ❖ Cave paintings in the Bayankhongor Province of Mongolia dating back to the Neolithic age (c7,000 BCE) show a wrestling match surrounded by crowds.
- ❖ Neolithic Rock art found at the cave of swimmers in Wadi Sura, near Gilf Kebir in Egypt, indicates that swimming and archery were practised c10,000 BC.
- ❖ Prehistoric cave paintings in Japan depict a sport like sumo wrestling as we know it today.
- ❖ An Egyptian burial chamber mural, from the tomb of Khnumhotep and Niankhkhnum dating to around 2400 BC, shows wrestlers in action.
- ❖ A cast bronze figurine (perhaps the base of a vase) has been found at Khafaji in Iraq that shows two figures in a wrestling hold that dates to around 2600 BCE.
- ❖ The origins of boxing have also been traced to ancient Sumer.
- ❖ The Epic of Gilgamesh gives one of the first historical records of sport with Gilgamesh engaging in a form of belt wrestling with Enkidu.
- ❖ The *Charioteer of Delphi*, Delphi Museum Monuments to the Pharaohs found at Beni Hasan dating to around 2000 BCE indicate that several sports, including wrestling, weightlifting, long jump, swimming, rowing, archery, fishing and athletics, and various kinds of ball games, were well-developed and regulated in ancient Egypt.

Other Egyptian sports also included javelin throwing and high jump.

- ❖ The Minoan art of Bronze Age Crete depicts sporting events such as gymnastics (in the form of religious bull-leaping and bullfighting).

The Greeks and the Olympic Games

The first Olympic Games took place in 776 BC in Olympia, where they were celebrated until 393 CE. These games took place every four years, or *Olympiad*, which became a unit of time in historical chronologies.

Initially a single sprinting event, the Olympics gradually expanded to include several foot races (run without any clothing, or in armour) as well as boxing, wrestling, pankration (not unlike martial arts), chariot racing, long jump, and throwing the javelin/discus.

Sport mentioned in the Bible

There are several sporting references in the Bible, some of which are:

"And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."

Genesis 32:24, King James

"Thus, I do not run aimlessly, I do fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."

1st Corinthians Chapter 9, verse 26

"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

2 Timothy 2:5 English Standard Version (ESV)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1 ESV

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."

1 Corinthians 9:24 ESV

Other Old Games

These sports include hurling in Ancient Ireland, shinty in Scotland, and harpastum (like rugby) in Rome and cuju (like soccer) in China. Earlier still, the Mesoamerican ballgame (from central Mexico through Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica) originated over 3000 years ago. The Mayan ballgame of Pitz is believed to be the first ball sport - played from around 2500 BCE.

There are artefacts and structures that suggest that the Chinese engaged in sporting activities as early as 2000 BCE. Gymnastics appears to have been a popular sport in China's ancient past. Ancient Persian sports include traditional Iranian martial art of Zourkhaneh. Among other sports that came from Persia are polo and jousting.

The Ancient Romans*

Although much of ancient Roman life revolved around *negotium* (work and business), there was also time available for *otium* (leisure). Ranging from swimming to playing board games to attending theatre performances, athletics and forms of entertainment enjoyed by Romans

in ancient times were not much different from those that exist today. Generally, Roman girls and women did not participate in these activities.

* Dating from the founding of the Italian city of Rome in the 8th century BC to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD.

Sports in ancient Roman times included:

- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Horseback Riding
- ❖ Wrestling and Boxing
- ❖ Running
- ❖ Hunting and Fishing
- ❖ Ball Games
- ❖ Board Games

Source: Cartwright, M. (5/5/2013). *Roman Dice*. *World History Encyclopedia*. Retrieved from <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/1204/roman-dice/>

Modern Sports

Some historians claim that team sports as we know them today are primarily an invention of Western culture. Former Prime Minister John Major was more explicit when he said in 1995: *'We invented the majority of the world's great sports... 19th century Britain was the cradle of a leisure revolution every bit as significant as the agricultural and industrial revolutions we launched in the century before.'***

** See: Garry Whannel (2005). *Media Sport Stars: Masculinities and Moralities*. Routledge. p. 72. ISBN 978-1134698714.

The traditional team sports are seen as coming primarily from Britain and then 'exported' across the vast British Empire. European colonialism helped spread some games around the world, especially cricket, football, bowling in various forms, cue sports (such as snooker, carom billiards - billiards on a table without side pockets and pool), hockey and its derivatives, equestrian and tennis, and many winter sports.

The Industrial Revolution and mass production brought increased leisure time which allowed more time to engage in playing, gambling or simply watching sport. Then along came mass media and global communication to enhance sport's popularity in general.

The Influence of Public Schools

In the early part of the 19th Century, sport and games were not on the radar of headmasters of the leading public schools. Involvement was sparing, but as the century progressed, there was a growing acceptance of the value in games and the characteristics its involvement could help develop. The Clarendon Commission of 1864 commended the leading public schools, of which **Winchester** was one, for "their love of healthy sports and exercise." By the middle of the century, games had been formally embraced by headmasters to such an extent that they began to employ masters purely for their sporting ability.

Gambling

We tend to think that gambling is a recent side issue associated with sport. But this is not so - in the 17th century, Charles II introduced an 'Act against deceitful disorderly and excessive Gaming' (1664). There appears no doubt that horse racing and boxing (albeit called prizefighting) were financed by gambling interests.

Bramber and the Knights Templar

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Picture Credit: "File: St Mary's House, Bramber.jpg" by Antiquary is licensed under CC BY 4.0

The village of Bramber is a parish and former manor in West Sussex. It has a ruined medieval castle. The village is located on the northern edge of the South Downs and on the west side of the River Adur.

Nearby are the communities of Steyning - to the west and Upper Beeding - to the east and on the other side of the river. The closest historical connection, however, is with the village of Botolphs to the south.

The ecclesiastical parishes of Bramber and Botolphs were united possibly as early as 1526, but certainly by 1534 with the priest living at Botolphs. Later, the priest's official residence became the imposing Bramber mansion and landmark now called *Burletts* and located on Clays Hill. The union of the civil parish councils followed 400 years later, in 1933.

Bramber was the *caput* of a large feudal barony held from the 11th to 14th centuries by the Braose family, which was noted for its impact on the medieval history of the southern Welsh Marches.

On a small hill stands the remains of Bramber Castle, a Norman castle built by the family. The Bramber Parish Church of St Nicholas was originally built as the castle chapel and is the only part of the castle site not in ruins.

The church attracts large numbers of tourists and is the oldest post-conquest Norman church in Sussex. Bramber Castle originally protected the Rape of Bramber, the historic sub-division of the county of Sussex.

The Knights Templar connection

The Knights Templar was an order of Catholic knights set up by Pope Honorius II in Jerusalem nearly 1,000 years ago.

They were a powerful group that fought in the Crusades, and their influence spread throughout the world with banking networks.

The Knights Templar was disbanded in the early 1300s, but intrigue, mystery, and conspiracy theories have surrounded them ever since. Back in the 12th century, Bramber was a much more prominent place than it is today. While it is now a few miles inland, Bramber used to be a seaside village before the coastline gradually moved further south. Bramber was in a prime strategic position on the south coast, and many people used it as a crossing point to sail to and from Europe.



Picture Credit: "Knight Templar" by Nick in exsilio is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The village was on a very popular pilgrimage route from Winchester to Canterbury, the holiest site in England.

The Knights Templar decided to step in and build accommodation for the pilgrims travelling through Bramber (on their way to the tomb of St. Thomas of Canterbury), taking advantage of the natural spring nearby.

After the Knights Templar dissolved, the building fell into disrepair until it was replaced by a stunning manor house that stands on the very site where the Templars housed the pilgrims: St Mary's House *.

* Source: [Sussex Live](#), [here](#).

St Mary's House

St Mary's House is a late 15th century timber-framed house on a site associated with the Knights Templar. Five acres of land in Bramber were given to the Knights Templar by the widow of Philip de Braose following his death in 1125.

The present building was constructed in about 1470 by William of Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester and founder of Magdalen College, Oxford.

The house has beautiful gardens with topiary figures and a quite large secret garden at the back. The house is open to the public in season, and there is a tearoom in the grounds. The house has a music room which has two 14th century ornately carved stone chantry tombs serve as fireplaces and is regularly used for concerts and recitals.

Originally, it was a monastic hostel for pilgrims and monks who collected the tolls at Bramber bridge, a 170-ft-long bridge over the River Adur, incorporating a Chapel dedicated to St Mary the Virgin on its central span, though now reduced to a flat bridge of just a few feet over a tributary of the river, following silting, and a change of course.

The bridge described above should not be confused with the nearby Beeding Bridge, a hump-back bridge which now spans the main course of the river. It is hard to imagine that Bramber was once a busy river port, but over time the river silted up and changed course, changing the fortunes of the village and its residents **.

** Source:

<https://www.shannathshima.me.uk/artblog/bramber-west-sussex-uk/>

It is claimed that King Charles II stayed at St Mary's House during his escape to France after defeating at the Battle of Worcester in September 1651. That battle was the final battle of the English Civil War, which began in 1642.

Maudlin District

Just outside Bramber, in the direction of Botolphs village, formerly stood a medieval hospital and nunnery, caring for leprosy sufferers and dedicated to St Mary Magdalene.

Although long since closed, this part of Bramber is still known as the *Maudlin District*, spelt following a phonetic pronunciation of the saint's name. *Maudlyn House* stands on the hospital's site, and nearby roads include Maudlin Lane, Maudlyn Park, Maudlyn Parkway, and Maudlyn Close.

The Bodies at Kings Weston

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Picture Credit/ATTRIBUTION: CC BY-SA 2.0 CROPPED:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_Weston_Roman_Villa#/media/File:Kings_Weston_Roman_Villa.jpg

Background

Britain was part of the Roman Empire from the 1st century AD to the start of the 5th century AD (around 410 AD), when the emperor withdrew the legions from the islands and left the inhabitants to govern and fend for themselves. The emperor had more than enough on his plate with problems to sort out at home.

The period of Roman occupancy

The period of Roman occupancy of Britain is often seen as a period of peace and prosperity, but historians also believe it to be one of oppression and brutality. While in Britain, the Romans built many remarkable structures, including amazing villas such as the Kings Weston Roman Villa, which offers a unique insight into Roman-British society and culture. Their decision to return to Rome led to the opportunistic migration of what we call the Anglo-Saxons from Northern Europe. But, as the saying goes, that's another story*.

* See Issue 29, Nil Desperandum, August 2022.

The Kings Weston Roman Villa

The Kings Weston Roman Villa is a Roman villa in Lawrence Weston in the northwest of Bristol. It was discovered during the construction of the Lawrence Weston housing estate in 1947. Two distinct buildings (Eastern and Western) were found. The Eastern building was fully excavated (in

1948–50), and the other lies mostly below Long Cross road. Artefacts found at the site are now held in the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

A wealthy landowner, a Romanised Briton, would have owned the villa, who likely had commercial interests in the nearby town and lands worked by tenant farmers. The home was built to a typical Roman plan which afforded the family a luxurious lifestyle and even central heating.

The villa's design is similar to other villas found in Germany and Britain and, because of the size, may have also been the home of extended family or clan. Two 3rd century mosaic floors of geometric designs were found on site and could be the floors of a public space in the villa where the *dominus*, or lord, greeted his clients and guests.

The central heating system, known as the *hypocaust*, circulated warm air between the walls and under the floor, and a number of shafts can be seen in the mosaic floors. The hypocaust and the mosaics are covered by a wooden structure.

The Third Century Crisis

The Kings Weston Villa is thought to date to the 3rd century AD, a period known in Roman history as the *Third Century Crisis* (also known as *Military Anarchy* or the *Imperial Crisis* (235–284 AD) was a period in which the Roman Empire nearly collapsed under the combined pressures of barbarian invasions and migrations into the Roman territory, civil wars, peasant rebellions, political instability and power struggles. At the same time. There was growing Roman reliance on and influence of barbarian mercenaries known as *foederati*. It was not a good time for the Romans, and this period was marred by invasions, civil war, plague, and economic dislocation.

It is not known when the area ceased to be occupied/ There is no evidence that the villa was destroyed by invaders from Northern Europe who overran most of Britain after the Roman legions departed. It seems more likely to have been abandoned because of the societal collapse in the 5th century AD.

The Bodies

George C. Boon and John Clevedon Brown conducted the excavations of the Eastern building. In a hypocaust, underlying the mosaic floor of one of the wings, they discovered the body of a man of approximately fifty years of age, 5 feet (1.5 m) tall.

Injuries to the skull and shoulder (sword cuts) suggest the victim had endured a violent death.

Coins of the 4th century (the Valentinian and Gratian periods) were discovered at the site in the same layer as the man's body. This has led to the conclusion that the man may have died in a Viking raid in the latter part of the fourth or early 5th century AD.

Other remains found in the foundations were that of a pig, which is thought to have been a sacrifice, and two human skeletons were found buried near the stately house. The artefacts uncovered are now in a local museum.

Bristol in the Roman Period **

In the period of Roman occupancy, Abona*** was the major Roman settlement in Bristol. It was recorded in the *Antonine Itineraries**** of the early 3rd century AD. By the early 2nd century, a town had been established.

Archaeological excavations have found evidence of street patterns, shops within the town, and cemeteries outside it. Abona was linked to Bath by a Roman road, a section of which can still be seen at nearby Durdham Down. This was part of a larger network of roads whose form is still largely conjectural. Other Roman settlements elsewhere in Bristol seem to have been rural in character. The Kings Weston villa had a bath suite, rooms with mosaic floors and hypocausts - the Roman system of underfloor heating.

** Excerpted from:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33848/Bristol+in+the+Roman+Period.pdf>

*** The major Roman settlement in Bristol was the town of Abona at Sea Mills. The site may have a military origin, but a civilian town was established in the early 2nd century.

**** A register or roadmap, seemingly based on official documents, possibly from a survey carried out under Augustus, describes the roads of the Roman Empire.



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 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via

Mosaic at Kings Weston Roman Villa

Wikimedia Commons.

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British Piers – a trip down memory lane

Introduction

Two questions:

1. *What is a pier?* A pier is a raised structure that rises above the water and usually juts out from its shore, usually supported by piles or pillars, and provides above-water access to offshore areas.
2. *How do piers stand upright?* They're usually 'screwed' into the seabed using a mechanism invented by an architect named Eugenius Birch.

The first seaside piers were built in England in the early 19th century. Originally constructed as simple wooden landing stages for boat trips, they were later developed into complex entertainment venues with ornate pavilions, delicate ironwork, and exotic lighting. As can be seen from the dates on the list of piers (see below), they became very popular during Queen Victoria's reign. Some piers are not on the list below, the ravages of the sea and weather having been too much for them.

Eugenius Birch

Eugenius Birch, who was educated in Brighton, designed the Devon and Somerset Railway, Exmouth docks, Ilfracombe harbour, and West Surrey waterworks. Birch's fame is chiefly based upon the system of iron promenade-piers that he and his brother invented, which became a feature of nearly every resort on the English coast during the Victorian period. The first example of a screw-pile pier was the Margate jetty, completed in 1853 and formed a new departure in marine construction. Similar piers were erected from Eugenius Birch's designs at Aberystwyth, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Brighton (West), Deal, Eastbourne, Hastings, Hornsea, Lytham, New Brighton, Plymouth, Scarborough, and other places. Sadly, the West Pier in Brighton is no more - succumbing to a fire and a devastating storm.

Piers in England, with the date of opening

- ❖ Central Pier, Blackpool, May 1868. South Pier, Blackpool, March 1893. North Pier, Blackpool, May 1863.
- ❖ Bognor Regis Pier, May 1865
- ❖ Bournemouth Pier, September 1861
- ❖ Boscombe Pier, Bournemouth, July 1889
- ❖ Palace Pier, Brighton, May 1899
- ❖ Burnham-on-Sea Pier, 1858
- ❖ Clacton Pier, July 1871
- ❖ Cleethorpes Pier, August 1873
- ❖ Clevedon Pier, March 1869
- ❖ Cromer Pier, June 1901
- ❖ Deal Pier, November 1957
- ❖ Eastbourne Pier, June 1870
- ❖ Prince of Wales Pier, Falmouth, May 1905
- ❖ Felixstowe Pier, August 1905
- ❖ Harbour Arm, Folkestone, 2016
- ❖ Gravesend Town, 1834
- ❖ Royal Terrace, Gravesend, 1844
- ❖ Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth, July 1858
- ❖ Wellington Pier, Great Yarmouth, October 1853
- ❖ Ha'penny Pier, Harwich, July 1853
- ❖ Hastings Pier, August 1872
- ❖ Herne Bay Pier, 1899
- ❖ Hythe Pier, January 1881
- ❖ Claremont Pier, Lowestoft, 1903
- ❖ South Pier, Lowestoft, 1846
- ❖ St Annes Pier, Lytham St Annes, June 1885
- ❖ Paignton Pier, June 1879
- ❖ Ryde Pier, July 1814
- ❖ Saltburn Pier, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, May 1869
- ❖ Culver Pier, Sandown, May 1878,

Picture Credit: "The Palace Pier" by Rapid Spin is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0



- ❖ Skegness Pier, June 1881
- ❖ Royal Pier, Southampton, July 1833
- ❖ Southend Pier, 1830
- ❖ Southport Pier, August 1860
- ❖ South Parade Pier, Southsea, July 1879
- ❖ Clarence Pier, Southsea, 1861
- ❖ Southwold Pier, 1900
- ❖ Swanage Pier, March 1897
- ❖ Grand Pier, Teignmouth, 1867
- ❖ Princess Pier, Torquay, 1890
- ❖ Totland Pier, Totland Bay, 1880
- ❖ Walton-on-the-Naze Pier, August 1898
- ❖ Grand Pier, Weston-Super-Mare, June 1904
- ❖ Birnbeck Pier, Weston-Super-Mare, June 1867
- ❖ Weymouth Pier, 1860
- ❖ Worthing Pier, April 1862
- ❖ Yarmouth Pier, 1876

Some of these piers are described below.

Ryde Pier, Isle of Wight

The first recorded pier in England was Ryde Pier opened in 1814 on the Isle of Wight as a landing stage to allow ferries to and from the mainland to berth. It was designed by John Kent of Southampton. Believe it or not, before the pier was built, boat passengers had the uncomfortable (and possibly embarrassing) experience of being carried ashore on the back of a porter and then, depending on the state of the tide, having to walk up to half a mile across wet sand before reaching the town of Ryde.

In 1895, a concert pavilion was built at the pier head and over the next sixteen years, the original wooden piles were replaced with cast iron. At 1,740 feet, Ryde's pier is the second-longest seaside pier in the country. Only the pier at Southend is longer. The original wooden structure at Ryde opened in July 1814. An article in the Financial Times on 15th June 2015 ([here](#)) says it is the world's oldest seaside pleasure pier. In 1976, Ryde Pier was made a Grade II listed building. In the early 1980s, a modern waiting area, including some of the original buildings, replaced the original Victorian waiting rooms at the pier head.

Southend Pier, Essex

Southend Pier is a major landmark in Southend-on-Sea, extending 1.33 miles into the Thames Estuary, and is the longest pleasure pier in the world. The original timber pier was replaced by an iron pier that opened to the public in August 1889. The Southend Pier Railway, which opened in the early 1890s, was the first pier railway in England.

The pier played a role in both the world wars. In World War I, ships housing German prisoners were moored off the pierhead. The pier renamed HMS Leigh, organised 3,367 convoys in World War II. Ships queued at the Pier Head for fresh water piped from the shore. Convoys were protected from dive bombers by sausage-like barrage balloons inflated on the pier.

Source: Romford Recorder, [here](#).

Southend Pier has experienced several fires, notably in 1959, 1976, 1995 and 2005, with the latter causing significant damage to the old pierhead and surrounding structures. The pier is now a Grade II listed building.

Brighton's Piers, East Sussex

The construction of Brighton's first pier, the Royal Suspension Chain Pier, began in September 1822 and was opened on 25th November 1823. It was designed and built by a Brighton resident - Captain Samuel Brown, a Royal Navy Engineer.

In 1866, Eugenius Birch designed the 1,115 ft long West Pier. It was designed as a pleasure pier and was immediately popular with visitors and locals. This was the final nail in the coffin for the Royal Suspension Chain Pier, which was virtually abandoned and fell into a state of disrepair. Then, in 1896, during a huge storm, it was finally washed away by the sea, causing considerable damage to and delaying completion of the under-construction Palace Pier.

The West Pier was successful for over 100 years, finally closing in 1975. In the great storm of 1987, it suffered structural damage. In 1991, access from the shore was removed for safety reasons. In December 2002, another storm seriously damaged the concert hall, followed the next year by serious damage from arson attacks. A 'skeleton' is all that remains today of Brighton's second pier.

The Palace Pier was designed and constructed by R. St George Moore. It quickly became popular and had become a frequently-visited theatre and entertainment venue by 1911.

Apart from closures owing to war, it continued to hold regular entertainment until the 1970s. The pier regained its popularity after the war and continued to run regular summer shows, including Tommy Trinder, Doris and Elsie Waters and Dick Emery.

The theatre at the end of the pier suffered damage in 1973 and was demolished in 1986, changing the pier's character from seaside entertainment to an amusement park, with various fairground rides and roller coasters. The pier was renamed as "Brighton Pier" in 2000, although this legal change was not recognised by the National Piers Society nor some local residents.

Continued >>>

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The local newspaper, The Argus, continued to refer to the structure as the Palace Pier. In 2016, the pier was sold to the Eclectic Bar Group, headed by former PizzaExpress owner Luke Johnson, who renamed the pier back to Brighton Palace Pier.

Brighton Palace Pier remains popular with the public, with over four million visitors in 2016, and has been featured in many works of British culture, including the gangster thriller *Brighton Rock*, the comedy *Carry On at Your Convenience* and the *Who's* concept album and film *Quadrophenia*. In 2015, VisitEngland released figures showing that Brighton Palace Pier was the fifth most visited free attraction in the UK, having had 4.5 million visitors the previous year. And in early 2017, National Express named it the country's fourth most popular free attraction.

Eastbourne Pier, East Sussex

A pier was first mooted at the end of 1863, but the project was delayed and finally abandoned in favour of the present site at the junction of Grand and Marine Parades. In April 1866, work to a design by Eugenius Birch began on construction which was completed two years later.

On New Year's Day 1877, the landward half was swept away in a storm. It was rebuilt at a higher level, creating a drop towards the end of the pier. The pier is effectively built on stilts that rest in cups on the seabed allowing the whole structure to move during rough weather. It is roughly 1000 ft long.

A domed 400-seater pavilion was constructed at the seaward end in 1888. A 1000-seater theatre, bar, camera obscura and office suite replaced this in 1899/1901. At the same time, two saloons were built midway along the pier. The camera obscura fell into disuse in the 1960s but was restored in 2003 with a new stairway built to provide access.

Paddle steamers (such as the PS Brighton Queen and the PS Devonian) operated by P and A Campbell ran trips from the pier along the south coast and across the Channel to Boulogne from 1906 until the outbreak of the Second World War. These were resumed after the war, but the paddle steamers were gradually withdrawn from service. In 1957, the final season was operated by a motor vessel.

During World War II, part of the decking was removed, and machine guns were installed in the theatre providing a useful point from which to repel any attempted enemy landings, and a Bofors anti-aircraft gun was placed on the pier. Various traditional pier theatres were built over the years, but after the last one was destroyed by fire in 1970, it was replaced by a nightclub and bar, which remain to this day.

The tower at the end of the pier is often used as a viewing point during the annual air show. The pier is featured in the 2001 film *Last Orders* and the 2008 film *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*. In May 2009, the listed building status of the pier was upgraded from Grade II to Grade II*.

Bournemouth Pier

The first pier in Bournemouth consisted of a short wooden jetty that was completed in 1856. It was replaced by a longer wooden pier, designed by George Rennie in September 1861.

The wooden piles were replaced by cast iron in 1866, but even so, just over a year later, the pier was made unusable when the landing stage was swept away in a storm. After repair, the pier continued in use for a further ten years when another severe storm caused further collapse making the pier too short for steamboat traffic. In 1880, a new pier, designed by Eugenius Birch, was completed. It stretched to a length of 838 ft. Two extensions, in 1894 and 1909, respectively, took the pier's overall length to more than 1000 ft.

Bournemouth Pier was substantially demolished by soldiers from the 18th Field Park Company of the Royal Engineers on 5th July 1940 as a precaution against German invasion. The pier was repaired and re-opened in August 1946, followed by refurbishment of the pier head in 1950, and ten years later, a rebuild of the substructure was completed in concrete to take the weight of a new pier theatre.

Cromer Pier

There are records of a pier in Cromer back as far as 1391, although then it was in the form of a jetty. In the year 1582, Queen Elizabeth I, in a letter to the inhabitants of Cromer granted rights to export wheat, barley and malt with the proceeds to be used for the maintenance and well-being of the pier and the town of Cromer.

In 1822, a 210-foot-long jetty was built (of cast iron), but it lasted just 24 years before it was destroyed in a storm. Another wooden structure replaced this jetty, but this time it was a little longer at 240 feet. This jetty soon became very popular for promenading. The last wooden jetty survived until 1897 when it was damaged beyond repair after a coal boat smashed into it. It was dismantled and the timber sold for £40. In 1902, a new pier was completed and opened to the public.

This new pier was designed by Douglass and Arnott. The new pier was 450 feet long. In the early years, it consisted of glass-screened shelters and a bandstand on the end of the pier. The shelters were roofed over in 1905 to form a pavilion; the bandstand was later replaced with a stage and arch. The pier is owned and maintained by North Norfolk District Council, which undertook responsibility for running and funding after the 1974 local government re-organisation. Since then, the District Council have carried out several major repair and refurbishments, the most recent being completed in 2013.

In March 2015, the pier was voted Pier of the Year 2015 by the National Piers Society.

Worthing Pier, West Sussex

Worthing Pier was designed by Sir Robert Rawlinson and was opened in April 1862, and remains open to the public. Originally, the pier was a simple promenade deck 960 ft long and 15 ft wide. In 1888, the pier was upgraded with the width increased to 30 ft and the pier head increased to 105 ft for a 650-seat pavilion to be built. In 1894, a steamship operation began between Worthing Pier and the Royal Suspension Chain Pier in Brighton, twelve miles to the east. In March 1913, the pier suffered serious storm damage, with only the southern end remaining - completely cut off from land. A rebuilt pier was opened on 29th May 1914. In 1933, the pier and all but the northern pavilion were destroyed by fire. In 1935, the remodelled *Streamline Moderne* pier was opened, and it is this that remains today.

In World War II, Worthing Pier was sectioned in 1940 for fear of German invasion after the British retreat at Dunkirk. Army engineers used explosives to blow a 120ft. hole in the pier to prevent it from being used as a possible landing stage in the event of an invasion.

Worthing Pier has been named *Pier of the Year* by the National Piers Society on two occasions - first in 2006 and again in 2019. It is a Grade II listed building structure and is owned by Worthing Borough Council.

The National Piers Society

The National Piers Society ([here](http://www.nationalpiersociety.org)) was founded in 1979 under Sir John Betjeman, at a time when some of the finest piers in Britain were threatened with demolition.

Over the years, the Society has grown steadily and has become well established as the leading authority on piers. Through its efforts, several piers that would otherwise have vanished, remain for the enjoyment of everyone.

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One Garden Brighton

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

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What is One Garden Brighton?

It opened in spring of 2021 - *One Garden Brighton* is an outdoor space in the Stanmer Park estate. It consists of a complex of greenhouses and nurseries with a market shop (*One Market*) and a café (*One Cafe*). The large alfresco dining area at the heart of the garden (*One Kitchen*) is a destination eatery and meeting place, serving high-quality, seasonal dishes inspired by the garden, taking produce from the Kitchen Garden, Plumpton Estate, and local produce found within *One Market*.

Work began at Stanmer Park, Brighton in June 2019. The £5.1 million project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Community Fund, Brighton & Hove City Council, Plumpton College and South Downs National Park Authority. Building work was carried out by Buxton Building Contractors Limited.

The Masterplan for Stanmer Park includes improvements of the main entrance and 18th century parkland, Walled Garden and Nursery and the adjacent depot area, as well as:

- ❖ Restoring the landscape and heritage features
- ❖ Addressing traffic and parking issues and improving access to the park
- ❖ Relocating the council's City Parks depot
- ❖ Restoring the Victorian Walled Garden and surrounding area
- ❖ Delivering horticultural and heritage gardening training and food production
- ❖ Providing educational and learning opportunities
- ❖ Explaining the heritage and importance of the Estate
- ❖ A long-term vision for the estate over the next ten years.

The Gardens

Traditionally, walled gardens were designed to protect unusual and exotic plants from weather, or as productive kitchen gardens, providing vegetables and fruit to the house. The walled garden at Stanmer Park has been rediscovered, reinvented, and opened to the public for the first time - transforming it into a destination spot for Brighton residents and visitors from across the country.

The gardens have been expertly designed by modern-day landscape architect Dominic Cole who is renowned for his work on the Eden Project. The gardens celebrate both heritage and innovation, including productive traditional fruit and vegetable crops. In addition, a series of contemporary show gardens designed for typical, often difficult urban conditions and smaller spaces to inspire visitors and generate ideas to take home, including how plants underpin treatments for most illnesses and health conditions. The Garden is split into several interesting sections:

- ❖ **Canada Garden:** The Canada Garden pays tribute to the Canadian troops who served the Allies for many years at Stanmer in World War II.
- ❖ **All Seasons Garden:** This garden is designed to showcase a range of plants that offer interest during every season of the year.
- ❖ **Contemplation Garden:** Gardens have long been used as a place for contemplation by many cultures all over the world.

- ❖ **Urban Garden:** The Urban shade garden has been designed to provide ideas and solutions to show what can be achieved in a tricky space typically found in the urban environment.
- ❖ **Pollinator Garden:** pollen is transferred by pollinators, which can be the wind, the water or animals. Once pollination takes place, seeds begin to grow.
- ❖ **Rain Garden:** The Rain Garden serves as a bio-retention system - holding rainwater run-off, intercepting it before it enters underground pipe systems, and filtering contaminants from it before going back into the natural water cycle.
- ❖ **Hot & Dry Garden:** with the UK changing towards longer, warmer, drier summers with less water available, the Hot & Dry Garden grows plants suited to those conditions.
- ❖ **Medicinal Garden:** Before the advance of modern medicine, plants were used for medicinal, therapeutic, and cosmetic purposes for thousands of years.

Who runs it?

One Garden Brighton is leased to and presented, and managed by **Plumpton College**. Their Horticultural centre of excellence for training and education is based at *One Garden Brighton*, and students work within the garden spaces, developing designs and maintaining the grounds.

Contact Details

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Horticultural Learning with Plumpton College



Picture Credit: Photographs, courtesy of Anna Pollins, 2021

The Magnificent Seven and Eleven

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Magnificent_Seven
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Magnificent-Seven>
- https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-film-preservation-board/documents/magnificent_seven.pdf
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Capa
- <https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/robert-capal/>
- <https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/robert-capal/all/all/all/0>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-Capa>
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/283315>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2012/may/13/robert-capal-gerda-taro-relationship>

The Magnificent Seven



Cast publicity photo of "The Seven".

Left to right: Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Horst Buchholz, Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter, and James Coburn

Picture Credit/ATtribution: English: Photographer unknown. Distributed by Fox Film Corporation., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Magnificent_Seven_cast_publicity_photo.jpg

We all know about *The Magnificent Seven*, don't we? You remember – it was a 1960 American western film directed by John Sturges and starring Yul Brynner, Eli Wallach and Steve McQueen. The supporting cast featured Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter, James Coburn and Horst Buchholz.

The story is about *good* beating *evil*: a gang of bandits led by Calvera (Eli Wallach) periodically raid a poor Mexican village for food and supplies. Then Calvera goes too far, kills a villager, and it's the last straw – the village leaders have had enough and decide to fight back. Three villagers ride to a town just inside the United States border, hoping to barter their few possessions for weapons. They meet Chris Adams (Yul Brynner), a veteran gunslinger, and approach him for advice. Chris suggests they should hire gunfighters to defend the village, saying: "*men are cheaper than guns.*"

The Magnificent Seven did not set the cinema box-office alight when it was released in 1960, but it went on to become one of the most enduringly popular and loved Westerns ever made.

Watch the teaser trailer [here](#) to learn more.

Famously, Yul Brynner said:

"We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Everything in-between is a gift."

The Magnificent Eleven



How many people know about *The Magnificent Eleven*? These were the 11 photos taken by Robert Capa during the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach, Normandy. He subsequently claimed to have taken 106 pictures but later discovered that all but 11 had been destroyed, probably during processing at the laboratory. Capa was attached to the US 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division on Omaha Beach.

Robert Capa has been called one of the greatest photojournalists and is particularly remembered as a war photographer. He is regarded by some to be the greatest combat and adventure photographer in history. He was proclaimed in 1938, at the age of 25, "*the greatest war photographer in the world*" in the British magazine *Picture Post*. He covered five different wars: the Spanish Civil War, the Second Sino-Japanese War, World War II across Europe, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and the First Indochina War. During WW II, he was the only photojournalist to be part of the D-Day landing at Omaha Beach.

Capa is said to have hated war. He was born as André Friedmann (in Hungarian form, Friedmann Endre Ernő) to Jewish parents in Budapest in 1913 and studied political science at the *Deutsche Hochschule für Politik* in Berlin. Driven out of the country by the threat of a Nazi regime, he settled in Paris in 1933.

Despite a reputation as a serial womaniser, Capa became the life companion and professional partner of photographer Gerda Taro (a Pole, birth name Gerta Pohorylle). Together they worked under the alias Robert Capa and became photojournalists. Though she contributed to much of the early work, she quickly created her own alias, and they subsequently published their work separately.

Robert Capa defined what it was to be a war photographer, laying the foundation for future generations of photojournalists working in the field. Alex Kershaw's book (*Blood and Champagne: The Life and Times of Robert Capa*) can be reviewed [here](#).

Picture Credit: "D-Day: June 6, 1944: Allied Invasion of Normandy [photo by Robert Capa]" by Templar1307 is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

"Capa was the first photographer to make photojournalism appear glamorous and sexy."

Source: <https://www.theartstory.org/artist/capa-robert/life-and-legacy/>

In 1947, for his work in recording World War II in pictures, US General Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded Capa the Medal of Freedom. Hungary has issued a stamp and a gold coin in his honour.

Famous Robert Capa sayings

"If your pictures aren't good enough, then you aren't close enough."

"For a war correspondent to miss an invasion is like refusing a date with Lana Turner."

"In a war, you must hate somebody or love somebody; you must have a position, or you cannot stand what goes on."

"The truth is the best picture, the best propaganda."



Robert Capa at work

Picture Credit/ATtribution: By Gerda Taro, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/63/Robert_CapabyGerdaTaro.jpg

Gravetye Manor, its Gardens and Restaurant

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

- <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk/the-gardens/the-gardens/>
- <https://wrgc.org.uk/history-of-the-charity/>
- <https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/william-robinson-gravetye-manor-and-kew>
- <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk/the-gardens/the-gardens/>
- <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk/the-gardens/the-gardens/>
- <http://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/Sussex/West+Hoathly/53287230b47fc40c36000a35-Gravetye+Manor>
- <https://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/sport/nostalgia/william-robinson-gardener-his-time-2349539>
- <https://gravetyemanor.wordpress.com/gravetye-garden-map/>
- <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Gravetye+Manor%3a+home+of+the+Robinsonian+garden%3a+Judith+B.+Tankard...-a0131607263>



William Robinson and the Gardens

Gravetye Manor started life in 1598 when Richard Infield and his wife Katherine built it as their family home. The initials "R" and "K" are carved in the stone over the main entrance door from the formal garden, and portraits of the happy couple are carved in the oak over the fireplace in one of the bedrooms.

The garden at Gravetye is an especially unique feature of the Manor. Created by William Robinson in 1885, the gardens are now considered one of the most important in England. Robinson started life in Ireland in the poverty of the potato famine, where at an early age, he trained as a garden boy. By the 1860s, he had moved to London to work on the new botanic gardens in Regents Park, where he started his career as a garden writer. He produced huge amounts of work and started re-shaping how we think about gardens. Some of Robinson's most influential books include *The Wild Garden* and *The English Flower Garden*, which remains the bestselling gardening book ever printed. He also ran several gardening journals, such as *The Garden* and *Garden Illustrated*. Today, he is best known for his concept of the wild garden, creating a landscape that celebrates nature rather than controls it. He also introduced the idea of the modern mixed border and popularised commonplace items such as secateurs and hose pipes.

In many ways, Robinson created modern gardening as we know it and is affectionately remembered as *the Irishman who taught the English how to garden*. He was one of the leading garden theorists of the 19th century and ranks alongside Gertrude Jekyll in terms of influence. Robinson moved away from the Victorian formality that had become the norm for country houses.

He devised more natural planting patterns and styles and is credited with practically inventing the herbaceous border.

Robinson had a humble start in life but became very wealthy from his writing. In 1884, after buying Gravetye Manor, he renovated and extended it - eventually owning over 1000 acres of the surrounding landscape. Much of the land was used for experimental forestry. In the heart of the estate, on 35 acres around the manor, Robinson created his masterpiece garden. This garden takes a lot of work, and despite everyone's best efforts, it had fallen into a state of decline when Mr and Mrs Hosking bought the manor in 2010. It resulted in a major renovation project, which continues today, with a team of eight full-time gardeners.

Sourced largely from: <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk>

The Restaurant

After Robinson's death, Gravetye Manor gradually became derelict until it was taken over by Peter Herbert in 1958. He injected his exceptional hotel-keeping and restaurant standards for nearly 50 years, until his retirement in 2004, and established Gravetye Manor as one of the leading establishments in its class - recognised throughout the world for offering the best kind of country house hotel hospitality and has built an enviable reputation as a first-class restaurant. Gravetye Manor was listed as number eight in the top fine dining restaurants in the Travellers' Choice Best of the Best awards for 2020 on TripAdvisor.

A new dining room was built in 2018 with floor-to-ceiling glass walls so that guests can now look out on the Manor's stunning gardens. Many people choose Gravetye to celebrate special occasions, and a dress code is in place to ensure the dining room's atmosphere reflects that. The dining room at Gravetye is smart casual. Smart jeans are acceptable, but in the evening, men tend to wear a jacket.

There are two private dining rooms; one with seating for 7 to 11 guests, the other a slightly larger room which can cater for up to 20 people. The wood-panelled rooms are perfect for a family gathering, a celebration with friends or a more formal business dinner.

Executive Chef George Blogg uses ingredients from the kitchen garden or from local suppliers and has already achieved a Michelin star.

Sourced largely from: <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk>

The Name

In the Survey of English Place-Names (a county-by-county guide to the linguistic origins of England's place-names - a project of the English Place-Name Society), see [here](#), Gravetye Manor is recorded an early-attested site in the Parish of West Hoathly. The etymology is said to be: *Gravetye Manor is Grauetie, Graueytie, Gravety al. Moate House, grafa, teag. The name probably denotes an enclosure in or by a grove or copse.*

The William Robinson Gravetye Charity

William Robinson (1838–1935) died without an heir and bequeathed the freehold of the Gravetye Estate in West Sussex in trust to the nation. His intention, according to the terms of

his will, was that the estate 'be held and utilised for the purposes of State Forestry under the control of Trustees or Managers....'

In 1936, an independent charity, the William Robinson Charity (registered charity 256766), was set up to take ownership of the property, and Forestry Commissioners were appointed trustees. The local branch of the Forestry Commission was appointed to manage the estate on a day-to-day basis.

As Robinson's death occurred a few short years before the outbreak of World War II, no long-term management plan was ever established for the estate, and the manor house was used by Canadian troops. After the war, work on the estate's forests restarted, and the woods were restocked, but both the house and garden fell into disrepair.

During the late 1950s, the Forestry Commission granted a long lease for the house to be used as a hotel, and the renovation of both the house and garden was begun. Robinson's creation had all but disappeared by this time, herbaceous borders having been dug up to plant vegetables by the Canadian soldiers stationed in the house during World War II. Work on the surrounding woods continued with restocking from the mid-20th century, and after extensive storm damage in 1987 and 1990.

Governance arrangements were reviewed in 2000, and the Gravetye Estate is now owned by the William Robinson Gravetye Charity. The estate is now managed on behalf of the charity by RH & RW Clutton, together with independent consultants.

Gravetye Manor Hotel and garden is the 35-acre jewel in the crown of the extensive 750-acre estate owned by the William Robinson Gravetye Charity. William Robinson's papers are held at the Royal Horticultural Society Lindley Library. The archive comprises two volumes relating to work carried out on Gravetye Manor itself, the garden and the surrounding estate, 227 letters written to William Robinson and his nurse, Mary Gilpin, and a small number of papers collected by William Robinson.

Sourced largely from: <https://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk>

A Memorable Record

Henry James, the American author (but naturalised Englishman) who was considered by many to be among the greatest novelists in the English language, left a memorable record of Gravetye's gardens when he wrote:

"Few things in England can show a greater wealth of bloom than the wide flowery terrace immediately beneath the grey, gabled house, where tens of thousands of tea-roses ... divide their province with the carnations and pansies [and] the medley of tall yuccas and saxifrage."

Contact Details

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The Many Faces of Man (and Woman)



Picture Credit: [Resized] "Neanderthal Man" by Michael Brace is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Nesher Ramla Homo type

The following text caught my attention (here):

'The authors present comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analyses of fossilized remains from a site in Israel dated to 140,000 to 120,000 years ago, indicating the presence of a previously unrecognized group of hominins representing the last surviving populations of Middle Pleistocene Homo in Europe, southwest Asia, and Africa.'

BBC News reported on this story (here), a quick excerpt from which is given below.

Researchers believe that the remains uncovered near the city of Ramla (Israel) represent one of the "last survivors" of a very ancient human group. Details have been published in the journal *Science Magazine*.

The archaeological finds consist of a partial skull and jaw from an individual who lived between 140,000 and 120,000 years ago.

Research team members think the 'ancient human' descended from an earlier species that may have spread out of the region hundreds of thousands of years ago and given rise to Neanderthals in Europe and their equivalents in Asia.

The scientists have named the newly discovered lineage the "Nesher Ramla Homo type".

The Skull, but no chin *

Homo sapiens (that's us) have tall, rounded skulls encasing our large brains, but the remains discovered by the researchers had

features typical of older species of *Homo* that likely arrived in the Middle East around 450,000 years ago, a quarter-million years before *Homo sapiens* showed up.

Meanwhile, teeth seemed very similar to those found in local hominin populations dated to 400,000 years ago, as well as those of the Neanderthals.

Researchers used the scant skull remains from the Nesher Ramla find to create a virtual reconstruction of a hominin who lived relatively recently but has very archaic features, including a lack of chin.

Source: National Geographic (here).

The Dragon Man

Reported on BBC News (here), Chinese researchers have unveiled an ancient skull that could belong to a completely new human species.

The team has claimed it is our closest evolutionary relative among known species of ancient humans, such as Neanderthals and *Homo erectus*.

Nicknamed "Dragon Man", the specimen represents a human group that lived in East Asia at least 146,000 years ago. It was found at Harbin, north-east China, in 1933, but only came to the attention of scientists more recently.

An analysis of the skull has been published in the journal, *The Innovation*, here.

One of the UK's leading experts in human evolution, Prof Chris Stringer from London's Natural History Museum, was a member of the research team. He told BBC News:

'In terms of fossils in the last million years, this is one of the most important yet discovered... What you have here is a separate branch of humanity that is not on its way to becoming Homo sapiens (our species) but represents a long-separate lineage which evolved in the region for several hundred thousand years and eventually went extinct.'

The Neanderthals

The Neanderthals lived in Eurasia 200,000 to 30,000 years ago, according to Britannica.com - see here.

Their appearance was like ours, although they were shorter and stockier with angled cheekbones, prominent brow ridges and wide noses.

Scientists have discovered that the Neanderthals were smarter than they looked as they used tools, buried their dead and

controlled fire, among other intelligent behaviours. Skeleton remains suggest that they cared for their sick and those who could not care for themselves. Neanderthals typically lived to be about 30 years old, although some lived longer. It is theorised that for a time, Neanderthals probably shared the Earth with other *Homo* species.

Source: LiveScience (here).

Neanderthals most likely became extinct due to assimilation into the modern human genome, great climatic change, disease, or a combination of these and other factors.

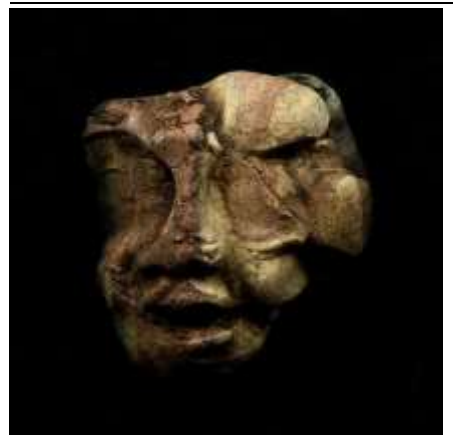
Neanderthals lived alongside early modern humans for at least part of their existence. Some encounters with homo sapiens were very intimate - some of us have inherited around 2% Neanderthal DNA.

Source: Natural History Museum (here).

Facts about Neanderthals:

- ❖ Brain size: at least 1,200cm³ to 1,750cm³
- ❖ Height: about 1.50-1.75m
- ❖ Weight: about 64-82kg

The Denisovans



Picture Credit: "Denisovan Reconstruction C" by TheoJunior is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Denisovans or *Denisova hominins* are an extinct species or subspecies of archaic human that ranged across Asia during the Lower (the earliest subdivision of the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age) and Middle Paleolithic (the second subdivision of the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age as it is understood in Europe, Africa and Asia). Denisovans are known from few remains: most of what is known about them comes from DNA evidence. Pending consensus on their taxonomic status, they have been referred to as *Homo denisova*, *altaiensis*.

Denisovans apparently interbred with modern humans, with about 3–5% of the DNA of Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians and around 7–8% in Papuans deriving from Denisovans.

The Bryant & May Matchgirls Strike

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

- <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Match-Girls-Strike/>
- <https://spartacus-educational.com/TUmatchgirls.htm>
- <https://www.matchgirls1888.org/the-story-of-the-strike>
- <https://londontopia.net/site-news/featured/london-history-the-east-end-match-girls-strike-of-1888/>
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3827491>
- <https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/history/2018/03/21/women-work-and-health-the-match-girls-strike-of-1888/>
- <https://microform.digital/boa/collections/53/british-women-trade-unionists-on-strike-at-bryant-may-1888/detailed-description>
- <https://boa.microform.digital/collections/53/view>
- https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matchgirls%27_strike



Picture Credit: Public Domain – [Cropped] Photo of matchgirls participating in a strike against Bryant & May, London 1888. FILE: Matchgirl strikers.PNG

Introduction

In the East End of London, something remarkable happened at a place called Bow in July 1888. Some of the most poverty-stricken in society lived and worked in that area. The Match Girls' Strike was the industrial action taken by the women and teenage girls working at the Bryant & May factory in protest against the dangerous and unrelenting demands which endangered their health with a pittance of reward.

The Bryant & May managers compiled a list of five women and labelled them as 'trouble-makers': Kate Slater, Alice France, Jane Wakeley, Eliza Martin and Mary Driscoll. Until then, unskilled factory workers in London's East End had been viewed as worthless, tragic, or both. So, when the match women came out fighting – loud and proud and showing remarkable solidarity – the middle classes realised they had wildly underestimated them. And so had their employers.*

* Citation: Source - Louise Raw (2014) *Bryant & May Matchwomen's Strike, 1888: an introduction to the British Online Archives edition.*

The Factory

Bryant & May was formed in 1843 by two Quakers - William Bryant and Francis May.

They worked variously as soap and tea makers and grocers before eventually becoming the largest British match manufacturer and an important player in both home and export markets, trading in many countries. In 1850, they contracted with the Swedish matchmaker Johan Edvard Lundström to capture part of the market of the 250 million matches used in Britain each day. At the start, the company sold 231,000 boxes of matches, rising to 10.8 million boxes in 1855 and to 27.9 million boxes in 1860. In 1880 the company began exporting their goods. In 1884, it became a publicly listed company. Dividends of 22.5% in 1885 and 20% in 1886 and 1887 were paid. In 1861, the company relocated to a three-acre site on Fairfield Road, Bow, East London. In the 1880s, Bryant & May employed nearly 5,000 people, most of them female and Irish (or of Irish descent), although the numbers varied with the seasonal fluctuations of the market.

The Matches

In the late 19th century, matches were made using sticks of poplar wood or Canadian pine. Both ends of the sticks were dipped into Sulphur and then into a mixture of white phosphorus, potassium chlorate, antimony sulphide, powdered glass and colouring – a dangerously unhealthy mix. *Lucifer matches*, as they were called, could be ignited on any surface where friction could be created with the strike. In the 1840s, when red phosphorus was discovered, matches were made without any phosphorus, but the striking surface on the box contained red phosphorus for ignition.



Picture Credit: "File: Bryant & May 'Pearl' safety matches, London, England, 1890-1 Wellcome L0058858.jpg" is licensed under CC BY 4.0

The Hazards

An occupational disease that affected those who worked with white phosphorus was something called *phosphorus necrosis of the jaw*, also known as *phossy jaw*.

It developed by inhalation of phosphorus vapour—particularly when the ingredient was heated—which caused *osteonecrosis* of the jaw-bone. At first, there were toothaches and flu-like symptoms, then tooth loss, abscesses, swelling of the gums, tissue failure and gangrene - essentially, the bone would start to die. Exposure was dangerous, and mortality was reported in around 20% of cases.

The Sweating System

The matches were made through domestic outwork under a sweating system in what today would be called *sweat shops*. Employers preferred the system because workers were not covered under the *Factory Acts*. The workers were paid a pittance, despite which they had to provide glue and string from their own funds. However, a series of fines for minor offences were levied by the foremen, with the money deducted directly from wages. Bryant & May were aware of the *phossy jaw* problem - if a worker complained of having a toothache, they were told to have the teeth removed immediately, or they would be sacked.

The spark that ignited the flame

The matchmakers, seemingly more concerned about low pay, 14-hour shifts and punitive fines than they were about safety, went on strike in 1881, 1885, and 1886. All these actions failed.

The dismissal of one of the workers on or about 2nd July 1888 set off the strike, with about 1,400 women and girls refusing to work by the end of the first day. The management quickly offered to reinstate the sacked employee, but the women then demanded other concessions, particularly about the unfair fines deducted from their wages. A deputation of women went to management but was dissatisfied by their response. By 6th July 1888, the whole factory had stopped work. That same day about 100 of the women went to see Annie Besant** and to ask for her assistance.

** Annie Besant was a British socialist, theosophist, women's rights activist, writer, orator, educationist, and philanthropist.

The Ending of the Strike

Meetings were held by the strikers, and Annie Besant spoke at some of them. Charles Bradlaugh MP spoke in parliament, and a deputation of match women went there to meet three MPs on 11th July. The strike created a lot of publicity. The London Trades Council became involved. At first, the management was firm, but the factory owner, Bryant, was a leading Liberal and nervous about the publicity.

Annie Besant helped at meetings with the management, and terms were formulated at a meeting on 16th July, in accordance with which it was stated that fines, deductions for the cost of materials and other unfair deductions should be abolished and that in the future, grievances could be taken straight to the management bypassing the foremen, who had prevented management from knowing of previous complaints. Also, very importantly, meals were to be taken in a separate room, where the food would not be contaminated with phosphorus. These terms were accepted by the company, and the strike ended. A notable effect of the strike was the creation of a union for the women to join, which was extremely rare as female workers did not tend to be unionised even into the next century.

In 1908, the House of Commons passed an Act banning the use of white phosphorus in matches after 31st December 1910 – it was the UK's implementation of the 1906 *Berne Convention* on the prohibition of white phosphorus in matches.

The British Resistance

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

- <https://www.staybehinds.com/>
- <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Churchills-Secret-Army/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
- <https://www.2escapelines.co.uk/article/the-british-resistance/>

Introduction

The British Resistance Archive website at www.staybehinds.com is maintained by the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) to share their research about the Auxiliary Units of the Second World War, sometimes known as Churchill's Secret Army, a sabotage organisation set up in 1940 in the case of a German invasion of Britain. Britain was the only country during the war able to create such a resistance movement in advance of an invasion. The units were so secret that information only started to emerge in the late 1960s, thanks to researchers such as David Lampe and his book 'The Last Ditch' (available on Amazon, [here](#)).

Who were the Auxiliary Units?

The units were innocuously named Auxiliary Units (aka GHQ Auxiliary Units). The secrecy surrounding the insurgent squads meant that members had no military status, no uniforms, and there are very few official records of their activities. Members were required to sign documents under the Official Secrets Act. Service in the Auxiliary Units was expected to be highly dangerous, with a projected life expectancy of just twelve days for its members.

Operational Patrols consisted of between four and eight men, often farmers or landowners. These civilian volunteers were often outside the ages for call up to the regular forces or were in reserved occupations. They were usually recruited from the most able members of the Home Guard, possessed excellent local knowledge and were able to live off the land. Gamekeepers and even poachers were particularly valued.

Each Patrol was a self-contained cell, expected to be self-sufficient and operationally autonomous in the case of invasion, generally operating within a 15-mile radius.

They were provided with elaborately concealed underground Operational Bases (usually built by the Royal Engineers in a local woodland, with a camouflaged entrance and emergency escape tunnel. It is thought that as many as 400 to 500 such OBs were constructed in England, Wales and Scotland.

The Auxiliary Units were kept in being long after any immediate German threat had passed, and it was only in November 1944 that they were finally stood down. Members were offered no recognition, were entitled to none of the medals or awards that other home forces such as the Home Guard received, with the men just returning to their day-to-day lives. It was not until the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) successfully lobbied for veterans and relatives to take part in the annual Cenotaph Remembrance Sunday, March Past in 2013, that there was any form of official recognition of the huge sacrifice they were willing to make in the country's darkest hours.

Source: [Historic UK](#), [here](#).



Picture Credit/Attribution: Parham Airfield Museum, Parham, Suffolk. Museum of the British Resistance Organisation: Reconstruction of an Auxiliary Unit operational base. Author: [Gaius Cornelius](#). © [Gaius Cornelius](#), CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

Sussex Patrols and Operational Bases *

In Sussex, there were several Patrols. The Headquarters for the Auxiliary Units in Sussex from the start almost until the end, was based in Tottington Manor, at Small Dole. The Patrols nearest to where I lived were located at Hurstpierpoint, Ditchling and Staplefield.

Hurstpierpoint Patrol

The members included:

- ❖ Company director grocery store
- ❖ Market gardener
- ❖ Pharmacist
- ❖ Certified accountant
- ❖ Farmers
- ❖ Builder's manager and foreman
- ❖ Master butcher
- ❖ Baker
- ❖ Managing director biscuit factory

Of the above, names I recognise are:

- ❖ **Percy Charles Tulley** (Sergeant), who I think was the Tulley from the Hassocks grocery business called Masters & Tulley. He joined on 16th December 1941, just after my third birthday.
- ❖ **Walter Thair** (Private), who ran the butcher's business in Hassocks bearing his name. I was a Saturday helper in the early 1950s, making sausages and delivering meat. He joined on 2nd January 1942.

The OB for Hurstpierpoint was sited in a small wood to the north of Wolstonbury Hill, just on the edge of the Downs. It was built by the Royal Engineers who constructed it out of timber and corrugated iron sheeting. The main chamber has collapsed, but the entrance shaft is still visible, although blocked a few feet down. Part of the Patrol's local training included mock attacks on nearby Danny House.

Ditchling Patrol

The members included:

- ❖ Hydraulic engineer
- ❖ Chartered electrical engineer (who I think I recall from a time well after World War II was over)

- ❖ Farmer, Pig farmer, Farm foreman, Woodman, Farm bailiff, Farm hand, Farm manager and Cowman
- ❖ Coal merchant

The OB for Ditchling was sited 1/2 mile into West Wood beside One Hundred Acre Lane at Wivelsfield Green. The base comprised a floor area 19 foot long by 9 foot wide with offset entrances/exits. There were barrack-type beds/seats for eight men on either side of a central table. The OB was entered via an earth-covered wooden hatch revealing a brick shaft going down 13 feet with a ladder made of scaffold poles set into the brickwork. The OB contained food, ammunition, explosives, bunk beds, a cooking stove, and a chemical toilet.

Staplefield Patrol

The members included:

- ❖ Farmer, Farm manager, Poultry Farmer, Dairy farmer, Gamekeeper & farm foreman, Dairyman (owner)
- ❖ Chartered surveyor
- ❖ Gardener

The OB for Staplefield was built by Canadian soldiers and is now sited on private land. It was constructed on a solid concrete base with one foot six inches high brick-built sidewalls. These low brick walls support the corrugated iron that is arched across to form the roof of the main chamber.

The only entrance was beneath an earth-covered wooden hatch. When raised, this revealed a brick-built shaft with a ladder made up of scaffolding poles set into the brickwork. The three feet wide emergency exit tunnel ran out into the bank of a nearby pond. Its end also being concealed by an earth-covered wooden hatch. Ventilation was provided by a network of four-inch diameter glazed drainage pipes that came to the surface within the surrounding undergrowth.

* Source: <https://www.staybehinds.com/county/sussex>

Words

Sourced/Excerpted from and Further Reading:

- <https://www.dictionary.com/e/typoglycemia/>
- <https://thenextweb.com/news/dsxyllia-tries-to-visualize-what-its-like-reading-with-dyslexia>
- <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/matt.davis/Cmabrigde/rawlinson/>
- <https://www.dyslexia.com/question/word-blindness/>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyslexia>
- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201022125525.htm>
- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201022125525.htm>

Typoglycemia (a mix of "typo" and "hypoglycemia") is a newly coined word or expression (called a neologism) for a purported discovery about the cognitive processes involved in reading text. The principle is that readers can comprehend text despite spelling errors and misplaced letters in the words. It works because our brains don't just rely on what they see - they also rely on what we expect to see.

Even if you haven't heard of *typoglycemia*, the chances are you'll remember one of the viral puzzles that explains this phenomenon. Starting around 2003, an email circulated through what seemed like every inbox claiming that scrambled English words are just as easy to read as the original words.

The generated or newly-coined words are anagrams (mixed letters of the original word), but our brain has no trouble giving them meaning.

However, as cool as the original email was, it didn't actually tell the whole truth. There is more to scrambled words than meets the eye.

What is Typoglycemia?

That viral email tested our ability to read scrambled words. Here's what it looks like:

Aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oreder the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoeint tihg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mess, and you can still read it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the human mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

You could read it, couldn't you? The truth is pretty much every fluent English speaker can read and understand it. The word-scrambling phenomenon has a punny (that's fun with a pun) name: *typoglycemia*, playing mischievously with the prefix *typo* and suffix *glycemia* (having low blood sugar). *Typoglycemia* is the ability to read a paragraph like the one above despite the jumbled words.

To put the record straight: No such research was carried out at the University of Cambridge.

Is Typoglycemia real, or is it a trick?

Does it take you nanoseconds to solve a Word Jumble in the newspaper? No? While your brain can breeze through some word-scrambles, it's more complicated than that click-bait email suggests.

Read [the article at Dictionary.com](#) to find out more.

What makes a scrambled word easier to read?

Other factors a jumbled-word passage needs so that everyone can easily read it are:

- ❖ The words need to be relatively short.
- ❖ Function words (such as *be*, *the*, *a*, and other words that provide grammatical structure) can't be messed up, otherwise, the reader struggles.
- ❖ Switching (or transposing) letters makes a big difference. Letters beside each other in a word can be switched without much difficulty for the reader to understand. When letters further apart are switched, it becomes much harder. For example, take *porbelm* vs *pelborm* (for "problem").
- ❖ We understand scrambled words better when their sounds are preserved: *toatl* vs *talot* (for "total").
- ❖ Here's a big one: the passage is readable because it's predictable (especially because we've seen it so many times!)

Other factors apply as well - such as preserving double letters. For example, in the word *according*, the scrambled email keeps the *cc* intact ("*aoccdnrig*"). Double letters are contextual markers that give good hints. But we could also scramble it up this way: "*ancdircoq*." As you can see, breaking up the *cc* makes it more difficult.

Create your own 'jumbled up' text

If you want to confuse your friends and colleagues, go to <https://www.dcode.fr/typoglycemia-generator> where you can create your own 'jumbled up' text. Try it, it's fun.

Translation Test

Science Alert, [here](#), invites you to try to read the following:

*Soaesn of mtiss and mloelw
ftishflurues,
Cslow boosm-feinrd of the mrtuniag
sun;
Cnponsiing wthi him how to laod and
besls
Wthi friut the viens taht runod the
tahtch-eevs run.*

Of course, you can read it, can't you? It's the first four lines of the poem "To Autumn" by John Keats.

*Season of mists and mellow
fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing
sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and
bless
With fruit the vines that round the
thatch-eves run.*

Language areas of the Brain

ScienceDaily says humans are born with a part of the brain that is wired to be receptive to seeing words and letters, setting the stage at birth for people to learn how to read, a new study suggests. Analysing brain scans of new-

borns, researchers found that this part of the brain, called the 'visual word form area' (VWFA), is connected to the language network of the brain.

Dyslexia



Picture Credit: [Recoloured] "Dyslexia" by Tiberiu Ana is licensed under CC BY 2.0

'Word blindness' is an old-fashioned term used to mean that a person cannot recognise and understand words that he sees. This was the term used to describe dyslexia when it was first described by doctors in the late 19th century.

It means that the person does not seem to be able to remember the order and sequence of letters in a word from one time to the next. A child might be drilled for hours on an easy word, but the next time he saw the word would not recognise it.

Dyslexia has nothing to do with intelligence, and different people are affected to different degrees. Problems may include difficulties in spelling words, reading quickly, writing words, "sounding out" words in the head, pronouncing words when reading aloud and understanding what one reads. Often, these difficulties are first noticed at school. When someone who previously was able to read loses that ability, it is known as "alexia". The difficulties are involuntary, and people with this disorder have a normal desire to learn. People with dyslexia have higher rates of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), developmental language disorders, and difficulties with numbers.

Dyslexia is believed to be caused by the interaction of genetic and environmental factors. Some cases run in families. Dyslexia that develops following a traumatic brain injury, stroke, or dementia is called "acquired dyslexia". The underlying mechanisms of dyslexia are problems within the brain's language processing.

If you've ever wondered how difficult reading can be when a person has dyslexia, wonder no more. Just visit [nextweb](#), [here](#), and see for yourself. The words change more quickly than you'd ever have imagined.

EAGLE 7 October 1955

EAGLE SPORTS NEWS

INFORMATION
INSTRUCTION

BRITISH BOXING CHAMPIONS

by
W. BARRINGTON DALBY



No. 4. FRANK JOHNSON
(MANCHESTER), Lightweight.

FRANK JOHNSON got his first notch on the Lonsdale Belt when he took the Lightweight title from Tommy McGovern in 1952, when he was 24 years of age.

Then he struck a bad patch. Due to defend his title against Joe Lucy at the White City in June, 1953, he came in overweight, and failed within the one hour allowed him by the regulations to get inside the required 9 stone 9 pounds. As a result, he lost his championship by default. He met Lucy that night in an overweight match, but his form was just too bad to be true and he was well beaten on points.

Frank had his chance to make amends for his poor display, in April of this year, and did so, finally gaining the verdict over Joe Lucy after 15 closely contested rounds and thus regaining the Lightweight title.

This Eagler may be a Future World Champion!



THE EAGLER who particularly caught the experts' eye during our recent coaching session at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, was 14-year-old CLIVE ARKELL, of South Wales.

When he first saw Clive perform, Ken Stanley, the English International who assisted Johnny Leach with the coaching lessons, gasped with amazement.

"I rarely make predictions," said Ken, "but if this boy continues to progress as he is doing at present, he could become a World Champion in a few years' time!"

Win a Trophy and super prizes in an exciting new competition

The EAGLE National Soccer Skills Contest

HERE'S news of a super contest which offers you the chance to improve your soccer skill, win a special trophy or other award, and perhaps a smashing match football of your own, and promises you lots of fun into the bargain. It starts in **EAGLE** next week.

This is the idea, and we think you'll agree that it is *excitingly different*. Each week, **JIMMY HILL**, your Soccer Coach, will set a Test of Soccer Skill which you can perform anywhere with simply a tennis ball and, sometimes, ordinary household articles.

All you will have to do is to ask your parent or schoolmaster to watch you perform the test, and to mark your score. At the end of the month, we will ask you to send your scores in to us for judging, and to the senders of the best results the Editor will award **SUPER MATCH FOOTBALLS**.

The contest will last four months altogether and, at the end of that time, those competitors who have reached the highest standard in each of the Tests that have been set will be invited to compete under F.A. supervision for the **EAGLE SOCCER SKILLS TROPHY**, and other awards.

Do you get the idea? Watch out for further details next week and, in the meantime, why not get in some practice by trying out the 'warming up' test suggested by **JIMMY HILL** in his first article on this page?



SOCCER SKILL with JIMMY HILL

Meet your new coach - that breezy personality with the Most Cheerful Chin in Soccer **JIMMY HILL**.

If you've seen Jimmy play at wing-half for Fulham, you'll know that behind that Cheerful Chin lurks the shrewdest of soccer brains. Besides being a fully qualified F.A. Coach, Jimmy is a man of ideas, and you are going to thoroughly enjoy learning soccer the Jimmy Hill way.

WALTER Winterbottom wrote in **EAGLE** last season: "It is what you do yourself that counts."

It is certainly not what you hear from experts, but the practice that you put in *after this instruction* that makes you a better player.

Following on this excellent advice, and with your help, I'm going to try to show you ways in which you can improve both individual and team skills.

Have you read the announcement concerning our **NATIONAL SKILLS CONTEST**? If you enter for this, you'll be taking the initial step towards becoming a proficient player.

The Russians make a feature of training on their own. Albert Quixall, Johnny Haynes and Harry Hooper, to name just a few stars, acquired their skill in a similar manner. Industrious they practised alone with a tennis ball for hours on end.



Albert Quixall shows you how to catch a football on the instep.

TRY THIS - with your tennis ball!

Let your tennis ball bounce on to the ground. As it rises, lob it up with the instep. Let the ball bounce again, and repeat. If the ball touches the ground, or anything else, more than once consecutively, you have broken down and must start counting again.

Trying this test myself I managed to achieve 50 non-stop Johnny Haynes, carefully checked by Bedford Jezard, stopped for a rest at 90.

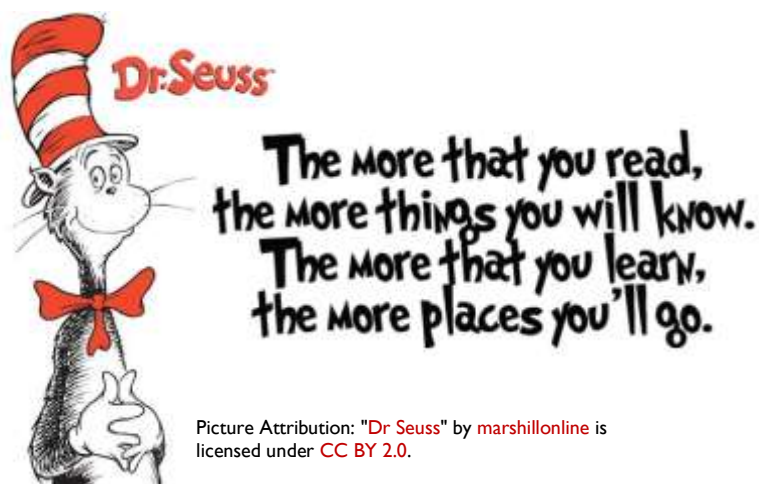
If you are under 11 years old, try to beat 35; 40 is your target if you are over 11.

Test yourself at the start of the week and practise this for 10 minutes each day - you'll be surprised at your improvement. You've started to master the ball.

We shall work on similar lines. Why tennis balls? Well, firstly, most of us already have one; and, secondly, no great ball player ever acquired outstanding skill with a football alone. However, there are plenty of things to learn besides ball control, of course, and I will be dealing with many of these important subjects in my articles.



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