



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 44



21st January - This seems to have been a rather more encouraging week in the wider world. Although we are of course all following the “Stay at Home.. etc” directive, the progress being made with vaccinations, a new US Executive team and, for some perhaps, a new team at the top of the wendy-ball Premier League has seen stock markets rise and a more sanguine mood appear in the newspapers and television news. Statistics continue to entertain if examined critically and the usual stories about anti-vaxers and other varieties of the unintelligentsia give the opinion columnists something to rail about. I am getting quite used to not going out although the energy required to open the ritual books I know I should be re-learning is still difficult to find. Individually, I think we are now somewhat safer than we have been, and the risk is undoubtedly reducing as the days go by; however, I’m fairly sure a proper association with friends and colleagues is still some way off so “hurry up and wait” should still prevail for the moment.

Stephen Knight and Nick Wilson are still the leading responders to the quizzes, but I am pleased that a complete set of answers agreeing with my efforts has not (yet) appeared. ,Keep researching chaps.

Here are my answers to last week’s research subjects:

1. Stoke Hammond, just south of Milton Keynes, like Saxby, Putterham and Upper Slaughter, is one of the 41 confirmed “Thankful Villages” from which every man who went to war to serve “King and Country” in 1914-18 came back home afterwards.
2. Stoke Park was built by John Penn when he returned from America with £130,000 in recompense for the appropriation of his 26 million acres of Pennsylvania and Delaware. He also received a British government annuity of £4,000 for his loss.
3. First successfully to fly across the Atlantic were 6 US Navy aircrew commanded by Lt Cdr Albert C Price in a Curtiss Flying Boat NC-4 in May 1919. It took 5 flights and 24 days and they arrived just 2 weeks before Alcock and Brown made the first non-stop flight.
4. Sir Gordon Richards won the champion jockey title 26 times as a flat-race jockey between 1925 and 1953. Sir Tony McCoy was Champion jump Jockey for 20 consecutive years from 1995.
5. An aerostat has buoyancy by using a lifting gas and needs no movement to stay airborne. An aerodyne is heavier than air and gains lift by moving a shaped lifting surface through the air.
6. The skin is the heaviest organ of the adult human body weighing around 4.5kg. The liver is next at ~1.5 kg although a 2018 article in Nature magazine suggests that the interstitium is an organ and, if it is, then that is the heaviest organ in the body,
7. Joseph was brought out of a pit by his brothers and sold to traders for 20 pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28). Jacob bought a parcel of land for 100 pieces and set up an altar (Gen 33:20).
8. Groats have never ceased to be legal tender. Nowadays they are only produced as part of the annual Maundy Money distribution but as such they do remain legal tender.
9. The aerial lighthouse on top of the RAF College at Cranwell is the furthest inland lighthouse.
10. The distance from FAW (RAF Ascension Island) to EGY (RAF Mount Pleasant) is 3400 nm.

Here are this week’s posers:

1. Why, initially, might Devoted Knights Prosper Calling On Four Good Shepherds be useful?
2. Which animals have the most blood groups?
3. Which British Navy Admiral's portrait was used to advertise a brand of soap?
4. Who was the first woman in England to be paid to endorse a commercial product?
5. Who was the first woman to fly across the English Channel?
6. Who were the first 2 female King's Counsels in England?
7. What drinks are designated as NOM and what does it mean?
8. How many Actinides are there in the Periodic Table?
9. How many mountain peaks are there above 8,000 metres?
10. What is the characteristic of Ogee and Tudor arches which distinguishes them from a Drop arch?

I am forced to accept that the light at the end of the tunnel might not be a train after all!

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space and Stay Safe.

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