



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 51



Week 51 IG Missive – 11th March 2021

Another encouraging week with better news of the diminished infection rate, reduced deaths and lower Intensive Care occupancy. The Recovery Roadmap target dates of 12th April, 17th May and 21st June have been set and let us hope there are no bumps along the way to delay our progress. Provisional plan emails are coming thick and fast as numerous units look to organise missed installations and re-start recruitment whilst following the various rules and regulations issued both by masonic leaders and by government decrees. We can't finalise arrangements until nearer the time of course but listening to the news is a lot less dis-spiriting than it has been in recent months. We aren't recovered yet, but meetings are getting nearer. A famous general once said "no plan ever survives the first contact with the enemy" but we have a plan so we just have to hope that Covid retreats as quickly as we would wish.

Here are my answers to week 49's questions:

1. Elizabeth Jane Cochrane, known by the pen-name Nellie Bly, was the first person to emulate Phileas Fogg's fictional journey from Jules Verne's novel. She achieved the feat in 72 days.
2. The longest English word using only the roman numerals M D C L X V I is DIVIDIVI, a Caribbean tree. The longest English word which is also a valid number is MIX.
3. God told Midian to send his troops to drink water from a well and selected only those who lapped water from their hands because they were the only ones who remained alert.
4. Bertholletia Excelsa is the Brazil Nut but like many 'nuts' we eat, they are actually a seed.
5. The link is Tower Bridge: Albert Gunter jumped his double-decker across the gap when the bascules unexpectedly started to open beneath him in December 1952 and Flt Lt Alan Pollock flew the Hunter through the gap between bascules and upper arch on 4th April 1968.
6. The most common radioactive isotope found in food is Potassium-40 (K-40) which has a half-life of over a billion years. Most humans have a yearly exposure of 15-20 millirem from K-40 but the total average exposure just for being alive on earth is ~300 millirem per year.
7. The Elgin Marbles (part of the Parthenon Frieze) were stored in a tunnel between Holborn and Aldwych underground stations during the Second World War.
8. The Metropolitan line ran up as far as Verney Junction until the service was cut back to Aylesbury in 1935 (and cut back to Amersham in 1961 when steam trains were withdrawn).
9. Simon Bolivar served as President of Gran Colombia (1819-1830), Bolivia (for 4 months from its founding in 1825), Peru (1824 -1827) and Venezuela (twice, 1813-1814 and 1817-1819).
10. The flash point of a fluid is the temperature at which it gives off enough vapour to form a combustible mixture when a source of ignition is present. The autoignition point is the temperature at which a fluid will burst into flames without any external source of ignition.

The usual high scorers were Nick Wilson and Stephen Knight. Both got near-perfect results, so this week's questions require a little more effort.

Here are this week's posers:

1. What is the main difference between the Chelsea Flower Show and other RHS flower events?
2. Who is reputed to have written "I hav been patient long enuf" (mis-spelling on purpose) and why?
3. On a 'standard' day, what is the weight of a 1 ft square column of air from the surface to the top of the earth's atmosphere?
4. Whose play starts the second act with the line "Number 6 Retiarius vs Secutor"?
5. Who first suggested the use of fingerprints in the detection of crime?
6. Which could be considered the odd one out from Camel, Horse, Dolphin, Hippopotamus, Pig.
7. Why is a broken cam-belt likely to be very expensive to remedy?
8. Which of the 3 original thoroughbred horses has held patrilineality for the most generations?
9. Where did Napoleon surrender after Waterloo and where did he expect to be exiled?
10. Who seems the most likely person to have been buried in the ship at Sutton Hoo and when?

Happy Researching.

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

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