



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 27



IG Missive 24th September 2020

Shops and restaurants are still open, but the sports and arts industries are continuing to suffer with the latest rules. Pubs are a bit more limited with a mandatory 10pm closing time and those other workers still employed are being heavily encouraged to go back to working at home where possible. It can rather shame those of us no longer working that the situation is easier to deal with – younger people have more to cope with than we do. A “second spike” was hinted at when the lockdown was first being eased but our understanding of why restrictions are being re-imposed doesn’t make up for the disappointment that we still can’t meet “on the square” as fully as we would wish. We must adhere to the rules when we can though, to reduce any risk of passing this nasty bug to others.

It was Steve Tunney’s turn to come second to Stephen Knight in last week’s quiz, but both had done their research well. I continue to be delighted to receive entries even if preparing the missive does rather take up my Thursdays!

Here are my answers to the week 26 questions. There’s no money involved so don’t worry if a couple fooled you.

1. The question was posed in “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” by Douglas Adams in 1979. The supercomputer Deep Thought provided the answer “42”.
2. The first mass extinction event in history is said to have occurred about 445 million years ago.
3. Cambrian, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Jurassic, Cretaceous is the correct chronological of the geological periods listed (there are many others).
4. Macdonald Gill designed the font used on CWGC grave headstones throughout the world.
5. Stowe School has 13 boarding houses and 2 day houses.
6. A scofflaw is someone who flouts the law, particularly if the law concerned is difficult to enforce. The UK government has been labelled a potential scofflaw over recent declarations during the Brexit talks.
7. Evelyn Waugh wrote about the “Bollinger” club in “Decline and Fall” which was a reference to the Bullingdon club at Oxford University and this club is also mentioned in Brideshead Revisited.
8. Dr Michael Foale was the first British spacewalker though he has been an American citizen (as well as British) since before his first space walk in 1995. He still says Cambridgeshire is his natural home. Most responders put down Tim Peake, who is still fully British, so that was also acceptable.
9. Slow worms are actually lizards with closing eyelids and do not stick out their tongues. Snakes cannot blink and taste the world with a forked tongue flicked out frequently.
10. Lichens are a symbiotic relationship between an alga or cyanobacteria and a fungus.

This week's questions are a little more straightforward but will still need some research on Google. Ask, Bing, DuckDuck or whatever your chosen search engine may be. Happy surfing.

1. In what year were the last 2p coins minted with "NEW PENCE" rather than "TWO PENCE"?
2. When did the composition of 5p and 10p coins change from cupro-nickel to nickel-plated steel?
3. What is the difference between air superiority and air supremacy?
4. Whose wedding dress went on display today in Windsor Castle?
5. Who first proved that a piece of paper can be folded more than 8 times?
6. Which was the first of Ian Fleming's James Bond stories to be adapted for the screen?
7. What does the abbreviation "REG FID DEF" on our current coins stand for?
8. Why did Florence Nightingale visit Buckinghamshire?
9. How many in the film world have won both an Oscar for "Best" something as well as a "Raspberry" for "Worst" something (usually something else but not always)?
10. Put the following Mediterranean islands in order of size, smallest to largest – Cyprus, Euboea, Lesbos, Majorca, Rhodes, Crete, Sardinia.

Do keep phoning around to any friends you haven't heard from recently, put 16th November in your diaries for the zoom visit from Supreme Council and start thinking of questions or discussion points you may wish to push up the line to Duke Street.

Do Stay Safe Everyone.

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