



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 56



A fairly busy week with all the discussions about vaccine effectiveness and whether the roadmap is still holding up. As far as most of us are concerned, a decision will soon need to be made on whether we shall feel able to attend meetings as soon as they are permitted. Sovereigns and Recorders will no doubt be canvassing their members to find out, firstly, how many members are likely to attend the first legal meeting, secondly, whether their centre will be set up to accept them (or whether another centre might be a better choice in the short term) and, finally, what should be on the agenda for that first meeting. There will also be In Memoriams for those members who have gone ahead to be with our Great Emmanuel including, on Easter Sunday, M.:P.:Bro Gerald Tedder, a former Sovereign Grand Commander, Consecrating Officer and Honorary Member of two of our Buckinghamshire Chapters. There may also be a need for dispensations before the next meeting - Recorders will no doubt take careful note of Rules 14, 27 and 29 when advising their members about a resumption of meetings. There will be no charge for any dispensation where the requirement can be attributed directly to the coronavirus pandemic. Any dispensation that is required will of course be passed first to District

Recorder Peter Moody for his records before the decision is made by the appropriate authority. Some of us will need a haircut first but I am more than ready to venture out to meetings just as soon as someone blows the legal whistle. I shall continue to be careful though – Covid may not kill now that we have had injections and won't lead to hospitalisation but the threat of "Long Covid" is not insignificant.

Stephen Knight regained his place at the top of the quiz rankings last week although Nick Wilson was (again) not far behind. Here are my answers to week 55's questions:

1. The first part of the male parent's name comes first followed by a second part from the female. A Liger and a Tigon are both offspring of a lion and a tiger but with opposite parent gender.
2. The obligation to send a list of members to the "Clerk of the Peace" was rescinded in 1967.
3. Table tennis players over the age of 21 who change nationality must wait 9 years after first registration before being permitted to represent their new country in international competitions.
4. Erithacus rubecula is a European Robin and has an average life expectancy of 1.1 years (although high mortality amongst juvenile birds slews the average down – many live longer).
5. Although days are longest in late June, the amount of electricity produced by PV roof panels depends on the pitch of the roof on which PV panels are mounted (and therefore the angle of incidence at which the sun strikes them) and the alignment of the roof line. For a Southern England roof at a typical pitch of 45° aligned due East/West, more electricity is produced from the panels in early April and late August than is produced in June (provided the sun shines).

6. Transpiration is the rate at which plants draw in and evaporate water from their leaves. It can be measured with a potometer. Evaporation occurs most from the lower surface of leaves where the most stomata are situated.
7. The first “clink” was a prison in Southwark, part of the manor subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishops of Winchester, in which debtors and heretics were incarcerated. The name came either from the rattle of prisoners’ chains or the noise made by cell door bolts being slammed home.
8. The age of trees is measured by counting the rings in its trunk. The age of a fish can be measured by counting the number of rings in its scales, its otoliths (balance organs) or other bony parts. Both series of rings can also indicate ‘good’ years and ‘bad’ years of growth.
9. The theme tune of ‘Endeavour’ is also the theme tune of ‘Morse’ and while the Morse Code for Morse (-- --- •• •••) is more evident in the original programme’s theme, the code is still there for those who are used to listening for it (and telegraphists heard incoming radio code as ‘music’).
10. A waning gibbous moon is what we see in the days after a full moon i.e., it is reducing in size but has not yet become a crescent.

Here are this week’s posers to prompt your researches:

1. What was Robert Watson-Watt asked to do in 1935 which resulted in the invention of Radar?
2. Which is the fastest flowing river in Scotland and into which body of sea does it emerge?
3. How many people achieved a Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in 2019/20?
4. On long-haul aircraft operations, how far from a diversion airfield are aircraft allowed to fly?
5. Who sponsored the first London Marathon?
6. What links Auchentoshan with Chiswick?
7. Why might the director of “It’s a Wonderful Life” really be a “Greatest of All Time”?
8. What mathematically impossible score is often called out when a cribbage player gets no points?
9. What relation was Xerxes to Cyrus and Darius?
10. What is the somewhat nebulous cousinly link between an Aladdin character and the Hellespont?

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space, and keep your fingers crossed.

Peter Harborne 33°

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