



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 16



9th July - Week 16 now and life for many of us is closer to “normal” although those in self-isolation have little yet to celebrate. The rules are changing gradually and those currently self-isolating or shielding because of clinical vulnerability are now being advised that from 1st August they may relax towards social distancing. This means that going to work or to the shops may now be possible for the many members who have very sensibly cut themselves off from the wider world, but such activity is not compulsory. Craft, Royal Arch and the Mark Masons’ Hall Orders have all decreed that meetings may be resumed (up to a maximum of 30 attendees) from next week but Supreme Council has maintained until further notice the current suspension of Rose Croix meetings. Bucks Mark has started a survey of its members’ attitudes to attending meetings and Supreme Council may be about to do the same. All our centres and meeting places are examining ways of safely coming back into use but most are looking at 1st September as the earliest come-back date and, even then, changes in the government restrictions will no doubt have a great bearing on what is determined to be wise practice. I doubt whether any centre had a business continuity plan robust enough to cope with the present emergency so contingency planning for a resumption of meetings is going to take a while.

Each of us must continue to be careful and let us pray the much feared “second wave” which is being experienced in China, Australia, Spain, and maybe other countries too does not take hold in the UK.

None of us can know exactly how the situation will play out but resolving our challenges cannot be left to recorders or sovereigns alone; do keep talking to other chapter members to come up with your own resumption plans and remember that good ideas could come from anyone so keep thinking.

Here are the answers to last week’s questions – a little easier this time I thought:

1. The Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt was usually referred to as the “warthog”.
2. An angekok is an Inuit shaman from Greenland or NE Canada.
3. Procol Harum (1967), Annie Lennox (1995), Johnny Rivers (1968) and Joe Cocker (1978) all recorded “A Whiter Shade of Pale”
4. Horses Sweat, Gentlemen Perspire and Ladies Glow – all words for “sudate”
5. The world’s oldest still-operating astronomical clock is in Prague and was built in 1410.
6. In Latin, both mean “to you” but Vobiscum is plural and Tecum (sometimes Tibi) is singular. Vobiscum is used by clergy when addressing a congregation (as in “dominus vobiscum”) but the plural is also used to an individual as a measure of respect for his status or rank or in the same polite way that some address others as “Sir” or “Madam”.
7. Oscars Lagerstrom, Hammerstein, Homolka, Millard, Brodney have all won Oscars. Hammerstein is the only Oscar to have won 2 Oscars.

8. Montevideo is the capital of Uruguay, the first country due west of Cape Town.
9. The very last steam powered turbo-electric passenger ship was launched as FairSky in 1984, subsequently served as Sky Princess, Pacific Sky, Sky Wonder, Atlantic Star and finally, for its last 2 months in 2013 on its way to being broken up, Antic.
10. Several Moons of Uranus (of 27) have been named after characters in Shakespeare' plays, Ariel and Miranda were from The Tempest.

This week it was John Stribling who came up with the best response so our congratulations go to him for his persistence and (mostly) accurate research. This week's questions:

1. Why was there a sausage shortage in Austria, Poland and Northern France in 1916/17?
2. What role did Buckingham play in the First World War air environment?
3. How many teams are there in the Premiership?
4. What is the basic difference between viruses and bacteria?
5. What is the easiest way accurately to convert Fahrenheit to Celsius and vice versa in your head?
6. Name King Solomon's mother's husbands.
7. How many of the seven wonders of the ancient world are still largely intact?
8. What is the Greek letter equivalent to our 'Z'?
9. When was Latin dropped from the Grand Lodge certificates in England and Wales?
10. From when does the design of the current Union Flag originate?

God Bless, Stay Safe and keep phoning around.

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