



## INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 53



Week 53 IG Missive – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

And so we enter the second year of Covid restrictions but we do at least have good hopes of a recovery on the way. The last few days have been really nice weather in most of Bucks so I hope all who can have been exercising appropriately. I now have 3 tee times booked for next week when clubs are allowed to re-open and am really looking forward to it. The next important milestone will be in a couple of weeks when the effects of re-opening schools and allowing outdoor rule-of-six activities will become apparent. Let us pray that nothing gets in the way of the roadmap's progress.

The outstanding event of the week was a Google update that crashed our email apps. It would have been a nice quiet Tuesday if only it hadn't taken me nearly all day to find out what the problem was and find a work-around. Not the first time a computer update has incapacitated a system network of course and probably won't be the last. All sorted now anyway (though no apology has been forthcoming). Driverless cars anyone?

Here are my answers to week 52's questions:

1. Al Qaeda is Arabic for 'the base' and bases (or alkalis) have high pHs while an acid's pH is low.
2. Desmond Llewellyn, Peter Burton, Geoffrey Bayldon and John de Lancie have all played a character called Q, the first 3 in James Bond Films and de Lancie in the Star Trek series.
3. The Earth describes a vaguely circular orbit around the sun at a radius of about 93,000,000 miles so it travels about 584 billion miles around the sun in a year at about 67,000 mph.
4. Odontoceti are toothed whales and mysticeti are baleen whales with keratin plates for filtering food rather than teeth.
5. The highest opening scrabble score is 79 for "muzjiks"
6. Henry McCarty was also known as Billy the Kid and his death warrant was signed by Lew Wallace, Governor of New Mexico at the time and also the author of the novel Ben Hur.
7. All the names are surnames of father/son or mother/daughter pairs who have won Nobel prizes.
8. Sir Henry Newbolt wrote the poem Vitaï Lampada; the title is from Lucretius' writing in 50 BC.
9. First known as the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge and now just The Royal Society, the motto "Nullius in Verba" is said to mean "take nobody's word for it." Looks more like "nothing in writing" or "don't believe a word of it" but I'm not a Latin man.
10. Noah's altar gets the first mention in the Bible after the floods had abated and the ground was dried (Genesis 8:20). Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all built altars in Genesis and Moses in Exodus.

The usual high scorers Nick Wilson and Stephen Knight were joined this week in providing near-perfect answers by Peter Corbett, MWS of 1176. Well done all who responded and thank you.

Here are this week's posers:

1. Who first discovered the exponential function 'e'?
2. Whose surname was a near anagram of the prize which was won?
3. Who made the first 'freefall' parachute jump from an aircraft?
4. How many fixed-date federal holidays are there in the United States of America?
5. What is a micromort?
6. Which animals are said to have the best sense of smell?
7. In which key was the Lone Ranger theme tune written?
8. What was the lettering on the arch of the cellar in William Hogarth's engraving "Gin Lane"?
9. What may be termed a rookery or a raft and where?
10. What class of life always has a holdfast?

Happy Researching.

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

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