



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 45



Week 45 IG Missive – 28th January 2021

A slow week these last few days, mostly filled with reading and the occasional walk. The vaccine and injection news continues to be encouraging and, perhaps with a small dose of schadenfreude, I have enjoyed the news that the UK seems to be doing better than the EU. It does seem amusing that the larger constituent countries of the EU are now complaining how slow are their bureaucrat ‘masters’ in Brussels.

Hospital-acquired infections are going down too so hope of a swift recovery may not be completely out of the question and more routine visits for other medical problems may become both safer and more numerous. I see Dr Jonathan van Tam now appears on tee-shirts for sale on eBay etc and has a fan club with the strapline “what would JVT do?” He does seem to have more common sense than some who appear on our screen, so I hope he gets some royalties on the shirts!

Last week I was a bit premature when I wrote that a complete set of answers agreeing with mine had yet to appear. It has now done so and well done Stephen Knight although Rosie Hopkinson-Woolley and Nick Wilson weren’t far behind. I do thank all responders for giving me something to look forward to in this weather dreary lockdown.

Here are my answers to last week’s questions:

1. The phrase is a mnemonic for the names used in taxonomy when classifying animals. It stands for Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.
2. Dogs and Horses have 8 major blood groups and cattle have 11. However, there are numerous antigens or alleles which can occur in company with these groups and, in horses, there are said to be 400,000 identifiably different blood types which makes transfusions extremely difficult.
3. Admiral Sir William James (1881 – 1973) was a grandson of John Everett Millais whose painting of the admiral at age 5, “Bubbles”, was used as an advertisement for Pears Soap.
4. Lillie Langtry endorsed Pears Soap in 1882 and was probably the first woman in England to be paid for her endorsement for a commercial product.
5. Harriet Quimby was the first female pilot to fly across the English Channel in 1912.
6. The first female KCs in England were Dames Rose Heilbron and Helena Normanton in 1949.
7. NOM means Norma Oficial Mexicana and refers to Tequila and Mezcal having been produced by appropriately certificated (and licensed) distilleries in Mexico.
8. There are 15 Actinides in the Periodic Table.

9. There are 14 peaks higher than 8,000 metres (26,246ft). Recently, Nims Purja, a Nepalese former British Army soldier climbed all 14 in just 189 days.
10. An Ogee arch and a Tudor arch in church architecture are formed from four segments of a circle described from 4 separate centres and are called “complex pointed arches”. A Drop arch, like its compatriots the Horseshoe, Lancet and Equilateral arches, is a “simple pointed arch” with 2 circular segments and 2 centres.

Here are this week’s posers:

1. How many bones are there in the human body and which one isn’t articulated with any other?
2. In what order were the breathalyser, MOT tests and the national 70 mph limit introduced?
3. Why does a 3-phase electrical supply of 400 volts AC give only 230 volts from 1 phase to earth?
4. Who were the original members of the rock band Cream?
5. Which is bigger, the number of Air Ambulance helicopters in the UK or the number of Provinces in the English Craft?
6. What in association football is meant by the phrase “it’s a six-pointer”?
7. Which donkey racetrack eventually became the title of a 1995 film and a book by John Gardner?
8. Who invented the first 4-wheeled vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and when?
9. Why are Dubhe and Merak useful?
10. Who was Uriah Heep said to be modelled after?

No vaccine appointment yet but it won’t be long. If there is a sweepstake about when we may meet properly again, I guess at 1st June for 6-at-a-time Craft etc meetings and fuller assemblies in September (but don’t quote me!).

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

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