



### INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 48



Week 48 IG Missive – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Another week has rushed past and the numbers of cases, admissions and deaths are reducing steadily. We have to wait until Monday to get the statement on the official route out of lockdown, but March 8<sup>th</sup> has been touted as the date when the lockdown will start to be eased. With any luck that means a swift return to golf, but it will probably not produce conditions under which the resumption of masonic activity is seen as advisable. It may still be too early to follow the Grand Secretary General's note of 21<sup>st</sup> August on how to catch up with the normal admin decisions of the Chapter (accounts, elections of MWS, Treasurer and joining members etc) by holding a more formal zoom meeting but Recorders and Sovereigns should probably revise the provisions of that note – we shall then be ready to start winding up to some form of activity as soon as meetings are permitted.

Life remains bearable for the moment, albeit that time does rather drag. The Merlaue Chapter meeting I attended on March 16<sup>th</sup> last year is certainly a long time ago.

Annual Circular No 138 was issued by Supreme Council

last week and all in our District should now have received it via their Chapter Recorders. Do contact him if you are not sure you have received it. And finally, for this week, if you haven't had your vaccination yet then stop bragging about how young you are and be ready as soon the jab is offered. Many of us are now at a much lower risk of succumbing to the virus even if the likelihood of passing it on to others, perhaps some not yet jabbed, has yet to be proven.

Thank you again to Stephen and Nick, the usual suspects at the top of the responders list, and it was Stephen's turn to be best last week. I hope this week's questions continue to keep you entertained – in some cases, your answers certainly keep me amused.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. Pennsylvania and Maryland (Avenues) meet at the Capitol in Washington DC.
2. The sum of 2 primes can only be prime if one of them is the number 2.
3. Sir John Tenniel drew the Hatter in Alice in Wonderland and put a 10/6d price tag in the band. Since 1986, there has been a celebration in America on October 6<sup>th</sup> (should really be 10<sup>th</sup> June!)
4. The "Kingdom of Great Britain" was declared by James I in 1604. He authorised an expedition to found a settlement in North America and they did so at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Strictly speaking the United Kingdom of Great Britain did not begin until 1707, so Jamestown, along with many other colonies/dependencies was really the English (and Welsh) Empire until then.
5. The Sumerian culture is credited with the first recorded evidence of the concept of zero, closely followed by the Mayans in Mexico and the northernmost parts of South America.
6. An adult eft is a newt and they can re-generate lost limbs, eye lenses and other internal organs after damage. Much medical research is being carried out to find out how they do it.

7. Tom Coyne and Angela Ripon were the first Top Gear presenters and Tom Coyne was replaced when the series transferred from regional Midlands TV to national broadcast BBC schedules.
8. The Chrysler building in New York was the first to exceed 1000 feet in height in 1930.
9. It was a hailstorm over Munich which inflicted so much damage on cars and houses. The hailstones were up to 4" in diameter, weighed over 6 ounces and were borne on a 40-knot wind.
10. The Heaviside layer is a region of ionised gas high in the Earth's atmosphere which 'reflects' radio waves. The layer is about 50 miles high during the day and at frequencies around 15 MHz, communication is possible at distances of up to 1000 miles. At night the layer (or layers) rise to about 90 miles and even greater ranges are possible at lower frequencies. The choice of frequency to use must take account of the "dead space", the distance between the direct path of the signal and where the reflected (more accurately refracted) signal returns towards the surface.

Well done if you got more than 6 of these – I do try to keep them challenging.

Here are this week's posers:

1. What was so unusual about last Friday's date?
2. What are the three most common elements in the earth's crust?
3. Until what date was police permission required in France if women wanted to wear trousers?
4. What does dah di dah dit dah dah di dah mean?
5. Why is one botanical fruit legally a vegetable in the United States?
6. How did Cambridge University staff avoid a disappointing walk to the coffee pot in 1991?
7. Why are some blue-blooded arthropods of great benefit to humans?
8. Which Ascot Gold Cup "winner" was disqualified on both occasions that it came in first?
9. Name 4 jumping spiders with names from Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book
10. Gods in Greek and Roman mythology were credited with being responsible for specific areas of life. Which 2 gods had the same name and area in both mythologies?

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space, Stay Safe and Stay Cheerful. I hope to see you sometime soon.

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