



INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 49



Week 49 IG Missive – 25th February 2021

So, we have the roadmap at last and can look forward to a gradual unlocking of our doors and a cautious return towards normality – if we can remember what that was like all those months ago. We have effectively lost a year of our regular lives but let us hope that the resumption of social activity quickly helps those who have suffered more than we have. Unemployment has risen despite the various measures the government has taken and our economy is suffering and will no doubt take time to recover; nevertheless, the resumption of free association is just the news we need to hear. We will mourn for those we have lost and must keep nudging our Almoners to see if he or others need our help. I dare say red, blue and black books will become more compelling as we look towards real meetings again and I look forward with enthusiasm to attending our Rose Croix ceremonies as soon as we are able. My bet is still on 1st September as a reasonably safe start for some regular meetings, but we'll just have to wait and see what transpires.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. Written as 12022021, last Friday's date is a palindrome but also, in some computer fonts (Digifit, BrushScript), it is also an ambigram (reads the same upside down).
2. The 3 most common elements in the earth's crust are Oxygen, Silicon and Aluminium.
3. The regulation about ladies not being permitted to wear trousers in France was repealed in 2013.
4. It is morse code (- • - • - - • -) and it means CQ (seek you) which is a general call to anyone on a frequency to respond and initiate a conversation.
5. Tomatoes are botanically a fruit, but the US Supreme Court declared in 1893 that they were vegetables. The 1883 Tariff Act imposed a 10% tariff on vegetables, but fruit were tariff-free and when the Nix family tried to import tomatoes as fruit and avoid the tariff, a legal dispute arose which was only settled at Supreme Court level in favour of the tariff being payable.
6. The Cambridge University computer staff invented the webcam in 1991. It broadcast a picture of the Trojan Room coffee pot over a computer network so that they knew before leaving their desks that coffee would be available.
7. Many crabs and other similar arthropods have blue blood because of the copper ions in their blood (rather than the iron ions which make the blood of mammals red).
8. Rock Roi came in first in both 1971 and 1972 Ascot Gold Cups but was disqualified both times.
9. Bagheera, Akela, Messua and Nagaina are all characters from Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book and the names were given to 4 species of jumping spiders by George and Elizabeth Peckham.
10. Apollo was the god of music and medicine in both Greek and Roman mythologies and Gaia (or Gaea) was the Greek and Roman goddess of the Earth.

Not too many answers received last week but all recipients are very welcome to have a go.

Here are this week's posers:

1. The earth has a radius of 3960 miles and the diameter of an orange is about 3.96 inches. If the radius of each was increased by 6 inches, what would be the relationship between the extra lengths of their respective circumferences?
2. The summit of Mount Everest is the highest point above sea level. But which mountain summits are the "tallest on Earth" and the "furthest from the centre of the Earth"?
3. Secretary-Generals of the United Nations are elected to serve in 5-year terms. Which 2 men failed to complete an elected term?
4. In which country was the first pyramid built and who was it for?
5. How many female pilots served in the Air Transport Auxiliary?
6. How many teams have won the FA Cup whilst not actually members of the Football League?
7. In a Province of just over 2000 freemasons, can Dunbar's number be accepted as correct?
8. Why does water at the bottom of a deep pond rarely freeze?
9. On 26th January 2002, George Harrison reached number one in the charts with "My Sweet Lord". Why was that a 'first'?
10. Who may well have been the first to be saved by the bell striking thirteen?

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

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