



## INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 34

Week 34 IG Missive – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020



As was forecast last week, we are locked down again until at least 2<sup>nd</sup> December but a vaccine, or vaccines perhaps, has arrived on the near horizon and may lead to a workable solution to the pandemic. Whether this will lead to an early resumption of masonic meetings will no doubt be a matter of some debate for our leaders and we can only hope that Jonathan Van Tam's "light at the end of the tunnel" isn't an oncoming train. I did enjoy his "Mum" test description though and I shall be joining the queue once my number comes up.

I have finally succumbed to a television subscription service for the next 3 months which gives me access to live coverage of the Masters golf tournament which starts today. Household jobs are off the agenda till Monday and then we have the virtual visit from Most Puissant Bro Alan Englefield, Sovereign Grand Commander at 6pm that evening. I hope many of you will be "present" and look forward to seeing you all on my screen then. Nick Wilson managed, just, to squeeze Stephen Knight off the top slot last week.

Here are my answers to last week's questions:

1. GPS satellites are in orbit 20,200 km (12,550 mls) high and are travelling at around 14,000 kph (8,700 mph). They do 2 orbits a day.
2. I'm afraid this wasn't a very good question because there are actually lots of things that link Wilson and Roosevelt – going to war, isolationist foreign policies (until joining the wars), selling arms to combatants and, my first choice, founding International Peace-Keeping Organisations afterwards - Wilson the League of Nations in 1920 (but which he didn't then join) and Roosevelt the United Nations in 1945 (and who subsequently paid for most of it for many years).
3. The Earth is an oblate spheroid and the difference between the equatorial radius of 6378 km and the polar radius of 6357 km is 21 km (13 miles).
4. The first woman newsreader on the BBC was Armine Sandford on BBC West in 1957. The first female national BBC TV newsreader was Nan Winton (Nancy Wigginton) in 1960.
5. The What3Words App can identify any 3m square on the planet. Beard.spices.issue is Buckingham Palace. I was going to ask about "input.caring.brain" but google gets that straight away. And how about sulk.held.raves?
6. They were 3 hares kept as pets by the poet William Cowper.
7. Pinza won the Derby in 1953, ridden by Sir Gordon Richards, 25-times champion jockey who, to his relief, finally won his first Derby at the 28<sup>th</sup> attempt, just as he was retiring.
8. I would say the first theoretical physicist was Christaan Huygens in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Many before him had theories which weren't far off but he had the physics and maths knowledge to theorise on things which didn't then exist – and unlike others he hasn't been proved wrong (yet). He invented the pendulum clock in 1656, discovered Saturn's rings and the planet Titan, made calculations of centrifugal/centripetal force, and developed the wave theory of light.
9. The Royal Society is the oldest national scientific institution, being founded in 1660.

10. William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia in 1841 after 31 days as the 9<sup>th</sup> US president.

Here are this week's research items:

1. In 1892, the Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire died – what was his name?
2. What, linguistically, is unusual about the word “inflammable”?
3. Who invented Teflon and who now owns the trademark name?
4. What is the final plot twist in RR Bennett's opera “Mines of Sulphur”?
5. What are the 2 reasons why a Royal Navy ship under way may fly the Union Jack?
6. Who was the first female English monarch to rule?
7. Who is the Chief Executive of the Lifelights Charity?
8. When was the last of the contiguous states of the USA admitted to the Union?
9. How did Odysseus escape from Polyphemus?
10. Who were the first man and the first woman to complete the “3 Poles Challenge” on foot?

Maintain the mantra - Hands, Face, Space and Keep Phoning Around – and may we all be spared the virus.  
Stay Safe

Peter Harborne 33°

Buckinghamshire