

# The Lockdown Posts

One of the pleasures of a 1970s childhood

Was testing how scared your dog was of heights.



Being *cautioned* by the traffic police in Lyme Regis



And the Summer Special bumper edition of your favourite comic.



Which you could pick up from  
your friendly newsagent.



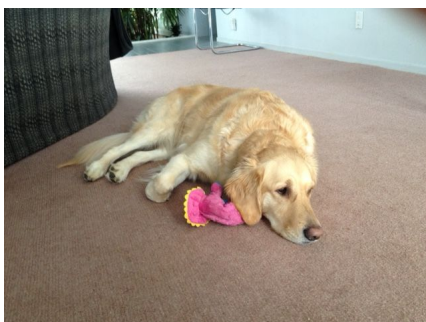
Together with a corona



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nue8j\\_52M6Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nue8j_52M6Q)

*When it was something different.*

So if it's raining.



There's nothing on TV



And your friends can't come out to play.



Check out the

## **Bumper Summer Edition**



Of the

## **Lockdown Posts.**

# Early Lockdown

## Monday

### Victory in Europe [75+]

8 May 1945 – 8 May 2020

If you want to know more about  
The Second World War you must  
watch:

**“The World At War”** [1973-1974]

In 22 hours 32 minutes it covers the  
*whole of the conflict.*



It is brilliantly narrated by **Laurence Olivier** [1907-1989].



And since it was made less than thirty years  
after the war it includes interviews with major  
figures such as **Anthony Eden** [1897-1977], Foreign  
Secretary and MP for Warwick and Leamington Spa MP.



**Albert Speer**, [1905-1981], Hitler's  
Minister for War Production



The Last Fuhrer, **Karl Dönitz** [1891-1980].



and everyone's favourite US Air Force commander  
**General Curtis Le May** [1906-1990].



who would later provide radical suggestions  
to JFK during the Cuban Missile Crisis [1962]

This is episode 3 [The Fall of France].  
It is monumental.

<https://youtu.be/zHmxmUfekdQ>

## Tuesday “Through Hell for Hitler”

A few years ago **Henry Metelmann** [1922-2011]. spoke to the Sixth Form.



He was in the Wehrmacht during the Second World War and fought at Stalingrad.



He was captured on three occasions [by the Russians, the Americans and the British].

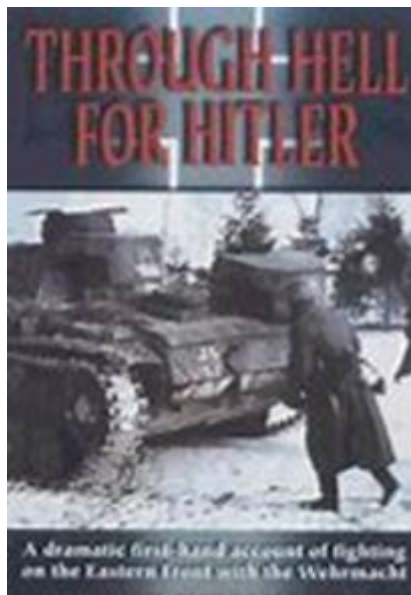
A POW in England at the end of the war, Henry returned and married a Swiss *au pair* whom he had met while he was a prisoner.

He worked for British Rail most of his life and then as a groundsman at Charterhouse School.

BBC Timewatch produced a documentary on him which is what made me invite him to the school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONYYr4TSinQ>

It is based on his extraordinary memoirs: a signed copy of which is in the school library.



"He recounted an episode when the tank he was driving approached a group of Russian prisoners who were carrying a wounded comrade. On the approach of his tank, the injured man was left in the road. Metelmann stopped. His officer ordered him to carry on. "I had to run over the injured man and kill him. I became a murderer," he wrote. [Guardian obituary].



A peace activist in his later years, Henry told his story, not to shock, but to show how he became involved in dreadful and appalling atrocities.



"The feeling of guilt for what in a collective way I have done to others, especially the people of Russia, lies very heavily on me.



I have regrets for the suffering I have caused others, but no about what others have done to me." [Henry Metelmann].

## Wednesday

### Everyone knows that 103 is a dangerous age.

Kirk Douglas was born on the 9 December 1916.  
He died on 5 February this year. He was the last great male Hollywood star from its **Golden Age**.



Check him out in this clip from **Spartacus** [1960].  
Don't worry it's not the "*I'm Spartacus*" one.

<https://youtu.be/zCLyLBrugD0>

And in **Seven Days in May** – a brilliant political thriller from 1964.  
Complete version below.

<https://youtu.be/aOd5IGVXOZw>

However, fear not!

**Olivia de Havilland** who stars as **Melanie Hamilton** in **Gone with the Wind** is still with us at the age of 103.





She was born on **1<sup>st</sup> July 1916** – the **first day of the Battle of the Somme**.

*Gone with the Wind* *premiered* in Atlanta on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1939 soon after the fall of Poland.

Incidentally, the incomparable **Hattie McDaniel** was the first black woman to win an Oscar for her role as “Mammy” in the film. However, because of segregation, she was forbidden, as a black person, from attending the premiere.

*That’s worth knowing, but wouldn’t be if the film was to be banned.*



One of Olivia’s co-stars, **Leslie Howard**, was killed in 1943 when his plane was shot down by the Luftwaffe as he returned from encouraging support for the Allied war effort in Spain and Portugal.

He *may* have been mistaken for Churchill by Nazi intelligence.



77 years later Olivia is still alive and living in Paris.

Check her out in this clip! But don't forget Scarlett O'Hara [Vivien Leigh] is the mean and selfish one!



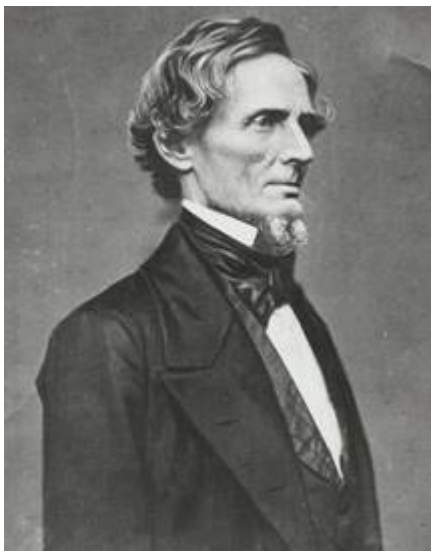
<https://youtu.be/kHXj3XEnEB4>

And if you want to know why **Gone with the Wind** is such an epic watch this:



<https://youtu.be/Upp7pSSo-WE>

And for us Civil War buffs, by a strange twist of fate, while US President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in 1865, Confederate President, **Jefferson Davis**, came to live in **Leamington Spa** [1867-1868].



Where he enjoyed watching a balloon launch in the Jephson Gardens.



And attended the 1868 General Election count

at the Town Hall commenting favourably on British democracy . . .

I think he lived near the band stand.

In a regency house which became

Queans Restaurant [15 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa].

*But has recently closed.*



## Thursday

### The Greatest Ever Western

This was quite easy actually. Stiff competition from Gary Cooper in **High Noon** and, more recently, Kevin Costner in **Dances with Wolves**.

But there's no doubt at all that it is **John Wayne** in **The Searchers**.

There's lots of action and great battles scenes and it's deep, *really deep*.

**John Wayne** as **Ethan** is the ultimate man to aspire to be in terms of sacrifice and redemption.

[I said it was deep].



Check out these two clips and then watch the whole movie.

### Indian Attack

<https://youtu.be/i71kINNtoHI>

### Indian Attack 2

<https://youtu.be/dcTbv3IJhng>

## Friday

### Who's on First?

I don't think any sane critic could ever put the American comedy duo **Abbott and Costello** above Laurel and Hardy.

But their "**Who's on First**"? routine is as good as anything Stan and Ollie ever did.

Much emulated and copied this is Bud and Lou at their absolute finest . . .



<https://youtu.be/kTcRRaXV-fg>

And for those of you studying **Mathematics to a higher**



level, this is Lou and the **first ever recorded use of an interactive white-board**.

It all comes down to logic . . .

<https://youtu.be/MS2aEfbEi7s>

## Monday

### “Back and to the left”

Kevin Costner may have missed out on the best western prize, but in the late 1980s and early 1990s he made two other great movies “**Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**” and “**JFK**”.

This is the famous “**Back and to the left**” in “**JFK**” scene which suggests there was an *another gunman* on the **grassy knoll** . . .



<https://youtu.be/OSzszCTWFwg>

It's a great movie, but, although I love it, I have only ever thought it was just Lee Harvey Oswald.

Until an unnamed source from the Economics Department “Mr Umbrella” passed me this late last night.



## Tuesday

### Leamington Spa and the Nazis

#### Operation Anthropoid



In 1942, the Nazi architect of the Holocaust, **Reinhard Heydrich**, was murdered in Prague by Czech patriots. His car was riddled with bullets and a grenade exploded in it during an ambush in Prague. Heydrich was the only leading Nazi to be assassinated during the Second World War.

The Nazis though took a terrible revenge killing the civilian population of the Czech town, **Lidice**, in retaliation.





The attack was code-named **Operation Anthropid**. The Czech assassins who carried out the mission were **trained in Leamington Spa** before they were parachuted into Czechoslovakia. In 1968 **this monument** to Heydrich's killers was opened in the **Jephson Gardens**.

Restored in 2018, it depicts a parachute, the water streams are its strings and on either side is planted heather taken from the martyred town of Lidice.

Check it out next time you are in the Jephson Gardens – it is very close to the lake and few people know what it is commemorating.



In 2016 the film "**Operation Anthropid**" was made to tell the story of the assassins. This is the trailer for it. It looks pretty good.

<https://youtu.be/blAKCJcXC5c>

## **A Night at Warwick Castle**

This incident is much less well-documented and I cannot find a movie about it.

But, having flown to Scotland in a stolen plane to open

negotiations with the British in 1941, **Nazi Deputy Fuhrer, Rudolf Hess**, was imprisoned for one night at **Warwick Castle** on his way to interrogation in London.

Sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg War crimes trial he was, for the last 17 years of his life, the only prisoner at Spandau prison in Berlin. He was found dead in 1987 at the age of 93.

Whether he was murdered or killed himself is still open to dispute.



**Not Amused**



Unlike Coventry, Leamington Spa did not endure anything like the same war-time bomb damage, although 13 civilians were killed in the town during Luftwaffe raids in 1940 and 1942.

During a 1940 raid a bomb exploded outside the Leamington Spa town hall **shaking but not stirring Queen Victoria**.

This is commemorated on the base of the statue proving that **“Leamington can take it, Adolf!**



## Wednesday

### A Tribute to Laurel and Hardy



### Sons of the Desert [1933]

is probably their best ever feature-length comedy.  
Check it out below.

<https://youtu.be/PZfSZv5Jco4>

**Oliver:** Do you have to ask your wife everything?  
**Stan:** Well if I didn't ask her, I wouldn't know what she wanted me to do.



However, most of their famous 1930s comedies were shorter “two reelers”.

Such as the *very scary*

### **The Laurel and Hardy Murder Case [1930]**



Stan: Three million dollars! Is that as much as a thousand?

Ollie: Why, man-alive, it's TWICE as much!

Stan: Gee Whizz.

<https://youtu.be/EhXBqK6y9R8>

And if you are ever in Cumbria

Visit **Stan's birthplace** in **Ulverston**.

Where you can find the world's only

### Laurel and Hardy Museum



Where you are positively encouraged to ask.

"Dumb questions".

Incidentally, years ago legendary Warwick School English Teacher, **David Stooke**, showed me their signatures.

When they were touring the UK in 1953 they signed his autograph book.



<https://youtu.be/hWolu-R3ov0>

The movie **Stan and Ollie** [2019] tells the story of that tour.

<https://youtu.be/D2zdFwgUYBg>



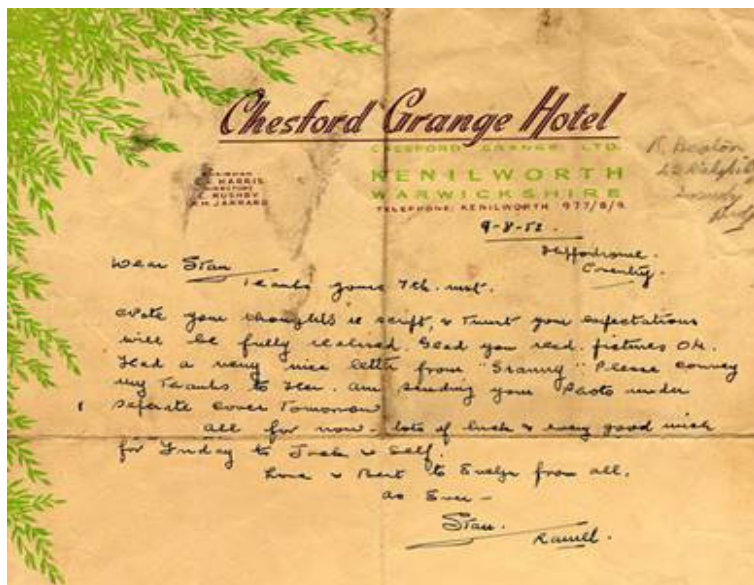
It is brilliant.



*Even without Mr Stooke.*

Sadly they did not perform in Leamington Spa, but they did in Coventry.

When they stayed at  
The Chesford Grange.



How wonderful it would have been to have been there.

## Thursday

### Déjà vu all over again?

**Conservative Prime Minister faces Flu Pandemic.**



Old Etonian Prime Minister, **Harold Macmillan** [1894-1986] faced a **1957 Asian Flu Pandemic** just a few months after taking office.

- Eventually 12 million were infected in the UK.
- 33,000 Britons died as a result of the illness.
- Globally 2 million died: 70,000 in the United States.
- At one point 110,000 children were off school in London.



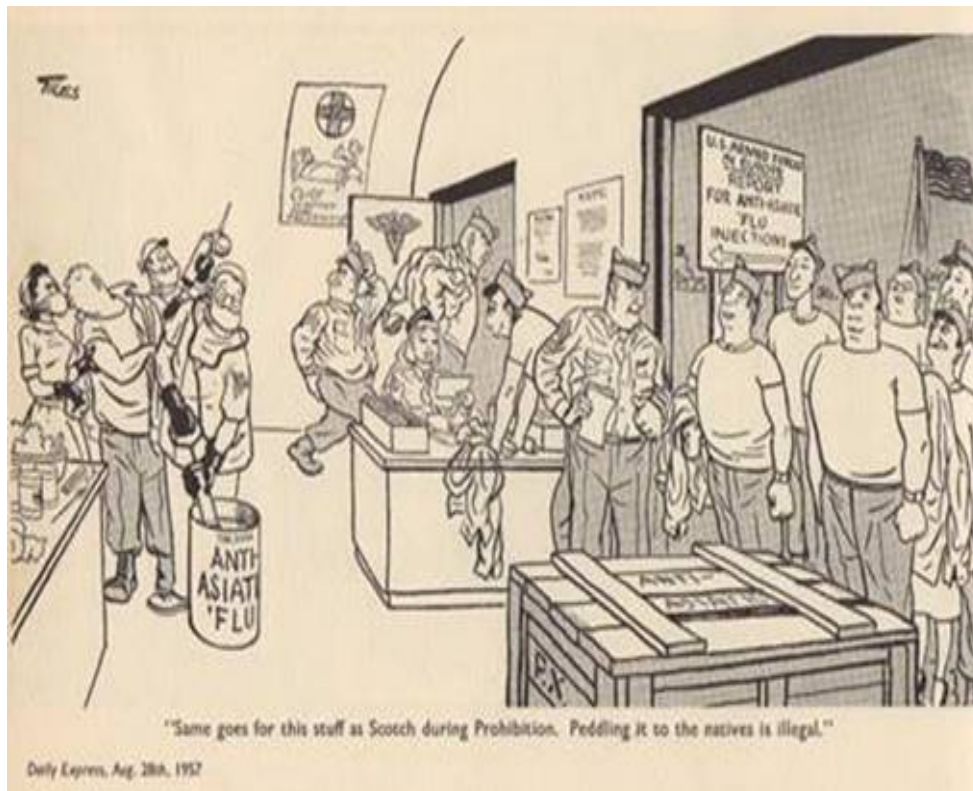
Social Distancing, 1957



However government policy was to keep schools and the economy open.

Public events were also not cancelled although Sheffield Wednesday called off one match because their opponents, Manchester City, were unable to raise a team due to 'flu'.

A vaccine was developed relatively quickly and was being distributed on the NHS by the late summer.



When the Prime Minister felt ill himself he resorted to aspirin.

By the end of the year, the Flu pandemic had been virtually forgotten.

It is not mentioned in most History books of the period.



If it was not for Alex Harrold  
I would not have known about it.

So thank you, Alex!

## Friday A Very Scary Ghost story writer

MR James was Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and then Provost of Eton.



MR James [1862-1936]

He was a brilliant scholar and also wrote ghost stories.

His dark tales can be enjoyed on *any* dark stormy night,  
but are especially well-suited for Christmas Eve.



*Whistle And I'll Come To You* is one of his most famous ghost stories.

In 1968 Jonathan Miller [who died this year] directed this extraordinary black and white version of it.

It is very unusual and very good.

<https://youtu.be/mYjtxHHjZ00>

*Casting the Runes* is another famous ghost story of his.

In 1958 Hollywood made **Night of the Demon** based on the story.

Starring fading star, Dan Andrews, and an unconvincing demon it should have been terrible.

But instead it is **wonderful**.

And:

*"It's in the trees . . ."*

Inspired Kate Bush's

*Hounds of Love* [1985]



<https://youtu.be/VerK4zwMRQw>

So do watch the trailer.



<https://youtu.be/yypq59bsFKs>

And then get the movie.



Former housemaster and art teacher, **Grahame Ward**, loved MR James and these films. He introduced me to them. Grahame died in 2008, but would have enjoyed knowing that these books and films are still bringing pleasure to people.

## **Monday**

### **Dark Ages Social Exclusion**

Monks are, of course, very good at social exclusion.

They have been engaged in it for years.

A drastic example is **Skellig Michael** off the coast of West Ireland.

Monks inhabited it during the Dark Ages and built tiny beehive huts at its top.

Here they could worship God far out in the Atlantic ocean.



It is an extraordinary place, although the steps to the top can be daunting.

[https://youtu.be/EuJ8Dw\\_iNwU](https://youtu.be/EuJ8Dw_iNwU)

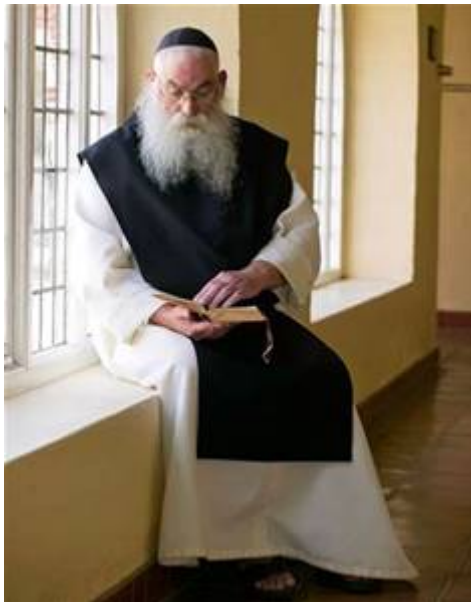


Closer to home **Caldey Island** is just off Tenby.  
I took a school trip there in 2002 with Mr Hudson.





It is easier to get to and, although isolated,  
The monks can be hospitable.



You get to really clear your mind for a week on an island.

And they provide cream teas.

So do visit – if only for the day.





## Tuesday

### The Dream Ticket 1

Scheduled for **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** the presidential election will almost certainly pit 77 year-old Joe Biden against the 73 year old President Trump.

Since 1936 only three sitting presidents have lost to their challenger.

1976 Gerald Ford lost to Jimmy Carter  
1980 Jimmy Carter lost to Ronald Reagan  
1992 George HW Bush lost to Bill Clinton.

Mr Biden first ran for the Presidency in 1988 when he was just 46.

*It did not go well.*

<https://youtu.be/LYs5HMky1qY>

His chances of securing the nomination were ruined when he cribbed Labour leader's Neil Kinnock's

"First Kinnock in a thousand generations speech".

See which one you prefer.

<https://youtu.be/0Rkogglq9dU>



Incidentally Neil Kinnock is the same age as Joe Biden so let us not write off his chances of leading this nation.

Yet.

But Biden is generally well-liked and if he picks a politically attractive vice president he is in with a chance.

*And it is third time lucky.*

## **Wednesday**

### **The Dream Ticket 2**

It is difficult to imagine what this year's presidential debates will be like.

Face masks or no face masks.

In the past presidential debates have helped to determine the result.

**John Kennedy** in 1960 *looked* so much better than **Richard Nixon**, although radio listeners preferred Nixon.



<https://youtu.be/GMWQnoDA0o8>

And in 1980 challenger **Ronald Reagan** exposed President Carter's fussiness and "boring" obsession with detail with his memorable "*There you go again*".



<https://youtu.be/Wi9y5-Vo61w>

Four years later Reagan used an equally famous response: This time to do with questions that he was too old to be President.

Even **Walter Mondale** *had* to laugh.  
Before he lost 49 seats to just one in November.



<https://youtu.be/fJhCjMfRndk>

*It's not a put-down either candidate could use this year.*

But the greatest put down ever was in the 1988 Vice-presidential debate when the young and unconvincing **Dan Quayle** compared himself to John Kennedy.

Watch veteran, **Lloyd Bentsen's** memorable put down-below.



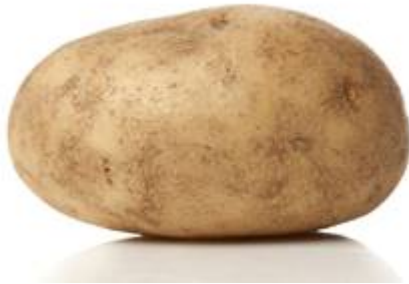
<https://youtu.be/yHtlbZpZUSs>

Quayle, incidentally, did become Vice President providing 4 years of huge fun and amusement.

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy—but that could change."

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century".

As well as the spelling of potato[e].



<https://youtu.be/dKVbt2ugTJE>

Incidentally I am backing Jimmy Carter for 2020.



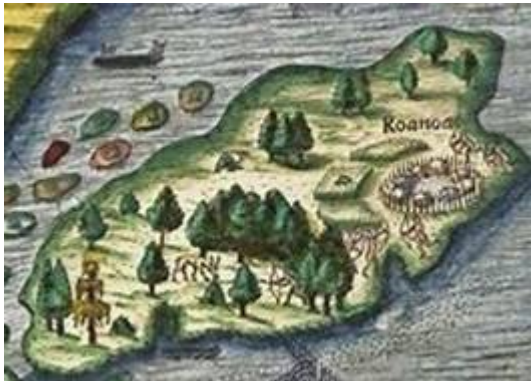
After all Carter is still very popular and a 96 year old Vice-Presidential candidate would make Biden look *so much younger*.



**Thursday**

## **The Mystery of the Lost Colony**

In 1587, the first permanent English colony was established in North America.



At **Roanoke Island** in North Carolina.



Once the 115 settlers had established themselves, their leader, **John White**, returned to England in order to gather fresh supplies and advertise the success of the colony.

Before he left his grand-daughter, **Virginia Dare**, was born: the first English person to be born in the New World.

But the appearance of the **Spanish Armada** in **1588** changed everything.





Interest in the colony suddenly disappeared.  
There were more *pressing concerns*.

It was not until **1590** that John White returned.

There was no trace of the colony or the colonists.

Apart from the word “CRO” carved into a tree.



Which *may* have been short for the tribe “CROATON”.

*To this day nobody knows what happened  
to the first English settlers in the New World.*

Were the colonists massacred by local tribes?





Were they wiped out by disease or starvation?

Did the group split?

Did they vainly try to return to England?

Or, having been abandoned by England, were they absorbed into mainland tribes?



So was “Croaton” [an Indian tribe] a last *desperate* sign-post to where they were heading?

Years later, in 1712, a British explorer, John Lawson, encountered a tribe who told him stories of their pale-skinned ancestors. . .

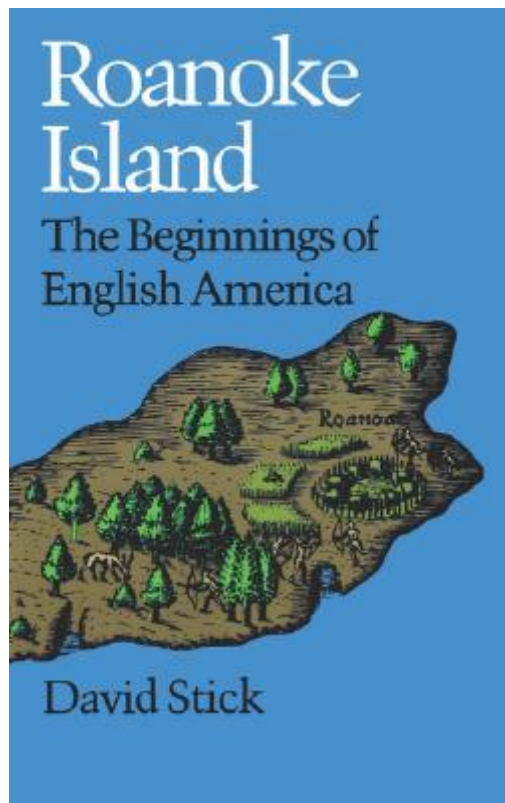
And recent archaeological evidence found on the mainland suggests this may indeed have been what happened.



The mystery though remains wide-open.

I read this book back in 1985.

It is still easily the study of what *may or may not* have happened at Roanoke Island.



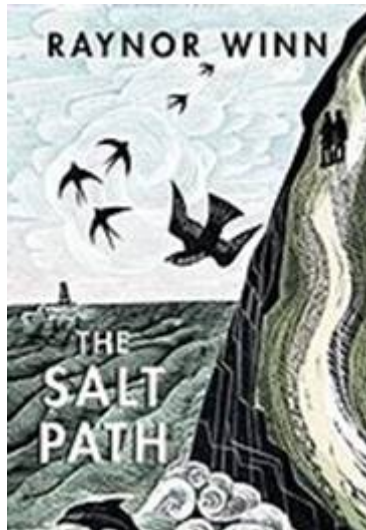
## Friday

### The Right Path

Homelessness is something that many of us find really uncomfortable addressing and, even when we do, it is generally with acute embarrassment.



**The Salt Path** tells the story of Gaynor and Moth Winn who lose their home the same week as Moth is diagnosed with a terminal illness.



With nothing left to lose or do they decide to walk the 630 miles of the South-West coastal footpath.



The book is a wonderful celebration of the elements and a life-affirming acknowledgement that life looks different from a cliff path.



“Drawn to the edge, a strip of wilderness where we could be free to let the answers come, or not, to find a way of accepting life, our life, whatever that was”. [Gaynor Winn, “The Salt Path”].



But it also makes you think a bit differently about the *story* behind *each individual* who ends up without a home.



Do read the book – it is wonderful.

And maybe walk the path?

## **Monday The World's Worst Poem?**

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1879 the Tay Bridge collapsed during a violent storm.



taking it with a passenger train. There were no survivors.



**William McGonagall** [1825-1902]



commemorated the event with his “**Tay Bridge Disaster**”.

It is generally regarded as **his worst poem** and, quite possibly, the

**worst poem in the English language**, although his lines on the **Official**

**Opening of University College, Dundee** [1883] are pretty dreadful too.

Good people of Dundee, your voices raise,  
And to Miss Baxter give great praise;  
Rejoice and sing and dance with glee,  
Because she has founded a college in Bonnie Dundee.

Anyhow this is the whole of his **Tay Bridge Disaster** poem.

I especially like the final four lines.

Interestingly, though, if you listen to John Laurie [Private Fraser, Dad’s Army]

reading it, it isn't quite as bad as you might think?

<https://youtu.be/opCGFmPKiE0>



### **The Tay Bridge Disaster**

Tw'as about seven o'clock at night,  
And the wind it blew with all its might,  
And the rain came pouring down,  
And the dark clouds seem'd to frown,  
And the Demon of the air seem'd to say-  
"I'll blow down the Bridge of Tay."

When the train left Edinburgh  
The passengers' hearts were light and felt no sorrow,  
But Boreas blew a terrific gale,  
Which made their hearts for to quail,  
And many of the passengers with fear did say-  
"I hope God will send us safe across the Bridge of Tay."

But when the train came near to Wormit Bay,  
Boreas he did loud and angry bray,  
And shook the central girders of the Bridge of Tay  
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,  
Which will be remember'd for a very long time.

So the train sped on with all its might,  
And Bonnie Dundee soon hove in sight,  
And the passengers' hearts felt light,  
Thinking they would enjoy themselves on the New Year,  
With their friends at home they lov'd most dear,  
And wish them all a happy New Year.

So the train mov'd slowly along the Bridge of Tay,  
Until it was about midway,



Then the central girders with a crash gave way,  
And down went the train and passengers into the Tay!  
The Storm Fiend did loudly bray,  
Because ninety lives had been taken away,  
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,  
Which will be remember'd for a very long time.

As soon as the catastrophe came to be known  
The alarm from mouth to mouth was blown,  
And the cry rang out all o'er the town,  
Good Heavens! the Tay Bridge is blown down,  
And a passenger train from Edinburgh,  
Which fill'd all the peoples hearts with sorrow,  
And made them for to turn pale,  
Because none of the passengers were sav'd to tell the tale  
How the disaster happen'd on the last Sabbath day of 1879,  
Which will be remember'd for a very long time.

It must have been an awful sight,  
To witness in the dusky moonlight,  
While the Storm Fiend did laugh, and angry did bray,  
Along the Railway Bridge of the Silv'ry Tay,  
Oh! ill-fated Bridge of the Silv'ry Tay,  
I must now conclude my lay  
By telling the world fearlessly without the least dismay,  
That your central girders would not have given way,  
At least many sensible men do say,  
Had they been supported on each side with buttresses,  
At least many sensible men confesses,  
For the stronger we our houses do build,  
The less chance we have of being killed.

Incidentally if you want a movie with **another shocking**

**railway collapse** watch the wonderful comedy thriller:

**The Ghost Train [1941]**



[https://youtu.be/3FMBtg4m\\_iY](https://youtu.be/3FMBtg4m_iY)



Keeping the **Dad's Army** connection it was written by **Arnold Ridley**



Who, in later life, played, Private Godfrey.



## Tuesday Letter from Leamington

Speaking my audio-message into the computer on Thursday was much harder than I expected.

It is very difficult being conversational with a microphone.



It can be done though.

From **1946-2004** every Friday evening for 15 minutes the Blackpool-born BBC journalist **Alistair Cooke** [1908-2004] broadcast his “**Letter from America**” on Radio 4.



He covered everything:

Harry Truman's shock election victory in 1948, civil rights, Vietnam, the murders of JFK, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution and the two Gulf Wars.

This is his radio broadcast on the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00yqhr6>

"We may pray on our knees but when we get up from them we cry with the poet, *Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light*".

He gave his last – perfectly timed and presented broadcast at the age of 96 and died a few weeks later.

I recall listening to his report on 9/11 six years into my time at Warwick School.



This is how it began:

"I turned on a twenty-four-hour news station and saw a kind of movie I detest, of the towering inferno type: a roaring image, of a monolith collapsing like a concertina in a vast plume of smoke. Just as I pressed my thumb to switch to "the real world" I caught the familiar voice of a newsman and was in the

real world of Tuesday, 11 September 2001, a date which to Americans will live in infamy along with the memories of Pearl Harbour, 7 December 1941, and 22 November 1963, the grievous day of President Kennedy's assassination".

But perhaps though his most famous broadcast was on the **Watergate Scandal** in **1974**.

When Cooke broadcast it was not yet clear whether President Richard Nixon *would or would not resign* over the cover-up of the break-in.



But the British public *expected* Cooke to be able to tell them.

He thus concluded his letter with the words:

"The rest you know . . ."

He *was* the consummate radio journalist.



And how wonderfully he would have reported Donald Trump's advice to inject disinfectant to combat Covid 19.



*Good night.*

## **Wednesday**

### **A Jersey Story**

During the October Half Term I spent a week on a gale-driven Jersey researching some family history.

In the process I met **Bob Le Sueur**.

Bob is now **100 years old** and during the **Nazi occupation of Jersey** rescued and hid **nine escaped Soviet slave labourers**.

He was awarded the MBE for his bravery in 2013.

Talking with Bob was an unforgettable experience, especially because he was so self-deprecating about what he did.

“What was I like in 1940? Have you ever seen Dad’s Army?”



Well, I was Private Pike”.



Frank Pike

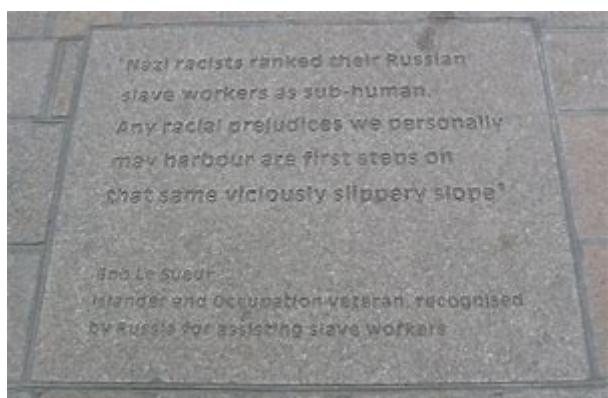


Bob Le Sueur, 1940.



Bob Le Sueur, 2019.

I especially like this quotation from Bob which I subsequently discovered on the pavement in St Helier [the capital of Jersey].



A film was recently made about Bob and the Jersey people he worked with to rescue Soviet slave-labourers.

It is called **Another Mother's Son** [2017]. This is the trailer.

<https://youtu.be/QKc3GYRIFFM>



This was one comment on You Tube about the movie which I discovered:

*Did they miss the part of the story where Bolsheviks reign Russia at that time?*

**So please never ever be complacent about hatred and racism.**

**And always admire men like Bob.**

## Thursday

### Gentlemen Prefer Tweed

We all know that things do not get much better than **Tweed**.



But, of course, Tweed *does not just happen* as Oliver Innes knows.

With Ibiza in lock-down and Magaluf deserted why not head for the Outer Hebrides and buy your **Harris Tweed** from source?

I suggest Carloway Mill on the Isle of Harris.

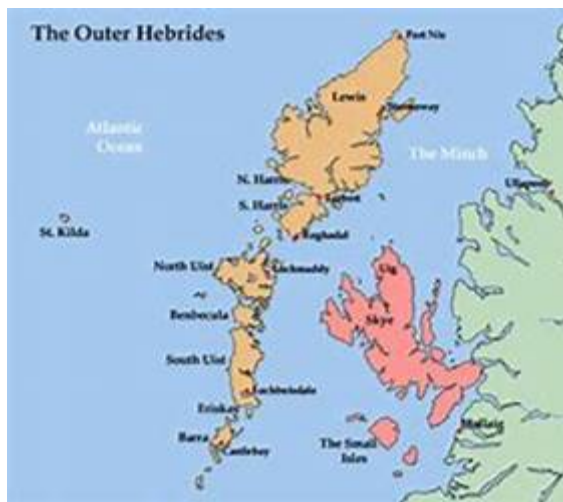


*They are really excited about welcoming you.*

604 miles from Warwick School.

13 hours and two ferry crossings.

More distant than Frankfurt, although not as far as Vienna.



How far would *you* go for good Tweed?



## Friday Foula is Further

Yesterday I recommended that you buy your Tweed *directly* on Harris.

I hope that many of you will do this.

Having bought your Tweed fresh from the Outer Hebrides why not go even further afield?

And visit **Foula**.

It is the most remote inhabited island in the UK.



Thirty three people live there.

And lots of ponies.

And even more sea-birds.



There are no shops but there is a nice bed and breakfast.



It is 712 miles from Warwick  
and will take 30 hours to

get there.

[depending on the traffic].



The film

**"Edge of the World"**

was made about Foula in 1937.

<https://youtu.be/KvuJ52ACiXo>



I should like to go there.





But do end me a postcard should you get there before I do.



## Mid Lockdown

**Monday**

**Not the Nine O Clock News**



One of the pleasures of growing up in the 1970s and 1980s were the limited opportunities available on television.

But this meant that what you watched pretty much  
What everyone else watched.

So there was always a lot to talk about in the playground.

*And I am never short of a reminiscence with Dr Chapman.*

The iconic **Not the Nine O' Clock News** ran from **1979-1982**

Subversive, although much less surreal than Monty Python, it challenged the establishment but also parodied youth culture.

It was also very good at making fun of the *terribly earnest* TV shows Which your parents watched such as **Ask the Family**, **Tomorrow's World** and **That's Life**.

*It was also consistently very funny.*

### **Presidential Candidate Ronald Reagan and cupcakes**

[Dr Chapman insists that this is included]

And he is right.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2n87YKSjrA>

### **1980s Technology**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7L3iSZsNpY>

### **That's Life**

"This is *nothing* to do with us".



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2QZprRgxDc>

And, of course.

### **Gerald the Gorilla**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beCYGm1vMJ0>

Rowan Atkinson has, of course, gone onto further fame as Blackadder, Mr Bean and most recently the serious role of Inspector Maigret.

<https://youtu.be/CpViacF-a0k>



Although in this picture he reminds me more of

Kenneth Williams in the *Carry On* movies.



Griff Rhys Jones has ended up making popular documentaries on rivers, architecture and trains.



As well as being Vice President of the Victorian Society.

A bit like a Not the Nine O' Clock version of former Python Michael Palin.



Mel Smith co-starred with Jones

in the very popular “**Alas Smith and Jones**”  
[1984-1998]



And made a number of movies including the dire

**Morons from Outer Space.** [1985]



He died in 2013. RIP



Pamela Stephenson writes books on psychology  
and is married to **Sir Billy Connolly**.

This is her [as Janet Street Porter] interviewing  
Connolly on Not the Nine O' Clock News.



<https://youtu.be/DIUb8jt0WP0>



Sir Billy and Lady Connolly live in Florida,  
where Sir Billy is coping  
with Parkinson's Disease

*And still painting.*





## Tuesday

### George Formby



As well as taking a risk with satire, BBC2 could also be relied upon for reruns of 40 year old black and white movies.

So me watching George Formby in 1980 is a bit like you Watching Not the Nine O' Clock News today.

*Unimaginably ancient.*

Anyhow Formby [1904-1961] was the first proper British film comedian.

Working class, chipper and keen to do the right thing  
He will always be remembered for his ukulele.

Although he often played the banjulele, I am told.

His songs are still iconic and, of course, full of innuendo.

Like **Frankie Howerd [1917-1992]**

Formby tapped into the British love of being titillated.



Frankie Howerd at the Oxford Union in 1990  
[he was wonderful]

[https://youtu.be/jn\\_sPHd9LuQ](https://youtu.be/jn_sPHd9LuQ)



So here is Formby singing “**When I’m cleaning windows**”.

<https://youtu.be/sfmAeijj5cM>

And, of course, “**Little stick of Blackpool Rock**”.

<https://youtu.be/8KQ6Wmbi5ig>

He entertained British troops during  
the Second World War.

Stalin was also a fan.



Or so we are told.

This is Formby on the soon to be  
Circumvented Maginot Line in 1940.



<https://youtu.be/hSSBQWbF7R8>

And in the North African desert.



“Ee, it’s just like Blackpool sands!”

You can join the **George Formby Society** on

[www.georgeformby.co.uk](http://www.georgeformby.co.uk)

*It is thriving.*

Although sadly its 2020 Blackpool convention  
[where else?]  
has had to be cancelled because of Covid 19.

Although you could always use the lockdown to  
learn the ukulele.

There are worse things to do.

<https://youtu.be/5bTE5fbxDsc>

## Wednesday

### Will Hay



I would be very surprised if more  
than a handful of you know  
the name of **Will Hay**.

He made his name as a sniffy and  
hopelessly ill-informed schoolmaster.

Constantly being challenged and undermined by  
the cheeky “fat boy” played by the wonderful  
Graham Moffatt. [1919-1965].



And the ancient and *totally incompetent* Harbottle incomparably played by Moore Mariott [1885-1949].

Who, in retirement, ran a grocery shop in Bognor Regis.



His best movies are **Oh Mr Porter** [1938],  
**Ask a Policeman** [1939]  
And **My Learned Friend** [1943].

This brief scene is to do with trying to understand British Summer Time. It is from **Oh Mr Porter**.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsCLsc\\_NRXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsCLsc_NRXQ)

And this is the whole of the marvellous **Ask a Policeman** [1939]

<https://youtu.be/mmvBc6iRA4>

Will Hay died in 1949.

He was like many comedians a very serious man.

A fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, he lectured on astronomy and published

## Through My Telescope.



He discovered a Great White Spot  
On Saturn.

And an asteroid is named after him:  
**3125 Hay.**



This is one of my favourite bumbling and bungling  
Will Hay pieces.

As he explains the theoretical basis of free trade.  
[with my compliments to Dr Williams]





Note Sir John Mills [1908-2005] on our right.

“Ah - well, the chief export from Portugal is - er - port, and the chief export of Brazil is - nuts. Well, now, the economic situation between port and nuts - that is to say between Portugal and Brazil, is that the Brazilians want to drink port with their nuts and the Portuguese want to eat nuts with their port; so the more the export of port from Portuguese ports which the Brazilian ports import - the greater the export of nuts which the Brazilian ports export and Portugal's ports import. Well, then - in other words - the people of Brazil are bound to grow more and more nuts”.

**The Blacksheep of Whitehall [1942]**

## Thursday

### Allo Allo



Just to lower the tone.

Allo Allo ran from 1984-1992.

It was a relentlessly vulgar parody of the very serious and dramatic **Secret Army** [BBC, 1977-1979] which was about the Belgian Resistance.



Secret Army



Allo Allo

Teachers could *always* raise an easy laugh by telling the class.

**“Listen very carefully – I shall say this *only once*”.**

Or

**“Good moaning”.**



Critics complained that it was in dreadfully bad taste.

Which it was, of course.

In one episode the terribly camp Lieutenant Gruber.



Runs over Gestapo chief Herr Flick's tank with a steam roller leading to the memorable line



"This is very serious!  
The Gestapo is only insured  
for third party!"

So join in some "more fun with the Gestapo".

With these two clips.



<https://youtu.be/snwqp-7QD7M>



[https://youtu.be/r8HEMWIQ\\_Gs](https://youtu.be/r8HEMWIQ_Gs)

**Friday**

**Yes Minister/ Yes Prime Minister**



In terms of cleverness and wit *nothing* has ever compared with the scripts of **Yes Minister** and **Yes Prime Minister**.

**Hacker:** I'm not going to approve any honour for any civil servant of this department who hasn't earned it.

**Sir Humphrey:** What do you mean "earned it?"

**Hacker:** I mean "earned it." Done something to deserve it.

**Sir Humphrey:** [*outraged*] But that's unheard of!

**Bernard:** Shall I file it?

**Hacker:** Shall you file it? Shred it!

**Bernard:** Shred it?

**Hacker:** No one must ever be able to find it again!

**Bernard:** In that case, Minister, I think it's best I file it.

It ran from 1980 -1988 and starred Paul Eddington as Jim Hacker, Nigel Hawthorne [born in Coventry in 1929]

as Sir Humphrey Appleby.  
And Derek Fowlds as Bernard Woolley.

Written by Anthony Jay [1930-2016] and Jonathan Lynn [1943-]  
the scripts are very clever and very funny.

It is difficult to select from amongst such brilliance  
but here are just a few gems.

### **The Nuclear Deterrent**



<https://youtu.be/XyJh3qKjSMk>

### **British Membership of the EEC/ EU**



<https://youtu.be/rvYuoWyk8iU>

## Yes, Prime Minister - The need to know



<https://youtu.be/NX45hc0aZt0>

## “If the right people don’t have power”



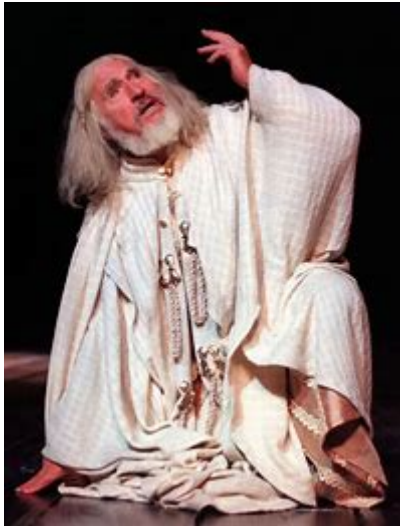
<https://youtu.be/gmOvEwtDycs>

“The countryside, law, the universities – *both of them*”

Nigel Hawthorne, incidentally, spoke at Warwick School in 1999. He was playing **King Lear** at Stratford upon Avon and came over one afternoon.

The Guy Nelson Hall was packed.



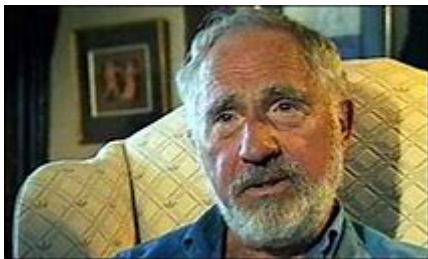


He was *absolutely delightful* but said that he had been made very unhappy by the dreadful reviews that his Lear had been receiving.

He explained, too, that he had had to grow a long beard for the role.

And that when Mrs Thatcher [who loved Yes Minister] saw him she, “Oh dear, Nigel. We are – none of us – getting any younger”.

She took things *rather literally*, he explained.



Nigel Hawthorne died on 26 December 2001 and is sadly missed.

Paul Eddington died in 1995. He had also been brilliant as the repressed Gerry in **The Good Life**.



And Derek Fowlds died at the beginning of this year  
At the age of 82.

Older readers may recall he was **Mr Derek** in  
**The Basil Brush Show**.



<https://youtu.be/qPozifACapM>

Basil recited a poem he had composed  
at his funeral.

*Such happy memories.*

## Week of Heroes

### Monday Hero

### Congressman John Lewis

On August 28<sup>th</sup> 1963

Martin Luther King gave his “I have a dream speech” at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs>

The last surviving speaker at the iconic rally is Georgia Congressman **John Lewis**. [1940-]

This is him speaking at the Lincoln memorial in 1963 just before King.

<https://youtu.be/tFs1eTsokJg>



In 2012 he spoke to a Warwick School party in Washington DC by video link. It was wonderful.

This is John Lewis today.



“Get in trouble. Good trouble”

<https://youtu.be/6ATwislrtfg>

Congressman Lewis is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer but is still fighting for racial equality.

Recent events in the United States show how much still needs to be done and how little can be taken for granted.

But as Congressman Lewis says:

“Never give up. Never give in. Never become hostile. Hate is too big a burden to bear.”



## Tuesday Hero Aneurin Bevan

The National Health Service is in everybody's minds these days.

Its founder was **Aneurin Bevan**

[1897-1960].



Combative, opinionated and brilliant, he used the force of his personality to establish the NHS against significant opposition.

He once declared that Tories are “lower than vermin”, but then horrified the Labour left by ridiculing nuclear disarmament.

“You call that statesmanship. I call it an emotional spasm”.



[https://youtu.be/IeQ\\_DfC5kRQ](https://youtu.be/IeQ_DfC5kRQ)

Watch 20 minutes in for Michael Foot reacting to *that* speech.

Never afraid of controversy he is quoted as saying,

“We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road.

They get run down”.

Interestingly, another conviction politician, **Margaret Thatcher**, said *much the same thing*.

Listen to Bevan’s “**Traitors or heroes**” thoughts.

They last just 4 minutes, but they *make you think*.

<https://youtu.be/hYSvt-9wgZ0>



This is the announcement of Bevan’s death  
At the age of 63.

<https://youtu.be/xc-wAM-Wnbk>

Few politicians today would inspire  
such an obituary, I believe.



## Wednesday Hero Harold Wilson



This is rather an unusual choice since Prime Minister Harold Wilson is largely forgotten now.

He occupied Downing Street, 1964-1970 and then from 1974-1976.

Notoriously he devalued the pound and in “the pound in your pocket” speech.

Did not say sorry.



<https://youtu.be/mIQnpGGS1I>

Basil Fawlty loathed Wilson.



“Do you know what that fire extinguisher did? It exploded in my face. I mean, what is the point of a fire extinguisher? It sits there for months, and when you actually have a fire – when you actually need the bloody thing - it blows your head off! I mean, what is happening to this country? **It's bloody Wilson**!”  
[The Germans, 1975].

<https://youtu.be/iWsHjPnaIQ8>

Although, to be fair to Wilson, he did call a referendum on the UK's membership of the EEC [EU] in 1975.

Tentatively supporting “remain” he won.



*Anyhow he counts as a hero because he was content with small pleasures and did not need much to make him happy.*

Most Prime Ministers live luxurious lives after they leave office.

This is one of Tony Blair's 17 houses or flats.  
A conservative estimate suggests they are

Worth in excess of £35 million.



And this is the home of Wilson's Tory rival,  
the late Edward Heath  
in Salisbury.



And this is Wilson's holiday cottage, Lowenva, on  
the Isles of Scilly.



He bought it in 1959.

The family rarely spent time anywhere else if they could help it.



The Wilsons on the Isles of Scilly – note eco-friendly thermos.

Wilson died in 1995 and is buried close to Lowenva.



His widow, Mary, died at the age 102 in 2018.

Sadly, the Wilson family are still trying to sell Lowenva.

It has just been reduced to £395,00 by Sibleys [Island Homes] since it is rather basic.

Although it does have a big garden.



So if you want to own the home of a former Prime Minister

And are happy to be content with **quite small pleasures.**

Get in touch with Sibleys on:

[enquiries@sibleysonscilly.com](mailto:enquiries@sibleysonscilly.com)

*And live a happy life.*



## Thursday Hero Ronald Reagan



Ronald Reagan was US President,  
1981-1989

His tough foreign policy is credited with  
having helped to end the Cold War and  
his free market economic policies helped to  
create a free market consensus which has  
lasted [just about] until today.

Before entering politics he had been a  
Hollywood star

At the very front of the second division.

He did though make one great movie,

**“King’s Row”**. [1942].



“Where’s the rest of me?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2kmj8RL6-Y>

But most were pretty forgettable.



Although **Bedtime for Bonzo** [1951] which co-stars Reagan with a chimp is pretty good.



The Chimp got first billing.



[https://youtu.be/LVd5xiA8\\_QY](https://youtu.be/LVd5xiA8_QY)

When the Hollywood mogul, Jack Warner heard he was running for President he allegedly commented:

“No – Jimmy Stewart for President.  
Reagan for best friend”.



What I think makes Reagan so special is that he never took himself *too* seriously.

He was never a show-off.

And knew how to make fun of himself.

He was the master of self-deprecation.

**This is Reagan on being the oldest President in History:**

“Thomas Jefferson once said, we should never judge a President by his age, only by his works. And ever since he told me that, I stopped worrying”.

**And on being lazy and out of touch:**

“I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency – even if I am in a cabinet meeting”.

“It's true hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?”

And this is Reagan in the 1984 presidential election.



<https://youtu.be/x4aUBbQeoHA>

**On Reagan's desk in the White House he had a plaque with these words.**

"There is no limit to what a man can do or  
Where he can go if he does not mind who  
takes the credit".

So this is just one reason why Reagan is no Trump.



Although their hair was once the same colour.

## **Friday Hero Winston Churchill**

This choice could not, of course,  
be more obvious.

However it's not to do with Churchill  
and the Second World War.

It's to do with Churchill's own personal determination.

*And refusal ever to give up.*

Elected to parliament in 1900, he was Home Secretary  
[in a Liberal government] as early as 1910.



This is Churchill at the siege of Sidney Street [1911].

Impatient for action he is, characteristically,  
in the front line.

<https://youtu.be/PDPHz4w3zvg>



He would soon be Prime Minister, he hoped.

But things did not work out that way.

And it was only two World Wars later that he finally entered Downing Street in 1940.



When he was appointed Prime Minister by King George VI.

<https://youtu.be/xwsRCyDPagM>

However when he faced the electorate in the General Election of 1945 he fought a *dreadful campaign*.

[https://youtu.be/Hp3HWO\\_J9x4](https://youtu.be/Hp3HWO_J9x4)



And was defeated by Clement Attlee in a Labour landslide.



He then lost the 1950 General Election to Attlee.

These out-takes are Churchill [born in 1874] trying to “do” Television in 1950.

You can sense his frustration.

[https://youtu.be/yYyq\\_nwrA4](https://youtu.be/yYyq_nwrA4)

It was only in 1951, at the age of 77, that he, *at last*, won a General Election.



In this campaign everything came together *brilliantly* and Churchill was once again Prime Minister having, for

the first time, actually won power.

<https://youtu.be/okdpK1Mdt5M>



This was over half a century since he entered parliament.

Churchill retired as Prime Minister, aged 81, in 1955.

And died in 1965 at the age of 91.

The same year as the Beatles' *Help*

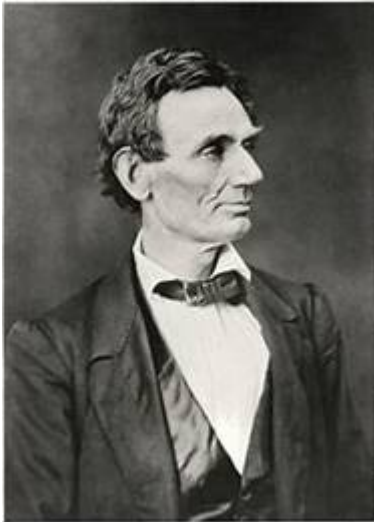


[https://youtu.be/Yx\\_7xjpySK0](https://youtu.be/Yx_7xjpySK0)

Only one other leader of the same stature endured similar continuous and failures until reaching the top.

Abraham Lincoln. [1809-1865]





<https://youtu.be/KJVuqYkl2jQ>

When Churchill spoke at his old school, Harrow, in 1941 he gave one of his shortest speeches.

It began

“Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense”.

So, although **Darkest Storm** [about Churchill in 1940] is a great film.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnnEH7JimwY>

If I was a film-maker I would make one about Churchill

After 1945.

When everything suggested that his career was over.



*And he never gave up.*

## Week of Controversy

### Monday

### Bristol, Smethwick and the Oxford Union



The statue of Edward Colston  
in calmer times

I used to walk past this statue often in Bristol.  
I thought it was quite a nice, reflective, piece  
of sculpture.

The school my mother attended was named after  
Colston, as were many Bristol streets and  
a concert hall.



But in the last thirty years important questions began to be asked.

This BBC article covers the controversy well.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-42404825>

And matters came to a head a few days ago.  
When Colston's statue was thrown into the harbour.



<https://youtu.be/S0hrFnwNOU8>

Whether a crowd should pull down a statue is controversial.

And the past cannot always be ditched so easily.

Even the *recent history* of Bristol is inseparably connected with racism.

As late as **1963** the Bristol bus company refused to employ non-white drivers and conductors.



Which is seven years after **Rosa Parks** [1913-2005] protested against segregation in Montgomery, Alabama.



It was only after a campaign led by **Paul Stephenson OBE** [1937-] that the bar was lifted.



He was supported by local MP, **Tony Benn** [1925-2014].



*I think there is a strong case for Stephenson having a statue.*

Incidentally, things were no better in the Midlands.

In the 1964 General Election **Peter Griffiths** won Smethwick for the Conservatives on a **local** racist platform.



He also supported the council buying up homes on **Marshall Street** which would then only be rented to white people.

<https://youtu.be/yi-XGVc9wy4>

Although Griffiths lost Smethwick in 1964 he went onto become MP for Portsmouth North from 1979 until 1997.



He died in 2013.

So great was the controversy that **Malcom X** even visited Smethwick on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1965.



<https://youtu.be/1aS3DMDRE4g>

Nine days before he was murdered in New York.





A few months earlier [December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1964] he had spoken at the **Oxford Union** supporting the motion:

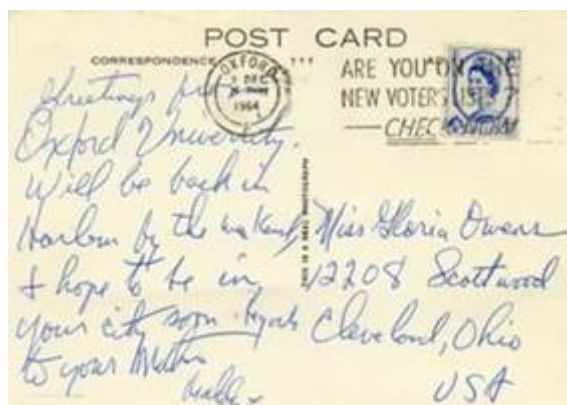
“Extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice, moderation in pursuit of justice is no virtue”.



This is Malcom X with President of the Oxford Union Eric Abrahams [the second Jamaican to hold that position].

And this is an excerpt from Malcolm X’s speech.

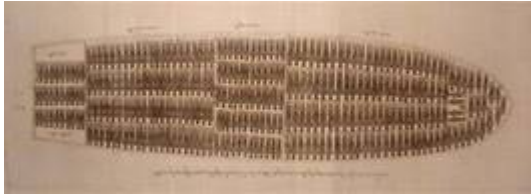
<https://youtu.be/QWUq59EwGQ>



Back to statues.

I can see a strong case for the removal of Colston's statue as a cause of terrible offence to many.

The slave trade caused unimaginable suffering.



Sketch of the interior of an eighteenth century slave ship.

But *whose decision* should it be whether a statue should remain standing?

Or not?

## **Tuesday**

### **The Grand Old Man**

Soon after, Edward Colston's toppling  
A clamour arose for Mr Gladstone [1809-1898]  
to be eradicated from the public consciousness.

This is how the BBC managed to report  
Mr Gladstone's career.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-52990464>

As a young politician, Mr Gladstone  
was an extreme Tory whose first  
speech in the House of Commons  
was against the abolition of slavery.



The historian,  
**Thomas Macaulay** called him the  
 “Rising home of stern and unbending Tories”.

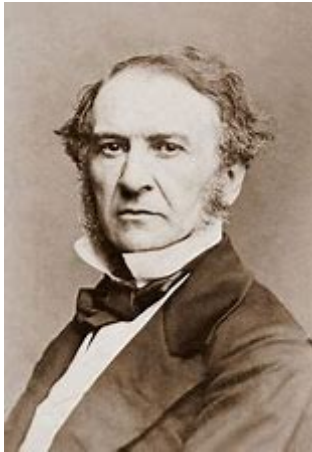
But, like John Bercow



Who spoke at Warwick School  
 in 2000 before he was famous.

Gladstone moved from the extreme right towards  
 ardent liberalism.

And became the most radical Prime Minister  
 of the Nineteenth Century.

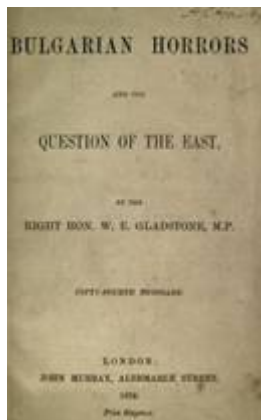


He backed Home Rule for Ireland.

Objected to the expansion of the British Empire.

And was the first political leader to base foreign policy  
On the protection and expansion of **human rights**.

When he demanded Disraeli's government take action to stop  
the slaughter of Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire.



It is covered very well in this documentary

[https://youtu.be/O\\_vHKK-w7Qk](https://youtu.be/O_vHKK-w7Qk)

Gladstone is still commemorated throughout Bulgaria.

You can ever stay at Gladstone apartments on Gladstone  
Street in Sofia.



When the Nazis tried to deport Jews from Bulgaria  
Bulgarians refused to co-operate.



Some even chanted “Gladstone, Gladstone”.

As a result of this passive resistance most  
Bulgarian Jews survived the Holocaust.

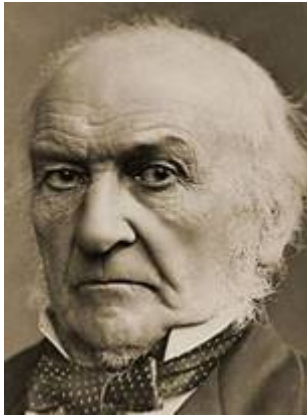
And this is what Gladstone had to say about British  
intervention in Afghanistan [1878-1880]

“Remember the rights of the savage, as we call him.  
Remember that the happiness of his humble home,  
Remember that the sanctity of life in the hill  
Villages of Afghanistan among the winter snows is as  
Inviolable in the eyes of Almighty God as can be your own”.

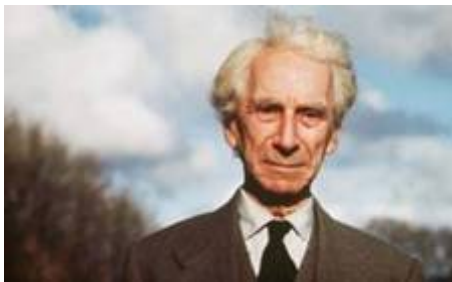
Incidentally, this is a recording of Gladstone’s voice  
made by **Thomas Edison** in **1888**.

It is interesting to think that you are  
listening to the voice of a man born in 1809.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6-2eZwUZKk>



The philosopher



Bertrand Russell [1872-1970]

Once entertained Mr Gladstone.

<https://youtu.be/2DH7wzs6XRk>

When the Prime Minister commented:

“This is *very good port*, but why have they given it me in a claret glass?”

There is, of course, no film of Gladstone, but **Sir Ralph Richardson** [1902-1983] plays him pretty well in the historical epic “**Khartoum**” [1966].



<https://youtu.be/MdKmMcwRQqA>



Even down to wearing a finger-stoop.  
since Gladstone had made the mistake  
of shooting off one of his own fingers in 1842.

Gladstone last served as Prime Minister from  
1892-1894,

And in his 80s he drew up plans for  
The construction of a residential library.



Which would encourage learning, study and  
friendly discourse.



At the core of the collection are still  
*Gladstone's own books.*



He wheel-barrowed many of them there himself.

Until 2010 it was called St Deiniol's and  
only recently has been renamed the Gladstone

Library.



I have taken several school trips there.

Last time I discovered an 1880s book of recollections  
By a former slave.

I could tell it was one of Gladstone's own books as he  
had, characteristically, added his own index at the back.

And closely annotated it in his tiny and tidy  
hand-writing.

He had **underlined and double-ticked** the following  
sentence which the former slave had written:

*"I believe that one day the equality of the black and  
white races will be recognized before God".*

Gladstone once commented that

"No one ever became great except through  
many and great mistakes".



Interestingly, Gladstone had intended the Library to be called

### **“Monad”**

The first number or entity signalling an all-encompassing universal truth.

So if the name of the Library changed to Monad I don't think Gladstone would mind that much.

*He would prefer it.*

But I wouldn't, myself, tear down his statues.

Because if we do decide to eliminate Gladstone from our History we may, perhaps, lose more than we gain.



## **Wednesday Racist Abe?**

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809  
[the same year as Gladstone]

*But they were ships that passed in the night.*

By today's standards there is no doubt that Lincoln was a racist.

His historical role is now being questioned.

This is what Lincoln had to say about black people in 1858 when he debated across Illinois against **Stephen A Douglas**. [1813-1861]

As they competed to be US Senator for Illinois.



“I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been, in favour of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, [applause]—that I am not nor ever have been in favour of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favour of having the superior position assigned to the white race”.



Lincoln lost that race but won the Presidency in 1860.

He was the first Republican President.

In 1862 a delegation of former slaves met with

Mr Lincoln.

The meeting did not go well as well as this picture suggests.



Since Lincoln urged them to leave America  
At the earliest opportunity.

However, this is only part of the story.

Unlike many Americans Lincoln was unequivocal  
that slavery was wrong.

Lincoln *also* said this during his debates against Douglas.

“When Judge Douglas says that whoever, or whatever community, wants slaves, they have a right to have them, he is perfectly logical if there is nothing wrong in the institution; but if you admit that it is wrong, he cannot logically say that anybody has a right to do wrong”.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 Lincoln freed all slaves in the rebellious states of the Union in his **Emancipation Proclamation**.

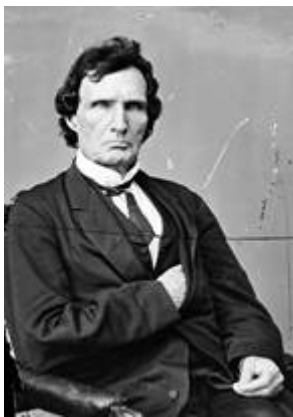


And towards the end of his life, Lincoln put all of his political energy into securing the passage of the **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment** through congress which would legally ban slavery throughout the Union.

This is what Steven Spielberg's **Lincoln** [2012] focuses on.

<https://youtu.be/1Ruwdh4zhmQ>

Certainly other Republicans, like **Thaddeus Stevens** [1792-1868] were prepared to go much further than Lincoln.



Whether they would have achieved as much is much more doubtful, as Stevens himself appreciated.

[https://youtu.be/le4Muw8\\_IEM](https://youtu.be/le4Muw8_IEM)

Lincoln's own moral convictions [like Gladstone's] were developing, too, and, had he not been assassinated at Ford's Theatre.



<https://youtu.be/1RPoymt3Jx4>



He might well have moved much further  
in the direction of black civil rights.

*And true equality.*

<https://youtu.be/IgEsUhHN3iQ>

This is what  
**Frederick Douglass** [1817-1895] had  
to say about Lincoln in 1876.



“Viewed from the genuine abolition ground,  
Mr. Lincoln seemed tardy, cold, dull, and  
indifferent; but measuring him by the sentiment  
of his country, a sentiment he was bound as a  
statesman to consult, he was swift, zealous,  
radical, and determined”.

So Lincoln was no **Bobby Kennedy** [1925-1968].



RFK telling a crowd of black supporters in Indianapolis  
that Martin Luther King has just been assassinated [1968].

<https://youtu.be/A2kWla8wSC0>

How could he be?

But I am not sure that I would  
dismantle Lincoln's statues



Or remove him from the



## Thursday America's Greatest Hypocrite?

Although I am firmly in the pro-Gladstone and Lincoln  
Faction

I am less a fan of **Thomas Jefferson**.  
[1743-1826].



Although he *does* have the most photogenic  
monument in Washington DC.



As the 2016 Warwick School movie shows.

<https://youtu.be/RVRU3K1xVNM?t=12>

With thanks to **Will Beech**

And **John Denver** [1943-1997]



And the boys and staff of the **Eagle Academy, The Bronx.**



Jefferson is revered as the author of the **Declaration of Independence** which begins:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that

all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7o5kWrbJJE>

And below are some other great Jefferson moments from the television drama **John Adams** [2008] which Tom Hanks produced.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaqmBOyNCuE>

However, Jefferson was also a slave-holder who although “he trembled when he recalled that God is just”.

*Never freed the slaves on his plantation at Monticello*



Such things really annoyed the  
British essayist and lexicographer  
**Dr Samuel Johnson**  
[1709-1784]



Who noted that

“How is it that we hear the loudest *yelps*  
for liberty among the drivers of negroes?”

Jefferson did though grant liberty to  
the six children of the slave  
**Sally Hemings** [1773-1835]



They were it now seems certain  
*his children*.

No one knows whether the  
relationship was consensual.

Jefferson also loathed the British

“I considered the British as our natural enemies  
and as the only nation on earth who wished us  
ill from the bottom of their souls”.

Which was not true of his great contemporary  
**John Adams** [1735-1826]



Which is probably why **George Washington**  
[1732-1799] appointed Adams as the first  
American ambassador to the United Kingdom.

<https://youtu.be/AMRVrNMrfk>

Jefferson and Adams did, however,  
agree to take a **road trip** together  
in **1786**.



*Mostly checking out English gardens.*

“Edgehill and Worcester were curious and interesting to us, as scenes where freemen had fought for their rights. All England should come in pilgrimage to this hill once a year. Stratford upon Avon is interesting, as it is the scene of the birth, death, and sepulture of Shakespeare. Three doors from the inn is the house where he was born, as small and mean as you can conceive. They showed us an old wooden chair in the chimney corner where he sat. We cut off a chip according to custom.  
[Adams’ diary]

Jefferson went onto support the **French Revolution** [1789], even after it turned bloody.





And once noted that, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants”.

**John Kennedy [1917-1963]** thought that Jefferson was the most brilliant occupant ever of the White House



Commenting  
at one sparkling dinner that,

“I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered at the White House - with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone”.

Incredibly Both John Adams [US President, 1797-1801]  
and Thomas Jefferson [US President, 1801-1809]  
Died on the **same day**.

Which was **4 July 1826**.

*Exactly 50 years after the signing of the  
Declaration of Independence.*

<https://youtu.be/khqq1dt3BuM>

Jefferson’s final words are disputed.

Adams' were "**Thomas Jefferson Survives**"

Which he certainly does on the US \$2 bill.



*Which are very hard to come by.*

## Friday

### The Tory maverick, the florist and a chance encounter

Enoch Powell [1912-1998] is most remembered  
for his **Rivers of Blood** speech

Which he gave in Birmingham on 20 April 1968.

*Just two weeks after the murder of Martin Luther King.*



This BBC documentary tells the story  
of that shocking speech.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4023oJ1zwE>

In **1975** Powell campaigned on the losing side in the **EEC referendum**,  
although predicting to an incredulous **Sir Robin Day** [1923-2000]  
the UK's eventual departure.



<https://youtu.be/z6vi7y0dzfs>



In 1986 Powell presented the prizes at Warwick School speech day.



In 2018 internationally-acclaimed florist **Simon Lycett OW** presented speech day and mentioned Powell coming to Warwick.



Mr Lycett was wonderful arranging flowers while he talked about how much he had disliked that particular speech day.

As a gay young man Warwick School had not been easy for him.

While he remembered that his numerous failures at O Level had almost become a personal affront to his Maths teacher.

The only Speech Day to compare in my recollection was when **Matthew Parris** advised the boys that:



“If at first you don’t succeed for goodness sake try something else that you might be good at”

Incidentally, Powell’s speech in 1986 focused On the importance of a classical education.

Afterwards, **Mr Frykman** [the school archivist] asked Mr Powell if it was true that he had once said that wearing woollen underpants was the best way of keeping cool in a warm climate.



Mr Powell earnestly said that this was *indeed true*.

*Something to do with creating an overall ambient body temperature.*

Some years later, to prove his hypothesis, Powell went walking in the Spanish foothills in the height of summer.

Fully attired.



He collapsed from heat exhaustion and was ambulated home.

Enoch Powell is buried at St Mary's Church Cemetery and there is a small plaque within the church.

It is in the regimental chapel of the Warwickshire Regiment which Powell joined as a private soldier in 1939.



A few years ago a fellow dog-walker, hearing that I taught at Warwick School, mentioned that he had been the policeman on duty at the **Guy Nelson Hall** when Powell spoke.

Some months later he found this photo of him with Enoch Powell and Headmaster, John Strover.



The past is prologue.  
And  
*Life moves on.*

## Late Lockdown

### Monday Warwick Green

You should all now be aware of the **Benfield-Whittaker Environmental Essay Competition**.

It is named for **Tony Whittaker** and **Michael Benfield** Warwick School boys, who went onto establish the **PEOPLE PARTY** in 1973.



This was the first UK political party with a *purely environmental focus*.

Tony was a Coventry lawyer and former Conservative councillor in Kenilworth and Michael ran a business in Coventry.

Tony died in 2016 aged 83.



The idea of forming an environmental party came to the two Old Warwickians at the **Bridge Inn** in **Napton**.



**PEOPLE** then became the **Ecology Party**



And eventually the **Green Party**.



Tony was the party's first chairman

He and his family moved from Coventry to Exmoor in the 1970s where they became self-sufficient.

A bit like Tom and Barbara in **The Good Life**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAh2xAhEbuQ>

In the **1979 General Election** Tony stood for the Ecology Party in North Devon where the local Liberal MP and former Liberal leader **Jeremy Thorpe**



Was about to stand trial for conspiracy to murder **Norman Scott**.



Who survived and now lives on Dartmoor.

Tony won just 729 votes, but at least he got more than the journalist **Auberon Waugh**



Who won only 79 for the **Dog Lover's Party**.



After a Great Dane, **Rinka**, was caught up in the alleged conspiracy and shot.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggDTJc470Co>

The result for North Devon in the 1979 General Election is below.

<https://youtu.be/w8kunPFQ66k>

Begin at 4.51.32.

Waugh and Whittaker appear at 4.53.

In later years Tony ran the Post Office in the village of Hennock on Dartmoor.



He lived long enough to see the **Green Party** win over a **million votes** in the **2015 General Election** [3.8% of the popular vote].

And all the leading political parties, *to a greater or lesser extent*, now acknowledge the vital importance of Green Issues.



Michael still attends OW dinners with his wife but I cannot find much about him on the Internet.

Which is a shame since *together* Tony and Michael have helped give us the chance to save the world.



*If we want to enough.*

## Tuesday Tribute

**Sir George Catlin** [1896-1979]  
was a leading political scientist  
of the Twentieth Century.



He was only briefly a pupil  
at Warwick School, going onto  
St Paul's School in London.

But his happiest memories were  
of Warwick School before the Great War in  
which he served on the Western Front.



He taught at Cornell University, was an early supporter of Independence for India and *even* worked for a Union of the United Kingdom and the United States.

In **1966** became President of the **Old Warwickian Association**.

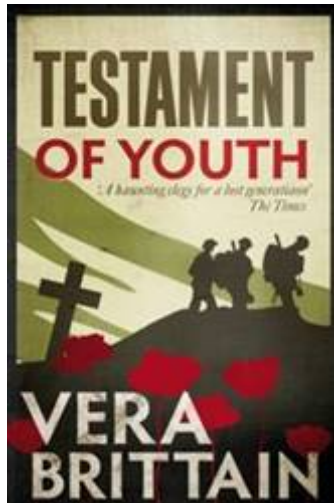


In **1925**, he married **Vera Brittan**



Whose autobiography





Is one of the most powerful and haunting memoirs of the First World War.

Written in 1933, it tells the story of Vera's wartime service as a nurse and the deaths of both her fiancé, **Roland Leighton** [1895-1915]



And her brother, **Edward Brittain**. [1895-1918]



“There seemed to be nothing left in the world, for I felt that Roland had taken with him all my future and Edward all my past.”

In 2015, a film version was made of **Testament of Youth**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tP7k4wqVJo>

Their daughter, **Shirley Williams** [1930-] was greatly influenced by her parents' idealism.

A Labour MP from 1964-1979, she helped found the **Social Democratic Party** in 1981 with **Roy Jenkins**, **Bill Rodgers** and **David Owen**.



And then served as leader of the **Liberal Democrats** in the House of Lords.



In 2016 she retired from the House of Lords  
saying that she wanted people to say

“Why is she retiring?”

Rather than wait and hear them saying

“Why isn’t she retiring?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQJ-0X74mvg>

Until 2015 retirement from the Lords  
had been impossible,

But **Dan Byles**, an Old Warwickian who  
rowed across the Atlantic in 1997 with his  
mother, **Jan Meek**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwARASdMpsM>



Then walked to the **North Pole**  
with her in 2007.



And then became MP for North Warwickshire from 2010-2015.

Changed that with his Private Member's Bill in 2014 enabling elderly peers to resign.



Shirley Williams has spoken at both King's High School and Warwick School.

Whenever she visits she likes to visit Milverton Church.



Where her parents are buried.



"I thought that spring must last forever,  
for I was young and loved and it was May".

**Vera Brittain**



## Werewolf Wednesday

**Sabine Baring-Gould** [1834-1924]  
must be one of our most unusual  
Old Warwickians.



He attended the school briefly in the 1840s  
when it was located close to **The Butts** in  
Warwick town centre.



He was ordained as a vicar in the Church of

England in 1864 and eventually settled in Devon.

As well as siring 15 children he also found the time to compose **Onward Christian Soldiers**.

442 (56) **Onward, Christian Soldiers**  
St. Gertrude 4 5 4 5 D With Refrain

1. On-ward, Chris-tian sol-diers, March-ing as to war, With the cross of Je-sus  
2. Like a might-y ar-my Marches the Church of God; Brothers we are tread-ing  
3. Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Je-sus  
4. On-ward, then, ye peo-ple, Join our happy throng; Stand with sure your ri-ous

Go-ing on be-fore; Christ the way-ward Man-ner Leads a-against the foe;  
Where the saints have trod; We are not di-vid-ed, All our bod-y we,  
Con-stant will re-main; Gates of hell can nev-er 'Gainst that Church pre-vail;  
In this tri-umphant song; Give us strength, and hon-our, We are to Christ the King.

Refrain  
Far-ward in-to bat-tle, On, Son, His ban-ners go,  
One in hope and doc-trine, One in what-I-ty,  
We have Christ's own prom-ise, And that cannot fail,  
This throng's con-stant a-ging, Men and an-gels sing.

Onward, Chris-tian sol-diers,  
March-ing as to war, With the cross of Je-sus Go-ing on be-fore. A-men.

6188 414 Trial and Conflict

Sung here by Gospel singer and civil rights activist **Mahalia Jackson** [1911-1972].

<https://youtu.be/63yBpl6Oixo>



Who sang at President Kennedy's inaugural ball.





And plays herself in Gore Vidal's  
**"The Best Man"** [1964].



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDzl8iJsCZQ>

Which is a wonderful movie about Presidential  
elections and so should be required viewing for  
everyone in 2020.

Baring-Gould also wrote thirty novels.

And a 15 volume **Lives of the Saints**  
which was banned by the Catholic Church.



He also led the first excavation of the mysterious hut circle, **Grimspound**, on Dartmoor.

Which provided inspiration for  
**Arthur Conan Doyle's**  
**Hound of the Baskervilles** [1901-1902]



Where the disguised Holmes meets  
with Watson.



<https://youtu.be/jy2V9W7f0o8>

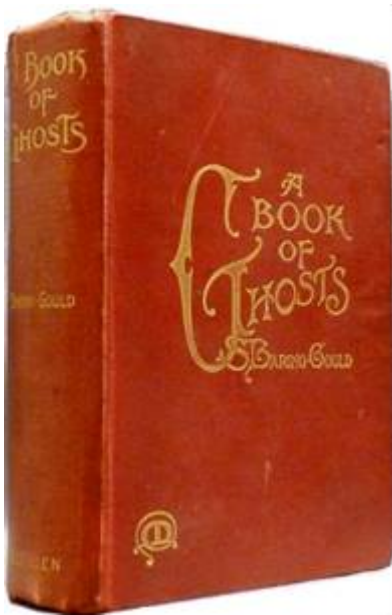
Baring-Gould was also the world expert  
on **werewolves**





<https://youtu.be/gQQtgx4iG8E>

As well as writing many **ghost stories**.



Commenting that  
“Under the veil of Mythology lies a solid Reality.”



Which **HP Lovecraft [1890-1937]** acknowledged were a major Influence on his fantastical and disturbing works of the supernatural.



He was also a close friend of **George Bernard Shaw [1856-1950]**.



And is said to have been the inspiration for his greatest work **Pygmalion [1913]**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygBkAcyYkW0>

Vampires, Mummies *and* the holy ghost?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRvDLceTAdU>

*Looks can be deceiving*



## **Thursday A Fred Mulley and more.**

Fred Mulley [1918-1995] is one of the most notable and successful Old Warwickians

Serving as Secretary of State for Education

and then Defence in the 1970s.

However, sadly, if he is remembered at all it is for *just one thing*.



Which is for falling asleep next to the Queen at an RAF review in 1977.



Her Royal Highness was *not amused*



And one satirical magazine



went so far as to suggest that Mulley should be executed for treason for having slept with the monarch.



After the embarrassing incident having a nap while on duty became known in the RAF as

*“Having a Fred Mulley”*.



Most History books miss Fred Mulley out and when he is mentioned they *have*

*“Nothing to say”*.



[https://youtu.be/ 5E8j1e OnE](https://youtu.be/5E8j1eOnE)

Including the wonderful **Dominic Sandbrook** in *Seasons in the Sun*



“There were an awful lot of grey men in Callaghan’s government: even at the time, few voters could have

picked out **Fred Mulley**, David Ennals, Albert Booth or Bruce Millan". [p465]

Poor Fred simply could not compare with the notorious drinker and accident-prone Foreign Secretary **George Brown** [1914-1985] who once mistook the Archbishop of Lima for a woman and asked him for a dance.



Or Education Secretary, **Anthony Crosland** [1918-1977], being rude to absolutely everyone.



And threatening to do **really dreadful things** to Grammar Schools.

However Fred Mulley is **much more interesting** than all of this suggests.

*Even inspiring.*

Fred came from a family of labourers in Leamington Spa.

"They believed passionately in education and scraped to send him to a church school and then to Warwick School".

[Fred Mulley's obituary, 1995]

Where Fred became **Chairman of the**

**League of Nations Union** *and* a member of the **Officer Training Corps**.



And would have had the opportunity to swim in the open air pool which existed from 1911-1993.



Fred's political ambitions were also fostered by the fact that the glamorous local MP was the future Prime Minister, **Sir Anthony Eden** [1897-1977].



Whose memory still lingers in this barber shop at 97 Clarendon Street, Leamington Spa.



Where you will soon be able to have your hair cut again.

In 1939, Fred joined the Worcestershire regiment.

Sent to France, he was part of the covering operation enabling as many troops to leave **Dunkirk** as possible.



Which is brilliantly reimagined in Christopher Nolan's extraordinary **Dunkirk** [2017]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-eMt3SrfFU>

Taken prisoner Fred was imprisoned at **Stalag 383** near Regensburg.



Where Fred encouraged another prisoner, **Terry Frost** [1915-2003], who was also from Leamington Spa, to carry on with his painting.

Terry went onto be one of the most celebrated surrealist artists of the post war period.



And was knighted in 1998 for his contribution to British art.

On Fred's death the irrepressible Labour warhorse **Denis Healey** [1917-2015]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gudj2-vSueo>

*Who did not suffer  
fools gladly.*



remembered that,

"I came to know Fred Mulley as soon as he entered the House of Commons because Terry Frost had told me of Fred's generosity in helping him to get started as a painter when

the war ended - after they had been together  
in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany.

*Fred gave him a slice of his grant.  
That generosity was typical of the man."*

**Fred, of course, never mentioned this to anyone.**

Another Labour MP, **Tam Dalyell** [1932-2017]  
summed up Fred in this way.



"Fred Mulley was one of the most self-effacing, yet effective, cabinet ministers, who throughout a long period of high office remained precisely what he always was – a considerate, helpful, extremely intelligent and thoroughly decent human being, devoid of airs and graces, pomp and circumstance".

*"The solution was what mattered to Mulley  
– not who got the credit".*

So Fred Mulley maybe **you** deserve a statue?



Although somehow I don't think  
you would want one really.



## Monday

### The Brothers

Paul Oppenheimer MBE first spoke at Warwick School on **November 10<sup>th</sup> 1998**.



This was the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of **Kristallnacht** [The Night of the Broken Glass] when Jewish shops across the Reich were destroyed and many Jews murdered.

<https://youtu.be/ynypuxgCbH4>



His story was devastating but also inspiring.

Paul and his brother, Rudi, and sister, Eva were all born in Berlin.

*Their parents were Jewish.*



Realizing how great the Nazi threat to them was Mrs Oppenheimer managed to get the children to England.

Where they stayed with their uncle and aunt.



*But Mr Oppenheimer did not get the visa he needed to reach the UK.*

And the family reunited in **Amsterdam**. where they believed they would be safe.



Since the Netherlands had been neutral in the First World War.

But on **10 May 1940** the Nazis invaded the Netherlands.



And the Oppenheims were once again under Nazi rule.

During the Nazi occupation the children attended the same school as **Anne Frank** [1929-1945]



Whose father, like Mr Oppenheimer, had moved his family to the Netherlands for safety.

<https://youtu.be/0SJgudCq540>

But Paul did not remember her, because as he used to say, *he did not then play much with girls.*

Forced to wear the yellow star, the Oppenheims were evicted from their home and sent to the Amsterdam ghetto.



And from there to **Westerbork** transit camp where most Jews, like their four grand-parents, were then sent to the gas chambers



But, Eve had been born in England and so held a British passport and therefore the family were sent to **Bergen Belsen** as *Exchange Jews*.

Although Jews were not gassed at Bergen Belsen conditions were horrific.



Just before the camp was liberated Mr and Mrs Oppenheimer died of typhus

As did Anne Frank.

And the orphaned Oppenheimer children were loaded onto the last train out of Belsen to be used as potential hostages.

Days later British troops liberated Bergen Belsen.



The future actor, **Dirk Bogarde** [1921-1999]



was one of the first inside the camp.  
This is what he remembered.

<https://youtu.be/6QaNCbig82Q>

**Patrick Gordon Walker** [1907-1980]



who you may recall from previous posts lost  
his seat in **Smethwick** in the 1964 General Election  
as a result of race hatred

Also helped liberate the camp.

This is what he said on the BBC on 27 May 1945.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/patrick-gordon-walker--belsen-facts-and-thoughts/zdsvxyc>



Many on the train died before they themselves were liberated at Tröbitz.



But Paul, Rudi and Eva all survived.



In 2001, Mr Gibbs and I decided to take a school trip with Paul and Rudi back to all the places associated with their life under the Nazis.

*It was unforgettable.*

This is the group outside the Oppenheimers' home in **Heemstede** which Paul and Rudi had not visited since 1941.



Which, incidentally, is twinned with Leamington Spa.

<http://www.learmtwinning.org.uk/>

Sadly we cannot now find the wonderful video **Guy McNeill OW** made of the trip.

But **do please watch** these 9 minutes of incredible film-making because, like the story of the Oppenheimers, it shows how families can be ripped apart by racism and evil.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCh4NZbTHrl&feature=youtu.be>

Over the years, Paul became a great friend to the school.

One special evening he enjoyed telling his story to Warwick School parent **Sir Ben Kingsley** whose portrayal of **Itzhak Stern** [1901-1969] in **Schindler's List** [1994] had been one of the reasons Paul had decided to begin telling his own family's story.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmyP-ljev68>

Paul died in 2007. He spoke at the school just a few weeks before his death. In his last few months alive he had begun to receive anti-Semitic letters trying to make him stop telling his story.

Even though he knew he was dying, this made him carry on right until the end because he knew, he explained to me, that *he had to*.



<https://youtu.be/BLHt6ubrt3Q>

After Paul's death, Rudi would speak to the boys at Warwick School every year until he died in 2019 at the age of 89.

<https://youtu.be/17KalAUexM8>



Rudi was especially anxious to counter **all forms of discrimination** and like Paul kept on talking with young people until a few days before his death



<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/holocaust-survivor-tells-30000-children-7253630>

Paul and Rudi's sister, Eve, died in 2017.

*Orphaned at just nine years old she could never bring herself to talk about the Holocaust.*

## Tuesday

### A Nazi called Colin

Since 1995 I have attended hundreds and hundreds of Wednesday assemblies.



School assembly in what is now the Pyne Room.

First in the **Guy Nelson Hall**.

Named after **Guy Nelson** who was chairman of the Governors from 1938-1963.

And who played cricket for Warwickshire in 1920 and 1921.



And more recently the **Warwick Hall**.



The one I remember most of all was in 2009 when the Headmaster, **Mr Edward Halse**, [2002-2013]



Pictured here with Lord Coe.

Spoke about **Colin Jordan OW**.

The *easy thing* to do would have been to ignore Jordan who had just died.



But Mr Halse felt that it was important to acknowledge that Jordan had been an OW so that our complacency in the face of racism could be confronted.

Jordan was a boy at Warwick School a few years before Fred Mulley.

Like Fred he was enthusiastic about politics.

*However, unlike Fred he was a racist.*

In 1960, Jordan was one of the founders of the **British National Party**.



But broke with the party because he did not think it was *sufficiently Nazi*.

Jordan went onto found the **British National Socialist Movement** in 1962.

Then at the **Nazi world conference** held in **Guiting Power** in Gloucestershire in 1962.



Jordan was declared **World Führer**.

With the American Holocaust denier **George Rockwell** as his Deputy.



In 1963 Jordan married **Françoise Dior**, niece of fashion designer Christian Dior and Catherine Dior who had been deported by the Gestapo to Ravensbruck concentration camp because of her work for the Resistance.



The marriage ceremony took place in **Coventry**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPVnEyVqHLU>

Which had been so intensively bombed by the Luftwaffe during the night of 14-15 November 1940.



That Nazi propaganda minister, **Joseph Goebbels**.



Invented the term *coventriert*  
Meaning *to totally destroy something*.

<https://youtu.be/Y55Li0DLZrY>

In 1965, **Patrick Gordon Walker**, who had helped liberate Bergen Belsen

And lost his seat in Smethwick against the racist **Peter Griffiths** in the 1964 General Election.



Contested a by election at **Leyton**.

Gordon Walker was confident that he would win.

<https://youtu.be/NfPzKHmkk6I>

*In fact he was over-confident.*

Jordan and his racist friends continually

disrupted his campaign.



Until **Defence Secretary Denis Healey** [1917-2015] thumped Jordan so hard he fell off the stage.



<https://youtu.be/23JqSNPqtFY>

[It's about a minute into the film clip]

Sadly though Gordon Walker *still lost by 200 votes*.

<https://youtu.be/ldnpX70IcN4>

In the **February 1974 General Election** the racist **National Front** won **0.2%** of the popular vote.



And in the **1979 General Election 0.6%** of the vote.

But by then Jordan's career was over after he was arrested *shoplifting* from



**Tesco in Leamington Spa.**



The historian

**Dominic Sandbrook** takes up the story.



“The far right leaders were hardly the best and the brightest. Colin Jordan, the founder of the anti-Semitic British Movement, did have a second-class history degree from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. But the former Coventry maths teacher’s ambitions to become Britain’s answer to Adolf Hitler were cruelly frustrated when in May 1975, he was convicted of stealing “a box of chocolates and three pairs of red women’s knickers” from a branch of Tesco in Leamington Spa. As even the most faithful Nazi would have to admit, this was hardly the behaviour of a future Führer.  
*State of Emergency, 2010.*

In his later years Jordan continued to express the most **obscene racist views**, but because of his age the decision was taken not to prosecute him.

In 2009, the year he died, two members of the **BNP** were elected to the **European Union Parliament**.

**Andrew Brons** became a BNP MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber with **9.8%** of the popular vote.

And **Nick Griffith** became MEP for North West England with **8%** of the popular vote.



Nationally the BNP achieved **6.2%** of the vote in this election

*And 8.6% in the West Midlands*

A year after Jordan's death in the 2010 General Election the **BNP** won **1.9%** of the popular vote.

Although, in the 2019 General Election the BNP won just 510 votes.

But its activists are hoping that the pandemic will encourage support for their racist ideology.

So be aware that people like Colin Jordan *do* exist.

*And that they thrive on our indifference.*

## **Wednesday**

### **Hungry Face**

Peter Strickland lived from 1869 to 1951.



Educated at Warwick School, he must have been one of the first boys to attend the school when it moved to its new site on the Myton Road in 1879.



The school's modern science laboratories would have been particularly exciting.



Today this is downstairs in the Music Department

In 1888, Peter Strickland was commissioned into the **Norfolk Regiment** and for the rest of his life served in the British military.

His experiences were certainly varied.

Like **Winston Churchill** [1874-1965].



Strickland served at the **Battle of Omdurman** in **1898**.



Where the British losses were **48 killed** compared to an estimated **12,000 Mahdists killed**.



And the last cavalry charge of the British Empire took place.

[https://youtu.be/ Mos0ejynWU](https://youtu.be/Mos0ejynWU)

In the **First World War** Strickland commanded the **Jullunder Brigade** which comprised:

The First Manchesters  
 The 47<sup>th</sup> Sikh Regiment  
 The Scinde Rifles Regiment which recruited from amongst  
 Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims.

“The three different battalions were formed from different countries, with different cultures and beliefs. Yet they would form friendships and comradeship which would see them through what was to come”.

**Jullunder Brigade Association**



“After the fierce fighting in Givenchy the Battalion was paraded and was heartily congratulated on their splendid achievements in the battle by General Willcocks who stated "I want to tell Colonel Strickland in front of you all what I think of him. He is a first class soldier and you are a brave lot of men”.

#### **Jullunder Brigade Association**

The Jullunder Brigade went onto fight at the battle of **Neuve Chapelle** [March 1915] where **7000 British** and **4200 Indian soldiers** were killed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hl2pevdTAN8>



And at the **Second Battle of Ypres** [April – May 1915]

Where the Germans deployed poison gas in large quantities for the first time.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKgHtYBr7IE>

Strickland subsequently took command of the **First Infantry Division** leading it during the **Battle of the Somme** [1916].

When on the first day alone [1 July 1916]  
**20,000 British were killed.**



In **August 1916** footage of the battle was made into a wartime documentary.

For propaganda purposes.

**20 million British people** watched it at cinemas in the first six weeks.



*It is very powerful even today.*

[https://youtu.be/xQ\\_OZfaiUlc](https://youtu.be/xQ_OZfaiUlc)





Strickland attending the dedication of a memorial to those killed at High Wood during the battle of the Somme.

At the end of the First World War, Strickland was sent to **Ireland** to help crush the independence movement.



As commander of the **6<sup>th</sup> Division** he was a major IRA target and in 1920 a plot was hatched to ambush his military convoy.

The ambush took place but Strickland had decided not to travel with that particular convoy.



In his place **General Cumming** was targeted and shot dead.



## BRIGADIER SLAIN IN IRISH AMBUSH

General Cumming Shot Dead on  
West Cork Road Despite  
Strong Guard.

FIGHT KEPT UP AN HOUR

Large Irish Band Escapes in  
Wild Country—Another Brit-  
ish Officer Killed.

A number of episodes in Strickland's career illustrate the brutality of the Irish War of Independence.

Which is well-illustrated by Neil Jordan's film **Michael Collins** [1996].

<https://youtu.be/LdPL9RMzQAY>

For example, during the Irish insurgency, British troops serving with Strickland burned down large parts of **Cork** in retaliation for IRA attacks.



But Strickland also understood the importance of good intelligence and kept highly detailed records of Sinn Fein / IRA suspects.



From Strickland's private records.

When the IRA offered not to shoot a hostage,

the loyalist **Maria Lindsay**, if Strickland treated the IRA prisoners he had taken as POWS, Strickland refused to negotiate.

And Maria Lindsay was killed.



Fergal Keane's wonderful book



Shows how communities were ripped apart by the conflict.

<https://youtu.be/ABMq5hpiVL8>

The Anglo-Irish writer  
**Olga Pyne Clarke** [1915-1996]



recalls Strickland “rudely” telling her republican father that he *had to*

have his support in dealing with the local Irish community.

To which her father replied,  
“I will not inform against my countrymen”.

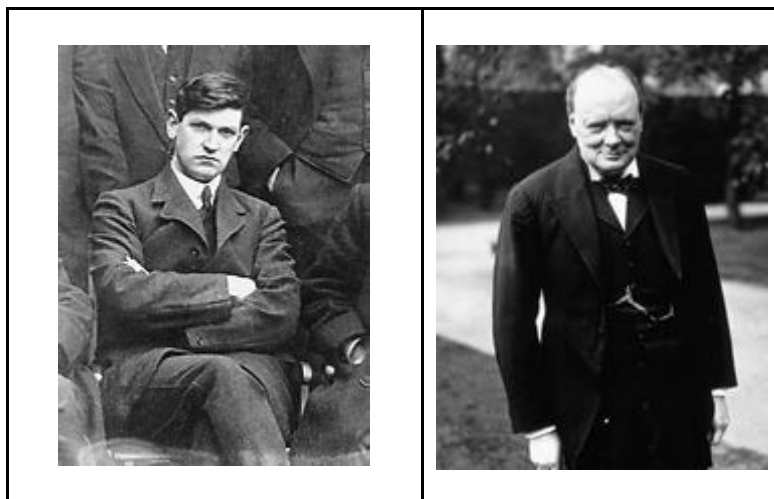
Strickland went onto be military governor of Munster, Kilkenny and Wexford.

But the British could not quell the Rebellion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzI1nbAnWjE>

And eventually Ireland was partitioned.

As a result of negotiations between **Michael Collins** and **Winston Churchill**.



*Who surprisingly discovered that they liked and admired each other.*

Following the British defeat Strickland wrote  
**“The Record of the Rebellion In Ireland”**.

In which he tried to learn lessons about how best British forces could conduct counter insurgency in future wars.

**Michael Collins** went onto become Prime Minister of the Irish Free State.



<https://youtu.be/-0wEaATmtcA>

But was ambushed and killed during the Irish Civil War by forces opposed to partition in August 1922.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s96v\\_DkOug0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s96v_DkOug0)

Strickland's last major posting was to **Egypt** where he commanded British troops from 1927-1931.

Quelling Egyptian nationalism.



In retirement Strickland continued to serve diligently as Colonel of the Norfolk Regiment.

He died, aged 82, in 1951 in the idyllic Norfolk village of Snettisham.



Within ten years of Strickland's death most of the British Empire had been dismantled.



Strickland's Jullunder troops liked to call him **Hungry Face**.

It is difficult to know whether this was an insult or a compliment.

Or just an observation.

## Thursday Rogo

Rogo is, of course, a highly efficient on-line examination platform.

Designed by Nottingham University.



Which has enabled the school to sit internal exams

Almost like normal.

*So thank you Mr Dee for telling us about Rogo and also for the title for tomorrow's post.*

However, for those who, like me, watched a lot of Television in the 1970s.



**Rogo** was, of course, one of the passengers who survived the capsizing of the ocean liner.

### **SS Poseidon**



<https://youtu.be/dd03qev59Jo>



When it is hit by a tsunami.

In the quintessential disaster movie.

### **The Poseidon Adventure [1972]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a03rD6zTvag>

Incidentally, the captain of SS Poseidon was **Leslie Nielsen** [1926-2010] before he became funny.



Captain Harrison in  
The Poseidon Adventure [1972]



Frank Drebin  
The Naked Gun [1988]

<https://youtu.be/7BMAL6cA>

In the upside down ship the surviving passengers  
have to decide whether to passively wait for help.



Or take control.

As they are urged to by the fiery preacher.





Played by the wonderful  
**Gene Hackman** [1930-]

<https://youtu.be/30JSXzfWSLs>

Whose other great role is in

**Mississippi Burning** [1988]



<https://youtu.be/ZCZyxZYgKIg>

And should be required viewing for *everyone* today.

Unlike some other disaster movies such as **Airport** [1970]  
Which is ruthlessly parodied in **Airplane** [1980].

[Again with Leslie Nielsen].



**The Poseidon Adventure** deals with  
Some really big issues.

Such as **self-sacrifice**.



<https://youtu.be/aNOmTuwnGYg>

As well as having some pretty spectacular disaster scenes.

<https://youtu.be/DcAfisLMMX8>



[https://youtu.be/TxuEWb4b\\_gU](https://youtu.be/TxuEWb4b_gU)

And the wonderful:

**"The Morning After".**

<https://youtu.be/Mm41npkt6Xw>

Performed by **Renée Armand**  
dubbing for **Carol Lynley**.



Which won an Oscar for Best Original Song  
at the **1973 Academy Awards**.

Presented by **Sonny** and **Cher**.



<https://youtu.be/1HFyxPiGrps>

Incidentally Rogo's character is my favourite.

Because he puts all his faith in The Preacher.

Loses everything.



[https://youtu.be/r\\_9PgiNuWDC](https://youtu.be/r_9PgiNuWDC)

"You almost suckered me in! I started to believe in your promises, that we had a chance! What chance? You took from me the only thing I ever loved in the whole world, my Linda. YOU KILLED HER!! [*Rogo breaks down*]: You killed her".

But forces himself to believe.

*And keeps on fighting.*

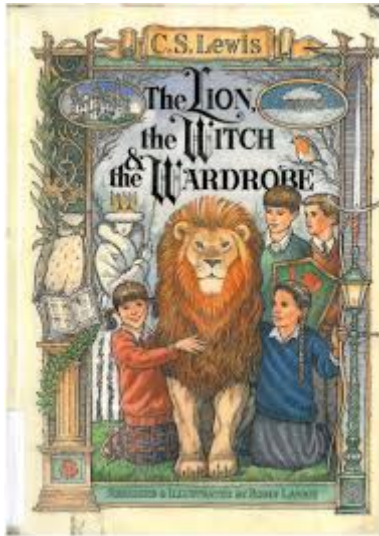
**So thank you**

**Ernest Borgnine [1917-2012]**

<https://youtu.be/fAe7DXqrZls>

It really is powerful stuff.

It *may* even be a **Christian allegory**  
like



Whose author **CS Lewis**.



Died on the same day that **Walter Cronkite**

Announced the assassination of  
**President Kennedy**.

[November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1963].



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PXORQE5-CY>

Just two days before the first episode of **Dr Who** was broadcast on the BBC.



<https://youtu.be/aXBmQz2r2M8>

*Which certainly isn't a Christian allegory.*

## Friday The Last Post

Not though *the* Last Post

Which since **1928** has been played at **8PM**  
at the **Menin Gate** [apart from 1940-1944 during  
the German Occupation].



And commemorates the **89,880** names on the gate of soldiers for whom there is no known grave.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND78FKdCkJc>



*It has continued to be played even during Lockdown by a lone bugler.*

Or the Last Post for Christmas



Which in **2020** will be:  
Second class **Wednesday 16 December**  
First class **Friday 18 December**

But the  
*Last of the Lockdown Posts*

And my last post as  
Head of Sixth Form

When I took on the role in 2007 someone told me that being a Head of Sixth Form was a bit like being **Sergeant Wilson** in **Dad's Army**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSQmJq95QnA>





<https://youtu.be/fka-ySDZ1Xs>

I think he may have been right. . .

But do be assured that **General Douglas MacArthur** was wrong when he told Congress that

“Old Heads of Sixth Form never die, they simply fade away”



<https://youtu.be/Tuagi9kZe8A>

Because I look forward to keeping in touch with you all in the venerable dignity of my new role.



Me after 4 weeks of lock down.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GZEsFx5vWc&list=PLWggriUB\\_UtSisn-dzGIl\\_bsyNonAHRJc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GZEsFx5vWc&list=PLWggriUB_UtSisn-dzGIl_bsyNonAHRJc)

**It will be fun.**

Although in the years to come please do not be too offended if I forget your name.

Because in the memory of the school you will *never grow old*.

<https://youtu.be/PVLGq5ZSzZ0>

And if you want a final movie clip with a



true message to live by in these rather troubled times.

It has to be this scene from **Gettysburg** [1993]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRB2dGI1vRM>

## Floreat Schola Warwickensis!

And goodnight.



JJ

## Appendix 1

### The One Post you should read.

The history of the past few years has been one of division, unwillingness to compromise and an arrogant belief that one point of view is totally right.

*And the other totally wrong.*

Few political leaders, if any, provide the possibility of reconciliation based on respect , empathy and compassion.

I think **Bobby Kennedy** offered this in 1968 when he ran for the Democratic nomination to be their presidential candidate.

On April 4 1968, for example, he had announced the murder of **Martin Luther King** to a shocked crowd.



And calmed them with his words.

<https://youtu.be/A2kWla8wSC0>

But then Bobby was shot on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1968 and died a day later.



The brief extract below is from his brother, Ted's, funeral eulogy at St Patrick's cathedral in New York.



<https://youtu.be/ZxyfNlp6k-M>

Mr **James Furlong**, like Bobby Kennedy died too young.



He was just 36 years old and the Head of History and Politics at The Holt School, Wokingham.

And, as you may know, was killed on Sunday in a terrorist attack in Reading.

I did not know James well.

But we had met at Politics Conferences.

And had corresponded about teaching strategies in global politics.

He was always enthusiastic, funny, kind and completely dedicated to his students.

A deeply caring man, he lit up lives.

When he died his pupils posted a great number of emotional comments about him.

This one is especially powerful and true.

“Mr James Furlong was one of my favourite teachers in the world. In year 9 he showed me that I could still enjoy school, and also how to be proud of who I am. Every day he was a cheerful and inspiring presence and the world is a darker place without him. Rest in peace, Sir.”

James did not change the world, but he did change lives.

*And so many people will miss him as a good and kind man who always did his best for others.*

## Appendix 2

### Dr Chapman’s Guest Celebrity Post

Like many of you, inspired by Mr Jefferies’ film recommendation, I have turned to my DVD stack for some light relief in the lockdown. With over 250 DVDs occupying the shelves (and that is only the films and not the TV box sets), you can see that providing a few recommendations from my collection may be tricky. So for today I focus on just one genre – the spy movie. And although I am a great lover of the all action block busters of the James Bond/Mission Impossible/Jason Bourne franchises for example, I want to focus on a just a few of the more hard hitting, often true, stories of espionage, deception and double agents.

So here are a few to get you going:

#### Recent Releases

Most recently these two films accurately recount the real events of two female spies.



Official Secrets tells the story of the GCHQ whistle-blower Katharine Gun who leaks a memo from the NSA with the United States enlisting Britain's help in collecting compromising information on U.N. Security Council members to blackmail them into voting for war against Iraq in 2003. Brilliant explores the legality of Tony Blair's decision to go war with Ralph Fiennes leading the charge as defence lawyer.



Red Joan – the ‘Granny Spy’ as she was dubbed played by Judi Dench. It is story of Joan Stanley a widow living out a quiet retirement in the suburbs when, shockingly, the British Secret Service places her under arrest. The charge: providing classified scientific information - including details on the building of the atomic bomb - to the Soviet government for decades. The action swaps between present and Cambridge from 1944 onwards. Gives a very clear insight into how the soviets set up their double agents into the British Secret Service post war.

### Cold War Factual

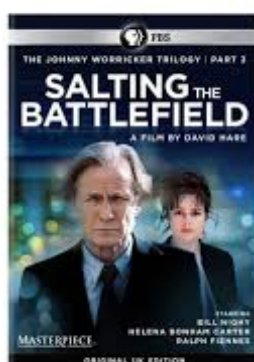
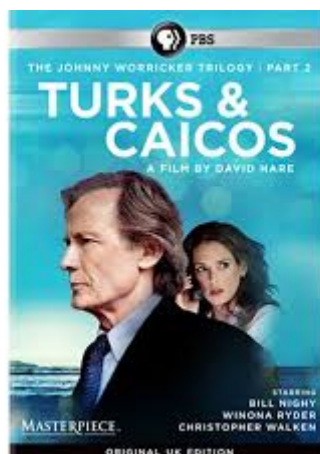
For those of you interested in the division of east and West Germany and in particular the events leading to the construction of the Berlin Wall then recently my favourite has to be this:



The film is the story of lawyer James B. Donovan (played by Tom Hanks), who is entrusted with negotiating the release of Francis Gary Powers—a U.S. Air Force pilot whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960—in exchange for Rudolf Abel (brilliantly portrayed by Mark Rylance), a convicted Soviet KGB spy held under the custody of the United States, whom he represented at trial. The name of the film refers to the Glienicke Bridge, which connects Potsdam with Berlin, where the prisoner exchange took place. The background of the days of division of Berlin adds to the drama and gives a real feel as to what it was like to be in Berlin as the Wall went up almost literally overnight.

### **Fictional Spy Movies**

I end with two of my favourite fictional spy offerings. The first is little known but is brilliantly acted with a host of big names and touches upon some of the themes of cover up, political interest and the like that most recently the Blair government were accused of. The secret service v the government in a big way:

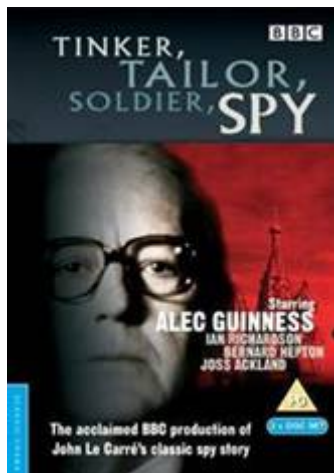


Called the Worricker Trilogy, each of these films staying with Page 8 is a full feature length story – all linked to each other. Bill Nighy is at his sardonic best as Johnny Worricker the long-serving MI5 officer. Also starring Michael Gambon Judy Davis and Rachel Weiss the trilogy begins with a seemingly innocuous comment at the foot of page eight of a document alleging that the Prime Minister (played by Ralph Fiennes) has knowledge of secret overseas prisons where terror suspects have been tortured by American authorities. As the PM did not share any intelligence gained with the security services, it has endangered a number of British lives. Following an intricate and brilliantly written plot the trilogy progresses to a showdown between Nighy and Fiennes which as a piece of political satirical repartee rivals the script writing of any drama.

### **My Favourite**

For my final choice (and my favourite) I confess I have moved from the film DVD shelves to those of the TV series. While this particular series was dramatized into a very watchable film starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth in 2011, I still think the 1979 BBC series is the definitive adaption:





Why would I whole-heartedly recommend you return to this drama now 41 years old? Here are just a few reasons:

- It remains one of the most accurate adaptations of a novel by any film or TV series – in some cases the screenplay is word for word what is written in the book.
- John le Carré wrote the book in 1974 – in the height of Cold War and when double agents and espionage were rife.
- John le Carré ( real name David Cornwell) was himself a spy in the 1950s and 1960s before becoming a full time author. He knew what he was writing about! He went on to write many more novels which have been successfully adapted – *Smiley's People* was also adapted with the same cast (more or less) by BBC (although I have always thought it sad that BBC didn't adapt the middle book of the trilogy, *The Honourable Schoolboy*) and many of you will have watched the modern adaptation of *The Night Manager* a couple of years ago.
- He wrote *Tinker Taylor* very much based on the secret service of the 1960s and 70s. He used his experience of the unmasking of notorious double agents like Ken Philby and the other 'Cambridge Spies' to inform the plot line of a high ranking double-agent in the secret service – a 'mole' – to be flushed out by George Smiley. The TV series recorded only a few years after the book publication really does show what it was like in heart of the secret service in the Cold War.
- The cast is stellar – the chief protagonist – George Smiley – is played by Sir Alec Guinness – who showed his versatility as an actor when in later years was not only portraying spies but as the same time starring as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Supported by household names such as Ian Richardson and Bernard Hepton this was a BBC 'all-star cast' of the time.
- But perhaps the real reason I like this so much is that le Carré has said that when he wrote the book and advised on the screen play of the film he had in mind the real-life character of Maurice Oldfield – who became head of the secret service in the 1970s. It is no coincidence that Alec Guinness' character looks very similar on screen to Maurice Oldfield himself - spot the difference:



Thank you, Dr Chapman.

“And it’s good-night from me and it’s good-night from him”.



