

Memory Café Amusement Arcade 46.

Daylight Robbery.

I am pleased to say that some things have changed for the better – but not by much!

1. In the 1400's a law was passed in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.
Hence, we have "the rule of thumb".
2. Many years ago, in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was called "Gentlemen Only – Ladies Forbidden" and thus the word GOLF entered the English language.
3. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king or leader from history:
Spades – King David
Hearts - Charlemagne
Clubs - Alexander the Great
Diamonds – Julius Caesar.
4. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on the bed by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight".
5. It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his new son-in-law with all the mead that he could drink, perhaps to drown his sorrows. Mead is honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was known as honey moon, which we know today as the honeymoon.
6. In English pubs (aka as bars in the USA) ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So, when the customer got a bit unruly, the land lord would yell at them to "mind your P's and Q's and settle down.
7. Still on pubs., the customers would have a whistle baked into their china tankards in the rim or the handle. When they needed a refill in a noisy pub., they used the whistle to get service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by the practice.
8. In 1696, William III of England introduced a property tax requiring those living in a house with more than 6 windows to pay a levy. In order to avoid the tax, house owners would brick up all the windows bar 6 The window tax lasted until 1851 and older houses with bricked up windows can still be seen in England. As the bricked-up windows prevented sunlight from entering rooms, the tax was known as daylight robbery.

I think that all of us still regard the activities of Her Majesty's Customs Revenue and Excise as daylight robbers.

We experienced the BBC "Last Night of the Proms" a few days ago. Despite COVID and lock-down it was a remarkably moving occasion, less exuberant than usual but more reflective of our present difficult times. I was particularly touched by the singing of "You'll Never Walk Alone" which came from *Carousel* originally and we all know as Liverpool FC's anthem.



Cheer ourselves up! There is nothing more refreshing than a shower. This little robin was captured before and after taking one in a bird bath in Redditch recently.