

## Famous Foursomes



1. Majorca, Ibiza, Minorca, Formentera
2. Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt
3. Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
4. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas
5. Dorothy, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow
6. The Open, US Open, The Masters, US PGA
7. Hannibal Smith, Face, Mad Murdoch, B A Barabas
8. Bass, Baritone, Tenor, Counter Tenor



Have you ever seen the film 'The Mummy', or maybe 'The Mummy Returns'? If so you may not be all that happy about the thought of mummies moving! Don't worry though, these are not moving under their own volition. They are being moved in a ceremonial convoy to their new home.

Click [HERE](#) to read the article and watch the video.

## Astronomy Group

The Astronomy Group meet every other Tuesday, via Zoom. Below are a list of upcoming topics, if you are interested in joining the group please contact Bob Mount via the Beacon groups page.

20th Apr - GL Bob - "The Mysteries of the Caldwell Catalogue"

4th May - Dr Steve Barrett LU - "The ABC of Galaxy Evolution"

18th May - GL Bob - "The Big Bang Model of the Universe"

1st June - Edmund - "Mars Part 3"

15th June - GL Bob - "Northern Stars and Constellations"

29th June - GL Bob - "The Doppler Effect and Red Shift"

13th Jul - Rick Tyres - "Herschel to Hubble: The story of nebulae"

27th Jul - GL Bob - "Supernova, Neutron Stars and Black Holes"

**I would never have believed 8 weeks of uncut hair would weigh over a stone, but if that's what the scales say, it must be right!**



Apparently we have another author in our ranks. Derek Lunt has asked me to mention a biography he has written, titled 'James Maury Esq first American consul to the port of Liverpool 1790 to 1829'.

It has the ISBN number 9798588434591 and is available on Amazon.

Now, if only we had a web developer or two!

Many of you will no doubt have seen The Mikado or even taken part in a production.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a new version, made during the past 12 months.



Your recent article on Bailey Bridges brought back a flood of memories of my time in the Royal Engineers (Sappers).

The first Bailey I was involved with was constructed on a flat field in full daylight for training purposes. Subsequent ones were at night without any lights and close to so called 'enemy territory.' For many it was a big Meccano set. I well remember the heavy side panels that were a six man lift and carry and held in position until secured with panel pins ( These pins were about eight inches long and two inches in diameter,) The panels on both sides of the bridge were held in place by transoms and sway bracing, the last thing to be added was the wooden decking.

It was built on rollers and as the building of it progressed it was pushed forward by the men with its launching nose tilted upwards to accommodate the far bank of the gap we were bridging over. As it got bigger we needed a truck or small bulldozer to help push it until it finally landed on the far bank.

Depending on the length of the bridge we would have a convoy of twenty to thirty three ton trucks and this could be increased depending on the size of the bridge we were building. By adding more side panels we could increase its load bearing capacity. In order to carry tanks and other heavy machines we put more panels on top to strengthen it, three panels high, until eventually we had three panels on each side with more on top. It was referred to as a 'Triple Triple.'

It was no easy task even in peace time building

bridges. I remember being involved in a 'Bridging Gallop.' This involved building a bridge at night then at dawn taking it apart and reloading the trucks meticulously with exactly what they had arrived with. We then moved to a different location and repeated the process a number of times during the week. All of the wagons were clearly numbered so that they were called up and unloaded in sequence.

At the end of the 'Gallop' everything had to be cleaned and returned to the stores. We were allowed losses up to a total of £25.00, anything over that we had to pay for. Needless to say we Sappers were often referred as the 'First Fleet of Foot and Light of Finger.' When in the stores anything that could be filched, podging spanners, hammers, panel pins etc. were quickly hidden on the trucks or pockets to reduce our losses.



The Bailey Bridge was eventually replaced with the Heavy Girder bridge. The side panels were an eighteen man lift and carry as opposed to the Bailey's six men. In finishing all Sappers were trained to use explosives.

At the end of WW11 Berlin was divided into four sectors, the allies, American, French and English, each was responsible for its own defence against the Russian sector. We Sappers had a number of three ton trucks fully loaded with explosives and ready to be driven onto the bridges in our sector to demolish them, mainly to delay any Russian incursions if they 'kicked off.'

A year or two back a small masonry bridge was washed away by the floods in the Lake District. Sappers from Ripon built a Bailey as a temporary replacement there.

The picture shows Col with his family, on a Bailey Bridge left in Crete following WWII.

*Col Weir*

# Snow White Crossword Solution



## ZOOM TALKS AT HOME

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>Wed 7th April</b> at 2pm <i>Ladies of the Air, 'Grandma Flew Spitfires'</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 22nd April</b> at 2pm <i>Wrecks of the Coast Southport</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 6th May</b> at 2pm <i>Rivington Terraced Gardens</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 20th May</b> at 2pm <i>Apitourism - travelling for bees</i></p>
<p><b>Thur 3 June</b> at 2pm <i>John Dempsey, on the Sefton Coast</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 17th June</b> at 10.30 <i>Telling time over the Centuries</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 1st July</b> at 10.30 <i>The Seven Ancient &amp; Modern Wonders of the World</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 15th July</b> at 10.30 <i>Life of Sir Henry Segrave &amp; the Land Speed Record attempt on Ainsdale Beach</i></p>

**WIFE SAVED ALL HER AMAZON PRIME BOXES FOR HER APRIL FOOLS PRANK ON HER HUSBAND.**



Any parent will feel her pain (and frustration). Click [HERE](#) to watch an example of absolute patience.

**BEHIND EVERY ANGRY WOMAN, STANDS A MAN WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT HE DID WRONG!**

Click [HERE](#) to watch a classic '2 Ronnies' clip, this one featuring an unfortunate encyclopedia salesman.



We just spent a hour looking for her. 😂



Truck for sale. Needs parts. Serious inquiries only.



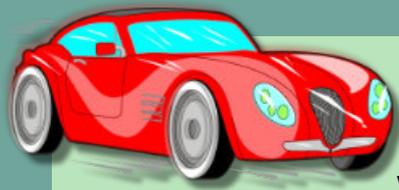
Have you ever heard of an 'Inflataplane'? No, neither had I. Click [HERE](#) to find out about it.



### The Diet Fork



**Available in Fine Stores Everywhere!**



We've probably all owned a car or two from a company which no longer exists. Click [HERE](#) to find out about a few of these 'Orphan Cars'.