

THE WRECK OF THE SS KAKAPO

On the night of 25 May 1900, the SS Kakapo, a 665-ton schooner-rigged steamship ran aground on Long Beach, Noordhoek, just south of Cape Town. Built only two years earlier in Scotland by the Grangemouth Dockyard Company, the vessel was on her maiden voyage from Swansea, Wales, to Sydney Australia, carrying a cargo of coal. Poor visibility, stormy weather and navigational error led to her abrupt and dramatic end.

As the Kakapo approached the Cape coastline in the dark, her captain P. Nicolayson believed he spotted Cape Point. In fact, what he saw was Chapman's Peak. Acting on this assumption, he ordered the ship to turn hard to port and go full steam ahead, directly toward the shore. The ship drove straight onto the beach with such force that it skidded several meters inland. Thankfully no lives were lost, the entire crew survived the wreck.

Initial efforts to refloat failed. Over time, much of the ship was stripped or reclaimed by the elements. However parts of the wreck especially the engine block, remain visible today on Long Beach. It's one of the few shipwrecks along the South Arican coast accessible without diving gear, and it has become a well known feature for walkers, dogs and curious visitors.

The story of the Kakapo is not without it's legend. Local lore holds that the captain was overwhelmed with guilt and shock over the wreck, and refused to leave the ship. Some say he lived aboard the grounded vessel for as long as three years, though no official record confirms the claim.

Today, the rusted remnants of the Kakapo continue to spark interest and serve as a reminder of the unpredictable seas around the Cape and the thin line between confident navigation and disaster. It remains one of the Western Cape's most visible maritime relics, a real world marker of a single decision made on a stormy night more than a century ago.



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1st Dellamore Terwin

3rd Marie Sampson

5th Trish Smith

7th Dawn Osbourne

9th Yolanda Bond-Smith

10th Glenda Cooke

11th Anna Dell'Erba

13th Elaine Doyle

14th Judith Walsh



15th Wenche Hovstad
16th Jean van Rhyn
16th Sally Kinross
21st Ursula Athiros
21st Edward Twiggs
22nd Shirley Hossack
25th Kevin Hojem
30th Heather Honeysett
31st Roger Prideaux



4th Myrle and Brian Mawman

10th Julie and Dave Phillips

11th Theresa and Desmond Chester

23rd Mary and Jim Doyle

Today I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall and I thought to myself that's a little condescending



Mike Smith



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The Medieval and Renaissance History Vault

7 May at 20:23 · 🚱

Arundel Castle sits just above the River Arun in West Sussex and has seen close to a thousand years of English history unfold. It was first built in 1067, right after the Norman Conquest, by Roger de Montgomery, one of William the Conqueror's most trusted allies.

Originally a motte-and-bailey fortress, it's been rebuilt and expanded over the centuries, turning from a medieval stronghold into a grand stately home.

It's been the seat of the Dukes of Norfolk and the Earls of Arundel for over 850 years. The Howard family, who still live there today, have played a huge role in shaping its story.

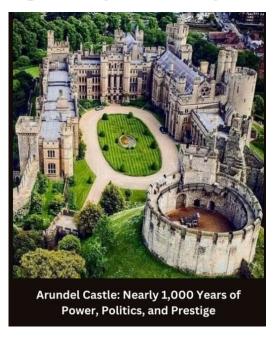
The castle was damaged during the English Civil War, then restored and expanded again in the 18th and 19th centuries. When Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited in 1846, they made such an impression that the castle was redesigned in places just to accommodate their royal tastes.

Inside, the castle is packed with history. You can explore the original Norman keep, the medieval gatehouse, and a series of state rooms filled with fine furniture, tapestries, and paintings by the likes of Van Dyck and Canaletto. The Regency library and the Baron's Hall are real highlights.

Outside, the gardens are just as impressive. There's over 40 acres to wander, including the Collector Earl's Garden, a stumpery, and a working kitchen garden complete with 19th-century glasshouses. In spring, the Tulip Festival turns the grounds into a riot of colour and is well worth timing your visit around.

You might also recognise parts of the castle from the screen. It's been used as a filming location for The Madness of King George, The Young Victoria, and even Wonder Woman.

If you're interested in England's medieval history and want to see how a castle evolved with the times, Arundel is one of the best examples you'll find. It's open to visitors for most of the year, and it's the kind of place that leaves you feeling like history isn't so far away after all.



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In the aftermath of a painful divorce, AGATHA CHRISTIE made an unexpected decision. At 40 years old, she boarded the Orient Express and left behind England, seeking solitude and adventure in the East. Her journey took her to Baghdad and then further still, to the breathtaking ruins of Ur in Iraq. What she found there wasn't just the wonder of ancient Mesopotamia, but something far more surprising: love.

At the archaeological site, she met Max Mallowan, a brilliant young archaeologist nearly 14 years her junior. The two struck up a shared passion for history, storytelling, and the rhythms of excavation life. In 1930, they married and for the rest of her life, she would return again and again to the dusty dig sites of Iraq and Syria, notebook in hand, heart wide open.

It was there, on the veranda of the British School of Archaeology in Baghdad that she sipped tea between cataloguing shards of pottery and brushing sand off ancient treasures with her face cream. These desert landscapes inspired her most iconic settings - from Murder in Mesopotamia to They Came to Baghdad, and even Murder on the Orient Express, imagined after her own train was stranded in a storm.

Agatha Christie didn't just pen stories of mystery - she lived one. Somewhere between the ruins of forgotten empires and the thrill of a new love, she rewrote her own ending.

#AgathaChristie #DesertMysteries - Weird Wonders and Facts



DATES TO DIARISE

A pub evening will be held on Friday 18th July at 6pm

Books of tickets will be available at the door R100

Kindly book at reception by 11th July for catering purposes

Christmas in July will be held on Tuesday 22nd July

Details to be announced



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FUN WITH FLASHBACK











Images : courtesy Lynne Perry



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THE FIRST PROGRAMMER

Did you know that Ada Lovelace was the first computer programmer and a visionary who imagined the future of computing over a century before it became a reality?

Ada Lovelace, born Augusta Ada Byron on December 10, 1815 in London, was the daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron and Annabella Milbanke, a woman with a sharp mind and strong mathematical skills. Her father left the family shortly after she was born, so Ada never really knew him.

From a young age, her mother encouraged Ada to focus on mathematics and logic to avoid the "romantic" traits of her father. She received a rigorous education with the help of tutors like Mary Somerville and Augustus De Morgan, who recoognised her exceptional talent.

In 1833, at just 17 years old, Ada met Charles Babbage, a mathematician and inventor working on a revolutionary device called the Analytical Engine - a mechanical computer designed to perform complex calculations automatically.

Fascinated by this idea, Ada became Babbage's key collaborator. In 1842, she translated an article by Italian mathematician Luigi Federico Menabrea about the Analytical Engine and added her own detailed notes. These notes included what is now considered the very first algorithm intended for a machine to process - making Ada the world's first computer programmer.

But her vision went beyond numbers. She imagined that computers could someday manipulate symbols, compose music, and even create art - a truly groundbreaking idea for her time. Despite her genius, Ada lived in Victorian society, where womens' roles in science were limited. She married William King and became the Countess of Lovelace, but her passion for math's and technology never faded.

Ada passed away at the age of 36 from cancer, the same age at which her father died. Her pioneering work was largely unrecognized for decades, but today she is celebrated as a foundational figure in computer science and digital innovation. *Source: Walter Isaaacson, The Innovators:*

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with very limited memory, just 1 byte, and everything crashed.



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you ever thought about what is in a name, the seasonal popularity of any particular name and how they seem to crop up in groups. Looking at the people in our village, with currently (July 2025), 148 residents, I was surprised at how often names, or derivatives, are repeated. Consider this:

	1 Brenda Hill 52 Stauch	# 2 # 37	Richard Mann # 4 Eastwick A110		1 # 43 # 77
Jennifer/Jenny/Jenni/J Erskine # 5 Uys # 6 Wessels # 9 Mockford A 0	7 Gretton 8 Draude 9 Orton	# 4 # 28 # 31 # 42 # 56	Michael/Mike Uys # Burchell # 4 Pitt # 63 Smith # 67	0 Hinde Dower	I/Jill # 10 # 15 # 32 # 61
Cherry/Cherie/Cheryl Vermeulen # Pienaar #3 Mortimer #6	,	# 6 # 33	Colin Levine # 12 Osbourne # 59 Noble # 7	9 Stuart	# 18 # 69 A 11
Anne/Ann/Anna/Annm Dell'Erba # 2 Carter # 2 Lawton # 5	Cummins Scheibe	# 20 # 60 A104	Marion/Maryon Draude # 29 Thompson # 3	9 Bester	# 34 # 65 A 03
Merle/Myrle Mawman # 5 Trimingham A1		#	Glenda Cooke A 04 Welsh A11	Brian Mawman Marquis 1 Dalton	# 53 # 39 A106
,	\$\frac{\text{Shirley}}{\text{Rossiter}}\$ \$\frac{1}{4}\text{Rossiter}\$ \$\text{Hossack}\$	# 64 A 05	Peter/Peta Sampson #71 Noble #72		# 77 A102
Rene/Renee Stewart # 6 Esson A1		A 09 A104	Patricia/Trish Smith #67 Van Zyl A105	<u>Carol</u> Hay Dalton	# 78 A106

And then let us not forget the surnames repeat

<u>Mitchell -</u> Helena #11 & Ernest #25 <u>Bester -</u> Matthys # 16 & John #34

Brian Dalton



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In 1963, Polaroid's chief chemist Howard G. Rogers stood proudly alongside his team, surrounded by an astonishing 5,000 bottles of chemical compounds. This remarkable collection represented years of tireless experimentation and innovation dedicated to cracking the code of color instant photography. Each bottle contained a vital piece of the puzzle that would soon revolutionize how people captured and shared moments.

The painstaking process to develop Polaroid's color film was one of science, patience, and creativity. Rogers and his colleagues meticulously tested thousands of chemical formulas to achieve the perfect balance needed for instant color development—a feat that pushed the boundaries of photographic technology at the time. Their work wasn't just about creating images; it was about capturing life's vibrant hues in an instant, forever changing the world of photography.

This iconic moment captured in 1963 symbolizes a turning point in visual history. The breakthroughs made by Rogers and his team paved the way for Polaroid's groundbreaking color film, which would soon put the power of instant color photography into the hands of millions. Their dedication and scientific brilliance transformed photography from a slow, complex process into an immediate and magical experience.



EVERGREEN bergvliet

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THE LAST QUARTER

Most of us are now in the last quarter of our lives and should read this interesting piece of advice.

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet, in a way, it seems like years ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

However, here it is the last quarter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first quarter and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could not visualise it or imagine fully what it would be like.

Yet, here it is my friends are retired and getting grey - they move more slowly and I see an older person now.

Some are in better and some in worse shape than me but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day and taking a nap is not a treat anymore.

It's mandatory because if I don't of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit.

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did. But at least I know that, though I'm on the last quarter and I'm not sure how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done but truly, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by so quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the last quarter or not.

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. So, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember - and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the past years.

'Life' is a gift to you. Be Happy! Have a great day!

Remember, it is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.



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You may think:

Going out is good - but coming home is better!

You forget names - but it's okay because some people forgot they even knew you!

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf - but you like the outdoors!

The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore - but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in bed - you call it 'pre-sleep'!

You miss the days when everything worked with just an 'On' and 'Off' switch!

You tend to use more 4 letter words - 'what' and 'when'

You have lots of clothes in your wardrobe, more than half of which you will never wear – but just in case!

Old is good

Old is comfortable

Old is safe

Old songs

Old movies

And best of all, Friends of old!*

So, stay well. Have a fantastic day! Have an awesome quarter, whichever one you're in!

It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

Take care out there.

Old Friend.

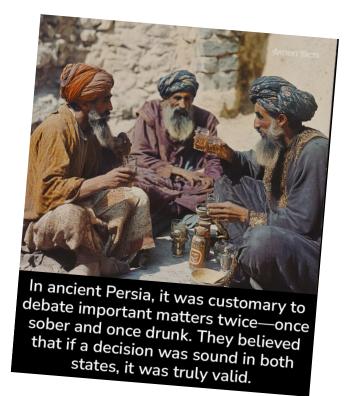
Brian Dalton





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FB posts

I was sitting here eating lunch when I realized: cottage cheese is not actually, in reality, a cheese. It's just a curd to me.

Does anyone in the Village know how to play Mah Jongg? There seems to be an interest.



Please keep contributions coming to flickiwal@gmail.com Cut off for August is 14th July

FW



