

Inklings

Cryptic Pic

Can you work out the advertising sign depicted here?



We Three Kings

Reader **Peter Robinson's** letter on our Postbox page in this issue mentions the King Canute story. Here are three legends of British kings, which may be true or not.

King Canute sat on the beach and ordered the waves to turn back and leave his feet dry. As Canute knew would happen, the waves kept coming and he and his courtiers had to retreat. The real meaning of this was probably an attempt by Canute to teach his flattering courtiers that even a king's power was limited by nature and God.

When **King Alfred the Great** fled to the Somerset Levels, he was sheltered by a peasant woman who, unaware of his identity, left him to watch some cakes cooking on the fire. Preoccupied with the problems of his kingdom, Alfred accidentally let the cakes burn and was taken to task by the woman. Upon realising his identity, she apologised profusely, but Alfred insisted that he was the one who needed to apologise.

King Robert I of Scotland, according to legend, was on the run and hid himself in a cave where he observed a spider trying to spin a web. Each time the spider failed, it simply started all over again until it succeeded. Inspired by this, Robert returned to inflict a series of defeats on the English, thus winning him more supporters and eventual victory.

Happy 90th Birthday Harry!

Harry, a Lovatts puzzler for many years, turns 90 on 19th March. He worked in dairy farms in south west WA until joining the army where he served in El Alamein and New Guinea. His battalion was 2/28th 9th Division. After the war he married and farmed wheat and sheep at Moora. He now lives in Geraldton and loves his crosswords and pottering around doing woodwork. His aim is to reach 104, just like his Mum did.

To read about Harry in more detail go to our website www.lovatts.com.au



Aloha!

Reader **Susan Power** has sent in an interesting word **humuhumunukunukuapua'a**, the name of a little fish found in the Hawaiian islands. In Hawaiian it means 'triggerfish with a snout like a pig' and may be one of the longest words in the Hawaiian language. They say in Hawaii that the name is longer than the fish.

The reason Hawaiian, like all the Polynesian languages, sounds so harmonious is because every word and syllable ends in a vowel. There are only 13 letters in the alphabet, the five vowels, the consonants h, k, l, m, n, p, w and the 'okina.

Thanks Susan, saying it aloud is a challenge but I'm practising.

Grumpy Old Puzzlers

Thanks to our wonderfully grumpy puzzlers who have contributed their grumpiest gripes about the disgraceful way English is being spoke.

Edwin Faint

Another example of tautology that annoys me is '*reverse back*'

'*Mischievous*' has only three syllables: mis-chiv-us. So often one hears an extra 'i' being added after the 'v' to make mis-cheev-ee-us.

'*Dais*' (day-us) is often distorted and pronounced as if it is spelt 'dias (die-ass).

Cath Clarkson

My gripe is '*For free*'. Shouldn't that be 'free' or 'for nothing'? This is used in all forms of media, just about every day.

Annette Shaw

My pet hate is when people say '*anythink*' instead of 'anything'.

Thelma Arnold

'*Also as well*' – politicians make a habit of it.

'*Very honest*', '*really honest*' and '*perfectly honest*' are used a lot by Huey the TV cook.

'*By and large*' – what does it mean? It is an unnecessary use of words.

'*Lay down*' instead of 'lie down'

Marj English

What really bugs me is the grammar, eg '*He was taken by a crocodile checking his crab pots*' – 6pm news.



Send in your pet hates about the English language.

Mirror Writing

Can you decipher this mirror writing sent in by **Bev Tennant**?

upit to silt sll stur blues & builast & read of you toug to saw Ci, Jorabed rest ! sllom buwars



Hello!

There's been a lot of emphasis recently on Brain Training, sharpening up your grey matter and keeping it in tiptop condition, so we've got some challenging cerebral exercises for you – what we call the Gym of the Mind.

So hitch a ride on the Brain Train and don't get left behind!

The word train comes from the Latin **tragere**, to pull, and has several meanings which are all derived from this sense.

To instruct or discipline comes from the sense of 'draw out and manipulate in order to bring to a desired form'. The railway train comes from the sense of a vehicle that pulls other carriages behind.

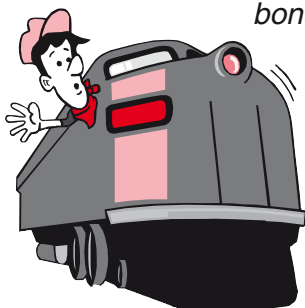
Train is also a retinue or procession or the trailing part of a skirt. A trainer can be a running shoe, an athletic coach or a racehorse tutor.

The world's first fare-paying rail passengers travelled in a carriage drawn by horse, on the The Swansea and Mumbles Railway in South Wales in 1804, and since then,

our English language has incorporated many expressions involving train travel.

To go off the rails is to become mad or disordered, like a train that gets derailed, as opposed to **getting on the right track**.

To ride the gravy train means to get paid for not doing much and comes from 'gravy' meaning 'an unexpected bonus'.



All Aboard is what the train conductor used to cry out as a warning when the train was about to leave the station. When steam trains were used, **full steam ahead** came

to mean 'with all possible energy and enthusiasm'.

And **to get up steam** is to take off quickly.

In the days when the railway tracks divided a town, the poor were said to come from the **wrong side of the tracks**. To have a **one-track mind** means to be obsessed with a single idea or subject.

So why not climb aboard our Lovatts Brain Train for the ride of your life!

Happy Puzzling!

Christine Lovatt

Inklings Answers

Mirror writing: I realised I could write like this at high school, it was a

great way to pass around notes! Be. Cryptic Pic: Billboard.

No.121

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Lovatts COLOSSUS Crosswords is printed in Australia by McPherson's Printing Group & published by LOVATTS PUBLICATIONS Pty Ltd, ABN 99 003 314 681, 221 Mann Street, GOSFORD, NSW 2250.

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Distributor: AUS: Network Services Company

NZ: Netlink Distribution Company

© Lovatts Publications Pty Limited

PUBLISHERS: Christine & James Lovatt 05/3/09

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COVER: Angela Robins

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COLOSSUS CROSSWORDS 122
• ON SALE May 7, 2009