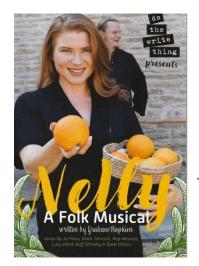


June 2023

Meeting Report Nelly – A Folk Musical written by Graham Hopkins



It was Gerry Polci who sang, "Oh, what a night" and had he been in the Dixie Grammar School Hall on Thursday evening he would have broken into song again! What a great birthday we all had. The feedback has been hugely positive, as expected from such a great play with an excellent cast. The Play was written by Graham Hopkins who has also written several books, his "Nell Gwynne, A Passionate Life" was the basis for his play. I wanted to include here the forword:

This is the fifteenth biography of Nell Gwynne to have been written quite apart from the many references to her in books about King Charles II, royal mistress and the theatre. It is a great tribute to her that so many people over three centuries should have wished to devote so much time and effort to her memory. Back in 1974 when The House of Nell Gwyn – The Fortunes of The Beauclerk Family 1670 m- 1974 was published, one of its authors and the family historian, Peter Beauclerk-Dewar, had managed to trace some 2,000 living

descendants of Nell Gwynne and Charles II, of which I am one. Each of those descendants will, I am sure, be fascinated to read this sympathetic biography of their ancestors of whom they can be justly proud. More importantly, so too will the public at large, who throughout the centuries have taken Nell Gwynne to their hearts, making her the loved icon that she still is.

Graham Hopkins has not only drawn from, but has correlated and assessed the information given in all these previously published works. Moreover, he has unearthed new seams of unpublished material in the Brotherton Library, Leeds, in addition to Ohio University and the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, which has added significantly to our knowledge of Nell Gwynne as well as challenging some of the myths. Thus this book is the most comprehensive work of its kind to have been written – yet written with objectivity and sympathy, if that is not a contradiction in terms. It is both scholarly and readable, and I commend it as a proud great-

His Grace the Duke of St. Albans.

Graham has most kindly given me a copy of his book, published by Robson Books, ISBN 1 86105 615 X. The book is available from Amazon.co.uk as a hardback or paperback.

But back to the night, the play started with a tribute to Mark Hopkins, late brother of Graham who had contributed to the play. The sound let us down a little and some did not hear the announcement. Nell was played by the exquisitely talented Emily Jane Brooks (one quarter of the D Day Darlings who were Britain's Got Talent finalists). Emily can both act and sing and brought Nelly to life brilliantly. Conor Lyman played all the male parts with exceptional skill. Bringing both humour and pathos to the roles in equal measure. This role was his first professional part and what a great find he was. It is my belief that we shall see much more of this talented actor, who gave a unique performance in his many guises.

Emily could not sing without music and here she was supported by an all-star cast. Robb Johnson on guitar and vocals is widely recognised as one of the finest songwriters working today. Robb wrote seven songs for Nelly, "The Play is About to Begin", "The King Wears the Crown", "The Plague Year", "This is Showtime", (which I am still humming to myself) "The Men of War", "Beloved of Kings" and "A Round of Good Applause". They were joined by Kip Winter and Dave Wilson on Guitar, flute and vocals. Mike Harding described Kip and Dave as one of the hardest working duos on the circuit. Their live album "Live & Unconventional" was recorded on tour at Cropredy Festival with folk rock icons Fairport Convention. The album has been enthusiastically received. Dave also wrote three songs for Nelly, "My First Appearance", "Politics and Petticoats" and "All in Dust".

The soundtrack of Nelly is being recorded and due out in August/September! I will let you know.



Hugely Talented Emily Jane Brooks gives life to Nelly



Kip Winter and Dave Wilson in full voice.



The cast on stage - Conor Lynam, left with Robb Johnson second left.

These superb artists were all brought together through the brilliant writing and direction of Graham Hopkins, I can say that as at the end of the performance the audience rose to their feet and gave a standing ovation. Gerry could not have said it better, although Graham was heard to say that it was "Emotio-nell" Thank you to all who were able to attend, I am sure you had a great night. The performance was filmed and I hope that if you were not able to see the live performance you will at least be able to see the recording. I will publish details when they become available.

Carlton – A Guided Tour – 20th July 2023



Our next event is not a lecture but our first Summer Visit of 2023. I have been so busy with Nelly and other issues (Gladman) that I have yet to put the final touches to this event.

I can tell you that we will be led and guided by Chris Peat, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Carlton. I know this through several most enjoyable conversations with

Chris over the years and his enormous help with Bosworth Links during the Carlton dig.

The rough outline is that we meet around 2:00 PM (14:00) outside St. Andrews Parish Church. We then enjoy a walk with Chris. This will take approximately 90 minutes or possibly an hour and a half. We will then return to St. Andrews where a cream tea will have been prepared (there will be coffee as an alternative if preferred and other cake if preferred to a scone). The distance will be less than 1 mile I estimate at between 1/3 and ½.

I hope you will be able to join us. Please look out as I will email more precise details over the next week. It would be lovely to see you and have a cup of tea together (not to mention the scone with jam and cream).



Larry Gains (he keeps popping up).

One of several books I read on holiday recently, was 'How Britain Kept Calm and Carried On' True stories from the Home Front edited by Anton Rippon. On page 85 I came across a familiar name. Here is the passage from the book:

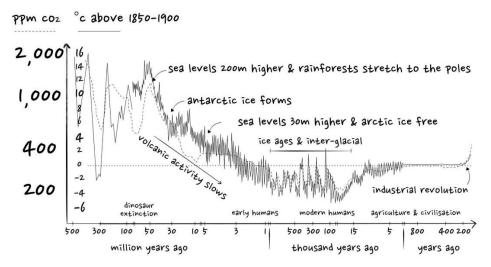
The army had taken over a new housing estate in Liverpool for the purpose of billeting recruits, of whom I was one. Can you imagine my feelings when the house I was seconded to contained the heavy weight boxing champion Larry Gains, the Fielding Brothers – themselves two well-known pugilists, and a PT instructor named Fred Fulwood who was the local strongman from the same street as me? And I, of all things, worked as a window dresser. What a mixture! Naturally I was proud to live in the same billet as such a famous hero as Larry Gains. Alas, he wasn't the most humorous of persons, probably his career had contributed to that. As I walked up the bare stairs in my heavy boots that first night, I was greeted by the great man himself, who roared: "Take those bloody boots off when you walk up and down the stairs!"

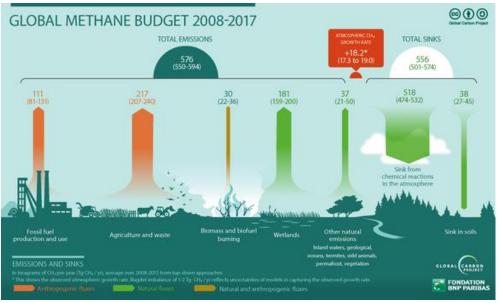
Needless to say, from then onwards, off came those boots!

F.G. Jones. Shotton, Deeside.

A word about the weather

I have enjoyed several discussions about climate and electrification following last months article. Someone kindly shared this graph with me which illustrates how our climate and ambient temperatures have changed. A link to Carbon (represented as parts per million CO2) can be seen. I also received a couple of other graphs showing temperature changes and include them here.





The last two graphs are centred upon methane as my correspondent was keen to point out that it is methane which is a much more serious warming gas than carbon dioxide CO2. Some of the sources were quite unexpected. I am not sure what the solution may be but having read a lot about hydrogen as an energy source am beginning to think that as it produces water when burned it could be a safe alternative.

Climate Quiz

- 1) What % of the Earth's atmosphere is made up of Oxygen?
- 2) What % of the Earth's atmosphere is made up of Nitrogen?
- 3) What % of the Earth's atmosphere is made up of Carbon Dioxide or CO2?
- 4) What % of CO2 is needed to maintain plant life (below which plant will die)?
- 5) What % of the Earth's atmosphere is methane?
- 6) How much more warming power does methane have over CO2?
- 7) What is the remainder of Earth's atmosphere comprised off?
- 8) Where does methane come from?

Can you help?

We have a bulging postbag (or email inbox) with requests for information and I know that you will be able to help.

Our first is one from Ian Farquharson. Ian shared this lovely photograph with me. I enjoyed looking at it. Ian's question was, "When was it taken". I have narrowed it down to between 1920 and 1940 but am sure you can do better!



Our second request came from Walter Baynes. Walter found this article: From THE WOLSTANIAN Volume 4 No. 5 September 1961

LAND USE SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN

About 30 years ago a good number of the Primary School children in the country were organised to help with a survey which set out to find the use to which Britain's land was being put. Maps were brought out on a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile which distinguished arable and pastoral farming, market gardening, orchards, woodlands and heathland.

During 1961, the Dixie Grammar School contributed to a new, more advanced survey organised by the University of London. It is far more detailed. 53 different types of land use are distinguished, and it has been mapped on a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile.

The school had the job of mapping a major part of West Leicestershire. This involved personal visits to every bit of land from remote places like Newton Burgoland and Norton-juxta-Twycross down to the thriving townships of Sheepy Parva and Sheepy Magna! Places we had hardly heard of had to be visited and each field analysed. Was it sainfoin, trefoil or red clover growing in this field? Sugar beet for fodder or industrial use in that field? What kind of fruit trees made up the orchards we saw and to what use, if any, did they put the land under the trees?

The answers to these and many other questions had to be found. It wasn't enough, for example, just to observe a field of grass; was it permanent grass or part of a rotation; did it have any reeds or marshy patches, what kind of animals were usually grazed on it? When all the work had been done and many muddy farmyards traversed, the maps were carefully coloured, sent away and are now being printed. We learn that our own maps have been amongst those selected for exhibition at this year's meeting of the British Association.

Of what use will the maps be? Agricultural planners will be able to relate the use of land to soil types and drainage and see where there is room for improvement, the Forestry Commission will be able to examine heathland areas and test their suitability for plantations and last, but not least, geographers will find them a great help in assessing the influence of geology, soils, climate, drainage and economic factors on farming practice.

For their invaluable help in what proved to be an onerous but rewarding task we must thank: Mary Wallis, Wendy Speight, Valerie Dickinson, Glenys Evans, Susan Hulme, Bronwyn Perry, Marilyn Headley, Glynis Croman, Lesley Becket, Caroline Booton, Sheila Smith, Dorothy Madders, Clayphan, K., Poulson, R., Speight, K., Eley, M., Shepherd, R., Smith C., Cormack, C., Middleton, C.

We have a Land Survey in the Archive dated 1942 but not one for 1961. We have already been contacted by Richard Shepherd who can recall taking part as a boy. Richard carried out the survey in Sutton Cheney where he was living at the time. He recalls noting which crop was growing in which field. We would love to hear from anyone who took part and if the results are recorded anywhere.

Our third request came in from Anthony (Tony) G Williams. Here is Tony's email: Hi,

I've been researching my family for many years and the 'Family Story' was that my father, George Thomas Williams, and his brother and sisters (Ivy & Betty Williams) were evacuated to Markfield in September 1939. Today I located George's brother, Ronald Williams, in Main Street, Market Bosworth with the entry above his redacted, which I assume is my father, died 17 December 1992. They were living with John & Violet Walker and son Kenneth. Parts of the story have links with a Lady Hamner / Hanner (?) and 'Shooting Bucks' school. Does any of these have links with Market Bosworth or ring any bells?

Tony went on to add:

Dear Nigel,

Thank you very much for your swift reply and offer of help. Yes, I would be grateful for any assistance. There isn't any problem with privacy as my father and his brother and two sisters have all passed. I've given fuller details below.

Betty Barbara Williams 30 dec 1926 26 Jul 2016 Ivy Marion Williams 21st Feb 1929 04 Aug 2013 George Thomas Williams 3rd Oct 1930 - 17 Dec 1992 Ronald Roy Williams 25 Jul 1932 - 19 May 2005.

Can you recall Ronald Williams living on Main Street or any of the other Williams family members mentioned. Any information will be passed on to Tony.

Our fourth and final request came from Geoffrey Frisby. Geoff is seeking information about John Grundy. In particular he is looking for a portrait of John. Here is what he said:

Hi Nigel,

We have tried hard to find a portrait of John Grundy senior, who was born in Bilstone in 1696. Grundy, who I am sure you know, was a surveyor and engineer, and for a time taught mathematics at Market Bosworth Grammar School. I was wondering whether there may be anything in the Grammar School archives.

Could you point me in the right direction?

Kind regards,

Geoff Frisby

We have started looking and Walter Baynes of the Dixie Grammar School Association is looking into this. Glynis pointed out that there was a mention of a Grundy in Peter Foss's book on page 166. I had a word with Peter about his book and if he had encountered John Grundy during his research. Peter had not and did mention that Grundy was a popular surname in Leicestershire and that there may not be a link with the Grundy on Sutton Lane in 1849.

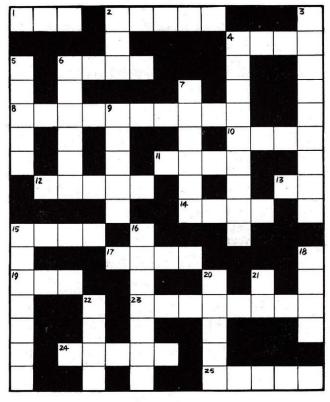
If you have any information about John Grundy or any of the other requests do please contact me via info@marketbosworthsociety.com or 07930149408 and I will be happy to pas on your discoveries.

As Dixon used to say, "Keep 'em peeled".

Crossword

I don't think we have had a cross word in the Newsletter before, having attempted this one sent to me by Walter Baynes I can understand why!

This is a real poser and not at all easy to do. It was first published in March 1962 and was compiled by a thirteen year old!



CLUES

ACROSS

Occurring regularly.
Section of the orchestra Reeds are made from this.

A "heavenly" sound.

Written by hand.
-Lower than treble.
-All music has this.

Wind instrument without reed. -Third degree of the scale.

Sound. Composer living at the same

time as 6 down.
-Large brass instrument.

-Two degrees higher than 13

Gilbert and Sullivan wrote

Music for voices. Nine instruments. DOWN

Same as 1 across. -The composer of nine

symphonies -Spanish rhythm.
-Time.

-18th century German poser.
-Leader of the orchestra plays

this.

-A group of pieces played together.

-Woodwind instrument low register.

Nearly all are

Together with "rounds and catches."

-German

composer of symphonies.
-French for the note "C."

21—French 10 22—Hautboy.

Fancy Something a little easier? Let's take a look at Charles II

1. King Charles II was the son of which ill-fated monarch?

Henry VII

Charles I

William I

Richard I

2. Who was Charles II's mother?

Elizabeth of Bohemia

Henrietta Maria

Queen Mary

Anne of Denmark

3. Through his four grandparents Charles II was part Scottish, French, Italian and what other nationality? Spanish

Swedish

German

Danish 4. In what year did Charles II last see his father alive? 1643 1645 1647 1649

5. What famous battle did Charles II flee from in 1651 in his attempts to regain the Crown?

Warwick

Windsor

Woburn

Worcester

6. How long was Charles II on the run in England in 1651?

Ten weeks

One month

Six weeks

Two months

7. What was the original name of the ship which carried Charles II back to England at his restoration? It was renamed The Royal Charles but what had it been called before?

Naseby

Edge Hill

Marston

Newbury

8. No quiz about Charles II would be complete without some questions about his many mistresses. All of the choices for the next few questions are names of various mistresses. All you have to do is say which is which. What was the name of the mother of the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth?

Nell Gwynn

Louise de Keroualle

Barbara Villiers

Lucy Walter

9. The next mistress once allegedly declared that she did not care if the house burned down so long as the meal was cooked by the time that Charles arrived. Who was she?

Nell Gwynn

Hortense Mazarin

Moll Davis

Barbara Villiers

10. Which mistress was the orange-seller and the mother of the Duke of St Albans?

Lucy Walter

Moll Davis

Nell Gwynn

Louise de Keroualle

11. Which of his mistresses did Charles refer to affectionately as 'Fubbs'?

Hortense Mazarin

Moll Davis

Barbara Villiers

Louise de Keroualle

12. One woman not mentioned as yet was Charles II's wife. What was her name?

Mary Anne Henrietta Catherine

13. Charles II was responsible for the foundation of the Royal Observatory in 1675. Where was this built?

Hampton

Hampstead

Windsor

Greenwich

14. Charles II was a keen sportsman and often raced horses at what famous course?

Aintree

Cheltenham

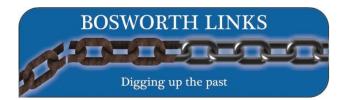
Carlisle

Newmarket

15. Charles II converted to a new religion on his deathbed. What new faith did he embrace?

Answer:

(One word - A new faith for him, but a long existing one in Europe.)



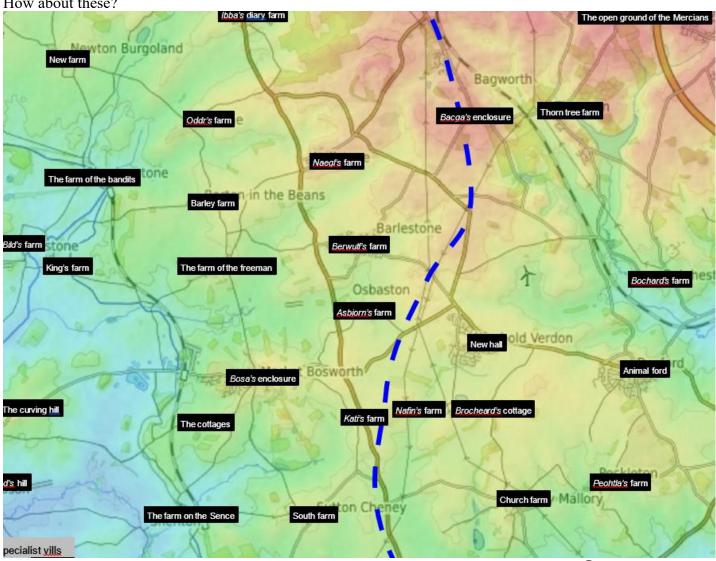
We had a meeting on the 7th June at Cadeby Parish Hall to launch the Cadeby Big Dig. Whilst the hall was not bursting at the seams the enthusiasm was huge. All present wanted to find out about Cadeby and how their settlement had developed and fared over the years.

Mathew did an excellent job in explaining the questions we wanted to answer and why. He also explained how our work fits into a bigger picture, nationally and internationally. Gemma did a great job in pulling everything together and arranging the meeting. We are fortunate to have Mathew and Gemma on the team, together with Marion and Judy.

Mathew gave an overview of the surrounding landscape, and I thought this section was particularly interesting. Mathew has shared his slides with me, and I thought you would like to see them. I was tempted to turn it into a quiz! First names we all know.

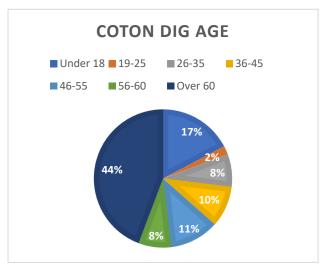


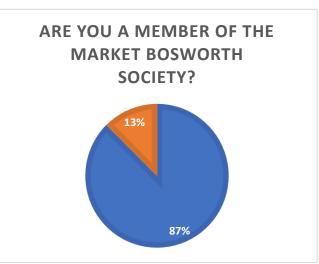
How about these?



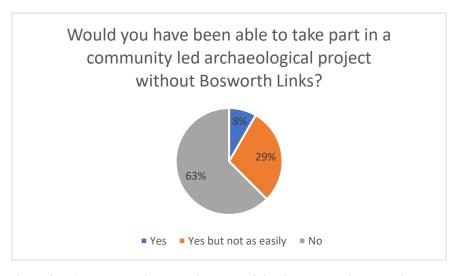
If there is anyone from Shackerstone reading this, they may wish to offer an explanation! The slides didn't translate well to Word so apologies for the misalignments, but I think you get the picture. I am really looking forward to digging at Cadeby. It intrigues me that so much Viking material has been found just 1 mile away from Market Bosworth where the predominance of finds was Roman, Saxon and Saxon Norman. Make sure that September the 9th and 10th are in your diaries, and I will let you know when we have the Master Class of Find Identification (not that you will need a refresher).

When Peter and I set up Bosworth Links we wanted it to be a community led project with everyone and anyone of all ages able to take part. Some recent feedback has shown that this is actually the case.





What is more pleasing is that Bosworth Links is giving people the chance to take part in archaeology and to discover more about their own settlement. Word is reaching beyond the Society.



Whilst a small sample it is heartening to know that volunteers are taking part and enjoying the experience with little or no previous experience.

There is room for everyone so if you or someone you know would like to take part do get in touch. You can ask me (info@marketbosworthsociety.com 07930149408 or Gemma gemma@marketbosworthsociety.com). I have said before, that as long as you are fit enough to sit down you can take part. We have roles for everyone so

don't be shy, come along and try! Cadeby in September, not long now!

Contact Details Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email on info@marketbosworthsociety.com or if you would like to call MBS then 07930149408. Correspondence can be sent to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0JU. If you have any items you would like to preserve for future generations, please contact MBS, or any Committee member. You will find a lot of information on the website and there are some very interesting videos which have been shared by members to entertain one and all, they can all be viewed here: http://marketbosworthsociety.com/video-page/

Membership applications may be completed on-line from the comfort of your own armchair!

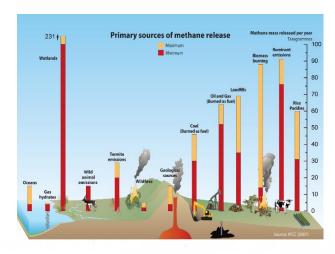
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Nigel Palmer

Chairman

Answers to Climate quiz

- 1) 21% give or take (down from 35% during the Jurassic era)
- 2) 78% Most of the air we breathe is Nitrogen.
- 3) 0.04% (actually it is 0.03.52% but is usually rounded to 0.04%)
- 4) 0.02% (usually expressed in parts per million) is considered the bare minimum by most experts.
- 5) 0.00017% Methane is a trace gas.
- 6) Methane (CH4) has 25 times more warming capacity than CO2 which for warming comparisons means that 0.00017% equates to 0.00425% when compared to CO2. For the first 20 years in the atmosphere, it begins to break down after this time to Carbon and Hydrogen.
- 7) The remainder is comprised of the 11 elemental gasses (often as compounds such as methane, nitrous oxide, ethane, hydrogen chloride) and water vapour.
- 8) See below.



This graph was constructed in 2007 but is still accurate. As can be seen oil and gas accounts for about 28% of that produced by wetlands. The question is, what do we do? Will electrification of cars, lorries and buses solve the problem? Should we be increasing the number of wetlands? I don't know but I hope that someone does.

SOLUTION OF MUSICAL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1—Bar
- 2—Brass
- 4—Cane 6—Harp
- 8—Manuscript
- 10—Alto
- 11—Plan
- 12—Flute
- 13—Me
- 14—Note
- 15—Bach
- 17—Tuba
- 19—Soh
- 23—Iolanthe
- 24—Vocal
- 25-Nonet

DOWN

- 2—Bar
- 3—Beethoven
- 4—Castanets
- 5—Tempo
- 6—Handel
- 7—Violin
- 9-Suite
- 15—Bassoon
- 16—Musical
- 18—Glee
- 20—Haydn
- 21—Ut
- 22—Oboe

Answers to the Charles II Quiz

1. King Charles II was the son of which ill-fated monarch?

Answer: Charles I

In case there is anyone who does not know Charles I was the only English Monarch to be executed by his own people. The Crown his son inherited was a lost one.

2. Who was Charles II's mother?

Answer: Henrietta Maria

Daughter of Henri IV, King of France, Henrietta Maria was married to Charles I and the mother of his many

3. Through his four grandparents Charles II was part Scottish, French, Italian and what other nationality?

Answer: Danish

From Anne of Denmark he inherited his Danish heritage and we assume his great height. Both of his parents were small in stature and it appears to be a throwback to his Danish blood that he towered over them in height. From James I - Scottish blood. From Henri IV - French blood. From Marie de Medici - Italian blood.

4. In what year did Charles II last see his father alive?

Answer: 1645

Although it was several years before Charles I was executed the war tore apart the family and Charles II was separated from his father by that was in March 1645, he was not yet 15 years old.

5. What famous battle did Charles II flee from in 1651 in his attempts to regain the Crown?

Answer: Worcester

It was the battle of Worcester and the beginning of Charles II's famous escape from England.

6. How long was Charles II on the run in England in 1651?

Answer: Six weeks

From 3 September until 15 October Charles II was a fugitive in England and travelled in disguise and at great risk to both him and all who helped him. His escape passed into legend and after his restoration he was often found to be retelling the tale of his adventure. Among other things, he heard his death announced in Devon and crowds cheering the announcement.

7. What was the original name of the ship which carried Charles II back to England at his restoration? It was renamed The Royal Charles but what had it been called before?

Answer: Naseby

The original name for the ship had been the Naseby. Funnily enough this had not really been seen to be suitable for the return of King Charles II, having been named for one of the battles which the Royalists had lost.

8. No quiz about Charles II would be complete without some questions about his many mistresses. All of the choices for the next few questions are names of various mistresses. All you have to do is say which is which. What was the name of the mother of the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth?

Answer: Lucy Walter

Lucy Walter was the mother of the second of Charles's numerous children. She did not live to see Charles restored to his throne and as such she did not see her son exiled from England and later executed for treason.

9. The next mistress once allegedly declared that she did not care if the house burned down so long as the meal was cooked by the time that Charles arrived. Who was she?

Answer: Barbara Villiers

Barbara Villiers, also known as Barbara Palmer, Countess Castlemaine and Duchess of Cleveland was the hot-tempered lady. Her tempers were legendary and she at the height of her success she could wrap Charles II around her little finger.

10. Which mistress was the orange-seller and the mother of the Duke of St Albans?

Answer: Nell Gwynn

Arguably the most famous of Charles II's mistresses, Nell Gwynn rose from orange-seller to actress and from there to favourite mistress of the king. Her life was a classic 'rags to riches' story!

11. Which of his mistresses did Charles refer to affectionately as 'Fubbs'?

Answer: Louise de Keroualle

Louise was the one who was nicknamed Fubbs which stems from the old English word meaning chubby. Personally I would have thought she would have been rather insulted but there are no records to say that she minded this term.

12. One woman not mentioned as yet was Charles II's wife. What was her name?

Answer: Catherine

Catherine of Braganza was the unfortunate queen of Charles II, even more unfortunate she loved him despite his philandering ways.

13. Charles II was responsible for the foundation of the Royal Observatory in 1675. Where was this built?

Answer: Greenwich

Designed by Wren and built at Greenwich the Royal Observatory was one of many of the places devoted to science founded and patronised by Charles II.

14. Charles II was a keen sportsman and often raced horses at what famous course?

Answer: Newmarket

Charles II not only visited Newmarket races he also rode in them himself. The Rowley Mile (which remains to this day) was named after the most famous stallion of the day.

15. Charles II converted to a new religion on his deathbed. What new faith did he embrace?

Answer: Catholic

Charles lived his life as a Protestant but converted only on his deathbed as he knew his people would not accept a Catholic monarch.

Source: Author Louisa75

This quiz was reviewed by FunTrivia editor bloomsby before going online.

Any errors found in FunTrivia content are routinely corrected through our feedback system.