

In 1999, a gang of thieves was forced to do community service along a road in Rotherham. The next spring the daffodils coming into bloom spelt out the words 'shag' and 'bollocks'.

At the time that dinosaurs went extinct, days were half an hour shorter than they are now.

Within 24 hours of the end of WWII, Russia had run out of vodka.

Gourmand syndrome is a rare brain condition that occurs after damage to the frontal lobe. Sufferers develop a new passion for gourmet food.

"You can tell a dog to do something. You can put to a cat a reasonable proposition."
MICHAEL STEVENS

The World Stone Skimming Championships have a category for contestants aged 60 years or more called 'Old Tosser'.

Word of the day: PIRRIE (Scots, 18th cen.) - a dog who is always following his master around

RATIONAL IGNORANCE is choosing to remain ignorant when the time you would spend gaining the knowledge is more than the time you would save by knowing it.

Nine in ten people report "phantom phone syndrome" - feeling your smartphone vibrate in your pocket when it isn't.

The grasshopper mouse has evolved to turn scorpion venom into a painkiller and has started preying on scorpions.

The brains of Apple devotees respond to their products in the same way the brains of people of faith respond to religious imagery.

In the 17th century, three impostors consecutively took the throne of Russia pretending to be the son of Ivan the Terrible. They are now known as False Dmitry I, II and III. There's also a False Dmitry IV but he may not have actually existed, making him a False False Dmitry.

The last great auk (a kind of flightless bird) to live in the UK was killed in 1840 on suspicion of being a witch.

When filming Titanic, only one half of the ship was built, and the appearance of an entire liner was achieved through left-right reversing the shots. Because of that, an unusually large number of extras seem to be left-handed.

The peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro all speak a more-or-less common language but no one can agree what to call it.

According to a 2016 study, dogs judge people who refuse to help their owners.

Word of the day: AMPING (early 20th century Scots) - lying awake, anxious, restless and completely unable to sleep

‘Vexations’ (1893) is a piano piece by the composer Erik Satie that is supposed to be played 840 times. The first performance, conducted by John Cage in 1963, went for more than 18 hours. At the end, one audience member shouted ‘Encore!’