

The Flying Pussy



A word or two for the young

THE Flying Pussy has been affectionately criticised for its frequent use of 'long' words.

But the truth must be told - if your poor old FP can use a dictionary, anybody can!

Most people will agree that our linguistic heritage shines with many gems. It is blessed by the legacies of at least six temperate-zone languages.

The great sub-continent bequeathed many additional etymological treasures, as did other cultures that England knew during the centuries of empire.

And yet we are always expected to 'dumb down' this great heritage... Surely, the youngsters among us should be enmeshed, from an early age, in a huge variety of words; our language - written or spoken - is the medium through which we all gain academic learning and an understanding of the world.

Let us bestow vast numbers of words upon our children, even in the cradle; steep them in the sounds of English; help them to take joy in their education, and, later in life, to relish freedom and flexibility in their own minds.

Progress enlightens the present by reference to the past

On the single evening when it was open to the public, the Flying Pussy was privileged to walk around the recently discovered Iron Age settlement at Maundown.

The fact that so many local residents also visited the site speaks well of the enquiring minds of those who live within the 10 Parishes.

The Iron Age people themselves were no slouches when it came to intelligence. They chose a fine setting in which to live.

Our local archaeological marvel brings to mind the extraordinary story of the prehistoric

human remains that were found at Wookey Hole.

There is evidence that Homo sapiens first occupied the Mendip caves some 13,000 years ago, at the retreat of the last Ice Age.

Amazingly, DNA taken from those ancient bones matched the profile of a living Somerset man - proving him to be a direct descendant of the cave dweller from pre-history.

The possibility exists that a modern resident of the 10 Parishes might provide a match for the DNA of a Maundown Person.

Have human remains emerged from the dig, and may an investigation now begin?

A lesson from the past

In this age dominated by the Politically Correct, each generation is sowing the seeds of decay in the next.

We are physiologically, and psychologically, much the same as the people of, say, the 13th century; our brains are no bigger; our fundamental intelligence is no greater.

However, in those medieval times, lawlessness prevailed to the point of pandemic brutality. The people lived under a system of almost non-existent law enforcement.

Individuals were fortunate if, perchance, they merited a local potentate's casually brutal protection.

In that century, the violent elements of the population had little expectation that a severe consequence would be meted out as punishment for their vile behaviour.

Foreknowledge of retribution tends to inhibit the potential wrongdoer. An absence of the threat of punishment encourages those who are easily led to participate in ghastly crimes.

The Flying Pussy believes that there will, in due time, be a terrible reaction against today's New Fascists who believe that retribution and firm discipline can be successfully replaced by a 'kindly' attitude, and by officious gentleness.

Bishopsgate

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Tel: 01984 623594 Fax: 01984 624542

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Tel: 01984 632212 Fax: 01984 632226

CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

**St Richard's House, 34 Church Street,
Wiveliscombe, Taunton TA4 2LT**

Tel: 01984 623594 Fax: 01984 624542

Mondays to Saturdays: 9 am - 10 am

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