

GRUMPY OLD MEN 2024

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MAY 2024

The Grumpy Old Men gathered for Friday lunch at the Connect Café in Netherfield to discuss items that we have noticed in the media. From newspaper cuttings we noted and discussed the following:

- The government's proposals to require banks to pass on private information to the Department of Work and pensions
- Every month private hospitals send over five hundred of their patience to the NHS because of emergencies with which they cannot deal
- In the last four years nearly 800 NHS patients who were transferred to be treated in private hospitals have sued for clinical negligence and won
- More than 150,000 Britons with type one diabetes will be given an artificial pancreas
- The Ministry of Defence is citing escalating costs to justify scrapping hospitality at meetings - does not that just take the biscuit!
- Report of a six-car pileup after a smart motorway systems failure
- Criminals will be released up to 70 days early in a scheme to free up bursting prisons
- A thief who stole £500 worth of steak and bottles of Prosecco from Marks and Spencer's was prosecuted privately and gaoled. CCTV footage captured the offence, but police declined to investigate. The thief had 105 previous convictions.
- Astra Zeneca are to withdraw its COVID-19 vaccine after fifty million doses were given in the UK.
- Eating too many ultra processed foods can lead to an early death.
- French air traffic controllers are being given the right to work 3 hours late and leave 3 hours early during quiet periods.

AUGUST 2024

We met at our new venue of the Saint George's Centre in Netherfield for Friday lunch, a discussion, and to put the world to rights.

The candidate to add to the Whine List: Imane Khelif who won the Olympic women's boxing gold medal a year after being disqualified from the boxing World Championships for reportedly failing a gender eligibility test. The consensus of the GOM was that someone with male characteristics was not acting in a sportsmanlike fashion to contest against females.

From newspaper cuttings we discussed the following:

- Donald Trump's presidency was marked by a staggering surge in falsehoods with the Washington Post fact checker team recording 30,573 misleading claims over his term.
- Mr Nigel Farage has been revealed as the biggest earning Member of Parliament including his fees for his TV show said to be paying £98,000 a month.
- A senior police officer who is facing disciplinary action over Scotland Yard's shambolic investigation from the VIP child abuse has been awarded a £10,000 pay rise.
- Over 74,000 prosecutions by train companies for evading rail fares under the "fast track single justice procedure" have been declared void by the Chief Magistrate.
- Winking at a female employee can be classed as sexual harassment an employment tribunal has ruled.
- Boys have pulled further ahead of girls at the top A* level grades this year. The gap between state and private schools has grown too.
- Campaigners have published an update around the introduction of assessments for elderly drivers as experts look at introducing fundamental rule changes.