

September 25<sup>th</sup>

### Memory Verse

The gospel of Christ  
is the power of God  
unto salvation  
to everyone that believeth. Romans 1:16

### The story of a cup of tea<sup>1</sup> – and some smuggler's maths!

Did you learn how to make a good cup of tea back in June?<sup>2</sup> If not take a look at the lesson today and make yourself a “cuppa” to enjoy with this part of today's lesson!

Do you remember earlier this month when we learned about the Great Fire of London, we mentioned evidence we have about it from the diary of Samuel Pepys?<sup>3</sup> We have dipped into the diary of Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) before.<sup>4</sup> Today we find him sampling a new beverage.



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1660, Pepys wrote in his diary:

To the office, where Sir W. Batten, Colonel Slingsby, and I sat awhile, and Sir R. Ford coming to us about some business, we talked together of the interest of this kingdom to have a peace with Spain and a war with France and Holland; where Sir R. Ford talked like a man of great reason and experience. And afterwards I did send for a cup of tee (a China drink) of which I had never drunk before, and went away.

When “tee” was first introduced in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it cost from £5 to £10 a pound. The Dutch East India Company first brought tea into Europe in 1610, and it is said to have been first imported into England from Holland about 1650. It was not long before “a duty of 8d. per gallon was imposed upon the infusion of tea, as well as on chocolate and sherbet.”<sup>5</sup> By the end of the next century it had become a national beverage and great quantities were smuggled into the country to avoid the payment of the import duty. In 1776 the following account appeared in a newspaper:

A few days since, Mr Rowley made a seizure of 2,000 cwt. and upwards of fine teas in Herstmonceux Castle, an ancient uninhabited seat belonging to the family of the Nailors, near the sea coast in the country of Sussex. What is remarkable, a man who takes care of the gardens belonging to the castle, and has lived in the the gardens as a servant for upwards of seventy years, and is more than ninety years of age, has by laying up good for the smugglers in the castle for some years past, amassed together between £3,000 and £4,000, and was never before detected.



1 Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 3 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

2 See the lesson for June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

3 See the lesson for 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

4 See lessons for 4<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> May (yet to come). We will also read more of his diary in the lesson for 28<sup>th</sup> December.

5 <https://www.pepysdiary.com/encyclopedia/360/>

We learned about smugglers in February<sup>6</sup> but this must be the story of the oldest smuggler on record! Cwt stands for hundredweight. There were eight stones in a hundredweight. There were 14 lbs (pounds) in one stone. A pound is about 450 grams in modern weight. Can you work out roughly how many kilos the old man had hidden away in the uninhabited castle? A pound (£) in 1776 was worth the equivalent of £160 in modern money. How much had the old man stashed away in modern terms?

How valuable is tea? Find out the cost of a pound (450g) of loose tea today. You might be able to find out the cost of different types of tea. What about Russian Caravan or Lapsang Souchong teas? A pound (£) in 1610 was worth about £135 in modern money. How does the price of tea when it was first imported into England compare with today's prices in real terms?

### Queen Elizabeth Roses

Herstmonceux Castle is still standing today. Dating from 1441 it is, unlike most ancient castles, built of brick. Today the castle belongs to Queen's University, Ontario (Canada) and is used for a variety of historical re-enactments and other events. It is open to the public and is famous for its beautiful grounds and gardens. I expect the gardeners are a little younger these days! It boasts a beautiful rose garden featuring an unusual sundial which you can see in the picture.<sup>7</sup> Can you spot the peahen? I do not know if there are any of the famous Queen Elizabeth roses in the garden but if there are it is because of the work done by rose breeder Walter Lammerts (1904-1996) who was born on **25<sup>th</sup> September**.



American creation scientist, Dr Walter Lammerts, bred the beautiful rose, Queen Elizabeth,<sup>8</sup> which was introduced in 1954 to mark the coronation of the late Queen in 1953. It was a very successful rose all over the world and is still popular with gardeners. “No wonder,” says one enthusiast, “with its regal blooms held upright as if it were the Queen wearing her crown, the whole Grandiflora bush looks royal.”<sup>9</sup>

Grandiflora roses are roses that have large blooms clustered on long stems, making them good for cut flowers. Dr Lammert's Queen Elizabeth was the first ever rose of the Grandiflora type and he produced 46 new rose breeds altogether.

As you might expect a knowledge of genetics is essential to rose breeding and this was Dr Lammert's field of expertise. Brought up in an agricultural family, he became a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles from 1940 to 1945, where he worked on the establishment of a berry breeding program. Over the years he became an expert in rose breeding. In 1963 he helped found the Creation Research Society. The American Scientific Affiliation, a Christian organisation for those working in the sciences, was starting to support theistic evolution (the idea that God used evolution to make the world over millions of years) and he and a number of other American

<sup>6</sup> See the lesson for 10<sup>th</sup> February.

<sup>7</sup> Permission for image requested by email to bc.conf@queensu.ca 13/03/23.

<sup>8</sup> Image: By Arashiyama - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26126859>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.all-my-favourite-flower-names.com/queen-elizabeth-rose.html#google\\_vignette](https://www.all-my-favourite-flower-names.com/queen-elizabeth-rose.html#google_vignette)

scientists could see that a new organisation was needed. The Creation Research Society was founded for those scientists who believed what the Bible clearly says in the opening chapters of Genesis: that God created the world in six normal consecutive days. The society still operates today and has hundreds of member scientists worldwide. Its objective is to encourage the research and publication of creation topics.

It is interesting that although there are so many different varieties of roses, they are all roses. No matter how hard they work, rose breeders cannot breed a rose into some other kind of plant. Roses have only ever bred roses. New genetic information would be required for this and there is no means of generating the new genetic information required.

### Something to do

September is not the best month for picking roses as they are mainly summer flowering plants. However, some florabunda type roses are still in flower and if you can find some you could press the petals. Whole rose flower heads are too bulky to press without a flower press but single petals can be pressed using the method below and then mounted on card either individually or to recreate a rose flower shape. Press a few leaves as well to add to your finished artwork.



Make sure the petals are dry. Then lay them on a sheet of blotting paper. Make sure the petals do not touch each other. Lay another sheet of blotting paper over the top. Do this gently so as not to disturb the position of the petals. Find some large heavy books and a place where your improvised flower press can be undisturbed for some weeks. Open a book and carefully put the blotting paper and petals inside. Close the book. Now lay three or four heavy volumes on top. Leave for three or four weeks before removing the pile of books and carefully opening the blotting paper sandwich.

When your petals are “done” you can remove them carefully from the paper. Before you do this it is best to have ready the card where you want to arrange and mount them. You can use the petals to decorate greetings cards, book marks or small gift tags. Dried petals can be quite fragile and you may need tweezers to help you ease them off the blotting paper. If they are not yet fully dry they can stick to the blotting paper. Double sided adhesive tape or dots are very useful in laying out pressed flowers but whatever you use to attach the petals to the card, bear in mind that you will not be able to move them once they come into contact with the adhesive. I find the best method is to lay out the design using adhesive dots or small pieces of double-sided adhesive tape and then cover the finished design with transparent adhesive film such as librafilm. This preserves your work, although if exposed to the light the colours do fade over time.



Alternatively you could experiment with making some paper roses.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> A very simple method can be found here: <https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Make-Real-Looking-Paper-Roses/>