

Hi everybody, Andy here. Just before we started this week's show, wanted to introduce our very special guest who was live at the Soho Theatre with us a couple of weeks ago when we recorded this. He is none other than the mighty Richard Osman. You might know him from Pointless, you might know him from Richard Osman's House of Games, his appearances on QI, his appearances on every other brilliant British comedy panel show ever made, and he is also the author of a series of books called The Thursday Murder Club. And if you have read a book in the last few years, there is a pretty good chance that it was one of The Thursday Murder Club novels because they are absolutely titanic. They have broken so many records they have sold millions of copies. The first three in the series are called The Thursday Murder Club, The Man Who Died Twice and The Bullet That Missed. They're about a gang of retired sleuths who live in a retirement village in Kent. They like going through case notes of old murders and then they find crimes start happening a little closer to home. They're honestly such good books. They managed to pull off the trick of being simultaneously gripping and thrilling and they are page turners. You have to keep reading, you have to find out what comes next and also being heartwarming and joyful and very human. The characters are beautifully drawn. There is a reason they have sold so many millions of copies around the world and that's because they're really good. We are all huge fans of them and the next in the series is called The Last Devil to Die. Very exciting title and it is out soon. It's out on the 14th of September. It is available to pre-order now from wherever you get your books. It is a safe bet that anywhere that sells books will be selling The Last Devil to Die and they will have lots of copies. So that's it. We just wanted to say we're super excited to have Richard on. We've been trying to get him for years and finally he's free so we really hope you enjoy this show. We had a blast recording it. We hope you like it too. On with the podcast. Hello and welcome to another episode of No Such Thing as a Fish, a weekly podcast. This week, coming to you live from the Soho Theater.

My name is Dan Shriver. I am sitting here with James Harkin, Andrew Hunter Murray and Richard Osman and once again we have gathered round the microphones with our four favorite facts from the last seven days and in no particular order here we go. Starting with fact number one and that is Richard. Tumbridge Wells does not have a Waitrose. For anyone who's not from England, I should explain, Waitrose is a very high-end supermarket and Tumbridge Wells is the sort of town you would be absolutely fucking insane to think didn't have one. And when you write a novel there's a wonderful group of people called copy editors and they're the greatest people in the whole world and copy editors pick up on every single little thing in a book. I wrote in one of my books that Joyce, who's the head of the Thursday Murder Club or one of them, she gets a drink from a trolley on a train from Polgate to Victoria and the copy editor says they stopped trolley service on that route in 2008. So just to give you an idea of how good they can be, they pick up on every single thing ever. The one thing they didn't pick up on I sent someone to Waitrose and Tumbridge Wells and nobody even bothered to check

because why would you? And now people at Tumbridge Wells are furious with me. That's incredible. I reckon it's like a dirty secret of the people in Tumbridge Wells that they don't have a Waitrose right? Well no because Richard's told them they do so it's kind of. But I think Richard picked a really sore subject for them so I started looking into this. There has been a sort of decade long campaign in Tumbridge Wells to get a Waitrose and for whatever corporate reasons maybe they're just doing it for the fun. Waitrose keeps saying I'm so sorry we just can't find a space. We just can't find a site. Like 2016 this story ran shoppers in Tumbridge Wells are fuming after a new store to open in the town was revealed to be a Wilco. Imagine they put up the W and everyone's like whoa. Because Tumbridge just a few miles away they've got a Waitrose. They've only got 8,000 people. Tumbridge Wells as we all know has 56,000 people. So weirdly my wife's family lived down in Heathfield. That is weird and I get that why is he never mentioned that before. Nine years. Nine years I've been sitting on that. I thought Richard's brought the Waitrose Tumbridge Wells fact and so I get off at Polegate all the time. No way. And I know there's no trolley service. So hold on. Right. Two questions. Yeah. Are you my fact checker? B. Why didn't you pick up on the Tumbridge Wells thing when you were my fact checker? I think if Dan was your fact checker you would know about it by now. Yeah. This book is much longer than when I sent it in. Awesome. My three sons were born in Tumbridge Wells so I'm really rooted there as a kind of yeah my my history now is. Did you pop down to the Wilco to buy a celebratory? I did. Well we did a gig in Tumbridge Wells and I got to meet the daughter of a barbershop guy. He's passed away. He ran a salon there and he was the seventh son of a seventh son which means he's a wizard and he had the Guinness world record for shaving most faces in the shortest space of time. He did like a hundred faces in something like ten minutes. They just came to remember he was a military guy and he just went and he kept coming in blood. I was a very member. And weirdly the next day the local morgue broke the record. Yeah. I think another name for a barbershop guy is Barber. I was confused when that's a barbershop guy. I was thinking oh. And both my parents are hairdressers. I don't know why that came out like that. I was thinking is he the baritone? Yeah. I did. In the most recent book that I bought out I sort of did an apology of sorts. Joyce who writes a diary through the books she goes to Tumbridge Wells and she said I had read somewhere there was a waitrose but there isn't so whoever wrote that had got it wrong. Oh wow. And that's my apology to the people of Tumbridge Wells. I have a little quiz for you Richard. Okay. How many times do you mention waitrose in the Thursday murder club? Just in the first book. Yeah in the first book. I mean is it over a hundred or a hundred. I'm going to say I mention waitrose. The word waitrose. Yeah. Eight times. Five times. Okay. Okay. Sainsbury's. Okay. Three times. Twice. Okay. Starbucks. Starbucks. I think they definitely go to a Starbucks in an airport at one point. Oh and they go to it. There's a lot of Starbucks. I'm going to say four times. Three. Are we going to go through all the words? Yes. I've only got Tesco, Asda, Lidl, Acosta

and Aldi to go through. I mean I do need people to buy these books. There's murders as well. It's not all just shops. I'm just saying for the next book if you need the fact checker I kind of know all the shops you mentioned. That's very kind. My daughter who speaks Chinese was reading the Chinese version of the book and literally the footnotes are longer than the actual book itself. She said even on the first three pages they'd had a footnote explaining what Oliver Bonus was. Oh wow. Who Mark Duggan was and what Lilt is. I can speak Chinese. So if you need somebody to speak Chinese to fact check that work I am also available. I mean we're going to have to take your word for that. I definitely did speak Chinese just then. Imagine if you didn't. Wow. What a way to get cancelled. I feel like I need to help the non-English listener about these supermarkets in the UK. So a little bit of information. I read there was some research done by the Sex Education Show which was a channel for classic and they looked at people who went to different supermarkets and they found that people who shop at Mark's and Spencer's are big fans of sex parties. They do such big cakes don't they? Is that Colin Caterpillar in your pocket or he just thinks he's seeing me? I should say it's double the national average which particularly isn't that high in the first place. People who like sex parties. People who go to Iceland are more likely to be involved in cosplay and people who go to Waitrose are more likely to use nipple clumps. So just a little bit of context for the... And people who go to Lidl like it up the middle aisle. You never know what you're going to find in there do you? You never know what you're going to find. Hey baby I've come back with a kayak. So mistakes in books. There are some which are you know you get your typos you get your small factual ones I think my favorite one that I found out was there was the Bridget Jones book the return of Bridget Jones after a long long gap for the third book was called Mad About the Boy and there was a bit of a typo in that book because readers when they bought it suddenly started reporting back to the shops that about a quarter to halfway through the book there were suddenly 40 whole pages of David Jason from Only Fools and Horses order biography in there. Just 40 pages of him talking about his Uncle Albert and... And was that Helen Fielding just absolutely phoning it in and thinking... No let's get it against that. What if Bridget just reads someone else's book for 40 pages? What a great idea. Let's just call it Mad About the Delboy. No one will notice. Well it's just a printing cock up. Yeah so they had to return in pulp and all that sort of stuff. There was a thing this might this is maybe an author's nightmare something that happened to Jonathan Franzen the big American. He was recording a reading for Newsnight of his book Freedom which was absolutely massive as a mega book and he stopped halfway through the reading and he said I'm sorry I'm realizing to my horror here that there's a mistake here that was corrected early and they printed the wrong version of the book they

printed an early file of book and it was obviously you know full of all the bits he didn't want to be read and you know just sounds like...

It was a British version and this was like called The Book of the Century.

He'd been working ten years on it. It was a massive book and they published like something like 80,000 copies.

Wasn't this previous book called The Corrections?

Yeah.

Oh that's a nightmare. You wake up in a cold sweat when you've handed a book in thinking just little things like about could he've got there on Tuesday if he was there on Friday you just think you've missed something.

Because by the time it gets printed maybe ten people have read it maybe twelve something like that so it's not many so if we all miss the same thing yeah that's it you could get this book when everyone just goes why did you not notice that the yeah I think oh my god it literally yeah I've got a book coming out really soon so you're terrified.

I remember when our first book was just going to the printers you literally rang our producer.

I had a lucid dream the night before the book went to print.

Bullshit. You've never had a lucid thought in your life.

So I honestly I was really sweating we did a book where it was called The Book of the Year and in it we made references to all all over the book so you would say see this article and you would go to it and the introduction was full of these things so I was having a dream and this was I was down in Tumbidge Wells so I just got the polegate train I mean I was in sorry in Heathfield yeah yeah so my in-laws picked me up from Polegate I'm starving because the trolley service is gone so I'm so off I go to the Heathfield Costa anyway.

So in the dream I'm and this is true I'm showing Frank Skinner our book and I'm saying look Frank this is how the intro is and all these words and and I read in the book a reference to something that I knew was not in the book and then I kept reading and this is I'm now awake in the book reading the book going that's not in there as well that's not in there as well I wake up and I grab a PDF of the book and it turns out I'm completely right we forgot to change the new article and I managed to get through to Nigel our editor in the morning and he stopped it from going to print it had to be printed within the next two hours and he sent a new PDF in and I managed to change it the last second yeah a lucid dream with Frank Skinner one of the world's great heroes my friend can you imagine what would have happened I don't want to think about us as a nation wow yeah things things could have been really going to shit now yeah I was reading about some errors in rap songs so this is rap songs that could have done with a fact check all right remove some of the more choice words from these but there's a song by common featuring cannabis and they said I'm your worst nightmare squared that's double for those who ain't mathematically aware although if your worst nightmare is two there's a song by Drake he says I could wrap around those others like a cobra snake cobras of venomous they're not constrictors major laser said make

yourself bigger like mushroom Mario Kart he's referring to Super Mario not Mario Cart where they make you go faster and Nelly once wrote I'm a sucker for cornrows and manicure toes and he meant pedicures amazing I hope we have beef with all of them now yeah this is a major laser who ever fuck you are let's say the very first very first thing I ever had published in my life had a typo in it I was like 15 years old and there was a magazine in Brighton called the punter and at one point they said oh we want some of the right just a little small thing about some of the towns outside Brighton and I lived in a place called Haversheath so I said I'll do Haversheath and Burgess Hill I said I do both of them because I think it was seven pound each so I wasn't just going to do one of them so I wrote this thing and it came out so first time my name's ever been in print first thing I ever saw and it said at one point Burgess Hill is like Haversheath with anemia right and my mum read that she went that's pretty good I went yeah yeah it's not bad is it yeah yeah yeah Burgess Hill is like Haversheath with anemia and one of my teachers who lived in Brighton said I read your thing Burgess Hill is like Haversheath with anemia he said that's pretty good that's not bad I go yeah well listen just stuff comes into my head what I'd actually written was Burgess Hill is like Haversheath with a cinema which is factually correct stop the podcast stop the podcast

everyone we'd like to let you know that this week we are sponsored by Squarespace yes Squarespace you know it it's that all-in-one website platform where you can start to build your entire world in one single web page be it a business a band that you're in you're promoting a movie that you've made or you just want to put up a bunch of blogs and photos about your life Squarespace is the place to bring it all together and make it look incredible absolutely they have all sorts of amazing things on Squarespace they have a fluid engine oh you love this fluid engine oh I can't get enough of fluid engines I gotta say it is a website design system that Squarespace uses which just makes it so so easy to use they also have a way of making custom merch I love a bit of merch I know you do as well Dan and they have an online store where you can sell said merch thanks to said fluid engine so if you like what James just said then you can head to Squarespace.com slash fish and you can save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain that's right get making your engine fluid today by going to Squarespace.com forward slash fish and when you do that you'll get 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain okay on with the podcast on with the show it is time for fact number two and that is Andy my fact is that after successful amnesty is on knives and guns in 2016 a Scottish council offered an amnesty on zimmer frames you get happens all the time that they have these amnesties yeah because everyone's got old zimmer frames in their house or all walking sticks everyone what fact check have a look yeah well no you're right but a lot a lot of money is tied up hundreds of thousands of pounds in walking sticks that are given out all zimmer frames and then like you injure yourself they give you on after a little while you get better you don't need that anymore use

it as a clothes toss yeah yeah yeah they reckon there's something like a hundred and sixty thousand pieces of equipment that are needing to come back that haven't come back yeah yeah so they had this amnesty and they got lots handed back in crutches to walking sticks walking stick and amnesty is one of those things to say look if you deliver your knife or gun you will not be prosecuted yeah we will not send you to prison you know if you delivered a zimmer frame like two years later said I'm so sorry we found this in my mother's house and we realized we've tracked you down we realized this is where it's come from you're not going to get a prison yeah they actually a lot of people a lot of people were wrongly banged up oh rightly if you look at it that way I think so yeah no you're right it was yeah yeah amnesty was a kind of sexing up way of putting it but yeah they had a lot of them in the 80s and 90s I was working in the newspaper archives in Hull they said that people using them to hang clothes on like I said and that's why they they all gone missing in the world they said people using them to grow climbing plants

Torbay made a special zimmer frame bin so you could return them anonymously if you were a bit worried about handing them in that you might get in trouble yeah it was really waiting for you to say and in Tombridge they used them for their sex parties well I got one link with Tombridge Wells slightly and that is that the stairlift was invented in Tombridge Wells was it get away yeah like so wow it's the navel of the universe yes so they I mean there have been old ones I think the eighth might have had one but that was just sort of like you had a stairlift oh yes yeah it was pulled up by people because he was so big at the end of his life he couldn't get up the stairs but this is an invalid chair with tramway for use on staircases that was patented in 1931 enrolled Tombridge Wells by a guy called Walter Muffet okay and the only other thing I could find about him is that he was once the oldest St John's ambulance member in the world that's really good that's very cool I wasn't going to get out my stairlift fact right like right at the beginning of this fact because it's incredibly boring my one

do it do it do it do it do it

okay it's so shit I gotta say

oh now because we have a discord for people who are members of clubfish subscribers yeah and they have a big conversation about the most boring fact you've ever said on fish this fact is gonna it's gonna shove the others aside for the podium I swear right the 500,000th stana stairlift ever made was produced in part by Prince Charles who pressed the button to start the procedure oh and he I told you I told you it was bad

then he said I'm someone who is a great admirer of family companies particularly hereditary lift makers

anyway I started telling my wife this fact and she said literally wait think to yourself is this interesting think about it

that could literally be the title of the podcast

have you got anything better than that or

I've got something worse than that I think I was looking when I saw you talking about Zimmer frames I'm always fascinated about you know who Zimmer might have been because when you look inside companies it's interesting and I assumed he was German he's not is American and it's called Justin Zimmer and it was a sort of post-war I think that he set up this company it's one of the biggest companies in the world now this company he set up so I was googling him but unfortunately there's also a defensive linebacker for the Miami Dolphins called Justin Zimmer so I literally gave up because everything was about him so I can tell you that Justin Zimmer the linebacker is now a free agent he is now available because the Miami Dolphins cut him in pre-season so he's 30 but you know still I think he's got something in his legs he's got time he just in the old Zimmer of Warsaw in Vienna he also invented the aluminium splint for broken arms the advantage of that was the old ones were like papier-mache and the new ones just covered part of your arms you could put it in a x-ray machine and you could still x-ray your arm your broken arm without taking the cast off so that was a good thing for him that's very cool I prepared a little quiz game quiz for you oh great let's do it play your Canes right yep that's good what about Richard Osmond's House of Canes yeah there you go all right would have been a lot better and it would have been yeah all right not getting invited back on that show right I'll give you a cane and you have to tell me if it's worth more or less than the previous celebrity owned cane okay cool Oscar Wilde yeah I'm gonna say higher is it higher it's harder it's harder than it looks isn't it Richard this quiz shows higher than zero all right Richard's off the blocks early yeah Oscar Wilde with Inkwell interesting his walking stick a little inkwell built into the top oh that's nice 7700 quid roughly okay so James Craig who was of course the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland okay I mean less obviously I'm gonna go more it's more no sir James Craig's walking stick was sold for ten thousand pounds it was full of cocaine Oscar Wilde's cane was sold for 7000 yes no yeah what year like the 1800s no recently this century I don't think people have that I think they like his his writing yeah I'm not sure the cane is the thing there you can walk like Oscar Wilde would have done he had an inkwell that's that's a historical artifact Michael Collins the space the I don't know the Irish Republican leader sorry it's an Irish themed play your canes right yeah yeah right wow more or less than 10,000 pounds for sir James Craig more I'm gonna say more yeah must be more it is again that's a format problem because we all get we all gave the same answer didn't we it's more it's 52,000 pounds last one whoa yeah a lot Oscar Wilde must be gutted um Labour leader Michael Foote oh not Irish Oscar Wilde always had a cane Stephen Fry the poster he had a cane I'm sorry this is a historically important if you want to get down angry at any point just tell him that an item of very recondite celebrity memorabilia sold for less than Dan would have paid for it he has steam coming out of his ears me and my friends just equally like we've put in together paid a lot of money for Sir Edmund Hillary's backpack he's the one who got to the top of Everest first but for his second expedition

when he looked for the Yeti and we bought it and no one else bid but straight in there at 50 grand how much you pay for it New Zealand dollars it was 12,000 but in actual money I think that's what six quid that is a translator no I think that's a few thousand it is there was three of us and yeah but no one else bid well we accidentally one of us outbid each other we got two incredibly motivated buyers it's so weird I feel like I was taking your quiz seriously yeah it does feel like no one's that one's interested how much Michael Furt's cane was auctioned for okay lower lower lower yeah lower I'm gonna say lower thank oh but I'm what you want to do oh I'll say hi for a bit of the format well thank you that's really kind Richard yeah it was obviously much less than it was 650 pounds you're interested that's a bargain my foot foot Kane yeah yeah okay big foot they used to call him Edmund Hillary found him there was a cane up for auction recently for half a million dollars okay Kane that was Charlie Chaplin's Charlie Chaplin's cane from modern times sold for four hundred twenty thousand dollars this one went for more it was Yoda has a cane yeah who has a more famous cane no who is a Michael Kane no it was Michael Kane no it wasn't Michael Kane it was it was a very normal cane but had a light on the end with batteries and it lit up oh the lightsaber wasn't a lightsaber it was used by a survivor of the Titanic oh yes this is incredible she used it to signal and it was essentially a cane but I don't know why she thought to take it on the boat because what else is she using it for on to the lifeboat yeah she took it on to the lifeboat she said she signal with it and it was it was the the guide price was five hundred thousand dollars and it went for fifty thousand it went for fifty thousand fifty thousand that's not even as much as Michael Collins's cane well he's been to space so come on that's where he got the idea for United Island yeah he looked down but it was to be shared between eleven of her heirs and they thought they were going to get half a million they got what's that like four four thousand five hundred each they got in the end hey here's the most significant walking stick in history this I think this genuinely has a claim to be the most important one it was wielded by the Archbishop of Milan in 2005 okay so come on thank you for church history what's happening in 2005 Roberto Baggio leaves Milan was it that new pope new pope and he was a he was a very significant Catholic leader the post yeah wow you have gone downhill what it bears do tell me Andrew sorry yet the Archbishop of Milan was a senior guy and he might be like I dread to think what my wife would say of that fact the Archbishop of Milan was very senior he could have he could have been a contender if you know he could have he could have made it to be pope and he appeared in public at the conclave whatever it is walking with a stick and it was seen as a sign by the people by the other cardinals who might have voted for him on block he's saying he's saying no I'm sorry because they always vote for youthful right they voted for Cardinal Ratzinger who was the mid 80s yeah yeah you're right yeah he would have been a secret sign to say that's how it was interpreted yeah and he would have been a very radical pope oh yeah yeah yeah he was he was pro contraception pro no he wasn't he was none of that but he was

he was slightly more progressive maybe than the Benedict 16th ended up being so you know I need to move us on in a second some amnesties quickly yeah quickly so they quite often have these things where you can give in your weapons or whatever and there was one quite recently where there was a rocket launch it was handed in in Cleveland in Guernsey they handed in a Klingon war sword oh wow in Birmingham they handed in a three-foot cannon and in Hertfordshire they handed in a herb cutter and a fondue fork all right we need to move on to our next fact it is time for fact number three and that is my fact my fact this week is that in 2010 the annual Liars Club lie of the year award was marred with controversy when the winning liar was accused of having lied about his lie huge news big in Burlington Wisconsin so this is a club that began in 1929 because of a lie as well the story is is that two journalists basically decided to announce that there was a local lie of the year that happened and they sent it out as a news story and they thought it would disappear but then the country picked up on it and it got spread around the country and then as the next year was approaching they were getting all these messages saying we're so excited for the lie of the year competition from the Liars Club and so they had to then actually invent the Liars Club in order to have the lie of the year so it's been going since 1929 and it's effectively if anyone was reading every year Edinburgh does the funniest jokes of the fringe yeah it's that kind of thing it's that kind of thing people a bit of a joke exactly so the lie was sent in by someone called David Mills and he said his lie was I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met that was the lie that's not a good lie and every single lie that you read of the modern-day Liars Club it's just these one-liners and it was discovered that that wasn't an original line that was someone possibly Stephen Wright the comedian oh yeah and then the two runner-ups were also stolen so people were allegedly just taking funny lines off the internet and saying this is my life exactly yeah so the times have changed so the Liars Club obviously had to deal with this and they just came out and said well we don't care that's fine and so it just went on and they they kept their championship but yeah it made me realize that there's a line club and it's not the good one the good one is the British one have you read about the British one the one in Cumbria yeah yeah so that was so this one in America has been going since the 20s the one in Cumbria has been going through since the 70s and it was held in honour of a former landlord at the Bridge Inn it was revived by his grandson who was a 160 year old former cesspit cleaner from Hungary but it is essentially just the same thing isn't it although I think the Cumbria one they tend to tell a bit more of a long story you get five to seven minutes and you go up and you build this long story so someone who one at one year has said that they took a wheelie bin as a submarine and traveled under the ocean and it's a real whimsical tall tale yeah yeah there was one in 2011 Glenn Boylan one after telling a tale about crossing a whip it with a mink but Paul Burroughs failed to defend his title with the story about a bishop and a magical sausage the one in 1929 was supposedly

won by someone who said that they'd seen a three mile long whale and then the second year they rang up and said to the people so okay live the year last year was this thing what's the live the year this year and they didn't have an answer because they didn't have a competition and so they said that the local police chief had said I never tell a lie and that was their lie yeah right they kind of do a few things like that so there was one year a few years in they had a thousand entries so this was the fourth year in and they had one from Canada and they disqualified it because they didn't want it to be an international contest and the head of the contest said let the foreign countries pay up their war debts if they want to get in the Liars contest that is a huge leap you can imagine like Germany and Britain and Fragaard we might as well pay up them is there a war debt from Canada? not as far as I knew but you know he knows about something Sue Perkins did it one year the British one she's a winner of the Liars Club I was I told you he was a nice guy, Paul Hollywood that's a joke, he is a nice guy, that's a joke no it was Mary Berry but there is a thing about what men and women lie about because I think there are various surveys that say oh women lie more oh men lie more and I'm sure there's almost nothing between it but there seems to be a bit of evidence that women tend to lie more about positive feelings you know like oh no it's nice or whatever that it's like that kind of thing that's a really interesting fact honey you should do that on the show absolutely no it's completely average darling and you know men sort of boast lie more no it's completely average darling anyway there is a thing that if children lie early on in their life then it's supposed to be a sign of intelligence so they did a thing where they gave kids a toy and put it behind them and then they said whatever you do don't look at it and then they left the room and some of the kids looked at it and some of them didn't and some of them lied about it and some of them didn't and they found that when they looked in the future or they didn't look in the future in the future oh yeah

in the future when they look back they found that the ones
who kind of lied about it had a higher IQ
they're absolutely best ones were the ones who didn't look at it
and didn't lie about it
they tended to do better in future life
someone at my primary school said that he wrote
Golden Brown by the Stringless
that's amazing
and he was convincing
because actually if you think of the lyric I was thinking
yeah I can see that
I was absolutely fooled
I found out the truth somewhere around 2017
did you guys hear about Theodore Schaarschmitt
No, who's that?
He's a doctor
and he was writing a report about lying
and a patient he treated
who had a particular condition to do with lying
and this is amazing right?
In the 1990s he had a patient who he nicknamed
because you know when you write up patients
you don't give their name, you give a pseudonym for them
he had a patient who he called Mr Pinocchio
and the reason for that was
if Mr Pinocchio ever tried to lie
if he tried to lie
he would pass out and have convulsions
there was something in his neural chemistry
which meant he couldn't do it
the only problem was
he was a high-ranking European official
constantly involved in negotiations
every time he even
so much as tried to lie
he would start having convulsions
and passing out
and so it was a nightmare
Has he been involved in Brexit?
Yes, on our side
it was a form of epilepsy
he had this tiny tumour
tiny tumour inside his brain
it was operated on successfully

Is it a superhero thing in a way?
You've been amazing Prime Minister right?
You know he's telling the truth
I cannot tell lie
Prime Minister admitted hospital for 50th day running
It is like if everyone knows
that if you ever lie you're going to do this
then they know that what you're saying is the truth
Yes, except that he had the operation
had the tumour removed
Or did he?
Those are the only people who aren't allowed
to enter the Liars Club isn't it?
Politicians
Liars Club
Sorry people with incredibly rare tumours
Them as well
It's a weird thing
Isn't it great, I'm just remembering
an old childhood story
when you're lied to as a kid
and you don't realise it until you're in your 20s
in this case for me
I was at my friend Tom's house
and I went to the toilet
and there was no toilet paper there
and I came out afterwards
and I said to my friends
they've got no toilet paper there
and then one of my friends said
none of them in the family wiped their bums
and I went what do you mean they don't wipe their bums
and they said they're all clean shitters
it just happens
so they don't have toilet paper here
and then my other friend went did you not know that about Tom
and I said no I didn't know that about Tom
and so I believed for about 10 years
More than 10 years
You told us this anecdote at a time
when you still believed it
No, no, no
I remember this
Here's what I mean

10 years in the logic broke down for me
because I thought that can't be possible
and instead of accepting the truth
I went hang on this is incredible
are you telling me that the parents
who are not related because this could be genetic
they both
don't need to wipe their ass
they must have been dating
and then they moved in
and they just noticed the one toilet roll just kept hanging there
and then they produced non-ass wiping children
that's what happened 10 years after
I continued the logic
outside of it and then it was yeah
late 20s it clicked
I was like hang on a second I think
they were lying to me
Dan does your wife
ever give you advice about which facts to say
on the show
She's never heard the show
Stop the podcast
Stop the podcast
Hey everyone this week's episode of
Fish is sponsored by Express VPN
Yes, Express VPN
is the perfect place to go
if you would like a tunnel
to be built metaphorically of course
between your computer
and any websites
that you visit
Wait you didn't tell me this was a metaphorical tunnel James
I've had the people in my garden for the last two weeks
you mean this is easier than that
This is so much easier
than getting people to dig a tunnel
in your garden to the
headquarters of Google or the headquarters
of anywhere else the good thing about Express VPN
is number one it's very
very fast number two
it's easy to use number three

they never log your activity online
unlike some VPNs
and number four you just don't have to
clear up after all those guys digging in your garden
Yeah number four very important
because this is custom fortune everyone
it's also worth saying
through Express VPN you can realign
your country on your laptop
so that it thinks you're in Bermuda
or it thinks you're in Sydney
you can get worldwide access to movies
unavailable in your own country
what we're here to tell you is that you
can get an extra three months
for free on top of one year package
when you sign up to Express VPN
and the way you do that is you go to
expressvpn.com
forward slash fish
so head to expressvpn.com
slash fish
and get an extra three months
for free on a one year
package okay on with the podcast
on with the show
it is time for our final
fact of the show and that is
James okay my fact
this week is that unusual
crisp flavours in history
include prosecco
fish curry
butted garlic scallop
vagina
and Arthur Scargill
almost didn't let me get to the end of that one guys
this is I know Richard
you're a big fan of crisps
I'm just
at some point you must have made a choice about
which order to put those last two crisps in
is it vagina Arthur Scargill
or is it Arthur Scargill vagina

which of those is funnier
I think you made the right choice
oh thank you
who is Arthur Scargill I don't actually know
that's not really the important part of the fact
what's a vagina
Arthur Scargill
was basically
the main guy in the
minus strike in the 80s
and basically
there was a guy who made some human flavour
cannibal crisps
and they came in traffic ward and bank manager
and Arthur Scargill flavour
in the 80s
and he was going back because
there were hedgehog crisps
and hedgehog crisps were really famous in the 80s
and he was kind of going in a
slight sort of animal welfare thing
and saying well you shouldn't really be eating hedgehog crisps
but why not eat
Arthur Scargill crisps instead
do you remember hedgehog crisps Richard
I remember hedgehog crisps I remember Arthur Scargill
very well I remember yeah
hedgehog crisps was like it blew everyone's mind
it was like about 10 or something
and everyone just went oh you're kidding me
you
hedgehog crisps
it's like the funniest thing anyone had ever done
in the history of the world
they invented hedgehog crisps
they were just like beef really
as anyone who's ever eaten hedgehog will know
so I don't think they had real hedgehog
in them any more than Arthur Scargill crisps
had real Arthur Scargill in them
that was the problem actually
because they called them hedgehog crisps
and then trade descriptions said they couldn't use the name
because they didn't have actual hedgehogs in them

and then later they called them hedgehog flavour crisps
because this was actually
in the early days of like proper
crazy flavours of crisps
do we know what Arthur Scargill
what he would have tasted
like what the flavour was
to be honest I think they were just branded
like that I think they just tasted of random beefy
meaty kind of
he would have tasted like the solidarity of the working man
my friend
he would have tasted like
he would have tasted a social
justice Arthur Scargill
did you hear of
Virgin Mary flavoured crisps
so these were released in the last
decade this was 2013
by Pretta Morge
they released and they got a lot of complaints
obviously from Christian and Catholic groups
and what Pretta Morge had intended
was the
non-alcoholic version of a Bloody Mary
Virgin Mary
tomatoes
but they called them Virgin Mary flavour crisps
that's very funny
is that the sort of thing the Pope would have been unhappy about
or would he have been flying
if it had been the Archbishop of Milan
he probably
I wonder if the vagina crisps would have been available
in the UK because I was looking up
what you're allowed to do as a product and release it
and there's so many rules with
particularly companies house
Dan feverishly got 15 tabs open trying to find
anywhere that will ship these to you
I'm on eBay
I was just trying to find out about the trade's description rules
actually
it's a vagina

it's a burp, it's a New Zealand burp
but it's amazing
so
there's been a list that's been revealed
of all the company names
that have been rejected since 2019
and it's over 56,000
names so I don't think vagina crisps
would have made it into
these are a few of the names that were
applied for to say can we be a business in the UK
that were rejected
so you've got
anus ale limited
not allowed, ass cleaning limited
rejected twice
mixed shagger limited
bell and holdings
and little pricks acupuncture
none were allowed
that feels harsh
the vagina crisps are made actually by
a Lithuanian company so you're right to be doubtful
they're called chas
and I looked at the ingredients so to get a vagina
flavour they used salt
onions, garlic, sugar
cream powder, yeast extract
lemon powder
parsley, black pepper, sour cream
and bay leaves
and they also come penis flavoured
and when I say come
and their flavouring comes from smoked
salt, tomato powder, sugar
yeast extract again
maybe some cross contamination there
and spices
and they also sell Bosch flavour crisps
where all the money goes to Ukraine
so yeah, they're kind of cool company
but is that, do you think they've actually worked out
that the average penis and vagina
smells what those ingredients make up

taste rather than smells
usually crisps
Dan you're about to lose your mind
when you first taste a crisps
it's so exciting
I snort my crisps
smell is very integral to taste
because that did happen
that they got a load of experts
in the field
which field was this
and they went to some flavouring
experts and put the two together
and they came up with this
I haven't tasted them so I couldn't possibly say
and they left one packet of vagina crisps
and one packet of penis crisps
in the factory overnight
next morning a million packets
so I found a slightly old clay
but it was from about 10 or 15 years ago
and it was that half the crisps
eaten in the EU
are people eating crisps in Britain
that Britain ate half the crisps in the EU
that's a huge success
because crisps are not as much of a thing
nearly on the continent
like you might have an olive
you might have some sort of civilised micro
they have lays don't they
yeah but who buys the lays
it's British people on holidays
British people abroad
sometimes
is that why they call them lays
because it's kind of funny it sounds a bit like having sex
and they think they're going to get English people
to buy those
that's why I bought those biscuits
in Montenegro called knob lice
anything to declare sir
I have nothing to declare
except this cane

and these knob lice
but in Europe
they eat paprika crisps right
that's their favourite thing
whereas we're the geniuses behind corn maze snacks
it's the truth which we always think of
as crisps
and the 1970s
was such an extraordinary era
it was like the 90s for the internet
but for corn maze snacks
1970
sorry what is it called can you give me an example
oh I'm about to
don't you worry about that
by the end of this little bit you will be in no doubt
as to what a corn maze snack is
carry on professor
1970
they invent what sits
1973
they invent
skips
1974
they invent frazzles
1977 they invent monster munch
all within seven years
the big hitters all within seven years
who are they
you're saying it's like NASA
well do you know what
quavers were invented in 1968
before man walked on the moon
before the Beatles broke up
you could have been eating some quavers
as you heard the news that the Beatles have broken up
that is striking
thank you
they could have had quavers on the moon that would have been amazing
that would have been amazing
I know you love an undiscovered hero
on the show
you know what Leslie Ivy did
1974

something snack related
yeah very much so
invented a new flavour
Leslie Ivy is a machinist
he was a machinist at the smith's
crisp factory
and he is the guy who invented
how to put stripes on frazzles
wow
wow
and he's here tonight
that's a weird suntan you've got
Leslie sort of
the first two ever flavours
you know that
you used to just be ready sorted
and it was a Tato crisp
who came up with flavours for the first time
a guy called Joe Murphy he ran it
and Seamus Burke who is his chief technician
and they thought we found a way
to get flavour onto a crisp
and they experimented with two flavours
they thought we're going to start with just experiment
with just in the lab or just experiment
and those two flavours
the first two flavours ever in the history of crisps
how about that
they've got the stranglehold
on the flavour market because they are the two
Tatoes
they were literally the first two they ever tried
I was reading that they thought of crisps in the old days
as potatoes because they're made of potatoes
so you would
like
we always like to throw something you don't know
into this show
first the pope now this
stop it this is terrified
because
please go on professor
potatoes
look

so crisps are made of potatoes right
they thought
only things that go with potatoes
cheese and onion
do you have a potato dish
and you'd have some cheese and onions on the side of it
or you'd slice potatoes and boil them up with cheese and onions
so those were the natural things
they hadn't freed their minds yet
so I was reading the process
it was called gas chromatography
and that was a very
that was a new procedure after the war
they invented that
basically in the old days to get an apple flavouring
you would have to start with a ton of apples
then you'd end up with two grams of apple flavour
and then gas chromatography meant you could identify the compounds
that made that flavour
and recreate it
another hero from the history of crisps
Laura Scudder
she invented bags of crisps
before her you would get a big barrel of crisps
or potato chips in America
or you'd be tins
or display cases and you'd go in
and they'd kind of shovel them into something
and you would take them out
a bag
there's no getting around it
it was a bag
but what she did is she got her workers
to take home sheets of wax paper
they ironed them in the shape of
what we would now today know as crisps bags
and then they would take them to the factory the next day
and they would put actual crisps
in crisps bags and we never had that
before then
and she was also the first person to put fresh buy dates
on any products
as in these would be fresh for this
you know like has the best before end

in America yeah fresh buy dates
well let's say yes
she's really interesting
because she only got into crisps
because she had a shed
she wanted to rent it out
and that was
the obvious next step
she was selling it
to people to work in
and there was a guy who claimed to be a barber
but he was actually selling bootleg alcohol
and she was very religious and she didn't like this
so she kicked him out and she's like
well what am I going to do with this shed
I might as well make crisps
sorry can I ask a question just a point of order
by barber do you mean barbershop guy
yeah
she couldn't get insurance for her delivery
trucks because she was a woman
and so she had to find a special
insurance company and she once turned down
a nine million dollar offer for her company
because the buyer wouldn't guarantee her employer's
jobs so Arthur Skaggle
would be proud
Quavers is it true
and I'm looking at you Richard when I asked this
is it made of the leftovers from potatoes
which have not made it into crisps
so basically it's the starch that gets
the walkers factory has a log flume
that the potatoes all go down
which washes out some of the starch
they all get their photo taken
oh I want that one look at you
I definitely want that one
it's above the mountain
every time I remember look at his face there
look at his eyes
it's dead now of course
dead now
a good question I don't know

I thought that they were corn but perhaps they're not
perhaps they're potato that's why they got
invented a bit earlier
I read that the starch has turned into Quavers
from the potatoes so it's a way of using everything
that they have basically like nose to tail
eating yes but for potatoes
exactly that's good
I know that Monster Munch
were not originally called Monster Munch
they essentially they got released
a year earlier I think this is the best
ever name change that a product
has had so in 1977
they came out as Monster Munch
and were a huge hit but the year before
yeah they were called something else
I would say I think like
they look like hands to me
I would say hands was the name
yeah do you know what
when they first came out they were called hands
yeah that's right
they were called hands
good name
they also look a bit like if you had tiny hands
like knuckle dusters right
you can fit your
you can fit two fingers in and maybe
wow
I wasn't talking about the vagina Chris
so I was talking about
oh god
I assume it must have had some monster
in there originally
was it to do with the dance
there was that big dance craze
Monster Munch
it's a really bad pun
oh monster
so I tell you you won't get it
Irish monster
I don't think you were capable of doing a pun this bad
York monster

oh yeah nice
not a million years away
he is capable
I take it back
I stand corrected
welcome to the world our new brand York
Minster
we were told it was a bad brand
they were called
Prime Monster
I literally was about to say that
and I thought that's so shit
I'm not going to say that
Richard if someone says that I'm pointless do they still get the point
yeah yeah
well I don't do pointless anymore
but yes if I look in their eyes and believe them
oh my god I didn't even get the pun I'm afraid
Prime Monster
Richard that's genuinely going to go down as one of the most disappointing moments of my life
and
and you've had a few right
yeah
my kids will hear this episode
not my wife obviously she doesn't listen
let's do a little edit
anybody anyone guess it
Dan?
Prime Monster
it's the right answer
oh
and that's all the time we have
that's it that is all of our facts
thank you so much for listening
I win this episode
and
if you'd like to get in contact with any of us
about the things that we've said over the course of this podcast
we can be found on our twitter accounts
I'm on at Shriverland
James at James Harkin
at Professor Andrew Hunter Murray
at Andrew Hunter M
Richard that's a good question

at Richard Osman
there we go
or you can get us on our group account which is at no such thing
or you can go to our website
no such thing as afish.com
all of our previous episodes are up there so do have a listen
thank you everyone for being here tonight
Richard thank you so much for being here tonight
and
we'll be back again next week when another episode
will see you then
goodbye