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Club News
Stay in the Know!

Alien Forces



It's easy enough to write off much recent phenomena, quoting anything from wayward weather balloons to the perpetuation of the legend and UFO sightings in pop culture providing a cohesive image of extra terrestrials for eye witnesses to draw on should someone cry alien. But what's slightly harder to dismiss is the ancient evidence. Enter the 'The Madonna with Saint Giovannino', otherwise known as the UFO painting.

Created in the 15th century, it depicts the Virgin Mary and in the backdrop of the painting, a man and his dog staring up at a hovering disk-like object that is suspiciously familiar. And this painting isn't alone either, with everything from ancient cave paintings to Sanskrit Scrolls all depicting alien life. A sighting even crops up in the Bible in The Book of Ezekiel. Either this is compelling evidence, or humanity has a rich tradition of conspiracy theorists.



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Various

Changing Rooms

Bowlers are reminded of the Rules in the Members Handbook that they must change their clothing in the changing rooms. Members bowling indoors must leave their bowling bags in the changing rooms. No bowling bags are to be left in the restaurant or lounge areas as they are a tripping hazard.

The Directors.



The Clubs is pleased to announce the following companies are sponsoring some of the Summer Leagues. Hickleys Mobility; Pink Garlic Restaurant; Cookerburra Oven Cleaning and John Solle Carpentry. The Sponsor names will be listed on the programmes and bowlr league information. The Leagues being sponsored are:

Thursday Indoor Handicap Triples – Cookerburra

Tuesday Indoor Triples – Hickleys Mobility

Outdoor Friday Oz Pairs – Pink Garlic

Outdoor Tuesday Triples – John Solle Carpentry

There may be some changes to come. That's as much information as I can provide for now, I'll not be in the office now for a few weeks as my knee op is next Weds, (22/02/2023).

Mark

Summer Leagues 2023

The Club would like to encourage members to play in the various Leagues which run throughout the summer. Any member who is not in a team and would like to play please put your name down on the list on the League notice board adjacent to the lockers. The League Committee will then do their best to make sure you get a game - If you would be willing to put a team in any of the Leagues, so much the better. League entries should be submitted by 28th February 2023.

Leagues being offered, provided there are enough teams, are:

Tuesday evening outdoor Triples

Friday morning outdoor Australian Pairs

Tuesday morning indoor Triples

Wednesday evening indoor Australian Pairs

Thursday afternoon indoor Handicap Triples

Thursday evening 3 Wood Clyno Pairs

New Members

As new members, who may not know many people, this is an opportunity to get yourselves into League teams – the teams are all run on a 'friendly' basis and no special order of skills is required – the Leagues are an opportunity to play regularly at various times of the day and days of the week. The League Committee, whose names and phone numbers are in the fixture book, will be only too happy to help you become active members of the Club by fitting you into existing teams or encouraging you to form new teams, which are always welcome.

Bob Standing
League Committee
07918 166084



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Competitions



Home team of Stan (Team Manager) Ruth, Di, Chenda, Sadie & Myra (reserve)



Away team of Christine, Imogen, Nicola (reserve), Pat and Eileen.

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Entertainment



Saturday 11th March

£13:50 - Tickets include Food - Ploughman's - 7:30pm Start

TDBC Social & Fund Raising Committee

Barry Paull

as Elvis



Open Fours Tournament

Taunton Deane Bowls Club

Sunday July 2nd 2023 (two sessions starting at 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.)

Prize Money (Per Team)

1st £100

2nd £60

3rd £40

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Entry fee £40 per team, to include, Tea/Coffee & Biscuits on arrival

A two course Lunch and,

Afternoon, Tea/Coffee & Cake

There will be a raffle - there is ample parking

Please complete the enclosed entry form and return





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Coaching



Learn from our qualified coaches who, through agreed sessions to suit your needs will take you through the steps to progress into the game of bowls.

The game itself can be played in singles, doubles, triples and there are also four player games. Its purpose is this: you must aim your bowl as near to the white/yellow ball (called the jack) as you can.

The game starts with the toss of a coin and the lead player rolls the jack which is moved to the centre of the rink.

Bowlers take it in turns. Once all the bowls have been played, each team gets a point for every bowl landing closer to the jack than their rival's nearest bowl. Once all the bowls have been played, the direction of play changes.



They seek ‘em here...

Maintenance is an important factor in quality assurance and in some cases determines the long-term success of any business. Poorly maintained resources can cause instability and partially or completely pause the enjoyment of our sports and social surroundings. Malfunctioning amenities or complete breakdowns can become a costly process for most businesses. Hats off to our team.

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Maintenance





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Maintenance

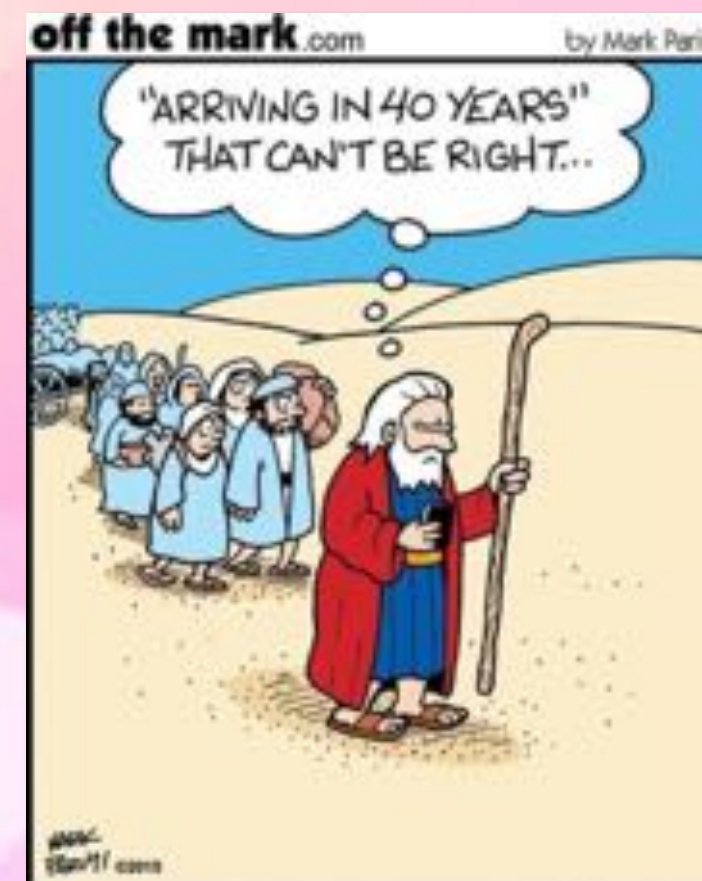




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Humour



Mark Parisi is the creator of Off the Mark, a comic panel which began in 1987 and now appears in 100 newspapers, as well as on greeting cards, T-shirts, and more. Off the Mark is distributed daily and is influenced by Charles Schulz, Gary Larson and MAD magazine



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Humour





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Editorial
Steve Browning

As good as it gets: has the smartphone peaked?

Phones have got bigger, faster, and more powerful, but the overall form factor of every successful smartphone today is the same. Is this it? Has the smartphone peaked?

In his keynote address at the Macworld Conference & Expo in January of 2007, Steve Jobs introduced the world to the first-generation iPhone. Before he held out the device as if it were some sort of beacon of light, he famously stated, “Today, Apple is going to reinvent the phone.” How right he was.

Regardless of your feelings about Apple, the iPhone, or Steve Jobs himself, there is no denying that the history books will chronicle the evolution of the mobile phone in two categories: pre-iPhone and post-iPhone. The device was a game-changer and it reinvented the entire mobile phone industry.

In the 11 years since, mobile phones have got bigger, faster, and more powerful; armed with features that even Jobs didn’t anticipate. Despite this the overall form factor of every successful smartphone today is the same: a handheld black slate, with a touchscreen on the front used to launch apps. Is this it? Is there no other way to design a mobile device? Has the smartphone peaked?

In the early 1960s, the first push-button telephones made their debut at the consumer level. The rotary dialer held on strong for many years after, but eventually completely disappeared; operating a push-button telephone was simply faster and easier. Additionally, the tones created by pressing the buttons enabled new types of technology to flourish to the point of indispensability, like automated dialing, password-protected voicemail, and over-the-phone purchasing.





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55 years after push-button phones became commercially available, and what do we have on our desks? A push-button phone. Sure, it might be a VOIP device or have a wireless handset, but the basic operational concept of a 1960s phone and a 2017 phone is the same: you lift up the handset, push a number into a dialer, and then hold the unit to your ear and mouth. When your call is over, you place the handset onto a dock of some kind.

55 years of innovation and growth and not much about the telephone has changed; its operational design peaked in 1963.

Taking this into consideration, one could argue that the operational design of the mobile phone peaked in 2007.

If you think that statement is pretentious, consider this: imagine handing a child a rotary phone from 1965 and asking them to dial a number. Chances are, they would be stumped. Ask them to do the same with a push-button phone from that same year, and they would be fine. It would feel clunky, but familiar.

Now, imagine handing a child a Nokia 2760 (a mobile phone released the same year as the first iPhone) and asking them to send a text message to their parents. How well do you think they would do with T9 texting? (text on nine keys). Do you think that child would have the same difficulty sending a text using the first generation iPhone?

The idea that mobile phone technology moves at a breakneck pace is only half correct. New phones are announced every day. Many of them claim to have a new feature that will change the industry as we know it. Processors are getting incredibly powerful, battery life is being stretched to ridiculous lengths, and camera technology has amateurs creating professional quality images. But no mobile phone has moved us away from the touchscreen black slate design. The details of phones are evolving rapidly, but the core hasn't changed at all.

Of course, that hasn't stopped many designers from trying.

The most successful smartphone lines all adhere to the same operational design formula launched in 2007, and even when they do successfully tweak things a bit (like the S Pen with the Galaxy Note or the edge-to-edge rounded screen of the Galaxy S8), they don't stray too far.

If smartphone design has peaked, what's next? What is going to break the mould?

The original Star Trek series is notorious for creating fictional technology which now exists. Perhaps the computers of Minority Report will become a reality, and we'll manipulate our future smartphones without even touching a screen. Maybe the biological implants seen in the television show Black Mirror will be all the rage with the kids. Perhaps the voice-controlled hologram technology in Blade Runner 2049 will take over.

For the industry to be completely upended, the device would have to be so radically different from what you hold in your hand that it wouldn't even be a smartphone any more. The music industry wasn't upended in the 60s by something that looked like the decades-old record player; it was upended by the 8-Track tape which finally enabled you to listen to your own music in the car. You can't hold an LP record in one hand and an 8-Track tape in the other and see the progressive baby-steps between the two. You see one technology in one hand, and a different technology in the other. Likewise with VHS tapes and DVDs, candles and light bulbs, or condoms and birth control pills.

Whatever the next big thing is, you shouldn't hold your breath for it to come along. The push-button phone is still alive and well a half-century after its release. The standard slate like mobile device trend started only ten years ago.

It's a safe bet the mobile device you buy in 2027 will operate in much the same manner as the one you probably just used to read this editorial.



Nokia 2760



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