Panic as expert warns of deadly ant flu epidemic

» Thousands of cases expected by Christmas
» Sneezing and leaf-carrying amongst symptoms

Yossarian Jones reports

A leading expert warned yesterday that a new and deadly strain of ant flu is headed straight for Lamonic Bibber – and the chances of survival are practically zero. ‘There are over eighty-six million different types of ant flu,’ explained world-famous Antologist, Professor Noëlle Davies-Brock, ‘and until now all of them have been curable. But this is a new type and it is the opposite of curable. It is incurable. We cannot cure it. Can it be cured, you might ask? No, there is no cure. And that is why I say it is incurable. Because it can’t be cured.’

According to Professor Davies-Brock, the ant flu floats around in the air like a fart waiting for potential victims, then jumps into their bodies and starts hassling their immune systems. ‘This strain of ant flu causes its victims to sneeze a lot,’ she explained. ‘In addition, the patient will start carrying small bits of leaves around and try to eat as much sugar as possible. But eventually the sneezing gets too much and the patient sneezes themself to death within twenty-four hours. And there is no cure,’ she continued. ‘It is not possible to cure it. It cannot be cured. You know things that can be cured? Well, this is not one of those things. It is quite literally incurable.’ The professor’s warning caused widespread panic in Lamonic Bibber yesterday, with hundreds of people fleeing their homes or jumping into the sea to escape. ‘We’re all doomed!’ sobbed local businessman, Martin Launderette. ‘Doomed, I tell you! I’m moving to space!’ said Jonathan Ripples. ‘Maybe I’ll be safe there.’ But today Professor Davies-Brock urged the public not to act too hastily. ‘Humans can’t actually catch the ant flu, only ants can,’ she explained in a TV interview this morning. ‘Sorry, I probably should have mentioned that in the first place.’

Not in this story at all: Mr Gum

Farewell, Prozbell Roberts

» ‘His life was rubbish,’ says wife
» ‘I don’t mean he had a rubbish life, I mean he was a dustman,’ she adds

Biff Spankler Reports

Lamonic Bibber was today reeling in shock following the death of its oldest and best dustman, Prozbell Roberts. Mr Roberts, who was 83 (or 114 in dustman years), was found in his rubbish truck on Saturday morning by his wife, Enid. ‘He was just sort of sitting there not doing much,’ she told reporters. ‘I called him in for his breakfast but he didn’t move. Eventually I asked him if he was dead and he replied, “Yes, Enid, I’m afraid I am.”’

Prozbell Roberts was the great-grandson of Lamonic Bibber’s first ever dustman, Chimpy Roberts, and he took great pride in this fact, often getting drunk and shouting, ‘I’m the great-grandson of Chimpy Roberts! I’ll beat you all up!’ until he fell over and had to be taken home in a wheelie-bin. ‘I knew Prozbell when he was just a lad,’ recalled close friend and neighbour, Old Granny. ‘He was only two years old but already he was picking up toy dustbins and emptying them into toy dustbin trucks. It was obvious he had a great future ahead of him.’ Speaking from the steps of the Town Hall, Mayor David Casserole paid tribute to Mr Roberts, calling him ‘the best dustman we’ve ever had. He had strong arms for lifting up dustbins and he could whistle. This is the darkest day in the history of Lamonic Bibber. Apart from that total eclipse of the sun yesterday,’ he added. Mr Roberts’ funeral will take place this Sunday. According to his wishes, his body will be placed in a bin-liner and thrown in a skip – a fitting way to remember a true legend.

He emptied our bins but he filled our hearts:
Prozbell Roberts
Man marries himself in wedding ceremony

By our lifestyle correspondent, Poodles McKenzie

A man from Wample-Upon-Stample has made history by becoming the first person ever to marry himself. ‘I’ve had loads of girlfriends,’ Mr Charles Wellingford (38) said, ‘but all of them were quite boring. I spent years looking around for the ideal woman but eventually I realised the only person I really fancied was me. I asked myself out and to my delight I accepted. That first evening I took myself to see a soppy film at the cinema and it went so well that I ended up together at a French restaurant afterwards, laughing and telling stories like I’d known myself my whole life.’ And from there the romance bloomed. ‘I just couldn’t get enough of me,’ Mr Wellingford recalled. ‘I had to be around me all the time. I was never apart.’ But it was another six months before the smitten lover could bring himself to pop the question. ‘I was quite nervous,’ he admitted. ‘I thought I’d probably say “yes” but I didn’t know for sure. I flew myself to Paris for a romantic weekend and on the last night I got down on one knee and uttered those beautiful words – “Darling, I love you. Will I marry me?” I couldn’t believe it when I said yes!’ Mr Wellingford was married at the weekend at a small private ceremony just outside Wample-Upon-Stample. ‘This is the best day ever,’ he told reporters. ‘I’ve made me the happiest man alive.’

Charles Wellingford: ‘I’m both over the moon!’

Bibbering Through The Ages

PART 12 IN OUR OCCASIONAL SERIES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LAMONIC BIBBER

UPSIDE-DOWN WALKER ON THE BUN SHOP

Up-side-down Walker on the Bun Shop was the world’s first ever superhero. He lived on top of the bun shop in Lamonic Bibber from 1840 to 1892 and he smelt a bit like a gate. Because he was the world’s first superhero, Up-side-down Walker on the Bun Shop’s superpowers weren’t very good. He could never leave the bun shop roof and nor could he walk the right way up. All he could do was walk upside-down on the bun shop. He was good for nothing and when he died everyone was glad to see him go. Today his memory is kept alive by the Up-side-down Walker on the Bun Shop Appreciation Society, of which there are absolutely no members at all.

HOROSCOPES

WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE HOLD?

With Old Granny and her psychic leg

Aries March 21 - April 19

Today there will be three spelling mistakes in your horoscope. Also you will get stung by a swarm of angry bees.

Taurus April 20 - May 20

With Mercury rising in the third house of Venus, now is the time to take a good long look at yourself. Your nose looks like a radish. Your elbows taste of liquorice. Your only friend is an invisible tulip. Yes, that’s right, Taurus, face facts — you’re a complete and utter weirdo.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Today someone will phone you but it will be a wrong number. Then you’ll get some post through the front door but it will be a wrong letter.

Cancer June 21 - July 22

Today you will not be attacked by frogs. Tomorrow you will not be attacked by frogs. The day after that you will not be attacked by frogs. But the day after that — well, Cancer, I just don’t know. You’re on your own, I’m afraid.

Leo July 23 - August 22

Leo, your star sign is named after the mighty lion but that doesn’t give you the excuse to laze around on the pavement all day, stick ringmasters’ heads in your mouth and chase zebras through the shopping centre in the middle of town. Stop it right now.

Virgo August 23 - September 22

It is often said that Virgos are the most gullible of all the signs of the Zodiac. To find out whether or not this is true, please send £350 to Old Granny Enterprises Ltd., PO Box 804, Lamonic Bibber and I will send you the answer on a postcard.

Libra September 23 - October 22

This week will bring important changes in your life but seeing as I’ve never met you before and know absolutely nothing about your life I have no idea what those changes might be. Sorry.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21

You’ve been stuck in the same old boring routine for too long, Scorpio, but with the new moon on the horizon now is the ideal time to get stuck in a brand new boring routine.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

Due to a strange mix-up in the stars and planets, you will be run over by an ambulance and driven to hospital in an ice-cream van.

Capricorn December 22 - January 19

This week an elf will try to get inside your brains and control your thoughts. I know you don’t believe me but maybe that’s because the elf has ALREADY got inside your brains and started controlling your thoughts. Think about it!

Aquarius January 20 - February 18

It is often said that Aquarians are almost but not quite as gullible as Virgos. To find out whether or not this is true, please send £350 to Old Granny Enterprises Ltd., PO Box 804, Lamonic Bibber and I will send you the answer on a postcard.

Pisces February 19 - March 20

Pisces, the Chinese have a wise saying: ‘Don’t listen to horoscopes, they’re complete and utter nonsense.’ But remember, the Dutch also have a wise saying: ‘We like pancakes.’ Confused? You should be. Good luck.
Coffee Break...

Test your powers of doing puzzles and brainteasers with our puzzles and brainteasers!

Riddle-Me-Ree

My first is in BEAD but not in HEAD
My second is in POWER but not in PEWTER
My third is in DRILL but not in DILL
My fourth is in ILL but not in TROLL
My fifth is in NEPTUNE but not in XEPTUXE
My sixth is in GRR but not in RR

What am I?

Answer: DRUM

Find the Kittens

We've hidden five kittens somewhere in this picture. Can you find them all?

A-Maze-ing

Oh, no! Mr Stupid needs to get to the shop but he's forgotten the way. Can you help him through the maze?

Number Fun

Add up the following numbers to find another number. Hooray.

15 6 1 0 0 4
8 1 2 9 4 3
3 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Anagram Attack!

Unscramble the letters to make a well-known seven-letter word:

A N A G R M A

Scientists invent ‘Human Fly’

Scientists have invented the world’s first ‘human fly’ by getting a man and a fly and mashing them up with a pole and sticking them both into a special contraption that whizzes things around really fast and also using special ‘science glue’ made from chemicals and sending them both into space in a rocket and pouring gas on them and fiddling about with their DNA and doing experiments on their brains and zapping them with electricity and swapping their eyes over and genetically modifying their bellybuttons. When asked if the “human fly” would benefit humankind in any way, top Scientist Marcus Buckle said, ‘not particularly. But we had a lot of fun making it.’

Hailstorm brings double surprise

Local man Friday O’Leary couldn’t believe his face when a hailstorm which landed on his hat turned out to be a diamond worth over TWO MILLION POUNDS!!! ‘One moment I was standing in the hailstorm eating a yogurt,’ said O’Leary, ‘and the next moment I was still standing in the hailstorm eating a yogurt. But the moment after that – well, that’s when the diamond landed on my hat.’ Mr O’Leary immediately took the astonishing find to a jeweller’s - only to be told it wasn’t a diamond at all.

‘It was a hailstone,’ laughed Mr O’Leary. ‘So I had a double surprise! First I was surprised to find the diamond, then I was surprised all over again to find it wasn’t a diamond! It was quite a day!’

Anger at cheeky carrot

A carrot who somehow escaped from its cage has been angering locals by playing tricks so cheeky that it has earned itself the nickname ‘the Cheeky Carrot’. The mischievous veg’s pranks began when it stunned Mrs Lovely by turning up in a bowl of fruit on her kitchen table. ‘I reached for a tasty grape,’ she said, ‘but it wasn’t a grape at all. It was the Cheeky Carrot.’ The conical comic then went on to play a series of tricks around town, including disguising itself as a very small traffic cone, pretending to be a crow’s beak and hiding in a block of flats. But the Cheeky Carrot’s capers have proved too much for some and there are plans to kill it with swords tomorrow evening.

We are too busy hiding from ants so we are leaving this bit blank.
Champion Gymnast
Still Under Investigation

By our sports reporter, Jim Jupiter

The Russian gymnast who astounded crowds and judges alike at last year’s Olympic Games is still under investigation from the World Gymnastics Association, it emerged today. Don Bananas scored a perfect ‘10’ in every category – the parallel bars, that thing with the hoops and that big stupid wooden box you have to jump over. At the time his performance was hailed as the greatest display of gymnastics the world had ever seen. But Mr Bananas’ gold medal was later stripped from him after allegations that he was actually a monkey wearing a leotard. ‘It is absurd,’ said his trainer, zookeeper Mikhayl Ivanisovich yesterday. ‘Don Bananas, he is not monkey. He is just slightly short, very hairy fellow. He win medal fair and square.’ But according to the World Gymnastics Association there are still serious doubts surrounding the athlete. ‘We have been studying video footage of Mr Bananas’ performance on YouTube,’ said a spokesman, ‘and to be honest, we really really think he’s a monkey. If you pause the video at one minute twenty, you can clearly see his tail poking out.’ However, Mr Ivanisovich denied such claims. ‘Is not tail, is just his shoelace coming undone,’ he said. ‘I know Don Bananas since he was tiny little infant growing up in Venezuelan jungle. He is definitely just regular OK guy!’ Mr Bananas himself was unavailable for comment last night as he was undergoing a thorough de-lousing and vaccination against rabies.

Don Bananas: The controversy rages

Oi, Trouserface!
You looking at these NEW book jackets?

They look so nice
That they make me feel sick!