The National CV of Britain

Dr John Hart

BT Tower, 21st May 2012

Everyone else is ‘overseas’

A moderate-sized island with an immoderate destiny

Mission Statement

‘We have distilled Britain’s history by compiling a CV for the nation to encourage a buoyant sense of belonging and to inspire the Influential Islanders as they ‘apply for the future’

The National CV Group

CV format

- Brief, upbeat, accurate

- New information loads at the top

- Forward-looking history!

The National CV is a history of Britain, told as if Britain were a person

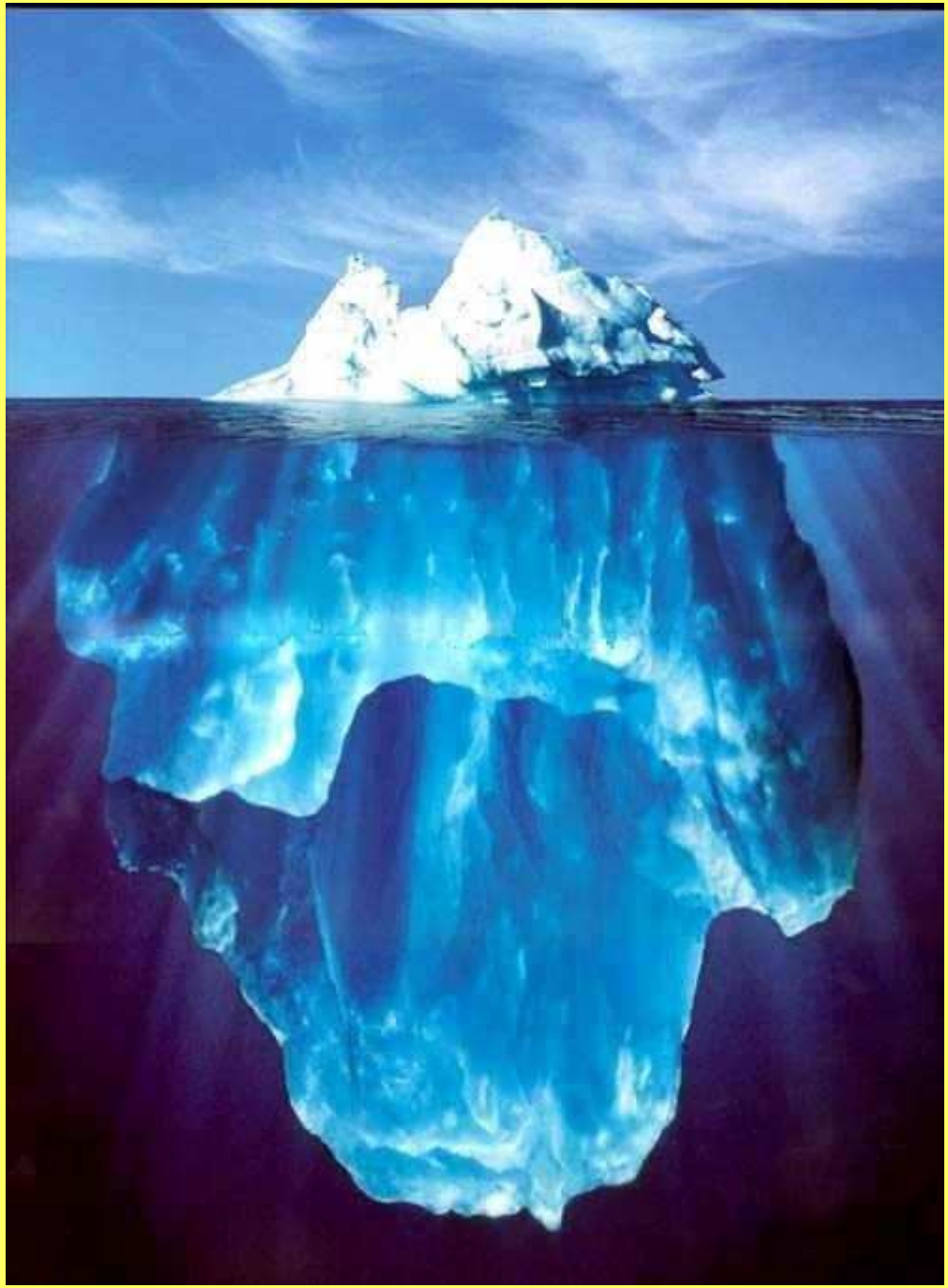
Instead of applying for a job, Britain is ‘applying for the future’

Note

Certain CV claims look overblown, but aren’t on deeper inspection…

CAUTION

Collision hazard: submerged data



CV in Brief

(2 pager, on our free website)

CV in Full

(30 pages, eBook)

CVpedia

(300+ pages, on free website)

CVpedia More Articles

(24 so far, on specialist topics, on website)

Megalithic Culture: before Sumer & Ancient Egypt

Silbury Hill & Avebury Stone Circle,
20 miles north of Stonehenge

Source: Colin Renfrew

Unique hill figures

White horse at Uffington, ~ 1000 BC

Source: Betthany Hughes

We have our very own Noah

Flood story: bursting of the Lake of Floods; this caused a rushing of water over all the land; only **Dwyvan** and his wife **Dwyvack** escaped in a boat, to repopulate the Isle of Britain

Source: Welsh Triads

Pioneer flyers

King Bladud, 800s BC

Malmesbury Abbey, AD 1010

Sources: Tysilio & William of Malmesbury

We pioneered the sacking of Rome

In 390 BC Brennus of Britain led the Gauls & Britons in the Sack of Rome

Sources: Livy, Tysilio, German Chronicles etc

We invented Druidism

Source: Julius Caesar

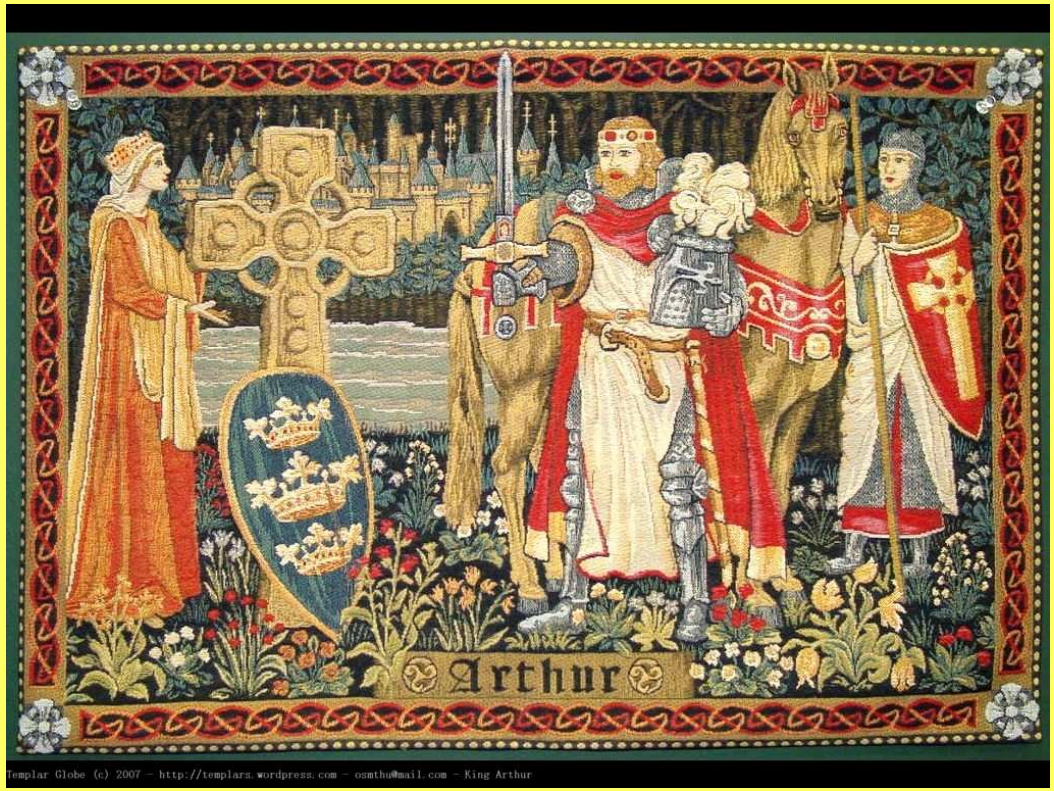
Birth of Christendom

Helen of Colchester AD 248-c330

Constantine the Great, AD 272-337, the first Christian Roman Emperor

Sources: Tysilio, R W Morgan

We put the 'Merry' into Merry Christmas



Source: Holinshed's Scottish Chronicles

Standardised writing

Alcuin of York, AD 789

Pioneering exports

Tin (Bronze Age)

Wool (Middle Ages)

Coal & manufactures (Industrial Revolution)

Oil & gas (recent era)

Britain’s history of pioneering goes way back

…and covers a wider range of activities than is usually appreciated

First motor car: Christopher Holtum

1711

www.rugbyadvertiser.co.uk
Call: (01788) 539977
Email: editorial@rugbyadvertiser.co.uk

www.rugbyadvertiser.co.uk

News

Keith Sinfield and his wife Jenny with a picture of one of Christopher Holtum's clocks. MHRA-20-03-12 Holtum Feb08 (1)

Karl Benz built the petrol-powered Motorwagen in 1885

Did clockmaker beat Benz to the first car?

BY PETE HORTON
petehorton@rugbyadvertiser.co.uk

AN 18TH-CENTURY newspaper describing "a chariot without horses" may be evidence that a Church Lawford man invented the world's first car, two historians are hoping.

Some 180 years before Karl Benz invented the petrol-powered car, Christopher Holtum was busy in London exhibiting his own invention.

An advertisement in the January 13, 1711 edition of the *Daily Courant*, one of the world's first newspapers, describes a chariot "in which man may travel without horses, the like never made nor seen before", and that the man demonstrating it, Christopher Holtum, was a clockmaker from Church Lawford.

Holtum filed no patents and there is no record of him in the transactions of the Royal Society.

But the advertisement mentions the vehicle as "having the praise of all persons of quality and ingenious men who have seen it."

The cutting caught the attention of local historians Keith and Jenny Sinfield, who are trying to find out more about Holtum and his contraption – in particular how it could have been powered.

Keith said: "Just occasionally you come across something which is so incredible that it takes your breath away – I was astounded when I first read the accounts of Christopher Holtum's demonstrations.

"What I would really like to find out is how the machine worked. Clockwork would be impractical for a small vehicle and the world's first steam powered car didn't appear until 1769."

Keith added: "It seems like his exhibition lasted for two weeks, so it doesn't sound like a scam. What would be really useful is if someone could find a diary or first-hand account of Holtum's machine. That may be the key to finding out what type of machine this could have been."

Examples of Holtum's clocks have recently appeared in auctions. One was sold in 2006 for £800, another in 2011 for £1,600 and one this year for £1,600.

Keith said: "We already know some details of his life, but we are keen to find out more. We would be interested to hear from anyone with information about Christopher Holtum."

Anyone who can help can contact the Sinfields by writing to 22 Church Road, Church Lawford, Rugby, CV23 9EG, or emailing keithsinfield@talktalk.net.

Advertisement.

††† *An Invention of a wonderful Chariot, in which Persons may travel several Miles in an Hour without the Affiance of Horses, and measure the Miles as they go; it turns or goes back. 'Tis one of the greatest Curiosities that ever was seen in Europe, having the Praise of all Persons of Quality, and ingenious Men that have seen it. Note, That it is convenient for any Gentlemen that is afflicted with the Gout, or that is incapable of walking, thro' Lameness, to ride about his Park, or about his Garden, without damaging his Turn-Walks or Grass-Plants. The Invention is so highly approv'd, that there is already one bespoke by a Person of Quality, which is to go on four Wheels, and swing in the Nature of a large Coach; which, according to a modest Computation, will travel at the Rate of seven or eight Miles an Hour. If any Person of Quality is desirous to use them with Horses, they may either travel as far again in a Day as they can with another Coach, or go as far with a Pair of Horses, as the Coaches hitherto in Use can with six. Note, That such as are bespoke for Parks or Gardens only, will come very reasonable, others at proportionable Prices. It is now to be seen at the Coginet-shop, over against the Globe Tavern, near St. Martins Lane in the Strand; where Attendance will be given at all times 'till the 2d of March.*

The newspaper cutting in question.

Ought a steam-powered vehicle first ran in 1769 and was said to be capable of 4.8mph, but never achieved this in practice.

Omar's
CONTEMPORARY INDIAN DINING
We are now taking bookings for Mother's Day!
EXTENSIVE EVENING BUFFET including dessert
Sunday to Thursday 5:30pm-11:30pm
* Children under 10 HALF PRICE
A la Carte Menu also available
Good selection of wines & beers including Cobra
Sunday Lunchtime Offer
£8.50 per person
25% discount on our take away menu
A family run award winning Indian restaurant
Gold Standard Food Hygiene Awards
gardenbarn COTESBACH
home & garden emporium
A trip to gardenbarn this spring is full of surprises!
We have significantly expanded our plant collection & add exciting new lines to our unique store every day.
So if you are looking for original ideas for your home or garden, the perfect gift, or just want to escape with a coffee and a cake, the gardenbarn is the perfect destination.
National garden gift vouchers now sold & accepted
espresso bar café & the lookout gallery
Rugby Road, Cotesbach, T: 01455 550900, LE17 4HS
open: Tues - Sat 10.30-5.30, Sunday 11-4, CLOSED ON MONDAY
Bring colour to your Garden
Bring colour to your garden with Geranium & Fuchsia Baby Plants
Don't forget Mothers Day Sunday 18th March
Now in Stock at BARBY NURSERIES
Open Daily 9am - 5pm
Tel. 01788 890314
Daventry Rd, Barby, Nr Rugby, CV23 8TG

1885

1769

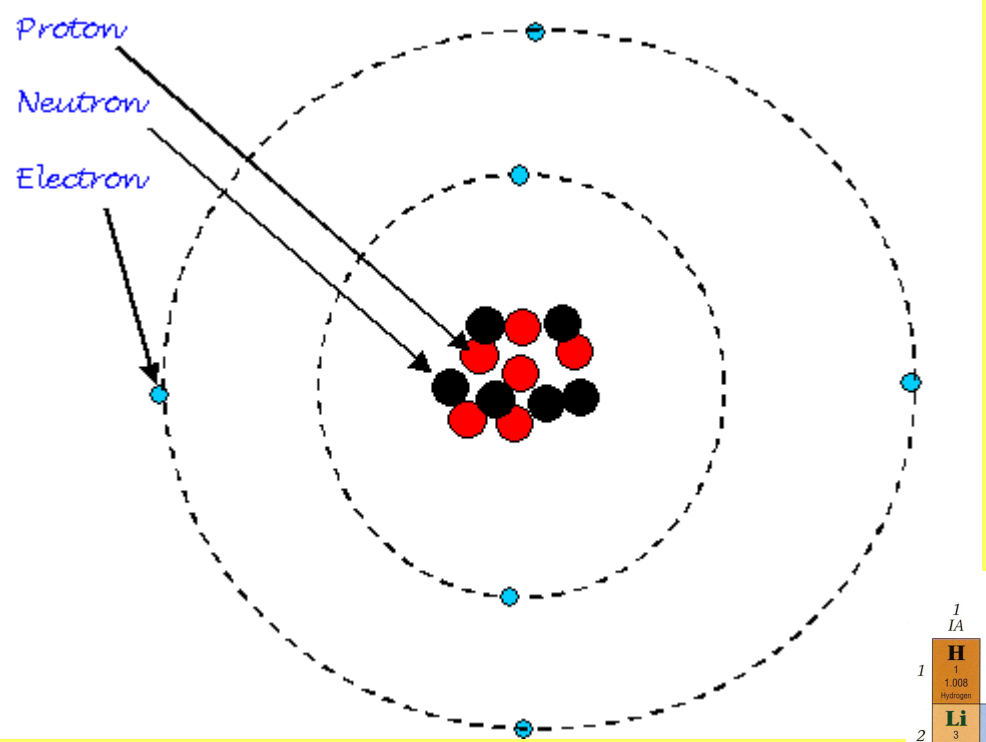
The weekend:
Robert Walpole
(1676-1745)

Sandwich, bottled beer,
appreciation of fine wine,
milk chocolate, ice cream,
Scotch, business suit

Unique anti-slavery record

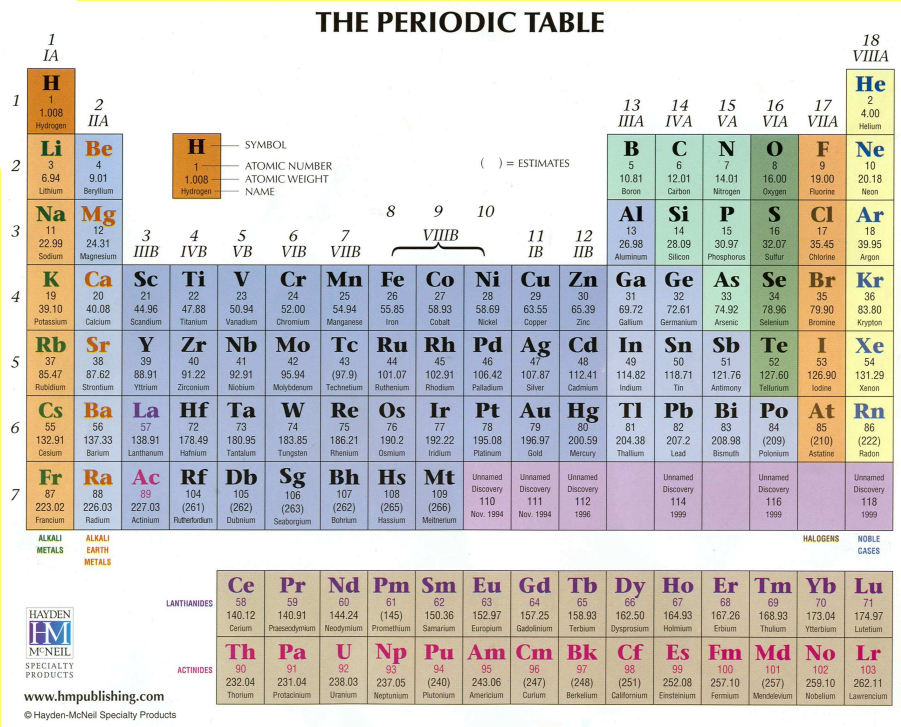
William Wilberforce, abolition of slavery, early 1800s

N.B. Slavery first outlawed here in 1102



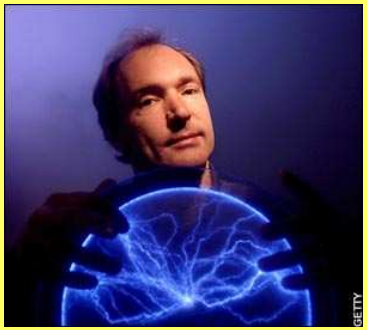
Found the three main subatomic particles, split first atom, named Big Bang, postulated antimatter

Discovered a quarter of the elements of the Periodic Table of the Elements



Britain has the greatest scientific tradition of any nation (Newton, Darwin, Faraday, Maxwell, Crick, Sanger)

Modern marvels



World Wide Web (Tim Berners-Lee, 1989)

Today's most Influential Islander

What we tell the youngsters in schools…

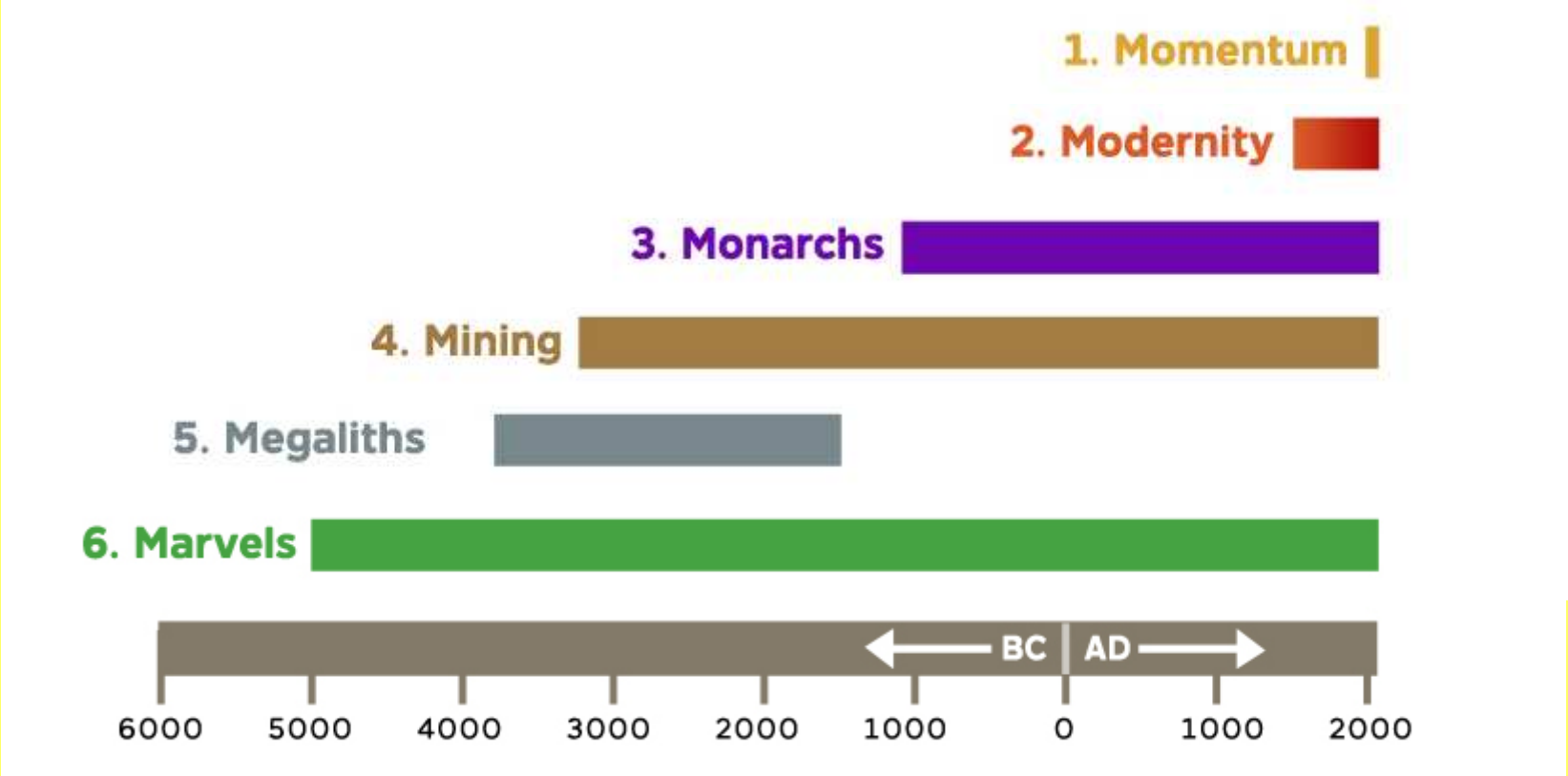
Overarching statement:

Britain has made the most

outsized

contribution to civilisation of anywhere on Earth, while having under 1% of the world's people and less than 0.2% of the land

Motion due to the force of history



[Still for youngsters]

And the moral of this tale?

You too can make a contribution that is

outsized

and become an

Influential Islander

The National CV Group

wishes you the utmost

good luck

in

‘Applying for the future’

Thank you

Launch attendees
That's you!

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