

5 Things To Know about *The ILN* Historical Archive

5 Searches to try

“Tiger” – There are lots of stories about, and beautiful illustrations of, exotic animals in the ILN. If you have ever wanted to know what would win in a fight between a tiger and a bull, read the article from 2 June 1849.

“Murder” – crime reporting was always a popular feature of the paper

“Einstein” – Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity and career was of much interest to the ILN – an example of its long-running interest in explaining scientific thought and discoveries to its readership.

“Somme” – extensive reporting, illustrations and photographs of the infamous WW1 battlefield. The paper always aimed to provide detailed illustrated coverage of wars.

“Gandhi” – the ILN followed his campaign of civil disobedience closely – in 1921 the paper dismisses him as an “Indian Agitator”; by his assassination in 1949 it regards him as a “Great Indian” and mourns his death.

4 issues/special issues to browse

1851 (x 4 issues) – Great Exhibition of 1851

22 December 1855 (from p17 onwards) – the Christmas issue, featuring the first colour pictures printed in an English newspaper

25 August 1945 – Victory in Japan / End of WW2

29 August 1981 – Wedding of Prince Charles and Diana

3 Contributors to discover (use the “browse contributor” feature)

Fenwick-Miller, Florence - author of the regular “Ladies’ Notes” column, and a pioneering Victorian feminist

Chesterton, G. K. – regarded as one of the 20th century’s great intellects and humourists – one of the writers of the “Our Notebook” column

Kipling, Rudyard – the author of “The Jungle Book” contributed several pieces to ILN, as did many other famous authors (e.g. Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan-Doyle...)

2 Quirky articles to read

“The Great Sea Serpent”, 28 October 1848 – British and Norwegian sailors spot something monstrous at sea, and shoot it. The ILN produces a beautiful illustration of the beast, based on sailor’s sketches. Was it perhaps a giant squid?

“Banana Stowaways” 27 April 1957 – An article all about the exotic creatures that get accidentally transported around the world in banana crates!

1 useful thing to know...

The Illustrated London News was published:

Weekly until 1971

Monthly until 1989

Bimonthly until 1994

And then just twice a year until it folded in 2003