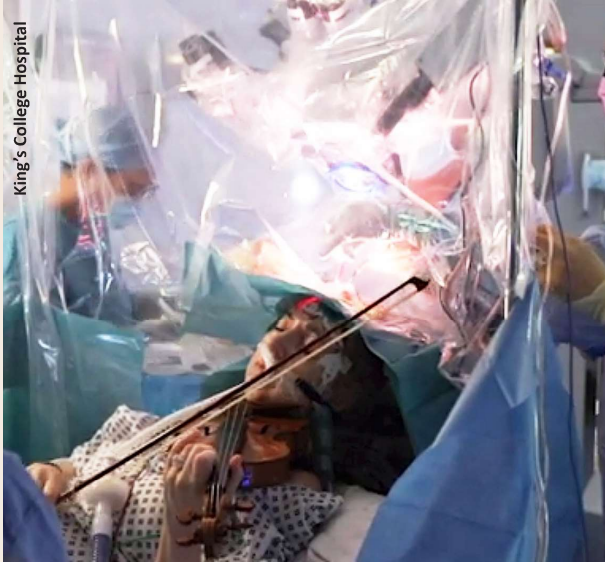


BIG NEWS



A SURGICAL PERFORMANCE



IF THE idea of waking up during surgery seems a bit scary, look away now. Not only was musician Dagmar Turner awake while she had a brain tumour removed, she was sitting up and playing the violin!

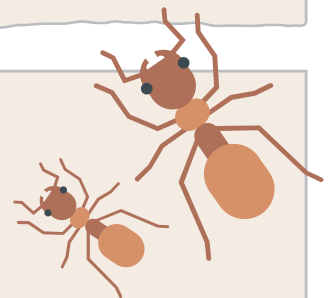
Surgeons can have difficulty knowing whether they've damaged the brain during surgery so, to make sure that they didn't accidentally alter the part of the brain that Dagmar used to play her violin, she performed while surgeons operated on her.

That way, should anything have changed during her performance, they would know if something had gone wrong.

Thankfully, the surgery was a success. The only difficulty that the surgeons faced was avoiding being hit by the bow as Turner played!

"I don't remember much from the surgery," Turner explained later, "but I do recall someone standing behind my head and saying: 'We have just removed 95% of your tumour' – and I was utterly shocked. The day before, I thought I had an inoperable brain tumour!"

WE'D EAT INSECTS!



A NEW study has found that schoolchildren are "open to eating insects as part of their daily school meals".

Researchers at the University of the West of England (UWE) wanted to find out whether schoolchildren would be happy eating insects at school.

Rather than just add a cricket sandwich to the school dinner menu and see what happened, the researchers examined how young people felt about eating insects, and taught them about food sustainability and the health benefits of eating insects.

They found that by offering young people a choice as to whether they wanted to eat insect-based food, children were more open to trying it and found that they liked it! The researchers taught kids about food sustainability and the health benefits of eating insects, and then offered them insect protein in the form of familiar meals like spaghetti Bolognese and burgers.

One of the schoolchildren taking part in the study said: "We all know that looking after the planet is important, but we don't learn about what we can actually do to make a difference at school. [By swapping to bug-based meals] we can actually make changes to what we eat, and that might actually make a difference."

When VEXo Bolognese, an insect meal created by Welsh company Bug Farm Foods, was put on the school menu, 60% of children eating hot meals chose the VEXo option – favouring it over other traditional meals.

One researcher said: "As adults, we are generally wary of new things. Therefore, it is extremely encouraging to find that children are open to increasing their food choices and are passionate about eating and living more sustainably."



If we didn't tell you that this Bolognese was made from bugs, you would never guess it!



BIG NEWS



GLOSSARY

food sustainability – A way of producing food that does not damage the environment and make it harder to produce food in the future

protein – A substance found in foods such as meat, fish, cheese and eggs, which we need to grow and repair our bodies

tumour – A growth in the body that is not supposed to be there and can cause serious illness

inoperable – cannot be operated on

■ Questions on 'A surgical performance'.

1. What was the aim of this surgery?
2. What was the benefit of operating in this very unusual way?
3. The doctors were able to wake Dagmar up enough so that she could do some things without feeling pain. Explain how these functions were working during surgery.

Movement	
Hearing	
Memory	

4. What is the journalist 'thankful' about?
5. What joke is made to get across the idea that the surgeons found this operation 'easy'?
6. Why would it be true to say this was in fact a highly-skilled operation?

■ Questions on 'We'd eat insects'.

1. What is "VEXo Bolognese"?
- 2a. What do you think the children would have said about eating insects before the start of this project?
- 2b. What was their opinion at the end of the project?
3. What changed their opinion? Explain in detail.
4. "As adults, we are generally wary of new things."

Which word has a similar meaning to 'wary'?

keen

cautious

disgusted

aware

5. If you had to place this news story into a category, which category would you choose? Explain your choice.

Science

Education

Environment

6. What advice would you give Bug Farm Foods if they want to grow their business and have insect foods more widely consumed?