



Does a badger have two legs shorter on one side than the other?



A Basilisk - did this mythical creature exist?



Can a kingfisher be used as a weathervane?

# Tell us your Old Wives' Tales

Sir Thomas Browne was a 'curious' man who lived in Norwich in the 17th century, just off Hay Hill where Pret a Manger is now.

He earned his living as a physician but in his spare time, he was thinker, a writer, a scientist and myth-buster. He conducted experiments to prove or disprove what we would now call Old Wives' Tales or Urban Myths - that is commonly-held misbeliefs - such as 'whether you can use a kingfisher as a weather vane' and 'does a badger have two legs shorter on one side so that it can run along ploughed fields'? He wrote about his experiments in a book called 'Pseudodoxia Epidemica' or 'Vulgar Errors'.

Some of them seem ridiculous now but we still have our own commonly-held urban myths, or false beliefs.

To celebrate Sir Thomas Browne Day (he died on his birthday, 19 October) you are invited to tell us what you would like to see investigated to find out whether it is true or not - what is your favourite myth?

A team from across the Norwich Research Park will choose the best tales to test and find out whether or not there is any scientific basis to them.

To enter, just fill in the form on the back of this flyer or online.  
To find out more about Sir Thomas Browne and his experiments, and the form see the website [www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk](http://www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk)



## Sir Thomas Browne Day

Thursday 19 October 2017

[www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk](http://www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk)

# Sir Thomas Browne Day



Sir Thomas Browne was a well-known myth-buster of his time. He conducted experiments to prove or disprove the myths or Old Wives' Tales (he called them Vulgar Errors) and wrote about them.

We are collecting 21st century Old Wives' Tales to test, such as 'do dockleaves cure nettle stings'. To take part, fill in your details and your Old Wives' Tale and we will be in touch to let you know which were chosen to be tested. If your Tale is chosen, we will demonstrate it on Sir Thomas Browne day next year and put it on the website [www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk](http://www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk).

My Old Wives' Tale (or a Curious Question such as 'where do the odd socks go?')

Please give the form back to a collector or drop it into the Bookhive Bookshop in London Street or Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library in The Forum by Monday 30 October. You can also fill in your entry online at [www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk](http://www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk) where you can also find out more about the Thomas Browne Project. If you wish to hear more about the experiments and the Project please fill in your contact details and we will be in touch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_



Sir Thomas Browne Project  
[www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk](http://www.sirthomasbrowne.org.uk)

