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## **FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – August 2019, edition No 56.**



Hello. How are you? The magazine continues to evolve but is always open to new input and new ideas to improve it. Anyone can contribute to this publication in a non-racist, non-homophobic and non-sexist way - though at the same time an effort will always be made to promote freedom of speech as long as it is not hateful. Please send anything you wish to be considered for publication, to us (Dean, Robert and Brenda) at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk) Best wishes, Dean.

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## MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



### **Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov**

This month a very ugly man may prove to you that someone can be ugly inside and out – and is best avoided. People have been saying all sorts about you behind your back, but ignore them as you are on the road to success, so just carry on as you are. Your flatulence is a worry at the moment so consider

changing your diet. Wear less makeup and you will soon be made up with the results.

### **Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec**

A child you helped make years ago, may come back into your life and make you wonder if you really want them to feature in your life now. You are drinking too much alcohol and may have been paying into your pension fund for nothing – if you don't stop. It is a good time to tidy up your home or decide to continue living like a dirty pig. Will the woman with glasses break your heart?

### **Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan**

Now is the time to stop biting your ugly nails or consider amputating your fingers and thumbs at the knuckle. Someone with a bulging wallet may try and buy their way into your affections, but be aware that you may just end up as their love slave. Exercise more as you look like an overweight rhinoceros. Stop avoiding your nasty neighbour and tell him some home truths.

### **Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb**

Self-doubt will rear its ugly head again this month but don't let it spoil all the good work you're doing. Now is the time to get some false teeth as your smile terrifies small children. Your garden is a disgrace so do something about it or give a local gardener some work. Start to follow your dream if possible unless it is to the detriment of others. Eat more salmon paste.

### **Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar**

You may be financially very poor at the moment but you are very rich in other ways – so wear a smile on your face even if you are being exploited. A baby would be a good idea as long as it doesn't end up in care like the rest of your children. Consider a trip to a foreign place as this will perhaps introduce you to some new, interesting ideas. Take up yoga.

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### **Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr**

At the moment, you may feel sorry for yourself - but take solace from the fact that you are not living in a war zone. It is a good time to consume gallons of mango lassi. Someone in a wheelchair will impress you with their extreme positivity and sunny disposition. Why not put your entire salary on a dead certainty as you're always saying that money doesn't really matter to you?

### **Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May**

It's about time you treated yourself to those red shoes that will complement your wife's red dress that you like to wear when she's out at bingo. Take up the violin in an attempt to endear you to your in-laws who think you're uncultured. Consider buying a parrot to keep you company. If time weighs heavy then why not try to invent something new? Try fly fishing.

### **Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun**

You are smoking too much dope and will end up a permanent dope if you're not careful. Do something about your image as you can't look any worse than you do now. Think about investing in a new washing machine unless you are happy going around smelling sweaty. Now is the time to give the green light to that desperate person who is interested in you.

### **Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul**

This month an older person will impress you and make you wonder if a big age differences can really work. A trip to Venezuela may be on the cards so keep your options open. That secret, nasty rash may get worse and need some medical intervention. A fair-weather friend may betray a confidence and make you realise you must be more careful who you confide in.

### **Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug**

Why not show your charitable side this month and give a bit of financial assistance to someone who really needs it? – with no strings attached. Go to the fancy-dress party you are invited to but don't worry about wearing a mask as it won't improve your face. If you're single, consider letting someone else play with your pride and joy. Stop talking with your mouth full as it doesn't suit you.

### **Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep**

In the near future, a friend who is like the food police will drive you back to a life of junk food. On a positive note, you will come into a small fortune and soon be in a position to buy your dream home. You will also realise that your dream of becoming a professional athlete is over when you pull a muscle in your back, putting on your socks. Take a close look at your faith.

### **Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct**

A pretty young woman who you have long admired, will break your heart this month by going out with someone else. It is a favourable time to move house but be careful you don't

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pay too much for the property. Someone you trust will let you down in a big way and make you re-evaluate all your friendships. But a good Samaritan may restore your faith in mankind.

## MOLLY GASKELL TALKS ABOUT HER LIFE AND INTERESTS



### **Molly, can you talk a bit about yourself?**

I'm 25. I've been performing since the age of 14 – I had my first gig at 14.

**Performing what?** I began having guitar lessons at school when I was 11 and I started in a duo with this girl who sang while I played the guitar. We did some concerts at school and some charity events. We did our first proper gig (open mic) at Hebden Bridge. Then when I was 16, I got into a trio and we used to perform here at the Square Chapel, in Halifax. There were two sisters singing and I was the guitarist.

**Do you sing?** I didn't start singing until I was 17. I was in this band called the Ramonics and initially I did some backing vocals on one of the songs. That band was just a bit of fun and we eventually went our own ways. I then did my first solo performance at a place called the Bar Place – I made my mother wait in the car as I was so embarrassed about singing! It was open mic and I loved it and, from that day forward, I was singing and busking covers that I liked.

**Did you do any of your own stuff?** I used to do a couple of originals.

**What kind of music do you like to perform?** A bit of everything; I do a lot of rock and blues from bands and both male and female artists.

**Which artists do you like?** Amy Winehouse. But my utter idol is Lady Gaga – I'm obsessed with her and she is my absolute favourite artist. So, I cover a lot of Lady Gaga songs and Winehouse and Red Hot Chilli Peppers. I also do some old stuff and I like Ska.

**Where are you hoping your music leads you?** When I was 16, I went to Leeds College of Music and I did two years there. I was hoping I would get famous afterwards but I discovered that it takes a lot of time and luck to make it in the music industry. So, the dream died off and I now do music as a hobby as I have lots of other interests like: working out, art, cooking and drawing portraits. I'm also trying to get my Pilates qualification.

**How do you support yourself?** I work at the Square Chapel in the kitchen where I cook, waitress and clean etc. I love the atmosphere and people here with it being an arts centre. I also do busking to earn extra money.

**Are you no longer bothered about pursuing a career in music?** I guess so. Over the last few years, I've been in a band called Lady and The Tramps which was a cover band. Unfortunately, because of some differences, we are looking for a new guitarist at the

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moment. I love being in a band more than playing on my own as it has more depth and flavour.

**Do you write any of your own stuff now?** Not really as I've got a lot of other interests; I do it as a hobby but ideally, I'd like to form a Lady Gaga cover band called Lady Gaskell but I don't know how to find the right people for it at the moment.

**Have you ever travelled?** I've been all over the world and taken inspiration from everywhere I've been.

**Where have you been?** Since a young age I have been lucky to visit 19 different countries across Europe and Asia. My favourite part of the world is India. I've visited 6 times and me and my family love the culture, people, spirituality and the food.

**If people want to contact you, how can they do so?** Via my Facebook page: Molly Gaskell Music.

**What do you think you will be doing in five years?** Teaching Pilates – that's what my mum does and I want to follow in her footsteps. Music is always something I will do as a hobby and I'd like to make money from doing gigs. But obviously, music doesn't provide a regular income. I also hope to be still busking and working at the Square Chapel.

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## OUR HOLIDAY IN PENZANCE

Our long-awaited holiday to Penzance finally came around on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of June. So, with happy hearts we left my home in Halifax at 8 30 am to catch a train to Manchester Victoria at 8 55 am – Brenda insists we are always early for everything!

When we arrived in Manchester, we had to change platforms and narrowly missed the airport train and so had to wait a while for the next one. After arriving at Manchester Airport, we caught a small plane to Newquay.



Once in Newquay, we had to pay £10 for a shared taxi to the airport and then had to wait for over an hour for a train to Par and then a train to Penzance. Brenda passed the time eating local fish and chips and ice cream! So, all in all, our journey to our destination which was The Longboat Inn, in Penzance, took almost eleven hours!

Retrospectively, I'm not sure if we took the most effective way to Penzance from Halifax, but at the time, I perceived it to be the cheapest way to travel.

We spent the first evening in our room which was very clean and functional though I think it would have benefitted from containing a small fridge. In all, there was a room with two single beds, a television and a nice bathroom with an adequate shower.

Unfortunately, it rained most of Tuesday which wasn't too bad as it gave us the opportunity to rest after our long journey the previous day. However, we did manage to see a bit of Penzance and visit a nice café called The Quirky Bird.

On the Wednesday, we caught a bus to St. Ives and were informed that Brenda's Disabled Bus Pass didn't cover both of us – unlike in Yorkshire, so I had to pay which I didn't mind. We found the place to be beautiful and could understand why people holiday there. In addition, we were lucky enough to meet an American author who promised to write for the magazine in the future. The journey to St Ives was also very scenic and there was a bus back to Penzance every half an hour. In the evening, we went for an Indian meal but we weren't that impressed and thought it was expensive.

The following day we decided to go to Lands End and even though there was a complex of shops and entertainment venues, I didn't think there was much there except for the iconic signpost. In the evening, we dined at The Longboat Inn and had a vegan curry that was well-cooked and not too expensive.

On the final day of our holiday, I wanted to visit St Michaels Mount but unfortunately, Brenda wasn't well in the morning and slept until lunchtime. Happily, she felt better in the afternoon and we explored more of Penzance.

I came to the conclusion that Penzance is an excellent base from which to travel to other places.

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### LEEDS



Leeds (Ladenses) is the nearest city to where I was brought up (Kippax) and so I have chosen it as the second subject of my series about interesting places to visit.

Leeds is situated in West Yorkshire, England, about 169 miles north-northwest of London. It gained city status in 1893. In the Industrial Revolution it flourished as a mill town when wool was the main industry. Manufacturing

diversified in 1914 to printing, engineering, chemicals and clothing manufacture although the latter declined in the 1970s due to foreign competition.

Today Leeds is a vibrant city and has the largest financial and legal centre outside of London; it is also the UK's third largest manufacturing centre and has the fastest rate of private sector jobs of any UK city.

If you have the opportunity to visit Leeds, you will find lots with which to occupy yourself. For example, if you love shopping, there are some excellent shopping centres including the St. John's Centre, the Victoria Quarter and Trinity Leeds. In fact, there are over 1,000 retail stores in the centre of Leeds like: Marks and Spencers, Costa Coffee, Topshop as well as numerous independent shops.

The architecture in Leeds is truly stunning and includes such buildings as: Leeds Town Hall, The Corn Exchange, Leeds City Museum, and the Civic Hall. There are also numerous parks to visit like Roundhay Park, Temple Newsam and the glorious Golden Acre Park. The city is less than 20 miles from the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Leeds offers many events such as: The West Indian Carnival, Leeds Festival, the Leeds Asian Festival (formerly Leeds Mela) and the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition. There is also extensive nightlife to enjoy.

If you are looking for a bit of culture you should take a look at: Leeds City Museum, Leeds Art Gallery, The Royal Armouries and don't forget The Henry Moore Institute. As if this is not enough, there is also the Grand Theatre, Opera North, Leeds Playhouse and the City Varieties – which is one of the UK's few remaining music halls. Leeds is also the home of Leeds United Football Club and Leeds Rhinos, who are the most successful rugby league club in Leeds.

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If you are thinking of setting up home in the Leeds area, you will find it served by some excellent universities i.e. The University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Trinity University and The University of Law. It also has many very good state schools and further education institutions. The Grammar School of Leeds is a reputable private school and there are faith schools which cater for the Jewish and Muslim communities.

So, if you are looking for a refreshing and exciting change then why not consider a trip to the northern powerhouse that is Leeds. You will not be disappointed! / With help from Wikipedia.

## IN THE MOMENT

**Written by Alexander Duncan**

It is quiet  
It is still  
The actor,  
waits in the wings.  
Contemplating:

Waiting in the dark  
Imagining  
Wet streets,  
and street lights  
Heart pounding  
My love and I,  
What was it about?  
Why did we fight?

Need a drink  
Numbing, soothing  
Escape  
Nothing matters  
All is in tatters  
Dancing over splattered  
Pooled water

Head spinning  
Catch my balance  
Open the door  
Up the stairs  
Ready to tutor  
A young hair dresser  
Climbing up  
Advancing  
Improving

Do my best  
Open the door



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There she is  
Stalwart  
Uncertain  
And young

Take a breath  
Lights are on  
Audience seated  
The moment begins  
The play begins.

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## ODE TO COFFEE

**Written by Amy Diver**

Oh, coffee's a wonderful thing,  
a beverage to make the heart sing.  
It's aroma and flavor,  
are sure things to savor,  
and heap blessings upon the caffeine!

Yes, here's to the blessed coffee bean,  
of multiple uses it's seen.  
A drink or a snack,  
when in chocolate it's wrapped,  
either way such a sublime thing!

So, this is my ode to coffee,  
a simple yet wonderful thing.  
Let's offer a toast,  
no matter the roast,  
for all of the joy that it brings!

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**From [Robert A Williams](#):**

I was in a room with a group of about 28 people and on a table of about six.

We all introduced ourselves and there was one lady who was obviously wealthy, by dress and jewellery worn, and also obviously a supporter of the leave campaign by what was uttered.

Conversely there was a man who was obviously a hard worker and described himself as a European Courier. He said he went to places like Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and even Turkey. He said that now it was taking two and a half hours extra both ways to clear customs. This he said had only come about and was getting worse since the BREXIT vote. The woman

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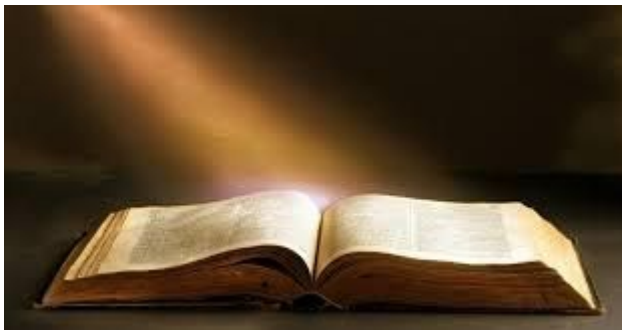
seemed incredulous. No, surely this cannot be because of BREXIT she protested. The Courier continued to explain how refugees in France were trying to climb onto his trailer to escape the camps and how this was becoming increasingly worse. The woman seemed oblivious to that and continued, "I feel sure this two and a half hours extra cannot be because of BREXIT"

And so this is how the Right Wing evolve, it happened with Hitler and is happening again now. Denial and stupidity. Nothing more can be said.

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## BIBLE STUDY



Sent in by Peter Smith

John 6.29

Compare these two passages, (and ask yourself, Who is "the man whose name is the BRANCH"?):

Behold, the man whose name is the

BRANCH!

From his place he shall branch out.  
And he shall build the temple of the Lord;  
Yes, he shall build the temple of the Lord.  
He shall bear the glory,  
And shall sit and rule on his throne;  
So he shall be a priest on his throne,  
And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.  
(Zechariah 6:12,13)

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,  
Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone,  
In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,  
In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.  
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

Then think about some more Old Testament verses that speak of Jesus:

I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, one like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!

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He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought him near before him.  
Then to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations and languages should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And his kingdom the one  
Which shall not be destroyed.  
(Daniel 7:13,14)  
(All quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible)

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## **THREE INTERESTING RECIPES FROM KITTY LYNN**



### **Triple Chocolate Cake**

#### **Ingredients:**

Cup and a half of chocolate biscuits  
2 cups of sugar  
3 ½ cups of milk  
¼ cup of cornflour  
4 egg yolks  
1 tsp of cayenne pepper  
½ tsp of salt  
3 oz of dark chocolate  
2 tsp of vanilla extract  
3 tbsp of butter

#### **Method:**

Blend cup and a half of chocolate biscuits with cup of sugar and a cup of milk. When mixed together, press together into a pie dish.  
Add a cup of sugar to the cornflour and mix together. Add four egg yolks, remaining milk, cayenne pepper, 3 tbsp of butter, 2 tsp of vanilla extract and salt together. Add wet and dry

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mixture together. Melt dark chocolate and mix into the mixture. Pour the finished mixture onto base and put in fridge for half an hour.



### **Strawberry Buckle Dessert**

#### **Ingredients:**

Strawberries  
4 oz of softened butter  
1 cup of sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp of salt  
1 tsp of baking powder  
1 tsp pf almond essence  
2 cups of flour  
½ cup of milk

#### **Method:**

Beat butter and sugar together. Add 1 egg. Mix all ingredients together then put in an 8-inch buttered dish. Quarter strawberries and place in the mixture. Put in oven at 375 oven/gas mark 5 for 35 minutes.



### **No Bake Chocolate Cookies**

#### **Ingredients:**

2 tbsp of softened butter  
1 cup of peanut butter  
½ cup of dark chocolate  
3 cups of oats

#### **Method:**

Heat over low heat until all melts. Cool. Use a quarter cup measure to divide mixture in 12 cookies. Place on tray and pop into the fridge for 20 minutes



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## **LETTERS PAGE**



#### **Dear Sir**

Why all this fuss about pensioners and their free TV licence? – it works out at about £3 per week for this brilliant BBC service – cheaper than a pack of cigarettes or a pint of beer. People don't know when they're well off.

**Edna Rogers, Rochdale**

#### **Dear Sir**

How sad to see members of the British Parliament grovelling to Donald Trump in such a subservient way. This group of sorry sycophants must have sent him on his way knowing that they would help him make America great again. We deserve much better than this.

**Freda Moorings, London**

#### **Dear Sir**

How can some people justify taking flights all the time when they know that aeroplanes damage the environment? How selfish are these people? Also, if we all know air pollution is very serious, how is it governments let airlines constantly advertise cheap flights to God know where? – it just doesn't make sense.

Do we care about our environment or not? Do we really want to look after our planet?

**Francis Brown, London**

#### **Dear Editor**

The minimum price of alcohol in Scotland is deemed to be a success in lowering the overall consumption of alcohol there – but I do wonder if this pricing system has affected the well-to-do who can afford to pay more?

It is surely another policy that punishes the poor and leaves the wealthy unaffected.



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**Diane Willows, Lancaster**

**Dear Sir**

This morning, I caught the usual busy train from Halifax to Leeds and could not believe how some people take up another seat with their bag or luggage whilst others struggle to find a seat. Surely the conductor should check to see if these people have paid for two seats and charge them for two if they have not. **Simon Oats, London**

**Dear Sir**

I have a friend who is in a relationship with a much younger person and I don't really know what to make of it. On reflection, I don't think big age differences need matter but I do think some are too big to be genuine and healthy for those involved. What do you think about big age differences between people in 'romantic' relationships?

**Zoe Gascoigne, Liverpool**

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## **DAZE OF MY LIFE (Part 13)**

**Written by Bill Pearce**

### **The Woppies' Nest**

One bright summer's day, our gang was increased in number by other kids from the estate. I particularly remember Kevin Hutchison who had his little sister Jean in tow. Keith Pitts from next door was accompanied by his little sister, Jennifer. Phil and I were suffering the same fate, as my dad had made us take our Loll along. It was difficult to decide what to do when we had girls with us.

We decided to risk the wrath of farmer Ben Wood, and head for Gracie fields.

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*Jean Hutchison came, along with brother Kevin*

A chance for some fun soon presented itself when Kelvin reported that he had seen several wasps going in and out of one of the dry-stone walls.

“A woppies’ nest!”, he called out.

Forgetting about the girls, we swung into action. There was only one way to deal with a woppies’ nest!

We tore up big sods of grass and put them into piles in a half circle around the nest. We now had our ammunition. Standing in the same half circle, the lads had a sod in each hand, ready to do battle.

Next, someone had to dislodge a few stones from the wall. This task fell to our Phil, as he had a proven record as a woppy disturber. Our gang also had previous experience of destroying this stinging menace.

Furtively, with the rest of us watching, Phil set about his task, looking back to make sure the girls had their eyes on him. But, as bloody usual, he made a mess of it.

Why, oh why, did we put up with him?

A foot section of the wall collapsed. With the girls screaming, and angry woppies everywhere, we started chucking the sods at the circling, buzzing enemy.

After about ten minutes, it was becoming apparent that we were fighting a losing battle. In one ‘last ditch’ attempt to retrieve the situation, and with an air of authority, I shouted, “Stand clear! I’m chucking one last, big sod at them!”.

At the very moment I launched my missile, our Loll decided to run across in front of my target. The missile hit her full in the face, at which she began to scream like somebody demented.

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*A 'Woppie'*

On closer inspection, I could see that her eyes, mouth and hair were full of soil and grit. I could also see a miserable few days ahead for me when I got her home!

“What the hell has happened?”, bellowed my Dad.

He landed a well-placed foot on my bum as he sent me up to bed. I was relieved, as I had expected a much worse punishment than this.



**Loll, (*butter wouldn't melt*).**

Loll recovered with a good bath, and a lot of spoiling. She was soon outside on the pavement playing with her whip and top.

I was left to suffer, alone, in the bedroom.

Things always went wrong when we had to take the girls along!

A few days later, I heard that Ben Wood, the farmer, had been complaining that a lot of his drystone walls were mysteriously suffering damage.

Well, don't blame us, I thought!

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Blame those bloody woppies!

### **Cricket is a load of balls**

At school in the fifties, summer was a time when lots of outdoor activities were encouraged. Nature walks were a popular choice and we would wander through nearby fields and woods collecting any number of leaves and grasses.

When we got back to the classroom, teacher would get us all to discuss our 'finds'. We were shown how to press leaves and flowers between the pages of books. Grasses and leaves were painted and stuck to sheets of paper to be displayed on the classroom walls.



We also got the chance to grow carrot tops until the fern-like leaves appeared. We planted beans in jars with blotting paper and water, and were able to watch their progress through the glass.

On warm, sunny days, 'Miss' conducted some of the lessons on the sports field at the back of our school.

When it came to summer sports, it was usually cricket for the boys. We seemed to have a game each week. Team selection was left to the master, or else we would have chosen our friends week after week. One particularly warm and sunny Friday afternoon, Mr Tasker, one of our teachers, thought it would be a good idea to end the week with a cricket match.

So, there I was on the fielding team, hoping that the time would pass so that we could all get home and laik out.

"After the next man is out, we can all pack up and go home", the teacher eventually said. It was joy to my ears!

A lad called Peter Morrison was batting and every time someone bowled at him, he would just hold his bat straight, and the ball would pop up and land about a foot in front of him.

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After watching this procedure for a couple of balls, I thought I'd move nearer and try and catch him out. Next ball came with the same outcome, but I was unable to catch the ball. Hmm! A bit nearer, I thought, so I edged a little closer.

The next ball came and I was ready. Not only would we have won, but we would be able to go home. His bat went backwards and... all I could remember was a sharp pain in my head, flashing lights and then blackness.

When I came around there were other kids and a couple of teachers looking at me.

"Are you okay Pearce?", asked Mr Tasker.

"Yes, Sir", I replied, woozily.

I was aware of redness in my eye and down my front.

"It doesn't look as if it needs stitches", said another of the teachers, "Let's get a plaster on it". So that's what they did – put a plaster on it and sent me home with blood still down my front. Mom and Dad went shopping in Sowerby Bridge on a Friday afternoon and came in about ten minutes after me.

"We're home!", shouted Mom, as they came in with the shopping through the side door.

"Bloody hell! What's happened?", she asked as she came into the living room.

Dad came in to see what all the fuss was about. Seeing all the blood, he asked what had happened. I told him my sorry tale.

"That should have had bloody stitches in it!", he shouted, as he inspected the gash.





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### **Dad with a very young Jim. Me creeping up behind.**

He shot out of the front door and stormed over to the school. Being a Friday, the staff had all gone home. It was lucky for them that they had. Dad wasn't to be trifled with when he was roused.

Mom bathed and redressed the cut and I was spoiled a bit that evening. Come Monday, after doing his milk round, Dad was over at the school, still heated over the incident. He let them know, in no uncertain terms, what he thought about their decision not to get my wound treated professionally. He was in the headmaster's office, but we could hear his raised voice in my classroom. He slammed the door as he left.

The teachers were polite, but somewhat cool towards me for a few weeks.

I still have the scar above my left eye!

### **Ear and there**

My brother Phil, who was also my best friend and confidant, had been suffering for some time with discharge from one of his ears. Eventually, he was referred to a consultant at the Halifax Infirmary in Free School Lane. It was decided that he needed an operation on the offending ear.

Phil's operation followed closely on the heels of losing our Martyn. Dad walked up to Mrs Walsh's house, as she was one of the few people who had a phone in the late fifties. After the operation, he phoned the Infirmary and was told that Phil was recovering in the ward and that everything had gone well.

As he put the phone down, he collapsed in a heap on the floor, probably with relief, after what he had gone through when Martyn had died. Once again, it was Mrs Walsh who walked down to our house and, this time, gave my Mom the more welcome news.

Things were handled differently in those days. Phil was sent to a convalescent home in Scarborough to help his recovery from the operation. I thought he was a 'jammy devil', being sent to the seaside. It was strange not having him around for about six weeks.

About half way through his absence, Mom told us we were going over to see Phil.

Loll and me were very excited and were dressed in our best clothes. Jim was still a baby. We set off in this big old car which Dad's business partner used in his part-time taxi business. It took a bit longer to drive to the seaside in those days as there were no motorways, but eventually, we arrived at our destination.

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***Loll and me. We arrived in Scarboro' in style!***

Dad knocked on the door of the home and was greeted by an elderly lady in a nurse's outfit. She told Dad that Phil was out with a nurse but would be back soon. We waited in the car and had a drink and a few sandwiches. Suddenly, Phil and the nurse appeared from around the corner. He was excited to see us all, and we felt the same.

Phil seemed very well and he let me have a look at the crescent – shaped scar around his ear. It transpired that he was recovering very well, and was getting spoilt by the staff. He had been taken into the town and had ice-cream, and they had even let him buy a Buddy Holly record! I was feeling quite jealous.

After six weeks, Phil came home and the gang was back in business. I was happy to have him back home, but didn't tell him in case he took advantage of the situation.

A couple of months later, Phil had his first epileptic fit. He continued to have them as he grew. It couldn't be proved that they were caused by his operation, but it seemed to be more than a coincidence.

*Footnote: Later in his adult life, our Phil had a second operation on that troublesome ear. Amazingly, the epilepsy disappeared and he never suffered another fit.*

**Next Time:** *New School, New Address*

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## BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



### Elephants (Part One)

Elephants are large mammals. There are currently three species of elephant that are recognised: the African Elephant, the African Forest Elephant and the Asian elephant. They are scattered throughout sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and South East Asia.

All elephants have several distinctive features, the most recognisable of which is a long trunk which is used for many purposes e.g. breathing, lifting water and grasping objects. African elephants have larger ears than Asian elephants.

Elephants are herbivorous and can be found in savannahs, forest deserts and marshes but always like to stay near water. Calves play an important role in the family group and can depend on their mothers for as long as three years. Elephants can live in the wild for up to 70 years.

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## ALERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES



Alternative energy is usually referred to as energy from a source other than the traditional non-renewable fuel sources like oil, gas and coal. Alternative energy is often not used but is normally ecologically sound. It is also often a renewable resource. Alternative energy sources are solar, wind, biomass, wave and tidal energy.

Increase in population is not just a problem or concern for the majority of most people. People consume food, fresh water, wood, minerals, and energy every day. The increasing energy usage is resulting in the decrease of conventional energy resources as well as increase in pollution.

We are currently reliant on fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy. This causes great damage to our environment and will also significantly affect future generations. Most people rely on non-renewable energy sources such as oil, gas, non-renewable fuel sources and coal.

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable source of energy, and could run out in time. When fossil fuels are burnt, they produce the gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

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Renewable and alternative sources of energy are thus essential. Renewable energy originates from resources that are regenerative or regenerate after consumption. For this reason, renewable energy, unlike fossil fuels, do not produce as many greenhouse gases.

Currently, only a relatively small percentage of the world's energy usage comes from sustainable energy sources. There is arguably much scope for the increased use of alternative energy.

Several sources of eco-friendly and alternative energy are sunshine, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat. Wind energy originates from wind power that is produced from wind turbines. Wind energy is a non-polluting energy source with low maintenance expense although the initial cost of installation may be high.

Solar energy comes from the sun's rays that reach the Earth. Solar power can be converted into heat and electrical power. Solar power can also be transformed into thermal or energy created from heat. It can be used to heat water and heat spaces like inside greenhouses, houses and other buildings.

Biomass energy comes from plants and animal material that are usable sources of energy like wood from trees, waste from other plants, manure or animal waste. Biomass energy has various advantages.

Meanwhile, hydropower uses the energy the water gains when it drops in elevation. That is why hydropower plants are near dams or waterfalls. Hydropower has been used since the start of the electrical age but unfortunately, the potential of this type of energy has not been fully realised.

Another alternative energy source could be geothermal energy or energy collected from the undersea heat that the world is constantly releasing. Geothermal power plants are unaffected by changing climate conditions. It is also competitively priced and reduces our reliance on non-renewable fuel sources.

So, it would be quite easy to increase our usage of alternative energy forms and this would benefit our environment considerably. In addition, alternative energy sources enable us to choose a healthier and brighter future for everyone.

## **AN OVERVIEW OF SOLAR ENERGY AND OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCE SOURCES**

When we speak about renewable energy resources, we are describing power that provides energy from resources that will not be depleted through our use of them. But renewable energy is an important alternative to non-renewable fossil fuel energy for other reasons.

One basic advantage of using renewable resources, and the reason environmentalists all over the world are advocates of its usage, is that it does not emit greenhouse gases and other damaging toxins unlike the burning of fossil fuels. Renewable resources such as solar power, water power and wind power have been around for years but are now being taken more seriously. In developed and non-developed countries, wind, sun and water have actually long been used

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as source of power - though not to the extent of being the main energy source.

People have started to look more to renewable energy sources in the last few years as the realisation of how the burning of fossil fuels is harming the environment has become more apparent.

Numerous countries and non-profit environmentally-conscious organizations are encouraging the use of renewable energy sources by passing legislation on tax cuts for their use and subsidies to offset the incurred expenditure of converting from non-renewable fuel sources to renewable resources - tide, sunlight, heat and wind obtained by geothermal incidents all offer renewable resources. Each of these energy sources is special both in where we can utilize them and how. Obviously, the sun is also a major source of energy and can be successfully harnessed, through technology, for many uses.

To conclude, it can be argued that we would be most unwise not to invest in renewable sources of energy as we must protect the planet for our use, and for many generations of people to come.

### **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN IRELAND**

The Irish are currently pursuing energy independence and the improvement of their economy through research into alternative energy sources. Almost 90% of Ireland's energy needs are met by importing energy – the most in its entire history. This is a very precarious situation to be in, and the need to establish alternative energy sources in Ireland is very acute. Ireland is also looking to protect the environment and to clean up its atmosphere through the implantation of alternative energy products.

The European Union has demanded a decrease in sulphuric and nitric oxide emissions for all member countries. Green energy is required to meet these objectives. Hydroelectric power has been made use of in Ireland in some areas since the 1930s and has been really reliable; nevertheless, more of it needs to be set up. Ireland also needs to harness the wave power of the Atlantic Ocean, which on its west coast is a possible energy supply that the nation could use.

Ireland has the potential to become an energy exporter, instead of a nation so heavily dependent on importing energy. This energy potential lies in Ireland's substantial wind, ocean wave, and biomass-producing alternative energies. Ireland could become a supplier of ocean wave-produced electrical energy and biomass-fuelled energy to continental Europe and, as they claim, "make a killing". At the present time, Ireland is concentrating on reaching the point where it can produce at least 15% of the country's electricity through wind farms.

Universities, research study institutes, and government personnel in Ireland have also been saying that the development of ocean wave energy technology would be a real driving force for the nation's economy and one which would help to make Ireland energy independent. A test site for establishing wave ocean energy has actually been established in Ireland, less than two miles off the coast of An Spideal in County Galway Bay. This speculative ocean wave harnessing site is called "Wave bob". The most energetic waves worldwide are found off the west coast of Ireland, states Ireland's Marine Institute CEO Dr. Peter Heffernan. The



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harnessing of the power of the ocean is only just starting and Ireland has the potential to become a market leader in this field. David Taylor, CEO of the Sustainable Energy Initiative, or SEI, claims that SEI is dedicated to innovation in the renewable resource sector. Wave energy is an appealing brand-new renewable energy resource which might one day make a significant contribution to Ireland's electrical power as its reliance on fossil fuels declines.

Today, sustainable energy sources satisfy only a small percentage of Ireland's total energy intake. Biomass energies need to also be looked into more.

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## ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



### Questions:

- (1) Who won the 2019 Cheltenham Cup?
- (2) Where is Wimbledon?
- (3) What does the French word 'tete' mean in English?
- (4) Who was the fourth man on the moon?
- (5) Who is the lead singer of Roxy Music?
- (6) What is the German word for fish?
- (7) When did Freddie Mercury die?
- (8) How many years of marriage does cotton symbolise?
- (9) What is a fetlock?
- (10) Who invented the spin dryer?
- (11) Who was Queen Victoria married to?
- (12) Who sang the song 'Paranoid'?
- (13) What is a typical definition of OCD?
- (14) Which record label famously turned down The Beatles?
- (15) Who invented the first motorcycle?
- (16) What is a black box?
- (17) Where was Professor Brian Cox born?
- (18) When did the actor James Dean die?
- (19) Name the Primary colours?
- (20) What is 9 pm on the 24-hour clock?

### Answers:

(1) Early Doors (2) South-West London, England (3) Head (4) Alan Bean (5) Bryan Ferry (6) Fisch (7) 24 November 1991 (8) Two (9) The joint of a horse or other quadruple's leg between the cannon bone and the pastern (10) J. Ross Moore (11) Albert, Prince Consort (12) Black Sabbath (13) Having a tendency towards excessive orderliness, perfectionism, and great attention to detail. (14) Decca (15) Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach (16) A flight recorder in an aircraft (17) Oldham (18) 30 September 1955 (19) Any group of colours from which all other colours can be obtained by mixing (20) 21:00

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**Editor's Final Word:** Thank you for reading this publication and hopefully you will be inspired to contribute something to it in the future at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk) You can also use this contact point if you want to advertise or maybe donate something to the running costs of the magazine. See you next edition! Dean, Robert and Brenda.

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