

## FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – May 2020. Edition 65.



Hello again. I hope you are coping during this terrible time. Me and Brenda are in lockdown in Halifax and miss socialising and going to cafes.

We are very sad for people who have been affected either directly or indirectly by the virus, and like most people we are very grateful for those who are working to serve us and keep us safe whilst risking their own lives.

If you want to contact us at the magazine to contribute something, advertise, donate or for any other matter, please do so at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk)

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# Competition!

Because many of us have more time on our hands at the moment, I thought it would be a good idea to have a Short Story writing competition for adults and children. The adult story can be up to 3,000 words, on any subject, in English and

there is a prize of £75 for the best entry plus it will be published along with the children's entry in the magazine. The children's story can be any length, on any subject and has a prize of £25 for the best entry. All entries must reach us by midnight (GMT) on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2020.

Good luck! Best Wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.

All entries must be emailed to us at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk)

For more Details please read - [THIS POST](#)

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## MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



### **Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov**

There is little harmony in your life at the moment, so, surround yourself with other nice people who are singing from the same hymn sheet as yourself. Stop splashing the cash like there's no tomorrow – are you puddled or something? You seem to be always putting yourself down, but you shouldn't as

you have so much going for you and you're lovely.

### **Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec**

Now that you've clocked someone attractive online, take your time and try to get to know them instead of just staring at them. Some people may wonder which planet you're on, but really, they are just jealous of all the sunshine and fun you have in your life. You may feel that you were becoming your kids' taxi, but can you remember what you used to be like?

### **Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan**

You may be feeling like a large chocolate egg after Easter so, take a hard look at your diet and hatch a realistic plan to lose some weight. It is time you stopped being so cold to others as this is really not a good way to be. A God-fearing woman may say things to frighten you, but just keep on following your own path which is a good one. Buy yourself a new dress.

### **Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb**

You have been following a very negative train of thought and always putting others before yourself, but now is the time to stop carrying passengers and put yourself first. Chocolate plays too large a role in your life, but on a brighter note, you don't look as obese as you used to. You are an outrageous flirt, but be careful, as you may get badly hurt in the near future when lockdown ends.

### **Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar**

A keen cricketer will bowl you over with their charm and quickly draw you into their web – so protect yourself otherwise they will eat you alive. A health problem may emerge this month, so, be on your guard and take it seriously. You seem proud of your ignorance which is ridiculous! Consider keeping a baby crocodile in your bath. Take some vitamin B12.

### **Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr**

You have always depended on your looks as a passport to good things in life, but now that wrinkles are appearing, take time to develop your dull personality. You have made a series of errors in your life, but don't throw in the towel as the good times will roll again if you follow advice. Surprisingly, love is not so far away if you have a realistic outlook. Eat more lettuce.

### **Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May**

It is a good time to plan to leave your partner as you are clearly out of their league and need to branch out more. Someone may be extremely kind to you this week but don't mistake their generosity for stupidity as they are just a nice person who should be cherished. You may still be unsure whether there is a God, but you have nothing to worry about as you are a good egg.

### **Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun**

A small woman in a beret may say something that destroys your confidence. You are wasting your time shedding crocodile tears as no one is fooled and knows that you are a predator to be feared. A friend may appal you with their terrible anti-social behaviour, but make allowances as none of us are perfect. A poor, creative person may offer you lunch in the near future, so treat them well.

### **Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul**

A drunken barman recently showed himself up, but be gentle with him when you see him as he is normally good to you. Stop buying someone you fancy presents as you can't buy someone's affections. It is time you spent less time online and did something with your life. Maybe now is the time to question your sexuality. It would be a good idea to join a club or society. Wash more.

### **Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug**

You are really casting pearls before swine with your peer group, so why not look for some new friends? A younger, married woman may show interest in you, but be careful as her husband could eat you for breakfast. You may be needing a trip to the dentist but you will get the chance soon and it will preserve your fantastic smile. It is time to be realistic about your future.

### **Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep**

You may be desperate for a partner, but don't sell yourself short or you will suffer in the long run. Someone famous will come into your life and you will realise that we are all just human beings. If you are lucky, you may come across someone this month who is actually more stupid than you. It is a good time to consider a new religion if you are that way inclined.

### **Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct**

Someone from Birmingham will do something really nice for you this week which will change your life for the better. A gambler will give you a red-hot certainty but be aware of the fact that he is a poor gambler. Think twice about travelling abroad. At the moment, it seems to be always raining on you, but don't worry, as sunny times are ahead for you.

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### **ANNA VICTORIA – LUCKY ASD MUM**

(Interviewed by Graham Townsend)

**Firstly, Anna can you tell us a little bit about yourself?** Yes. I'm a mother of three children, James, almost 13, Alexandra 7 and Samuel almost 5. The eldest, James has ASD. Until recently I've been a full-time mum.

**Have you always lived in and around Halifax?** Yes. All my life - I'm almost 40 and I'll never leave here!



**A home bird as they say, you mention that you were a full-time mum until recently, how has that changed?** Once all the children were at school full-time, I decided to volunteer at their local school, reading with the children etc. Then I asked another local school if they needed any help which they did and offered me a paid job as a midday supervisor which I absolutely love. So, I've been doing that since September 2019

**So, this role fits in well with your family commitments?** Absolutely, it's perfect. It means I can still do the school run as I've always done. And I'm home for when James gets picked up and dropped to and from school by Calderdale transport.

**Brilliant, you've touched upon the fact that James has ASD. Are you happy to talk about him in a little more detail?** Always!

**Great! To start with, what is it like to be a mum to young man with ASD?** It's difficult at times but mainly it's full of heart stopping moments. The early days were super tough but as he's got older and changed and understood the world around him more, it's got less hard, for him and me. I'm proud of all my children but James has exceeded all expectations I had for him. All I ever wanted for him was to feel safe and happy and the fact he's excelling in all aspects of his life - school/socially/as a son and brother - makes me so proud that I could burst!

**So, on the whole, it is very rewarding?** A million percent. James has a learning difficulty too so having him has made me see the world around me completely differently.

**Do your other two children understand the situation James finds himself in?** Yes. They are incredible. They understand him very well and they know why he says certain things or behaves in ways when he's happy or stressed. They never question it they just accept him and support him very much.

**That's lovely!** I know

**You seem to be an optimistic type of person. There are organisations out there that champion the cause of people with ASD, autism etc. Do you embrace those organisations and champion their cause where possible?** Oh yes and I always have done. Calderdale is amazing for support and resources. They have literally changed James' life from the age of 2 - he's had ongoing help since then and I feel so incredibly lucky to have so much help. I am an optimistic person, you're right. Apart from one day, when I realised he wasn't a typical little boy and that possibly the reason he didn't talk was because of a lifelong condition - I've never cried over his ASD other than that one day. I literally did all I could to help James and I embraced it as best I could. I'm not saying I never cried again, because I did. Being a mum is exhausting anyway but added to that the fact my child didn't sleep, didn't talk and didn't play or communicate - they were the hardest days of my life. BUT I've never cried over the ASD itself. I've never wished he didn't have it. I've never wanted it to 'go away'. I've always accepted it and looked for the positives in this unique condition.

**Thanks for being so candid with your response! I'm sure this will be very re-assuring for other people out there who find themselves in a similar situation! Do you have any specific hopes for the future for James?** Unfortunately, there are a lot of unknowns when it

comes to ASD. No one will tell you it'll be ok and that your child will do well in life because they literally do not know. Early intervention and accepting your child's differences are the best things you can do. That and loads of love and cuddles if they are ok with that - lots of ASD children have sensory issues. James loves affection and physical contact. I don't have specific hopes other than I hope he continues to be happy and healthy. He has a girlfriend who also has ASD and they want to get married which I'll support them with when the time comes! He wants a job and his own house and family which I believe he will achieve because he always tries his best and is the sweetest young man you could ever meet!

**So, when you're not busy caring for your children or working do you have time for any other hobbies or interests?** I'm all about the music! I play piano and saxophone and failing that there's usually music or radio playing in the background somewhere. I love ALL music, Mozart to Motorhead! I'm vegan and enjoy eating more than cooking but I'm trying more recipes and trying to be less lazy!

**Are you an accomplished player in terms of both the piano and the saxophone?** Pass! Ha-ha. I've played piano from age 11 and the saxophone for the last 2 years - I'm comfortably playing grade 4 and some grade 5 pieces, for the saxophone that is.

**I'd say that makes you more than competent! In terms of becoming a vegan, when did you make this decision? And was there anything in particular that steered you down the route of veganism?** I'd been a vegetarian for a while and I discovered I had intolerance to dairy so I figured I'd just eat full vegan. I'm the healthiest I've been in terms of what I eat. So much choice and amazing flavours out there.

**Thank you for that useful insight. From a personal point of view what are your hopes and aspirations for the future?** Same as what I want for my children - to be happy, healthy and safe wherever I am.

**Finally, is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't touched upon until now?** Anyone that's starting their ASD journey - know that you're not alone and there are lots of wonderful moments coming your way! I can't imagine a world without any James's - he's just perfect and we should all be more like him. He's so kind and pure.

**That's a great way to finish, thanks for your time today Anna!** You're welcome!

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## COVID-19 & THE LOCKDOWN - IS IT ALL BAD NEWS?



**Written by Graham Townsend**

As I write this article, we are about to enter the fifth week of lockdown, here in the UK, as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

I wanted to take a look at how the lockdown is impacting peoples' daily lives and whether there are any positives to take from what we

are experiencing at the current time.

Quite clearly there are plenty of negatives surrounding the situation we currently find ourselves in, not least the tragic loss of life, at the time of writing, we have just passed the 19,000 mark in terms of lives lost in UK hospitals where the cause of death has primarily been attributed to COVID-19.

The measures put in place by The UK Government mean that people are supposed to remain at home unless they have a valid or essential reason for leaving their abode. Those essential reasons are: to go to work, if you are classed as a key worker and/or are unable to work from home, to shop for food, to obtain medical supplies or venture out for other health related issues e.g. assisting vulnerable people or to exercise once per day.

Additionally, should you need to go out you must practice social distancing, this involves maintaining a space of at least two metres between yourself and any other person who is not a member of your household. You should not socialise with friends or family who do not live in the same household.

In general, these measures have been deemed a relative success to date, although there have been several instances publicised within the media where fines have been issued or high-profile members of the public have been cited as flouting the conditions of the lockdown.

One major concern, which has reared its head as a result of the lockdown, is how it impacts the mental health of people who live on their own. These people may also be limited in their ability to leave the four walls within which they spend their time, especially if they do not have a garden. It has been reiterated that support is available for people in this predicament and the advent of social media may help to alleviate some of the difficulties they are experiencing.

Whilst all this may sound a little depressing there are some positives to come out of all this. Firstly, families are spending more time together and this can only strengthen the bond parents will have with their children. Activities that had never previously been considered may become commonplace for these people. Home-schooling may mean that some children become more engaged in terms of their education.

Secondly, there seems to be a siege mentality being adopted by a large section of the population. A feeling of “we will not be defeated by this virus”. It appears to be bringing out the best in people. A willingness to help each other is evident.

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## LETTERS PAGE



### **Dear Editor**

It is great news that Boris Johnson has survived Covid-19, and it is good that he has acknowledged the debt he owes to the NHS staff who saved his life.

I wonder therefore, if the British Tory party will press ahead with the dismantling and sale of the NHS once things return back to normal? – I

think so.

**Stephen Horner, Aberdeen**

### **Dear Editor**

During the current health and now, economic crisis, we are witnessing some amazing acts of kindness and thoughtfulness towards others. Surely, this shows that our attachment to money and materialism is superfluous and that all living beings are more important than these things. We must cherish each other!

**Zoe Appleby, Plymouth**

### **Dear Editor**

Some people are angry when they see migrants coming to Britain – some of whom are purely economic migrants posing as asylum seekers.

But have we really got the right to judge others when we have an infamous history of exploiting and stealing from others? i.e. The British Empire

Maybe it is our turn to give something back!?

**Mary Jones, Cleckheaton**



## Dear Editor

Like most sane people in the UK, I feel great gratitude to people like nurses, post people, doctors, shopkeepers etc. who have continued to serve us through this terrible crisis – unfortunately some brave NHS staff have sacrificed their lives for others.

Once this is all over, I hope that everyone will continue to appreciate each other and will insist that public services like the NHS remain out of the hands of greedy individuals.

**Freddie Freeman, Bolton**

## Dear Editor

It is refreshing that some extremely rich footballers have put their hands in their pockets to partly help fund the NHS during this extremely difficult time.

Also, I have little respect for players who have simply deferred their wages until a later date – as I see it, they are not actually giving anything up to help their club or society.

**Elsa Woodbank, Leeds**

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## BOLTON



Recently, just as the Coronavirus was kicking off, Brenda and I went with the Richmond Hill Community Centre Friendship Group to Bolton for a fish and chip dinner at the Olympus restaurant.

The journey, in a mini-bus, was quite pleasant, but I think we were all aware of the imminent danger posed by the virus.

The meal itself was good (I had chips and peas) and then Brenda and I went for a walk around the centre of Bolton and visited the lovely aquarium and the interesting museum upstairs.

We then returned to the Olympus for a cream tea before returning back to Leeds, and then on by train to Halifax where I live.

I am now going to take a look at Bolton in more detail but am aware that its commercial landscape may change after this terrible pandemic.

Bolton (population in UK Census 2001 of 139,403) is a town in the North West of England and is in Greater Manchester – it is actually 10 miles northwest of the city of Manchester.

There are several towns and villages around Bolton and these form the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton of which Bolton is the administrative centre.

Bolton's history is an interesting one as there is evidence of Bronze Age human activity in the area, and the Romans were also there and built many roads around the town. It was later a Parliamentary outpost, and was infamous as being the site of the Bolton Massacre which took place on 28 May 1644, when Royalist troops led by Prince Rupert of the Rhine killed 1,600 residents and took another 700 prisoners.

Bolton is a former mill town and has produced textiles since Flemish weavers settled in the area in the fourteenth century and introduced a wool and cotton-weaving tradition.

In the nineteenth century, urbanisation along with the efforts of inventors Richard Arkwright, Samuel Crompton and James Hargreaves brought improvement to the textile industry. Crompton invented the Spinning Mule which revolutionised cotton spinning, Arkwright invented the Water Frame and Hargreaves invented the Spinning Jenny. This led to Bolton becoming a nineteenth century boomtown i.e. in 1929, it had 216 cotton mills and 26 bleaching and dyeing works. This meant that Bolton was one of the most productive centres of cotton spinning in the world. Unfortunately, the industry declined rapidly after the First World War and by the 1980s, cotton manufacture had virtually ceased in the town.

Bolton's heavy industries were replaced by service-based activities in the last quarter of the twentieth century like: data processing, call centres, hi-tech electronics and IT companies. It is important to note however, that some traditional industries still exist in the town. It is the home of Warburton's bakery which was established in 1876 on Blackburn Road.

Interestingly, Bolton was awarded Fairtrade Town status on 13 February 2003.

Ordinarily, Bolton like other towns and cities in the UK, is a hub of commercial activity, but as things stand at the moment, no one really knows who or what will survive this crisis.

However, when better times return for us all, I am sure that it will still be worth visiting Bolton which has its own identity and landmarks like the Grade II listed Town Hall which is neoclassical in style and was designed by William Hill.

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**Don't forget to enter our latest Competition**

See

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Written by Francis Tait

Are you celebrating your birthday today? Happy Birthday! Will you be celebrating with a birthday cake together with the candles?

Even if it is not your birthday today, many of us have celebrated this event with a birthday cake together with candles at some time in our lives.

But do you know the origins of the birthday cake tradition?

Ancient Egyptians are credited with inventing the 'celebration of birthdays'. This was because they believed when pharaohs were crowned, they were seen as a god and thus the coronation was their 'birth' as a god.

Ancient Greeks baked moon shaped cakes to offer up to Artemis goddess of the moon. This was seen as a special tribute to her. The cake was decorated with lighted candles to make the cake shine like the moon.

However, it is also believed that the first actual birthday cake was made in Germany during the Middle Ages.

The Germans would celebrate children's birthdays with cake. The celebration was known as 'kinderfest'. Children would have a cake with lighted candles totalling their age plus one extra candle. The extra candle was known as 'light of life' which symbolised hope for another full year lived.

The cake was unlike a birthday cake as we know them today. It was a bread-like product but later a sweeter version emerged known as 'geburtstagorten'

Although the cake was given to the child on the morning of their birthday, together with lighted candles, it was not allowed to be eaten until after evening dinner. As you can imagine the candles would have to be re-lighted throughout the day in order that they were constantly burning!

With regard to placing candles on the cake it is believed that ancient cultures trusted that the smoke from the candles transported their prayers to the heavens.

Just imagine today's tradition of 'making wishes' when blowing out your birthday candles may have very well started from this belief.

So when you are celebrating your next birthday remember how the great birthday cake began and its origins from the Egyptians, Greeks and Germans who we are to thank for this great

cake.

Don't forget to 'make a wish' when you blow out your candles.

Your wish may just come true!

References:

[www.proflowers.com](http://www.proflowers.com)

R.D culture C Nowak

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## BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



### **Rhinoceros**

Rhinoceros from the Greek *rhinoceros* meaning 'nose-horned'.

Two extant species are native to Africa and three to Southern Asia. Members of the rhinoceros family are some of the largest remaining megafauna – all species can weigh more than one tonne in weight.

They eat leafy material and the two African species of rhinoceros have no teeth at the front of their mouths, relying on their lips to pluck food.

Rhinoceros are killed by humans for their horns which are bought and sold on the black market. These are used in some cultures for ornaments or medicine. Vietnam is the largest market for rhino horns. On the black market, rhino horns sell by weight for as much as gold.

People also grind up the horns and eat them believing that the dust has special properties.

The horns are made of Keratin which is a type of protein that makes up hair and fingernails.

The African and the Sumatran rhinos have two horns, while the Indian and Javan rhinos have a single horn.

The IUCN Red List identifies the Black, Javan and Sumatran rhinos are extremely endangered.

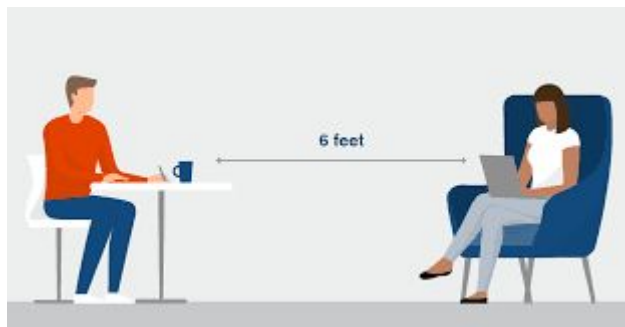
The collective noun for a group of rhinoceros is Crash or Herd.

Ref: Wikipedia

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## JUNE WRITES...

(April 2020)



The Coronavirus seems to be getting worse instead of better.

Everywhere you go you are reminded to be very careful and keep at least two metres away from the person in front of you.

Some places are even fining people if they attempt to go to certain places for a walk.

Someone was saying that people were getting a fine of £40 which seems a bit over the top to me. Parks are now closed as are pubs, clubs and theatres to try and control this terrible virus that is taking so many lives.

In general, a lot of people are wearing masks or covering their faces with scarves or a big handkerchief. At the supermarkets they are only allowing one person in at a time, but if you are a couple, you can go in together, but must keep your distance from other people.

Boris Johnson has had the virus after telling everybody to be extra careful and to make sure to cover your mouth and nose. It seems it can happen to anyone so it is best to take extra care when there are other people around. What is sad is that relatives have to stay away or just leave things on the step. I also think that people are reluctant to book holidays because nobody knows how long the virus is going to go on for. Having said that I know a lot of travel agents have closed down. Hopefully, in the not too distant future things will get back to normal.

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## MORE OF JUNE'S RECIPES



### Custard Creams

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour

1 oz of semolina

3 oz of margarine

1 oz of sugar

1 large egg

1 oz of custard powder

**Method:**

Rub fat into flour, semolina and custard powder. Add sugar. Bind with egg and a little milk. Roll out thinly, cut into rounds and bake in a cool oven until firm.



### **Cheese Straws**

#### **Ingredients:**

2 oz of plain flour  
3 oz of grated cheese  
1 level tablespoon of baking powder  
2 oz of butter or margarine  
1 egg

#### **Method:**

Put butter, cheese and baking powder into a bowl, cut into cubes and rub into the flour. Separate egg yolk and add to the mixture. Mix with a spoon to a dough. Shape dough and cut into sticks. Bake at 455 F for about 12 minutes.



### **Coconut Butter Biscuits**

#### **Ingredients:**

3 oz of butter  
2 oz of coconut  
3 oz of sugar  
4 oz of self-raising flour  
1 level teaspoon of bicarbonate soda  
1 level tablespoon of golden syrup  
Grated rind of orange or lemon

#### **Method:**

Melt butter and syrup into a pan. Add rest of ingredients. Roll into tiny balls and flatten with palette knife. Bake at 325 F/gas mark 3 for 10-15 minutes.

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### **Brandy Snaps**

#### Ingredients:

- 2 oz of sifted, plain flour
- 1 level teaspoon of sifted, ground ginger
- Finely grated rind of ½ a lemon
- 2 oz of butter
- 2 oz of soft brown sugar
- 3 level tablespoons of golden syrup

1 teaspoon of lemon juice  
Whipped cream for filling

#### **Method:**

Mix together flour, ginger, and lemon rind. Melt butter, sugar and syrup together in a pan, then stir in the flour mixture and lemon juice.

Line baking tray with silicone paper and drop up to six ½ teaspoons of the mixture, well apart, onto the paper, allowing plenty of room for spreading.

Bake at 355F/gas mark 5 for 10 minutes.

Remove brandy snaps from the paper and roll each loosely round the handle of a greased wooden spoon.

Repeat baking process until the mixture is all used. Allow to cool and pipe whipped cream inside each and serve.

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## **GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ**

### **Questions:**



- (1) Paul Draper was the former lead singer of which rock band, their singles included “Taxloss” and “Stripper Vicar”?
- (2) Mob, herd or troop is the collective term used for a group of which marsupials?
- (3) “The Lilac Bus” and “Scarlet Feather” are books by which Irish writer, she died in 2012?
- (4) Which X Factor winner released her first album “Spirit” in 2007?
- (5) What are the ingredients of a “Bellini” cocktail?
- (6) Who directed and starred as Governor Lepetomane and also played the Indian Chief in the 1974 film “Blazing

Saddles”?

- (7) As at 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Sir Malcolm Walker is the CEO of which supermarket/food company?

- (8) With which sport would you associate Tony Rickardsson, a Swedish six times World Champion?
- (9) Which flowering plants in the family Theaceae, they are found in eastern and southern Asia, from the Himalayas east to Japan and Indonesia, are known as “Tea Flower” in China?
- (10) The 1937 painting “Guernica” was painted by which artist?
- (11) What is the state capital of Alaska?
- (12) Which car manufacturer has produced models including Tucson, KONA, Santa Fe & NEXO?
- (13) Actor Cary Grant was born in which English city?
- (14) Which former Air Commodore is credited with single-handedly inventing the turbojet engine?
- (15) Which country did Germany invade on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 to trigger the start of World War 2?
- (16) Former Scottish footballer Graeme Souness started his professional career with which English club, he never made a full First Division appearance for them?
- (17) “Obsession” is a fragrance produced by which fashion company?
- (18) Which King of Scotland reigned from 25<sup>th</sup> March 1306 until 7<sup>th</sup> June 1329?
- (19) Which combination puzzle was invented in 1974 by a Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture?
- (20) “Burpless Tasty Green”, “Telegraph” and “Crystal Apple” are varieties of which vegetable often used in salads?

### **Answers**

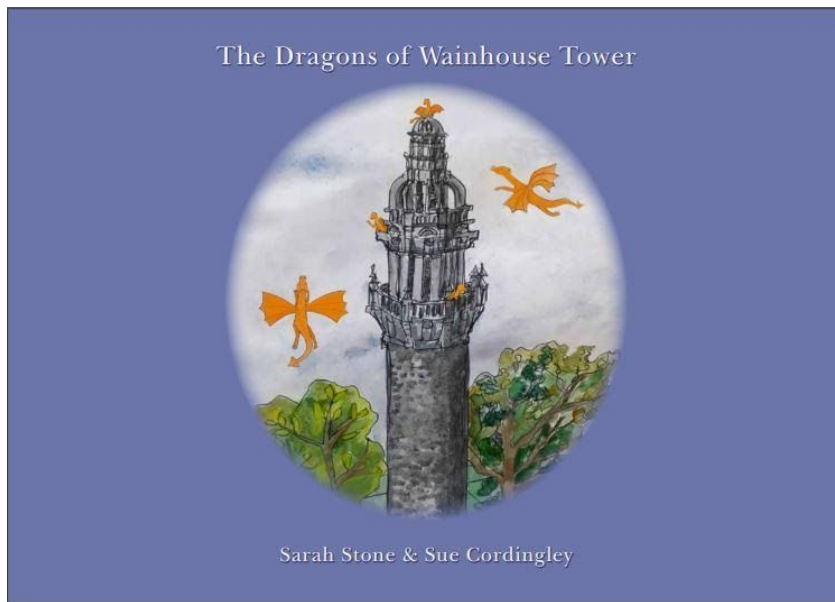
- (1) Mansun (2) Kangaroo (3) Maeve Binchy (4) Leona Lewis (5) Prosecco and Peach Puree (6) Mel Brooks (7) Iceland Foods Ltd (8) Speedway (9) Camelia (10) Pablo Picasso (11) Juneau (12) Hyundai (13) Bristol (14) Sir Frank Whittle (15) Poland (16) Tottenham (17) Calvin Klein (18) Robert The Bruce (Robert I) (19) Rubik’s Cube (20) Cucumber

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**BOOK REVIEW: THE DRAGONS OF WAINHOUSE TOWER – BY SARAH STONE  
& SUE CORDINGLEY**



**Written by Graham Townsend**

Before opening this book, I was impressed by the professional look and feel of it. The artwork on both the front and back covers is excellent.

Upon actually opening the book one is greeted by a brief foreword, on the inside cover, from Joanne Lyel, which sets the scene for the story you're about

to read. It is clear that this is a fantasy story aimed at children.

Although I have stated this is a fantasy story, there are some elements of reality included specifically pertaining to Wainhouse Tower itself. I like the way this reality is linked to fantasy.

The central character in the story is called Ted, a little boy with “a Mummy, a Daddy and a little black cat called Star”. The bond between Mummy and Ted is clearly strong and is the basis upon which the main storyline is built.

The introduction of the idea that dragons live in the Tower, and the way Mummy recounts details of their lifestyle peaks Ted's curiosity and ultimately leads him to adventure and friendship.

I feel that it will be difficult for anyone to fail to become emotionally involved with the story, I certainly became invested in it and I don't even have any children of my own. There are moments of happiness and sadness mixed in with empathy and love.

Each page of the book contains at least one illustration of the highest quality by Sue. They complement the story brilliantly.

Twenty-one pages is just the right length, in my opinion, to tell this story, which is followed by a dedication “In Loving Memory of Karen Andrews”

I would recommend anyone to take a look at this publication and discover how Ted's relationship with both his mother and the dragons evolve as the story unfolds.

\*If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the book or want to know more about the book, please email Sarah at: [sarahstone960@gmail.com](mailto:sarahstone960@gmail.com) The introductory price is £6.99 plus postage and packaging.

## ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



### Questions:

- (1) How many studio albums did the Beatles make in the UK?
- (2) How many players are in a cricket team?
- (3) What is the capital of Papua New Guinea?
- (4) How many Hindu Gods are there?
- (5) Who did cricketers Viv Richards and Ian Botham play together for?
- (6) What does 'avion' mean in English?
- (7) Who played the female lead role in the 1916 version of The Scarlet Woman?
- (8) Who designed Manchester Town Hall?
- (9) Which horse won the 2018 and 2019 Grand National?
- (10) How many laps are there in a standard speedway race?
- (11) What is the capital of Pennsylvania?
- (12) Who first used windmills?
- (13) What is the Spanish verb for to cough?
- (14) How many times has Woody Allen been married?
- (15) The battle of Aylesbury and the battle of Brentford took place during which war?
- (16) Which mammal of the genus Physeter is the largest of the toothed whales and the largest predator?
- (17) Which artist famously cut off his ear?
- (18) Who played Oliver in the 1968 version of the film of the same name?
- (19) How many times did Muhammed Ali become boxing world champion?
- (20) With whom did Ryan Giggs spend his entire football career?

### Answers:

- (1) 12 (2) 11 (3) Port Moresby (4) 33,000,000 (5) Somerset (6) plane (7) Madame Olga Petrova (8) Alfred Waterhouse (9) Tiger Roll (10) 4 (11) Harrisburg (12) Persians (13) Toser (14) 3 (15) English Civil War (16) Sperm Whale (17) Vincent van Gogh (18) Mark Lester (19) 3 (20) Manchester United

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**Editor's Last Word:** Thank you very much for taking the time and the trouble to read this edition of our magazine. If you want to get involved with our work or think you can help in anyway, please contact us at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk) Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.

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