

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – December 2020. Edition 72.



Hello. I hope you are well when you are reading this, and that you have the best Christmas you can have under the circumstances. I am sure next year will be better than this one.

The magazine continues to evolve and be well-read so if you want to get involved (articles/photos/stories/opinions/adverts/donations etc.) please do so by contacting us at: dean@fthm.org.uk – in a non-racist, non-homophobic and non-sexist way. We look forward to hearing from you! Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.

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Our Stats are going through the Roof during lockdown and we expect them to stay that way
If you want to advertise with us then NOW is a good time to act. Our rates are Cheap.

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

After what has seemed a very long and difficult year, things will start to improve for you. It is now time to pull down the shutters and enjoy Christmas the best way you can with those near to you. Unfortunately, a phone call from someone in your past will leave you unsure what to do next. Forget about your

calorie-controlled diet and eat as much chocolate as you like.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You have been very helpful to others this year, but now is the time to sit back and enjoy yourself as you have done your bit. Do let someone else handle your baubles and put up the rest of your decorations whilst you watch. Someone you admire will make your day by being extremely kind to you and by going the extra mile. Buy a new fancy, blue umbrella online.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

It is a good time to start keeping reptiles as your partner has become increasingly cold towards you this year. But a lovely, foreign woman with a baby will come into your life and make you smile again. Why not start planning a dream holiday for once this terrible epidemic is finally over? The planets all point to you having an exceptionally good year next year.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

What a dreadful year 2020 has been for everyone – except for those making a lot of money out of the situation. But now it's time to let your hair down (if you have any) and party alone if necessary. Also why not stop shouting your mouth off from the back of the crowd and try and change things for everyone, for the better? Keep going and more good times will follow.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

Loud nocturnal noises created by your neighbours will disturb you from time to time, but don't react as it's not worth offending them or falling out with them. Your mental health has been poor recently, but it will improve next year. An offer of help, with no strings attached, will be too good to refuse. Take a long, hard look at your life and how you can improve it.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

You may have become more aware of your mortality this year, but don't worry as you are not on the reaper's immediate list. A lot of people think you're stupid and you are - if you think

you are better than other people. You may not see eye-to-eye with an optician this month, but she is only doing her best for you. Why not buy a new wig and cheer up others at Christmas?

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

An old man may astound you with his grasp of modern politics and make you reassess all of your political views. The professional success you have strived for, for years, could start to come next year, so don't chicken out, but also don't put all of your eggs in one basket. Stop being jealous of others as nothing is as it seems and their life is not a bundle of laughs either.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

A torrid year is nearly over, and like most people, you will be glad to see the back of it. Someone who drives a big, yellow truck will arrive on the scene and intrigue you. Next year you will either consolidate a good relationship or find true love for the first time – you will have some fun! Now is the time to give and forgive and to get and forget. Talk more.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

You may have missed supporting your favourite team this year, but maybe use your spare time to develop your individuality or your disco moves. A member of the opposite sex will soon transform your life so don't forget to take regular showers! Whatever happens it will be worth seeing things to the bitter end however difficult thing may get and seem. Grow a beard.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

Someone close to you may have recently passed away, but you know they can't be in a worse place now, and that they would have wanted you to continue giving 100% to life. A young man will do something nice for you and make you feel a bit happier again. Things will slowly begin to improve for you and you will be pleased to learn that you have lost a bit of weight.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

You will have a close shave this month when a man with a long beard nearly crashes into you. A beautiful woman will turn your head, but do remember which side your bread is buttered on. So many people have suffered this year that we must be grateful that we are basically OK and in relatively good health. Consider buying some Indian food to share.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

A dyslexic friend will exhibit skills that you didn't know about and make you realise that we all have different gifts and different things to offer. Someone with bad breath will make a pass at you so act in a diplomatic way – unless you appreciate bad smells. Christmas will be different this year but you will still have a great time and make others happy in many ways.

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PERSISTENCE

Sent in by Peter Smith



Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.
Genius will not: unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Calvin Coolidge, US president 1923-29

THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Written by Francis Tait



The festive season is upon us once again.

Will you be having the traditional meal followed by the famous Christmas Pudding?

It may be the most loved pudding. It may be enjoyed by many but not many know its origin!

It is thought that the Christmas Pudding originated in the 14th Century. However, it wasn't like the Christmas Pudding as we know today. It was 'porridge like' and made up of mutton and beef, with prunes, currants, raisins, wine and spices. It was named 'frument' and was eaten as a fasting meal in preparation for Christmas.

By 1595 'frument' had changed into a 'plum pudding'. Eggs, breadcrumbs and dried fruit had been added which changed the texture of the pudding to make it a thicker pudding from that of the soup like porridge. Beer and spirits had now been added to the plum pudding and the pudding had now become sweet. This was due to the fact that dried fruits were more available at the time.

By 1650, the pudding had become the customary dessert. However, the Puritans feared it was a 'too sinful' rich pudding for God fearing people which encouraged 'gluttony' and it was thought the pudding was banned. It wasn't only the Christmas Pudding which was thought to be banned, yule logs and carol singing were not allowed also.

By 1714, 'the pudding' was re-established due to King George I and his enjoyable taste for the pudding. He is thought to have been known as the 'Pudding King'. This now, famous pudding

was served at the King's table, at his first Christmas meal as a monarch.

By Victorian times, the Christmas pudding had developed into a similar pudding as of today. Affluent families cooked Christmas puddings in mounds, shaped as towers or castles. Less affluent families would cook round Christmas puddings - sometimes known as 'cannon balls' - perhaps due to the fact that the texture is firm and hard.

Are you making your own Christmas Pudding this year? If so, you may be interested in when the puddings were traditionally made.

Traditionally the Christmas Puddings were prepared 5 weeks before Christmas Day. This was known as 'Stir up Sunday'. Each family member stirred up the mixture and made a wish for the year ahead.

If you are not making your own Christmas Pudding this year and have decided to buy a pre-made one, you will be pleased to know that one well known UK supermarket has been selling the 'Christmas Pud' since August!

As you are enjoying your Christmas Pudding sat around the festive table, you may want to share with your family and friends some knowledgeable facts about our well-loved pud:-

- . Although traditional Christmas Pudding was known as 'plum pudding' it did not contain any plums
- . The Christmas Pudding is traditionally composed of 13 ingredients symbolising Jesus and the twelve apostles
- . The Christmas Pudding is often decorated with a sprig of holly to bring good luck
- . Traditionally silver coins placed into that Christmas Pudding were said to bring good luck for the next year to the person who found them
- . The alcohol content means that the Christmas Pudding can be lit
- . Some Christmas Puddings may last over a year, this is due to the alcohol content preventing spoilage.

Whether you have made your own Christmas Pudding or have decided to purchase a pre-made one - give a thought to its humble origins!

Enjoy your delicious pud!

Season's Greetings

References:

puddings for all seasons.com the fact site.com Wikipedia justfun facts.com
www.whychristmas.com

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EIGHTY-TWO NOT OUT

Written by June Charlton



I'm 82 years old but still feel quite young as I've always looked after myself and have been lucky with my health. I still walk a lot with my husband, and I also like riding my bicycle.

Well here we go again with a second wave of the deadly virus, and it looks like it could go on well into next year and people will have to continue wearing a mask and social distancing.

Our grandson recently had to be off school for two weeks as someone in his class had COVID-19 and now, our neighbour's son also has to be off school because a lad in his class has the virus. It's also awful that people in care homes have been unable to see their families and friends – unless viewed through a window.

Our next-door neighbour keeps me informed about the current state of affairs concerning the virus but it is not an easy time for anyone to live through.

We tend to go to Selby every Monday, so we are extra careful, wear a mask, and adhere to the rules. At the moment many shops are closed although it is still possible to buy a takeaway. There is not a lot anyone can do about the situation but only hope that one day daily life will return to near normal.

Today we ventured early to St Aidans and were quite surprised to see a lot of cars already parked up - so at least some people are getting themselves safely out.

I'll change the subject now and talk about Christmas. I think most people like Christmas, especially young families. I like to get my presents ready early and never leave it until the last minute. I've just finished wrapping presents (I love this job) and have only two or three more to get. We have walked up into our village which is called Kippax and it was nice to see that all the Christmas decorations were ready to be switched on.

The nights are getting dark earlier now – it's only 4 30 pm and already it's nearly dark. I quite like the dark nights when you can close the curtains early and get cosy near a nice fire.

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GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S FESTIVE QUIZ

Questions:



- (1) Which actress played Christmas Jones in the James Bond film “The World Is Not Enough”?
- (2) Which pastry produced by Greggs Bakery in the UK contains pieces of chicken breast, sage and onion stuffing, sweet cure bacon in a creamy sage and cranberry sauce?
- (3) What name is commonly given to obligate hemiparasitic plants in the order Santalales?
- (4) Which Paraguayan footballer played for Bayern Munich, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City between 1999 and 2013?
- (5) Which much loved Christmas Carol tells us about a poor man who “came in sight Gath'ring winter fuel”?
- (6) The Hughes H-4 Hercules, a prototype strategic airlift flying boat designed and built by the Hughes Aircraft Company had what festive related nickname?
- (7) Which UK coin was traditionally placed in a Christmas pudding mix in the belief that the person who found it would enjoy wealth and good luck in the year to come?
- (8) Which plant species, indigenous to Central America, is particularly well known for its red and green foliage and is widely used in Christmas floral displays?
- (9) Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- (10) Which red breasted bird is traditionally associated with Christmas cards?
- (11) Which English television presenter, born in December 1948, first became known as a disc jockey on Radio Luxembourg before moving to BBC Radio 1 in the UK?
- (12) What is the name of the period leading up to Christmas referred to as the “Preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus” by Western Christians?
- (13) Audrey Hepburn played which character in the film “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”?
- (14) Which festive drink is also known as milk punch?
- (15) Which Australian territory in the Indian Ocean is located around 350 kilometres (220 mi) south of Java and Sumatra?
- (16) In addition to Boxing Day, which is a major holiday in the United Kingdom, which other major festival is celebrated on 26th December?
- (17) Who wrote the novel “A Christmas Carol”?
- (18) The eight US colleges Brown, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale, Columbia universities and the University of Pennsylvania are known by which collective name?
- (19) The King George VI Chase is held at which English racecourse on Boxing Day?
- (20) Which Irish rock band reached number 10 in the UK Singles Chart in 1983 with the song “New Year’s Day”?

Answers:

- (1) Denise Richards (2) Festive Bake (3) Mistletoe (4) Roque Santa Cruz (5) Good King Wenceslas (6) The Spruce Goose (7) Sixpence (8) Poinsettia (9) Sir Isaac Newton (10) Robin (11) Noel Edmonds (12) Advent (13) Holly Golightly (14) Eggnog (15) Christmas Island (16) St Stephen's Day (17) Charles Dickens (18) The Ivy League (19) Kempton (20) U2

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CHESTER



The city of Chester is to be found in the North West of England and is on the River Dee which is close to the border with Wales. It was granted city status in 1541, and it is a city that has a rich and varied history. It began life as a “Castrum” or Roman fort during the reign of Emperor Vespasian in 79 AD and was originally called Deva Vietrix. In 2011, Chester had a population of 79,645 and now only Warrington is a larger settlement in Cheshire.

Deva Vietrix was a major Roman army camp and went on to become a significant civilian settlement. Then, in 689 AD, the Minister Church of West Mercia was founded by King Aethelred of Mercia and later became Chester's first cathedral.

When the Normans invaded England, Chester was one of the last cities to fall, and, consequently, William the Conqueror constructed a castle to enable him to dominate the surrounding areas including the Welsh border.

Today Chester is littered with many black-and-white buildings which are Victorian restorations, and in addition, there are quite a few medieval buildings to admire. The walls that surround the city run for nearly two miles and can be walked upon, and are now Grade I listed in status.

The city has much to offer the visitor but it is worth noting that a lot of the land in the area is owned by the Duke of Westminster whose family name is Grosvenor and this is reflected in names like Grosvenor Park, Grosvenor Hotel and Grosvenor Bridge. The Duke also owns an estate called Eaton Hall which is near the village of Eccleston.

In normal times, there is a plethora of things to do in Chester such as a visit to the cathedral or Roman amphitheatre. There are many festivals (mystery plays, a summer music festival, a literature festival) and much sport to watch or participate in. The main buildings in the city centre are the cathedral and town hall but there is much architecture to admire – notably that designed by John Douglas who is famous for his twisted chimney stacks. Interestingly, all the

buildings belonging to the estate of Westminster have a 'Grey Diamond' in the red brick which helps to identify their ownership.

It is worth noting that there was a lack of affordable housing in Chester at the end of World War II and consequently, a large area of farmland was initially developed as residential areas in the 1950s and early 1960s. Happily, in 1969, an emphasis began to be placed on saving historic buildings in the city.

If you fancy being a 'modern settler' in the city of Chester, there are many education facilities that you or your children could benefit from – both state-funded and independent. There is also the University of Chester which is the principal provider of tertiary education.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Chester Racecourse which hosts several flat races from spring to autumn and includes the Chester Vase which is, in effect, a trial for The Derby.

Here I have tried to take a brief look at Chester but you should also be aware that not only is it worth visiting the city of Chester but also the wonderful Chester Zoo.

* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

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WILL BRITAIN SOON REGRET LEAVING THE EU?

Sarah Stone

There are many reasons why Britain should regret leaving the EU. The debates are endless therefore I will focus on just one here.

One of the lies peddled by the leave campaigners was that money we paid to the EU was taking away valuable resources from our NHS. Since leaving have we seen a huge cash injection into the health service? We were also encouraged to believe that parasitic immigrants were bleeding the country dry of resources, including healthcare. Let's be clear that in truth Tory MP's and their associates have been stealing the NHS from under our noses for decades through the insidious privatisation of essential services, gradually taken over by companies where Tory MP's and their friends and families rank highly and glaringly obviously in their lists of shareholders. We pay for the health service through our taxes and this is THEFT. Timely here to add a definition of Parasite: 'an organism that lives on or in an organism of another species, known as the host, from the body of which it obtains nutriment'. In some cases, the host is not aware of the parasite's presence – worth a ponder.

In summary, just one of the reasons we will regret leaving the EU is that we will realise we have been lied to about the NHS. Our wellbeing will suffer even more as a result, also because there will be no more reciprocal healthcare if we fall ill whilst visiting Europe. In addition, quality and safety of the foods and medicines we consume was governed,

thankfully, from the EU. Without a doubt, standards will fall and our health will be put at risk, especially more so in a privatised (profit driven) healthcare system.

I was one of the 48.1% of British citizens who voted to remain in the EU. Isn't it just common sense that you should try to get on with your closest neighbours? It has generally worked for me on the streets I've lived on throughout my life. Falling out completely is hard to fix, maintaining lines of communication goes a lot further in mending rifts and working through differences for longer term positive relationships.

The current global pandemic has acutely highlighted the need for the countries of the world to try to work in harmony. Our leaders could learn a lot from Jacinda Ardern, a shining example of how to unify a country, not divide and conquer it to line their own pockets...

Doreen Green

I did not place a vote for Leave/Stay. I do think those who voted will regret voting to leave. My reasoning for not voting was because the leave vote was focused on immigration and taking back borders. Britain does have major immigration problems which has been made worse by opening the door to their European counterparts, however, I think it is a little too late to be taking back their borders.

The cost of leaving the EU I feel will cost the UK dearly and for the foreseeable future. Britain is classed as one of the richest countries but is heading for the category of one of the poorest. I personally feel that Britain is flooded with migrants to the point of those like myself (A person of colour) who was born in the UK and worked most of my adult life, can no longer benefit from an NHS without waiting long periods of time for treatment. Britain offers and operates a free for all system which is the reason why migrants are so desperate to settle in the UK. We offer free health care, and a free social housing and benefits system which means one has to work until we drop without being able to enjoy retirement - because we are having to support migrants and in general lazy Brits who shy away from work. Now that the whole world is fighting against COVID-19 brace yourselves as the economy is only going to get WORSE!

Graham Townsend

Firstly, I think there will be some bumps in the road in the short term. In the long term I would like to think people will notice any differences in their lives, brought about by the decision to leave the EU, less and less.

Whichever side of the fence you were on when it came to voting on whether we left the EU, I'm sure we all agree that we want to see the best deal possible for the UK as a result of the on-going negotiations. There seems to be a lot of posturing going on from both sides at the moment.

Some positive news has been mooted in terms of trade deals away from the negotiations, specifically I am referring to the comments recently attributed to Canadian PM Justin Trudeau. I think we will see price increases in the near future but I expect these to stabilise, it's just a case of how long it takes for this to happen. If you throw in the current COVID-19 scenario this has to complicate things a little as well.

I am going to say that in the long run we will not regret leaving the EU but no one can be certain either way.

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BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Moles

Moles are small mammals that have rounded bodies, velvety fur, very small hind limbs and very powerful front limbs with large paws that are used for digging. They also have very small eyes and ears. A group of moles is called a 'labour', and, interestingly, have been found to tolerate higher levels of

carbon dioxide than other mammals due to them having blood cells that contain a certain form of haemoglobin.

Moles are also able to store still-living prey for later consumption and are solitary creatures that only come together in order to mate.

The term 'mole' is usually used for 'true moles' which are found in North America, Europe and Asia. But it may also refer to unrelated mammals of Australia and Southern Africa.

Moles may look cuddly but are often treated as pests as they cause a lot of damage to agriculture, lawn care and to gardens. They often cause damage indirectly as they eat earthworms and small invertebrates. However, they do make a positive contribution to the ecosystem through soil aeration.

Ref. Wikipedia

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MORE YUMMY RECIPES FROM JUNE



Dark and White Chocolate Ice Cream

Ingredients:

6 eggs
3 ½ oz of caster sugar
12 Fl oz of milk
6 oz of double cream
3 ½ oz of chopped dark chocolate
2 ¾ oz of grated or finely chopped white chocolate

Fresh mint leaves to decorate

Method:

Place the egg yolks and sugar in a heatproof bowl and beat until fluffy. Heat the milk, cream and dark chocolate in a pan over a low heat, stirring until melted and almost boiling. Remove from the heat and whisk into the egg mixture. Return the mixture to the pan and cook, stirring over a low heat until thick. DO NOT LET IT SIMMER. Transfer to a heatproof bowl and cool. Cover with cling film and chill for 1 ½ hours. Remove from the fridge and stir in the white chocolate.

Transfer to a freezeproof container and freeze for 1 hour. Remove from the freezer, transfer to a bowl and whisk to break up the ice crystals. Return to the container and freeze for 30 minutes.



Steam Jam Sponge

Ingredients:

4 oz of flour
2 oz of sugar
2 tablespoons of milk
3 tablespoons of jam or lemon cheese
2 oz of suet
Pinch of salt

Method:

Mix the dry ingredients together. Add milk. Put jam or lemon cheese at the bottom of a greased basin. Add mixture. Bake until firm to touch.



Harvest Fruit Loaf

Ingredients:

4 oz of margarine
4 oz of sugar
8 oz of self-raising flour
12 oz of mixed fruit
2 eggs
¼ pint of milk less 2 tablespoons
Walnut halves

Method:

Put the dry ingredients in a bowl, chop margarine and add 2 eggs and milk and mix together. Bake on the middle shelf for 1 ½ hours at gas mark 3 or 340 F. Serve buttered or plain.

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ALBUM REVIEW



Album: **CHRISTMAS TIME**

By: Various artists

Reviewed by: Graham Townsend

This 62-track triple CD contains a lot of the most popular festive tracks, along with some tracks that you wouldn't necessarily associate with this time of year, plus what I would class as filler tracks that have been included to try and provide value for money, I guess. Due to the number of tracks included here I will not try and give an opinion

on them all.

The tracks that you wouldn't necessarily associate with "Christmas Time" are songs that were big hits during the festive period.

The whole thing kicks off with one of the most famous and bestselling songs of all time with Band Aid and "Do They Know It's Christmas". My opinion of this song is that whilst it involves some of the most well-known popular musicians the world has ever seen, it is very much about the charity because it successfully promoted rather than the quality of the song itself which I feel is average at best.

Disc One also includes some of my personal favourite Christmas songs. Amongst these are "Stop the Cavalry" by Jona Lewie, "Christmas Wrapping" by The Waitresses, "Winter Melody" by Donna Summer, "Keeping the Dream Alive" by Freiheit and "The Power of Love" by Frankie Goes to Hollywood. The latter track was apparently never meant to be associated with the festive period however, due to the band's popularity at the time of release and the imagery used within the accompanying music video, everyone now associates it with Christmas.

Another track I'd like to give an honorary mention to is "In Dulce Jubilo" by Mike Oldfield. In my opinion it is just one of those pieces of music that is easy to listen to and provides a great back drop to whatever you might be doing on Christmas morning e.g. present opening or preparing a festive breakfast.

Disc Two I would say is more or less exclusively filled by tracks that happened to be big hits in December or January rather than having a direct correlation with Christmas itself. The exceptions are probably "Grandma's Party" by Paul Nicholas, which I would say is not the greatest song in the world, "Save Your Love" by Renee and Renato, which I feel falls into the same category, although as a young man I purchased it as a seven inch single as a gift for my mother who loved it, and "When I Fall In Love" by Rick Astley which is a decent attempt at emulating the earlier version by the late, great Nat King Cole. The only other track that you might associate with the festive period is possibly "Caravan of Love" by The Housemartins which, I think, is a fantastic song.

Of the other tracks included on Disc Two, there are classics such as "Super Trouper" by ABBA, "Don't You Want Me" by The Human League" and "I Will Always Love You" by

Whitney Houston who was a fabulous vocalist and taken from us tragically early. I also have a guilty pleasure by admitting to liking “Only You” by The Flying Pickets.

Disc Three has a little more balance between the songs you might associate with Christmas and those you would not. In the main this is down to the inclusion of a few tracks that were used for TV advertising campaigns in the UK, particularly by John Lewis. Most notable amongst these tracks are Ellie Goulding’s cover version of Elton John’s “Your Song” and Tom Odell’s cover version of John Lennon’s “Real Love”.

Other quality tracks on the final disc include the sing-along “Angels” by Robbie Williams, “Little Does She Know” by Kursaal Flyers, a track I would never have associated with Christmas, and “Hallelujah” by Alexandra Burke one of the better tracks to emerge from the mouth of an X-Factor winner!

There are also a few novelty tracks that make an appearance across the three discs, some that are better than others, or perhaps I should say more bearable. These include “Rabbit” by Chas ‘n’ Dave and “Kinky Boots” by Honor Blackman and Patrick McNee.

Overall, there is enough here to help you on your way whilst you wrap your gifts in preparation for the big day. There are some notable omissions, many big favourites from the 1970s are missing, but it would be impossible to include them all.

MY STAR RATING = * out of 5**

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Marvel at the destruction
Look what we did to our seas
The Earth needs some Avengers
Who's it gonna be?
Seeking Captain Planet
Calling Queen of Green
Nature wants some heroes
Are they on the scene?
Things are getting hot
Can you take the heat?
Are there superhumans
Living on your street?
Time to roll our sleeves up
Time to save the world
On the brink of devastation
Assemble and be heard

Let's take a look at Gareth Bale, is he such a freak?
I've enjoyed seals heading a ball
Didn't give them a mansion a week
You all know one who's a shiny star
Ace to be around, working hard
Performing a skill to little acclaim
Are they and Gareth not the same?

Ronaldo sometimes seems like a prick
But give him a mil if he does a trick
It's great to watch, fantastic art
Don't think you don't play a part
Don't assume you're something less
A lot of work goes into best
You're all celebs if you choose to be
If you find your thing and then believe
So the next time you look at a sixty quid shirt
Consider the ones the imbalance may hurt

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
Is the meaning of life
To do it fo(u)r two?
Forward to the future
We've learned from our mistakes
Eighty-eight an hour
You can spare the brakes
Me and you and our two kids
All we are is just four bricks
Stand together, build a wall
Do it for one, do it for all
Black and white, love and peace
Dove and rainbow, storm will cease
Somewhere over the mountain
Things are okay
One brotherhood live for today
Tomorrow
The day after that
A single white feather decorates a hat
A simple reminder
Of a time that was
Before we realized what could be lost
Before we put aside silly disputes
Pursuits
Before what really matters became so acute
Somewhere beyond the virus
Past all the things that divide us
Love is free and war is over
Bluebirds fly in Dover
People talk of the time
They heard the victory chime
Man working for Man
Helping each other the plan
Greed a symptom to cure
Motivation pure
Somewhere after next week
Forty-two shall peak

We gotta go back, back, back to school again
WOE WOE
We gotta go
WOE WOE
Things gotta go
WOE WOE
We gotta go
Back to schoooooool
Again!

Let me take you back a few years
To when I faced your options
You decided for me what I couldn't do
At an age when I didn't have the captions
To tell you "No! It isn't right, I know what I enjoy
Desire's important, it helps me learn
I like when life's a toy"
I should have refused to do your maths
Or launched a campaign against science
I could have said "NON, no more French"
I had a thirteen-year-old's pliance
I said no to art, I liked to act
I needed both and that's a fact
I lost so much faith right then and there
Life against me, I didn't care
What followed was rough and maybe my fault
Not enough sweet, too much salt
I broke my back sweating for rogues
Didn't get paid, that's how it goes
All for a reason, I'm here in the end
Though let's be fair and not pretend
In the future, please do try
To be a little more flexible
Shaping lives
I was young and foolish but I could see
What I could be good at, if I was free
One class had friends, the other did not
That was the option I had got
I chose the wrong one(?), more fool me
I wasn't ready, can't you see?
Give them more help, more sound advice
Increase the odds that things might be nice
Do it with art and do it in song
Make an impression lasting long

2020 here we are
Look around, we've come so far
Though so much work may still remain
Things will never be the same
Wear your mask and wash your hands

Every person, all the lands
Has it ever been so clear?
There is just one family here
Varied skin tones stand as one
To make a point and get it done
Credit going where credit's due
Heroes fight for me and you
Change is here and happening fast
Pray it sticks, make it last

Mama Mia
Does it show again?
Mama
I can see your panty line
Mama Mia
Here we go again
Mama
Why are you a fashion crime?
There's something going wrong here
I shouldn't see your thong, dear
Mama
Did I ever let you know?
Mama Mia
Wow it really shows
Mama
What would your great, great, great, great Grandmother say?

What once was great will always be
Rocky one, perhaps not three
Jaws was class, Alien amazing
Both have spawned so many failings
Superman the Movie still excels
Out of Man of Steel it kicks ten bells
Jurassic Park; still the best
So many flaws in all the rest
Bacon's Tremors, five shiny stars
Watching sequels may leave scars
Elton's Lion King'll have you crying
The recent remake left me whying
Weller was RoboCop, let's leave it there
If you do it again, at least make me care
The Crow is superb
Masterpiece
They'll fail to match it and it still won't cease
Hollywood, Follywood, what's the score?
More to the point, how many more?
First Star Wars trilogy?
Green, green grass
Phantom Menace can kiss my
Assassins wasn't up to much

Sundance needs original Butch
Good old Kev, having a reboot
But are Jay and Bob still bearing fruit?
There are exceptions, it's not quite a rule
The second Judge Dredd was rather cool
Batman is tricky, he's here then he's gone
For me it was Keaton, second to none
But give him to Nolan and give us a Heath
This is a franchise that really has teeth
Burton must be quaking, living in fear
A Scissorhands disaster looking awfully near
Beetlejuice 2 could have been nice
It usually hurts when they try to do thrice
Toy Story was...
No, carry on

One life matters
One love for all
One chance to get it right
One way to fall
One race running fast
One finish line
One prize at the end
One unit of time
One people standing
One universe
One kingdom unified
One lifted curse
One song breaking out
One joyful sound
One band harmonised
One salvation found

It was Wednesday night, we were out for tea
Eat out to help out, it's almost free
A soup arrives all full of veg
Delicious with a crusty bread
As I'm about to take a bite
I hear a tiny scream of fright
There upon my silver spoon
The creature from the green legume!
The next day I was off to school
This'll make me totally cool
A little man all made of peas
Wait until my teacher sees!
He will go down really well
Bestest ever show and tell!
Stacey's pony, Charlotte's horse
Only photographs of course
Blinker's father's grandad's urn

When's it gonna be my turn?
Then came Timmy, looking delighted
Promising something never sighted!
Out of his lunchbox came the reveal...
A village evolved from carrot peel!

What's the point?
We've done and seen
The most depressed I've ever been(?)
The separation causing pain
Becomes permanent
Never again
What's the point?
We've talked and talked
Is there anywhere left to walk?
Away from all these broken dreams?
To bite the bullet
See if I bleed
What's the point?
You're happy now
How many times did I let you down?
What's the point?
I know I lose
Too many times I felt that bruise
What's the point?
I've nothing more
Looking for the final door
What's the point of art and verse?
Dumped and ignored, and yet it gets worse

Say one thing and then do another
On my mind and in my dreams for weeks
'Til I doubt what was said and check with Mother
You tell me all these things that I want to believe
But actions speak louder
Then I regret wearing heart upon sleeve
Tell myself you're busy, no time for me
(It's supposed to help)
Instead I feel angry, bitterly peeved
Is it just me getting life wrong?
Who stays in love and doesn't move on?
Does romance to another time belong?
The more I look around, the more it seems
I'm in love, clinging to dreams
Everyone else, I'm not always sure
Things have changed
It isn't Kansas anymore
These days a Tinder fuck turns up at your door
Daily pain, questioning things
Missing my love and the way that she sings

Waiting for a text that never arrives
Despising myself like I hate the lies
Feeling so daft for writing it down
Then I'll send it to you and look like a clown
Waking up crying, angry and more
I've had enough
I can't do forty more years of this
That is for certain
So, come on old man, bring on the curtain

Down at the bottom of Misery Lane
Lived an arrogant dragon, soon to be slain
Breathing fire is what he knew
All his frustration directed at you
Until one day when he drank from the pool
A mirrored reflection took him to school
He flew through the flames he so often spewed
Stripped by the heat, he lay broken and nude
The dragon saw life through the eyes of the trees
The rats and the flowers, weasels and bees
He saw the potential of how things could be
If only we all had the power to see
He called to his father, cried for the son
Shamed by thoughts of all he had done
A change was happening overnight
No longer was he just a creature of fright
He'd had as much burning as he could handle
But used his breath to light a candle
He prayed and prayed the world would see
Beyond its scales and past his teeth
For if this dragon could grow new wings
He knew there was hope for all Earthlings
That's how the dragon spent his final days
Trying to spread love, amending his ways
Sometimes it came easy, at times it was tough
God decided it was just enough

It happened on Tuesday, the tenth of May
Poor old Ruth had a confusing day
She got up at two-thirty and thought it was morning
An hour later, she couldn't stop yawning
Back to bed for a little more sleep
Ruth counted woodpeckers rather than sheep
A bit more rested, it was time to get up
Coffee in a jar instead of a cup
Pants on backwards with inside-out tops
Off into town to hit the shops
In a vegan caff, Ruth asked for Spam
"Frankly my dear, I don't give a ham"
She put a letter in the bank, then she scratched her head

She'd only put a tenner in the post-box again
So, onto the Chemists, looking for shoes
Putting her feet in sweets for the flu
Before too long, she'd caused quite a stir
Policemen and doctors crowded round her
"Don't flurry, young me, I'm totally sign
Been shopping now since a daughter past nein
I'm almost fun, about to go Rome
To watch the CV and play on my scone"
"I'm so sorry, Miss, we don't think you're fine
Come with us, and you will be in time"

Imagine there's no Heaven
It's easy if you try
No Hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today
Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in piece
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one
Imagine the point of this song
Wasn't that there isn't a God
Imagine taking it off the table
And looking at what we've got left
Imagine nothing to divide us
Imagine no nationalities
Imagine I didn't need your money
Imagine what that could mean
You oo ooh
You can shoot me in the forehead
But what will that achieve?
I only tried to move us forward
And I showed you all how I bleed

(Extra Imagine lyrics, possible bonus content)

Imagine no celebrity
No idolising fans
Imagine only equals
Joined together by their hands
Imagine there's no ugly
Is that one hard to do?

Imagine no superior
Imagine I respect you
You may say that I'm a space cadet
But I don't think this is right
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will all take up the fight
Imagine we're in lockdown
With little else to do
Outside there's fewer exhaust fumes
The birds are singing too
Is this a little better?
Imagine if we saw it through
You can say that I'm a dreamer
But I think life could improve
With just a few adjustments
And a slightly different goal or two
Imagine free essentials
Imagine less retail
Imagine humble football
Do you think it would fail?
You may say that you love movies
That you like to watch the stars
And oh, how I like my fashion
And riding in my shiny cars
Imagine the world was ending
Everything you knew
Time was running out now
What are we going to do?
You oo ooh
You may say that I'm a lunatic
But I think we will get there
I see today that there's an effort
And I'm seeing that so many care
Imagine we recycle
We use less plastic too
We really get to cleaning up now
Making life better for you
Imagine flood defences
Imagine a storm-proof house
Imagine no more homeless
And there's no hungry too
Imagine the work that we needed
Was focused on for you
You may say you love The Matrix
That you like the world today
I hope someday that we'll be free of it
And that love and peace will lead the way

Thanks for your time,
Love and peace, A Men - *A poem **Written by Adam Broadhead***

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ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) What was Cassius Clay's Muslim name?
- (2) What nationality is the footballer Mo Salah?
- (3) When was the two-pound coin introduced in Britain?
- (4) What is the French word for a poker?
- (5) How old was Nelson Mandela when

he passed away?

- (6) Who won this year NRL Grand Final?
- (7) Who invented the microwave oven?
- (8) What is the German word for fisherman?
- (9) What is a catalyst?
- (10) What is the currency of Fiji?
- (11) What nationality is the broadcaster Ulrika Jonsson?
- (12) How many people have walked on the moon?
- (13) What is the capital of Gozo?
- (14) Who invented bicycle gears?
- (15) What is 7 minutes past 8 on the 24-hour clock?
- (16) Who played the lead male role in the film Sound of Music?
- (17) What is the capital of Dominica?
- (18) Which country produces the most cotton?
- (19) Who plays Gail Platt in the soap Coronation Street?
- (20) What is a cuticle?

Answers:

(1) Muhammad Ali (2) Egyptian (3) 15th June 1998 (4) Tisonnier (5) 95 (6) Melbourne Storm (7) Percy Spencer (8) Fischer (9) A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change (10) Fijian dollar (11) Swedish (12) 12 (13) Victoria (14) Paul de Vivie (15) 20:07 (16) Christopher Plummer (17) Roseau (18) India (19) Helen Worth (20) A layer of clear skin located along the bottom edge of your finger or toe

Editor's Final Word: Thank you once again for taking the time and the trouble to read this publication and we hope it will inspire you to make a contribution, in some form, in the near future. You can contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk . We hope you have a lovely Christmas and a better year, next year, when it comes.