

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – January 2021. Edition no 73.



Hello. I hope you had a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and that this year will bring you a lot of pleasure.

The magazine is surviving this pandemic but that is down to you as without your interest there is no point in publishing it. We always need new blood to keep the magazine fresh and interesting, so, if you want to contribute/advertise/donate please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk but do make sure you express yourself in a non-racist, non-homophobic and non-sexist way. Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

Well, a terrible year for everyone is over and now we can look forward to a more normal life – whatever that is. The man or woman of your dreams will light your fire this month, so it is a good time to stop smoking. Also, a good time to start eating more parsnips and vegetables in general. A man who sneezes a lot will open new doors for you career-wise in the near future.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

This year will start off slowly for you and you may still be restricted from doing things you like. However, opportunities will soon come along and your life will definitely seem worth living again. Father Christmas may not have satisfactorily filled your stocking, but you will experience a copious amount of pleasure this month. Keep acting in a safe way though.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

The darkest days may now be over and there will seem light at the end of the tunnel – but it may prove to be further away than you first thought. Your partner's snoring may be doing your head in, but think of all the good things that they bring to you, so do make allowances. A bill may arrive that you can't pay immediately, but don't panic, as help will come.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

It may dawn on you this month that someone you have known for a while is in fact the one for you! A television programme in the next week or two, may inspire you to make some major changes in your life. A person of colour may illustrate to you how things in life are not always black and white. Start planning for your dream holiday as you thoroughly deserve it!

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Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

Your personal hygiene remains a large issue so do something about it before people desert you. A Buddhist nun may share some of her wisdom and encourage you to take a new path in life. A work colleague may shock you by telling you her darkest secret and leave you wondering what you should do next. Why not try some new foods and educate your palate?

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

Someone may ask you to do something that compromises you, so firmly reject the request. Like many people, you could do with shedding some pounds after gorging yourself over the festive period, but do set yourself realistic goals or you will fail. The village idiot may tell you something very useful that allows you to improve your life. Realise your oldest dreams!

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

Something will happen that makes you realise you have not been showing someone the appropriate respect, so rectify this, and you will find it pays dividends. Now is also the time to show compassion to someone less fortunate than you, but be careful they don't try and take advantage. Now you can emerge from the wings and fly wherever you desire as you are free.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

It is a good time to write the book that you have always believed you had in you. Why not treat yourself to something nice, or better still, buy something for a loved one that you know they will cherish? One of your children may want a dog, but do you really want to be the one walking it in the rain? You are very ugly so do consider paying for plastic surgery now!

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

Last year clearly showed how fragile we all are, so now is the time to pull together and accept everything is interlinked and we can't exist in isolation. This year, you really should change your diet, exercise and stop being a couch potato otherwise your chips may soon be up! A small woman who chatters a lot will pleasantly surprise you by showing she cares about you.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

This month you may discover Impressionism and be inspired to take up painting. Work (if you have any) will continue to be difficult but not as difficult as other things in life. So, hold on as great things are in store for you later in the year. Do stop building walls around yourself though and let people in as this will make things better. A good time to buy a new toothbrush.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

Now is a good time to cut down on alcohol as you are getting a bit old for sleeping at the bottom of your neighbour's garden. You may not have been too well recently but this year will prove to be your best ever health-wise so don't despair. A single person will make you a proposition that you can't possibly accept but let them down gently as they are very lonely.

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Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

People like you may think you are better than other people but something will happen this month that will make you re-evaluate everything and start to cherish others. A plan you had to make money will come to fruition this year so you will feel financially well-off in the future. It is a good time to shave off one of your eyebrows if you want to be different. Give more.

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LET'S HEAR A BIT MORE FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Hello again. Let's hope the New Year will be a lot better than last year was as it's been awful what with the pandemic, social distancing and everything else that has been going on. I sympathise with people who haven't been able to see their relatives who live some distance away from them. The Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been put in an unenviable position and is trying his best

to cope with an everchanging situation.

We usually go to Selby on a Monday, but have decided not to go again until things get better. I have been told you can be fined for leaving your own area so we will stay local.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and received some nice presents although we are all painfully aware that being well is the most important thing.

Today we've stayed in as it has been terrible weather but, in general, I think we will all really appreciate being able to get out and about more once things return to some kind of normality. I am looking forward to being able to sit out in the sunshine again. At least people have been able to watch television to break the boredom.

Anyway, I haven't much more to say except to say that I hope we all have a better year this year.

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Small businesses all over are taking hits as a result of Covid-19 and Lockdowns, especially Tier 4 which has yet to reach Calderdale. This is a shout out for one of our old sponsors, Silly Billy's Toy Shop, who created an online shop during lockdown 2 in England, November 2020, visit their online Toy Shop here:

shop.sillybillystoyshop.com

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ



Questions:

- (1) In Arthurian legend what colour knight did Sir Gawain pursue?
- (2) Turtle Bay is a neighbourhood in which US city?
- (3) Which two colours appear on the NATO flag?
- (4) Ed Sheeran had a Christmas UK Number 1 single in 2017 titled "Perfect", it was a duet with which US female vocalist?
- (5) What name is given to any real number, such as Pi, which cannot be expressed as a ratio of two integers or as a simple fraction?
- (6) Which Moroccan athlete won the 5,000 metres at the 1984 Summer Olympics and 1987 Athletics World

Championships?

- (7) Which Asian Queen was the mother of Julius Caesar's son Caesarion?
- (8) Which 1971 film, directed by Gordon Parks, featured Richard Roundtree in the title role?
- (9) Cobalt is a shade of which colour?
- (10) Who was the third president of the USA?
- (11) The Tibesti Mountains are a mountain range in the central Sahara, primarily located in the extreme north of which African country?
- (12) Which author wrote the play "All's Well That Ends Well"?
- (13) "Alien Fusion", "Alien Mirage" and "Womanity" are perfumes by which French fashion designer?
- (14) "Pilgrims Choice is a brand of which dairy product?
- (15) Which German politician, who was born in Belgium, is the president of the European Commission as at 1st December 2020?
- (16) Which Norwegian actress, who was actually born in Tokyo, is known as the muse and frequent partner of filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, she appeared in "A Bridge Too Far" alongside Laurence Olivier in 1977?
- (17) Which fruit, botanically a berry, is known in some countries as plantain where they are used for cooking?
- (18) Which sport is played on the largest pitch?
- (19) What is the name of the pass between Afghanistan and Pakistan that connects Kābul with Peshāwar?
- (20) Andre Romelle Young is the real name of which rapping "doctor"?

Answers

- (1) Green (2) New York City (3) Blue & White (4) Beyoncé (5) Irrational Number (6) Said Aouita (7) Cleopatra (8) Shaft (9) Blue (10) Thomas Jefferson (11) Chad (12) William Shakespeare (13) Thierry Mugler (14) Cheese (15) Ursula Von Der Leyen (16) Liv Ullmann (17) Banana (18) Polo (19) The Khyber Pass (20) Dr. Dre

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UFO – a myth or a reality?



Written by Victor Nandi

Over the ages, mankind has evolved from savage animals to the smartest species on the planet. There was a time when our primitive ancestors used to light fire outside their caves in fear of wild beasts; storms used to make them cower in fear and other natural calamities used to leave them defenceless.

However, with time, those feral enemies transformed into conquered adversaries – predators became preys and threats became energy sources. From agriculture and domestication of animals through learning to harness wind and water energy – the list of benchmarks went on expanding and gradually, man became the supreme-most of all animals. But that was just the beginning. One by one, products from the minds of ingenious scientists and enthusiastic explorers kept on flooding into the pool of man's accomplishments, expanding it into a vast ocean with time.

Nevertheless, this supremacy prevails only within the dominions of our own planet or at the maximum, within our solar system. As for the space beyond the territory of our known planets, time and again beings have come and left signatures of their much superior intelligence on earth. We have encountered those signatures countless times in books, historical sites and documentaries on history channels. One such place is Giza, Egypt. The Pyramids are imposing structures for sure. But there is far more to it than just that. The Pyramids, with their exact alignment with Earth's magnetic North Pole and position with respect to the Nile River delta, bear proof of knowledge unknown to man back then. A bird's eye view was necessary to achieve that feat. Even the placement of sun between the two Pyramids on Summer Solstice is a mystery till this day. What could have made it possible?

Now let's look at accounts of a series of strange incidents in the past.

About three thousand five hundred years ago, one evening Thutmose III, the King of Ancient Egypt, was awakened by a loud hue and cry.

He rushed outside and found a bizarre flying object hovering in the sky over his palace. Terrified and bewildered, the King was unable to decide what to do. He had never seen or heard of such a thing, ever. No weapons known to him could be wielded against that kind of an enemy. But was it even an enemy?

Panic set in in the city. Men and women knelt on the ground, grovelling and praying, considering it to be a messenger of God. Helpless, The King resorted to the ancient scrolls written by his ancestors for answers, but in vain.

A few days later, it happened again, only this time the number of saucers was more. They went up and down the sky lighting up the night with their dazzling light. The spectacle lasted for a long time and then, the saucers disappeared almost as suddenly as they had shown up.

Sun rose the next morning and also the morning that followed. The saucers never returned again. Fear in people's minds subsided and slowly, they forgot about them. However, the

incidents had been meticulously recorded on papyrus (paper used by the Egyptians) and somehow, those accounts on scrolls survived through these years and reached an antique shop in Cairo from where it was discovered in 1933.

Post that incident in Cairo, as the years went by, mysterious flying objects were observed across the world – Sicily, Rome, Phrygia (modern Turkey), Jerusalem, Basel (Switzerland), Yorkshire (United Kingdom), Texas (United States), Bihar (India), etc. Each of them has historical records that contain the accounts of the observers along with the dates of the events.

Description of the sightings varies, but not widely. What remains common to all the accounts can be summarized as disc-shaped objects swishing rapidly across the sky while emitting a bright light – the very same image every internet search engine returns and science fiction movie shows under the name alien spaceship or UFO's.

Now, three things are noteworthy here. First, the number of these sightings of flying saucers has been far too many to be a hoax. Second, since flying technology was not born anywhere on earth until the twentieth century, it can be decisively inferred that the things hovering over the palace in Ancient Egypt three and a half millennia ago and those that followed were from a different world with advanced technology invented by more superior brains. Third, in the umpteen instances of their sighting there has been not even a single reported case of deliberate violence or any form of assault from them.

An instance where the last point stands out most prominently is the farmhouse incident in Kentucky, United States. The date was August 21, 1955.

A saucer landed near a farmhouse. Creatures emerged out of it. Horrified, people fired at them. Those creatures did not retaliate even though they were repeatedly shot at. Not to mention, those man-made bullets caused no damage to their suits and after a while, those creatures returned to their spaceship unscarred.

From these, we can conclude that these intellectually advanced species have been visiting earth for a very long time with no sinister intention towards mankind. But then, the question arises that if they don't visit us to destroy us, then what is that they visit us for? Could they be coming here to help us?

Let us, for a moment, assume that the sighting in Ancient Egypt was only the first recorded event, but not the first event of their visit on our planet. That would mean they have been visiting us for probably hundreds of thousands of years. Maybe, it was a metallic fragment of their spaceship that had marked the beginning of Bronze Age on earth. Maybe, the primitive images on walls of caves depicting men cringing under the rocks with streaks of light above was not a portrayal of man's terror of lightning, but was rather a projection of a caveman bowing out of respect and gratitude to the luminous tail of the flying saucers creatures which taught him the use of fire. Perhaps, the incessant hovering over the Pharaoh's palace in Ancient Egypt was the aliens' desperate search for a person from the lineage of someone they had communicated with before – someone to whom they had delivered a secret recipe many centuries ago... the recipe of erecting technologically superior works of architecture – The Pyramids.

Probably, man's process of evolution from savage animals to the smartest species on earth was not entirely natural. Perhaps, many great inventions by modern scientists were, in fact,

accidental discoveries of time and place of the arrival of our extra-terrestrial friends. Maybe, the vast ocean of human accomplishments stands on a bed of technology that was born in another time, in another world and maybe, just maybe, the next UFO sighting is only a matter of time and consequently, so is the next prodigious thrust of mankind towards a world without uncontrollable and unpredictable natural calamities.

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LEICESTER



The city of Leicester is to be found in the East Midlands of England, north-east of Coventry and Birmingham and south of Nottingham. One could argue that the success of its football team in winning the Premier League in 2016, helped put it firmly on the

world map. In 2016, it was estimated to have a population of 348,300 with a significant number being made up by immigrants from Eastern Europe, Ireland, Asia and Africa.

Leicester boasts the second largest economy in the East Midlands, after Nottingham, and is historically linked to the production of textiles, shoes and clothing. Engineering companies also employ a lot of people in the Leicester area.

If you are one of those people who enjoy a spot of retail therapy, it is the perfect place for you to visit as it has two vibrant shopping centres, namely Highcross Leicester and Haymarket Shopping Centre. It also has many designer and specialist shops in St Martin's Square and the Leicester Lanes area of the city. Interestingly, it usually has the largest outdoor covered market in Europe.

If you like to put some tasty food in your belly, then why not visit the stretch of Belgrave Road that is famous for its authentic Indian restaurants? This area is known as the Golden Mile and also has many jewellers, sari shops and much more!

Leicester has a plethora of places to see like the Town Hall, Guildhall, Belgrave Hall, the Castle and the Abbey. There are also some good parks such as Abbey Park and Nelson Mandela Park.

If you are partial to a bit of sport, there is a professional football team (Leicester City F.C.) Leicester Tigers (Rugby Union), Leicester County Cricket Club and Leicester Raiders who are the oldest basketball club in England.

Now would be a good time to turn our attention to the history of the city: It is one of the oldest cities in England reaching back at least two millennia. There was definitely an Iron Age settlement met by the Romans when they arrived in the area around AD 47 – it slowly became (around AD 50) the tribal capital of the Corieltauviens and was known as Corieltauorum. Interestingly, the remains of a Roman cemetery were discovered in the city in 2013.

After the Saxon invasion of Britain, Leicester was occupied and ruled by the kingdom of Mercia, and in the 9th century, it was captured by Danish Vikings. The Danish settlement in Leicester was one of the five Burghs of the Danelaw, and in the early 10th century, it became known as Ligeraceaster. Then in the 11th century, after the Norman conquest, it lost its city status (until 1919) and was recorded in William's Domesday Book as Ledecestre.

Leicester is also famous as the being the place where King Richard III's skeleton was discovered under a car park in September 2012. It was then reburied near the high altar in Leicester Cathedral in 2015. Also, it is worth mentioning that Lady Jane Grey was born at Bradgate Park near Leicester around 1536 and went on to claim the English throne for nine days in 1553.

When the industrial era dawned on Leicester, it saw the construction of the Grand Union railway station linking it to St Pancras Station in London. Such developments helped the city and hosiery, textiles, and footwear became important industries in the area. Between 1861 and 1901, the population of Leicester rose from 68,100 to 211,600.

Significantly, the second half of the 19th century saw the creation of the town council, the Royal Infirmary and the Leicester Constabulary, and, in 1919, Leicester was once again recognised as a legal city to acknowledge its great contribution to the war effort.

In the 20th century, Leicester experienced a growth in trade unionism and the Co-operative movement which became an important employer. The Co-op actually provided the Jarrow marchers with a change of boot!

Since the end of the Second World War, many of Leicester's industries have declined although some of the old jobs have been replaced in the service sector and through retail development. However, the Beaumont Leys Manufacturing Plant still hosts the world's largest crisp factory.

So, if you think you would like to visit the interesting city of Leicester, you will find it easy to do so as it is well-served by air (East Midlands Airport), road and rail. It has two main bus stations and three permanent Park & Ride sites. What are you waiting for?!

* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

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ALBUM REVIEW – SONGS FROM THE KITCHEN DISCO – BY SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR

Review by Graham Townsend

This is basically Sophie's greatest hits album. It contains 20 tracks and most people will be familiar with at least four or five of the songs included here.

If you are looking for soulful or slow ballads you won't find them here, with the exception of track 14, "Young Blood", it is very much an up-tempo and uplifting experience. There are a couple of interesting cover

versions, which may divide fans of the original artists, and also a version of "My Favourite Things" from "The Sound of Music" to close things out.

Track 1 "Groovejet" is the track which brought Sophie to most people's attention back in the Year 2000. That release was credited to Spiller with Sophie being the featured artist. The version used here is a 2020 remix. You cannot really tell much of a difference between the two versions in my opinion, I find both very enjoyable, and it is no surprise when you look back that this was a UK Number 1 Hit Single.

I'll be very surprised if the majority of folks out there haven't heard any of tracks 2-5, with Track 3 "Murder on The Dancefloor" probably being her most well-known song, it reached number 2 on the UK Singles Chart.

I personally prefer "Take Me Home", "Get Over You" and "Music Gets the Best of Me" which are Tracks 2, 4 and 5, the first two also reached the UK top 3 and the latter track number 14.

Tracks 6 and 7 are "Mixed Up World" and "Catch You". Two more great upbeat pop songs that reached the UK Top 10.

There aren't really any what I would class as disappointing tracks here.

The aforementioned "Young Blood" was a lesser hit for Sophie, maybe this is because her fans were not accustomed to this style of song from her, but it is a decent song and allows her to show a different side to her talents. The same could actually be said of "My Favourite Things". I saw an interview with her on TV and she mentioned her love for musicals. This particular song is also one she performed as a contestant on the UK reality dance show "Strictly" so she clearly wanted to put her own spin on it.

The two cover versions I referred to previously are "True Faith" which people will associate with New Order and a live version of "Do You Remember the First Time" which people will associate with Pulp. They are both good covers, I prefer the former track.

Another cover version is Track 19 "Crying at The Discotheque". This was originally a hit in 2001 for Swedish band Alcazar. When I heard Sophie's version what stood out for me was the fact that it includes a sample from "Spacer" by Sheila and B Devotion, a UK Top 20 hit single from way back in 1979.

At just short of eighty minutes running time, I feel this is a perfect way to include all Sophie's career highlights. Her fans will love this and I think this is a very good album

MY STAR RATING = **** out of 5

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BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Emu

The emu is an interesting bird as it is the second largest living bird by height after its relative the ostrich. The emu actually became extinct in Tasmania and King Island in 1788 after the European settlement of Australia, but it is now the largest native bird in Australia.

An emu is a brown flightless bird with soft feathers and long neck and legs, and may grow up to 1.9 metres in height. They are very agile birds being able to travel large distances yet sprint at 31 mph. Although an emu can go weeks without eating and drink infrequently, they do enjoy eating a variety of plants and insects and take on water when they can.

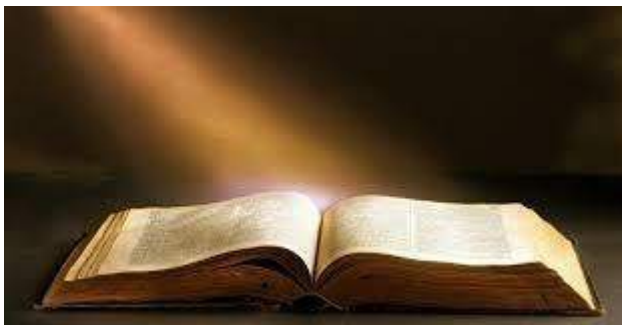
The emu breed in May and June and females fight with one another to secure a mate; a female can mate a number of times and lay clutches of eggs although it is the male that is responsible for their incubation. During incubation the male does not eat or drink and consequently, can lose a significant amount of weight. The eggs hatch after eight weeks and the young are cared for by their fathers.

It is important to note that the emu is an important icon of Australia and appears in its coat of arms and on certain coins.

Ref. Wikipedia

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BIBLE TALK



Sent in by Peter Smith

John 6.29

"We have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16, NKJV).

If we believe in Jesus and "have the mind of Christ", this means that in a very small

way we think as Jesus - as God - thinks. We can understand a tiny, tiny bit of God's thinking and motivation.

So, we can ask the question, "Why did God create the world"?

God sees the whole of the past and the future. So, He would have known that if He did create the world and mankind, His Son would have to suffer a terrible death to save men and women from their sins.

So why did He do it? What does He want so much that He was prepared to pay such a price?

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MORE SUMPTUOUS RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Sweet Potato and Celeriac Gratin

Ingredients:

2 lb 3 oz of sweet potato, peeled and sliced
1 lb of celeriac, peeled and sliced
1 fresh red chilli, deseeded and sliced
1 pack of fresh thyme
2 oz of fresh parmesan, grated
1 pint of double cream
1 garlic clove, crushed
Salt and black pepper

Method:

Lightly butter an ovenproof dish and arrange slices of sweet potato and sprinkle with a little chilli, thyme, parmesan, salt and pepper. Add a layer of celeriac and repeat the seasoning. Continue to lay alternate layers finishing with a top layer of sweet potato.

Mix the garlic into the cream and pour in the cream and sprinkle the remaining parmesan on the top. Cover with a lid or foil and bake at 160 C for 45-55 minutes, depending on how thinly the vegetables are sliced. Remove the foil or lid after 30 minutes to brown and crisp the top.



Gluten Free Rice and Sweetcorn omelette

Ingredients:

1 ½ oz of butter
4 spring onions, shredded
1 red chilli deseeded and finely sliced
7 oz can of sweetcorn, drained
7 oz of cooked long-grain or basmati rice
Handful of fresh herbs, chopped
6 eggs, beaten
3 tablespoons of grated

parmesan cheese
Salt and black pepper

Method:

Heat the butter in a large frying pan, add the spring onions and chilli and fry for 2 minutes. Add the sweetcorn, rice and herbs and stir to combine. Pour in the eggs, season well and cook for 2-3 minutes until beginning to set. Sprinkle over parmesan, then place under a hot grill and cook until firm and golden. Turn out and cut into generous wedges to serve.



Lemon Sauce Pudding

Ingredients:

2 oz of butter or soft margarine
4 oz of caster sugar
Zest and juice of 2 lemons
2 eggs
½ pint of milk

2 oz of self-raising flour

Method:

Cream the butter with 2 oz of caster sugar and the lemon zest until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks and then add half of the milk and flour. Stir in the remaining milk and add the lemon juice. Whisk in the egg whites until thick and gently fold in the remaining sugar. Fold into the sponge mixture.

Pour into a greased 2-pint oven-proof dish, stand in a roasting pan or dish and pour boiling water to the depth (2") around the dish. Place into oven and bake for 1 hour at 160 F.



Cinnamon Apple Crumble

Ingredients:

3 large Bramley apples
4-5 tablespoons of strawberry/raspberry jam
7 oz of self-raising flour
2 oz of white granulated sugar

2 oz of dark muscovado sugar
1 oz of porridge oats
3 oz of butter or margarine
1 tablespoon of cinnamon

Method:

Peel and slice apples and place into an oven-proof dish. Cover with a thin layer of jam. Mix the flour, butter or margarine, oats and spices together to form crumbs. Sprinkle on the top of the prepared apples and jam. Cook at 160 C for 40-45 minutes.

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DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A ROLE FOR A MONARCHY IN A MODERN SOCIETY?



Doreen Green

I have always been an advocate for the Royal Family. Queen Elizabeth representing the United Kingdom, as well as the Commonwealth Countries. I have always had an interest in the British Royal Family history since Henry VIII. Though the Monarchy has slimmed down in recent years: Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Camilla – Duchess of Cornwall,

Prince William, Kate – Duchess of Cambridge and their 3 Children – Prince George, Charlotte and Louis.

I do however think the role for a Monarchy is dated and may not survive the modern society we live in. Royals, though human beings, are expected to behave in a respectful manor. Sadly, several members of the family have behaved quite badly, from The Queen's children who are all divorcees – Charles and Camilla Tampon Gate – to recent alleged allegations linked to Prince Andrew, and his friendship with Geoffrey Epstein!

I think the Royal Family appear to be embroiled in scandal as opposed to representing positivity for the United Kingdom.

Graham Townsend

I think that there is a role for the monarchy in modern society, although it should perhaps be in a different guise to what we are currently familiar with in the UK.

There are several countries around the world with a monarchy but I guess most people associate it with the UK simply because of the high profile here.

If the monarchy attracts lots of visitors then the money that we receive in lieu of these tourists surely must vindicate its existence to some extent. This brings up the age-old argument with regards to taxpayers funding official engagements etcetera and the decision of Harry and Meghan to stand down from official duties has once again brought the issue into the spotlight.

Many people associate the monarchy with the British Empire and the Commonwealth, they often state these associations as valid reasons for doing away with it altogether.

I'd like to think we could find a middle ground that meets with everyone's approval, I'm just not sure what this would be. Perhaps a change in their involvement with political decisions could be the answer?

I would certainly like to see it continue in some shape or form.

Steven Franks

I think that in a modern society a monarchy is superfluous as it is an outdated concept.

Having a monarchy reflects the fact that social mobility, is in reality, limited to those of a certain class. It is wrong when a person is born into a position like that of The Queen of England as the Head of State should surely be elected in a democratic society. After all we are all human beings with equal rights and should be citizens and not subjects of a monarchy.

Of course, for example, members of the British Royal Family make many attempts to justify their privileged position by undertaking certain duties and charitable acts in the media so that people continue to buy into the idea of a monarchy.

Patricia Green

Firstly, what exactly does the monarchy represent? Although monarchies' roles differ from country to country, their presence is felt by their subjects.

Monarchies have evolved in that they now manage and rule by throwing themselves into charitable works and by supporting small businesses. Their work has been beneficial to many people who may not always be aware of the help they are actually receiving.

So, yes, I do think that there is a role for a monarchy in a modern society.

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Journeying through Time – LITERALLY



Written by Victor Nandi

A 'shortcut' may be defined as a less time-consuming way between two different points which are otherwise connected by a longer route. We are all familiar with how a shortcut works. There may be a shortcut connecting someone's college to his home or one between two busy junctions of the city. Now what if, a shortcut exists between one's college at present and his childhood home fifteen years back? What

if there is a road connecting two important junctures in history – the Mohenjo-Daro Civilization 4500 years ago and the erection of Taj Mahal a few centuries back for example? Sounds unbelievable, doesn't it? Well, the Einstein-Rosen Bridge concept would disagree.

Let us understand this concept by taking a simple example. The distance between the sun and the earth is about eight and a half light minutes. This means that the sun we see is not the sun at present, but is an eight-and-a-half-minute older version of it. Suppose, the sun dies and turns into a frigid mass at this very moment. People on earth will continue to see the sun as they know it. They will be aware of the disaster only after eight and half minutes from now.

If we mark earth and sun as two points and then connect them by an unbent path, we will get a straight line about 150 million kilometres long. Now, if we bend that straight line at its midpoint and fold it over itself, then the two ends of the line shall meet. Since one end represents sun and the other one earth, because of this folding of the line earth and sun will be almost touching each other now. In other words, 150 million kilometres would be bypassed by a space a few millimetres wide. Bypassing a distance of eight and half-light minutes is indeed a magnificent feat, but it is far too insignificant when compared to what can be achieved by a similar shunting across a distance of billions of light years in space. It is beyond the capacity of imagination of our minds that the distance light takes a hundred billion years to cover can be travelled by a man in less than a minute through a temporal 'shortcut' called Einstein-Rosen Bridge or a wormhole.

Owing to Star Trek's profound popularity, travelling through space-time is no unfamiliar concept, but its working is. Einstein's field equations of general relativity connect different points in space-time. Wormholes emerge as solutions of those complex field equations. Theoretical explanation of wormholes can be found in many technical papers and journals. Their fictional adaptation has spanned from the pages of sci-fi thrillers to the screens of Hollywood. Theoretical physicists Hermann Weyl, John Archibald Wheeler, Charles Misner and many others have substantiated wormhole theory of matter with respect to analysis of mass in electromagnetic field. In the book Narnia, little Lucy discovers another world inside a cupboard. The cupboard acts as a shortcut between two different worlds and also, the perceptions of time are different in the two worlds. Lucy spends a long time in the other world and returns to her world to find out that no time has passed at all – something very much coherent with that of a theoretical wormhole. However, despite the technical justification and filmic popularity wormholes have enjoyed, their existence continues to be contained within the realms of fiction. If we browse the pages of online journals and records

of national libraries, we shall find not even a single account on discovery of wormholes in reality. Is it that human science isn't advanced enough to identify them? Is it that they can't possibly be found on earth or anywhere near our solar system or is it that they don't exist in reality at all? Now, let us restrain our curious mind before it rushes into assumptions in order to concoct answers to the above questions, because if the answers are cooked up already in the mind, the following bizarre incident will seem even more indigestible.

In 1935, Sir Victor Goddard was flying in his aircraft over an abandoned airfield in Drem, a small village in Scotland. Due to many months of inactivity, the airfield had become home to cattle and thick clusters of plants and bushes. Sir Victor could very easily recognise the derelict state of the decommissioned airfield from his plane.

Days later, while retracing that route on his return journey his airplane met a storm – a weird storm the like of which he had never experienced before. The oddness of the storm did not lie in the wind and rain. It was the colour of the clouds that stunned him. He tried to rise above the clouds (that's a common practice pilots often adopt in order to elude storms), but found himself lost and disoriented amidst unending masses of yellow clouds. His controls went haywire and the aircraft began to plummet below. As his plane plunged, the clouds tore apart. The ground came in his sight and finally, he managed to bring the aircraft under his control again.

Everything seemed normal for a moment and then he perceived something peculiar. The rain, the wind, the yellow clouds had all collectively disappeared into thin air. The very storm he was struggling through only seconds ago seemed to have vanished all of a sudden. Sir Victor spotted an active airfield in the distance. Mechanics in blue uniforms were hustling about while four yellow planes stood at the runway. A particular new monoplane caught his attention. It was a strange thing to a veteran pilot who had neither heard of yellow planes nor seen RAF (Royal Air Force) mechanics dressed in any other uniform except brown and not known about any such monoplane model in the entire RAF. But the strangest thing of all was something else – the airfield he was seeing under him was the same abandoned, foliage-covered place filled with cattle which he had crossed a few days ago. Without pondering much over the oddity, he set course for his home base. But soon after, his plane was engulfed by torrential rain, wind and bizarre yellow clouds, once again. He fought back and managed to steer his plane to his destination unharmed.

At the base station, his co-workers did not believe his tales of Drem's abandoned airfield coming back to operation. They knew it well that the airfield had long been decommissioned and the officials had not heard of any plan of bringing it back to operation anytime in the near future. Moreover, the yellow planes, RAF mechanics in blue and the monoplane of that type were beyond the imagination of any of them.

The ripples of scepticism lasted for a few days and then, Sir Victor Goddard's ludicrous account was gradually forgotten.

Four years later, in 1939, the most shocking part of the tale unfolded. The Drem airfield was reinstated. The airfield opened again with RAF mechanics in blue uniforms and planes painted yellow for the first time. One of those planes, a brand-new model of a two-seat monoplane called Magister, was commissioned for the first time in the history of the RAF. Interestingly, it was the exact same model Sir Victor Goddard had described four years ago.

Let us now get our minds back to present. It was obviously impossible for him to have fabricated the story after 1939 for he had already narrated it to others in 1935. It was, however, possible that he was delusional during the flight. Perhaps, his hallucinations were the results of disorientation caused by turbulences of a very ordinary storm. Maybe, it was a fascinating coincidence that everything of what he hallucinated that day accurately matched with the exact picture of the place four years later.

There is, however, another possibility. Couldn't the two turbulences that he had mistaken for storms with strange yellow clouds have been the two ends of a wormhole? Could he have inadvertently stumbled into an Einstein-Rosen Bridge – a Bridge that had transported him into the future in 1939 and then back again in 1935? Couldn't it be that Sir Victor that day had accidentally taken a leap in the direction of a reality that modern physicists still consider a product of fiction?

Well, if that curious mind is still lying restrained, now would be the time to unleash it and let it acquire the answers to these questions.

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ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Who is the drummer of the group Queen?
- (2) What is the chemical symbol for gold?
- (3) Where do Paris St. Germain play their home fixtures?
- (4) What is the French word for butterfly?
- (5) What is 2:33 pm on the 24-hour clock?
- (6) How old was the footballer Nobby Stiles when he died?
- (7) Who invented the 24-hour clock?
- (8) What is the Spanish word for head?
- (9) All work and no play make Jack a boy?
- (10) What is the capital of Tanzania?
- (11) What nationality was painter Salvador Dali?
- (12) When was the black death in England?
- (13) Who wrote 'To Kill a Mocking Bird'?
- (14) Who composed the song 'Windmills of Your Mind'?
- (15) When were the American group The Bangles formed?
- (16) What is the Duke of Westminster's family name?
- (17) What is a mocktail?
- (18) What is the German word for suitcase?
- (19) Who won the 2006 World Cup?
- (20) What is the currency of Guinea?

Answers:

(1) Roger Meddows Taylor (2) Au (3) Le Parc des Princes (4) Papillon (5) 14:33 (6) 78 (7) Egyptians (8) Cabeza (9) Dull (10) Dodoma (11) Spanish (12) June 1348 (13) Harper Lee (14) Alan Bergman and Michel Legrand (15) 1981 (16) Grosvenor (17) A cocktail without the liquor – consists of juices, sodas, infused water and many non-alcoholic ingredients, mixed appropriately (18) Koffer (19) Italy (20) Guinean franc

Editor's Last Word: As always, I am very grateful to you for taking the time and trouble to read this publication. If you want to contact us to contribute an article/be interviewed/advertise or donate towards the running costs of the magazine, please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes Dean.

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