# FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH - December 2021. Edition No 84.



Hello. I hope you are okay and in a peaceful environment. Christmas is just around the corner and I have taken the easy option of giving money and vouchers to friends and family. I know that it can be a difficult time for people who have lost loved ones but if this is the case, I hope that the festivities will lift your spirits a little even so.

If you want to get involved with the magazine in a non-racist,

non-homophobic or non-sexist way, please contact us at: <u>dean@fthm.org.uk</u> Best wishes, Dean.

MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS DANIEL GROOMBRIDGE AIRS HIS VIEWS ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ BLACKPOOL JUNE'S WORLD BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER ALBUM REVIEW – VOYAGE – BY ABBA BIBLE TALK GRAHAM'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPORT MORE OF JUNE'S FABULOUS RECIPES DIARY OF A MAN SITTING DOWN 8 (?)

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**MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS** 

# <u>Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov</u>

Christmas is just around the corner so why not present yourself with something nice as you thoroughly deserve it. A religious man may try and influence your belief system but only alter the way you live if you want to. This year has been very difficult for everyone but your fortunes will improve next year and you will start to enjoy life once more. Eat less cheese.

# <u>Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec</u>

You may have feared you were going mad recently, but don't worry as you have too much about you to go under. Someone you fancy will shock you with their choice of partner but they are obviously looking for someone different to you so move on. It is time you stopped worrying about an afterlife and concentrated on making the best of the one you have now.

# <u>Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan</u>

This Christmas will be the finest one you've ever experienced as you will spend it happily with the one you love and who loves you too - and you will be well! You have been guilty of living in the past, but now is the time to embrace the present moment and act accordingly. It is also time to be a bit hedonistic and let your hair down if you have any. Buy a waistcoat.

# <u> Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb</u>

You may be feeling very fat at the moment but this is not how other people perceive you so don't worry and cut yourself some slack. Saving money may have been a priority this year, but now is the time to skilfully spend some of it. A man with an enormous nose will come into your life bearing many expensive gifts, but has he got any ulterior motives? Walk more.

# <u> Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar</u>

You are bored of the usual Christmas traditions so why not consider spending Christmas overseas with some close friends? An unexpected gift will make you appreciate how much a

friend thinks of you. It's time to decide about your new year resolution(s) – are you happy with the way you're living your life? Try and avoid a Christmas day hangover this year.

### <u>Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr</u>

A beautiful person will awaken your senses and change your life effortlessly for the better. You could do to lose a few pounds, but be realistic, now is not the time to do so! Things will start to get better for you this month and soon you will be walking with a spring in your step once more. It is also time to stop thinking so deeply and take things at face value again.

# Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

This month you will see a large improvement in your fortunes but not necessarily on a financial level. A chance meeting with an acquaintance may lead to the blossoming of a much -needed romance. It is a great time to start planning, in a realistic way, for the future and maybe you should appreciate what you have instead of always craving more.

# <u>Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun</u>

It may be winter in England, but you will be soon the recipient of some genuine warmth and love from friends and family who really appreciate you. An animal lover will ask you out so just be yourself and don't hide anything from them. An email may make you happy and make you realise that your efforts aren't in vain. Stop doubting yourself and get on with your life.

# <u> Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul</u>

A man who is very money-orientated may offer you a job this week, but do you really want to be at his beck and call? You may look back at this very difficult year and it is right that you feel proud as you have coped admirably. Money may be tight at the moment but at least you have worked hard and not sold out. Maybe it is time to stop eating dog biscuits?

# <u>Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug</u>

Utility bills may have increased recently, but don't spend too much time worrying about them and just try and be a bit more careful. A new job opportunity will arise next year so make sure you have an enjoyable Christmas and spread a little happiness around. A gay person may do something that shows you clearly that it doesn't really matter who loves who. Be kind.

# <u>Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep</u>

Your driving skills are quite poor so now is the time to try and rectify this before something bad happens. A man in a red pullover will make you an offer that you can't refuse and which will change your life forever. A small windfall will blow your way but do remember how hard your relative worked to amass their money. Don't spend it like a village idiot might!

#### <u>Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct</u>

It is a good time to invest in some warm clothing now that Jack Frost has appeared on the scene. You could also buy some comfortable boots so that you are in good shape to perform your marvellous feats. Christmas is a time to share one's good fortunes so why not put a smile on someone's face who has so little. Do eat lots of chocolate and be merry!

# DANIEL GROOMBRIDGE AIRS HIS VIEWS ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES



**First of all, Daniel can you tell us a little bit about yourself?** I was born in Halifax and, I've lived in Halifax for the whole of my life. I think it's a nice little, small little town.

Let's get straight to the point of the interview shall we? Yes

Is it true that that you believe that Covid-19 doesn't exist? Personally, my opinion is that the virus has never been isolated after nearly two years so, if the virus really existed they would have found it by now.

**Do you think it's just flu or something like that then?** Yeah, I think it's just rebranded flu.

**Do you think it's a waste of time wearing masks?** That's bad for your health, all independent

scientists and doctors have proven that.

**Why are they bad for your health?** You're breathing in your own carbon monoxide and, you need oxygen to go to your brain so, you're going to get brain fog from wearing them for long periods.

**So would you advise people not to wear them?** I'd advise them not to wear them. They have 0.1% effectiveness and, they're not effective at stopping a virus or diseases. Doctors wear them in hospital just to stop them spitting into the wounds of patients. They don't work, it's a proven fact that they don't work, it's even on CDC's (Centres for Disease Control and Protection) website that they don't work and only have 0.1% effectiveness.

**And what do you think about these vaccines? Do you think it's worth having them?** My personal opinion is, and I've done all my research for nearly two years, over 5,000 doctors say they're neurotoxins and that, they're carcinogenic.

**Where have you done your research?** Dr Ryan Cole, in Idaho. He owns his own laboratory. Eric Nepute, Nepute Wellness Centre.

What makes you believe these people, rather than mainstream news outlets? Because they're not corrupt, they're independent and, they can't be bought off and, they've got children and they want a future for their children, they're doing this for their kids, and their grandkids so, they've got nothing to gain from this. The government has shut everyone up and censored everyone, even Facebook. So obviously, they've been bought off. And even doctors that are Harvard educated, Yale University educated, with twenty, thirty, forty years of experience, they're not even allowed to speak out. They're not even allowed to talk about vitamins without the threat of having their licence taken away from them. You know, science is an open discussion.

**So would you advise people not to have the vaccine?** I would advise them not to have it. It's the neurotoxins.

What about vulnerable people, even if they were dying from, do you think it is wrong to give them the vaccine, even if it helps them? Well personally, experts are saying you don't need the vaccine if you are under eighty, as long as you've got no co-morbidities. If you've got leukaemia, cancer, AIDS, anything like that then, you should have it.

**So when we see these figures every day on television, showing how many deaths etc.?** Those cases have been counted for fifteen days, they're counting old cases.

**Is it to do with Covid or, is it to do with what you think is flu?** It's flu but, they're saying its Covid, or SARS-CoV-2, to give it its official name but, it's rebranded flu, it's flu like symptoms and it's not life threatening if you've got no co-morbidities.

**Do you think that it did originate in China?** The jury is still out on that. They're saying that Fauci, because obviously he's corrupt, and Bill Gates, they've been funded for five or six years. They've put hundreds of millions of pounds into it. They're saying that they got it out of a bat and genetically modified it, to attack a human source. So that's not a one-hundred per cent proven fact yet.

**Why would they do that though?** Population reduction. Sales of vaccines. Bill Gates profits have gone up twenty-one per cent already on vaccine sales and big pharmaceutical companies (Pharmas) have \$80 billion already.

**Do you think the governments are in on this then?** The governments are puppets on strings. It's the big Pharmas that run the governments, like Pfizer, they own small countries, they can buy anyone off. All the politicians in Australia, they've been bribed. All that has come out and, they've had to resign.

**Why would they want to cull the population of the world?** There are a number of reasons. Food, public transport, NHS, health, they want to get rid of the sick and old unfortunately.

# Who in particular do you think wants to get rid of the sick and old? Bill Gates

**Why Bill Gates though?** He's been doing this for a long time. He's been testing on people in India with another vaccine. I can't remember exactly when. It made lots of people sick and so many people have died and, he just swept it all under the carpet. They tried to sneak out a flu strain in Europe and, they got found out. In South America, they got found out. If you go on

the European Union's website it's on there. It was ten years ago, they got found out and they had to stop doing it. And now they're counting case numbers and, where is the base to get case numbers? The elderly, in homes, in hospices and hospitals.

**Do you think they are so cold hearted?** They are cold hearted. Trust me, it's all about money and control. All the experts are saying that.

**But if they reduce the population of the world, will they have more money for themselves?** Only in vaccine sales, that's what they're doing it for. That's what they're pushing all these boosters for. Cos it's not free. America are paying \$19.50 for each vaccine. And some other countries have got it for less, say £10 in some other countries. America have ended up paying the most and don't ask me why. They've had a bad deal out of it but, it's all about money sales and, indirectly taxpayers are paying for all these jabs, so effectively, they're not free.

**Do you think it was right that we had two lockdowns?** Definitely not. Lockdowns have caused more harm and more deaths than this Covid.

**In what way?** Mental issues, suicides, people being locked up, relationships have split up, marriages and so, the lockdowns don't work. And that's a proven fact.

**Do you think it has been a waste of time wearing masks on public transport?** Personally, if no one has got any symptoms like sweating, coughing and sneezing then, you've got nothing to worry about. But if you see anyone like that on the street or on a bus then, of course, you should avoid them at all costs.

What do you think about rules like, you've got to have had your vaccines to go abroad, and do you think it's wrong? I think it's wrong. If you're asymptomatic and healthy, you're not a spreader. 99.99997 per cent of people are not dying from this. More people die from flu each year than die from this.

**So, just to reiterate, you think this is flu?** It is flu, it's just rebranded, to scare people with fear.

**So, you don't think you've had this "strain" of flu?** No, I probably have had it. It's just that my immune system has dealt with it and, now I've got natural immunity. Natural robust immunity is twenty-one times more potent than the jab itself.

**Do you think that the jabs have reduced people's levels of immunity?** Yes their immunity has dropped by five per cent every week. There is forty per cent of immunity gone from those who have had two doses. And, if you have your flu shot and your booster, they're saying you have thirty-six month life expectancy, up to a maximum of five years.

**Do you think we'll continue to hear about Covid-19 in the news in the foreseeable future?** Unfortunately this is going on until 2025.

**How do you know that?** It has come out via Jamie McIntyre and Australian National Review. It's all part of the agenda of the "global elite" to "reset the world". They've brought it forward from 2050 to now.

**Who are the "global elite"?** No one knows who they are. There's 3,000 of them. The very wealthy, the trillionaires. They're all doing this for money and population reduction.

**Is there anything you'd like to add to this interview, anything we've not covered?** I just want to mention PCR tests. They give out false positives. Dr Kary Mullis, who invented the test, said it was not designed to detect virus in the human body. The number of positive cases has been inflated, to keep lockdowns in place. The tests should be run at 25, instead of 37-45 cycles. The reason being that doing them at 37-45 means it can pick up anything that's years old. If there is one false positive from a group of nineteen, all nineteen are counted as positive tests, irrespective of the outcome of the remaining tests. This keeps the narrative going. The main stream media is corrupt with propaganda read from a script. They are being paid by Bill Gates. The jabs are experimental, unlicensed, unapproved and unsafe. They cause death, so many people around the world have died as a result of the jabs. There is so much more I could say about this, I suggest listening to the likes of Robert Malone, the inventor of MRNA technology, Mike Yeadon, ex-Pfizer scientist and Dr Brian Ardis.

If anyone wants to discuss the contents of this interview further, you can contact me at: <a href="mailto:daniel.groombridge2@hotmail.com">daniel.groombridge2@hotmail.com</a>

### Ok Daniel, thank you for your time.

Thank you

# **GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ**

#### **Questions:**

- (1) What is the name of the actor, best known for playing the role of Gunther in "Friends", who died in October 2021?
- (2) What is the capital city of North Macedonia?

(3) Which American author, best known for his horror and suspense novels, has written seven books using the pen name Richard Bachman?

(4) Which former Rangers, Everton and Scotland manager died at the age of 73 in October 2021?

- (5) Who composed "Pictures at an Exhibition"?
- (6) Which craft brewery has produced beers called "Hells

Lager", "Ink Stout" and "Marmite Ale"?

- (7) Which British monarch was known as the "Nine Days' Queen"?
- (8) Which element of the Periodic Table has the chemical symbol Ni and atomic number 28?
- (9) Linus Torvalds created which computer operating system?
- (10) As at 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, who is the UK Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer?
- (11) What collective name is given to the first five books of the Old Testament in The Bible?
- (12) Who did Villarreal defeat in the final of the 2020-21 UEFA Europa League?
- (13) What is the collective noun for a group of pandas?
- (14) Aesir and Vanir were the two major clans in which mythology?

- (15) In the UK, a road sign with a black car next to a red car, inside a red circle, means what?
- (16) Who starred as Ren McCormack in the 1984 film "Footloose"?
- (17) In which European city will you find the Spanish Riding School?
- (18) Who wrote the poem "The Daffodils"?
- (19) What is Jupiter's largest moon?
- (20) "=" is the name of the fourth studio album by which English singer-songwriter?

# Answers

(1) James Michael Tyler (2) Skopje (3) Stephen King (4) Walter Smith (5) Modest Mussorgsky (6) Camden Town Brewery (7) Lady Jane Grey (8) Nickel (9) Linux (10) Rachel Reeves (11) The Torah - aka Pentateuch (12) Manchester United (13) Congregation (14) Norse Mythology (15) No overtaking (16) Kevin Bacon (17) Vienna (18) William Wordsworth (19) Ganymede (20) Ed Sheeran



# **BLACKPOOL**

Blackpool is an interesting town in the north west of England and is a coastal resort that has been visited by millions of people. It is located 40 miles northwest of Manchester and 27 miles north of Liverpool whilst Preston is only 15 miles away. According to the 2011 Census, the town's estimated population was 139,720 which makes it the most populated urban area in the North West of England.

The recent history of Blackpool is fascinating and reflects the changing face of English society. Blackpool was a coastal hamlet throughout the Middle Ages and remained so until the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century when people began to travel to the coast during the summer months in an attempt to improve their well-being. In 1781, it became easier to access the 7-mile sandy beach thanks to the construction of a new road by Thomas Clifton and Sir Henry Houghton, and significantly, in the same year stagecoaches began running between Blackpool and Manchester (and in 1782, from Halifax) which greatly augmented the number of visitors to the town.

New buildings were erected in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Henry Banks and John Cocker which allowed the population to increase from 500 in 1801, to over 2,500 in 1851. Railways also played a major role in increasing visitor numbers to Blackpool and in the 1840s, the linking by rail to other industrialised parts of Northern England, meant it became a focal point for tourism in the UK – it also resulted in an influx of settlers to the area, and, in 1881, it had a population of 14,000 people.

But now let's take a look at Blackpool's more distant past. In 1970, a 13,500-year-old elk skeleton was discovered with man-made barbed bone points on Blackpool Old Road which

suggests humans lived in the area as far back as the Palaeolithic era. In addition, it is known that the Fylde (a coastal plain on top of a peninsula) was also where a British sub-tribe of the Brigantes called the Setantii lived from AD80 and who were controlled by the Romans from their fort at Dowbridge.

The Domesday Book in 1086 recorded some of the earliest villages in Fylde which later became part of Blackpool town. Interestingly, it seems that Vikings and Anglo-Saxons lived together peacefully in the area and place names were even joined together e.g. Layton-with-Warbeck. During Medieval times, the area emerged as "Black Poole" and was composed of a few farmsteads. But by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Edward Tyldesley had built the first substantial house in the area.

The increased popularity of curing diseases through sea bathing meant that many people came to Blackpool in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and this was augmented by the building of 4 hotels, an archery stall and bowling greens being established. It is definitely worth pointing out that the closure of Lancashire Cotton factories for a week to service and repair machinery, meant that there was a steady flow of visitors during a prolonged summer season to Blackpool – this was known as 'Wakes Week' and was staggered throughout the summer.

The expansion of the town of Blackpool beyond what is now known as 'the Golden Mile' in 1893, resulted in the town being the only one with 3 piers as well as a promenade, fortune-tellers, public houses, trams, donkey rides, fish and chip shops and theatres. From the 1880s until the First World War, the town was a magnet for many visitors including the employees of Bass' Burton brewery who organised annual trips to the seaside. By the 1890s, the population was 35,000 and the town could accommodate 250,000 holidaymakers – it is estimated that 3 million annual visitors spent a week at the resort during this period.

As mentioned, Blackpool was at the cutting edge of modernisation as it was the first municipality in the world to have electric street lighting and to have one of the first electric tramways which was laid from Cocker Street to Dean Street – 1n 1895, a line was added to Fleetwood and, in 1899, overhead wires replaced the conduit system which is still in use today. Other significant occurrences in the town's history were the construction of Blackpool Tower and the Grand Theatre in 1894. Blackpool's Illuminations were introduced in 1912 and are still a draw for many people with them being switched on by notables or celebrities.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, about 8 million people visited the town and mainly came from mill towns in East Lancashire and from the West Riding of Yorkshire. Blackpool was not heavily damaged during the Second World War, and it is thought that this is because Hitler planned to use it as a place of leisure after what he thought would be a successful military campaign. Interestingly, the Free Polish Air Force made its headquarters in exile at Blackpool after the war.

Following the conclusion of the Second World War, Blackpool's fortunes continued to prosper attracting about 17 million people per year, but then, the decline of the textile industry and people starting to holiday abroad meant that it became more of a day trip

location – especially after the building of the M55 motorway in 1975. However, the economy of the town is still very much reliant on tourism.

Today, a visitor to Blackpool can enjoy the tower, the illuminations, the Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Zoo and much more. It certainly still has much to offer the day tripper and those who choose to still holiday there. Indeed, although the town heavily depends on tourism to boost its economy, there are still a large number of small businesses and self-employed people as well as some large employers like National Savings and Investments (based at Marton) and Tangerine Confectionery. If you like a spot of retail therapy, the main shopping streets include Church Street, Bank Hey Street and Market Street – where one can pass a happy hour or so!

Traditionally, many conferences have been held in the town such as major political and trade union conferences, but unfortunately, these have moved to major cities with modern conference centres although happily, the Young Farmers Convention has been held in Blackpool since the late 1960s.

If you want to be entertained at a seaside resort, Blackpool is the perfect place to visit as even though it remains a summer entertainment venue, many local establishments trade all year round. It is primarily known as a venue for variety shows featuring people like Ken Dodd and Ray 'Chubby' Brown but people like Britney Spears and Pitbull have also appeared in the town.

It is also worth mentioning that Blackpool began to be promoted as a gay tourist destination in the 1990s and that the first Gay Pride was held there in 2006 – there are many LGBT venues in the town like Flamingo and the Flying Handles. But there are also lots of other theatres and venues which offer excellent entertainment like the Winter Gardens, The Imperial Hotel and Viva Cabaret Show-bar and Events Suite.

Sport is very popular in the town with boxing matches at the Tower Circus Arena and the Winter Gardens, three golf clubs in the area and also Rugby Union and League on offer. If you enjoy watching football, you can go and watch Blackpool F.C. or one of the amateur teams like A.F.C. Blackpool or if you appreciate cricket, you could pay a visit to Blackpool Cricket Club – you could even participate in the annually-held Blackpool Marathon if you're feeling up to it!

So, if you fancy a good day out or even a good holiday then why not consider a trip to Blackpool as it is well-served by road, rail, air (via Liverpool John Lennon Airport) and there is also the excellent Blackpool Tramway which runs from Starr Gate in Blackpool to Fleetwood. What are you waiting for?!

\* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

# **JUNE'S WORLD**



How the weeks and months seem to fly by, it only seems a couple of weeks since I wrote my last article and now it's time to write another!

I hope you're fit and healthy and looking after yourself and still doing the right things like wearing a mask in a crowded place. The Covid 19 does seem to be going on for a

long time and more people than not seem to have stopped wearing masks in shops – I know it's no longer compulsory but until things are back to normal, I think it is wise to wear one.

We seem to be getting a lot of sunshine which serves to make us all feel a bit better in ourselves, it seems to brighten everything up and put one in a good frame of mind. We usually go to Selby on a Monday but we won't be going today as my husband is not well and is still in bed which will hopefully make him feel better. We're not machines and need to slow down and rest.

Anyway, I feel good because I have wrapped up most of my Christmas presents even though it is only early November, that's how I like to be organised while I'm still fit and healthy. I've wrapped up all the small presents first but I've still got some big ones to buy. I know lots of people who are the same as me, but having said that, I know some people prefer to give money as it's easier to do so.

We went to see the new James Bond film last week played by Daniel Craig who is a very good actor. It is really worth seeing in my opinion. I enjoyed it very much and so did my husband. We hadn't been to the cinema for years so it made a nice change. We went to the Odeon in Leeds which is a lovely building and was very comfortable inside with reclining seats. The only snag was that you had to sit through thirty minutes of adverts before the film even started. It was a very long film that lasted about two and a half hours. However, now that we've been once, I think we will go again if another good film is showing.

We've really got out of going out in an evening as we prefer to go out in the daytime and then settle down to watch T.V.

The sun is now shining brilliantly and makes me want to go out so I will probably go to Garforth and buy some more presents. When I get fed up of wrapping presents then I will start to give money so that people can buy what they like. Well, that's it for now. Best wishes, June.

# **BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER**



#### **Crabs**

Crabs inhabit all of the world's oceans, live in fresh water and on land. They are covered in a thick exoskeleton known primarily as chitin and are armed with claws. But crabs are not all the same size and actually come in various sizes e.g., the Pea crab that is only a few millimetres in width and the Japanese Spider crab that has a leg span of about 4 metres. Interestingly, there are about 50 species of

freshwater crabs.

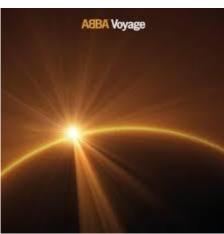
Male crabs have larger claws than female ones but the latter has a broader, rounded abdomen. Females carry fertilised eggs on their pleopods and are known as being "berried" as the eggs look like berries. Crabs attract a mate through chemical, visual, acoustic or vibratory means and females can actually store sperm for a while before fertilisation takes place.

It is true to say that most crabs migrate to the ocean in order to release their larvae, which, after a short period become juvenile crabs that soon migrate back to the land.

Most crabs walk sideways because of how their legs are designed but some crabs do walk forwards or backwards and crabs like the Portunidae and Matutidae are actually capable of swimming.

Crabs are able to communicate through drumming or moving their pincers and males often fight to get to the females. Some may also fight to secure hiding holes.

Ref. Wikipedia



# ALBUM REVIEW – VOYAGE – BY ABBA

#### **Review by Graham Townsend**

After having to wait almost forty years for a new album from ABBA, their last album was "The Visitors" in 1981, they are back. Having been a fan as a pre-teen/early-teen I have been looking forward to this day for such a long time. So, has it been worth the wait? Is it what you would expect? Are there any noticeable differences from their previous material? Let's find out shall we!

There are ten tracks on the album and the running time

is relatively short, even by modern standards, coming in at just over thirty-seven minutes. Early reports suggests that this will become the band's tenth UK number one album.

My initial favourite track is "Don't Shut Me Down", one of the songs which appeared in the public domain some time before the album release. It has the production quality you would associate with a track normally released as a single. For me, there is a hint of "The Day Before You Came" about it and, that is one of my personal favourite ABBA songs. My opinion may of course change, over time, as I become more familiar with the rest of the songs. The other track released as a taster for the album was the opening track, "I Still Have Faith in You". I am still getting used to this song as I didn't really enjoy it upon hearing it for the first few times.

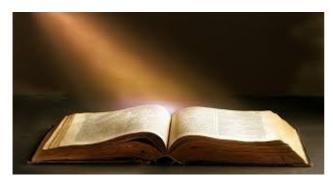
We even get a Christmas song in "Little Things" which is passable, probably more so as the timing of the album release comes just before the festive period. This seems to have been a deliberate ploy as, it has now been announced this track is to be released as a single.

In their pomp, ABBA were known for their upbeat music coupled with underlying stories of angst. This doesn't appear to be any different with this album. It's probably just that Benny, Bjorn, Agnetha and Anna-Frid are a little older and wiser now in how they approach life and their music.

Even after such a gap between their releases, this album is unmistakeably ABBA. The style/formula to their music seems pretty much unchanged. That was something I noticed pretty much as soon as I had listened to the first two or three songs for the first time. There are several hooks within the music that will remind you of particular hits from back in the 1970s and 80s. Ones that instantly come to my mind are "Fernando" intertwined into "Bumblebee", "S.O.S" at the end of "Keep an Eye on Dan" (another one of the better tracks here) and "The Winner Takes It All" in the opening to "Ode to Freedom". I believe there were pieces of music used on the album that were originally recorded, in part, way back when and so, this explains some of the perceived continuity, I guess.

So would I recommend this album? In short, yes, I would. If you loved the harmonies from the past, they are still there and you will love this album. Not much has changed at all and fans will definitely want to buy this one.

MY STAR RATING = \*\*\*\* out of 5



# **BIBLE TALK**

# Sent in by Peter Smith

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. (Luke 21:20,21) And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:25-27)

Here Jesus foretells his SECOND coming.

Therefore, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them - my servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

(Ezekiel 34:22-24)

Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us his ways, and we shall walk in his paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

(Micah 4:2)

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

(Isaiah 11:7)

The prophets foresee the MILLENNIUM (see Revelation 20:4) of peace on earth, when Jesus ("my servant David") will reign from Jerusalem, after his second coming.

(Bible quotations from the New King James Version)

# **GRAHAM'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPORT**



Hello again!

Well, we are fast approaching the end of 2021, however, the sports action certainly doesn't slow down and there is a festive feast of action for sports fans to look forward to in December.

In the UK, one of the biggest traditions in football is the Boxing Day programme of

fixtures. In fact, due to the way matches are scheduled in this day and age, there are matches spread across a number of days over the Christmas and New Year period. Some of the highlights include Liverpool vs. Leeds on Boxing Day, Newcastle vs. Man United on 27<sup>th</sup> December and Leicester vs. Liverpool on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

Boxing Day is also an important day for horse racing in the UK as, the King George VI Chase takes place at Kempton Park. The following day at Chepstow sees another important race take place, the Welsh Grand National.

Another event that has become tradition over the Christmas period is the World Darts Championship. This year is no different and the tournament runs from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 through to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022, at Alexandra Palace in London. Welshman Gerwyn Price will be looking for a successful defence of the title he won for the first time earlier in the year.

There are sporting traditions to be upheld in the United States too as two NFL games take place on Christmas Day. Firstly, Cleveland Browns take on Green Bay Packers and, later in the day, Indianapolis Colts take on Arizona Cardinals.

Next, we head over to Australia and the festive traditions continue with their usual Boxing Day Test Match at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) and this year it is a biggie as Australia host England in the third match, of five, in the Ashes Series. The First Test takes place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December in Brisbane and, the Second Test takes place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December in Adelaide.

At the start of the month, snooker's UK Championship reaches its climax at the Barbican Centre in York, England. The Formula One motor racing season also reaches its conclusion with the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, in Jeddah on 5<sup>th</sup> December and the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, at Yas Island on 12<sup>th</sup> December. As I write this column, Max Verstappen leads Lewis Hamilton by fourteen points in the F1 Drivers World Championship so, everything could still be to play for in these final two races of the season.

So, as you can see, there is plenty of sport for you all to enjoy during December.

Until next time...stay safe and be happy!

\* With a little help from Wikipedia

PS – If you fancy a further sports fix, I record a weekly podcast, you can view it at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQAG\_vzf\_Qq0XlKczwd1l7Q



**Bread and Butter Pudding** 



# Ingredients:

1 pint of milk 1 oz of sugar 2 eggs 1 oz of currants 6 small slices of bread and butter Nutmeg

# Method:

Grease dish and line with 3 slices of bread and butter.

Sprinkle with currants, sugar and grated nutmeg. Cover with remaining bread and butter. Beat

eggs and milk. Pour over the pudding and leave to stand for 30 minutes before cooking. Sprinkle with grated nutmeg. Cook in a moderately hot oven.



### Pears in Wine

#### **Ingredients:**

4 large pears 8 oz of castor sugar 1 cinnamon stick 5 Fl oz of water 5 Fl oz of red wine

**Method:** 

Peel pears, leaving the stalks intact. Cut a thin slice off the base of each pear so that it will stand upright. Put the sugar and cinnamon stick in a large pan, add the water and bring to the boil over a medium heat, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Add the pears, reduce the heat, cover and then simmer for 15 minutes. Pour in the wine and simmer, uncovered, for a further 15 minutes or until the pears are just tender. Remove the pears with a slotted spoon and stand them in serving dish. Remove and discard the cinnamon stick and bring the wine syrup back to the boil. Boil rapidly until thickened, then pour the syrup over the pears and leave to cool. Chill for at least 1 hour before serving.



# **Chicken and Leek Pie**

# **Ingredients:**

10 oz of cooked boned chicken 1 oz of butter 1 small onion 1 tablespoon of plain flour ½ pint of chicken stock ½ pint of white wine Salt and ground black pepper 3 medium leeks 8 oz of puff pastry Beaten egg for glaze

#### Method:

Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Brown onion lightly in the butter. Stir in the flour and cook for a minute. Add the stock and wine, bring to the boil stirring and simmer for 2 - 3 minutes. Season.

Mix the chicken and leeks into the sauce and pour into a deep sized pie dish of about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pints capacity. Roll out the pastry, slightly larger than the size of the dish. Cut a 2.5 cm strip from the edge of the pastry, dampen and place around the edge of the dish. Lay the remaining

pastry over to make a lid. Decorate with pastry leaves. Knock up the edges and glaze with egg. Cook until golden brown.

# **DIARY OF A MAN SITTING DOWN 8 (?)**

#### Written by Krishna Francis

My input into this paper is, at best, intermittent. This is only in part due to me. He said, still feeling guilty that he was implicated at all, not to mention feeling guilty for attempting to divert attention from my feelings of guilt by saying it was only partially due to me. This especially as I appreciated the sterling work done by Dean and his team, the Dean team! Moving on, let's continue with this next piece of intermittence.

The reason for my doing this irregular bit of exposition of my life as a wheelchair user is down to my friend Rob who used to do the maintenance of the website. He suggested I share the daily exploits as I experienced them. I started doing just that. Then, after one or two issues, stopped again. Time passed. I bumped into Rob in Hebden Bridge market and he spurred me on to return to the job. This time he suggested doing a regular column with the above title. This would give me a pattern to work to and a monthly deadline to keep me in check. Rob's idea inspired me and gave me focus. I returned to the task of writing with renewed, if intermittent, vigour.

Now Rob has left the paper to head to pastures new, somewhere in the south of England, I'm left without his guiding hand. The same adventures will occur only now I'll have to be more focused in order to ensure they get in front of your eyes.

On other matters...

The last three weeks has seen me getting into a regular selection of scrapes involving my body's functions. It's been instructive. There was I thinking that after three years, I'd found a pattern of behaviour that worked for me, involving eating, sleeping and toileting. Then, suddenly, it all goes haywire below my belt and I'm not always sure what the cause is. Fair enough if I've eaten that pot of yoghurt that is a day or two out of date, or I've cooked that carrot that bent at the slightest touch due to old age. However, I'm doing my best and watching what I eat and making sure I pattern my behaviour so that my body knows what it's expected to do next. Yet still I seem to find myself having to do a whole lot of cleaning up after myself in spite of my caution. It is both flabbergasting and tiring.

It's not a great topic of conversation, still less fantastic in a monthly online magazine. However, it is helpful to hear about people overcoming problems or learning to have a workaround. Sometimes, as in this case it's good to hear people have patience and resolve in the face of debilitating issues.

This isn't one of my better entries. It feels a bit like I'm not sure what to write about. Which is kind of true except that I'm writing about not knowing what to do when you really ought. Sometimes it's all a bit inexplicable and that's all you have. You just have to shrug your shoulders, hope for the best and see what happens tomorrow. See you then, then

# ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



### **Questions:**

(1) Which is the largest ocean in the world?

(2) Where do Man City FC play their home games?

(3) What is the official currency of St Kitts and Nevis?

(4) What is the name of the latest James

#### Bond film?

- (5) What was the nationality of painter Paul Cezanne?
- (6) What is the French word for 'church'?
- (7) Who played Robin in the 70s sitcom Robin's Nest?
- (8) What nationality is the current Pope?
- (9) What is the Spanish word for 'September'?
- (10) What is the capital of Iceland?
- (11) What is the chemical symbol for aluminium?
- (12) In which US State is Chicago to be found?
- (13) Who won the Super Bowl in 2019?
- (14) Who is the current all-time top scorer for the England Men's Football Team?
- (15) Where did the Christmas tree originate?
- (16) Who now owns Walkers Crisps?
- (17) How many minutes does a game of hockey last?
- (18) What country is holly native to?
- (19) Who is FIFA current Women's World Player of the Year?
- (20) What nationality is ex-sprinter Usain Bolt?

#### Answers:

(1) Pacific (2) The Etihad Stadium (3) Eastern Caribbean dollar (4) No Time to Die (5) French (6) Eglise (7) Richard O'Sullivan (8) Argentine (9) Septiembre (10) Reykjavik (11) Al (12) Illinois (13) New England Patriots (14) Wayne Rooney (15) Germany (16) PepsiCo (17) 70 (18) UK (19) Lucy Bronze (20) Jamaican

**Editor's Last Word:** As always thank you for taking the time and trouble to read this magazine and I hope you enjoyed the experience. If you would like to contact us, you can do so at: <u>dean@fthm.org.uk</u> Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.