

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – May 2022. Edition No 89



Hello. I hope you are okay and that things improve quickly in Ukraine.

I had about six sessions of Cognitive Therapy and it went well – I particularly liked the work on the senses which help you keep in the present moment. Happily, I've not had any need to practise this in a time of crisis and hope it stays that way.

Anyone can contribute to this e-magazine in a non-homophobic, non-racist and non-sexist way and you can do so (and advertise/donate) by contacting us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean.

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

It may be a good time to consider moving and building a log cabin in the Scottish Highlands – if you're feeling adventurous. You have been seen lingering around the lingerie department in a local store so now is the time to dump your imaginary girlfriend and get a real woman. Your creative powers are at a high this month so why not create something wonderful?

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You tend to spend too much time worrying what other people think of you whilst they obviously don't give a damn about you and only try to block your progress. Sometimes it's hard to motivate yourself to do tedious chores, but this month you will be full of energy and motivated to give your life a spring clean and make plans for your exciting future. Spit less.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

Your weight continues to be a problem so do something about it before you're clinically obese. The world around you may be in a mess but it's a good time to get your own house in order and do your little bit. This month someone will let you down badly but remember we all fail at certain stages of our lives. You are very ugly but at least you have a good heart.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

A good time to consider moving home as long as you are not running up more debts that you will struggle to settle. You are in a very good place emotionally at the moment but keep things in perspective as things can change overnight. Junk food is not the good friend it pretends to be and will only lead you into choppy waters if you are not careful. Buy a bra.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

If you wake up next to a stranger this week, then maybe you should re-examine your relationship with alcohol. A very judgemental old woman will make you feel bad today, but don't take it to heart as she is only trying to make herself feel important. Stop your soul searching as everyone knows you are a good person who always tries their best. Vape less.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

Start saying no to sweets you are offered by a well-meaning friend unless you don't care about your high sugar levels. Someone who has very little will shock you with their kind gift and make you think more about giving. It's true your relationship with money is usually a very tight one, but now that you're in a better position why not loosen the purse strings?

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

You have been very critical of a friend recently, but do you really know how they're feeling and the kind of thoughts that they're having? Be more understanding and compassionate! It is a very good time to bake a coffee and walnut fudge cake. A lovely person will come into your life and make all your past struggles seem worthwhile. Stop picking your nose in public.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

This month you will find the love and affection you have been craving for, so respect what you have and don't throw it away. But procrastination is clearly your friend and if you're not careful you may miss the boat. However, you may feel very jaded at the moment so resist the temptation to get stoned and allow yourself to naturally improve. Try shopping online.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

A much younger beautiful person will advertise their availability – but can you afford the price? You have also been neglecting your personal hygiene so do something about this state of affairs. You are too hedonistic in your outlook and fail to realise that we are all, in fact, in this life together so need to share things. You may win big money at bingo if you play now.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

Sometimes, life is very hard, but this month, all your plans will come to fruition and you will feel very satisfied! Your bad times will also diminish and you will experience an increase in good fortune – but do remember to put everything in perspective and act accordingly. Stop giving so much as people like you whether you shower them with gifts or not! Use mints.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

You are clearly a private person and may not welcome the prospect of the spotlight being shone on you this month. Maybe now is the time to take lessons to play the violin if you are to tug at the heartstrings of someone you badly want to impress. Don't let the rise in energy bills reduce your joie de vivre as life is for living and not just for Christmas. Eat margarine.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

It is true to say that shaving is not your favourite pastime, but if you want to attract that person at work, you'd better reach for your shaving foam and razor! A perfumed letter will also arrive in the post this week, but do you smell a rat? It's now a good time to exercise if you want to keep in shape for the pleasurable activities that you will soon be participating in!

INTERVIEW WITH HANNAH ABOUT BUSKING IN HEBDEN BRIDGE



Can you start by telling us a little bit about yourself? Yes. My name is Hannah and I'm here today with my husband Ben. We've come to busk in Hebden Bridge, but we're actually from Huddersfield. We specialise in folk music.

Why have you come to Hebden Bridge? Because we always get a really good response from the crowds here in Hebden Bridge. I think they really appreciate folk music and support the genre. We don't feel quite as confident on the streets of Huddersfield.

Is it all about making money for you? No. For us it's mainly about getting our music out there. It's hard to make money from busking these days.

Do you play any original music? All that we play is original music. We do the occasional cover or request.

Who writes it? Between us, really. Ben composes the guitar parts and I write the lyrics - I'm a poet/author so the two kind of go hand in hand. We co-write the songs and then perform them out and about, but we always find the people of Hebden Bridge appreciate original music. In some places people just want covers which gets a bit annoying after a while.

I can understand that because on [my website there are two albums](#) I recorded with community people maybe you can take a look at it? Oh, yes definitely.

What is your background? Did you train as musicians and poets? I'm doing a master's in Creative Writing at the moment. I did my undergrad in English Literature over in Huddersfield.

Where at? Over in Manchester. I do that part time and then music on the side. Ben's story is slightly different. He's been playing guitar since he was thirteen and has been busking since he was young as well.

How old are you both? We're twenty-five this year. We feel like we're knocking on a bit now because there seems to be a cut-off point in the music industry at around the age of twenty-five. It seems all the opportunities are for younger people and we're beginning to feel that at the moment. These days, we just like being out in the community and bringing music to the streets.

Have you ever recorded in a studio? We have yes. Ben has done some solo stuff in the studio - he has just released a new single called 'April Showers', actually. We're also in a folk band called Wolfe Trap so we're currently trying to get some bits recorded with that project.

And where is that based? We were originally based over in Wakefield but since we've moved to Huddersfield, we've started to gig more over this area now. We just played at the Open Mic at the Trades Club recently and that was lovely.

It was alright then? Yes. It's just that everyone over here seems more supportive of musicians. It's quite rare to find as well.

This magazine used to focus on Hebden Bridge but I live in Halifax now. Oh do you? I used to work in Halifax for the clothing brand Dorothy Perkins. I was there for a few years, but music has always been more of an interest to me.

So you don't want to make a job of it? For a while Ben made music his job because he was teaching guitar and then he was gigging on the side. But we do it more as a hobby now. We'll struggle to make enough money from it to live on these days.

Would you like to make enough money to make a full-time living out of it? I think anyone would really. For a while, when we didn't have as many responsibilities, we could get by on it but now we've got rent (amongst other things). It's getting harder and harder.

Have you got any children? No, but we've got a very sassy cat who takes up all of our time, she's called Luna and she's a nightmare.

Would you like to have a family one day? Maybe. I think when you pursue something in the creative industry, it's really hard to gauge. It's so up and down and unpredictable, it's hard to make commitments like that. You don't really know what tomorrow could bring. It's like the pandemic, for example. That ruined a lot of the things we'd spent many years building up.

What would you say to really cynical people who say busking is a form of begging? I think a few people do have that opinion but it's a skill at the end of the day. It's a talent. Not everyone can play the guitar, not everyone can create music. And it's really daunting to stand

on the street and put yourself out there and just sing. I don't think people realise how scary that can be.

Well I put all my stuff out in the public domain so I know what you mean. Yes, when you put your stuff out there you're vulnerable aren't you?

You're open to criticism from negative people. You're open to criticism, not only that but physical harm as well. We've had people steal from us and mug us before. It's quite scary when you're just trying to bring your art to the community for people to react like that.

Where else have you busked? We've busked everywhere really. We did a tour all around the UK. We went down to Brighton and we did a few dates there. Then we did Cambridge – we even played at the university there. We went over to Germany and played some dates over there too.

How did that go? Amazing. They're really supportive over there.

Do you always play original music then? We do play one or two covers but it is mainly original music yes. And, it's always folk music, or we try to put a folky 'spin' on things.

What do you think about people who make a living out of playing covers when they don't pay the writer for their work? I can kind of see it from that point of view. I think I see it more like having respect for another artist's work. If you feel inspired enough to do a cover of their song, I see it as more of an honourable thing. Most artists should be signed up to PRS. This means they have to declare which songs they are going to cover so that everyone gets the royalties they're entitled to. That's what we're signed up to. When we have done a gig, we just type in which songs we have done so everyone gets the royalties they deserve.

Can you talk a bit about Ben? Is he a professional musician? Or is he a teacher? He's a Grade 8 guitarist. Before the pandemic, he was a music teacher - a guitar teacher, specifically.

Privately? Yes. He would do mobile tuition. He'd go to people's houses to teach them and then he'd perform his own music on an evening - he'd do a lot of gigs. He was able to live on that for quite a while. Then when the pandemic hit, everything went online and he really struggled so, he's working as a barista now.

Where does he work? In Huddersfield.

For Costa? No. It's called the Turntable Vinyl Café. It's been hard for us to make money from the music after the pandemic.

Do you think things are improving now? Yes. But people are still very nervous about coming out, which is understandable - especially in a gig environment where there's a full room of people. It can be quite intimidating but it's getting there. Although, it's not half as good as it was.

Can you see it getting back to normal? Probably not - people don't carry cash anymore! Places don't accept cash, so people don't just have a quid to throw in your bucket. It's become really tricky to busk these days. But I think people will get there eventually and will come out and start enjoying live music again, it's just going to take time really until they feel comfortable being in each other's company again.

Would Ben like to be a full-time musician like you would? Yes I think we both would.

Is that your ultimate goal? Perhaps. As we're getting older though opportunities are getting fewer and fewer so, it's one of those things where you have to reach a point and go, "what are we going to do now"?

So you treat it as a hobby? It's getting to that point now. In the past we were like "we're going to make something of this" and "we're going to commit our lives to this" and we did for a while but we lost the faith a bit, I guess. It's not all doom and gloom though! We're happy to just have music in our lives.

What do your parents think about what you do? They've always been really supportive to be honest. They enjoy our music. They enjoy the sound we have created. I think they do worry though about the future because we're completely self-employed. If the pandemic showed us anything, it's that it can all fall to pieces at any moment. It's a bit terrifying really because if one of us falls ill, we don't make any money. If we can't get out there and perform there's no income.

Could Ben perform on his own though? Yes, and he does. He performs his solo stuff quite often.

You're the vocalist though, aren't you? Yes.

What name do you perform under? Ben performs solo as Ben Robinson Music and then we use Wolfe Trap for the band work. Our third member is on his way, he's just coming over from Pontefract today. We have quite a few different projects we work on.

What are you hoping to accomplish and where do you hope to be in five years-time? It's hard to say. We really just want to be focusing on the music again. Ben would like to get his teaching up and running again. It would be really good if we could get out gigging again and make money from that. Hopefully it will build itself back up.

Would you like to buy your own house? Yes we'd love to. We'd love to live in Hebden Bridge but it just seems impossible to be honest.

Why is it impossible? It's just so popular, it's become very touristy.

Is it too expensive to live here? It is quite expensive. There are never any affordable properties to rent either. Houses go so quickly with it being such a competitive area to live in. If we moved here, we'd have the best of both worlds - the countryside on our doorstep and a town that supports creativity. The Yorkshire countryside has inspired a lot of our music. We feel so at home here, but it's hard.

Finally how can people contact you if they wish to do so?

Facebook: [/WolfeTrapUK](#)

Facebook: [/BenRobinsonMusic](#)

Instagram: [@WolfeTrap](#)

Instagram: [@BenRobinsonMusic](#)

YouTube: [BenRobinson01](#)

Thank you for your time today, Hannah. – Thank you.

CANNON HALL FARM



On Monday 11th of April, 2022, me and Brenda were lucky enough to visit the farm on a trip kindly organised by Richmond Hill Community Centre, in Leeds.

The farm is situated near Barnsley in South Yorkshire and is also a tourist attraction. The hall and land were originally owned by the Spencer-Stanhope family and it has been developed by Roger Nicholson who inherited the farm when he was only 16.

We travelled from Leeds to visit the farm in a small coach, and were impressed by its layout and the facilities it had to offer the visitor. We saw many animals and reptiles as well as being able to dine in a very comfortable restaurant. We were also able to obtain snacks and drinks in various places at the centre. A nice touch was the giving of Cadbury Cream Eggs to the visiting children. There was also adequate provision for children to play and outdoor seating which we could use as the weather was quite clement on the day.

The farm has been featured on Channel 5's Springtime in 2018 and also on the channel's On The Farm series in 2021.

So, if you are at a loose end and fancy a few hours out in South Yorkshire, then why not invest a bit of time and money to experience the wonders of Cannon Hall Farm?

CELEBRITY QUIZ BY FRANCIS TAIT

Who are they?



Do you know their celebrity names?

- (1) Reginald Kenneth Dwight
- (2) Marion Robert Morrison
- (3) Priscilla White
- (4) Harry Webb
- (5) Peter Gene Hernandez
- (6) Onika Tanya Maraj
- (7) Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson
- (8) William James Adams Jr.
- (9) Norma Jeane Mortenson
- (10) Maurice Micklewhite
- (11) John Eric Bartholomew
- (12) Caryn Johnson
- (13) Henry Deutchendorf Jr.
- (14) Arthur Stanley Jefferson

- (15) Arnold Dorsey
- (16) Richard Starkey
- (17) Cherilyn Sarkisian
- (18) Marie McDonald Mc Loughlin Lawrie
- (19) Nicholas Kim Coppola
- (20) Mary O'Brien

Answers:

(1) Elton John (2) John Wayne (3) Cilla Black (4) Cliff Richard (5) Bruno Mars (6) Nicki Minaj (7) Katy Perry (8) Will.i.am (9) Marilyn Monroe (10) Michael Caine (11) Eric Morecambe (12) Whoopi Goldberg (13) John Denver (14) Stan Laurel (15) Engelbert Humperdinck (16) Ringo Starr (17) Cher (18) Lulu (19) Nicholas Cage (20) Dusty Springfield

GRAHAM'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPORT



May is here and summer is on its way. This is traditionally a strong month for sporting events and 2022 is no different in this respect.

Most European football leagues reach their culmination this month. The big highlight is the Champions League Final, which takes place in Paris on 28th May. From a British point of view, it would be nice to see Manchester City or Liverpool win the trophy however, you cannot discount a team like Real Madrid. Prior to this, the Europa League Final takes place in Seville, Spain on 18th May and the Europa Conference League Final takes place in Tirana, Albania on 25th May.

In horse racing, the Kentucky Derby will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on 7th May. In the UK, the flat racing season is also well underway by this point and the 1,000 Guineas takes place at Newmarket on 1st May, with the 2,000 Guineas due to be held the previous day.

The second major of the golf season takes place between 19th and 22nd May when the US PGA tournament is being hosted by the Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Can Scottie Scheffler follow up his victory in The Masters and make it two out of two majors this year?

Tennis fans can look forward to the start of the French Open at the Roland Garros, Paris on 22nd May. Can Rafa Nadal win a 14th title? The “King of Clay” is in a race against time to be fit after sustaining a rib injury in March. Novak Djokovic will be looking to make up for lost time after missing the Australian Open and you can never discount an outsider at this tournament so, Carlos Alcaraz or Stefanos Tsitsipas may fancy their chances of causing an upset. In the women’s tournament, defending champion Barbora Krejčíková is viewed as an

underdog this time around. The clear favourite, at the time of writing, is 2020 winner Iga Swiatek. The Pole is the current world number one and she will be hoping to add a second Grand Slam to her resume to help her celebrate her 21st birthday during the event.

The Formula 1 motor racing season will be in full swing by the time the Miami GP takes place in the US on 8th May. The month also sees the Spanish GP take place on 22nd May and the Monaco GP take place on 29th May. Charles Leclerc has made a strong start to the season for Ferrari whilst there have been initial teething problems for both current world champion Max Verstappen and seven times former champion Sir Lewis Hamilton.

Switching to two wheels, both the Moto GP and Speedway GP seasons continue during May. Moto GP sees rounds 6-8 take place, whilst Warsaw, Poland hosts round two of the Speedway GP on 14th May and Prague, Czechia hosts round three on 28th May.

If that's not enough to whet your appetite for a great month of sports, I don't know what is!

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

* With a little help from various online resources.

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_Qq0XIKczwd117Q

LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

Yesterday, I saw the Duke of Edinburgh's Memorial Service and noticed that the Queen entered and left with her son the Duke of York. Initially, I didn't know what to make of this and wondered if she was acting in a purely political way to coax forgiveness for him from the masses or whether she was just acting as any mother would with a fallen child.

On reflection, I think it was a bit of both.

Sarah Jones, Cardiff

Dear Editor

Someone recently mentioned the dangers of e-scooters in this publication. I too have suffered at the hands of these selfish people on their dangerous machines when trying to walk on the pavement – they just expect you to jump out of their way. I am of the opinion that they are a nuisance on and off the road and should be made illegal so that ordinary pedestrians can go safely about their business.

Louise Elliot, Manchester

Dear Editor

As I get older, I cherish more and more the time I have with loved ones and try to treat each meeting like our last. When I look back, I can't believe how much time and energy I dedicated to the pursuit of material things, when I know now, that it is the love in your life that really matters not what you own.

Frank Miles, Norwich

Dear Editor

Am I the only male football fan who is sick and tired of having women's football thrust down their throat in the media – in order to give some semblance of parity in the sport? The bottom line is that most people prefer to watch men's football and that women's football will never be as popular and create the same financial revenue.

I think it is great that women play all sports but this doesn't mean I want to watch them on TV all of the time.

Paul Winston, London

Dear Editor

My only question to Vladimir Putin is: How do you sleep after everything that has been done in your name?

Jo Mountain, Leeds

Dear Editor

I think that, unfortunately, Capitalism is the only workable system for human beings. However, I do believe that the gap between the rich and the poor could be reduced through legislation – if the rich would only allow this to happen.

It is sickening in this day and age, how people are having to use food banks and are unable to heat their homes adequately. But are you surprised when the British Chancellor of the Exchequer is an Indian billionaire?

I would like to join the voices of people in Britain who would like to see the emergence of a new and fresh political party. We need a change.

Jane Friedrich, Leicester

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



The Chimpanzee

The Chimpanzee is native to the forests of tropical Africa and fossils and DNA show that it is a sister to the human lineage and is in fact, the human's closest living relative.

The male chimpanzee weighs about 40-70 kg while females weigh about 27-50 kg. They live in groups which vary from 15 to 150 members although some leave to travel and forage in small groups during the day. The social group is male-dominated although disputes are settled without the need for violence. Interestingly,

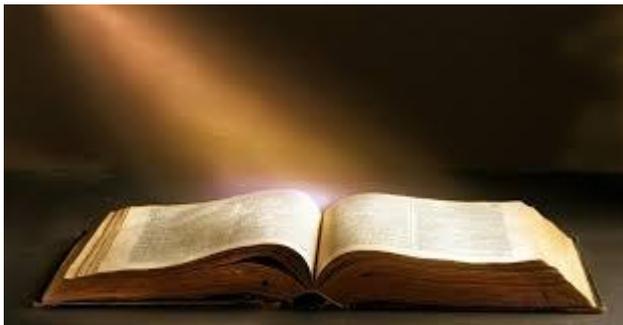
almost all chimpanzees are capable of using tools and rocks in order to hunt for honey, termites, ants, nuts and water – they are very intelligent! Some have even been known to create sharpened sticks in order to kill small mammals.

The gestation period for the species is about 8 months and the infant chimp is weaned at about 3 years old although it is normal for a close relationship with its mother to last for a few years after this time.

Unfortunately, the chimpanzee is an endangered species as its existence is threatened by poaching and disease. Ironically, they have appeared in advertisements for things like tea and have become part of popular human culture.

* Ref. Wikipedia

BIBLE TALK



Sent by Peter Smith

Some verses about the time just before Jesus' Second Coming:

Let no-one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes

and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped. (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4)

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. (Daniel 7:25)

When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, . . . then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Matthew 24:15,16)

And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:24)

The promise of Jesus' return. And His gift of peace:

While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into Heaven". (Acts 1:9-11)

Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

(Quotations from the New King James Version)

STOKE-ON-TRENT



Stoke-on-Trent is a city formed through the federation of six towns in 1910 which are: Longton, Tunstall, Burslem, Stoke, Fenton and Hanley. It has an estimated population of around 256,375 and is the largest settlement in Staffordshire, England, covering an area of 36 square miles. It achieved city status in 1925 and its motto is: Vis Unita Fortior which means United Strength is Stronger. Although it was once a very industrialised conurbation it is now

largely dependent on the service sector for employment and is the home of many distribution centres.

Many people will associate Stoke-in-Trent with the industrial-scale pottery manufacture and many of its companies' names like: Royal Doulton, Spode, Minton and Wedgwood which are known throughout the world. It has been an area of earthenware production since the 17th century as there has always been lots of clay and coal conducive to the development of this particular industry. The importation of China clay from Cornwall and of other materials was made possible by the building of the Trent and Mersey Canal which was completed in 1777 and enabled the production of Creamware and Bone China in the area that became known as the Potteries.

Josiah Wedgwood was instrumental in taking the pottery industry to new heights with the assistance of scientists and engineers. In 1796, Josiah Spode introduced Bone China and Thomas Minton also opened his successful factory in the Stoke-on-Trent area. It is also important to recognise the creative roles played by designers like Clarice Cliff and Susie Cooper who enhanced the ceramic world.

Coal mining was an essential industry in North Staffordshire and the Potteries Coalfield covered 100 square miles and it is thought that mining in the area dated back to the 13th

century. Significantly, in 1842, the nationwide General Strike was initiated by the mining strikes in Hanley and Longton. When the mining industry was nationalised in 1947, it is estimated that 20,000 men worked in the industry in Stoke-on-Trent. Although many national and international records were set in these coalfields, the last pit closed in 1994 which reflected the general demise of mining in the UK.

The iron and steel industries also played an important role in the development of Stoke-on-Trent as a powerful economic force in the UK. There were important mills in the valley at Goldendale and Shelton and in the 19th and 20th centuries it housed the repair shops of the North Staffordshire Railway and also was the home of Kerr, Stuart and Company, who from 1881 to 1930, manufactured railway locomotives. One should also mention that Shelton Steel Works and mining operations were heavily involved in the industrial efforts of WWI. Also, it is worth remembering that Reginald Mitchell who was trained in the city, designed The Supermarine Spitfire. In the 1920s, the Michelin tyre company were attracted to the area and although it now employs fewer people, it still has a presence in the city.

Today, companies like Moorcroft and Royal Stafford are based in Burslem and, in all, there are about 9,000 firms based in the city including Bet365 which was founded by businessman Peter Coates. Sainsbury's supermarket and The Co-operative Pharmacy have big warehouses in the area and, in addition, Vodafone has a large call centre on Festival Park. The largest employer in Stoke-on-Trent is now the city council and the Royal Stoke University Hospital also employs over 7,000 staff. Another famous brand made in the city is Mr Kipling slices made by Premier Foods.

The economy of Stoke-on-Trent was severely damaged in the 1980s and 1990s when the British manufacturing sector declined leading to the closure of steelworks, factories, collieries and potteries and consequently, a swift rise in unemployment. The result is that companies like Wedgwood and its subsidiary Royal Doulton have transferred work to its Indonesian arm. This is a sign of the times.

If you fancy a trip to the city, there is much to see and experience like: the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (Hanley), the Gladstone Pottery Museum (Longton) and the Etruria Industrial Museum on the Caldon Canal. The area is still renowned for its pottery industry and most major companies have factory shops and visitor centres e.g., the £10 million Wedgwood Museum visitor centre opened in Barlaston in 2008. Interestingly, Burleigh in Middleport is the world's oldest working Victorian pottery.

There are also some interesting places to visit like Trentham Monkey Forest which houses 140 Barbary macaques, and then if you just want to have fun, you could visit the Alton Towers Resort which is just 10 miles east of Stoke-on-Trent. Each of the six towns which make up the city have at least one park such as: Burslem Park, Queens Park or Longton Park – the latter houses a clock tower and 3 bowling pavilions.

For those of a religious disposition, there is Stoke Minster, 6 Catholic parishes, a purpose-built mosque (completed in 2012), a small synagogue and 2 Sikh temples in the city.

Like many places, Stoke-on-Trent relies on tourism to boost its economy. It is true to say that it was kick-started in 1986 by the National Garden Festival, and that many pottery factory-shops and tours all contribute and all have been helped by an improved canal network. In fact, all of the towns in the conurbation have their own smaller centres and there

are retail parks in Tunstall, Fenton and Longton – so if you love to shop and mooch around different places, maybe this is the city for you! You might even be lucky enough to sample local delicacies like Staffordshire Oatcakes or Lobby – which is a stew made by local people.

If you want to be entertained there is a lot of sport and culture available to you in the city. Two professional clubs (Stoke and Port Vale) play in the English Football League and other accessible sports are cycling, rugby union and cricket. The city has produced sporting icons like: Gordon Banks, Phil Taylor and Stanley Matthews. The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery may well be worth a look if you appreciate ceramics and want to trace its history in the city. Some people like to go to the theatre and there are many high-class venues in the area like: the Regent Theatre, Queen’s Theatre, New Vic Theatre and Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre which puts on many amateur productions each year. There is also the Victoria Hall which is the main concert hall in the city. Famous entertainers and musicians that have come from the Stoke-on-Trent area are: Robbie Williams, Neil Morrissey and Saul Hudson “Slash” who is the lead guitarist for the band Guns N’ Roses – and then there is Lemmy!

Maybe you’re wondering how you will get to Stoke-on-Trent? Well, that’s easy as improvements to the road network has facilitated this, and there is also a good rail network in existence. You could also consider travelling to the city on the Trent and Mersey Canal which handles about 10,000 boats each year.

The importance placed on education in the city is reflected by the fact that there are 15 secondary schools, numerous excellent primary schools and 4 further and higher education institutions including Staffordshire University and nearby Keele University.

So, I hope this article has given you a taste of what is on offer in Stoke-on-Trent and maybe if you have the time, you can pay it a visit!

* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

MORE OF JUNE’S SCINTILLATING RECIPES



Granary Bread

Ingredients:

2 lb of Granary flour
2 teaspoons of salt
1 ½ oz of lard/margarine
Dried yeast
1 pint of hand-hot water
Beaten egg or milk to glaze

Method:

Place the flour and salt in a bowl and rub in the fat. Stir in the dried yeast then add the water. Mix together. Turn the mixture onto a floured surface and knead together for 5 minutes, until smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a lightly-oiled plastic bag and leave in a warm place until doubled in size. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead again. Cut in half,

reshape and place in 2 2lb greased loaf tins. Leave to proof again in a warm place until well-risen. Meanwhile, preheat the oven for 10 – 15 minutes. Glaze with beaten egg or milk and cook until the bread is browned and shrinking from the sides of the tin. When turned out and tapped on the base, the loaf should sound hollow.



Gratin Dauphinois

Ingredients:

2 lb of old potatoes peeled and thinly sliced
Butter for greasing
1 clove of garlic, crushed
¼ pint of single cream
Pinch of nutmeg
3 oz of Gruyere cheese, grated

Method:

Par boil the potatoes for 5 minutes. Drain well. Lightly grease a shallow pie dish and place the potatoes in it. Stir the garlic into the cream, season and add the nutmeg. Pour this over the potatoes and sprinkle with cheese. Cover the dish with foil and cook. Finally place under the grill to brown the top.



Coffee and Walnut Fudge Cake

Ingredients:

6 oz of margarine
6 oz of caster sugar
3 large eggs
6 oz of self-raising flour, served with 1 ½
teaspoons of baking powder
2 oz of chopped walnuts
Coffee butter icing:

3 oz of margarine
8 oz of icing sugar, sieved
1 tablespoon of milk
1 tablespoon of coffee essence

Method:

Place all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and beat with a wooden spoon until well mixed – for 2 -3 minutes. Place in two well-greased 7-inch sandwich tins that have been bottom-lined. Bake in the middle of a very moderate oven 325F/160C/gas mark 3 for 35-40 minutes. Turn out and remove the paper and cool on a wire tray.

To fill and ice, sandwich the two cakes together with a little icing. Spread most of the remainder on the sides and top of the cake. Chop walnuts and arrange around the sides.

JUNE'S WORLD



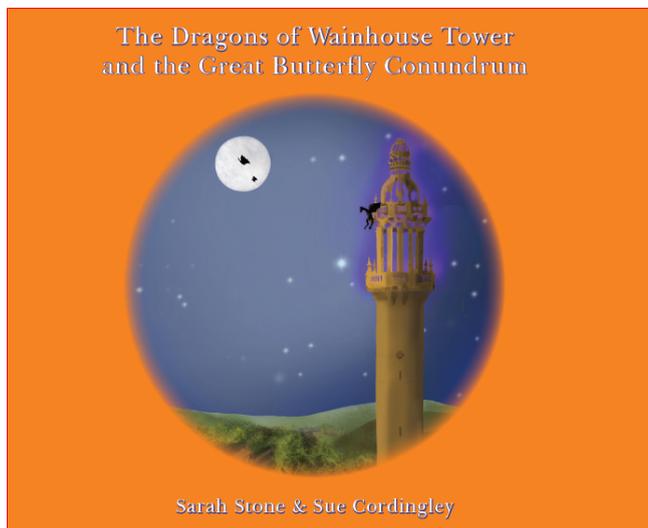
We're having some beautiful weather to say it's only March. We went to Halifax yesterday and the weather was once again brilliant. We haven't been doing a lot of walking recently because my husband's knee is giving him a lot of pain – he's reluctant to bother the doctor as we only go when it's absolutely necessary, but if the discomfort continues then he will have no choice but to go. It was lovely in Halifax and there were lots of people in the Piece Hall having meals and drinks. There were also some interesting statues of hares that added to the spectacle. As usual, we went to Pearson's Fish and Chip Restaurant and again we had a good experience there.

At the moment, it's a bad time for us as my sister is very ill in hospital and her son said things could go one way or the other for her. We have visited her and she has not been at all well. I have also tried to talk to her on the phone but sometimes she is unable to take the call. It is all very upsetting but I know things like this happen to all families.

Today is Mother's Day and we've been invited by my other son David for tea with his family. This will make a nice change from visiting the hospital. I don't like the idea of my sister being alone in hospital, but I'm sure my nephew will organise for other people to visit her.

I'll write more next time. Love, June.

BOOK REVIEW – THE DRAGONS OF WAINHOUSE TOWER AND THE GREAT BUTTERFLY CONUNDRUM – BY SARAH STONE AND SUE CORDINGLEY



Review by Graham Townsend

This is the much anticipated follow up to Sarah and Sue's highly successful "The Dragons of Wainhouse Tower".

We again follow the adventures of Ted and specifically his relationship with the dragon Raken. Whilst there is continuation from the previous story, there is also progression with the interest

shown by Ted towards Raken's three children Kayda, Halez and Shea.

There is also an expansion in terms of reference to other local attractions in the form of Stoodley Pike, another prominent local landmark which is popular with walkers and tourists alike.

This new tale is set in late summer, leading into autumn. This made me think of walking in the sunshine as leaves start to fall off of trees and sitting with a nice warm drink reading a good book. Leaves are actually very relevant here as you will see when you read the story.

There were plenty of things that stood out to me when reading it however two things that stood out in particular were, Sue's fantastic illustration of the cobbled areas near to Wainhouse Tower and, Sarah's description of Ted's ascent to the top of the tower via the spiral staircase. The latter is something I recall personally from my childhood and it enabled me to empathise with how tired Ted was by the time he reached the top!

A nice inclusion at the end is a list of fun facts about butterflies, in their various stages/forms, and the ways to conserve them. This links beautifully with the underlying narrative of the story. I feel the book will help teach young people about sustainability and also, emphasis on certain words throughout the publication will help educate some of the younger readers.

The chemistry between Sarah's words and Sue's illustrations are clearly evident once more in this second collaboration. I expect "The Dragons of Wainhouse Tower and the Great Butterfly Conundrum" to be a roaring success, like its predecessor.

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Where was the prophet Muhammed born?
- (2) What is Spanish for railway station?
- (3) Who invented the tank?
- (4) What is the smallest planet in the solar system?
- (5) What is seven minutes past three pm on the 24-hour clock?
- (6) What is the smallest state in the US?
- (7) Who founded the Sky empire?
- (8) What is the name of the last space shuttle?
- (9) What is French for knee?
- (10) What is Cliff Richard's real name?
- (11) How old was Michael Jackson when he died?
- (12) How long is the Grand National horse race?
- (13) Who played Madge in the Australian soap Neighbours?
- (14) Who cracked the Enigma Code?
- (15) What is the number five in German?
- (16) Who invented the mechanical alarm clock?
- (17) Which country produces the most cotton in the world?
- (18) Where do Miami Dolphins play?

(19) Who holds the Women's 200 metres world record?

(20) What is a tourniquet?

Answers:

(1) Mecca, Arabia (2) estacion de ferrocarril (3) Lancelot de Mole (4) Mercury (5) 15:07 (6) Rhode Island (7) Rupert Murdoch (8) Atlantis (9) le genou (10) Harry Rodger Webb (11) 50 (12) 4 miles, 2 ½ furlongs (13) Anne Charleston (14) Alan Turing (15) Funf (16) Levi Hutchins (17) China (18) Hard Rock Stadium (19) Florence Griffith-Joyner (20) A tight band used to completely stop the blood flow to a wound. To control bleeding after an injury to a limb

Editor's Final Word: Thank you so much for reading this magazine and we hope you will feel inspired to get involved with it. Please send anything you wish to be considered for publication to: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.