

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – October 2022. Edition 94.

Another month has elapsed so quickly and Christmas is not so far away – I'm sure though that the end of the war caused by Russia would be the gift that everyone really craves.

In the next edition of the magazine, I will publish the winning entries of our summer short story competition. If you would like to get involved/advertise/donate then you can do so (in a non-homophobic, non-sexist and non-racist way) 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

You have just sailed through some very choppy waters so just be grateful that you are still afloat and in one piece. Calmer waters lie ahead for you and if you persevere you will soon come across an island of contentment. A lovely person will come into your life in the near future and they may be the one you have been looking

for. Invest in love not money.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

Your alcohol intake is a joke and you give new meaning to the term alcoholic – stop running away from your problems however hard it may be to do so. Money is also scarce so, cut your cloth accordingly and batten down the hatches. It is time to show the world that you are a man/woman and not a mouse and then you will begin to make some progress. Kiss a vicar.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

Your love life has been hectic recently so now is the time to take a back seat and recharge your batteries. You still crave to be noticed by others but will begin to realise that you are fine as you are and have much going for you. But self-doubt continues to haunt you and if you don't confront your demons, you won't have a ghost of a chance of finding true peace.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

Life has not been good to you recently; in fact, it's been crap. But don't flush it all away as you may still get to eat at the top table. Also, an acquaintance will show you great kindness and encourage you to follow your dreams. It is a good time to learn a new musical instrument for once your creative juices are flowing, you may produce something of pure beauty.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

A beautiful woman may approach you and offer you many sweet things – but be aware that everything comes at a price. You seem to spend a lot of your time admiring other people, when in reality, they are just as fragile and vulnerable as the rest of us. Maybe now is the time to start eating grapefruit for breakfast. This month throw caution to the wind and party.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

A man who is obsessed with horse racing will have a positive influence on your life when he gives you some useful tips on how to improve it. You must really start to take better care of

yourself though, as the clock is ticking and the reaper is waiting to exploit any weakness. So, do something you've always wanted to do before you're an old person with regrets.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

If you are one of those people who worries a lot, this month will be good for you as you will find some peace of mind and realise that no one has any more answers than you do. You are a very selfish yet likeable person so, take the opportunity this month presents you with to learn about the joy of sharing and giving. Seek professional help for your rancid breath however.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

Things are tough financially at the moment but don't retreat into your shell otherwise things will only get worse. Some people are very strange and you are one of them so, celebrate your quirkiness and cherish everyone's differences. A good time to do something special for your parents as they have clearly done much to help you in your lifetime. Make Welsh rarebit.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

The alien you met that time on mushrooms will contact you again and offer you a better life on his planet but will you accept? A train journey may also help you as you may meet someone on it who can give you the insight that you seek. It is important you keep socialising even if you feel as if your world is falling apart as this will aid your recovery. Smoke herring.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

If your horoscope is dire this month, don't worry too much as the person writing it won't be too bothered either. A rich, lonely person will confide in you about their barren life and urge you to use money as a tool and not to worship it – so do take note. Romance still eludes you and will continue to do so as long as you dress like a tramp and reek of the old weed.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

Now that Autumn is upon us, it is a good time to fall in love and cuddle up with someone special. It is also a good time to do all the small jobs you have been putting off. Your life will improve in so many ways this month but not in a financial one. People will want to help you so don't be too proud to accept a helping hand, after all, we are all interlinked. Wear perfume.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

A very good time to buy a new watch or wheelbarrow. You have been fortunate in life up until now, but be aware that things are going to become rocky so be ready to roll with it. It may be the right time to learn how to cook as cold beans from the tin can become rather boring. A Colombian will make you very happy with his footballing skills. Make a baby.

HEBDEN BRIDGE



Me and my friend Brenda have passed many a happy hour in the market town of Hebden Bridge which is in West Yorkshire, England. We would recommend anyone to dedicate time to visit the town as they will not be disappointed.

To be more accurate, Hebden is in the Upper Calder Valley and is 8 miles west of

Halifax and 14 miles north-east of Rochdale with a population of 4,500 in 2015. Nearby attractions for walking, climbing and cycling are the Pennine Way and Hardcastle Crag. Unfortunately, the town has a history of flooding particularly in 2012, and on Boxing Day 2015, when houses, shops, public houses and commercial centres were affected. Other surrounding areas like Todmorden, Mytholmroyd and Sowerby Bridge were also badly affected.

However, the people of Hebden Bridge and surrounding areas are a resilient bunch and recover from disasters like flooding and Covid and it once more has lots to offer the regular or casual visitor. It also remains a popular place to live and this is reflected in the high property prices and rental charges.

The town started life as a settlement on the hilltop of Heptonstall and then where the Halifax to Burnley packhorse route descended into the valley and crossed the river Hebden where the old bridge stands.

The town rapidly developed in the 19th and 20th centuries thanks to the water-powered weaving mills and was affectionately known as “Trouser Town” due to its large production of clothing manufacturing. It is important to state that the existence of the road that runs through the valley was only made possible by the drainage of the abundant marshland which covered much of the Upper Calder Valley – before this, road travel was only possible thanks to the ancient packhorse route which passed along the hilltops and down into the valleys as required. The wool trade was also served by the Rochdale Canal (Sowerby Bridge to Manchester) and the Manchester and Leeds Railway. Interestingly, because of the limitation of flat space and the steep valleys many “upstairs-downstairs” houses which were known as “over and under dwellings” were built.

As the town grew, a Picture House (seating 500) was constructed which is happily still a popular attraction in the town. Unfortunately, the nearest it got to having its own swimming pool was a small training pool for children, on Pitt Street.

In the Second World War, Hebden played an important role as a “reception area” and took in many evacuees from larger, industrial cities. Unhappily, the original Co-operative Society in the town was defrauded and made bankrupt – it did not return until the 1980s in the form of a supermarket on Market Street.

The makeup of Hebden’s population changed somewhat in the 1970s and 1980s when many artists, musicians, writers, teachers and alternative practitioners were attracted to it. In addition, New Age activists also arrived then in the town. Since the 1990s, the town has

become a good place to live for people who commute to surrounding major towns and cities for work – thanks to the excellent rail links to Manchester, Bradford and Leeds etc. Significantly, Hebden also became known as the ‘lesbian capital of the UK’ and in 2004, had the highest number of lesbians per head in the UK.

But demand for new housing in the town has provoked fierce debate as many local residents understandably want to protect the wonderful surrounding fields and woodland.

Two recent events that reflect the progressive nature of the place is: the declaration of the town as a Fairtrade Zone in July 2003, and the fact that Stage 2 of the Tour de France passed through it on the 6th of July, 2014. One should also acknowledge the existence of the Trades Club which is a nationally recognised music venue and socialist members’ club – in the 1980s and 1990s, it hosted many touring bands from Africa and elsewhere including John Chibadura.

Other economic features of Hebden and surrounding areas are the popular market (Thurs – Sun) and Walkley’s Clog Mill which moved to nearby Mytholmroyd. Acre Mill was also a big employer in the area and was formed in 1939 to provide gas mask filters, pipe lagging and textiles. A documentary called World in Action, in 1971, exposed how the company had been breaking the law regarding asbestos-related dust control between 1940 and 1970. Sadly, in 1979, it was found that 12 % of former employees were found to have asbestos-related diseases.

Today, there are many independent shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants that are a magnet for the many people who visit and spend time and money in the town. Maybe I should mention that The Fox and Goose pub is a Co-operative owned by many residents in Hebden Bridge.

The town has won various awards such as “Best Small Outdoor Market” and the “Great British High Street Award” in a “Small Market Town” in 2016, to recognise its resilience following the terrible flooding. Also, it recently received the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

The highly popular BBC One Drama Happy Valley (written by the talented Sally Wainwright) was filmed in and around the town and broadcast in 2014 with a second series in 2016.

I for one, will continue to frequent Hebden Bridge as it is such a nice, positive place to spend time and the people there are friendly. There is an adequate bus service into the town and it is easy to access it by rail from places like York, Leeds, Halifax, Greater Manchester and Blackpool North. You won’t regret paying Hebden Bridge a visit!

* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ



Questions:

- (1) Which country is the world's largest producer of olive oil?
- (2) Which country artist featured as vocalist on the KLF's 1990s hit "Justified and Ancient"?
- (3) What is the world's largest animal?
- (4) In which Australian state will you find Whitsunday Island?
- (5) Which Greek word is generally translated to English as meaning happiness or welfare?
- (6) Which world famous actor's real name is Mark Sinclair?
- (7) What is the common name of the tree genus Salix?
- (8) Which writer and satirist said "The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it"?
- (9) Who was the last king of Egypt, he was deposed in 1952?
- (10) What kind of animals are auctioned at Tattersall's?
- (11) Which song by The Clash was originally a hit for the Bobby Fuller Four in the 1960s?
- (12) Ugandan born John Sentamu is best known as former archbishop of which English city?
- (13) What was launched by Hugh Hefner in 1953?
- (14) At what age does a Jewish boy have his Bar Mitzvah?
- (15) Who painted the "Mona Lisa"?
- (16) The Sandinista guerillas operated in which country?
- (17) Who wrote the play "The Madness of George III"?
- (18) Who was the Mayor of New York from 1994 to 2001?
- (19) Sindh province, badly hit by floods in August 2022, is in which South-East Asian country?
- (20) Which water sport uses a one-person craft called a sailboard?

Answers

- (1) Spain (2) Tammy Wynette (3) Blue Whale (4) Queensland (5) Eudaimonia (6) Vin Diesel (7) Willow (8) George Orwell (9) Farouk (10) Racehorses (11) I Fought the Law (12) York (13) Playboy magazine (14) Thirteen (15) Leonardo Da Vinci (16) Nicaragua (17) Alan Bennett (18) Rudy Giuliani (19) Pakistan (20) Windsurfing



ADVENTURES OF A MAN SITTING DOWN 14

Written by Krishna Francis

If you want something doing give it to a busy person. If you're not that bothered give it to me. Certainly, in the last two months I've been less than active due to a pressure sore that has rendered me inactive. You'd think that lying on my side would leave me with plenty of time to do stuff. Instead, I've watched a ridiculous amount of MasterChef. I haven't then gone on to cook anything in the moments when I am able to get off my sick bed. Nope, it's mostly just ready meals and carbs in some form or another. If you're reading this then I have at least managed to get something done.

Pressure sores. The bane of the wheelchair bound. What began as a burst blister, rubbed itself into an open wound. Now, after spending the last two months on my side in bed, curtailing my social life somewhat, the skin has grown back and hidden the abscess that the wound has now become. From being relatively care free, I've developed a mindset that is perpetually contemplating the damaged part of me. If I had done this in February when the blister first burst then I would have saved the supremely lovely district nurses from having to come and check on me every day and assess the healing progress. It is, ironically, a lot of pressure to have to deal with.

Meanwhile, here I am lying here and doing nothing. Yet for completely inverse reasons, I'm still unable to get something written about my month's activities. Usually this is because I'm out and about but in this case it's because I'm lying here having lost the will to do anything other than passively receive audio visual data from the computer beside my bed. Added to the guilt I feel for being lax about writing something, I feel awful about having created a situation wherein I have to be cared for daily. If only I had stayed off my chair for a week or two when I first got the blister, it would have just healed, the skin growing back over the flesh and saved the outpouring of resources that I am currently the cause of.

All of the above is a little dour. I even feel guilty about that. Who knows? Maybe I've left it too late and Dean won't be able to put it in this month's issue.... Fingers crossed. Anyway, see you next month.

JUNE'S WORLD



Hello. I hope you're all well and in good health.

The weather today started off really good early morning, but by 2 o'clock it began to get really dull as we were on our way back from our weekly Monday visit to Selby - we did all the usual things there, like visiting the park for a cup of tea and also enjoyed the flowers which still looked pretty good.

Since I last wrote in this magazine, we have been to Scarborough on a four-day break which was great. However, the first day, because the entertainment in the hotel didn't commence until 10 o'clock we gave it a miss as we were tired and watched TV instead. The next day we had a lovely breakfast before deciding to spend the day in Bridlington which is another place we love to visit, and where we have passed many a happy hour. This time, the weather was beautiful so we hired deck chairs and spent two or three hours reading and relaxing on the beach. At about 12 o'clock, we went into the Bridlington Leisure Centre and watched the world go by as we drank a hot chocolate. From where we were sat, we could see people enjoying a swim in the swimming pool. After people-watching a bit more we had a walk around the town which was very busy.

The following day, we decided to go to Peasholm Park so set off walking up Marine Drive until we came to a café that we always visit when on holiday, and had another nice hot chocolate. After this drink, we continued walking to the park and when we arrived there, the boating lake was very busy so we found a nice bench and sat watching the spectacle. The boats were shaped like dragons and looked lovely. We walked all the way around the lake and were shocked to see only one squirrel – we wondered if they were becoming extinct? After having a good time at the park, we went back for a good quality evening meal at the hotel.

The next day, we went on a miniature train which took us all the way around Peasholm Park which was an experience we really enjoyed. Then on our last day, we went into town and bought a few things before heading back to the hotel for a final evening meal.

We will probably have another holiday later on this year. Goodbye for now, June.

LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

I think that British politics is in a terrible state. It is now quite simple – should one vote Tory or Labour as was the case when Tony Blair was elected to carry on the work of Mrs Thatcher. In my opinion, Sir Keir Starmer shares many Labour values and will not radically change the required face of British politics if elected. Maybe we do need to form a new party to

represent ordinary British people.

Sian Thomas, London

Dear Editor

Does anyone else think that the major supermarkets in the UK are profiting from the high rate of inflation by using it as an excuse to hike up prices? I do, and I don't have an endless amount of money to satisfy their greed. There should be an inquiry into this phenomenon.

Sheila Brown, Birmingham

Dear Editor

Maybe, now following the terrible floods in Pakistan and drought elsewhere in the world, will sceptics of climate change realise that they are wrong and that action needs to be taken immediately to protect the only planet we have to live on. We all need to make an effort now to avoid the destruction of beautiful planet earth.

Freda Arkwright, Luton

Dear Editor

I am not blowing my own trumpet, but I do try and support my chosen charities. However, I am sick and tired of being treated by them as a cash cow with endless money – why don't they look elsewhere for finance instead of constantly targeting the same people who are kind enough to donate in the first place?

Peter Jones, Northampton

Dear Editor

I support my local professional football team which plays in the Conference league, but even at this level, there is huge disparity between teams when it comes to finance – it is not only teams at the top of the tree in the Premiership who can afford to buy the better fruit. Unfortunately, without fundamental change we will never experience a level playing field and teams with the most money will continue to have the best chance of success.

Georgina Platt, Maidenhead

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Beavers

Beavers are native to the northern hemisphere and are large, semi-aquatic rodents. There are actually two species of beaver: the North American beaver and the Eurasian beaver. Beavers are the second largest rodent on the planet and they have big bodies with large heads, long chisel-like incisors, hand-like front feet, webbed back feet and flat, scaly tails.

They also have brown-grey fur and can be found in freshwater surroundings like rivers, streams, ponds

and lakes. They are herbivorous and eat tree bark, aquatic plants and grasses.

Interestingly, the Eurasian beaver has a longer skull and more triangular nasal bone opening, a thinner tail and lighter coloured fur than the North American beaver.

Beavers are well-known for building dams and lodges which are composed of branches, vegetation, rocks and mud. These dams hold water and lodges serve as shelters. Because of this, other organisms benefit too.

The beaver is a very sociable animal and adult males and females live in pairs with their young, who as they get older, help their parents to build dams and lodges and sometimes help out with their younger siblings. Beavers are very territorial and scent mark mounds made of mud and debris with a urine-based substance excreted from their castor sacs. It is true to say that beavers know their kin by their anal gland emissions.

In the past, before they became protected, beavers were hunted for their meat, fur and castoreum. Castoreum have been made into perfumes, food flavouring and medicines. Hunting almost wiped out both species of beaver but the beaver is now the national symbol of Canada as it represents industriousness.

ALBUM REVIEW – WILL OF THE PEOPLE – BY MUSE



Written by **Graham Townsend**

This is the first album I have bought by Muse since “Black Holes and Revelations” which is considered to be their “piece de resistance” to date. “Will of the People” is their ninth studio album and, having already hit the number one spot in the UK Albums Chart, is the seventh to top that particular chart. It is also the first UK number one album to incorporate NFT (non-fungible token) technology.

The album contains ten tracks and has a running time of just short of thirty-eight minutes. Five singles have been released to date although, “Won’t Stand Down”, the first released single, is the only one to have had any impact on the UK Singles Chart having peaked at number fifty-six thus far.

The title track is the album opener and certainly has a commercial feel to it. It reminded me of The Timelords track “Doctorin’ the Tardis” with its glam rock overtones. “Compliance”, which comes next, has a strong electro-pop opening.

The band has always been associated with their music being influenced by Queen and this is never more evident than on track three “Liberation”. It sounds like a throwback to a 1970s Queen track. Matt’s vocals, whilst fairly unique, are not up to Freddie’s standards though. You could be forgiven for thinking that Brian May is playing guitar on “You Make Me Feel Like It’s Halloween”. Also, in my opinion, the final track “We Are F*cking F*cked” (censored title) has elements of “Flash” about it. There are clear references to the war in Ukraine, the coronavirus and climate change in the lyrics. It builds to a nice crescendo and is a good album closer despite what I consider to be a silly title!

“Kill or Be Killed” has some enjoyable heavier rock moments about it. Some fantastic guitar riffs in there. I would go so far to suggest it verges on thrash at times, something you could probably level at “Won’t Stand Down” in places too. That track has an opening that reminds me of an Imagine Dragons song.

“Euphoria” is a pleasant romp with more of a poppier element to it. I could hear hints of Killers/Brandon Flowers in this one.

Overall, the album’s lyrics, and to some degree the song titles, tip their hat to the state of the modern world. Ironically, the album arrived on the day of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, an event that will see a change in how Britain is viewed both internally and externally and will go down as another important moment in history.

Whilst this is not, in my opinion, on the same level as their aforementioned classic album, there is still plenty to enjoy here. Long-term Muse fans will be happy with what is on offer and new listeners won’t be too disappointed with what they hear. A solid effort I would say with not too many surprises.

MY STAR RATING = ***1/2 out of 5

* Ref Wikipedia

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE TO REDUCE OUR SCREEN TIME?



Written by Angel Cooper

Screens have become a part of everyday living for most of us, and can be difficult to avoid. There are [many health benefits to reducing screen time](#), not least because it can improve our mental health. However, it can be very challenging to put this into practice, for all ages – many children and young teens now also struggle to manage their screen time.

Even those who attempt to regulate their digital usage find that they are spending more time than they should online because they just can't help it. But why do we struggle to reduce screen time so much? In this blog, we will run through the reasons why cutting down on screen time is challenging and some top tips to help tackle this.

It's a habit

To put it simply, having a screen on hand at all times has become a habit for most of us. How often do you find yourself putting the TV on even when you aren't watching it because you are used to the background noise, or reaching for your phone whenever you have a free moment? It's a repetitive habit for many people to rely on screens to fill gaps in their days. Stopping this begins with being more mindful of when you pick up technology and asking yourself if there is a genuine reason to turn a screen on.

It makes us feel good

Scientists and medical professionals have discovered that there is a [link between social media and dopamine](#), the feel-good chemical in the brain. It is believed that gaining validation on social media, such as seeing a post gain lots of likes, gives a rush of dopamine that you will seek again and again. This creates an addictive cycle, creating an unhealthy reliance on social media for happiness.

But placing so much of your self-worth on your social media interactions can become negative when your posts don't do as well as you hoped or if you begin comparing yourself to others. Limiting time on social media can help – you don't have to deactivate all of your accounts, but you may wish to designate a couple of hours a week to log off.

Screens are everywhere

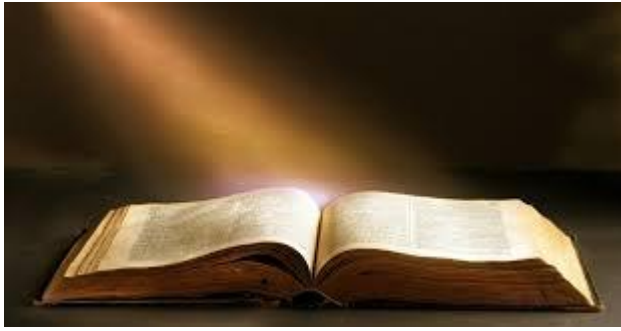
Even if you never watch TV and don't use social media at all, it's still incredibly difficult to avoid screen time. It's essential to many people's everyday lives as more jobs are becoming digitised. Remote working is more common than ever before and so much can be done online. This is why it's important to reduce screen time in your free time wherever possible, as constantly being exposed to screens can result in poor eyesight and headaches.

They demand attention

Email pings, message notifications, pop-ups and constant TV noise – screens demand attention in visual and audible ways. This can make it incredibly difficult to focus on tasks and reduce your screen time because it creates a sense of urgency and fear of missing out if you don't check alerts straight away. This is a particular problem for teenagers, who may be reluctant to change their settings, or [let parents help them put down their devices](#).

This can be particularly problematic if you leave your phone on loud when you're trying to sleep. Turning off notifications when you are trying to relax or focus can help, although putting all technology out of sight (like in a different room) may be a better option to completely clear your mind.

BIBLE TALK



Sent in by Peter Smith

It is wonderful that Jesus has prepared a house in Paradise for everyone who believes in him.

"In my Father's house are many dwellings; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

John 14:2,3

There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

So also, is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:41-44 (NKJV)

The Big Calderdale Sleepout 2022



Raising vital funds for Calderdale SmartMove – a local charity supporting homeless & vulnerably housed people

The Piece Hall
Saturday 8th October 2022
2pm 'til late

Activities start from 2pm with family stalls and games
Food and evening entertainment from 7pm

Entertainment includes local artists such as:

- Stonebow
- Jonny The Singing Firefighter
- E.V.I.E.
- Ruth Lisgo
- Natalie Lane



Book your tickets at
Or for any queries, please email
jo@calderdalesmartmove.org.uk



RUTH LISGO TALKS ABOUT HER LIFE AND MUSIC



Firstly, please can you tell us a little bit about yourself? Yes. My name is Ruth and I grew up in a place called Morecambe. I was born in Newcastle but I moved to Morecambe when I was five or six years old. I first started singing when I was about six and I started out singing in choirs in churches when I was about ten.

Do you play any musical instruments? I started learning the flute when I was ten years old and I play the guitar as well.

I've heard you sing, but how would you describe your voice? I'd probably say it was a classical sound. I was trained from the age of fifteen, for about five years, to sing classical music.

What do you think attracted you to music, were your parents musical? My mum used to sing in choirs. My first memory of music was seeing the notes written down on pages of sheet music. I must

have been about five years old then and I asked my mum "what are those notes"? And she just said "oh that's musical notes". I know most children would probably just accept her answer and move on but, I really wanted to understand what they meant. Then, growing up in a family where we went to church regularly, so, I was in a lot of choirs.

What kind of choirs? Church choirs and then, when I was twelve years old, my voice was spotted by a choir director and she heard me singing and she said "can you sing that again"? From that moment on I became a soloist.

In a church setting? In a church setting mostly yes.

Were you a religious person? I wouldn't say so. Well not anymore anyway. I was brought up to be religious but since leaving the Mormon church I've tried to be a good person and maybe describe myself as slightly spiritual. It was in my late twenties that I left.

Was there any particular reason for leaving? It would probably take me all day to explain it in detail but basically, I stopped believing that there is 'one true church' and 'one true religion'. The strangest thing about leaving it all behind was the fact that it was the church where I did all my singing and so, I had to start again from scratch to some degree and try

and find a fresh audience or somewhere new to sing. So, I started to find my own path and then, I started busking in 2005 in Dublin when I was working there.

Where did you get the idea from? I'd just seen other buskers. Also, my dad told me a story as a child about him randomly busking one time in London and, to be honest, my dad doesn't even sing that much. But he told me how one day, he picked up a guitar and started playing a few chords and people saw him and started putting money in a pot. I remember as I grew up and started learning about developing a voice I started to wonder if anybody would give me money for singing!

And did they? Yeah. I make a full-time living from it.

How often? Usually around three to four times a week.

Always in Halifax? No. I also busk in Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley and Wakefield.

Which would you say is the most lucrative place? Halifax is actually one of the best places.

The people are kind here? Yes. I think people assume that you will make more from going to the big cities like Manchester or London but, I think what's so special about places like Halifax is that people don't expect it. People don't expect to hear my type of voice.

What kind of songs do you sing? I sing songs from the shows/musicals. I also sing popular music with a classical style, that is how I would describe it.

Do you have music for sale, have you been in a recording studio? I don't have any CDs for sale but I do have music available on Spotify. I recorded my first CD when I was sixteen but it's really old and out-dated and I want to record a new one however, I'm not sure whether people want CDs nowadays so I'm not sure whether to do one or to just record online. I do have a song on Spotify that is my own original song called "I Want You Back" and I have a cover of the Kate Bush song "Running up That Hill". I was actually recording a few weeks back here in Halifax and I put a video on TikTok and the video went viral! I got 7.5 million views! A lady from the EE shop had come to request "Running up That Hill" and as a result of the video going viral, I did my own version of the song and put it on Spotify.

Do you think you'll go in a recording studio again in the future? Definitely.

And will you do other peoples' songs or your own? I'll do both my own compositions and covers.

When you're composing music do you use a keyboard? I compose on a guitar. I play the guitar; I play the flute and I play the piano a little bit. I'm mostly a singer but I can play the guitar.

I believe you are going to appear at the Smartmove Sleepover on 8th October? Yes, I'll tell you how that came about. I was singing up on the precinct here in Halifax, outside Lister Horsfall jewellers, and a few of the people who work for Smartmove came past when I was singing. They took my business card and emailed me later asking me if I would like to sing at their event.

Are you doing that as a volunteer? Yes, it is purely voluntary.

Do you hope something comes of that for you? For me it's really about getting on board with charities and getting my voice out there. I can't do charity events all the time as I do need to make a living but I'm happy to get involved with them when I can, especially here in Halifax which has been so good to me since I started busking here back in November of last year.

Have you had any negative feedback since you started? Not here in Halifax, but I have had bad experiences as a busker.

Does it bother you? Not so much now. It did when I was younger. I once had someone throw beer at me in Dublin. I've also had a lot of problems in the evening with men. As a female busker it can be hard. You don't see many female buskers. But I don't let it put me off.

Just finally have you got any hopes or ambitions for the future? Yes. People often say to me "why are you not on X-Factor, why are you not on "Britain's Got Talent" but what I really want is just for my voice to get more exposure.

Would you like to be famous? On a small scale yes. I just want to make a connection with people.

What do you think of celebrities in general? I think it can be difficult for them although, I don't have a strong opinion on them because, I don't know what it's like to be one. What I will say is that, after my video went viral, I noticed on a slightly small-scale fame in the local area and the hatred started coming out. Suddenly these nasty people started coming out of the woodwork. So, on that basis, celebrities must have a hard time and after all, they are just everyday people that became famous and sometimes that gets forgotten.

So, you become like a target? Yes. I don't know if you have TikTok or not but I have a lot of comments on my video and I would say 99% of them are positive but those nasty people started coming out of the woodwork like I said. If someone doesn't like your voice that's not a problem, not everyone likes the same thing but, there's no need to be nasty to people.

Thank you for your time today, Ruth! Thank you.

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MORE INTERESTING RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Sage and Onion Pudding

Ingredients:

2 teaspoons of sage
2 oz of chopped suet
2 oz of fine oatmeal
Seasoning to taste
Milk for mixing
5 oz of breadcrumbs
2 ½ tablespoons of chopped onions
Small dish of Worcester sauce

Method:

Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly adding just enough milk to give a soft consistency. Turn into well-greased tin and bake in preheated moderate oven Gas mark 4/ 350 F for 1 hour. Cut into generous squares and serve with any meat and gravy.



Oat Cookies

Ingredients:

1 egg
4 oz of porridge oats
2 oz of ground almonds
3 oz of butter or margarine
3 oz of raisins
3 oz of golden syrup

Method:

Melt the butter and golden syrup and pour in the dry ingredients and stir. Add raisins and egg and mix well. Pour into shallow greased 7-inch square tin and bake at gas mark

4/350 F for 15-20 minutes. Leave in the tin and cut into pieces in tin also. Turn onto a wire rack when cold.



Potato and Cheese Custard

Ingredients:

1lb of potatoes peeled, boiled and sliced
4 oz of Cheddar cheese, grated
4 oz of bacon, cooked and diced
2 eggs
½ pint of milk
Salt and pepper

Method:

Grease an ovenproof dish, then place alternate layers of potatoes, cheese and bacon in it – ending with cheese. Beat the eggs, add the milk and seasoning and pour over the potatoes. Bake in a slow oven at 350F (180 C)/ Gas mark 4 for 40-45 minutes.



Raisin Shortcake

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons of orange juice
- 4 oz of seedless raisins
- 6 oz of plain flour
- 2 oz of castor sugar
- 4 oz of butter

Method:

Put the orange juice and raisins into a pan and bring slowly to the boil. Leave until cold. Sieve flour into a basin and work in the sugar and butter until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Knead well and divide dough into two pieces and form into equal-sized rounds. Put one on a greased baking sheet, spread on the raisin mixture and top with a second round of dough, pressing together firmly and pinching edges together. Prick well. Bake at 350 F/Gas mark 4 for 45 minutes. Mark into sections and remove from tin when cold.

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) What is the French word for 'left'?
- (2) Where would you find the Blarney Stone?
- (3) Who invented the electric toothbrush?
- (4) Porcelain was first made where?
- (5) What was the first steam engine to run on the Stockton and Darlington railway?
- (6) What is the German word for bridge?
- (7) What is a leveret?
- (8) What is a nappy called in the US?
- (9) Which is the longest psalm in the bible?
- (10) Which American playwright was the actress Marilyn Monroe married to in the 1950s?
- (11) What is the capital of Namibia?
- (12) Who played superman's father in the film of the same name?
- (13) What is the currency of Tasmania?
- (14) Who composed 'The Planets'?
- (15) What important drug was discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928?
- (16) Who wrote the play 'A streetcar Named Desire'?
- (17) What is an analogy?
- (18) What is meant by a score of years?

(19) Where, in Italy, will you find a famous leaning tower?

(20) What is a peccadillo?

Answers:

(1) Gauche (2) Blarney Castle, near Cork, Republic of Ireland (3) Dr Phillippe-Guy Wong (4) China (5) Locomotion No 1 (6) Brucke (7) A young hare in its first year (8) Diaper (9) Psalm 119 (10) Arthur Miller (11) Windhoek (12) Marlon Brando (13) The Australian dollar (14) Gustav Holst (15) Penicillin (16) Tennessee Williams (17) A comparison between one thing and another, typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification (18) 20 years (19) Pisa (20) A relatively minor fault or sin

Editor's Final Word: Thank you so much for taking the time and trouble to look at this publication and I hope you got something out of doing so. If you want to get involved with us, you can contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.