

## **FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH** – March 2023. Edition No 99

Hello. I hope you are alright when you are reading this magazine.

It is so sad that the Russians are still trying to take over the sovereign state that is Ukraine.

On a personal level, I learnt that I don't have any cancer, but to be honest, the whole experience triggered off my OCD and I am still recovering from it all.

If you think you would like to contribute an article/be interviewed/advertise in the magazine or simply donate to the running costs, then please do so (in a non-homophobic, non-racist and non-sexist way) by contacting us at:

[dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk)

Please note that our website address is: [www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk](http://www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk) Best wishes, Dean.

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### **POETRY COMPETITION**

**This latest competition is open to anyone and invites you to write a poem about any subject. There will be two prizes each of £50 for the best two entries which will appear in a future edition of the magazine. The closing date for entries is midnight (GMT) on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023. Please send your entries to the above email address.**

## MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



### **Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov**

Someone with an affliction will try and inflict misery on you this week, but just give them a wide berth and cruise on to where you're going. They say time is a great healer and you will now realise this is true as your mind heals and you can walk tall again with no worries. You will also have endless energy, so, do all you've

wanted to do - but don't overdo it. Fly fish.

### **Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec**

This month you will meet a kind woman who will give you all you've ever wished for and all she wants in return is your friendship and loyalty. Also, an old man will savagely criticise you and your work, but don't listen to him as there is no fool like an old fool. Money will come your way soon, but will you just waste it or invest it in your uncertain future?

### **Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan**

A man with very firm buttocks will promise you the world if you buy him a skinny latte and start to do his washing on a regular basis. It is a good time to redecorate your house and buy some new furniture as you have been living in a hovel for far too long. It is not a good time to buy a new car as it is miles too expensive and will only lead to a financial breakdown.

### **Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb**

You have not got much disposable income at the moment, so, consider getting a second job or losing your expensive lover. Also, you have been through a really bad patch and should now let your hair down and maybe ask the bald woman in the chippy out for a date. Now's the time to be positive and stop asking 'what if'? Why not buy yourself a new tool kit too?

### **Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar**

You will realise this week that you are one of the nicest people on the planet and be proud to express yourself in the way you want to. It is perhaps time to stop smoking and invest your money in a new relationship. It is a loved one's birthday this month so why not help them make some good memories that they will have for the rest of their life. Have a facelift. Ski.

### **Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr**

A pregnant woman may need your help as her husband has forsaken her, so, help her the best you can without wanting anything in return. You have been working far too hard of late, so, why not plan a much-deserved holiday and treat yourself and a loved one to the time of your lives? Perhaps it is time to leave your cosy village and live elsewhere on the planet. Burp.

### **Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May**

A banker may be acting like a real banker this month, so pay what you can but don't let him cause you anxiety. Your worries will evaporate and you will find yourself on a cloud of happiness – so, make the best of it before life's rains return. A good time to do more exercise and turn yourself from a couch potato to a sex god in six months. Try and work less hours.

### **Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun**

Many people think you're in a rut as you do the same things constantly without ever progressing any further – prove them all wrong and do something dynamic like changing your job or coming out as gay. Life may have been a bit lonely recently, so, why not start to support a local sports team and meet like-minded folks. Winter is almost over so cheer up!

### **Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul**

A woman in the local market may be very rude to you next week, but don't react as she has problems and can't help how she is. After a difficult winter, it is time to put a smile on your face and have a laugh with your friends who love you very much. Now is the time for some hedonism as life is far too serious if you let it be. Buy your partner a maid's outfit. Smile.

### **Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug**

Life may be difficult for you at the moment, but your luck is about to change with a small windfall blowing your way and a chance encounter that pleases you immensely. A young, busy mother with a pushchair may almost knock you down in town, so, watch how you go and don't typically react in a childish manner. It is a good time to buy some new spectacles.

### **Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep**

A bird in the hand may be worth two in the bush, but are you really happy with the bird that you have or would you be better flying away to new pastures? Your anxiety will start to diminish this week and leave you feeling relieved and optimistic about life once more. Do stop acting like a youngster when you are clearly knocking on and well past your sell by date.

### **Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct**

You may have been given a yellow card by your partner, but are you stupid enough to risk it turning to red by continuing your reckless and selfish behaviour? A friend will stand up to be counted when you most need them to and make you realise that you should do more for others. Now is the perfect time to try and reduce the number of chins you have. Buy British.

## GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ



### Questions:

- (1) Aged 30, Englishman Will Still has managed which French Ligue 1 side during 2022-23?
- (2) “Never Gonna Not Dance Again” is a 2022 song by which American female vocalist?
- (3) Which aircraft is known as the “Queen of the Skies”?
- (4) Which cake, whose key ingredients are banana and pineapple, is thought to originate from Jamaica in the late 1960s?
- (5) Which army did Napoleon defeat at the Battle of Jena in 1806?
- (6) “Horsehead”, “Triffid” and “Crab” are examples of which celestial objects?
- (7) Afrikaans is derived from which European language?
- (8) Leon Trotsky was assassinated in 1940 using which unusual weapon?
- (9) What kind of insect is a Garden Tiger?
- (10) Which sea lies between Greece and Italy?
- (11) Who wrote “Anna Karenina”?
- (12) Robbie Coltrane played Valentin Zukovsky in which James Bond film?
- (13) In which country will you find the Plain of Sharon?
- (14) Morpheus was the Greek god of what?
- (15) Between which years did Margaret Thatcher serve as UK Prime Minister?
- (16) In which country was gunpowder invented in the 11<sup>th</sup> century?
- (17) Which French composer composed “Carnival of the Animals”?
- (18) What does a zoo psychologist study?
- (19) Who created “Wallace and Gromit”?
- (20) Which player won his third Dubai Desert Classic title at Emirates Golf Club in 2023?

### Answers

- (1) Reims (2) Pink (3) Boeing 747 (4) Hummingbird Cake (5) Prussian (6) Nebulae (7) Dutch (8) An ice pick (9) Moth (10) The Ionian Sea (11) Leo Tolstoy (12) Goldeneye (13) Israel (14) Dreams (15) 1979 – 1990 (16) China (17) Camille Saint-Saens (18) Animal behaviour (19) Nick Park (20) Rory McIlroy

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## THE EAGLE

By Noelle Rawsley

Wake through the night shouting,  
I can do it, this is it, I AM THIS!  
My toes are crunching and squeezing so tight,  
I won't let go,  
My eyelids are flickering fast and furiously.

I really want to do it, I really do.

I can smell the sky and the tops of the crooked landscapes,  
The heights and beauty around me;  
I spread my arms wide,  
they are heavy yet warm, soft and smooth,  
I feel light, something is rising within as I shout -  
NOW IS THE TIME!

I flap and flap, I tilt forward – seeing 360 degrees peripheral vision now,  
Spreading my wings as wide as possible, not to drop,  
My toes leave the stone and limestone -  
AWW WOW! I swoop to see the thrashing sea below.  
YAHOO! I can travel anywhere now, flying like an Angel of Light.  
I am in my element, with the elements,  
I am propelled to every angle, soaring right, soaring left.

Wish I could stay up here forever,  
Awesome, it's the best, flying in and out of the air pockets,  
Dropped fast twice today!  
I could take little people for rides on my shoulders – that's cool!  
And keep them warm,  
Making nests for the family in winter and collecting food.

I can see round corners, drifting within beautiful coloured skies,  
With hues of inexplicable colours from the Godly Spirit above.  
I'm in heaven, meeting new friends,  
Landing for a rest on the mountainous hollows that protect me.

I can navigate through clouds and watch the life below,  
I'm learning to land on trees you know,  
I see boats out to sea,  
Trawlers, fishing boats, huge liners, beaches and animals playing.  
I'm in awe of it all,  
I AM WHAT I WANT TO BE,  
To invest in myself, seeing the amazing wealth of beauty,  
high above the shores in years to come -  
I AM FREE.

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## JUNE'S WORLD



Hello everybody. I hope you are all keeping in good health. This is a bad time for getting colds and flu; it's been really cold the last couple of weeks, but if you get really well wrapped up in a scarf and gloves, you don't seem to feel the cold as much.

We went to our favourite place Selby on Monday and visited The Hub which is where everyone seems to meet up. We are getting to know one or two people to talk to, but most people seem to be in groups and are self-contained. I think that most of the people in the café live nearby so they will probably know more people than we do. However, got to know a nice old man who requested to sit with us, he was quite talkative and told us he had three brothers but only got on with one of them – that’s probably what happens when you live in different places. He said that his health was poor and he had a little tube going up his nose to give him oxygen. He also said that he hopes to see us next week in The Hub. It looks like we have made a new friend.

Tuesday, the weather is beautiful and the sun is shining on the frost making it glitter like diamonds, it’s what is called fresh as my sister-in-law always used to say.

Wednesday, we went for a walk down Brecks Lane (Kippax) and we took our son’s dog with us and he was in his element sniffing in all the edges. The sun was shining which made it a more enjoyable walk and it was lovely to see the avenue of trees all getting new leaves for Spring. The fields were a lovely green and there were leaves on the ground making it look like a carpet, crunching under foot. As it was nice weather, we decided that we would go to Selby again as a special treat. When we got to The Hub, we found as many people there as on Monday – it’s lovely being retired and being able to do and go where we want, and we always find somewhere to go! We are making up for all the years we worked, but I still do my jobs before we go anywhere.

Well, that’s all for now, love June.

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## SOUTHAMPTON



Southampton is a port city (population 253,651 according to the 2011 Census) that is located 15 miles west of Portsmouth and 70 miles south-west of London, in England. It has a strong association with the doomed RMS Titanic which left from Southampton and it has been one of Europe’s principal ports for ocean liners and home port of some of the largest cruise ships in the world – although use of the port by cruise ships and bulk cargo ships has raised concern over air quality

there.

Southampton was heavily targeted during the Second World War, which was known as the Southampton Blitz, and it was one of the major embarkment points for D-Day. Significantly, after D-Day, the docks handled military cargo which kept the Allied forces supplied. But it is true to say that the city was a main target for the Luftwaffe bombing raids until late 1944. Unfortunately, over 600 people were killed by the raids, 2,000 were injured while a multitude of buildings were damaged or destroyed leaving only pockets of Georgian architecture surviving.

Indeed, the history of Southampton is a fascinating one (it acquired city status in 1964 and became known as the City of Southampton) and it is worth dedicating some time to taking a brief look at it here. The area was first thought to have been inhabited in the Stone Age due to artefacts being since found. Then in AD 43 the Romans came and conquered the locals, constructing the fortress settlement of Clausentum in AD 70, and this was an important trading post and defensive outpost of Winchester. This settlement was not abandoned until around AD 410.

Later, the Anglo-Saxons arrived and created a new settlement across the Itchen, known as Hamtun and then Hampton, from which the county of Hampshire gets its name. But Viking raids from AD 840 onwards brought an end to the Anglo-Saxons and led to a new, fortified, settlement in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries – this became medieval Southampton.

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, Southampton emerged as the major port of transit between the capital Winchester and Normandy. The town was extremely wealthy by the 12<sup>th</sup> century when Southampton Castle was built, and, by the 13<sup>th</sup>, it was the leading port for importing French wine in exchange for English wool and cloth.

A water supply system was constructed by the Franciscan Friary in 1290, which carried water from Conduit Head to the site of the friary inside the town walls – in 1310, the friars kindly allowed the town to use this water supply, and, in 1420, gave the ownership of it to the town.

In 1338, Southampton was sacked by French, Genoese and Monegasque ships which were controlled by Charles Grimaldi. Edward III, on his visit to the town in 1339, ordered new walls to be erected near it and these were completed by 1380. Some of the walls, towers and gates survive to this day.

Ironically, it was merchant vessels calling at Southampton who brought Black Death to England in 1348.

Shipbuilding was essential to the development of the town in the Middle Ages and ships like Henry V's warship Grace Dieu was built and launched there.

In 1447, Henry VI made Southampton a county itself, separate in almost all purposes from the county of Hampshire – but notably, it still has its own sheriff.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the most significant events in the town were the departure of Pilgrim Fathers and Mayflower in 1620, and also the English Civil War which saw the Parliamentarians prevent the Royalists from taking the town.

The town became a spa town in 1740, and despite having a good beach, it became a popular spot for sea-bathing with buildings built to make baths that were filled and emptied by the flow of the tide. It is also worth noting that the mechanisation of block-making, invented by Walter Taylor, played a part in the Industrial Revolution. Also, the port was involved in the military embarkation during the 18<sup>th</sup> century wars with France.

The Victorian era brought great expansion to Southampton with the docks being formed in 1835, and their structural and economic development continuing for the following decades. Southampton became known as The Gateway to the Empire with the opening of the railway link to London which was fully opened in 1840.



It is also important to mention that the port was employed for military embarkation during the Crimean and Boer Wars. In 1892, the Duke of Connaught opened a new pier which contained 10 landing stages.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century, saw a lot of commercial and nautical activity with Thorneycroft shipbuilding yard thriving from 1904 – 2004, and as already mentioned, the ill-fated RMS Titanic sailed in 1912 from the port. During the First World War, it was the UK's main military embarkation port and was also the centre for returning wounded and POWs. Then in the Second World War, the port played a major role in the Invasion of Europe in 1944. However, Southampton was hit in retaliation and because of its importance as a commercial port and successful industrial area.

This century has seen commercial activity with West Quay South being opened to the public; it has been used as an ice-skating rink and hosted a public broadcast of Wimbledon Tennis Championship. In addition, two buildings have been erected which are the John Hansard Gallery with City Eye and one for the University of Southampton's Nuffield Theatre. Several flats were also built to enhance the 'cultural quarter'.

It would be correct to say that Southampton (which became a city in 1964) is not as diverse in its makeup as some other modern cities as it is largely white and Christian in composition although many people claim no religion, and there is also a growing Asian and British Asian element.

The main employers in the city are the docks, the University Hospital of Southampton Foundation Trust and Ordnance Survey. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a wide range of industries develop in the area like aircraft and car manufacturing and petrochemicals, although it experienced the demise of Pirelli General Cables and Joseph Rank's Solent Flour Mill. On the other hand, 2000 saw the opening of West Quay Shopping Centre and a new IKEA store. There is also the Marlands which is open to the keen shopper. In 2022, The Bargate Quarter Scheme provided 500 new homes and new hospitality and retail venues.

If you have the opportunity to visit Southampton, you will find various galleries and museums for you to peruse, and there is the Cultural Quarter which hosts events like Chinese New Year festivities and Southampton Pride.

There are many parks and green spaces including the massive Southampton Common which is the location for summer festivals, funfairs and circuses. It also possesses a popular paddling pool, several lakes and contains Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre. Some nautically-minded folk may appreciate The Boat Show, which comes at the end of Sea City that runs each year from April to September and celebrates the city's links to the sea.

If you like music, you could visit The Mayflower Theatre and the Guildhall - the latter which has hosted acts like Amy Winehouse, Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd. The Guildhall has also hosted classical concerts presented by the City of Southampton Orchestra and Southampton Philharmonic Choir. There are of course many smaller venues including The Engine Rooms and The Joiners which has hosted Oasis and Radiohead. In fact, the city is the birthplace of many well-known people including Benny Hill, Rishi Sunak, Craig David, Will Champion and Howard Jones.



Sport is equally important to many people in the city and it has Southampton Football Club which currently plays in the Premier League, Sunday League football, and Hampshire County Cricket Club. Hockey is played by both sexes and children, and of course, there are yachting and other water sports practised. One important sporting complex is Southampton Sports Centre which offers things like an alpine centre with a dry ski slope, a theme park and an athletics centre that is used by professional athletes. So, there is plenty of opportunity to watch or participate in sport in the city!

On an educational level, the city performs well and possesses 2 universities, 79 state schools and 3 independent schools. If you were to settle in the city, you and your children would have plenty of choice where to study.

If you enjoy cruising, you might be interested to know that The Cunard Line runs a transatlantic service to New York for most of the year. In the past, you could easily take a ferry to the continent but now you can only get a car ferry from Southampton to the Isle of Wight.

In conclusion, visiting Southampton can be a very enjoyable experience and it is easy to do so as there is a good road and railway network with links to the rest of England. However, Southampton Airport is a regional airport although you can easily get to and from Gatwick and Heathrow Airport. There are also some good cycle lanes. So be a devil and come to the city of the saints!

\* With a lot of help from Wikipedia

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## OVER THE FINAL HURDLE – THE STORY OF THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

Written by Graham Townsend



Every year on the second Tuesday in March, the madness begins. The event many horse racing fans refer to as “Cheltmas” gets underway. A big roar goes up as the flag is dropped by the starter as the horses charge towards their first fence at the start of four days of high-class National Hunt racing. It all builds to the main race of the week, the

Cheltenham Gold Cup which is the feature race on the fourth and final day of the event on the Friday afternoon.

The origins of the festival can be traced back to an event in 1860 known as the Grand National Hunt Meeting, which took place at Market Harborough in Leicestershire. The feature race was known as the National Hunt Chase and was first held at Cheltenham the following year, but, until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the event was most often held at Warwick Racecourse. Things started to change when a new course was built at Prestbury Park in 1902 and it was held there in 1904 and 1905. It was subsequently decided that the new course in

Cheltenham needed further improvement. This resulted in the event reverting to Warwick until 1911, by which time facilities were deemed suitable for it to return to Cheltenham, and it has remained there to the current day.

At the 2023 festival, which takes place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March, there will be twenty-eight races. There are fifteen Grade 1 races, the highest level of competition, which include the four championship races. These races are the Champion Hurdle, the Queen Mother Champion Chase, the Stayers' Hurdle and the aforementioned Gold Cup.

The oldest of the championship races is the Stayers' Hurdle which had its first running in 1912. The Gold Cup did not appear on the scene until 1924. The Champion Hurdle first ran in 1927 and the Queen Mother Champion Chase did not start until 1959. The latter two events both had immediate championship status.

As at 2023, one championship race takes place per day of the festival. This has been the case since 2005 when the festival became a four-day event after being held over three days for many years. The third day of the festival is now traditionally known as St Patrick's Thursday even though St Patrick's Day itself might actually fall either side of the day. It is tremendously popular with Irish visitors, as I experienced first-hand.

There have been overtures in recent times to extend the festival to a fifth day, including a Saturday however, the current general consensus within the horse racing community is that this may not be too beneficial in terms of watering down the quality of the races on offer.

The majority of runners who compete at the festival tend to come from the British Isles although there has been success for some French trained horses in the past. Another feature of the festival is the use of two different courses. The Old Course and the New Course differ in length by half a furlong, the latter being slightly longer. The Old Course is used during days one and two and the New Course during days three and four.

Cheltenham has often adopted the show must go on attitude, even when there has been uncertainty surrounding the event. There have been exceptions to this rule though, most notably in 2001 when it was cancelled due to a serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Also in 2008, the second day was wiped out due to storm weather and the races that were due to be held on that day were run on the Thursday and Friday instead.

The top National Hunt jockeys have had more than their fair share of success at Cheltenham. Prior to the 2023 festival, Ruby Walsh has the most victories to date with fifty-nine race wins. Rachael Blackmore became the first female jockey to win the Gold Cup on A Plus Tard at the 2022 event.

In terms of trainers, Willie Mullins heads the list with eighty-eight wins. The Irishman is well clear of his long-term English rivals Nicky Henderson and Paul Nicholls who have had seventy-two and forty-six successes respectively.

Thank you for reading this article. I hope it has provided you with some new and interesting information.

\* Written with help from various online resources

## BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



### Wolf

The wolf is an interesting mammal that is found in Eurasia and North America. It is one of thirty sub-species of *Canis Lupus* and is closely related to the coyote and golden jackal – it can produce fertile hybrids with these animals and is considered the ancestor of the domestic

dog.

The fur of a wolf is usually mottled white brown, grey and black although, interestingly, sub-species in the Arctic are often nearly all white. It is territorial in nature and this often leads to mortalities amongst them, but it is mainly a social animal and known for its individual or group howling. When a wolf reaches sexual maturity, it often leaves the pack to form its own pack and also does so because of competition for food. Although wolves cooperate to kill large prey, statistically, they are more successful hunters when they hunt alone or in mated pairs.

The wolf is mainly a carnivore and, consequently, feeds mainly on large wild hooved animals as well as smaller ones, livestock, carrion and even rubbish. Unfortunately, wolves are prone to the rabies virus but attacks on humans are rare due to their exposure to hunters, farmers, ranchers and shepherds.

\* Ref Wikipedia

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## LETTERS PAGE



### **Dear Editor**

I read this magazine when I get chance and am impressed with the way it has evolved and particularly like the inclusion of music and sport articles. I also enjoy the quizzes. Congratulations on refraining from alcohol for 25 years too!

**Jane Dawson, Coventry**

### **Dear Editor**

Is anyone else sick and tired of celebrities being paid to endorse things that they probably don't use or even believe in? These people must be extremely greedy and never know when they have got enough money. What a world we live in!

**Georgina Thompson, Liverpool**

### **Dear Editor**

Everyone knows that top footballers get paid exorbitant amounts for kicking a ball around – I know they entertain a lot of people, but come on, nobody's worth the kind of money they get paid. As a woman on a moderate income who tries her best to help others when she can, I don't understand how the system allows this to happen, especially when some people can't even afford to heat their homes. We clearly need a new government to rectify matters.

**Tessa Wilkins, Manchester**

**Dear Editor**

Can I just express how happy I am to see the Tory party imploding in front of our eyes. However, I am not sure if the opposition is really up to the job and can repair 12 years of Tory destruction of British society. I am not confident about the future. One thing I know though is that the rich won't suffer.

**Frank Taylor, Huddersfield**

**Dear Editor**

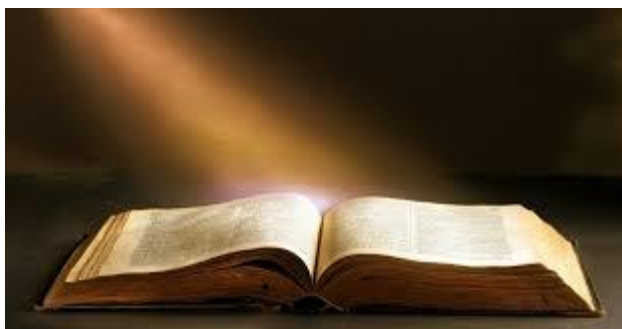
I am a failed vegan as I missed milk chocolate and ice cream, even though I know all about the dairy industry. But surely in a modern society we should not be eating the bodies of other sentient beings? I don't think we have progressed as a civilisation as much as we would like to think.

**Mary Cartwheel, London**

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## BIBLE TALK

**Sent in by Peter Smith**



And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins.

(Mark 2:22)

Like in the Old Testament (OT), a religion or assembly might have a priest or a

minister whom its members think is closer to God than they are. But:

'Do not call anyone on earth your father . . . And do not be called teachers; for one is your Teacher, the Christ. (Matthew 23:9,10)

'You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people.' (1 Peter 2:9)

'To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made US kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.'

(Revelation 1:5,6)

Like in the OT, a religion or assembly might have a special building, where members think they are nearer to God than elsewhere. But:

'The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands.' (Acts 7:48)

'In Him we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:28)

Like in the OT, a religion or assembly might have rituals which it says are necessary to approach God. But:

'The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.' (Mark 15:38)

'No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.' (John 15:15)

Like in the OT, a religion or assembly might have a book which it says must be obeyed. But:  
'The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.' (Galatians 3:24,25)

'For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: after those days, says the Lord, I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.' (Hebrews 8:10, Jeremiah 31:33)

(Quotations: New King James Version)

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## SUMMER '69

**Written by Ruth Minich**

Maytime, and she was walking home from school with her friends, giggling, pushing until falling about laughing. It was warm, but her skinny legs were in her long, too baggy brown boots, she loved them so much. She'd longed for the shiny white boots in the catalogue, her mum had ordered them from Gillian. up the road.

She knocked on Gillian's door every teatime for two weeks to see if they had arrived. Harassed with babies and cooking, Gillian would answer "No", until finally "They're sold out". Her mum hadn't paid the catalogue money then. Her mum had bought her the brown ones from the market, they weren't shiny but they were soft and came up to her knee, with a little heel and chisel toes, so she was happy.

The lads across the road watched the girls walk past in their school blazers with skirts peeping out just below. One lad called out "Nice boots" "Ta" She was thirteen, nearly fourteen, shy, not knowing what to say. He was really attractive, gentle face, she hadn't seen him before - how old was he? Fifteen maybe?

He seemed to be around most afternoons after that, sometimes with friends, sometimes alone. The weather turned warmer, the month turned to June and she turned fourteen. He was sixteen, he was funny, he made her laugh and soon she was walking home just with him.

He took her home to meet his mum, his brother and sisters, to a kitchen full of noise, washing, cooking and baking, so different from her empty one; her mum went cleaning after she finished at the mill. His mum served up large steamy plates of beans on toast with glasses of squash (they didn't drink tea), and showed her how to make bread and butter pudding with the left-over crusts.

School holidays arrived, it was a hot summer, they laid on his baked dry front lawn with their mates, listening to Radio One - Honky Tonk Women, Something in the Air, Lay Lady Lay. They first kissed and declared undying love.

He took her to his church where they played basketball, it was a friendly family place, with large modern rooms and lots of people, no tea or coffee but always some fruit juice when they had tired themselves out. Thursday evenings two counsellors from the church would visit his home for family prayers, everyone holding hands in a circle. She loved the peace of it, she loved the sport, loved the noise of the family, the warmth of the kitchen.

July, and it was Feast Fortnight, she copped up with her mates and they went to dirty their feet in the black feast ground shale. With lungs full of diesel, they ate brandy snap and candy floss, rode the waltzers and crashed the dodgems.

Walking her home one August night, he told her that he wanted to go to America as soon as he was old enough, to train to be a missionary. They kissed, and there was a chill in the air as she told him that she wouldn't be seeing him again.

After all, she was fourteen now. She was old enough to wear her makeup, go to the youth club disco with her mates, old enough to work Saturdays and week-nights, old enough to buy her own boots.

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## JUNE CHARLTON SHARES SOME MORE TASTY RECIPES



### Apple Pie

#### Ingredients:

8 oz of plain flour  
Pinch of salt  
2 oz of margarine  
2-3 tablespoons of cold water  
1lb of cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced  
2-4 oz of sugar

#### Method:

Sift the flour with the salt into a mixing bowl. Rub in the margarine with your fingertips until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs – this process can be carried out very quickly in a food processor.

Add the water a little at a time mixing to a firm dough, if time permits, leave the pastry to relax for 15-20 minutes. Soften the apples either in a microwave or on the hob, adding sugar to taste after cooking. Divide the pastry in two and roll out one piece to line an 8” pie plate – a metal pie plate will give a crisper result.

Fill the centre of the pastry with the cooked, sweetened apples and dampen the edges with water. Roll out the second piece of pastry a little thinner than the first and a little larger than the plate size. Place over the apples and seal the edges and flute or pinch into folds with the finger and thumb.

Cook at 400-450 F for 20-30 minutes.

Brush the top lightly with water and sprinkle with a little sugar.





### **Cod in Cider**

#### Ingredients:

1lb of cod fillet  
8 mushrooms  
2 large tomatoes, halved  
¼ - ½ pint of cider  
1 oz of butter or margarine  
1 oz of plain flour  
2 oz of grated cheese

Salt and pepper

#### Method:

Cut the cod in four and arrange in a greased oven-proof dish with salt and pepper. Bake at 375 F/Gas mark 5 for about 20 minutes.

Add the flour to melted butter and cook for a few minutes. Add the liquid (including the cider) from the fish with water if necessary to make ½ pint, bring to the boil and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring continuously. Pour over fish, sprinkle with grated cheese and brown under grill.



### **Fruity Chicken Curry**

#### Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts, skinned and boned  
1 tablespoon of plain flour  
Salt and black pepper  
1 mango  
½ fresh pineapple  
2.5 cm of ginger  
2 tablespoons of grated coconut

Fresh mint to garnish

3 shallots  
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil  
3 teaspoons of curry powder  
7 Fl. oz of chicken stock  
4 Fl. oz of natural yoghurt

#### Method:

Cut the chicken breasts into ½” strips. Mix the flour with the salt and pepper on a plate and add the chicken strips and toss until evenly coated.

Peel the mango, pineapple, ginger and shallots. Cut the mango fresh off the stone, core the pineapple and cut both fruit into bite-sized pieces.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok. Shake off any excess flour from the chicken and add the strips to the pan. Fry for 5 minutes over high heat or until browned. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside.



Fry the shallots and ginger in the pan for 2 minutes. Add the fruit and curry powder and fry for 1 minute, stirring. Add chicken stock and bring to the boil.

Turn down the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Return the chicken and stir in the yoghurt. Season. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, dry-fry the coconut in a frying pan over high heat. Sprinkle over the curry before serving. Garnish with mint.

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## MEASURING TRUE SUCCESS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Written by Graham Townsend



So, what is the truest measure of success in the music industry? This article will take a look at the different ways in which artists are viewed as having been successful in their chosen career, whether it is by the number of records they have sold the number of awards they have won or the number of followers they have on social media.

Traditionally, people have looked purely at commercial success as an accurate reflection of how big a star an artist or group is/are regarded. Over time this has probably evolved from pure record sales, to also incorporate television and live performances, merchandise sales and an online presence via artist websites and the like.

Live performances, in their own right, have evolved massively with the success of festivals such as Glastonbury, Download (previously known as Monsters of Rock), Coachella, Lollapalooza, Reading and Leeds. It's fair to say that as the way we consume music has changed over the last seventy-five years, live events have become a key factor in helping bands and artists to introduce their material to new and diverse audiences. They may not have had large volumes of record sales but still have a large following due to their ability to captivate thousands of people through the quality of their musical performances on the big stage.

You sometimes see that bands find fame in a country other than the one they originate from. Off the top of my head, and from an era of music that strongly resonates with me, bands such as Def Leppard, Bush and Wang Chung all benefited from this. Whether they would still have achieved the same level of success in the current climate is difficult to know. There was no internet back then. Music feels more accessible and universal these days simply because of the World Wide Web.

Streaming services such as Napster, Spotify and iTunes have to take some credit for exposing people all over the globe to so many more acts. Well before services such as those existed though, the first album, by a major artist, released digitally was "Crystal Ball" by Prince in 1997. It must be pointed out that material had unofficially been "leaked" online prior to this. One of the most notable occasions was in 1993 when Depeche Mode's "Songs of Faith and Devotion" surfaced in an online chat room. David Bowie, an artist known for being at the cutting edge of the music industry and being able to reinvent his persona, also got in on the

act and released a single online in 1996. The first official digital single was “Electric Barbarella” released by Duran Duran the following year.

In latter times social media has played a big part in introducing new music to previously untapped music. Myspace, which launched in August 2003, was a place where people, including myself, would go to discover music by new and established artists. You could connect with them and like-minded people. In fact, I discovered this evening that my profile still exists from circa 2008! Another platform that has gone a long way towards helping new artists build an online presence and shoot to stardom, in one form or another is YouTube. The video sharing platform launched in 2005.

In recent times, there have been plenty of artists who have become household names after being discovered online. Some of those you will probably have heard of include Justin Bieber (YouTube), Nicky Minaj (Myspace), Halsey (YouTube and others), Charlie Puth (YouTube), Drake (Myspace), Shawn Mendes (YouTube/Vine) and The Weeknd (YouTube).

For every one of those named above, there must be hundreds of thousands of others out there waiting to be discovered or become “the next big thing”. I even have friends who go out of their way specifically to push the music of artists who don’t yet have a record deal of any kind and may never do so. In their eyes, because they enjoy the music of these artists, they will class them as a success even if they have never even sold a single record.

I hope you have enjoyed my look at what constitutes success in the music industry.

\* Written with help from various online resources

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## ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH



### Questions:

- (1) Which actor played the original minder in the T.V. of the same name?
- (2) What are the names of Prince Andrew’s children?
- (3) What is a sickle?
- (4) What was the name of Ken Barlow’s first wife in Coronation Street?
- (5) Who first patented traffic lights?
- (6) What is the currency of Saudi Arabia?
- (7) What is the French word for ‘traffic light’?
- (8) Who played J R Ewing in the T.V. series Dallas?
- (9) Who played the lead role in ‘Man from Atlantis’?
- (10) What is Pure O OCD?
- (11) Which company made the first personal computer?
- (12) Which country produces the most olive oil?
- (13) What is Parkinson’s Disease?
- (14) What is the capital of Trinidad and Tobago?
- (15) What is the most dangerous snake to humans?
- (16) What are human finger nails made of?
- (17) What is the Spanish word for ‘screwdriver’?

- (18) Which club did Erling Haarland leave to join Manchester City?  
(19) What is the clavicle?  
(20) What nationality was the footballer and manager Puskas?

**Answers:**

(1) Dennis Waterman (2) Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie (3) A single-handed agricultural tool designed with variously curved blades (4) Valerie (5) William Ghiglieri in 1917 (6) Saudi riyal (7) Feu de circulation (8) Larry Hagman (9) Patrick Duffy (10) A type of OCD where people experience distressing intrusive thoughts but without external signs of compulsions (11) MITS developed in 1974 (12) Spain (13) A condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over many years (14) Port of Spain (15) The Saw-Scaled Viper (16) Keratin (17) Destornillador (18) Borussia Dortmund (19) The bone between the breastplate (sternum) and the shoulder/the collarbone (20) Hungarian

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**Editor's Final Word:** Thank you so much for taking the time and trouble to read this publication. If you would like to contact us, please do so at: [dean@fthm.org.uk](mailto:dean@fthm.org.uk) Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.