

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – August 2023. Edition 104.

Hello. I hope you are feeling okay when you read this.



On the second of July we were part of a festival in memory of Jo Cox, and because the weather held out, we were able to give out many paper copies of the magazine to introduce some people in Sowerby Bridge to it. We all had a good time and thanks to Sarah Stone for inviting us to share her stall.

Me and Brenda also spent three nights in Bridlington in July and had a good time although the accommodation was basic. Whilst we were in Bridlington, we visited Scarborough again but did not enjoy the long and tedious bus ride to get there, so we came back on the train which was more expensive but much more bearable. We also enjoyed going on the land train in Bridlington and found two cafes we liked which were Café Society (clean and efficient) and the café at the Leisure Centre which offered a wide range of food and four excellent smoothies which were very affordable.

Anyone can get involved with this publication, so, if you have anything to say (non-sexist, non-racist or not homophobic)/want to advertise/donate to the running costs of the magazine or be interviewed, then please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk

Please note that our website address is: www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk Best wishes,
Dean Charlton.

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

Now is a good time to open up a florist and allow your creative side to blossom before that part of you shrivels and dies. A silly woman may fall out with you this week for some unclear reason – but just leave the door open to her as she may realise that she is cutting her nose off to spite her face by rejecting you. Love is not

far away so keep your eyes wide open.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You are clearly an intelligent person, but have you lost your marbles turning your back on someone who loves you? Obtaining fame seems very important to you but you fail to realise that you already possess the most important thing i.e., your health. The game is rigged in favour of the privileged, but you can now still make a difference in some small way. Love.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

A beautiful person may express an interest in you, but the fact that you are extremely ugly should set the alarm bells ringing and make you wonder what they want from you. A good time to learn a foreign language so you can bore a whole new set of people. Be glad that you stuck to your guns and waited for the right person even if you are now only firing blanks.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

You may be wondering what on earth you are doing on this planet, but maybe start to focus on the smaller picture rather than on questions you can't answer. A lady may appear who teaches you some new tricks and leaves you thinking she is magical. You calling someone mean is like the pot calling the kettle black, so, give more and enjoy the joy of sharing.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

There is clearly more to life than work and you have been doing too much work recently. Why not book yourself a holiday to warmer climes and let your hair down? – you deserve it. A good time to learn some new culinary skills as you will soon meet someone nice who will expect to be served more than beans on toast. Stop judging others as you are far from perfect.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

This month you will have chance to acquire lots of money but will you sell out? Consume less caffeine otherwise your sleepless nights will turn into one big nightmare. A dead person will come up in conversation but be careful what you say about them as no one really knows if the end is the end. Your B.O. remains a problem so do something about it now. Eat cake.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

Many people think you have done some good things, but deep down you know you have extra gears to use. Don't waste your talent or you will regret it later on. It could be a good time to invest in a lottery ticket as you deserve some good luck as you are a lovely person. You are too fat, but don't go from one extreme to another as bit-by-bit is always the best way.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

Maybe now is a good time to buy some powerful binoculars and take up bird watching. Someone with an obviously lower IQ than you will show you this month how it is better to be loved than alone in your ivory tower. If you are unhappy when you see your reflection in shop windows then either stop looking or do something about how you look. Buy some tuna.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

Life may be very difficult for you at the moment, but your luck is about to change with the arrival of a new barista at your local café. Also, a thin, silver-haired man will prove his weight in gold by giving you some good advice. Try not to bite your nails as this is your only physical fault – except for your huge gut. Do wear your lucky pants tonight - just in case.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

This week you should certainly consider getting yourself a pet mouse so that you can teach it how to sing and dance to your favourite song. A new relationship is on the horizon so don't declare all the skeletons in your closet immediately in case it all goes pear-shaped. Maybe you should spread your sexual wings and seek skies that are full of rainbows. Buy a bicycle.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

Now is an excellent time to have fried mushrooms with baked beans. A politically correct person will barge into your life but give them a wide berth if you don't agree with them. You may be considering having a face-lift but save your money as no one will notice. However, a trip to the hairdressers may improve your mood and make you look more presentable. Burp.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

You may be an ugly toad but many people would jump to help you as you are indeed a very special person. Making a child may be a good idea at the moment as long as you are aware of the responsibility it entails. A woman with an ill-fitting bra may prove very useful in keeping you abreast of the politics behind the scenes at work. Be nice to people different to yourself.

OLIVIA WARD SPEAKS ABOUT HER INTERESTING LIFE



Hello Olivia, can you speak a little bit about yourself? I was born in London, but my parents were actually living in New York City at the time. My family moved back to Yorkshire in the late 70's when I was about 5 and I grew up here.

Are your parents American then? No, they're from here. My dad is from Hubberton and mum is from Keighley.

What were your parents doing in New York? My father was a fashion designer during the 60's and 70's and my mother was an actress. They now run The Actors Workshop, a great local charity set up for kids about 35 years ago and still going strong.

Did you enjoy growing up here in Halifax? Yes, very much so. It's a lovely place to be a child. I went to school locally. Trinity Infants, Junior and then I

attended Rishworth School.

What did you do after you left school? I moved to London after school and studied Art and Design at Chelsea School of Art. I then got a job at the National Film Theatre in the animation department of the museum. I worked there for a couple of years I think, and then in '93, I moved to New York City and worked for MTV Animation for about 10 years— I worked on a show called, "Beavis and Butthead" as a Designer. Then I was the Art Director of a show called, "Daria." After Daria ended, I began directing TV and print ads. I was

involved in animation for many years but then my career moved into the live action world, which took me to Los Angeles for 8 years where I worked for Columbia Pictures as Director of Marketing for the post production facility. I moved home in 2016 and I opened up my little gift shop in The Halifax Borough Market.

Why did you open up your shop? I think it was something I was meant to do. It's a gift shop, known as, "The smallest most beautiful gift shop in England." My stock is a mix of vintage and handmade items. I like to think there's something for everyone and for any occasion. I've always been a collector; I love antiques and with being an artist I also get to make a lot of things that I sell. I've had the shop for about three and a half years and along the way, I've met a few local people who are contributing to the shop now too.

Do you think people in Halifax are receptive to what you do? Yes, but it's been a really difficult start. I opened up in December 2019, only three months before we were all sent home for the Covid crisis. So, it's been a really rocky start and difficult getting myself out there. But once people find me, they've been coming back which is encouraging.

So, it's really a passion for you, isn't it? It's a dream come true but working on my own is not without its challenges. When I get home, I'm making things and trying to come up with new ideas as well as keeping track of the business side. I hope to launch an online shop this year...when I get some time to focus.

What's it like living in America? I spent 16 years in New York City. In many ways I consider it to be the place where I really grew up. It certainly teaches you some hard lessons and I'm so proud and grateful of my achievements. It was a marvellous place to grow up but not somewhere I would like to grow old. It educates you and then kicks you out. I was thinking about coming home when I got a job offer which took me to Los Angeles for a further 7 years. After a while I longed to be home. I remember thinking, "I can't be buried in this soil." The goodbyes to my parents each time I visited home were becoming unbearable too. So, in 2016, I packed up 23 years, put it all on a boat and got a plane home. I'll never forget the immigration officer at Manchester airport when I arrived home. He took a long look at my passport and then said to me, "Welcome home love." I still cry tears of joy when I think about it. England is a special place to come home to, and when I did, I felt I was back with my tribe. I also met my husband shortly after moving home.

Is your husband British? Yes, he is. We met in the pub next door to where I bought my little cottage and then about a year later, we were married. We've been married four years now.

Have you ever lived in the South of England? Yes, I lived in London when I was at Chelsea School of Art and during that time, I worked at the National Film Theatre.

How did you find that? At the time I loved it, but it's not somewhere that I would like to live now. Again, great city, teaches you lots but not personal enough for me and my life.

Do you feel at home in Halifax? 100%. I love the people here, the architecture and the surroundings. The rolling hills of Yorkshire are one of the most beautiful places in the world. We have a great sense of humour in Yorkshire. The people have gumption and there's a strong sense of camaraderie.

Do you miss anything about your old career? No, animation was wonderful but it changed and became more computer-based. When I first started, we drew and painted everything and

then Photoshop came along. I was happy and lucky to have the opportunity to learn the program early on, but then Flash came along which didn't interest me at all – I just wasn't interested in sitting in front of a computer all day. Animation budgets became less and less and staff were cut. Producers wanted everything faster and cheaper. It started to no longer be fun and a bit stressful. The movie industry was a big 'no' for me. It's a cliché but it's all about money, very cut-throat and a lot of people really are full of it. But it was nice to live by the ocean in LA for a little while and along the way I've met some wonderful friends - friends for life.

Did you have a car when you were in LA? Yes, and I actually learnt to drive in LA when I was there which was terrifying on the 5 lane highways. My first car was a '61 Ford Falcon. It was a tank!

Have you travelled to a lot of other places in your life? I've travelled quite a bit in the US, Europe and Africa. I think it's important to travel. It promotes open-mindedness and humility to accept there are many ways of living.

How do you see your work here developing? Having a shop and trying to predict what my customers' wants and needs is a constant learning process so I hope to continue having creative ideas that resonate with my customers. I hope to launch an online branch to my shop this year. I'd like to streamline the shop somewhat and hopefully increase profits.

Are you intending to stay in Halifax Market? I'd like to think so. I just take it day-by-day. When I look back, I'm really proud of how my shop has developed in the last 3+ years. The market is in a changing phase, lots of cleaning and building going on which can be challenging. But once we get through it, I think the market will flourish. I don't want to leave the battle before the war's over so to speak.

What did you do during lockdown? Apart from going a bit potty, I wrote and illustrated a children's book which got published. The book is called, "Tessa Tidies Up" – it's for sale in the shop. It's a true story of me when I was a little girl. I used to pick rubbish up off the floor as it spoke to me! In my mind, if the rubbish was in a bin, it was happy and safe with family and friends but if it was on the floor, it needed help to get back to a bin. The images and the story were always in my mind so it came very naturally to write and draw it out. It was a great creative escape during a really tough time for all of us.

As a business person, do you think we did the right thing coming out of Europe? Ha! Me, a business person?! I've always been terrible with finances. As far as Brexit goes, let's just say I have a very low opinion of politicians in general...let's leave it at that.

Would you describe yourself as a spiritual person? Yes. I never doubt how small I am and how precious time is. I like to think that I'm a courageous and thoughtful person who is kind and caring to others. All we have is to be kind.

What do you think happens at the end of our life? I hope to turn into a butterfly and continue my work. Who knows!

How can people find you in Halifax Borough Market or contact you? My shop is called Unit e11even. I'm opposite the tobacconist at the top of the market, around the corner from Redmans. I'm in the space where Timpson's cobbler was

[Olivia Columbo \(@unit_e11even\) • Instagram photos and videos](#) / [Unit e11even | Halifa](#)

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE ROCK BAND 10cc



When I was a teenager, the two groups I was interested in were the Beatles and 10cc. If I'm honest, my tastes were influenced by my dad who was also a fan of these two groups amongst others. Of the 10cc catalogue, the standout number for me is the song "I'm Not in Love" because of its innovative backing track.

10cc was formed in Stockport in 1972 and initially featured Graham Gouldman, Eric Stewart, Lol Crème and Kevin Godley who had written and recorded together since 1968. In fact, three of the original members were actually childhood friends in the Manchester area with Gouldman and Godley attending the same secondary school. Interestingly, there were two defined songwriting teams within the band: Stewart and Gouldman (pop) and Godley and Crème who were more experimental in style.

All the talented members of the band were multi-instrumentalist and could sing, write and produce but most of their records were produced at Strawberry Studios (North) in Stockport and Strawberry Studios (South) in Dorking and were usually engineered by Eric Stewart.

The band's success peaked between 1972 and 1978 when they had five UK top-ten albums which were: Sheet Music, "The Original Soundtrack", "How Dare You!", "Deceptive Bends" and "Bloody Tourists". They also had twelve singles reach the Top 40 in the UK, and three No1s in UK Top 40 which were "Rubber Bullets", "I'm Not in Love" and "Dreadlock Holiday". Unfortunately, Godley and Crème decided to quit the band in 1976 due to artistic differences and Stewart left the band in 1995. Today, Gouldman leads a touring version of 10cc.

One could go heavily into pre-10cc, but that is not the intention of this short article. To conclude, I think it is true that the band made a huge impression on the British music scene and their work has stood the test of time.

* Ref. Wikipedia

JUNE'S WORLD



When I was about 12 or 13 years of age, I liked to visit places of interest. These places were close to where I lived in Castleford. They were all down the Potteries where I was born; I loved going to Bateson's Bakery and looking through the open window, where about 3 people were rolling out pastry which reached along a long worktop. I was fascinated watching them and thought to myself that I would like to do that when I left school. If I

went after school, when they were finishing for the day, they would give me any misshapes to take home.

I also liked to go and watch people working at Clokie's Pottery and at Hartley's Pottery and were given slightly imperfect wares. As we did not have much money, my mother was grateful for anything I could bring home. One day, I travelled further down Cinder Lane to a woodyard where I enquired whether they had any spare wood left over from the doors and cupboards they made, and they said I could have some suitable for fires. My uncle Alfie had a barrow and was able to transport the wood home. My mother was delighted to get the wood and said it would last the family a couple of weeks or more, which was good as we often couldn't afford to buy coal – my mother rarely had much money coming in and had to depend on money from Social Services as it was then called. In years gone by this was commonly known as the Pan-Crack.

I didn't have a father who gave his wife a regular wage as he was a scrap dealer, and only brought money home when he had had a good day. As I said in a previous article, I started work at 15 and was able to help my mother to go into town and buy a few things that she liked.

The weather has been amazing recently, with lovely sunshine every day, and this has enabled us to sit out in the garden and read instead of being stuck in traffic somewhere. We've enjoyed going to Allerton Bywater and having a picnic around the canal whilst watching the boats go by – we've become more easily pleased as we have got older.

Today we haven't been anywhere but more likely than not, we will go for a walk now that I have completed all my jobs. Well, that's it for another month. Love June.

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ

Questions:

- (1) With which water sport would you associate Kelly Slater and Stephanie Gilmore?
- (2) The Earth is divided into three layers. What is the innermost layer called?
- (3) Which game, released in 2016, is about exploration and survival in an infinite procedurally generated galaxy?
- (4) Which Arizona city is known for its red sandstone formations?
- (5) Which grain, sometimes mistaken for spelt, is a staple of many European diets particularly in Italy?
- (6) The musical "West Side Story" is set in which US city?
- (7) "Adam's ale is a colloquial term used for which liquid/drink?
- (8) What is the Spanish word for helmet?
- (9) Pinchbeck is an alloy of Zinc and which other metal?
- (10) How many lines are there in a traditional Shakespearean sonnet?
- (11) In the UK, 568ml is the equivalent of which imperial measurement?
- (12) Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus are members of which US indie rock supergroup?
- (13) Colin Powell was the first Secretary of State for which US president?
- (14) Who is believed to have written the biblical book "The Acts of the Apostles"?
- (15) "King Of Beers" is an advertising slogan used by which brand?

- (16) Mohair is obtained from which animal?
(17) Characters Elinor and Marianne go by what last name in Jane Austen's book "Sense and Sensibility"?
(18) "The Secret of Association" was a 1985 album by which UK male vocalist?
(19) Michael Beer has played test cricket for which country?
(20) What is the capital of Liberia?

Answers

- (1) Surfing (2) The core (3) No Man's Sky (4) Sedona (5) Farro (6) New York City (7) Water
(8) Casco (9) Copper (10) Fourteen (11) Pint (12) Boygenius (13) George W Bush (14) St Luke
(15) Budweiser (16) Angora goat (17) Dashwood (18) Paul Young (19) Australia (20) Monrovia
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LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

Recently, there have been many successful gigs in my town of Halifax. It seems that many people have enjoyed watching well-known acts of yesteryear performing in the town, and that a lot of money has been made from this.

I think that it is good that Halifax is being put on the national map through these concerts but one thing I don't understand is how everyone is supposed to benefit from this – surely it is only the organisers and local businesses who benefit financially and not the man in the street who can't afford to attend these gigs? Am I missing a trick?

Neil Jones, Halifax

Dear Editor

I am a dog owner who disagrees with a letter that appeared in a previous edition of this magazine. The writer of the letter argued that dogs should not be allowed in cafes or in places where food is served. I am interested to know if this includes dogs like guide dogs which are invaluable companions to many people with disabilities and which without them these people would arguably be left isolated.

Also, as long as a dog is well-behaved, I cannot see why 'man's best friend' should not accompany them on social visits to town.

Freda Battersby, York

Dear Editor

Some people argue that we would be better off without religion and that there would be less conflict in the world without it. Can I just declare that I think that all religions are manmade

and the idea of one ‘correct’ deity is absurd – surely, we won’t know if there is anything after this life until we have passed on.

However, I have seen firsthand how much some people benefit from being involved with a religious organisation, and appreciate that they get great comfort from their belief system. I also believe that most people who follow a religion, are peace-loving and that it is only a minority who cause war in the name of religion.

I therefore conclude that religion is a matter of personal choice which should be respected at all times.

Clare Stones, Manchester

Dear Editor

I think in this day and age, people still filling their lungs with horrible chemicals in the name of smoking is ridiculous, what is also worrying is that some young people choose to smoke even though they know all the connected risks of this activity.

Like everyone knows, money is all important in Western economies and it does seem to be unimportant how one obtains it. It is unbelievable that huge tobacco companies can continue to make billions of pounds producing cigarettes and vapes that are obviously harmful to millions and millions of people. In addition, people who smoke selfishly blow their nasty second-hand smoke or vapour into the path of innocent people who are then forced to inhale it too.

Surely it is time to make smoking cigarettes illegal in the UK?

Ian Wilson, Stoke

THE HISTORY OF SPEEDWAY RACING

Written by Graham Townsend



Speedway is a form of motorcycle racing. A race usually features four riders, racing on a shale track (formerly cinder track) on a 500cc motorcycle over four laps. The bikes have no brakes. Races are normally held on short oval circuits which tend to vary between 250 and 400 metres in length.

The first known speedway race took place in 1923 in Australia. The man behind the event which took place in December of that year was New Zealand born Johnnie Hoskins MBE. He is credited by many as the man who invented the sport.

Hoskins spent the next five years or so promoting events across Australia before travelling to England in 1928.

It was in that year that the first acknowledged UK speedway meeting took place at High Beech in Epping Forest. The following year Hoskins was asked to promote speedway at the world-famous Wembley Stadium in London and the Wembley Lions speedway team was born. 1929 saw the first league competition in Britain and the title winners were Leeds.

Speedway continued to develop and expand around the globe and, the first official world championship final was held in 1936, again at Wembley Stadium. The first speedway world champion was Australia's Lionel Van Praag.

As the sport evolved, so did the machinery used. In the early days in Australia, riders travelling from the USA tended to bring their Harley-Davidson Peashooter with them. They were superseded by the Douglas and the Rudge from 1928 onwards, the latter was closer to the type of machines seen in more modern times. Other models to emerge were the JAP in 1930, the ESO in 1949, the Jawa (having merged with ESO) in 1964, the Weslake in the 1970s along with the Godden (1978) and GM (1979) before the eventual change to laydown engines circa-1995.

Thankfully, World War II did not really disrupt the sport too much. Crowds flocked to meetings. The sport was dominated by riders from Australia, USA and Great Britain until the early to mid-1950s. At this stage we started to see riders from other countries, notably New Zealand and Sweden, appearing on the podium in the world championship final. Swede Ove Fundin won the first of his five world titles in 1956 and New Zealander Barry Briggs won the first of his four titles the following year. Riders from these two countries would go on to win every championship, barring one, up to and including 1970.

Fundin's success in the sport saw the final move away from Wembley Stadium for the first time in 1961 as, the event was held in Malmo, Sweden. The fans went home happy as their hero successfully defended the crown that he had won for a second time the previous season.

His record number of wins was surpassed for the first time in 1979 by New Zealand's Ivan Mauger. The latter secured his sixth championship in Chorzow, Poland at the age of thirty-nine. This was considered to be old for a speedway rider at the time. Since then, Greg Hancock has become the oldest rider to win the championship when he won the 2011 grand prix series at the age of forty-one. He won again aged forty-four and forty-six!

The number of titles achieved by Mauger has been equalled but, to date, not surpassed. Swede Tony Rickardsson managed to become champion on six occasions between 1994 and 2005.

There was a major change to the format of the world championship in 1995 when a grand prix system, akin to that used in Formula 1 motor racing, was introduced. Initially this was a six-round series. It has continued to evolve over the last twenty-five plus years and the 2023 championship features ten rounds being held in eight different countries. Three of these rounds are taking place in Poland. This signifies the power shift in the sport that has taken place over the grand prix era. The crowds experienced in Poland, even for domestic events, easily surpass those seen anywhere else in the world currently and this has been the case for some time now.

The aforementioned Rickardsson is the only rider to have won the world championship under each format used so far. The current world champion is Bartosz Zmarzlik. He has won three

championships so far and is leading the standings in this year's title chase by some distance as we speak. He is the biggest threat to the record set by Mauger for a considerable period of time.

I hope you have enjoyed this look at the history of a sport that has just celebrated its centenary.

*With some help from <https://www.fimspeedway.com/>

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



The Fox

Foxes are to be found on every continent with the exception of Antarctica.

Although there are 12 species of the genus *Vulpes*, the most common and widespread one is the red fox with about 47 recognised subspecies. They appear in most folklore and culture due to their reputation for cunning. Unfortunately, in places like the UK, they have been hunted by packs of hounds which to many people is a barbaric practice. Importantly, male foxes are called dogs, reynards or tods whilst females are known as

vixens. Young cubs are known as cubs, kits or pups.

Foxes are usually smaller in size than members of the same family like wolves and jackals, and as the Red fox is the largest species of fox, the male can weigh between 9 and 19 pounds. Usually, foxes have a triangular face, pointed ears and a bushy tail. They also possess retractable claws and black whiskers.

Other fox species, in general, differ in fur colour ranging from pearly white to black-and-white and some species of fox like the Kit fox have successfully adapted to a life in the desert. Arctic foxes have tiny ears and thicker fur to keep them warm. On the other hand, Red foxes usually have an auburn pelt with white at the end of its long tail. It is true that a fox's coat changes according to the seasons, getting richer and denser during the colder months. In April, foxes moult to get rid of the dense winter coat and also the coat may change with age.

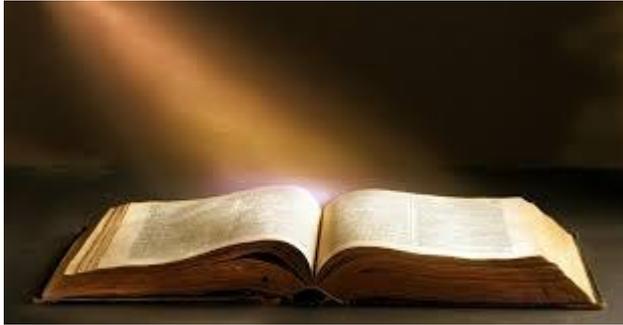
Normally, a fox will live for 1 to 3 years in the wild although some live up to the age of 10. They don't hunt in packs and Arctic foxes are known to live and hunt alone. The fox is an omnivore and eats insects, small vertebrates, reptiles and birds. Some also eat eggs and vegetation. If they have excess food, they tend to bury it under leaves to consume at a later date.

Vixens tend to be in heat for 1 to 6 days which means that their reproductive cycle lasts for 12 months. Their period of gestation lasts from 52 to 53 days and the litter size depends on the species.

Many people consider foxes to be pests as they have the tendency to attack poultry and small livestock, especially the 'urban' fox that can live for longer than their counterparts in the wild.

* Ref. Wikipedia

BIBLE TALK



Sent by Peter Smith

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

It is very important to understand this.

When you ask Jesus into your heart, you become a new person. Your sinful nature - your "old man" - dies.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

(Colossians 3:9)

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

(Romans 6:6)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

(Galatians 2:20)

(Quotes: New King James Version)

FC HALIFAX TOWN'S LEAGUE HISTORY



I have lived in the Halifax area for about sixteen years and have been going to matches at the Shay for three years. The reason I started to attend matches (even though it is not cheap to do so) was because I have always been interested in football and thought I would go and support my local club which is FC Halifax Town, and which is based in Halifax, West Yorkshire, England.

Before the formation of the club in its current guise, it was known as Halifax Town but unfortunately, due to an outstanding debt to the Inland Revenue the former went into administration at the end of 2007-2008 season. The

FA then decided that the new club should be put into the Northern Premier League Division One North which is, in effect, the eighth tier of English football, for the 2008-2009 season.

In FC Halifax's first season they managed to finish 8th outside the play-off positions. Then in the 2009-2010 season, under Neil Aspin they impressively won the league. The 2011-2012 season in the Northern Premier League (7th tier) was significant as it saw the signing of Jamie Vardy who would go on to play for Leicester City and represent the England national team. With Vardy's goals Town managed to reach the Conference North which many believed was the least they deserved.

Lee Gregory replaced Jamie Vardy who signed for Fleetwood Town, and again he was a player of a certain pedigree going on to play for Millwall and Stoke City amongst others. Town did not make it to the holy grail of the National League (5th tier) until 2012-2013 season when still under Aspin.

Many fans were disappointed when top scorer Lee Gregory went to play for Millwall for an impressive fee of £250,000. Neil Aspin was sacked in the Shaymen's third season in the National League as their form was woeful, but his successor Darren Kelly did even worse and lasted less than two months in charge. The next man in charge was caretaker manager Jim Harvey who oversaw relegation back to the National League North in 2016. But under Billy Heath, Town made an instant return to the National League before he was replaced by Jamie Fullerton who guided Town to a mediocre 16th position in the league table.

Pete Wild, who is fondly regarded at Town, replaced Jamie Fullerton but was faced with the climate of COVID-19, which forced the shortening of the season. Teams' final league positions were determined by a points per game decision which resulted with Halifax ending up in the play-off positions, but losing to Boreham Wood in the play-offs. Many of the fixtures for the 2020-2021 season were played behind closed doors and the team finished in a respectable 10th position.

Under Wild, in 2021-2022, FC Halifax finished in 4th place (which is their highest finishing position in that league) and qualified for the play-offs, but unfortunately were beaten 2-1 at home by Chesterfield in the play-off eliminator. Sadly, Pete Wild decided to go to Barrow at the end of that season and was replaced by Chris Millington, who, at the time of writing, is still at the reins.

Like other people in Halifax, I am looking forward to the new season which kicks off on Saturday 5th of August but I don't know what to expect as players have come and gone during pre-season.

With help from Wikipedia

SOME LIFE-CHANGING RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON

Florida Potatoes

Ingredients:

1lb of new cooked potatoes
1 small can of pineapple chunks
5 oz of cottage cheese
8 oz of cooked chicken or ham
1 head of chicory
Paprika pepper
Salt and pepper

Method:

Dice the potatoes. Drain the juice from the pineapple. Add the pineapple, cottage cheese and meat (cut into cubes) to the potatoes and blend gently together. Separate the leaves of chicory, wash well and drain. Arrange on a round plate radiating from the centre. Place the potato mixture in the centre and lightly sprinkle with paprika pepper.

Farm-House Tasties

Ingredients:

8 oz of potatoes, peeled and grated
8 oz of pork sausage meat
1 small onion, grated
1 apple, peeled and grated
1 egg, beaten
Salt and pepper

Method:

Drain away any excess moisture from the potatoes. Mix in the sausage meat, onion and apple, and bind together with the egg. Fry in small spoonful's in shallow fat, turning during cooking – about 7-8 minutes per side. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper and serve piping hot.

Children's favourite: Potato and Cheese Pie

Ingredients:

5 good-sized potatoes cooked and sieved
2 oz cheddar cheese, grated
2 oz of butter
Grated nutmeg
2 eggs, beaten

Method:

Add the cheese, butter, salt and pepper, nutmeg and eggs to the potatoes and beat well. Place the mixture in a well-greased pie dish which is large enough to allow the mixture to rise. Bake in a hot oven 400 F (200 C)/mark 6 for 20 minutes. Serve with tomato sauce.

Pommes au Lard

Ingredients:

1½ lb of potatoes
4 oz of bacon rashers
4 oz onion, chopped
Stock
Salt and pepper

Method:

Peel and cut the potatoes into quarters. Dice the bacon. Place the potatoes, bacon and onion in a pan, just cover with stock, and season to taste. Simmer gently until the potatoes are tender. Garnish with chopped parsley.

Surprise Eggs

Ingredients:

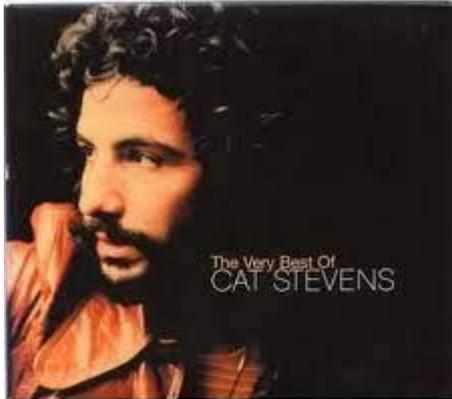
3 oz of cheese
4 hard-boiled eggs peeled and halved
8 oz of sausage meat
1 beaten egg
Breadcrumbs
A little fat

Method:

Remove the yolks from the eggs and mash with cheese and seasoning. Put mixture back into the egg halves. Sandwich together. Wrap egg in sausage meat, dip into beaten egg then in breadcrumbs. Fry in shallow fat for about 10 minutes on medium heat.

CD REVIEW – THE VERY BEST OF YUSUF CAT STEVENS

Written by Graham Townsend



Rather than review a new release this month, I thought it would be good to review an album which was released in 2005, as a result of the artist's much vaunted performance at the 2023 Glastonbury Festival.

I have to admit it had been some time since I had heard anything about this artist in recent years however, he has continued to produce material at a fairly regular interval since his debut album was released in 1967.

This album features twenty-four tracks and has a running time of almost seventy-eight minutes. Even if you're not that familiar with the man himself, you will almost certainly have heard some of his most well-known songs. Obvious examples are "Matthew and Son" which reached number two in the UK Singles Chart in 1967 and "Father and Son" which, whilst only reaching number fifty-two on the same chart when originally released in 1970, was given a new lease of life when he performed a version of the song with Ronan Keating in 2004. That version also reached number two in the chart, thus equalling the aforementioned "Matthew and Son" as his biggest hit in the UK.

US readers may be more familiar with a couple of his songs from the early 1970s namely, "Peace Train" and "Morning Has Broken" which reached number seven and six respectively on the Billboard Singles Chart. The latter is particularly poignant to me as it was played at my mother's funeral and I also seem to think at my brother's wedding.

Other notable songs included as part of this collection are "Moonshadow", "Wild World" (I love Maxi Priest's version of this), "The First Cut is the Deepest", "Lady D'Arbanville" (a much-underrated track in my opinion), "Remember the Days of the Old School Yard" and "Another Saturday Night"

His first hit single was "I Love My Dog" and it is a pleasant folk inspired song. In essence Stevens is a folk/pop singer and he has always been very good at producing quality music which encapsulates these genres.

Of the tracks I wasn't so familiar with before buying this album, I found "Sitting", "Ruby Love", "Can't Keep It In" and, album closer, "If You Want to Sing Out, Sing Out" the most enjoyable.

I think there is something for everyone here. An artist many older readers will have fond memories of and an artist that younger readers may want to learn more about after reading this and maybe listening to some of his more recent material.

MY STAR RATING - ****

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Questions:

- (1) Who invented the submarine?
- (2) What is the French word for 'heart'?
- (3) In what year did the first McDonald's restaurant open?
- (4) What nationality is the footballer, Erling Haaland?
- (5) What is the capital of the Ivory Coast?
- (6) What is the currency of Iceland?
- (7) What is the main ingredient of candy floss?
- (8) What are diapers called in England?
- (9) What nationality was the gymnast, Olga Korbut?
- (10) Who won the World Cup in 1970?
- (11) What is the Spanish word for 'government'?
- (12) When was the battle of Little Bighorn?
- (13) Which North American tribe was Geronimo chief of?
- (14) When did the first State of Origin (rugby league) take place?
- (15) Where was novelist Agatha Christie born?
- (16) Who is the newest addition to NATO?
- (17) How many days was Liz Truss Prime Minister of the UK?
- (18) What is the symbol of 12 years of marriage?
- (19) Who founded Playboy magazine?
- (20) Who is the current World PDC Darts champion?

Answers:

- (1) Cornelis Drebbel (2) Coeur (3) 15 April, 1955 (4) Norwegian (5) Yamoussoukro (6) Icelandic Krone (7) Sugar (8) Nappies (9) Russian (10) Brazil (11) Gobierno (12) June 25-26, 1876 (13) Chiricahua Apache (14) 11 July, 1980 (15) Torquay, England (16) Finland (17) 49 (18) Silk and Fine Linen (19) Hugh Hefner (20) Michael Smith

Editor's Final Word: Thank you for taking the time and the trouble to look at this E-Magazine. It would be great if you could get involved with us in some way at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.