FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – July 2023. Edition No 103.



Hello. I hope you have enjoyed the good weather we recently have experienced. Me and Brenda went to Scarborough for three nights and enjoyed ourselves; we only paid £40 a night for a hotel room and although we had few facilities, it served its purpose and was our base and allowed us to have a cheap break.

I also went to watch FC Halifax Town play at Wembley and although they won, I found it hard suffering from OCD on the day. Happily, the

brain shots I got from Julie Greenwood (Tel: 07498198988) have proved beneficial to me and my OCD has subsided dramatically.

This magazine continues to grow in readership and content, and if you want to donate to its running costs/advertise/be interviewed or submit something to be considered for publication (in a non-racist, non-sexist or non-homophobic way) please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk . Please also note that our website address is: www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk Best wishes, Dean.

MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ JUNE'S WORLD LETTERS PAGE BIBLE TALK A BRIEF HISTORY OF FORMULA ONE MOTOR RACING BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER THE THOUGHTS OF AN ORDINARY BRITISH MAN (For what it's worth) THREE INTERESTING RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON CD REVIEW – BUT HERE WE ARE BY FOO FIGHTERS ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS

<u>Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov</u>

It is a good time to buy some new underwear as a hot date is just around the corner – if you are open to the idea. Recently, you have once again been full of self-doubt, but now you must move forward with purpose as if you have nothing to lose. A homeless man will astound you with his history and incite you to be more proactive about this issue. Wipe your bottom well.

<u>Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec</u>

This month you may find yourself financially blessed and relieved that your immediate problems are easing, but do remember who helped you when you were down and out. A man with a scar on his cheek will offer you some advice that will benefit you greatly. You will soon learn you are to be a parent, so, step up to the mark and accept the responsibility. Smile.

<u>Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan</u>

Now you will realise that the face cream you have been using doesn't work, so, just accept that you look like a pool of ripples and that you are getting older. Someone may try and take advantage of you financially so be on your guard. An atheist may try and influence you but it is worth remembering that nobody really knows the answers to the big questions. Be kind.

<u>Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb</u>

You may soon have the chance to have an affair with a married person but how will you react? A man with a nose like a ski slope will surprise you with his loyalty when the chips are down. The death of an acquaintance will remind you of your mortality and the need to put one foot in front of the other however bad you feel. Make the best of this summer weather.

Pisces 20 Feb - 20 Mar

You are consuming too much junk food, so, why not turn over a new leaf and eat more greens? Some money will fall in your lap soon, but it will only allow you to paper over the cracks of your dire financial situation. A good time to be more minimal and stop chasing material things. Also, someone you trusted will try and shaft you so walk away quickly.

<u>Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr</u>

Someone will come along and offer you a great job opportunity, so, do give it some serious thought as it is a genuine offer. Your sweet tooth is reflected by your huge bulk and it is time to change your diet. You may fancy a politician you meet but can you really believe them when they tell you that they like you? A woman with a large bottom will make you smile.

<u>Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May</u>

You have been down in the dumps, so, maybe now is the time to throw yourself into a new project and get back into a familiar groove. It is also time to push the boat out and show people you are not finished and will sail on for a long time yet. You have had a health scare that has made you appreciate your fragility, but the only thing to change is your bad breath.

<u>Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun</u>

Some people think you are very smart in your expensive clothes, but now is the time to realise that you are the same as everyone else when naked. A good-looking woman may offer you the earth but is she not on the same planet as most of us. Maybe buy your partner some new lingerie if you think they would like that. Don't be afraid to let off wind if you need to.

<u>Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul</u>

You may look and act like an old trout, but you have the potential to be something great if only you would apply yourself. It is also time you started to shave on a more regular basis if you want to attract a decent partner. A foreigner may take exception to a friend's xenophobia but why not listen and learn from someone who has different experiences to you? Laugh.

<u>Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug</u>

Hold in there as the position of the planets indicates that your stock is rising. A woman who smells of garlic will give you a valuable gift that will change your life forever. It is time you stopped feeling sorry for yourself as you possess more power and influence than you realise. You should consider buying a lottery ticket as you have never been as lucky as you are now.

<u>Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep</u>

Today is the first of many good days for you – but do try and stop living in the past. A child will cheer you up with their innocence and optimism and make you appreciate all the good things you have in your life. The person you have been looking for is quite near now, so, keep your eyes and ears open. You are eating too many Danish pastries though. Use less salt.

<u>Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct</u>

You may have a lovely house but now you need to find someone to share it with you and make it into the perfect home. It's time to enjoy the sunshine but don't inflict your obese body on the world, will you? It is also true that you have many qualities but are slow to promote these while others are passing you on the career ladder. Change this state of affairs.

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ

Questions:

(1) What name is given to the formal headwear, with decorative design, normally worn as an alternative to a hat?
(2) What is the main alcoholic ingredient of the cocktail known as an "Old Fashioned"?

(3) Which venue hosted cricket's World Test Championship Final in June 2023?

(4) Which British novelist, who passed away in May 2023, wrote "London Fields" and "The Information"?

(5) OptiPlex and Inspiron are models of computer produced by which manufacturer?

- (6) Who was King of England between 1830 and 1837?
- (7) Buda and Pest, the two halves of the capital of Hungary,

are separated by which river?

- (8) What was Fleetwood Mac's only UK number one hit single?
- (9) Which company is known by the acronym BAT?

(10) Who was the first African American appointed to a cabinet position in the U.S. government?

(11) Mammals, birds, amphibians and which other species make up the four species of animals on Earth?

- (12) "Café Terrace at Night" is a famous work of art by which painter?
- (13) Porto-Novo is the capital of which African country?

(14) Julian Assange, best known as the founder of the organisation "WikiLeaks", was born in which country?

(15) Michael Dunlop, along with his late father Robert and late Uncle Joey, is best known as a competitor in which sport?

(16) The flooding of which river in China in 1931 caused the second greatest natural disaster of the 20th century?

(17) Who led RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain?

(18) In which year did BBC Radio 1 come into existence?

- (19) Ariel and Miranda are moons of which planet?
- (20) What are ossicles?

Answers

(1) Fascinator (2) Bourbon/ Rye Whiskey (3) The Oval, London (4) Martin Amis (5) Dell (6) William IV (7) Danube (8) Albatross (9) British American Tobacco (10) Robert C. Weaver (11) Reptiles (12) Vincent van Gogh (13) Benin (14) Australia (15) Motorcycle Racing (16) Yellow River (Huang He) (17) Hugh Dowding (18) 1967 (19) Uranus (20) Bones



JUNE'S WORLD

Hello everybody. I hope you're all well. The weather today is beautiful and it's forecast to continue for another week which is great – just what we need to lift our spirits and make us feel happy. We've had quite a lazy day, and we went out for a meal so that I didn't have to cook, which made a nice change. We often have meals out when we visit places like Selby. I do like cooking dinners, but we thought we would go to Langlands for a change.

When I was about 13 or 14, my grandma liked to go out on a Sunday afternoon to the Lamb and Mutton down the potteries in Castleford, for a couple of drinks. Before she went, she used to prepare the dinner and trust me to see to the joint of beef that she had put in the oven, and I'd make sure to keep basting it to make it tender. She also told me to put it on one side until she returned home about an hour later. She also saw to the Yorkshire Puddings herself – that's how I learnt to make lovely dinners including vegetables and roast potatoes.

Every school holiday (especially the big one, which lasted for about six weeks), I was allowed to go to my Auntie Chrissie's and Uncle Jim's who lived up north in a place called Stockton-on-Tees, which was then a lovely big town. My auntie used to work in a bakery, so every night when she finished work, she would bring home any buns or tarts that were left

and, consequently, because they were lovely, I piled on the weight. Also, my Auntie Chrissie paid me to clean her flat so that I could go to the pictures in the afternoon.

Before I went to Stockton, I used to visit a woman called Mrs Richardson (whose husband had died), and she asked me to run some errands after school, she only lived across the road from us. Unfortunately, when there was someone there, she told me to go stay in the cellar which was very dark. I did wonder why I had to wait in the cellar and when I told my mother, she said she's heard she was a money lender who didn't want me knowing about her business which was illegal at that time. When I told Mrs Richardson that I was going to Stockton, she gave me some money and asked me to bring a nice teapot back. But when I was coming back on the train after my visit, the train jerked and the teapot that I had bought for her fell off my knee and dropped to the floor and smashed.

I knew I couldn't give Mrs Richardson a broken teapot so I avoided seeing her anymore. I was a sensitive child and couldn't face her.

Well, that's it for now. Love June.



LETTERS PAGE

Dear Editor

Like a past contributor to this page, I think places that serve food should be unable to have dogs on their premises. I like dogs but recognise that they are unhygienic and could turn on anyone at any time. Please leave your dog at home when you are going somewhere busy like a café or to somewhere they are serving food. Thank you.

Paul Sawyer, Bristol

Dear Editor

Whilst I think celebrities are their worst own enemy by courting publicity, and should be criticised for silly or bad behaviour, I think we all should remember that we are human beings and consequently, are all fundamentally flawed.

What I am trying to say is that no one deserves to be constantly crucified for a mistake they have made, because we all have done bad things and things we regret. Find compassion in your heart to forgive people – whoever they are.

Sarah Cockcroft, Birmingham

Dear Editor

I think the railway strike has gone on far too long in England. It is surely time the unions and the government compromised and that people stopped acting like Luddites i.e., accepted some modernisation.

I think it was a dreadful mistake to privatise the railways in the UK. However, until all railways are back in public hands the union will have to deal with this terrible government. It is how it is.

Frank Smith, Barnsley

Dear Editor

I think people (especially drivers) criticise cyclists too much most of the time. However, I do think they should respect other passengers on trains and not put their bikes across entrances/exits in a carriage – this is potentially very dangerous if an accident happens. If cyclists use trains, they should show other passengers more respect, and ideally, use areas that are dedicated to them.

Simon Albright, Colchester

Dear Editor

The British Royal Family is a superfluous institution which needs to be ended if we are ever are to have a true democracy in the UK. No human being should be sycophantic towards another one and nobody is better than anyone else. We no longer live in medieval times, do we?

George Pollock, Middlesborough

Dear Editor

Like a lot of people, I am dubious of politicians and their true motives. Surely it is time for things to be more transparent so that we can see where they invest their own money and their real links with big business. Of course (out of self-interest) this is unlikely to happen as arguably most of them are in politics for themselves. We do not have a proper democracy in the UK.

Sian Knight, Manchester



BIBLE TALK

Sent by Peter Smith

The future (and the present!):

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, . . . unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, . . . having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3:7)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. But according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers. And they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2 Tim 4:3,4)

(Quotes: NKJV)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FORMULA ONE MOTOR RACING



Written by Graham Townsend

The modern incarnation of Formula One motor racing commenced with the first World Championship of Drivers in 1950. The championship was borne out of a combination of the European Grand Prix championships, held in the 1920s and 1930s, and the FIA's (Fédération Internationale de

l'Automobile) subsequent standardisation of rules which took place in 1946.

It was in 1946 that Formula One was initially defined as the premier single-seater racing category in worldwide motorsport. The sport was given various names in the early days, including Formula A and Formula I as well as Formula 1.

The first World Championship of Drivers in 1950 was based on the results of six of what were classed as the major grand prix in Europe plus the Indianapolis 500. The latter race was a part of the championship until 1960 however, it must be pointed out that it was run under separate rules and the teams/drivers who took part in the races held in Europe did not bother taking part in the race. Italian driver Giuseppe Farina was declared the first champion after the final championship race of the season on 3rd September 1950.

The first few years of the championship were dominated by Italian manufacturers with cars from Alfa Romeo, Ferrari and Maserati to the fore during this period. Other teams, such as French manufacturer Talbot and British manufacturer BRM did compete however, they met with relatively little success.

There were some significant changes in 1958 when race distances were reduced from approximately 500km down to 300km. There was also the introduction of the first version of the constructors' championship and changes to the type of fuel that could be used.

It was in the same season that Mike Hawthorn went on to become the first English driver to be world champion. Prior to his victory, the championship had been dominated by Argentinian Juan Manuel Fangio who won the title five times between 1951 and 1957. Italian Alberto Ascari was the only other champion during that period being successful in 1952 and 1953. A little footnote to Hawthorn's title win was that he was successful due to a great act of sportsmanship from compatriot and rival Stirling Moss. In Portugal, Hawthorn stalled his car and if he had received outside assistance from officials he would have been disqualified from the race. Moss helped Hawthorn in averting this happening and eventually, Hawthorn managed to get his Ferrari back up to a speed where he managed to get it in gear. He eventually finished the race in second place. This was crucial at the end of the season as he defeated Moss by a mere one point for the title.

The sport has developed at a rapid pace over the years. There have been so many technical changes over the last sixty plus years that it would be impossible to go through them all. Today, Formula One is a truly global sport, with races taking place in countries all over the world, from Australia to Brazil, from Monaco to Japan.

In recent times the constructors' championship has been dominated by Mercedes and Red Bull. They have won every title between them since 2010. During that period, Mercedes had eight consecutive title wins from 2014 to 2021. Despite this astonishing achievement, they still both have a way to go to catch Ferrari who have managed sixteen championships in total. The majority of those were won between 1975 - 1983 and 1999 - 2008.

On the day I am writing this article, Red Bull achieved their 100th race win with a victory for reigning world champion Max Verstappen at the 2023 Canadian Grand Prix. This was an eighteenth win in the last nineteen races for the team and Verstappen's twentieth victory in the last twenty-seven races!

In terms of drivers, Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton jointly hold the record for most world championships to date, with seven each. It says a lot for the ability of Juan Manuel Fangio that his previous record of five titles stood for forty-five years until Schumacher equalled it before passing it in 2003. Schumacher is also the only driver to date who has won five consecutive championships.

I hope you have all enjoyed reading this brief history of Formula One as much as I have enjoyed researching and writing it.

*With a little help from Wikipedia.



BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER

<u>Squirrel</u>

Squirrels are part of a family that includes small or medium-sized rodents. The squirrel family is composed of tree squirrels, ground squirrels (including chipmunks and prairie dogs) and flying squirrels. Squirrels were introduced by man to Australia but are naturally found in Eurasia, Africa and the Americas. Squirrels are most closely related to the mountain beaver and to the dormice. Squirrels are usually small in stature ranging from 10-14 cm (the African pygmy squirrel) to 1.27 m (The Bhutan giant flying squirrel). In general, squirrels have thin bodies and long bushy tails and large eyes. The density of their fur depends on the species and the coat colour of squirrels also depends on the species – and often within a species. It is true to say that most squirrels have longer hind limbs than fore limbs. Tree squirrels are able to descend a tree head-first due to their ability to rotate their ankles 180 degrees.

Although squirrels are usually herbivorous (eating seeds and nuts) they will sometimes consume insects and small vertebrates. They live in most habitats with the exception of the driest deserts and, tropical rainforest and semiarid deserts. Tree-dwelling squirrels depend heavily on their excellent vision and they also benefit from having large incisors (for gnawing) and cheek teeth (for grinding) like other rodents.

Unfortunately, many squirrels die in the first year of life while adult squirrels can have a lifespan of 5 to 10 years in the wild, and 10 to 20 in captivity. * Ref. Wikipedia

THE THOUGHTS OF AN ORDINARY BRITISH MAN (For what it's worth)

I am a man who thinks everyone should have the opportunity to speak their mind. I have thus submitted this article to be published in this magazine. **Tony Davis**.

Homosexuality

I think it's clear that people cannot help their sexual orientation, and it's good that people can express themselves openly without fear of retribution. I am however, fed of having the LGBTQIA+ agenda rammed down my throat and maintain that heterosexuality is the norm as it enables us to reproduce as a species.

Millionaires

We are constantly fed (by capitalists) the idea that we should always strive to become as rich as possible, in any way open to us. Of course, some people win a large amount of money but it seems obvious to me that most really wealthy people have exploited other weaker people to get where they are today. It is not possible to accumulate vast wealth in an honest way unless you are very lucky. In my opinion, money is just a key to open many doors but should not be worshipped like many people seem to do – at the expense of others.

I must admit that when I meet very wealthy people, I do wonder how and where they got their extreme wealth from. People like Margaret Thatcher worked hard to nurture the idea that "there is no such thing as society" and that it is every man/woman for themselves – she was not a good person and I hope she is where she belongs.

<u>Gambling</u>

I understand that many people enjoy a flutter and have their gambling under control. But of course, it poses a great problem for people who have an addictive personality and results in heartache for them and their families. It is unacceptable that some celebrities accept money to advertise gambling and they should hang their heads in shame. I suppose that all we can hope

for, in the future, is that gambling advertisements are outlawed like tobacco ones were in the UK.

Boxing

I don't think boxing should be classified as a sport when really it is legalised violence from which a few people make a lot of money. Who in their right mind can enjoy watching two people trying to injure each other with the ultimate aim of knocking their opponent unconscious? I am sorry but I don't agree with boxing at all.

<u>Capitalism</u>

I think that unfortunately, Capitalism is unlikely to be replaced by a fairer and more humane economic system. However, ironically, I am of the opinion that true competition is good for everyone and makes life more interesting. I don't understand though, the need some greedy individuals have to amass as much wealth and property as possible whilst at the same time making life increasingly difficult for people lower down the economic food chain. It could be argued that greed and selfishness are part of the human condition, but you would think (if it was allowed) that we would have evolved more and lived in a fairer and more equal society today.

<u>Alcohol</u>

Even though I enjoy my real ales, I am fully aware that alcohol is probably the most dangerous drug in society – just look at the number of hospital beds that are taken up by alcohol-related illnesses. It is a tough one as you can argue that society needs a drug and it just happens to be alcohol which makes some people very rich.

Politics

My attitude may be negative but I think nothing (except for cosmetic changes) really changes whoever is in power. In Britain, we have arguably two right-wing parties who are going to fight to win the next General Election. The rich will stay rich and the poor (with the exception of those who get rich and pull the ladder up after themselves) will stay basically poor. We don't have a real democracy in Britain with an unelected second house and with very rich people running the media influencing how people think and vote.

Meritocracy

It is good for people to be rewarded for their efforts, but you need a strong safety net for people who work hard for little, and to help the vulnerable in society. In England, we have Public School system which clearly favours the rich and enables them to get the plum jobs and positions of power. Even the Grammar School system is now unfair as some ordinary parents cannot afford private tuition to put their kids in a stronger position to pass the Eleven Plus – these schools are thus elitist like those in private sector. It is thus hard for an ordinary person to make financial progress in life without eating another dog.

The Monarchy

The Monarchy is one of the biggest con tricks in life with everyone being encouraged by the media to be subservient to a rich and dysfunctional family in London. The King's position as Head of State serves to show how they have nothing to do with democracy, and in my

opinion, everyone should have equal status – no individual should have to bow or curtsy to another human being.

The Monarchy has also a long tradition of profiting from the exploitation of the slave trade in countries that were part of the Empire.

Footballers

As everyone knows, some footballers are paid exorbitant amounts for kicking a ball around although you can argue that they entertain millions of people worldwide. It could also be argued that many players are just glorified yobs with lots of money and governments should step in to stop them earning such obscene amounts.

It was good that Manchester City won the treble, but would Pep Guardiola be as successful with a shoe-string budget like Brian Clough worked with? And how would he go on managing a team like Scunthorpe United or Hartlepool?

Honours List

I think that the whole idea of honours being given to certain people is a complete joke. Most of the top honours are simply awarded to people who usually already have wealth and sometimes fame. It is true that ordinary people are sometimes thrown a few crumbs from the top table like a minor honour. I for one am not taken in by the honours system.

<u>Actors</u>

Acting must be one of the most over-rated professions in modern life. To be a good actor you must have a good memory and be able to pretend well – it is not rocket-science and most people pretend on a daily basis anyway. It is not a profession that is really open to everyone as far as I can see, and is full of people with enormous egos with a 'look at me' mentality. As you can probably tell, I think acting is too highly-thought of, and people like nurses and doctors deserve accolades and not actors.

I hope you have enjoyed reading some of my views and hope you will share some of yours, in this publication, in the future.

THREE INTERESTING RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



2 oz of sugar Grated rind of two oranges

Treacle and Orange Pudding

Ingredients:

(Use a ¹/₂ pint pudding bowl)

Butter for greasing 3 fl. oz of golden syrup 4 oz of self-raising flour 4 oz of shredded vegetable suet 4 oz of fresh white breadcrumbs 4 fl. oz of milk

Method:

Lightly butter the bowl and spoon the golden syrup into the bottom.

Put the flour, suet, breadcrumbs, sugar and orange rind into a bowl and stir to combine. Stir in enough milk to give a dropping consistency. Spoon into on top of the syrup.

Cover the bowl with buttered parchment and foil, both pleated in the middle. Secure by tying string under the rim of the bowl.

Put the bowl into a steamer or saucepan of simmering water, making sure the water comes halfway up the side of the bowl – if using a saucepan. Cover and steam, topping up with boiling water as needed, for about 3 hours. Turn out the pudding, and serve with the heated golden syrup and orange juice as a sauce, and custard if desired.



Chocolate Delice

Ingredients:

4 oz of fresh brown breadcrumbs
3 oz of demerara sugar
2 ¹/₂ oz of drinking chocolate powder
2 tablespoons of instant coffee
¹/₂ pint of double cream
¹/₄ pint of single cream
2 oz of plain dark chocolate, grated

Method:

In a bowl, mix together the breadcrumbs, sugar, drinking chocolate and coffee granules. In another bowl, whip the creams together until they form soft

peaks. Spoon half of the cream into 6 glass serving dishes. Cover with breadcrumb mixture and then

Spoon half of the cream into 6 glass serving dishes. Cover with breadcrumb mixture and then with the remaining cream. Chill for at least 6 hours, or overnight for best results. Sprinkle generously with the grated chocolate just before serving.



Chicken Noodle Soup

Ingredients:

900 ml of vegetable stock for Miso soup mix

- 1 boneless chicken breast (about 175g)
- 1 teaspoon of fresh ginger
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 50g of rice or wheat noodles
- 2 tablespoons of sweetcorn, canned or frozen
- 2-3 mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 spring onions, shredded
- 2 teaspoons of soy sauce, plus extra for serving

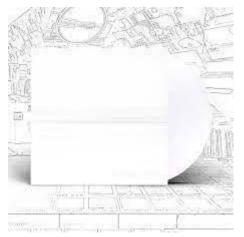
Mint or basil leaves and a little shredded chilli (optional to serve)

Method:

Pour the stock into a pan and add the chicken breast, ginger and garlic. Bring to the boil, and then reduce the heat. Partly cover and simmer for 20 minutes until the chicken is tender. Put the chicken on a board and shred into bite-size pieces using a couple of forks. Return the chicken to the stock with the noodles, sweetcorn, mushrooms, spring onion and soy sauce. Simmer for 3-4 minutes until the noodles are tender.

Ladle into two bowls and scatter over the remaining spring onion, mint and basil leaves and chilli, if using.

Serve with extra soy sauce.



CD REVIEW – BUT HERE WE ARE BY FOO FIGHTERS

Written by Graham Townsend

This is the eleventh studio album by the Dave Grohl fronted rock band formed in Seattle, USA in 1994. It is their first album since the passing of their drummer Taylor Hawkins in March 2022 but also since the passing of Grohl's mother Virginia in August of the same year. The album is dedicated to the both of them. This is also the first Foo Fighters album I have purchased, other than their greatest hits album which was released in 2009.

Taylor's passing was one of the main reasons for buying

this album, not out of some kind of morbidity, but, to see how such a well-established and popular rock band would react to the loss of one of its integral members.

This effort features ten tracks and the running time is just over forty-eight minutes. Album opener "Rescued", track two "Under You", "Show Me How", "The Teacher" and "The Glass" have all been released as singles. The album itself entered the UK Albums Chart at number one in its first week on sale.

There were always going to be strong references to Hawkins (and for that Virginia too) throughout the piece. This is no more obvious than in "Hearing Voices", the title track itself, which is song four on the album, and closing track "Rest". The latter references "the warm Virginia sun".

I actually really like the ending to "Hearing Voices". "But Here We Are" is a strong title track. I can see it as a single if the band feels the need to release further singles from the album. It says a lot that five tracks out of ten have already come out as singles. It shows the quality of the music at the same time as the commercial appeal of the majority of the content.

The first four tracks are classic Foo Fighters material, in my opinion before "The Glass" slows things down. Even so, it is a melodic cut which I really like listening to. The other

ballads are "Beyond Me", which is very listenable and the aforementioned "Rest" which is very melancholic.

"Nothing at All" gets things going again. I can imagine this being a live favourite in a big stadium. "Show Me How" features some nice harmonies between Grohl and his daughter Violet. "The Teacher", which lasts for over ten minutes, is an epic piece of classic rock. Just when you think it's over, it goes on to reach new levels. I feel they are channelling their inner Metallica in places on this one. There is plenty of raw emotion thrown in here too.

It's difficult to pick fault with much that is on offer here. Fans will be delighted with what they hear when listening to this. There is plenty of good quality rock music on offer with a few interludes but, even then, things hold up pretty well. It must have been tough for Grohl to express the grief he has experienced in recent months, in the way he has, but, he has done a fantastic job.

MY STAR RATING - ****

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Who first mass-produced toothpaste?
- (2) What did Madame Curie famously discover?
- (3) What is French for lawn mower?

(4) Who played Betty Turpin in the British soap Coronation Street?

(5) Which is the second biggest county in the UK?

- (6) How do you say 'dustbin' in Spanish?
- (7) Who is currently the richest person in the world?
- (8) What is the smallest state in the US?
- (9) What is the largest banknote in circulation in the UK?
- (10) Which King of France was Marie Antoinette married to?
- (11) What is the main language spoken in Brazil?
- (12) Which American comedian won an Oscar for his performance in 'The Sunshine Boys'?
- (13) Where is Tierra del Fuego?
- (14) Who wrote the novel 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?
- (15) A 'pathetic fallacy' is what?
- (16) What does the word 'innuendo' mean?
- (17) Where did Molly Malone push her wheelbarrow?
- (18) What is an a la carte menu in a restaurant?
- (19) Which was the first town in Normandy to be liberated by the Allies in 1944?
- (20) How old was the footballer Pele when he died?

Answers:

(1) Colgate, in a jar, in the 1870s (2) Radium and Polonium (3) Tondeuse a gazon (4) Betty Driver (5) Lincolnshire (6) Cubo de basura (7) Bernard Arnault (8) Rhode Island (9) £50 (10) Louis XVI (11) Portuguese (12) George Burns (13) It is divided between Chile and Argentina (14) Thomas Hardy (15) The attribution of human feelings and responses to inanimate things or animals, especially in art and literature (16) An allusive or oblique remark or hint, typically a suggestive or disparaging one (17) Dublin, Ireland (18) A choice of individually priced dishes for each course (19) Sainte Mere Eglise (20) 82

Editor's Final Word: Thank you for taking the time and the trouble to read this e-magazine. If you want to contact us, you can do so at: <u>dean@fthm.org.uk</u> Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.