

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH - September 2023. Edition No 105



Hello. I hope you are well and in good heart when you read this magazine.

This month's edition is dedicated to my close friend Brenda Condoll who for more than twenty-seven years, has helped me in many ways – and continues to do so. Brenda has many health problems but you only really know about them if you ask her how she is. This month, she will be 72 but looks much younger than her years – as do many black people. I do hope she is still around for a long time to share the good and the bad times with me. Thank you, for all your help and encouragement Brenda.

If you would like to contribute to the magazine/advertise/donate to its running costs (in a non-sexist, non-racist and non-homophobic way) please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean Charlton.

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

If you continue to play hard to get, you may find yourself playing permanently alone. Put your cards on the table and wear your heart on your sleeve. An African woman with child may genuinely need your help this month so don't turn your back on her as you can remember what it was like to be down and out. Try a

different type of mascara. Give more.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You will clearly not go blind enjoying what you do, but do look after the whole of your body and avoid a premature death. It is a good time to start planning for Christmas as it will soon be here, but remember that there is more to it than tinsel and mistletoe. If you're involved with a long-term project, enjoy the journey as it's as important as the destination. Smile more.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

This month a Turkish man will delight you with his fine cuisine, but will you be able to afford the bill? For much of your life you have given, but now is the time to reap what you've sown as you deserve it. Do refrain from judging the friend who wears too much makeup as she is covering up more than her face. Go on a much-needed diet as you're clearly obese.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

Someone will offer to help you this week so don't look a gift horse in the mouth and accept the ride. Recently, you have been in an emotional rut but developments will soon have you walking with a spring in your step. Lots of sunshine will flood into your life and you should savour every minute of it as it will soon pass and everything will seem mundane again.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

A weird woman will be extremely kind to you and make you realise that we are all human with many flaws. Live and let live. You may not be one for clubs and tribal activity, but now you would benefit from branching out and being with other like-minded people. Don't try and sell your body if you're hard up as it's not worth very much. Start keeping pigeons.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

An exotic dancer will come into your life and give it a new rhythm – you will learn more than to tango and the Samba. You will be offered a large amount of money that will keep you in

bread and jam for years, but will the price be too high to pay? This week you will understand that a pair of old, comfortable shoes is worth ten new, shiny pairs that hurt your feet. Laugh.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

When you were younger, people may have shunned you because you were a bit different, but now is the time, when you will amaze everyone and stand out with extreme excellence from the crowd. A woman with a troubled mind will be rude to you but let it go over your head as we have all been in that position. Copy your generous friend and stop being such a tight git.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

You are clearly too eager to judge others and come to the wrong conclusion about someone, so, why not now take a step back and understand that we live in a world of many flowers. Someone who makes you seem good-looking will ask you for help but are they genuine? A greedy politician will leave you feeling that they have no real idea how to lead a good life.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

Many people think you are a soft touch, but now is the time to show your true metal and power forward to claim what is rightly yours. Try not to be too hard on the drunken fool who clearly has problems and needs compassion. Stop putting those who have nothing but front and confidence on a pedestal as no one is better than anyone else. Try to be more creative.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

Good times lie ahead for you with an abundance of love and warmth coming your way shortly. It might however, be a good idea to stop consuming enough food for three people. A brilliant idea will come to you soon that will completely change your life for the better. There is no need to follow an organised religion as you are on the right track. Help weaker people.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

A white witch will prove very helpful to you in the near future and prove to you that you should not judge someone by their cauldron but how they are as a person. Split a huge task into bite-size pieces and you will manage. If you are having hot flushes at the moment, then ignore stupid men or pause to let how you are feeling pass. You need to eat more fresh fruit.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

Give the time of day to the fool who often talks a lot of rubbish as amongst it may be some valuable and priceless information. Maybe now is the time to stop smoking. On a brighter note, you will soon come into a lot of money so know who your real friends are and act accordingly. Your diet is quite poor at the moment so consume less Coke and it will improve.

AN INTERVIEW WITH OWEN AVERY



Firstly Owen, can you tell us a little bit about yourself? I'm quite friendly. I like to get to know people. If you want to stop and have a chat with me, I'm quite happy to do so.

Are you still studying? Yes, I'm still at college. I'm studying science, maths and geography at 'A' level.

What are you hoping this leads to? Hopefully some kind of engineering-based project but, I'm

not exactly sure yet.

What is it like being in college? It's quite hard in some aspects but, it also gives you plenty of free time to do what you want.

Do you have a good social life? Yes, I do. I have a lot of friends. I go out a lot and meet them.

What do you do when you're not at college? I like to watch Formula 1 when it's on.

What do you particularly like about Formula 1? The engineering aspect of it appeals to me. I watch every race really. I'm lucky really cos we have Sky Sports at home.

What about football? I like football and I support Arsenal.

Why do you support Arsenal when you live in Yorkshire? I suppose it's mainly down to my mum. She has supported them for more or less her entire life.

Do you have any views on politics or, do you feel you're too young for all that? My mum sort of drags me into discussions about it but, I wouldn't describe myself as left-wing, right-wing or anything really although, everything seems like a shambles right now.

Do you think you'll have any interest in it as you get older? It does kind of interest me a bit and I do think I'll take more interest as I get older.

Is it true that you have been in the Boys Brigade? It is yes. Every Wednesday night I go there. It's almost like a youth club.

Do you wear a uniform? Yes, we do.

Is it related to the armed forces? Not really. It's more like a charity that helps to keep young boys off the streets.

So why do you wear a uniform? It's like to show what you represent.

What happens on a typical evening at the Boy's Brigade? We do some badge work. We earn them. I've got plenty as I've been a member for thirteen years now.

Did you want to be a member by choice or did your mum make you go? I think it was a bit of both because they came into school to see us and I thought, "I might like to do this", and my mum also thought I might like to do it.

How long do the meetings last? I get there half an hour before most of the others to help the officers out with the younger members.

Are you an officer? Not yet. I'm classed as an NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) as I'm too young at the moment to be a fully-fledged officer.

I believe you've been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, is that related to the Boys' Brigade? The Boys' Brigade does the Queen's Badge, which is like an equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I'm doing the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award on top of the stuff at the Boys' Brigade.

And what does that entail? You have to do six months of physical activity, one hour per week. Then you need to do a skill. A skill involves helping out somewhere so, in my case I'm helping out at the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

What is it like being a volunteer at the RSPCA? It's quite good fun to be honest.

Have you been bitten by any animals yet? No not yet thankfully!

What other interests do you have? I like Star Wars. I've been interested in it from a young age. I really like the films and LEGO; I love building the Star Wars LEGO sets.

Are they expensive to buy? It depends. It varies based on the size of the sets that you want to build. There's one that I really want. It costs about £120 and it's a LEGO AT-AT Walker.

What does it look like? Like a massive bug but also like an armoured tank and it can walk.

Any other interests you'd like to tell us about? I do like gaming every now and again.

Any particular games you enjoy playing? Apex Legends, Overwatch and Call of Duty.

So, when do you leave college? I'm doing my 'A' levels next year. I've done my mock exams and I'll get the results of those in September.

Are you looking to go to university? I'm leaning more towards doing an apprenticeship than going to university.

It'll save you from going into debt! Yes. I think my mum wants me to choose an apprenticeship too, because of the money. Plus, you can sometimes get an apprenticeship where you can do a degree as part of it so, you get paid and learn at the same time.

Do you think you'll get married one day? Maybe. I'm a bit young to think about that at the moment!

Do you think you'll always live in Halifax or do you want to try and find out what it is like living somewhere else? I've no idea on that at this stage of my life.

How do you feel about the future? Hopeful but, we'll have to see how it goes.

Thanks for your time, Owen! Thank you.

JUNE'S WORLD



Another month has gone by so I know it's time to write another article for my son Dean. I'll begin by saying that I hope you are keeping well.

The weather today is lovely which is a nice change as we have been having some mixed weather this last week or so. We still continue to go out to different places which is always very nice. On Monday, we went to Selby as

usual, and now the staff at the Hub have begun to talk to us after many years of going there. I think they are used to us by now, but in their defence, they are always very busy.

We like to go to different places as you never know when you'll be unable to go anymore. We also like to go for walks to try and keep fit, but we've not yet got the electric bikes that we were on about buying. We said we were talking to two people who owned them called Gina and Colin, and although they are twenty years younger than myself and my husband, they still felt we would benefit from having one and pointed out that the bikes do most of the work for you, and that you can adjust the brakes to the speed that's suitable for you.

Last week we went to Castleford and to the Potteries which is where I was born; there had been a lot of changes where I once lived. I mentioned in an earlier article that I loved living in the Potteries as there were so many places to see and visit. Just opposite where I lived, was a pub called The Eagle and the building is one of those that has not been demolished over the years. The terrace houses opposite The Eagle have all been demolished, and where I used to live, is a big garage and forecourt where cars are repaired. But although Mrs Fryer's shop and Miss Marshall's chemist still remain, they now have different uses. The fish shops in the Potteries are also still there.

We went to Allerton Bywater last week in order to sit by the canal, eat our picnic, and watch the boats go by, when suddenly, I tried to adjust my chair and went over backwards – of course, all you think about is that nobody saw it. We then decided to go home and, on the way, I started to feel pain which became worse as we neared home. Once home, I took Paracetamol and since then I've been in a lot of pain in my ribs and neck and will bide my time until they heal. I know they will get better as I once came off of my bicycle and I healed after four or five weeks. I will take more care from now on and not take any more chances.

The weather is changing and it looks like it could rain soon.

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

AOAMSD 15

Written by Krishna Francis



Timing is not my forte! If this makes it into the August issue it'll be more by luck than judgement.

I've spent the day playing around and suddenly realised there was a deadline approaching. It's not like I haven't been busy, just not today.

Two weeks ago, I was in France, listening to bands play at an amphitheatre overlooking the Mediterranean. The weather was balmy and the people were friendly. What wasn't to like? It was really quite delightful. I met lots of lovely people and the hostel I stayed in was incredibly helpful. Even when my catheter bypassed causing me to awaken in a bed soaked in something that wasn't sweat, I explained and they were so unfussy that it was humbling. I like France.

Even in its peculiar elements it was simply delightful. Public transport fell into two categories. The buses were so simple. They have a mechanical ramp that comes out from the middle of the bus. Other travellers would tell the driver and he'd press a button and out it would come. I never even got asked for money. Just wheeled onto the middle of the bus and off it would go. The trains though.... Yikes! When we arrived in France, we had to catch a taxi from the airport to Agde, a nearby train station. This was due to the lateness of the plane meaning they cancelled the regular shuttle bus. The taxi driver was pathological about the state of her vehicle. Being in a wheelchair I had to pull up to the car to get in. Within seconds she was telling me to watch out for scratches. When we arrived at the station before all my companions had exited the car, she was getting busy with some spray cleaner and a jiffy cloth! That was before we even got to the trains!

Turns out you're ideally supposed to phone two days in advance. Two days?! Luckily, the guards at Agde station were forgiving and we got to our destination without too much bother. However, knowing this, I made sure I was booked onto the sleeper train from Carcassonne to Paris that would begin my journey home. I even got a French person to do it for me. Thus, it was a huge surprise when I arrived at the station in good time to be told that the sleeper train doesn't have room for wheelchairs. It was infuriatingly odd but the guards were so friendly that it all just felt like a bad day at the office. They even paid for a taxi to Toulouse and a hotel room so that I could get the morning train to Paris. Except when I arrived at the station bleary eyed after being up half the night sorting it all out, I still managed to miss the train to Paris. You see, whilst they have lifts in most of the stations, you can't always get in them without a guard. At least if you're a wheelchair user. It took me a long time to find a guard. In fact, it happened by accident when I attempted an illegal move of wheeling across the tracks. I was spotted by an attendant who warned me off this manoeuvre and radioed a guard who came and found me. He began taking me to the relevant platform but too late so that as we reached the lift under the platform, we could hear the train above us rumbling towards the delights of Paris minus me.

What ended up happening involved a chase across country to catch a plane back to England. But that's another story. Perhaps I'll tell you next month...

Well, I missed that deadline then. You have probably guessed as much from reading this piece here which is almost directly below the last piece which was supposed to be in the August issue. However, time is only something to be used as a guideline. It can be used as an excellent device to focus the mind. In my positive moments I feel that hard deadlines are boundaries in the same way as stories have ends and beginnings.

Only when you reach the point beyond a deadline do you really get to see your true worth.

Thus inspired, my adventure to get home was based on the moment when I discovered, stood by a helpful guard, that I'd missed my Paris connection and was doomed to stay in Toulouse forever. Luckily, I remembered that there are two circular flights a week from Manchester to Beziers where I had first arrived in France. I recalled that the flight out left at about 2.30. It was just after 8. I had no charge left on my phone and my internet would not connect without Wi-Fi. That is the sort of situation I thrive in.

I found the first train to Beziers. It was free of any platform issues and would get me into the station at about 10. All the stations, I'd encountered thus far had charging points and Wi-Fi. With this knowledge as my armour, I jumped on that train and headed off hopefully towards home.

Reaching Beziers, I did the important work of grabbing a coffee and a pastry. I found a charging point and connected to the Wi-Fi. There was a plane at 2.30. There were (expensive) tickets. I booked one and settled down to enjoy my coffee and read my book. I would arrive home on the week of the book group meeting and didn't want to seem slack by allowing my troubles to get in the way of finishing the book. At the appointed time, I went to the bus stop where a shuttle bus to the airport was due in ten minutes. After 12 minutes, with no sign of the correct bus I asked the driver of a bus that arrived what I could do. A passenger getting on the bus addressed me in confused French saying that he knew a way to get to the airport. We both dropped our attempts at French when we realised, we were both English. He told me the bus would go to a place where we could get a connection to the airport. I jumped/wheeled on board and we set off.

We got to the place where the connection was to arrive and set about looking for the required stop for the airport bus. A friendly local told us where the stop was but also informed us that no bus to the airport left from there. My new friend assured him that he'd travelled on that bus to get from the airport to the train station on his arrival. Whatever the truth of this, the friendly local seemed certain of its incorrectness. He backed up this perception by showing us the side of his car. It was a works vehicle for the local transport organisation. After some pushing, he admitted that the bus we sought did in fact go past the airport but about 1 km distant and it only stopped on a dual carriageway. We had just over an hour and a half till the flight left. The airport shuttle had already gone even if we had been able to get back to the station which was a good mile away now. Faced with this situation, we were stuck with having to take the bus on offer. To add to our difficulties its access provision was a lift in the side of the bus that took about 5 minutes to get organised and the driver insisted on doing all of the safety checks, including strapping me in in about four different ways. He was a genial man and solidly built, he was efficient and deliberate and none of his movements could be considered speedy but eventually we were moving.

The transport worker was completely correct. The bus did indeed stop on a dual carriageway. During our tense journey with all eyes on any visible timepieces and all fingers crossed, James and I, for we were now firm friends, discussed what should be done on arrival. James suggested he could run on ahead and make sure the airport staff knew of our existence. Not wishing to be mistrustful and fearing a lack of drop kerb at the bus stop, I countered with the possibility that I might need his help to be able to get going once the bus had deposited us. So it was that we waved the bus off, then between us wobbled down off the pavement and crossed the busy road making crazy gestures to the drivers so they didn't accidentally run us over. Then began the running. In the midday heat of southern France, with a pack on his back, James jogged beside me and my chair as we traversed the 1km journey to the airport. We arrived 40 minutes before the departure time to discover that, thankfully the flight had been delayed. Phew!

That's it really. I got home safely and it all seemed like an anti-climax to arrive back in rainy Britain with a rail system I understood and a language I could use with appropriate skill. The final detail is that James had had the foresight to record a section of our adventure and he shared the video with me. If the technology is available, I'll share it here. If not, then be assured if the whole holiday amounted to something magnificent it was the beauty of that final push for home that came about by accident, but demonstrated what can be achieved with a little bit of luck and a lot of willpower.

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MUSIC QUIZ



Questions:

- (1) Which brothers formed the skiffle/rock and roll band the Rattlesnakes in 1955?
- (2) "High Energy" was a 1984 hit for which female vocalist?
- (3) Phil Manzanera, Andy Mackay and Paul Thompson were all members of which English rock band who were prominent in the 1970s?
- (4) Which music genre, a type of electronic dance music that emerged in London in the early 2000s, draws influences from jungle, dancehall, and hip hop?
- (5) Which Sheffield band's 2007 album was called Favourite Worst Nightmare?
- (6) Which Cuban-American vocalist was originally backed by the Miami Sound Machine?
- (7) Which pop group had the 1969 hit "In the Year 2525"?
- (8) Who performed her Madame X Tour between September 2019 and March 2020 in support of her album of the same name?
- (9) Which American rapper has the nickname "Mr Worldwide"?
- (10) Which 1981 song was the best-selling Billboard single of the 1980s?
- (11) Allan Williams was booking agent and first manager of which Liverpool band?
- (12) Jonas, Linn, and Jenny Berggren were members of which Scandinavian pop group?
- (13) Taron Egerton portrayed which English musician in the 2019 biopic "Rocket man"?

- (14) "Hello darkness, my old friend / I've come to talk with you again" is the opening to which Simon & Garfunkel song?
- (15) John Fogarty is best known as lead singer with which band?
- (16) Which artist had UK Top 20 singles titled "Stepping Out" and "It's Different for Girls"?
- (17) Which thrash metal band, from New York City, were formed in 1981 by Scott Ian and Dan Lilker?
- (18) Al Jarreau sang the theme tune to which 1980s comedy-crime drama?
- (19) Which 1960s frontman was born Glyn Geoffrey Ellis in Manchester, England in 1945?
- (20) Which Icelandic band, fronted by Bjork, had a 1988 hit with the song "Birthday"?

Answers

- (1) Gibb Brothers/Bee Gees (2) Evelyn Thomas (3) Roxy Music (4) Grime (5) Arctic Monkeys (6) Gloria Estefan (7) Zager and Evans (8) Madonna (9) Pitbull (10) "Physical" by Olivia Newton-John (11) The Beatles (12) Ace of Base (13) Elton John (14) "The Sound of Silence" (15) Creedence Clearwater Revival (16) Joe Jackson (17) Anthrax (18) Moonlighting (19) Wayne Fontana (20) The Sugarcubes

LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

As an older UK citizen, can I just say how ageist I find the UK to be. Since I became an older person, I have found that people are more disrespectful to me and my wife, and on occasions, we are treated as if we are invisible and not worth bothering with.

I think young people today are silly to act as if they will never be old themselves and fail to realise that time passes so quickly. I also think that young and old alike should be treated with the same respect, for we all have a role to play in society – and have to live together.

Melvyn Tordoff, Manchester

Dear Editor

I think that many of the letters that appear on this page are very left-wing in nature, and I would like to offer an alternative point of view.

I understand that we should aim for better living standards for all, but I don't see anything wrong with the owners of a business (who have taken all the financial risks to set it up – and continue to do so) sharing a larger part of the profit. It takes courage to go it alone and create something new, but at the same time, I think it is possible to treat your employees well and remain in business.

I also think there is a huge role for the private sector to play in an economy, but I do agree with those who say public services should be owned by the public, and that much of nationalisation in Britain should be reversed.

Henrietta Yates, Great Yarmouth

Dear Editor

It is obviously amazing that we live on a planet we call Earth, in the universe. It seems absurd that people in power don't do more to help protect the planet and reduce climate change. I was horrified to learn that Rishi Sunak is still promoting the use of fossil fuels and has granted licences to exploit more of them in the future. Humans always seem to put greed before the environment instead of looking after it for the generations who have yet to come.

Sarah Wilkinson, Edenborough

Dear Editor

I live in a small town like Halifax, where I understand this magazine is produced.

Can I just say that I am sick and tired of 'beggars' constantly asking me for money even when I am sat outside a café, when I know for a fact that they live in another part of town and consequently, are not actually homeless. Recently, I asked a policeman if begging was illegal and he said yes – but the police in my town seem to do nothing about the problem.

I am all for helping people who are down on their luck, but I am of the opinion that many beggars in my area are just con artists ripping off people who themselves haven't got much.

Robert Stonewall, Ashton-under-Lyne

Dear Editor

I find the idea that there is no meaning for people being on this planet in the universe (Albert Camus) a bit frightening, but at the same time, liberating. If this life is all we have, and there is no supernatural being waiting to punish us for our so-called misdemeanours, then we are free to live as we want to, although I would suggest this also means we have more of an ethical and moral responsibility to each other and to all other living beings.

I for one, can't see the point in praying to something I can't even prove exists – can you?

Heather Rodwell, London

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE KINKS



The Kinks were formed in North London in 1963 by the brothers Ray and Dave Davies, and were basically a rock band that dabbled successfully in other musical styles. It was, in particular, a major force in the rock world of the 1960s but unfortunately, their commercial success in the US was largely hampered by

their touring ban there in 1965. It was their third single “You Really Got Me” (penned by Ray Davies) that got them noticed here and across the pond, topping the charts in the UK and reaching the Top 10 in the US.

Significantly, they led the way lyric-wise through albums like “Face to Face”, “Something Else” and “The Village Green Preservation Society” amongst others and were unique in their observational style. They had a massive transatlantic hit with the song “Lola” in 1970, and later experienced a revival with the US hit “Come Dancing”. But it is important to note that other big acts like the Jam and Van Halen covered their songs and thus increased their record sales and royalties.

The original line-up comprised of: Ray Davies (lead vocals and rhythm guitar), Dave Davies (lead guitar and vocals), Mick Avory (drums and percussion) and Pete Quaife (bass). Although, over time, the make-up of the band altered, the Davies brothers were a permanent fixture and driving force in the band. Only a fool would not acknowledge their success as a recording and touring band, for although they have experienced tumultuous fortunes, they have had five top-ten hits in the Billboard chart and nine of their albums in the Top 40 in the US. In addition, they have had seventeen Top 20 singles and five Top 10 albums in the UK. In all, the Kinks have sold more than 50 million records worldwide - thanks mainly to the excellent compositions of Ray Davies.

Originally, the Davies brothers formed a school band with Pete Quaife and his friend John Start and were known as either the Ray Davies Quartet or Pete Quaife Quartet depending on who had got the booking! Interestingly, one of the lead vocalists of this early band was Rod Stewart who went on to form his own group called Rod Stewart and the Moonrakers and who became rivals of the Ray Davies Quartet. Although Ray Davies also joined other bands at this time, he remained in his original band which became known as the Ramrods - amongst other things. Initially, the band were unsuccessful when they auditioned for various record labels until, in 1964, they managed to get a contract with Pye Records. At about this time, the band began to use the name the Kinks, but Ray Davies said that he never really liked the name.

At the outset, the Kinks had four successful early singles which were: “You Really Got Me”, “All Day and All of the Night”, “Set Me Free” and “Tired of Waiting for You”. But touring performances didn’t always run smoothly with members of the band sometimes coming to blows on stage like at the Capitol Theatre, Cardiff, Wales in 1965. Because of such outlandish behaviour, the American Federation of Musicians refused to issue permits for them to appear in concerts in the US for four years, which severely cut them off from the main lucrative market there.

Importantly, in 1965, having experienced music from the Indian Subcontinent, Ray Davies wrote the influential song “See My Friends” which was arguably the first song of this type – this was popular in the UK but flopped in the US. Other singles which did make an impression in late 1965, were “A Well-Respected Man” and “Dedicated Follower of Fashion” and also their third album “The Kink Kontroversy” which showcased Ray Davies’ unique and original style of songwriting.

In 1966, “Sunny Afternoon” was the biggest hit of the summer in the UK which hinted at the direction that their next album was to take. The album ‘Face to Face’ promised great things, but did poorly in the American market. The next single of note was “Dead End Street” which

was a good and inventive song, before the magnificent “Waterloo Sunset” was released in May 1967. Interestingly, also in 1967, Dave Davies had a major hit in the UK with the song “Death of a Clown”.

One could go on and on about the massive and sometimes, controversial career of the Kinks, but the purpose of this article was just to give you a taste of what they were about. I have used Wikipedia extensively, and would recommend you go there if you are interested in learning more about this fascinating band.

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Kangaroo

There are four species of kangaroo which inhabit Australia and New Guinea: the red kangaroo, antilopine kangaroo, western grey kangaroo and eastern grey kangaroo – the red kangaroo being the largest one.

Other terms for this family of species are “walleroo”, “Wallaby” and “kangaroo” which are graded according to size. The largest species

in the family are called “kangeroos” with the smallest being called “wallabies” and those of an intermediate size being called “wallaroos”. Interestingly, there is also the tree-kangaroo which is to be found in the tropical rainforests of New Guinea and nearby islands. This kangaroo lives in the upper branches of trees.

Kangaroos are very powerful creatures with big hind legs, large feet which enable them to leap great distances, a small head, and a long muscular tail which is used for balance. Kangaroos are able to hop at large speeds over short distances. Female kangaroos possess a marsupium (pouch) in which a young joey completes its postnatal development. As kangaroos graze a lot, they have specialized teeth that do not occur much in other mammals, and thus they are able to crop grass near to the ground and then, with their molars, able to grind the grass. The two sides of the jaw are not joined together enabling a wider bite. As the molars are ground down, they tend to fall out to be replaced by new teeth. This process only occurs in other mammals like manatees and elephants.

Groups of kangaroos are called mobs, courts or troupes and usually consist of ten or more of them living together although this size can vary. A common occurrence is nose touching and sniffing, which usually happens when an individual joins a group. This results in social cohesion and less aggression between individuals.

Most mating occurs between the more dominant males displacing other smaller males without having to actually fight. However, fights can be long and ritualised with males fighting for access to oestrous females or to gain access to a limited drinking spot – but both sexes will fight to use a popular drinking spot although “boxing” is usually only done by males.

Mothers groom their young to reinforce a bond between them while it is suckling or has just finished doing so. If a joey wants access to its mother's pouch it nuzzles it. When a joey is born, it is the size of a small bean and stays in the pouch for about nine months, and it is fed by the mother (who can produce two different types of milk) until it reaches 18 months

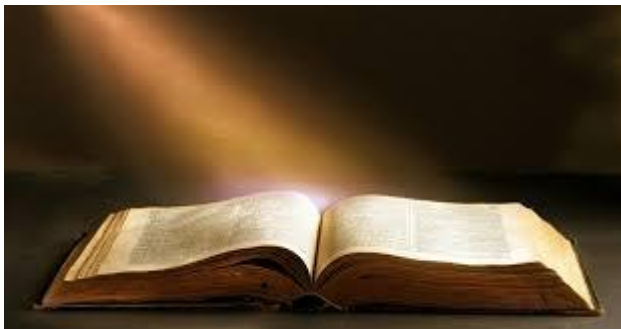
It's true to say that kangaroos have few natural predators although they have had to adapt to the presence of humans, and dingoes from about 5,000 years ago. In addition, kangaroos are sometimes attacked by feral cats, domestic and feral dogs and foxes. But they do respond by taking to the water (they can swim well) and drowning the predator underwater, or by kicking out.

Humans have drastically affected the kangaroo population through land clearing and other habit changing activities. In the wild, people shoot kangaroos for meat, leather hides and in order to conserve grazing land. It is thought that it is good to consume kangaroo meat as it is low in fat compared to other traditional meats.

The fact is that the kangaroo is important to Australian culture and image. It appears on the Australian coat of arms and some of its currency. It is not an accident that there are numerous popular cultural references to the kangaroo.

* Ref. Wikipedia

BIBLE TALK



Sent by Peter Smith

Compare these two passages:

And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord God,
That I will make the sun go down at noon,
And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;

I will turn your feasts into mourning,
And all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on every waist,
And baldness on every head;
I will make it like mourning for an only son,
And its end like a bitter day.

(Amos 8:9,10 - written around 760BC)

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, he said, "Father into your hands I commit my spirit". Having said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23:44-46)

The 12 'Minor Prophets', from Hosea to Malachi, are a good read. Here are more of their prophecies about Jesus:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to me
The One to be ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.

(Micah 5:2)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.
(Zechariah 9:9)

Then I said to them: "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So, they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" - that princely price they set on me. So, I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.
(Zechariah 11:12,13)

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for him as one grieves for a firstborn.
(Zechariah 12:10)

But to you who fear my name
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in his wings.

(Malachi 4:2)

(Quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible)
(The "sixth hour" in Jesus' day was 12 noon)

MORE MOUTH-WATERING RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Fruit Crumble

Ingredients:

5 oz of self-raising flour
1lb fresh fruit (apples, plums etc.)
4 oz of sugar
3 oz of margarine
Pinch of salt

Method:

Prepare and wash the fruit, lay it in a pie dish and sprinkle with 1 oz of sugar and a little water. Rub the margarine very finely into the sieved flour, as for pastry. Add the remaining 3 oz of sugar and a pinch of salt and mix well.

Bake in a moderate oven (350 F/gas mark 4) until it is golden brown and the fruit is tender – for about 60–90 minutes. Serve hot or cold.



Rich Walnut Cake

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
Pinch of salt
3 oz of chopped walnuts
6 oz of margarine
6 oz of caster sugar
3 eggs
¼ teaspoon of vanilla essence
Coffee walnut filling

Method:

Sieve the flour and salt and add the chopped nuts. Cream the margarine and sugar together, gradually add the beaten eggs and beat well. Fold in the flour, salt and nuts, add the vanilla essence and mix to a soft-dropping consistency.

Bake the mixture in three prepared 7-inch sandwich tins in a moderate oven (375F/gas mark 5) for about 20-30 minutes. When the cakes are cold, spread the filling between the layers, coat with American icing and decorate with halved walnuts – can use ordinary icing if you like.



Madeira Cake

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
5 oz of margarine
5 oz of sugar
3 eggs
Pinch of salt
Grated rind of 1 lemon
3 tablespoons of milk
Slice of citron

Method:

Cream the margarine and sugar together, and beat in the eggs, adding a little at a time to prevent curdling. Fold in the sieved flour, salt and lemon rind and mix with the milk to a soft-dropping consistency.

Bake in a prepared 7-inch cake tin in a moderate oven (375F/gas mark 5) for about 1 hour. Place the slice of citron on top of the cake after the first 20 minutes.



Wellington Cake

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
4 oz of margarine
8 oz of caster sugar
2 eggs
½ teaspoon of salt
½ teaspoon of vanilla essence
¼ pint of milk

Method:

Cream the margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy. Gradually add the well-beaten eggs and beat. Fold in the sieved flour and salt and mix with the vanilla essence and sufficient milk to give a soft-dropping consistency. Bake in two prepared 7-inch sandwich tins in a moderate oven (375F/gas mark 5) for about 30-35 minutes. When cool, sandwich together with jam or other suitable filling.



Brandy Snaps

Ingredients:

2 oz of self-raising flour
1 level teaspoon of ground ginger (optional)
Pinch of salt
2 oz of margarine
2 oz of sugar
2 tablespoons of golden syrup
Cream

Method:

Sieve the flour, ground ginger and salt. Melt the margarine, sugar and syrup in a pan and allow to cool. Stir in the flour and mix to a soft-dropping consistency. Drop small teaspoons of the mixture on a greased tray leaving plenty of room for spreading. Bake in a moderate oven (375F/gas mark 5) for about 10-15 minutes. Allow to cool for 1 minute and remove the biscuits carefully, using a palette knife. Bend the warm biscuits round the handle of a wooden spoon and leave to cool. Serve filled with cream. Makes about 1 dozen.

ICE HOCKEY



Ice hockey belongs to a family of sports that is called hockey, with the difference being that it is played on an ice-skating rink. In ice hockey, there are two teams of six players each on the ice at any time, which includes a goaltender for each team. Unlike a lot of sports, ice hockey is a full-contact sport and is thus arguably potentially dangerous.

An outfield player uses ice skates and an ice hockey stick with the goaltender wearing more protection, and the whole game revolves in shooting a rubber disc called a “puck” into the opponent’s goal – each goal is worth one point and there are lines and markings specific to this sport. A team can lose players during the game if there are penalties.

Modern ice hockey evolved in Canada, especially Montreal and is now recognised as a Winter Olympic sport that is played by many nations including the US.

The roots of the sport are indeed interesting as it is thought to have developed from simple stick and ball games in Britain, Ireland and elsewhere including bandy, hurling and shinty. It was also influenced by the North America sport of lacrosse and such games were later absorbed into what we now know as ice hockey.

* Ref. Wikipedia

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Who invented nylon?
- (2) Who were the first people to have tattoos?
- (3) When was the Football Association formed?
- (4) What is bitumen?
- (5) Who invented paper currency?
- (6) When was ECT first used?
- (7) What is the French word for China?
- (8) Which North American tribe was the biggest before colonisation?
- (9) What is the Spanish word for teapot?
- (10) Who invented toilet paper?
- (11) What is the currency of Algeria?
- (12) Who is the highest paid player in NFL history?
- (13) How old was Bobby Moore when he died?
- (14) What is the name of the long robe worn by many Muslim men?
- (15) What is the capital of Luxembourg?
- (16) What is a ‘gilet’ in English?

- (17) Where did the game of dominoes originate?
- (18) Where did the first circus take place?
- (19) Where is the most soya milk produced?
- (20) What was the name of the first species related to humans today?

Answers:

(1) Wallace Hume Carothers (2) Japanese (3) 1863 (4) A substance produced from the distillation of crude oil (5) Tang Dynasty China during the 7th century (6) 1941 at McLean Hospital (7) Chine (8) Cherokee (9) Tetera (10) Joseph Gayetty (11) Algerian Dinar (12) Tom Brady (13) 51 (14) The thobe (15) Luxembourg (16) Waistcoat (17) China in the 1300s (18) London in 1768 (19) USA (20) Homo erectus

Editor's Final Word: Thank you so much for taking the time and trouble to read this publication. I do hope you will feel inspired to get involved with us and welcome any suggestions how we can improve this e-magazine or tell us things that you think we are getting wrong – or right. Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.