

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – November 2023. Edition 107.



Hello. As always, I hope you are well. Time goes so quickly and it's already time for another edition of my magazine! This time, I agreed to a further interview about what I think of the magazine's evolution, and I have honestly answered some other questions that were put to me.

As always, it would be good if you got involved with us in a non-homophobic, non-sexist and non-racist way. Anyone can be featured in this publication. Also, our photography competition is now running until midnight GMT on December 31st, 2023. The theme is **people** and there are two prizes of £50. If you are interested in entering, you should send your entries to the usual email address: dean@fthm.org.uk Please also 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

It is a very good time to send flowers to someone you love. A man with a nice bum will prove to be a real let down when you get to know him, as he will turn out to be nothing but a bum with no direction and a parasitic nature. Also, someone you once admired will disappoint you and

confirm to you that we are all basically the same i.e., with many flaws. Tell a new joke.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

This month you may realise that there may be no apparent meaning for the universe and us being on this planet – meeting a man called Albert may convince you. A close friend, in a stripey top, may shock you when they reveal their transvestite tendencies out-of-the-blue – will you be supportive and will you tell them about your secret? Shine on brightly now.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

Money may be in short supply again, so why not sell some of your geeky things to other geeks in order to raise some cash? It is a good time to start wanting less and not more and you may then be able to work less hours. A lovely Jewish person will help you in your hour of need and prove that we are all just human beings. Explore new things without fear. Swallow.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

Your culinary skills leave much to be desired, but don't worry as a school dinner lady will come into your life and cater for more than your dietary requirements. You may be feeling ancient at the moment, but you're an old dog with plenty of life left in you who is willing to learn a new trick or two. A good time to get a pet if you can care for it properly. Chew more.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

You may experience unrequited love again this week – it will hurt but you know deep down that you're worth loving and that one day you'll hit the jackpot of romance. Someone who used you, may try and be friendly again but just leave it at "hello". A woman with cataracts won't see eye-to-eye with you over something trivial but just leave the door open for her.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

A woman in blue tights may try to light your fireworks, so just stand back and enjoy the show. An Italian with kinky, pink boots may also offer to give you some pie and peas – but have they got an honourable motive? Now is the time to realise that you can change the path you're on if you want to go to heaven. However, you will still be ugly whatever you decide.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

This month, you may meet a Creationist who will try and convince you that Noah's Ark was the first vessel in history – will this float your boat or will you give this idea a wide berth? You will receive some apparent bad news, but after you've thought about it, you will realise that there is a silver lining. Remember to carry cards with you as the cashless society nears.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

A good time to have your hair done as you look as if you have been dragged through a bush from all angles. Do take more care of yourself as you are a lovely looking person. Some ringless person will enter the stage but will you be interested when you learn they have been around the block many times? Work is hard and with few rewards - besides you loving it.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

You look good for your age, but now is the time to realise we are all beginning to look like wrinkled prunes, though there is no excuse for us not having a fruity attitude to life. Death may be on your mind from time to time and we don't know when the reaper will gatecrash our party – but don't worry, as whatever happens, you will be okay as you are a good person.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

This week, a friend will express undying love for you, but be very gentle if you don't feel the same way, as you know that love is not always a pleasurable sensation. Money may fall into your lap this month, but treat it with the upmost respect as it is unlikely this will happen too often. You do have a tendency to let money burn a hole in your pocket so occupy yourself.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

Maybe it is a good time for a career change as you are wasted in your present occupation and would be more suited to doing something that involves music. A neighbour may be getting on your nerves with their noise, but be diplomatic when you deal with them. Someone who has lived in the same place all of their life may shock you with their knowledge of the world.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

The ghost in your attic may have been quiet recently, but this doesn't mean he has gone and he is probably just waiting for an opportune moment to reappear. You've been eating too much chocolate this month so why not get a cat and take a break from it. Your life in the near future will be good and lots of your plans will come to fruition. Consume more fibre often.

ANOTHER CHAT WITH THE EDITOR



How are things, Dean? Things in general are good and my health has been good recently. I have enough money to get by, have my family and Brenda, and time to do this magazine. So, things have been much worse in the past for me.

Are you pleased with how the magazine is progressing? It's doing okay but it always needs new people to contribute if it is to continue to evolve. I think this e-magazine is better now than when it started nearly nine years ago as it has more content, and is more varied, than it was. It obviously is not yet a commercial success, but me and Brenda love doing it so that's what really matters – and some people seem to like it, so that's great!

Do you think you will do the magazine for a lot longer? I really don't know as none of us know what will happen tomorrow. I'd like to think we will be able to continue to do it and to grow it for a long time, but that's in the hands of the Gods - who probably don't exist.

How old are you now and do you think you've left it late in life to do such a project? Well, as I've said before, I've suffered a lot of bad health (bipolar, OCD, a cancer called Hodgkins Disease, pneumonia and a drink problem) so, I think you can only do things when you are able to, and to the best of your ability at that time. I don't think it really matters that I will be 60 next March and Brenda is now 72 as we just try to produce something that is worth reading. Can I just add that we actually also recorded two music CDs which are free to listen to on the website: www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk

How was your cancer treated? I had 20 lots of radiotherapy at Cookridge Hospital, in Leeds. The cancer was successfully burnt out but I was also burnt very badly and had to live on liquid food for about three weeks.

And what treatment have you had for your bipolar? I had 20 lots of ECT (electro convulsive therapy) which did have some effect on my depression, and I have taken Lithium Carbonate for years, but I am trying to have this gradually decreased as it can damage your kidneys.

How did you stop drinking? I was badly beaten up in Leeds nearly 26 years ago when I was too drunk to defend myself. This served as a wake-up call and changed my life although you have to be careful as alcohol is everywhere.

A personal question, why have you never got married? My life hasn't worked out that way as I've been handicapped by illness for much of my adult life. I have however, been lucky enough to be in a great friendship with Brenda Condoll for over 27 years, and that means the world to me as she is such a lovely person. I also haven't felt very confident as I have been overweight for a long time and because at some stage in my conception, I suffered from testicular torsion which also affected my confidence.

Do you like women? They're ok in small doses.

Where did you meet Brenda? I met her in a group home in Leeds for people with mental health problems. I was technically homeless in a hospital called High Royds and managed to get a room in the house that Brenda shared with other people.

Are you afraid of dying? Not sure. Sometimes when I'm in a good place, I think bring it on as it would be good to die feeling good, I think. Like most people, I know it's coming at some stage, but I just try and get on with what I am doing today.

Do you think there's anything after death? Probably not, but I don't really know. Brenda is convinced she is going to a place called heaven - and I think that helps her a lot. At the moment, I am interested in the philosophy of the absurd which cites that there is no meaning for the universe and no meaning for us being on this planet - and that we are not as important as we think we are, but that we do have the opportunity to create our own meaning(s) for our life.

What do you think about religion? I think it causes a lot of problems in the world and it's not for me. But I know it also helps a lot of other people cope with their life and their problems on this planet.

Besides the magazine, what other interests have you? I like spending time with Brenda in cafes and at home, with my family and other friends. I am also a season ticket holder at FC Halifax Town and I follow the fortunes of Leeds United on TV. I quite like football but am appalled at the money in the game which could be used in a much better way, in my opinion. At the moment, I like watching things more on YouTube than on actual TV though it's weird seeing people in old photographs in their prime, but who are now dead.

What do you think about Halifax? Compared to some of the places I've lived, it's very good. I was born in Castleford in 1964, brought up in a village near Leeds called Kippax and have currently been in Halifax for about 16 and a half years. The people of Halifax have always been very nice to me and it seems a more open-minded place than you would think it would be.

Have you visited a lot of places? I bummed around a bit in Europe when I was younger, but most of my trips in recent years have involved going on holiday with Brenda to places including: Spain and two Spanish Islands, America, Malta, St Kitts & Nevis, Portugal, Poland, Holland and Belgium.

Do you think it's good to travel? I do, but also think you've got to take into consideration your carbon footprint – which some rich people don't seem to care about.

Which political party do you support? I think both main parties in the UK are to some degree, right-wing, so, it's up to the individual to make up their own mind and not be swayed by the powerful media which seems, on the whole, to be overtly right-wing.

Do you follow a specific diet or do you eat anything that is put in front of you? I used to, for a short while, follow a vegan diet, but these days, I'm more vegetarian as I do like ice cream and milk chocolate. But recently, I've been told I have to watch my sugar intake so I am making a conscious effort to cut out a lot of sugar in my diet e.g., malt drinks which I really like.

What would you like to do in the future? I don't really know. My main aim is to stay well, take care of lovely Brenda and try to continue to be creative until I can no longer be so.

Listen to [Dean Charlton's Music Here](#)

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN MUSIC QUIZ



Questions:

- (1) Which male vocalist was a member of the US House of Representatives at the time of his death in 1998?
- (2) Trisha Yearwood married which fellow country music performer in 2005?
- (3) Which rapper was murdered in Las Vegas, Nevada in September 1996 at the age of 25?
- (4) Which band released the album "Are You Experienced" in May 1967?
- (5) Maria McKee had a smash hit in 1990 with which song recorded for the soundtrack of the film "Days of Thunder" starring Tom Cruise?
- (6) Which vocal harmony group performed alongside Mariah Carey on the song "One Sweet Day"?
- (7) "The Caruso of Rock" and the "Big O" were nicknames of which singer/songwriter?
- (8) Susanna Hoffs is best known as the lead vocalist with which all girl band?
- (9) Which record label is the oldest still in existence in the USA?
- (10) Mark Farmer, Don Brewer and Mel Schacher formed which band in Michigan in 1969?
- (11) Who wrote "Blue Suede Shoes" which was a big hit for Elvis Presley?
- (12) Who dueted with Michael Jackson on the song "I Just Can't Stop Loving You"?
- (13) Which rock band front man was born Steven Victor Tallarico in March 1948?
- (14) Which band were once known as the Golden Gate Rhythm Section?
- (15) Who was the first solo female artist to top the Billboard singles chart?
- (16) American singer Vanessa Williams was also crowned "Miss America" in which year?
- (17) Steve Harwell, who died aged 56 in September 2023, was lead vocalist with which US rock band formed in 1994?
- (18) Reality TV star and singer Bobbi Kristina Brown died aged 22 in 2015, who was her mother?
- (19) Which member of the Monkees had an international hit with the song "Rio" in 1977?
- (20) Born in Akron, Ohio in 1951, which female vocalist was married to Jim Kerr between 1984 and 1990?

Answers

- (1) Sonny Bono (2) Garth Brooks (3) Tupac Shakur (4) The Jimi Hendrix Experience (5) Show Me Heaven (6) Boyz II Men (7) Roy Orbison (8) The Bangles (9) Columbia Records (10) Grand Funk Railroad (11) Carl Perkins (12) Siedah Garrett (13) Steven Tyler (14) Journey (15) Peggy Lee (16) 1984 (17) Smash Mouth (18) Whitney Houston (19) Mike Nesmith (20) Chrissie Hynde
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LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

While the war in Ukraine is clearly wrong and terrible, I also think it is wrong that fit, young Ukrainian footballers are apparently earning a fortune plying their trade abroad -whilst other young men are at home fighting for their country. This doesn't seem right to me.

Gail Porterfield, Bristol

Dear Editor

I think the UK is still a good place to live even though it has poverty and inequality - compared to living in some countries like North Korea. I also think ordinary people who vote Tory are hypocritical when they use the NHS, as this is diametrically opposed to what the Tory party stands for i.e., privatisation of all public services. Either you're in or you're out?

Steven Norris, Norwich

Dear Editor

Most people are now more aware of climate change and willing to do something about it. Yet, a minority of people with lots of money continue to fly around the globe as if there is no problem with air pollution. Also, is it really necessary for football supporters to follow their team around the world like sheep, when in reality, this activity is totally superfluous, and in most cases, they can stay at home and watch it on TV anyway?

Dave Steadman, Leeds

Like most people I am appalled by the vast amounts of money that some footballers are paid. Also, the fact that many players have joined the exodus of talent to Saudi Arabia, just shows where their true interests lie – earning money and more money. And then some of them had the cheek to kiss their former team's badge before they sold out!

Alison Carter, Manchester

Dear Editor

I was pleased to see the philosophy of Absurdism touched upon by your magazine. It seems obvious to me that there is no reason for the universe and no reason at all for us being on this planet. I also think we are in a position to create our own meanings for our lives – which is arguably a good thing. I think the idea of a Judgement Day is ridiculous, though it is important we love one another and take care of each other.

However, I do believe that we should respect the religious views of everyone and not try to constantly impose our own views on others.

Sian Clitheroe, Wakefield

Dear Editor

Is anyone else currently unsure about how they will vote in the next UK General Election? Rishi Sunak has no idea about poverty or ordinary life - with his elitist private education and vast amounts of personal wealth, and Keir Starmer is clearly not a man of his word. The Liberals are wishy-washy as usual, and while the Greens are an interesting party, they lack some crucial policies.

But I do think once you have decided who to support, you should do so – after all, it took a great struggle to get the right for everyone to have the vote.

Diane Franks, London

COMES THE DAWN

Anonymous

After a while, you learn the subtle difference
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security
And you begin to understand that kisses aren't contracts
And presents aren't promises
And you begin to accept defects
With your head held high and your eyes open
With the grace of an adult, not the grief of a child
You learn to build your roads
On today because tomorrow's ground
Is too uncertain for plans
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight
After a while you learn that even sunshine
Burns if you get too much
So, you plant your own garden and decorate
Your own soul, instead of waiting
For someone to bring you flowers
And you learn that you really can endure
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth
And you learn and learn . . . and you learn
With every good-bye you learn

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BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Dolphin

Dolphins are very interesting aquatic mammals, some of which, can briefly travel at speeds of 29 kilometres an hour and can also leap to a height of about 9 metres. There are 40 extant species classified as dolphins and they vary in size – the largest being the orca which is up to 9.5 metres in length and weighs up to 10 tonnes in weight.

It is true to say that dolphins are very developed mammals as they are capable of teaching and being taught things, and can even grieve. They live in pods or schools of between 12 and over 1,000 when there is ample food. Dolphins have also been known to protect unfortunate swimmers from shark attacks by swimming around the swimmers. In addition, they have been known to care for other dolphins which are sick or injured – even for members of other species.

Copulation is obviously important for the continuation of their species and it takes place quickly in the form of belly-to-belly contact after extensive foreplay. A male, mates with many females every year, but females only mate every 2 to 3 years. The gestation period between species of dolphin varies, and in the case of the orca, is around 17 months. A single calf is born in spring or summer and comes into the world tail first. Interestingly, dolphins may engage in masturbation and even homosexuality, and can be very aggressive in pursuit of females.

The dolphin's body is also interesting as it is a torpedo-shape, has flippers, a tail fin, a non-flexible neck, a bulbous head and small eyes that are located at the side of the head – they lack external ear flaps though their hearing is very good and they use conical teeth to catch fast-moving prey.

Their diet is relatively simple and consists of fish and squid or larger mammals like seals, and they are fast swimmers compared to seals. A dolphin breathes through a blow hole which provides fresh air into its lungs. It usually favours a warmer climate, but species like the right whale dolphin prefers colder climates.

People seem to like to keep dolphins in captivity, especially the bottlenose dolphin, and train them to perform tricks for their entertainment and pleasure. However, dolphins have also been subject to hunting by countries like Japan, and have come under threat through marine pollution and habitat loss.

Ref. Wikipedia

JUNE'S WORLD



Hello everybody. I hope you're all well and taking care of yourselves.

In this article I am going to write about when I was 10-11 years old. I used to like playing in Wades Square which was two streets away from where I lived; we used to play netball or chequers when you have a little square dice. I also liked going to Mr and Mrs Williams's house. Mr Williams was very good with

matchsticks and used to build lots of lovely things like the amazing dolls house he built, which was beautifully constructed. It took him about a year to complete and was a focal point in their home.

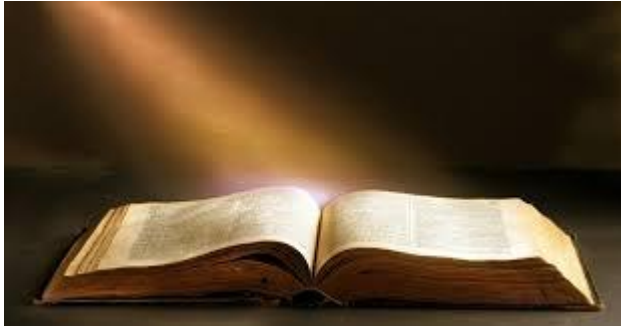
As I have said before, I lived down the Potteries in Castleford, and one thing I loved to do was to go see my grandad's three horses which he kept in a big yard away from the houses. He used to get scraps from two fish shops which he fed to the horses. As I was a mischievous child, I used to peep in the bags of scraps and ate a couple of them! – which were delicious. I used to like to go out on his horse and cart as he had a big seat for two people; people used to call him a ragman as he collected clothes that people didn't want - these people were pretty well off and lived in Bramley or Wetherby. If we came across any clothes I liked, he would allow me to keep one or two items. We didn't have much money to buy new clothes so anything I was given, was special to me. I got to a certain age when I was aware that people were buying new clothes and thought that will be me when I got working.

When I got working, I gave my mother my first wage packet and she gave me some spending money. I worked with a woman who used to run a catalogue and she let me order a skirt and blouse which I paid for weekly. It was a lovely feeling wearing new clothes, and I thought I'll never have to wear second-hand clothes again – which I haven't done. I really liked buying new things. I remember that my first pair of high-heeled shoes were torn at the front so I stitched them up. When I went to my first dance at 16 or 17, I was very self-conscious about the shoes, but I did manage to buy a cheap skirt and blouse so it was okay. After that, I saved every spare penny and bought some lovely, expensive clothes. I thought only the best for me from now on!

I also remember how my uncle David used to tell me that if I polished his shoes and went to the shop for him, he would invite me to his wedding. I never did get an invite. Anyway, one thing is that I didn't have to rely on people to give me money anymore which was good.

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

BIBLE TALK



Sent by Peter Smith

Important words from the Old and New Testaments:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgements and do them.

(Ezekiel 36:26,27 - NKJV)

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds, I will write them.

(Hebrews 10:16 - NKJV)

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE THEATRICAL BAND GHOST



Ghost are a Swedish band formed in Linköping in 2006 by lead vocalist Tobias Forge. It is largely a theatrical group whose music has been described as many things including: hard rock, heavy metal and symphonic metal. Ghost have so far released five studio albums entitled: Opus Eponymous (2010), Infestissumam (2013), Meliora (2015), Prequelle (2018), Impera (2022) as well as a live album entitled Ceremony and Devotion which was released digitally in

December 2017, and then physically in January 2018.

The lyrics of the band are satanic in nature, but some people think they are all meant to be taken tongue-in-cheek, although their inclusion, along with artwork, has led to problems releasing work in the lucrative US market. They are highly theatrical with musicians dressed in identical, face-concealing costumes who are known as “Nameless Ghouls”. Many think the band has been heavily influenced by people like: David Bowie, Alice Cooper and Kiss. Then there is lead singer Tobias Forge (who has written most of the songs) who graduates from album to album from being Papa Emeritus to ending up as Cardinal Copia – all based on the idea of being a satanic priest.

The band has toured extensively in the US and Europe with their first appearance at the Hammer of Doom, in Germany, in 2010. They have subsequently toured with established bands like Guns & Roses and Iron Maiden and some other notable tours they have completed

are: the Heritage Hunter Tour (2012), the Popstar Tour (2016-17), A Pale Tour Named Death (2018-20) and Imperatour (2022-23).

Ghost have had much success including Infestissumam making number one in Sweden and also winning the P3 Guld Award for “Best Hard Rock/Metal Album”, in 2013. In addition, they have won many other awards including being credited with producing the Best Hard Rock/Metal Album by Grammis Awards – 3 times! They were also voted winner of the Best Rock Album award in 2023 by iHeart Radio Music Awards.

While Ghost may not be everyone’s cup of tea, it is safe to say that they are now an established outfit with fans worldwide. One Chicago heavy metal café has even called a hamburger “The Ghost”!

Written with a lot of help from Wikipedia.

MORE OF JUNE CHARLTON’S FAB RECIPES



Chocolate Apple Cake

Ingredients:

- 8 oz of self-raising flour
- 4 oz of margarine
- 4 oz of castor sugar
- 3-4 tablespoons of milk
- 1 egg
- 1 level tablespoon of cocoa
- 1 medium, peeled apple

8 oz of chocolate glaze icing
A few chopped nuts if desired

Method:

Cream the margarine and sugar together and gradually add the beaten egg and some of the milk – beating well between each addition of liquid. Fold in the flour sifted with the cocoa and mix to a soft, dropping consistency, adding a drop more milk if necessary. Spread half the mixture in a 7-inch cake tin and grate the raw apple on to the surface. Place the remaining mixture on top evenly. Bake in a moderately hot oven (400 F).

Sponge Castles

Ingredients:

- 8 oz of self-raising flour
- 4 oz of sugar
- 4 oz of margarine
- 2 eggs, beaten with 4 tablespoons of milk

Method:

Beat the sugar and margarine to a cream, then stir in the beaten eggs and milk and the flour and mix thoroughly. Use small tin moulds, well-greased (Dariole moulds or patty tins). Bake in a hot oven 425-450 F/gas mark 6-7 for about 40 minutes.



Hazelnut Biscuits

Ingredients:

4 oz of hazelnuts
3 oz of castor sugar
6 oz of butter
9 oz of plain flour
Melted chocolate

Method:

Brown the hazelnuts by placing them in a hot oven until the skins begin to peel off and the nuts are turning golden brown. Rub off the skins with a clean tea towel and leave to cool. Chop or grind finely – if grinding the nuts be careful not to over grind or the nuts will become too oily.

Cream together the butter and the sugar until pale and fluffy. Knead in the hazelnuts and flour until the mixture is smooth. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

Roll out the biscuit dough to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and cut into circles of about 2-inch diameter. Bake on a greased baking sheet or tray until pale golden.



Magic Chocolate Pudding

Ingredients:

2 oz of castor sugar
2 oz of fine semolina
1 oz of cocoa powder
1 teaspoon of baking powder
1 oz melted butter and extra for greasing
2 beaten eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of vanilla extract

Icing sugar for dusting

Sauce:

3 oz of light muscovado sugar
2 tablespoons of cocoa powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of hot water

Method:

Mix together the sugar and semolina in a large bowl. Sift the cocoa powder and baking powder into the bowl, and mix thoroughly. In a separate bowl, whisk together the melted

butter, eggs and vanilla extract with an electric whisk. Add this mixture to the dry ingredients and stir with a wooden spoon until well-blended.

Lightly butter the ovenproof dish. Pour the mixture into the dish.

Make the sauce – mix together the muscovado sugar and cocoa powder, and gradually stir in the measured hot water. Pour the liquid over the pudding.

Bake the pudding in a pre-heated oven at 180 C/350 F/gas mark 4, for 30 minutes or until the liquid has sunk to the bottom and the sponge is well-risen and springy to the touch. Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve at once.

BASEBALL



The sport of baseball evolved from the game of rounders and other bat-and-ball games played in England, by immigrants to North America. It also possesses some similarities to the game of cricket. It used to be recognised as the No 1 sport in the US, but it's true to say that it is now less popular than sports like American Football. However, it is now popular in Central and South America, as well as being played in East Asian countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

The highest level of baseball in the US and Canada is the Major League Baseball (MLB) which consists of two leagues: the National League (NL) and American League (AL) which are divided into three divisions: East, West and Central. The whole objective of teams is to get into the playoffs, and culminates in the famous World Series. It is also worth mentioning The World Baseball Classic which is organised by The World Baseball Softball Confederation and involves exciting competition between top national teams. Interestingly, baseball was reinstated as an Olympic sport in 2020.

The sport of baseball is relatively easy to understand and the necessary tools to play it are: bat, gloves, ball and protective helmets for all the batters – and of course the pitch and umpires. When a team is defending (trying to stop its opponents from getting around the four bases in an anti-clockwise direction) there is the pitcher and 8 position players – the catcher, 4 infielders and 3 outfielders. The aim of the game is to hit the ball and make it around the bases without being out (a player who reaches 1st base, can continue on as a runner immediately, or during a teammate's batting) or avoid being caught by a fielder. If a player succeeds in making it around all of the bases, this is called a "run" and at the end of the nine innings, the team with the most "runs" is the winner. If scores are equal at the end of the innings, extra innings are usually played – although there is no Game Clock as in other sports.

* Ref. Wikipedia

MORE FROM KRISHNA FRANCIS

I'm a wanted man, Dean Charlton wants me... to write something for this publication. He's not alone. Ann and Maurice also want me to write a synopsis for the book I wrote or rather typed up whilst I was in Bologna. They read the first three chapters and, confused about where it was going, suggested I write a synopsis. Finally, I've been sending those chapters to agents and publishers and one has written back with a questionnaire. They want me to fill it in. One of the questions is about crowd funding as a route to publishing. Thus, the rest of this month's article is going to be a synopsis for that book. What I hope is that it whets your appetites and you all help me with some crowdfunding. So here goes...

Remember some time ago, when there was talk of pirates on news reports but when you looked, they were just poor African fishermen, not an eyepatch or a parrot in sight. Though it was mostly about politics and shipping lanes, there was fertile ground for adventurers to crew up with willing bodies who'd do most anything on the promise of a reward. That's where Flint went to find a crew that was the seed for our tale.

Twenty years on and a member of that crew, Billy Osser, has returned to the starting point of his greatest adventure. He's a broken man but Jim, the son of the owner of the hostel where Billy finds lodgings, is intrigued by this stranger. Billy shares his tales of seafaring life with Jim and the boy is enthralled. Just before his body gives out on him Billy shares the location of the island where there is a treasure of astounding worth.

On the eve of his funeral, a group of mercenaries from Billy's past destroy the hostel looking for the location of Billy's island. Homeless and in need of a plan, Jim's mother charts a boat to take her and her son back to England with a stop at the island along the way to investigate Billy's claim. Smolly, the captain, recruits a crew from the locality including Lacag, a man who runs a local cafe, as ship's cook. They are joined too by Nigel, the local doctor and a family friend. Soon the boat is prepared for the journey and they set sail for the island.

During the journey, Jim learns of a plot by Lacag and two other crew members to mutiny and steal the treasure for themselves. Jim informs his mother who sets up a meeting with Smolly, Nigel and Deeq the first mate. They decide to load a lifeboat with supplies and Deeq will feel out members of the crew who can be trusted and then, as soon as the boat reaches the island they will flee.

Their escape plan is put into effect the moment they moor in one of the island's bays. The breakaway group find a secluded spot and set up camp. They then begin to prepare for the mutineer's revenge. However, it soon turns out the island is inhabited. The natives capture them and take them to their village. There they find an Englishman named Bobbydog who was a part of Flint's crew. He was marooned on the island when he tried to get a ship, he was on to stop and look for the treasure. Since then, he has been adopted by the inhabitants of the island. He and two of the villagers take Jim to a special cave where he reveals the treasure is, in fact, proof of alien existence. An artefact of Billy's was activated when Jim discovered it amongst Billy's things on the journey. Since that moment the islanders have been expecting his arrival.

When they return from the cave, they find the village recovering from an assault by the

mutineers. Whilst the crew and the villagers work together to reinforce the village defences, Bobbydog takes Jim to the boat to retrieve the mysterious object of Billy's.

The first person they encounter on the boat is Lacag's mentally challenged brother Mo. Shortly after this they are discovered by Hands one of the head mutineers. He chases Jim who tries to escape by climbing a mast. The encounter ends with Jim causing Hands to fall to his death.

Returning to the village with Mo, Jim and Bobbydog they find themselves in the midst of a pitched fight between the mutineers and their own side. Bobbydog removes them to a safe place until the noise of fighting stops. Cautiously they return to the village to find Lacag and the mutineers have taken control. The only hope they have is to bargain with Lacag using his love for his simple brother as a lever. Meanwhile, Billy's mysterious object has started something occurring that none of the crew members could have prepared for.

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Who invented papier mâché?
- (2) What is the currency of Lithuania?
- (3) What is egg benedict?
- (4) What is the French word for torch?
- (5) Which civilisations first dyed their hair?
- (6) What is a fulcrum?
- (7) What is arachnophobia the fear of?
- (8) What is the Spanish verb for 'to knit'?
- (9) Who was Sisyphus?
- (10) What is the German word for Wednesday?
- (11) Who invented Coca Cola?
- (12) Where would you find your larynx?
- (13) When did the Korean war end?
- (14) Who invented the electric car?
- (15) What is the capital of Papua New Guinea?
- (16) Which male actor starred in the British sitcom 'On the Buses'?
- (17) Which NFL legend bought a minor share in Birmingham City FC?
- (18) Who started the famous café chain Café Nero?
- (19) How many colours are on the Sweden flag?
- (20) Who first recorded the huge hit 'Baby Love'?

(see next page for answers)

Answers:

(1) The Chinese in 200 BC (2) Euro (3) A brunch staple consisting of poached eggs and Canadian bacon/sliced ham on an English muffin, topped with hollandaise sauce (4) Torche (5) The Egyptians, Indians and Persians (6) The point against which a lever is placed to get a purchase, or which it turns or is supported/a thing that plays a central or essential role in an activity, event or situation (7) Intense fear of spiders (8) Tejer (9) The founder and king of Corinth who was punished for twice cheating death by Zeus, and forced to forever roll a stone up a hill (10) Mittwoch (11) John Stith Pemberton (12) In your neck above the windpipe (trachea) and in front of the gullet (oesophagus) (13) An armistice was signed on July 27, 1953 (14) Thomas Parker in 1884 (15) Port Moresby (16) Reg Varney (17) Tom Brady (18) Gerry Ford (19) Two (20) The Supremes

Editor's Final Word: Thank you so much for taking the time and trouble to read this e-magazine and I hope that you enjoyed the experience. Anyone can get involved with this publication. Please contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes Dean, Brenda, Robert and Graham.