

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – February 2024. Edition No 110.



Hello. I hope you are okay and enjoying life. This month I will, hopefully, be celebrating 26 years abstaining from alcohol, which I am pleased about.

Happily, this magazine is doing well thanks to many people and to you, the reader. If you would like to get involved with us, please send your work (non-homophobic, non-racist and non-sexist in nature) to us at: dean@fthm.org.uk If you would like to advertise or donate to the running costs of this publication, please also contact us using the above email address.

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

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MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

You are always trying to be “down with the kids”, but it’s time you grew a pair and stopped hanging around, trying to recapture your youth. A woman, who works in a café, will be extremely rude to you, but just put it down to stress as she is usually

very nice. Some people have more money than you, but do console yourself with the fact you have more love.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

Someone much younger than yourself may tell you that you are “creepy”, but maybe all you need to do is produce more bespoke jokes. Life has not been good recently, so why not be more proactive and bring about change? Not everything will just fall into your lap. A woman with a large nose and spots will bring something to the table that you appreciate. Meditate.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

This month, it might be a good idea to learn a new trade to increase your marketability, unless you are happy being on skid row with holes in your underwear. Somebody with a green car may take you for a ride and leave you in an emotionally bad place. If you have paperwork that you have been avoiding, maybe take it to a café and work there with a nice cuppa.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

You may experience a great loss this month, but good will come out of it, and you will be surprised by how strong you really are. A song you hear may remind you of times when life seemed more melodic, and when your words had more impact. You have done a huge amount of work recently, so why not let your hair down and have a party? Buy yourself a big mouse.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

A beautiful person will soon make it clear that they want you but, at what price? – You risk losing everything if you get involved with them. Your ointment may have a big fly in it at the moment, so try and purify your whole life. You may be feeling old, but don't worry as good times lie ahead. Take up bird watching and feel part of nature. Maybe pay some of your bills.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

A crisis of faith may be looming for you, and you may realise you can now weave your own meanings for your life. You may lose a recently purchased possession, but is it really that important? A man with foul breath may step in to help you at work and save your skin. Maybe buy yourself a reptile and some soft toilet paper to give your bottom a nice treat.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

Somebody, who has clearly never done much with their life, may surprise you by getting their hands dirty to help you. An eccentric person with food down their clothes will introduce you to some ideas that may blow your mind. You are in a good creative place so capitalise on this and produce some work that you can exploit at a later date. Look forward to the spring sun.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

You may be worried about your future, but now is the time to squeeze as much joy out of the present moment as you can. A man, who claims to have all the answers, will collar you this week, but you will find it a pleasant change from being accosted by people who would take the shirt off of your back. The opposite sex like you now, but do you remember how it was?

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

It is a good time to act in a more private manner as, at the moment, your life is like an open book – this can be dangerous! You may not know what to do with yourself just now so maybe spend a couple of hours contemplating your navel. A spam email may temporarily cause you some confusion but it will pass. Buy a loved one something nice for no particular reason.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

Someone you like will show an interest in you and leave you with a warm feeling inside. You may bump into an old teacher and be shocked at how vulnerable they are now. A man with a bald head will help you in the near future, and this will be much to your advantage. You also have a bountiful amount of chocolate, so why not share some of it with other nice people?

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

You may still be a bit overweight, but people will start to show you more love and respect this month as they realise how special you are. Money has always been in short supply, but your ship will soon come in and things will considerably improve. It is a time to reflect, but don't fall into the trap that you could have done everything better. The future looks bright.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

Much of your time is spent trying to please others. This must stop, and you must start putting yourself first for once. The love that you crave is on its way, and you will soon have the person you dreamt of meeting – enjoy it while it lasts as everything is transient. Consider wearing a pair of shorts, even though it is the middle of winter. Don't be a stupid hero, though.

JUNE'S WORLD



Hello, everybody. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and got some nice presents. I like buying presents for other people, but I also like receiving them! It's lovely on Christmas morning seeing all the presents under the tree. My son, his wife and our three grandchildren always like to come to our house; we share precious moments together. I can hardly call them children anymore as the oldest is 24 and having a baby, and the other two are 22 and 17, respectively. We are very excited at the prospect of being great grandparents for the first time in our eighties – but what does

that matter as we are still young at heart? We have bought some nice clothes for the baby in the last few weeks and other people have done the same. It's in the first few weeks that babies seem to be sick and need changing a lot so clean clothes are essential. However, I don't want to get too involved as I am the great grandmother and not the grandmother! I will know my place.

I was hoping that there would be lots of snow on Christmas day; I love the snow. It takes me back to when I was growing up in Castleford and it seemed that we had snow every year.

There were 8 or 9 of us kids who used to play snowballs, and I used to go carol singing with my uncle Alfie. We made quite a lot of money. Alfie was very crafty and used to step back when someone opened their door to give us money, but when he heard someone say “come in”, he was there in a flash. As he was older, he knew he would probably get a glass of wine. Some people were having parties, so we were often offered a piece of Christmas cake and a drink. They gave me a soft drink and Alfie a glass of wine. But, not all people were so generous, and one man had us singing three carols before he told us to go away.

The men in my family loved going to pubs and used to return home drunk. On one occasion, I remember my uncle Tommy and one of the three brothers next door drunkenly arranging to fight each other the next day, but it was all forgotten once they had slept off the drink. After that, they were best of friends again. I was too young to understand asking people out to fight, but that’s what sometimes happens when people have too much to drink.

The best times were when my sons were young and watching their faces light up when they got their presents that they had asked Santa for – they used to write a letter and put it up the chimney not realising that the letter would fall down into the fire grate. One Christmas they asked for bikes and, although we didn’t have much money, somehow Santa managed! We also used to put up men’s stockings and they were content with an apple, orange and the little presents we put into them. They also did quite well for presents as their aunties and uncles bought them small gifts. They were especially delighted with the bikes!

Well, that’s all for now. June. X

ARCHERY



Today, archery is mainly a competitive sport that made its reappearance at the Olympics of 1972. It involves using a bow to shoot arrows and was originally a way to hunt wildlife. Someone who partakes in archery is known as a Bowman, archer or toxophilite. It can be argued that archery replaced spears as a means of hunting in most parts of the world.

There have been many historical finds which suggest that archery has actually been around for thousands of years e.g. the remains of bone and stone arrowheads were found in the Sibudu Cave in South Africa, and they date back to approximately 60,000 years ago. However, in Europe, the earliest remains of bows and arrows have been found in Germany at Mannheim-Volgerstang, dating back to 17,500 to 18,000 years ago. Interestingly, remains of flint fragments were discovered in a bear, dated at 13,500 years ago, at Grotte du Bichon. There were also finds in Germany (10,000 – 9,000 BC) which show that some arrows were made of pine with a flint point.

In more recent times, classical civilisations like the Assyrians, Greek, Chinese and Romans used a large number of archers in their armies. During Medieval times, the short bow was the

weapon of choice with a range of 91m (299 ft). Around the 10th century cross bows began to be employed which had greater accuracy and penetration than the short bow. It is important to acknowledge that when the long bow came into use it had a range of 270m, (890 ft) but lacked precision and was thus used more as a mass weapon.

It is essential to also mention the tribesman of American Plains Indians and those from Central Asia, who were highly skilled archers on horseback using shorter bows as these were easier to use in this way. Significantly, almost every civilisation acquired firearms which were more effective. Consequently, archers disappeared on the battlefield. Now, archery is mainly a sport although it is still used for hunting in certain parts of the world.

In the 18th century, archery was very popular in the UK amongst the aristocracy with many societies established with a strict criterion for entry and with outlandish costumes, flags, music and even a 21-gun salute for competitors. Women were encouraged to participate in the sport which led to introductions, flirtation and sometimes romance. This was all conducted in a very elitist manner with the new middle classes being excluded. But, this all changed after the Napoleonic Wars, when everyone began to participate in archery.

In the 1840s, an effort was made to standardise archery, mainly by Horace A Ford who won the Grand National eleven times in a row! But, there was a decline in the popularity of archery at the end of the 19th century as the middle classes preferred to play croquet and tennis. By 1889, only 50 clubs remained in Britain.

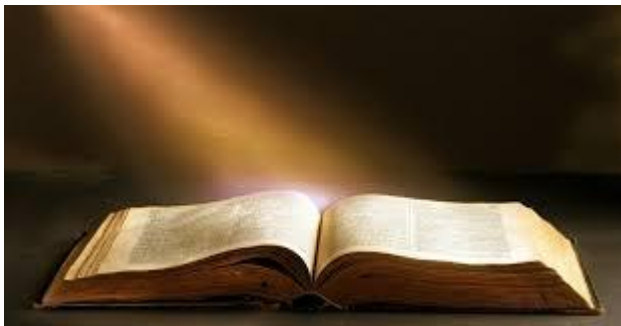
But the 1920s, saw surge in new interest in the sport with engineers developing new forms of bows and arrows including the modern recurve and compound bow which became widely used in western archery. It is interesting, however, that different cultures release arrows from different sides of the bow.

In modern North America, the compound bow (invented by Holless Wilbur Allen) is mainly used with arrows made of composite materials - which bear no resemblance to the materials used by our ancestors.

* With some help from Wikipedia

BIBLE TALK

Sent in by Peter Smith



As we look at the Middle East today, we can read these words of Jesus: -

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in

the country enter her.

For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Luke 21:20-27 (NKJV)

A BRIEF LOOK AT THIN LIZZY



Thin Lizzy (the name came from a robot in the Dandy called Tin Lizzie) was formed in Dublin, Ireland in 1969. Its two founder members were Phil Lynott and Brian Downey, and the band was interesting as it drew its early members from both Protestant and Catholic communities during The Troubles in Northern Ireland, and it was also multi-racial.

Although the band recorded 12 studio albums, it was not a commercial success until it became more hard rock in style, and it was one of the first bands to use two lead guitars – influencing bands like Judas Priest, Iron Maiden and Def Leppard.

The band's first gig was at a school hall near Dublin Airport in 1970, and the first single to be released was "The Farmer"/"I Need You", which was a flop selling only 283 copies – it is now a collectors' item! Interestingly, Phil Lynott went on to be the first Black Irishman to have commercial success in rock music. Unfortunately, he died in 1986, aged 36, having suffered from pneumonia and septicaemia brought on by drug dependency which led to multiple organ failure.

Thin Lizzy became internationally known and appreciated through the songs: "Whisky in the Jar" (which led to an appearance on Top of the Pops), "The Boys Are Back in Town", and "Waiting for an alibi", but success was slow to come for the band. Its first album entitled 'Thin Lizzy' was not what you can call a great success, and its second studio album 'Shades of a Blue Orphanage' did not chart in the UK as it was still basically Celtic in musical style.

The band was very active on the touring scene, touring with Suzi Quatro and Slade in late 1972 but, still, its third album 'Vagabonds of the Western world' failed to chart and the single "The Rocker" was only a moderate success in Ireland.

Although the band obtained a new record deal with Phonogram, its next album 'Nightlife' was, again, commercially unsuccessful, selling a mere 10,000 copies. In early 1975, Thin Lizzy toured the US for the first time, supporting Bob Seger and Bachman-Turner and

Overdrive (BTO) before also accompanying them on a European Tour. Their fortunes began to change for the better with rendition (two lead guitars) of Seger's "Rosalie".

After successfully supporting Status Quo on tour, the band recorded 'Jailbreak' which proved to be the commercial success it had been looking for, making No 10 in the UK and No 18 in the US. The single "Jailbreak" was a success, and the excellent "The Boys Are Back in Town" reached No 8 in the UK and No 12 in the US. The band then toured the US with Aerosmith, Rush and REO Speedwagon before a tour in June 1976 was cancelled as Lynott had hepatitis, but the typically hard-working Lynott composed most of the next album 'Johnny the Fox' during this difficult period.

The band then continued to tour, supporting Queen, and in 1977 released the album 'Bad Reputation' which contained the single "Dancing in the Moonlight (It's Caught Me in Its Spotlight)" which reached a respectable No 4 in the UK.

In 1978, the first live album 'Live and Dangerous' appeared and was met with huge success, reaching No 2 in the UK Album Chart, which was followed by a tour of the US, Australia and New Zealand – without drummer Downey, who stayed in Ireland as he had pneumonia.

Even though the band was now surrounded by drugs (especially Lynott), it recorded 'Black Rose: A Rock Legend' which reached No 2 in the UK and spawned the two successful singles: "Waiting for an Alibi" and "Do Anything You Want", as well as the lovely ode to Lynott's new-born daughter "Sarah".

Although the band members changed from time to time (e.g., Gary Moore came and went), they continued to produce good music like 'Solo in Soho' in April 1980. This album contained the singles "Chinatown" and "Killer on the Loose" which were both quite successful, especially in the UK.

The band's first 'Greatest Hits' album was released in April 1981: 'The Adventures of Thin Lizzy' and reached No 6 in the UK, but the single "Trouble Boys" only reached No 53. Their next released album 'Renegade' was not a success, although the album 'Thunder and Lightning' released in March 1983 made No 4 in the UK; it was heavy metal in style.

Thin Lizzy's last concert was in Nuremberg in September 1983; there was the tragic loss of Phil Lynott in 1986. Various compilation and live recordings have since emerged (as well as the reissue of "The Boys Are Back in Town") and different reincarnations of the band have existed. I think the band including Phil Lynott, and his work, is the one that will always be remembered and cherished by fans of the band.

With a lot of help from Wikipedia.

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LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

I understand that a car can be a lifeline to an older person (especially one who lives alone), but I agree with people who say that there should be retesting of older drivers. I am not saying that all older drivers are bad drivers but it is true that reflexes are diminished by time. I do however, agree that some young drivers are also terrible drivers too.

Fran Secombe, Bristol

Dear Editor

Does anyone else get fed up of seeing constant cookery programmes on TV? We obviously need to eat to live, but do we have to be overwhelmed by fat cat chefs who prepare food that most of us would never bother with? In the past it was the same with programmes about DIY, gardening and antiques. Whatever next?

Mary Sculthorpe, Wigan

Dear Editor

I have been extremely saddened by the terrible actions of Israel towards innocent Palestinians. Not only is Israel a land thief, but now it seems to want to wipe out a whole race of people.

You would think that the horrific holocaust would have left all Jewish people with compassion and empathy towards other human beings. It is important to add however, that it is the minority in power in Israel who are guilty of these atrocities and not ordinary Jewish people.

Why can't we all live together peacefully?

Joe Stones, Aylesbury

Dear Editor

As a man who can take or leave football, I would like to express the following ideas/opinions:

- (1) It is obvious to everyone that players are overpaid for kicking a ball around and that the salaries of many top male players dwarf the amounts that people who do essential work get e.g. doctors and nurses. Plus, what would be wrong with footballers doing an ordinary job after their playing career is over if they were paid less?
- (2) I think people are stupid to put players on a pedestal and almost worship them as some kind of Gods. They are only sportsmen and sportswomen after all!
- (3) It seems ironic to me that when you buy a replica shirt you are expected to walk around like a fool advertising some logo or company name. Who is kidding who?

(4) The sport of football does not seem to worry where it gets its income from – surely, it should be stopped from endorsing and advertising unethical betting companies.

(5) I must admit that TV coverage of football is usually excellent, but I don't think so much money should be made from it and that some of the revenue should even be redistributed within society.

(6) I think an attempt has been made to brainwash us all to like Women's Football. I for one think it's okay but that the standard is far inferior to Men's Football.

(7) I also think that there are too many foreign managers and players in the English game which clearly stops much homegrown talent from coming through.

To summarise, I think football is okay to play and watch if you want to. However, I do think you should stop and think whether you want to enable people to make a fortune from such an activity. Think with your head as well as your feet!

Paul Chester, Durham

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Chameleon

Chameleons are very interesting reptiles (there are over 200 species), and are known by most people because of their ability to change colour and their brightness according to the species. Their bodies vary from 15mm to 68.5 cm in length, and their eyes are incredible as they can function independently of each other, resulting in a 360-degree arc of vision around themselves, which aids in hunting prey. In addition, their upper and lower eyelids are joined, with sight being achieved by the pupil through a pinhole. Interestingly, chameleons possess the highest magnification per size of any vertebrae, but they do not have an outer or middle ear although they are not deaf as they can detect some sound frequencies.

A chameleon has zygodactylous feet which help it cling onto and climb branches, and these can be used to help, if necessary, repel a predator. Their prehensile tail helps provide stability when moving about on a branch – it is often referred to as its fifth limb. Its body, which is laterally flattened, can be inflated to make it seem larger than it is if under threat.

The range of colours exhibited by different species is a result of evolution and environment. Some exhibit a shift in brightness, while others possess a plethora of colour combinations, which are used for camouflage to warn off other chameleons or in reaction to temperature and conditions.

Chameleons can be found in Africa, Southern Europe, Sri Lanka, Southern Asia, Madagascar and have even been introduced to places like California, Florida and Hawaii. They are both

predator to insects, lizards and young birds and prey of some birds and snakes, especially adult chameleons. They catch their prey from a distance by flicking out their long tongue and drawing it towards them.

Reproduction involves the laying of eggs three to six weeks after copulation which varies according to species; the eggs hatch out anywhere from 4 to 12 months. (* Ref Wikipedia)

TROUBLE STRIKES YOUNG



Written by Lynn Habergham

Reflecting back on my past recently, my mind returned all the way back to when I was five, during the year 1961. The family lived in Sowerby Bridge back then, and my mother owned a small general store that sold clothes lines, pegs, washing bowls and dust pans and brushes on Wharf Street, located near the bridge. Father worked in the local carpet mill. We resided in the back of the shop, and the bedrooms were located upstairs.

One Christmas Eve evening, my mother put myself and my two brothers to bed, telling us to be good or Santa would not come. Unable to sleep, I started to look out of the window, it had begun to snow, seeing this as a sign of Christmas being here already, I woke my two brothers. Three children stared out of the window fascinated by the snow. Whilst doing this, we suddenly saw a TV set playing in the lady's house across the road. TV sets were literally rarer than hen's teeth in those days. You had to be very posh and a little bit rich to own one. We lifted up the window to look closer; only now it is very clear to me that the frame of the window and the window sill were really rotten and falling to bits. Seeing no danger, in our innocence, the three of us climbed out on to the window sill and sat ourselves down, dangling over the sill and with our backs to the window. Oh, how funny it seemed to us as we giggled and started to watch the television of the lady opposite. Luckily for us, the lady saw us sitting out there and went across to our mother. She said she didn't mind us watching from a distance, but she was terrified for us due to the state of the window. So the bedroom door crashed back on its hinges, my mother red-faced and angry. "Whose idea was it to do this?", my mother enquired, glaring into our eyes as she demanded the information from us. The two boys looked at each other, then looked at me and pointed their fingers at me.

"She woke us up, it was her idea". I was seen as the one who instigated every wrong doing in my mother's eyes. So guess who got the red legs, that seemed to throb in rhythm with each other? Sadly, yes, it was me as usual. Putting us back to bed, she told us Santa would not call for certain if we did not stay in bed and go to sleep. We dropped into the arms of Morpheus and woke Christmas morning. What sticks in my memory to this day is the fact Santa did visit, and I got a pram and a doll, my brother Stephen got a train set and Michael a tricycle. This was to have an impact later in the day.

We had our Christmas dinner, then we went upstairs to play with our presents. We spent the next hour and a half doing just that. Mother called us to get ready to go to Grandma's for our Christmas tea. Michael sat on his new tricycle, I got onto the back behind him. Stephen sat on the handlebars and that is where the trouble all began. We decided it would be fun to try and ride it down the stairs; what on earth possessed us, I still don't know. There was a door at the bottom of the stairs and it was open. However, by the time we set off, the door had shut all of a sudden, whether closed by someone or it blew shut. It did not seem to matter to us as we hurtled towards it at a rate of knots. We could not stop and, suddenly, it was not funny anymore. Reaching the bottom of the stairs, we smashed the door open with the sheer force of our joint weight and that of the tricycle, landing on top of each other. The two boys did what they always did and looked at each other, mentally agreeing that it must be my fault without even a word being spoken. Mother just arrived at that moment, "It was her" they claimed immediately, in conspiracy, leaving me speechless and helpless to protest. So, it was the same pair of legs that got sorer and redder and throbbed even more.

On Boxing Day, I went to play with my doll. I picked her up, out of the pram, only to find all of her hair had been cut off by my brother Michael. Michael was laughing and happily confessed to his vandalism. "Mum won't believe you, even if you tell her", Michael proudly claimed. This sent me into floods of tears. When I reflect on this, I would have been better off grabbing my brother's hair and giving him a Mohawk. I went crying to Mum instead, telling her what Michael had done. Looking at me with a look of surprise, she said the words of injustice to me I still, to this day, cannot believe: "Michael would not do that". Always, right up until she passed away, my mother would always prefer to believe his lies than my truth. Ironically, it was always me she called to get her out of trouble as the years went by. The memory lives on, the logical answer always being someone did it. Trouble is some folk will only believe what they want to believe.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol used to play a big role in my life – for seventeen years, to be precise. This month will be 26 years since I was savagely beaten up when I was too drunk to defend myself. This happened outside a bar in Leeds. When the police questioned the landlord, he pretended he did not know who had done this to me.

Anyway, I decided enough was enough and stopped drinking on February 17th 1998, and I have avoided consuming it since then. I now view alcohol differently, and I recognise that it is a mind-altering drug that made a fool of me on many occasions. My experience was compounded by the fact that I was also mentally ill and, consequently, on a lot of medication.

I have missed getting drunk as it can provide some relief from the mundaneness of life, but I am clearly better off without it – although, I would not tell anyone else not to drink. I no longer view myself as a drinker, and I don't often give it a second thought. though I do buy it for friends who like a drink, especially at Christmas.

You can never say that you won't do something again, as life can hold some bad surprises, and certain losses, that can be hard to bear. However, I am going to try and follow this dry lifestyle for as long as I can.

BRENDA'S SIMPLE BUT TASTY RECIPE FOR VEGETABLE SOUP



Ingredients:

1 packet of leeks
4 medium carrots
3 medium parsnips
3 medium potatoes
3 vegetable stock

Method:

Prepare the vegetables by cutting them into small pieces and then washing them. Put into a medium pan, add 3 vegetables stock cubes and water. Bring to the boil and simmer. You can use this as a foundation and add other things that you like.

AFTER BLENHEIM

It was a summer evening,
Old Kaspar's work was done,
And he before his cottage door
Was sitting in the sun;
And by him sported on the green
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin
Roll something large and round
Which he beside the rivulet
In playing there had found;
He came to ask what he had found
That was so large and smooth and round.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy
Who stood expectant by;
And then the old man shook his head,
And with a natural sigh
'Tis some poor fellow's skull,' said he,
'Who fell in the great victory.'

'It was the English,' Kaspar cried,
'Who put the French to rout;
But what they fought each other for
I could not well make out.
But everybody said,' quoth he,
'That 'twas a famous victory.'

'With fire and sword, the country round
Was wasted far and wide,
And many a childing mother then

And new-born baby died:
But things like that, you know, must be
At every famous victory.'

'Great praise the Duke of Marlbro' won
And our good Prince Eugene;
'Why, 'twas a very wicked thing!
Said little Wilhelmine;
'Nay . . nay . . my little girl,' quoth he,
'It was a famous victory.'

'And everybody praised the Duke
Who this great fight did win.'
'But what good came of it at last?'
Quoth little Peterkin: --
'Why that I cannot tell,' said he,
'But 'twas a famous victory.'

ROBERT SOUTHEY (1774 - 184)

MORE RECIPES FROM GROOVY JUNE CHARLTON



Potato and Avocado Pear Soup

Ingredients:

- 8 oz peeled and diced potatoes
- 1 peeled and chopped onion
- 1 clove of garlic, crushed
- 2 oz of butter
- 2 ripe avocado pears, peeled and de-stoned
- 1 teaspoon of curry powder
- 1 pint of vegetable stock

2 teaspoons of lemon juice
Salt and pepper
Croutons

Method:

Prepare the vegetables. Lightly fry the onions, garlic and potatoes in melted butter. Add the chopped avocado pears to the pan with a little of the curry powder. Cover with stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Pass through a sieve or liquidiser. Reheat and season to taste. Add the lemon juice.
Serve garnished with croutons.



Scones

Ingredients:

12 oz of self-raising flour
3 oz of margarine
1 oz of caster sugar
¼ pint of milk or milk and water mixed
1 level teaspoonful of baking powder
Pinch of salt

Method:

Sieve the flour, salt and baking powder. Rub in the margarine. Add liquid and work mixture into a soft dough. Roll out to ½ inch thick using a 2-inch cutter. Cut into small scones (approx. 18).

Place on baking tray and bake.



Meat Loaf

1 lb of grated potatoes
1 lb of minced steak, lean
8 oz of minced bacon, lean
1 large onion, grated
1 tablespoon of parsley, chopped
1 egg, beaten
Salt and pepper

Method:

Grate the potato into a bowl and pour off excess water. Add the steak, bacon, onion, parsley and salt and pepper and mix thoroughly with the egg. Place in a greased bowl and press down well. Cover with foil and place in a pan of boiling water. Boil gently for 2 ½ - 3 hours and allow to cool before turning out. Serve with mixed salad.



Peach and Plenty Pudding

Ingredients:

1 lb of peaches (fresh or canned) halved and stoned
2 -3 oz of sugar
2 tablespoons of water
1 oz of hazelnuts (if bought fresh, roast and remove husks)

Sponge:

4 oz of self-raising flour
1 teaspoon of baking powder
4 oz of soft margarine
2 eggs

Topping:

2 oz of plain flour
1 level teaspoon of mixed spice
1 oz of margarine
2 oz of brown sugar
1 oz of roasted hazelnuts
2 tablespoons of peach or apricot jam

Place peaches, sugar, water and hazelnuts in greased 2 ½ pint oven-proof dish. Sift the flour and baking powder together and add the remaining sponge ingredients. Beat for 2 ½ minutes. Spoon mixture over peaches and spread evenly. Bake at gas mark 5 (375 F) for 30 – 35 minutes until the sponge has risen and turned golden.

Sift flour and mixed spice together and rub in the margarine and mix in sugar and nuts. When ready, remove the pudding from the oven, quickly spread top with jam then sprinkle topping evenly over.

ADVENTURES OF A MAN SITTING DOWN



Written by Krishna Francis

If you're reading this, don't. Stop now! Don't go on. The man, who has got it in front of your eyes, is a pest. He is a manipulative control freak, a Halifax Vladimir Putin. I don't know what the antonym of relentless is (lentless?), but he has calmly and patiently hounded me down with polite requests and unpressured reminders to get me to write this piece. It is done under duress. I protest! J' Accuse!

Anyway, I've had quite a busy month, what with it being Christmas and all. That, and I've taken it on myself to take myself seriously and do the things that are in my head, rather than putting them off and leaving them to the notion of inevitability. I have always thought I would one day write a book and have it published, and the one thing that has got in the way of this is the fact that I've always thought I would one day write a book and have it published. The problem there is reality. It sort of gets in the way. Between the idea and the realisation, there is a gulf as wide as... Well, if I were better at geography, I'd have a really good simile to go in there to describe a wide gulf. But, I'm not that good at geography, and I'm not that good at sticking to what I say I'll do either, but that seems to have changed a little.

Anyway, that gulf. In between intention and realisation, there is a world of difference. Thus, I have brought forward my vague notion of making a story about my parents into a book, and I have been waking up early every morning to write it. I just remembered as I wrote that last sentence that I have already told you about having written a book about pirates, so I have proved to myself I can do the actual work of writing and structuring a story. This tale about my parents is a bit bonkers. It's about how my father got arrested by the Apartheid government and spent 400 days in jail, and what my mother had to do to get him out. It's fifty years old and really exciting, but it is tricky to find the place to stand in order to tell it without it being a bit "and then this happened, and then this happened, and then this happened". At a certain point last month, I found the edge of the narrative that I could get along with and I just dived in, finding my way through each successive event by seeing it through a series of conversations with friends and relatives. So far, so good.

Anyway, now the accent is on the publishing. How to do this? That is a matter of trial and, hopefully, not too much error, but more on that when I have more. For now, I shall end.

Are you still reading? I said I was going to end it! You readers are as bad as that editor in chief. You just don't know when to stop...

Do you?

Well?

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Where were the first Winter Olympics held?
- (2) What is the capital of Nicaragua?
- (3) Which country produces the most cigars in the world?
- (4) Who invented the Penny Farthing?
- (5) What was the name of Benny Hill's 1971 Christmas hit?
- (6) Where was the first FA Cup held?
- (7) What is the currency of Turkey?
- (8) At what age did composer Ludwig van Beethoven go completely deaf?
- (9) Who was the oldest character in 'Friends'?
- (10) Where is this magazine still based?
- (11) Which drummer of The Who tragically died?
- (12) What does myopic mean?
- (13) What kind of building is an emporium?
- (14) How was jazz pianist Thomas Waller better known?
- (15) What is the French word for lesbian?

- (16) Where do FC Halifax Town play their home games?
- (17) Who is thought to have compiled the first English dictionary?
- (18) Which rock band had a hit with the song 'Jump' in 1984?
- (19) What nationality was the actor, Laurence Olivier?
- (20) When was first nuclear explosion?

Answers:

- (1) Chamonix, France in 1924 (2) Managua (3) The Dominican Republic (4) James Starley
 - (5) 'Ernie (The Fastest Milkman In The West)' (6) Kennington Oval, London (7) Turkish lira
 - (8) 44 (9) Phoebe (10) Halifax, UK (11) Keith Moon (12) Not able to clearly see objects that are far away (13) A large retail store selling a wide variety of goods (14) Fats Waller (15) lesbienne (16) The Shay (17) Samuel Johnson, in 1755 (18) Van Halen (19) English (20) July 16, 1945
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Editor's Final World: Thank you so much for reading this e-magazine and I hope you got something out of doing so. If you want to contact us, you can do so at: dean@fthm.org.uk
Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert and Willow.