

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH — August 2024. Edition 116.



Hello. I hope you are well. Brenda and I are looking forward to spending four days in Scarborough in August. We can't afford to go abroad as our health conditions means it is too expensive to acquire the necessary insurance. Anyway, what's wrong with the UK?

If you would like to get involved with this E-magazine, in a non-racist, non-homophobic or non-sexist way, you can contact us at dean@fthm.org.uk You can also contact us if you are interested in advertising or wish to donate to the running costs of the magazine. Here is a lovely photo of Brenda, best wishes, Dean.

MY NOT VERY SERIOUS STARS



Scorpio 24 Oct – 22 Nov

It is a good idea to open yourself up to thoughts of romance as this window of opportunity does not present itself too often for someone like you who is not all there. Also, a drunken person may declare their love for you when they have their beer goggles on. Money is

coming your way, so don't spend it like a fool like you normally do. Stop being an idiot.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You may have been jilted recently but you will be alright as someone like you will easily find a bearable partner. It seems that you expect a lot from life, so don't expect to ever feel satisfied with your lot. A holiday may be a good idea, but make sure you keep your layers of fat well-hid, otherwise you may put others off of their food. A West Indian will help you.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

Now is the perfect time to take up ballroom dancing if you want to impress the handsome man who has been eyeing you up for weeks. Recently, you have been acting like a child in a playground, so stop kidding around and accept your responsibilities. If you have been committing benefit fraud, be very careful as someone close to you may drop you in it.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

A man with a bad eye may make a pass at you soon, but bear in mind that he sees the world in a cock-eyed way. You need to buy a new bag and change your image if you are to stop looking like Roy Cropper. It is time you became a pint half-full person and ceased to be so cynical about the world around you. Treat yourself to a nice meal out as you deserve it.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

You may do something extremely silly this month that will shock people who know you. However, it will be alright as you will have many opportunities to redeem yourself. Someone like you is clearly an underachiever, though you have the potential to do so much more if only you could be bothered. Someone you are in love with will reciprocate your feelings.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

Sometime this month, a hedonistic friend will try to gain pleasure at your expense. Firmly put a stop to this as you're no fool. You may go to a wedding in the near future where you may meet the love of your life. Do something with your hair as it looks like you have cut it yourself! Start eating porridge in anticipation of your new vigorous sex life.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

You seem to be doing alright with a member of the opposite sex, then you shoot yourself in the foot by telling them you fire blanks. Choose your moment more carefully. It is a good time to buy a loved one some flowers and show them how you are blossoming as a person. You are too generous, so grow some financial balls and start saying "no" to more people.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

Someone who has been around the block a thousand times will soon show interest in you, but how will you react as you have been anything but promiscuous? Original ideas may be rare at the moment, but don't dwell on this as next month you will experience a spell of creativity. A woman with bad acne will appeal to you for help – remember when it was you?

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

Money is in short supply at the moment, so cut your cloth accordingly and don't wear yourself out chasing the mighty pound. It is time you reduced the amount of makeup you wear and projected a more honest image which people will like. You are also as popular as COVID-19, so maybe change your poor attitude and become the life and soul of the party.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

Your diet is appalling, so alter it if you don't want to be in the next box at the front of your local church. A tough, gay woman may shock you with her level of aggression this week. Just give her a wide berth without judging her. Life is about to get better for you, and you will think that it all makes more sense to you now. It is a good time to have a sex change and be you.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

You are definitely too quick to judge others and need to be careful, otherwise you will find yourself on the end of some harsh criticism this month. On the other hand, positivity will flood your whole being and wash away any lingering doubts that you may have. If you have anything about you, then think twice before joining a shoplifting gang. Relax more today.

Libra 24 Sep – 23 Oct

It is about time you acted in a more sexually responsible way as what you are doing is clearly dangerous. You also seem to know the price of everything and the value of nothing – some people harshly think you are a very shallow person. A windfall will blow your way soon and give you more economic freedom, but will you be selfish as you usually are? Laugh more.

JUNE'S WORLD



Call a
spade a
spade



In past articles, I've written a little about my younger life, but now I'll try and write a bit more.

When I was very young, I always thought I was a bit different to my family. My uncle Widgie (David) used to say, "You'll come down to earth with a bang one day," because I used to say that I'll never wear

makeup, that I would never go out with boys and that I would never wear nylon stockings. Bearing in mind the kind of family I came from, who called a spade a spade, I must have sounded such a snob.

I remember my sister who used to walk around with a gang of boys and girls whilst I would be washing the front windows of our house, and they all shouted, "Make sure you wash all the corners". I just ignored them, but I wondered whether, at 13-years-old, I should be walking around with them instead of washing windows. Anyway, all I can say about cleaning for my grandma, and sometimes for my mother, is that I quite enjoyed doing jobs for them. In my mother's case, she used to work very hard pulling peas and picking potatoes in the fields, which we called 'tattie picking'.

I liked pea-pulling, although we had to be up very early in the morning to catch the lorry and arrive at the pea field for 7am. Some dishonest people cheated and put stones in their bags to make them heavier, but the man in charge realised this and warned them about their behaviour. After that, it rarely happened.

I also liked tattie picking during the school holidays, when I went to earn some money for my mother. As I have mentioned before, my father didn't have a regular job and preferred to work away collecting scrap and iron – anything that made him money. I remember that he used to like going to Wales as he seemed to make a lot of money there. Unfortunately, my mother didn't see much of the money he brought home, and when he did give her some, he would often ask for it back to go drinking a couple of days later. I didn't like it when my father came home drunk and accused my mother of going with other men. At the time, I didn't realise that men liked to frequent pubs.

When I was 15 years old, I went for an interview at Bellamy's in Castleford, down Wheldon Lane. They took me around the factory and informed me that they needed workers in the gum room and dispatch department, where they made Jelly Babies and Liquorice Allsorts. Bill Atkinson of the gum room said he'd like to give me a trial and that I could start work the following day. I worked there successfully for a few months. Unfortunately, I got a sugar rash on my feet and was moved to another department where they made Pomfret Cakes. Two women who worked on the machines there were not pleasant to me but, because I was shy, a woman called Gina stuck up for me and told them to give me a chance as I had only just started. I then got the chance to work on Gina's machine, which I gladly took. One of the women who had been unpleasant to me then became friendly with me, although the other one never did. After that, I became more confident and began to stand up for myself. I worked on a conveyor belt and became really quick at stopping the Pomfret Cakes from going over the edge. Later, a supervisor from the dispatch room invited me to start work there, and I preferred that the work was cleaner. I loved putting the made-up sweets into a van to be delivered to shops.

I think I've written enough for now, so bye for now. June. X.

GRAHAM'S GIG REVIEW



On Friday 21st June 2024, I headed to the Co-op Live venue in Manchester, England to see a band who are regarded as one of the best in the world at what they do. This band were on my bucket list of bands to see. On the evening before tickets went on sale, I saw that they were being supported by the Scottish band Travis, another band I admire very much. This made my mind up for me; I had to see them on this tour. The band describe themselves as a rock and roll band from Las Vegas. We are of course talking about The Killers. They are undoubtedly one of the biggest and most commercially successful acts of the 21st century. This was a gig which formed a part of their "Rebel Diamonds" tour to celebrate the release of their second greatest hits album in 2023.

This was my first visit to this particular venue as it has only been in operation for a matter of weeks after a series of technical issues delayed the initial grand opening. My first impressions were mostly positive. It looked impressive from the outside. Once inside, I was taken aback by the vastness of the arena. It has become the largest indoor concert venue in the UK. The

capacity is 23,500 for events which allow standing. One thing I noticed was that the seats in the lower tier seemed closer to the stage than at any other arena I had been to, allowing seated spectators a better view than they might be afforded otherwise.

On to the gig itself. To start with, we were treated to nine songs, ten if you include the rendition of “Happy Birthday” to The Killers frontman Brandon Flowers, from our support act. They seemed to be really enjoying being in Manchester and interacted fantastically well with their audience. At one stage, singer Fran Healy divided sections of the crowd into different types of biscuits. This was all part of his plan to get us to join in with the chorus of one of their new songs “Alive”, taken from their new “L A Times” album. Despite having to restart one song due to technical difficulties, they put on a great performance. Some of their greatest hits were included in the set including “Sing”, “Driftwood” and “Closer”. My favourite number from their new album was “Gaslight”. They closed the set with their most famous song “Why Does It Always Rain on Me?” It was a rousing way to finish things off, with most of the audience pogoing along at the appropriate moments. I was certainly in the mood for the main event after forty-five minutes or so of great entertainment.

Just after 9pm, following much anticipation, the lights went down and the birthday boy appeared to a rapturous reception from behind a giant curtain. We went straight into “Mr Brightside” – the song that made them really. It probably remains their best-known track to this day. What a brilliant way to get the show on the road.

Hit after hit followed including “Somebody Told Me”, “Human”, “Read My Mind”, “Smile Like You Mean It” and “When You Were Young”. We also got “Jenny Was a Friend of Mine” from “Hot Fuss” – their debut and still best-selling album in the UK.

Also, interspersed with these classics, we had a cover of “True Faith” by Manchester’s very own New Order, one of my favourite parts of the evening, and a version of “Ten Storey Love Song” by The Stone Roses.

The set lasted around one- and three-quarter hours. This included an encore where we were introduced to all the members of the band during the bridge of “All These Things That I’ve Done”, which closed the proceedings. There were few slower numbers, and I danced my heart out to the point where I felt worn out by the end.

One thing I noticed right from the start of the evening was that the acoustics were very good. This is not always the case, especially for a newer venue.

I really enjoyed the gig and would certainly be open to seeing both acts again. Tickets certainly weren’t cheap by any means, but I definitely felt that I got value for money. Organisation outside the venue afterwards left a bit to be desired. However, the staff were friendly all round, and it did not detract from what was a great experience overall.

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



Moose

The moose is the largest member of the deer family and is the second largest land mammal, after the bison, in North America. It is found in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, it is known as 'moose' and in Eurasia it is known as 'elk'. Some of its habitats include: Canada (~1,000,000), US (~ 300,000), Russia (~600,000), Sweden (~300,000 – 400,000), Finland (~115,000) and Alaska (~200,000).

Moose are very impressive in size, with an adult male standing at 1.4-2.1 m high at the shoulder and weighing 380-700 kg. The antlers of a mature bull are usually 1.2-1.5 m, with their size and growth being influenced by diet and age. Cows may select mates according to antler size and symmetry. A bull possesses powerful antlers to show dominance and discourage competition, or to fight or spar with rivals. A moose's skin and fur are interesting and are very typical of the deer family i.e., its fur is composed of four types of hair, and its length varies according to age, body area and the season. Its guard hair is actually hollow, which aids insulation and swimming.

The moose is normally a solitary animal with the only bonds formed between a cow and her calf. The calf stays close to its mother for about 18 months until its mother enters oestrus and chases it away. The mating season is August-September, and the gestation period is 8 months. A male will seek many females to mate with, which is arguably good for the gene pool of the species. The life span of a moose tends to be between 15 – 25 years.

Moose are able to consume many kinds of plants and fruits, but not hay, and can eat up to 32 kg of food a day. It is known as a browser, and its diet consists of terrestrial and aquatic vegetation, depending on the season. For example, it likes branches, twigs, new shoots and dried wood in winter. However, a moose needs to supplement its diet with aquatic plants like lilies and pondweed because terrestrial plants are low in sodium. It is the only deer to feed underwater. It is also licks gritting salt, used to melt snow and ice, off of roads. Moose like water, and they are very good swimmers. They use it to cool their body temperature and rid themselves of black flies – its tail is too short to serve this function.

A moose, because of its size, does not have a lot of natural predators with the exceptions of Siberian tigers, packs of grey wolves, brown bears and occasionally wolverines – these are especially dangerous to calves. It does also suffer internally and externally from parasites which can be fatal.

The moose population in North America has dramatically fallen, although in the arctic and subarctic regions, it has experienced stability. Humans are guilty of encroaching on the moose's habitat through logging and forest damage, and this explains why moose are sometimes found in our environment looking for food.

SEE AND FEEL BEAUTY



Written by Trevor Morris

If you choose to see and feel love and beauty around you, it will transform your life – even if you do nothing else. I understand that the more problems you have, the more difficult this will seem at first, but if you try, you will always find some things to love in your life.

Stop where you are right now. What can you see, hear, feel, and touch that is beautiful? Look around you, look out of the window, listen to the wind or the rain, pick up an apple from the fruit dish or walk on the wet grass with bare feet. Try to get in touch with a childlike sense of wonder. Discover for yourself the beauty and wonder that is around you. Stretch out and extend your mind and senses so that you come into contact with the beautiful things that surround you.

After you have done this, sit down quietly and write down at least three beautiful things in your life. Don't think too hard; just write down things that come to mind or appeal to your senses. Do this exercise once per day for about a week and compile a list of at least twenty beautiful things in your life. It should only take you about five minutes each day.

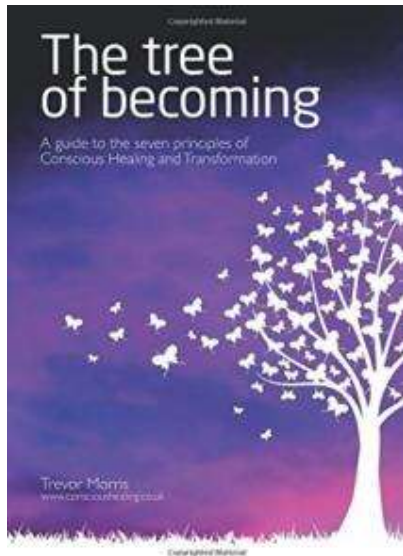
See, feel, hear, smell, and touch the beauty and love that surrounds you. Use all your senses, and try to be at one with the beauty and wonder of the universe.

After a week, start to bring this attitude into your daily life. Instead of writing down what you are experiencing, stop for a few minutes during the day to see and feel things that inspire you and make you happy. As you are doing this, feel a sense of gratitude for the wonderful things in your life.

Let this exercise become an automatic part of your life.

To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower. Hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.

William Blake, Auguries of Innocence



Source: 'The Tree of becoming' by Trevor Morris
You can find out how to order this book by clicking on the link below:
<https://conscioushealing.co.uk/th>

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ

Questions:



- (1) What nationality is cyclist Tadej Pogacar?
- (2) Which group was named Best British Band at the 2024 Brit Awards?
- (3) What does a galvanometer measure?
- (4) Who shot John F Kennedy?
- (5) Actor and screenwriter Osgood Perkins is the son of which other notable actor?
- (6) What is a group of cats called?
- (7) How many colours are there in the rainbow?
- (8) In which UK city can you find the River Clyde?
- (9) Francisco Franco ruled which country from 1939 to 1975?
- (10) In relation to Formula 1 motor racing, what does the term DRS stand for?
- (11) How many valves does the heart have?
- (12) What is the name given to a shape with nine sides?
- (13) The cheese brie originates from which country?
- (14) Which language was spoken in Ancient Rome?
- (15) What is the currency used in Sweden?
- (16) What is the study of mushrooms called?
- (17) What is the only mammal capable of true flight?
- (18) Who is Donald Trump's running mate for the 2024 US presidential election?
- (19) Which star of "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Charmed" passed away aged 53 in July 2024?

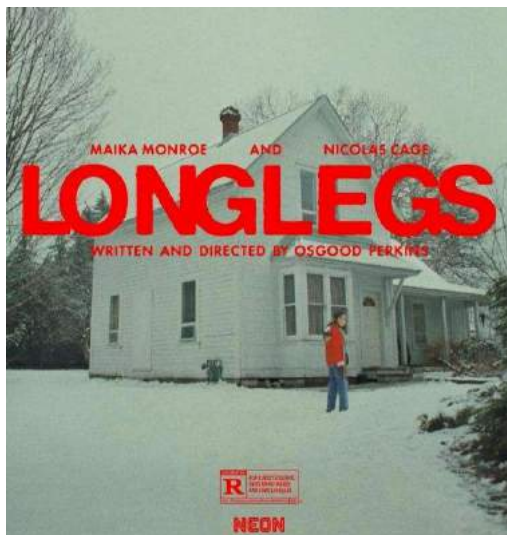
(20) In relation to cricket, what does the term DRS stand for?

Answers:

(1) Slovenian (2) Jungle (3) Electric current (4) Lee Harvey Oswald (5) Anthony Perkins (6) A clowder (7) Seven (8) Glasgow (9) Spain (10) Drag Reduction System (11) Four (12) Nonagon (13) France (14) Latin (15) Swedish Krona (16) Mycology (17) Bat (18) J D Vance (19) Shannon Doherty (20) Decision Review System

ALICE'S THING OF THE MONTH!

Hello and welcome back to Alice's Thing of The Month.



This month we are going to be talking about the film LongLegs.

It's a recent horror film that came out on the 12th of July. The film is directed by Osgood Perkins, the son of the very famous Anthony Perkins who plays Norman Bates in the film "Psycho".

This film has been very hyped up as the scariest horror of the year. It's said that it is similar to films like Silence of The Lambs and Se7en. The promotion of the film has also made it look very scary. The main actress Maika Monroe is shown in one clip from the film meeting the character 'LongLegs' for the first time, and the actress was so scared her heart rate reached 170bpm – her

normal heart rate is 76bpm. This kind of promotion makes you think, 'wow, this film and character must be terrifying if it makes someone's heart do that.'

I watched it this week and, unfortunately, there is nothing scary about this film. 'LongLegs' wasn't terrifying and was kind of laughable at times, and it did not live up to my expectations. All the hype and promotion around it I feel was false and not worth it.

The film is about a new FBI agent named Lee Harker played by Maika Monroe who is assigned to an unsolved case about a serial killer named 'LongLegs' who is played by Nicolas Cage, as soon as the FBI agent is on this case everything starts to change and things get revealed that were not known before. That is the best description I can give without giving away spoilers if you are going to see this film at the cinema or watch at home. I would say I did enjoy watching this film as the actors are very talented and I was intrigued because of the marketing behind it but to me it ended up being lacklustre and it could have been so much more than it was. This film also goes into the 'satanic' culture which I feel is in so many films these days it becomes boring and unoriginal. It is not a film I would revisit any time soon but may give it another go in the future. Nicolas Cage is unrecognisable physically in this film but also recognisable with his signature style of acting. Maika Monroe is also very good, I would class her as a 'horror actress' all the films she is in are similar to this one but it is like she was made for the genre. Overall, I gave this film a 3 out of 5.

LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

Whilst I am pleased that Labour won the last election in the UK, I still think that the present electoral system favours the larger parties and is not reflective of how the country has voted.

Like a past contributor, I also think that the changes brought by any new government will only be cosmetic as wealth is never truly

redistributed. The rich stay very rich and the poor are only marginally better off, if they are lucky.

One problem any government faces is that the super-rich usually threaten to move their vast wealth out of the country if the status quo is changed. Therefore, it is difficult to build a fairer society because of the nature of many humans (greedy and selfish).

Paul Newton, Chesterfield

Dear Editor

Like many people, I am disgusted at the antics of cyclists who continue to ride in pedestrian zones, on pavements and do not respect the rules of the road – how often have you seen a cyclist jump a red light? It is good that people want to cycle but, surely, they must realise that they are not above the law.

Sian Fredericks, Coventry

Dear Editor

Many people still don't seem to care enough about climate change and continue to fly at a whim. It is sad that we are destroying this beautiful planet which is the only one we have, and it is bad that some people with money have scant regard for our environment in general.

Claire Turner, Leeds

Dear Editor

I used to give money to beggars on a regular basis until I realised how they were spending my money i.e., on drugs/alcohol. I understand that these people are often in a difficult position, but they don't seem to try and help themselves by accepting the practical help that is on offer.

Nowadays, I don't give money to people who accost me on the street as many are not really homeless but are just parasitic in nature. It is, however, hard to know who is genuinely homeless and who are just conning people.

Henrietta Carlton, Leicester

Dear Editor

I used to drink vast quantities of alcohol and behave in a foolish manner. Happily, I stopped before I completely ruined my life.

It is nice to experience the pleasant effects of alcohol, but I can now see the damage that this drug causes to many people and their families. Who hasn't woken up and been horrified by their actions, or by what they have said, the night before?

Obviously, I can't tell others what to do, but I can honestly say that my life is better without alcohol. Try it for yourself.

Dawn Fitzwilliam, Glasgow

MORE DELIGHTFUL RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Potato Drop Scones

Ingredients:

1lb 2oz of large potatoes, peeled and cut into small chunks
1 ½ teaspoons of baking powder
2 eggs
3 Fl oz of milk
Vegetable oil for frying

Salt and pepper

Method:

Cook the potatoes in a pan of salted boiling water for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain well, return to the pan and mash until smooth. Leave to cool slightly. Beat in the baking powder, then the eggs, milk and a little seasoning and continue to heat until everything is evenly combined. Heat a little oil in a heavy-based frying pan. Drop heaped dessertspoons of the mixture into the pan, spacing them slightly apart, and fry for 3-4 minutes until golden, turning once. Transfer to a serving plate and keep warm, while frying the remainder of the potato mixture. Serve warm with your favourite cooked breakfast, instead of toast.



Steamed Jam Pudding

Ingredients:

4 oz of self-raising flour
2 oz of sugar
2 oz of suet
2 tablespoons of milk
3 tablespoons of jam or lemon curd

Method:

Mix dry ingredients together. Add milk. Put jam or lemon curd at the bottom of a greased basin. Add mixture, which must be stiff, cover and steam for 1 ½ hours. Have ready boiling

water in a large pan, pudding covered and securely tied. Stand basin on perforated rack or two skewers, with boiling water two thirds way up the basin. Fit lid, water must boil throughout. Replenish as required with more boiling water.



Mushroom and Egg

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons of frying fat
4 oz of chopped onions
8 oz of sliced mushrooms
1 1/2 lb of boiled potatoes (mashed)
4 oz of grated cheese
Salt and pepper

4 eggs

Method:

Heat half of the fat gently, fry mushrooms and onions without browning until cooked, for about 8 minutes. Remove the onions and mushrooms from the pan and add to the potatoes and cheese. Beat well and add salt and pepper. Heat the remaining fat and spread the potato mixture over the base of the pan. Make four hollows and break one egg into each one. Fry gently until cooked.



Bacon and Spinach Pasta

Ingredients:

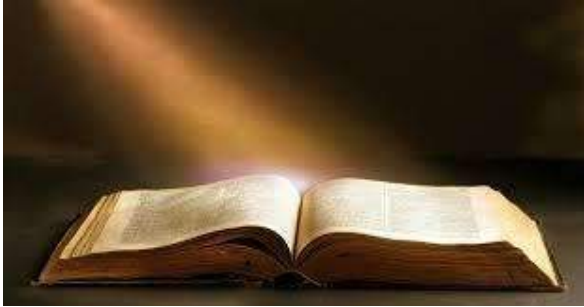
12 oz of pasta
1 tablespoon of olive oil
7 oz of streaky bacon, sliced
1 sliced onion
2 tablespoons of pine nuts
6 oz of baby leaf spinach
10 oz of halved, cherry tomatoes

6 tablespoons of single cream
2 tablespoons of grated Parmesan cheese
4 sliced spring onions
Salt and pepper Heat the

Method:

Cook the pasta in a saucepan of salted boiling water according to the pack instructions. Drain well. Heat the oil in a frying pan, add the bacon and onion and fry for 3-4 minutes until the bacon is crisp and the onion are softened. Add the pine nuts and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the spinach and tomatoes and cook until the spinach is just wilted. Stir the spinach mixture into the pasta. Mix in the cream, Parmesan and spring onions. Season well and serve immediately.

BIBLE TALK



Sent by Peter Smith

I say to you, 'Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you '.

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)

Jesus did not say 'Shoot your enemies'.

'Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.'

Matthew 5:39 (NKJV)

Jesus did not say 'Hit him back'.

THE OLD VICARAGE, GRANTCHESTER

God! I will pack, and take a train,
And get me to England once again.
And Cambridgeshire of all England,
The shire for men who understand;
And of that district I prefer
The lovely hamlet Grantchester.

River-smell and hear the breeze
Sobbing in the little trees.
Say, do the elm-clumps greatly stand
Still guardians of that holy land?

Is dawn a secret shy and cold
And sunset still a golden sea;
And after, ere the night is born,
Do hares come out about the corn?

Oh, is the water sweet and cool,
Gentle and brown, above the pool?
And laughs the immortal river still
Under the mill, under the mill?

Say, is there Beauty yet to find;
And certainty; and Quiet kind?
Deep meadows yet, for to forget
The lies, and truths, and pain? . . . Oh! yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three,
And is there honey still for tea?

RUPERT BROOKE (1887 - 1915)

GRAHAM'S EURO 2024 REVIEW

The dust has now settled on the 2024 UEFA European Championships, held in Germany, and many congratulations to Spain on winning a record fourth title by defeating England 2-1 in the final in Berlin on Sunday 14th July.



There are few people who can deny that Spain were the deserved winners of the tournament. They won all seven of their matches. They became the first team to win all their matches without the need for the game to go to penalties. They played an attacking brand of football which put the spotlight on the flair of precocious young talents like Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, whilst also highlighting the world class ability of midfielders Rodri and Fabian Ruiz and the sheer determination of defenders such as Dani Carvajal. Let's also not overlook the impact of left-back/left wing-back Marc Cucurella. He put in some fine crosses during the tournament, including the decisive one which Mikel Oyarzabal despatched into England's net to secure victory in the final itself.

How was the competition overall, then? I have to say that the quality of matches was probably not as high as I had expected. This may be, in part, due to the long seasons endured by many of the top players representing their clubs in domestic and European competitions. If I was asked to name which games stood out during the tournament, I would cite Romania versus Ukraine and Turkey versus Georgia as the highlights from the group stage. From the knockout stage, I would go for Spain versus Georgia for both excitement and the sheer tenacity, although some would say naivety, of the Georgian players to never give in and try to continually go on the attack.

Of the teams that were seen as potential dark horses prior to the tournament, I must say that Turkey, and to some degree Albania, lived up to the hype. I was disappointed with Hungary, who many expected to do well but flattered to deceive. Austria and Switzerland were both better than I expected, the latter benefitting from the return from an injury ravaged season for talisman Breel Embolo.

When looking at the top teams, Germany played well and were a little unlucky to lose out to Spain. France was not on top of their game – Kylian Mbappe suffering a broken nose in the game against Austria not helping their cause.

Now on to my team England. Well, they did reach the final after, shall we say, some very patchy performances. Apart from a good forty-five minutes in their first group match and a similar, if not better, performance in the second half of their semi-final with Netherlands, they did not perform to the standards expected of our nation. Maybe our expectations are too high? I'll leave that for others to judge.

Off the field, the tournament did appear to be well organised. Germany is a proud, football-loving nation, and they did a great job in my opinion.

Let's hope that the UK and Ireland can uphold those high standards when they host the next incarnation of the championship in summer 2028.

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) Which horse has won the Grand National the most times?
- (2) What is the capital of Mauritius?
- (3) What is the French word for shoulder?
- (4) Which artist painted 'Sunflowers'?
- (5) What is hedonism?
- (6) Who played the main female role in the film 'Brief Encounters'?
- (7) Who is the most capped male, Brazilian footballer?
- (8) What is a cloister?
- (9) What is the German word for church?
- (10) Which country makes the most televisions?
- (11) What is a segway?
- (12) What is the currency of Papua New Guinea?
- (13) Who was the Norse God of war?
- (14) When did WWII start?
- (15) Who is the richest person in the UK?
- (16) When was the Liberal Democrat party formed?
- (17) Who was Eva Peron?
- (18) Who has won the most speedway world titles?
- (19) What is the capital of China?
- (20) What is the oesophagus?

Answers:

(1) Red Rum (2) Port Louis (3) Epaule (4) Vincent van Gogh (5) The pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence (6) Celia Johnson (7) Cafu: 142 caps (8) A covered walk in a convent, monastery, college or cathedral (9) Kirche (10) China (11) A motorized personal vehicle consisting of two wheels mounted side by side that the rider stands on while holding on to handlebars (12) Papua new guinea Kin (13) Tyr (14) September 1, 1939 (15) Gopi Hinduja and his family (16) March 3, 1988 (17) An Argentine politician, activist, actress and philanthropist (18) Ivan Mauger/Tony Rickardsson: 6 times (19) Beijing (20) It is a muscle tube and connects your mouth to your stomach

Editor's Final Word: Thank you for reading this magazine, and I hope you got something out of doing so. You can contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes, Dean, Brenda, Robert, Graham and Willow.

Please note that our website address is: www.fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk