

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH – October 2024. Edition No 118.



Thank you for dedicating some time to take a look at this e-magazine, which has been going for nearly ten years. If you would like to get involved with us in a non-racist, non-sexist and non-homophobic way, you can do so by contacting us at: dean@fthm.org.uk. Attached is a photo of Graham Townsend who has greatly helped me with the magazine.

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

Someone who is always chasing the next thrill will come into your life and show you that it is better to be a sparrow than a magpie as they are just chasing feathers in the wind. This month you will also meet a lovely couple who temporarily live in a tent, so be kind to them. Now is a good time to realise that we are all travelling on the same road regardless of the vehicle we are travelling in.

Sagittarius 23 Nov – 21 Dec

You may be the sort of person who visits A&E with a broken finger nail, but it's time you understood that the world is not about you. You will receive a nasty email this week – don't

get even, just do better. An ex-friend will blank you in the street because you had a difference of opinion. Realise that they have lost more than you have. Good times lie ahead for you.

Capricorn 22 Dec – 20 Jan

Time is elapsing so quickly that you may feel a little anxious, but at least you now know that it doesn't matter what you do, as long as it doesn't hurt others, if you enjoy it. A beautiful person will show their inner ugliness this week and reveal how mean and selfish they really are. Money is coming your way, but don't shower it on people who mean little to you. Laugh.

Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

Now is a good time to buy and wear a monocle. Chess may become a new hobby in an attempt to checkmate a person who plays it and who you really fancy. It is a good time to do something about the big boil on your arse. Love is definitely within your grasp if you put in the effort to pursue it, but remember that nothing of value comes free. Eat some seaweed.

Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

In the near future, you will have to decide whether you want to drift into obesity or change your dietary ways before it is too late. A nice old man will share his faith with you, so listen politely even if religion is not your cup of tea. It is a good time to question whether the culling of badgers has been justified. Remember a bird in the hand is worth one up a tree.

Aries 21 Mar – 20 Apr

A man in a green top will breeze into your life and mow you over with his kindness and quirky sense of humour. Alcohol may remain a problem, especially if you can't afford it. An ex-flame may also offer to light up your life once more, but remember how you got your fingers burnt last time. A big bill will arrive, but don't worry as you'll find a way to pay it.

Taurus 21 Apr – 21 May

You have spent most of your life in a cocoon of ignorance, but this about to change as you enter a new relationship. You may also rue your lack of academic qualifications as it is holding you back career-wise. But, as you are relatively young, why not re-enter formal education? The stars suggest that it is also a perfect time to learn the butterfly stroke.

Gemini 22 May – 21 Jun

Romance is about to surface in your life and will result in you looking at the world in a different way. Also, you will be influenced by over-hearing the words of a friend who talks to themselves. You have made some bad mistakes in life. Now is the time to take stock and begin to lay the foundations for a successful future. Consider having some plastic surgery.

Cancer 22 Jun – 23 Jul

It might be a good time to buy a bow tie and look like an absolute prat. A boy with a lisp will amaze you with his academic ability. Be less judgemental and don't prejudge people who have never shafted you. A stranger may shock you with her ethical approach to life and lead you to question your own. Don't waste the money that is about to come your way.

Leo 24 Jul – 23 Aug

You may have been consuming too much food recently, so how about dedicating some time to dropping a dress size or two? A letter containing a bit of money will fail to arrive and reduce your confidence in the postal service. You are obsessed with someone at work, but it would be very silly if you threw everything away for a fling. Get a dog if you crave one.

Virgo 24 Aug – 23 Sep

Some people think you neglect your housework. If you care about what they think, then the conditions are perfect to clean your home from top to bottom. You would benefit from a weekend away with someone you like as long as you are careful. Time to stop looking for the meaning of life as no one really knows it. Eat more broccoli and cabbage for dinner.

Libra 24 Sep- 23 Oct

You may not have won any medals for bravery in the past, but this month you will be presented with the opportunity to show what you really are made of. It is true that you've had an extremely hard time of late, but don't worry as you will soon receive a reward for all the good you have done in life. It may be a good idea to find a new hobby that you enjoy.

JUNE'S WORLD



In this article I am going to write about my first boyfriend!

I used to be friends with a girl from work called Sylvia. One day she asked me if I wanted to go a dance at Pontefract Barracks. I was timid about going as I knew there would be a lot of soldiers there, and I was only 16. So, I told her I would think about it. Another thing that had put me off going was my lack of nice clothes and shoes. I had a decent blouse and skirt, but I had a pair of shoes

that had been handed down, and they had come apart. I thought that if I could sew and dye them, then they would be okay. So after much thought, I agreed to go with Sylvia. But, I said that we should sit at the back of the room, then we wouldn't be noticed. It didn't work like that.

When we got to the barracks hall, music was being played. I felt very nervous, and I asked Sylvia if she felt the same way. She said she didn't. There were only a few lads, who must have been civilians, when we went in. We decided to get up and dance together which seemed a bit odd – two girls dancing apart from others. Anyway, about ten o'clock a lot of soldiers started coming in from the pub. Two soldiers came across and asked us to dance. At first, I declined, but Sylvia said there would be no harm in doing so. I think she liked the look of the lad who was called Peter. The one who had asked me to dance was called Jack. We had only half an hour left before the coach came to take us to town to get a bus to Castleford. So, we exchanged addresses, and he said he would write straight away. He was true to his word. He also said that as it was Christmas, he would come over to meet my parents.

I think that I must have been his first girlfriend. I told my mother about him and how he wanted me to go to Mexborough, where he lived, to meet his mam and dad. My mother told me that my dad would not let me go if he knew, and that I should tell him I was visiting a friend – which I was as I had only recently met him. In early January, I travelled to Mexborough to meet them all. He had a younger brother called Brian. His parents were really nice and welcoming, telling me to come and sit around the fire. As it was freezing outside and I was only wearing a flimsy blouse without a cardigan, I was really cold. In those days, I didn't like cardigans, but I ended up buying one as I was so cold.

Jack and I wrote to each other, but he didn't turn up when we organised to meet up. A day or two later, he sent me a letter saying he had had duties to attend to and couldn't meet up. At first, I thought I would give him the benefit of the doubt and would meet him if he asked me again. However, the same thing happened once more, and I told him that we should call it a day. I later got to know why he hadn't turned up – he hadn't done his duties, had got jinkers and stripped of all his privileges. So, it had finished before it had really started. I always think things happen for a reason. Meanwhile, Sylvia and Peter went from strength to strength and got married.

I haven't seen Sylvia for years, although I know she had a little girl. They went to live in London where Peter came from. I don't expect I'll ever see them again.

Bye for now. Love June. X

GRAHAM'S PARALYMPICS 2024 REVIEW



Following on from the 2024 Olympic Games, the Paralympics also took place in Paris between 28th August and 8th September 2024.

I am writing this article just before the closing ceremony is about to take place. The games have been seen as a major success and, from a British perspective, Team GB have performed magnificently to finish second in the medal table. They have surpassed 120 medals in total, including 49 gold medals, the latter being eight more than they achieved at the previous games in Tokyo. Having said that China almost doubled that number of gold medals

and achieved 220 medals in total.

22 sports have been involved in the games. Some of the sports may be a little less known to the general public. The ones that spring to mind is boccia and goalball. Who have been the big stars of the games? Well, starting with Team GB, Hannah Cockroft, who comes from the same town as me, now has 9 Paralympics gold medals. She retained her 100 metres and 800 metres titles in Paris, thus claiming three consecutive wins in each event. Iona Winnifrith became Britain's youngest medallist when she claimed a silver medal in the 100 metres breaststroke at the ripe old age of 13. Poppy Maskill was making her games debut, but she was not overawed by the occasion and was Team GB's most

successful athlete by winning 3 gold medals and 2 silver medals in the pool. Cyclist Dame Sarah Storey was already our most decorated athlete with 28 previous medals. She added to this with two more gold medals in Paris. The team took 10 members to the games for the rowing events, and they all won medals.

Before moving on, we should mention David Weir. He has been representing Team GB at the games since 1996. He failed to add to his medal tally, including 6 previous golds, but still managed to compete effectively in the 1500 metres, 5000 metres and marathon in his final games at the age of 45.

International stars at the games included US athlete Jessica Long. She won 2 gold medals in the pool on her sixth appearance at the Paralympics, having first competed in Athens in 2004. Jiang Yuyan of China amazingly won 7 gold medals, again in swimming. Her teammate Guo Jincheng also managed a superb 4 golds and 2 silvers. Elsewhere Thailand's 50-year-old Saysunee Jana won 3 gold medals in wheelchair fencing. She won the epee, sabre and foil events, whilst also claiming a bronze medal in the team epee.

Some athletes competing at the Paris games will be remembered even though they did not win any medals. One of these was Bhutan's Kinzang Lhamo. She finished eightieth, and last, in the marathon, 50 minutes behind the winner. When she crossed the line, there were large cheers for her. She had walked part of the route, but she stuck to her task and won the hearts of all in attendance when she finished. Many felt that this was the essence of what the Paralympics is all about.

I think that is a good place to end this review of a very successful and well-received games.

"I BELIEVE I'M NOT A CONSPIRACY THEORIST"

From Robert Williams (with some help from AI)

I'm not a conspiracy theorist; I strive to maintain an open mind. However, there's a growing sense in the UK of a "New World Order" taking shape. Several developments fuel this concern.

COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic have served as a distraction. While the public's attention was elsewhere, new laws were quietly introduced that threaten to dismantle travelling communities, curtail the right to protest, and suppress our cherished freedom of speech. I encourage you to research these developments further.

The recent lengthy imprisonment of Just Stop Oil protesters is further evidence. While they arguably broke the law and deserve punishment, their sentences raise concerns about disproportionate responses. As Deborah Meaden, the well-known entrepreneur from the BBC television program *Dragon's Den*, tweeted:

[1. UK: lengthy jail sentences for environmental protesters is 'draconian' - Amnesty International](#)

www.amnesty.org.uk

"I find it very alarming that so many agree with the protest sentence. It doesn't matter whether you agree with JSO (Just Stop Oil), it matters that you have the right to protest... this is a legal overreach and we should all be worried."

Numerous instances in both the UK and the USA exemplify this "legal overreach." Both governments appear to be suppressing their citizens' freedom of speech. This is a slippery slope, growing more serious each day. Without freedom of speech, we become subjects of the state, not participants in a democracy.

Climate change is a pressing reality, yet meaningful action remains limited. While many words are spoken and efforts made, genuine change will only come when we embrace plant-based diets, stop exploiting animals for food, and recognise our individual environmental impact. Think local, act global.

This government uses climate change as a distraction. The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) seems more about control than environmental protection. An increasing number of cameras are being installed, ostensibly for safety and security, yet the ease with which they enable tracking raises concerns about surveillance and control, not enhanced security.

The gap between rich and poor is widening, with more people falling into poverty while a minority amass vast wealth. This disparity is evident on many levels.

If you dismiss these concerns as conspiracy theories, I urge you to conduct your research and draw your own conclusions.

GRAHAM TOWNSEND'S MONTHLY QUIZ

Questions:



- (1) Which room of the house do the French refer to as la salle de bain?
- (2) Which Police song starts with the line "Another suburban family morning"?
- (3) Who was the Greek God of the Sun?
- (4) Which is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
- (5) Which planet is closest to the sun?
- (6) Who is the main character in the "God of War" video game series?
- (7) The bat is the only mammal capable of what?
- (8) Mascarpone cheese is the main ingredient of which Italian dessert?
- (9) Little Rock is the capital of which US state?
- (10) Which cricketer became England's leading test century scorer in September 2024?
- (11) In which year was the United Nations formed?

- (12) How many faces does a dodecahedron have?
(13) What is the national flower of Japan?
(14) What colour are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
(15) Who was the world's highest paid athlete in 2023?
(16) Which meat is traditionally used in a shepherd's pie?
(17) What is the smallest unit of matter?
(18) What is the capital of Canada?
(19) Which company was originally known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"?
(20) Which composer, known as the "Father of the Symphony", was among Beethoven's teachers?

Answers:

- (1) Bathroom (2) Synchronicity II (3) Apollo (4) Africa (5) Mercury (6) Kratos (7) True flight (8) Tiramisu (9) Arkansas (10) Joe Root (11) 1945 (12) Twelve (13) Cherry Blossom (14) Yellow (15) Cristiano Ronaldo (16) Lamb (17) Atom (18) Ottawa (19) Nike (20) Haydn

BRENDA'S WILDLIFE CORNER



The Wolf

The wolf is a very interesting mammal. It is a carnivore, mainly feeding on large, hooved mammals as well as on livestock, carrion and garbage. It will also eat hares, insectivores and rodents if necessary. It lives predominantly where prey is abundant, like in forests, shrublands, grasslands, deserts, pastures, wetlands and rocky peaks on mountains. This

animal can exist in very cold climates as its fur offers better insulation than dog fur.

Physically, the wolf is a very powerful animal with a broad snout, short ears, short torso and a longer tail than coyotes and jackals. It has a slender build to enable it to move swiftly and overcome deep snow. Its teeth are extremely strong and can even crush bone. An average wolf is 1.05-1.66 m in length, though their weight differs depending on whether they are located: in Europe (38.5 kg), North America (36 kg) or India and Arabia (25 kg). Females are smaller than males.

Single or mated pairs are more successful when hunting and can thus successfully tackle prey much larger than itself. In fact, the wolf is the most specialised of all species for cooperative game hunting. It is important to note that wolves rarely attack humans unless they are rabid.

The reproductive life of the wolf is also very interesting. They are monogamous, although a replacement is quickly found if one of the partners dies. A wolf becomes sexually mature from the age of 3 years, and females usually have one litter of pups per year. Older females have larger litters than younger ones. A pup is born blind and deaf, although they develop at a fast rate and even accompany adult wolves on hunts for large prey the following autumn.

Finally, the wolf is able to communicate effectively through vocalisation, body postures and scent marking. Ref. Wikipedia

If you are interested in Back issues of this magazine please visit <https://fromthehorsesmouth.org.uk/back-issues/>

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 Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.

I recently went to the cinema to see the new Beetlejuice film. I never thought we would see a second Beetlejuice, especially after all this time. There have been rumours for years, but people always make things up about films so I didn't think this would ever happen.

I am a huge Tim Burton fan. I remember one of the first films I ever saw as a child was A Nightmare Before Christmas. Since then, I've never looked back. Some of my other favourite Tim Burton films are Edward Scissorhands, Sleepy Hollow, Big Fish and the original Beetlejuice.

The new Beetlejuice film brings back most of the original cast. Winona Ryder's

character Lydia Deetz is the star in this film, alongside Catherine O'Hara returning as her stepmother and Michael Keaton as the infamous 'ghost with the most' Beetlejuice. The film also stars Jenna Ortega as Lydia Deetz' daughter Astrid.

With the death of Lydia Deetz' father, the family return to the haunted house from the first film, and we get to revisit the after-life once again.

I won't spoil this film as it is very recent and you may want to go see it at the cinema. I found it very funny. It had some laugh out loud moments as well as some shocking and spooky scenes and nostalgia. This film felt fresh despite the original being over 30-years-old. Beetlejuice is an unforgettable character.

I've seen a lot of people giving this film negative reviews and wishing it had never been made, but I had a super fun time watching it and would definitely recommend it if you're a Tim Burton fan (old or new). You're in for a good time.

Thanks for reading.

LETTERS PAGE



Dear Editor

Some people may be disappointed by the lack of progress made by the new Labour government. I, for one, am not surprised at all as the last government in the UK left our finances and public services in a disastrous state. As for taking Cold Weather Payments from pensioners not on Pension Credit, I think this is justified, and it is obscene that even

millionaires have even been receiving it. We must get our house in order and this will take time.

Harriot Wilkinson, London

Dear Editor

Speaking as a person who is aware that I share the planet with billions of other people, I really hope that Donald Trump is not elected as the next President of the USA. Trump is only interested in Americans and seems to care little about the environment – and the world's poor.

Steve Dorking, Coventry

Dear Editor

So many people have a casual approach to sex with the result that we still see many unwanted pregnancies. This is obviously not always a bad thing as some people manage to successfully raise children that were a 'surprise'. However, some children are not raised properly, especially those raised by kids themselves, and this affects society in many negative ways.

I am not God, but surely we all need to be considerate about possibly bringing new life into our crowded world. Sex is a great gift of nature and needs to be respected as such.

Sam Widdup, Thirsk

Dear Editor

Whilst football is clearly very important to millions of people, I would argue that there are many more important things in life than a ball game. Football is a source of entertainment and should be viewed this way. It is not a matter of life and death.

Kate Broughton, London

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Dear Editor

One's faith, or lack of it, is private. I am happy to say that I do not believe we are being watched by a supernatural being who can punish us at the end of our lives. But, I am also aware how much one's faith can help one during a difficult period of one's life. I think this is fine.

On the other hand, many wars are caused by religion, which is wrong as we should live in peace on this planet. A loving God would not want this.

Henrietta Poulson, Newcastle

MORE SUCCULENT RECIPES FROM JUNE CHARLTON



Birthday Cake

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
1 teaspoon of mixed spice
5 oz of caster sugar
5 oz of butter
6 oz of currants
6 oz of sultanas
2 oz of chopped peel
2 eggs beaten with 6 tablespoons of milk

Method:

Mix flour and spice. Clean and mix the fruit. Beat butter and sugar to a cream in a warm basin. Beat eggs and milk together. Stir a little at a time the flour mixture, and the eggs and milk with the butter and sugar. Add the fruits last. Mix thoroughly. Line a 7" cake tin (3" deep) with greased paper and pour in the mixture. Bake for 2 ½ hours – the first hour in a moderate oven 350 – 375 F (gas mark 3-4), then in a slow oven at 250 F (gas mark 1-2).



London Buns

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
½ teaspoon of salt
2 oz of margarine
2 oz of sugar
1 oz of peel (cut fine)
1 egg beaten – put aside a tablespoon for tops
2 tablespoons of milk
A few drops of essence of lemon

Method:

Mix the flour and salt in a basin. Rub in the margarine. Add the sugar and finely shredded peel. Add the beaten egg. Add a few drops of essence of lemon to the milk and mix in to form a dough. Divide into 8 portions, forming into buns using well-floured hands. Place on greased baking tray or sheet. Brush over with egg and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Bake in a hot oven at 425 – 450 F/gas mark 6-7 for about 20 minutes.

Potato Moussaka

Ingredients:



1 ½ lb of potatoes, thinly sliced
12 oz of fresh mince
4 oz of onion
8 oz can of tomatoes
2 oz of butter
Parsley
Salt and pepper

White sauce:

1 oz of butter
1 oz of flour
½ pint of milk
1 oz of grated cheddar cheese
1 beaten egg
Salt and pepper

Method:

Fry the meat, onion and tomatoes in the butter. Cover the base of a greased casserole dish with overlapping potato slices and season. Cover with a layer of meat mixture. Repeat until all the ingredients are used, finishing with a layer of potato. Add the beaten egg and cheese to the white sauce and pour into the casserole. Bake at 375 F (gas mark 5), for approximately 1 hour. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.



Ginger Pudding

Ingredients:

8 oz of self-raising flour
¼ teaspoon of salt
1 teaspoon of ground ginger
2 oz of margarine or suet
2 tablespoons of sugar
2 tablespoons of treacle

Three tablespoons of milk – an egg may be used instead of milk if desired

Method:

Mix the flour, salt and ginger and rub in the margarine or suet. Add the other ingredients and mix well. Put into a well-greased basin and steam for 2 – 2 ½ hours.

GRAHAM'S GIG REVIEW



On Sunday 25th August 2024, I ventured out to the Piece Hall, a wonderful outdoor venue in my hometown of Halifax, to see the band Jungle.

Jungle is a band who have been together for more than a decade. However, it is only in the last six months or so that I have really been aware of them. In fact, it was only a few weeks before this gig that I learnt they won the Best British Band award at the 2024 BRIT Awards.

I first heard a couple of their tracks in a local café and started to take notice of them from then onwards. I saw their performance at this year's Glastonbury Festival on my television and subsequently purchased all four of their studio albums released to date.

What kind of music is it? Well, they are a dance music project. They perform a fusion of disco, soul, funk and some pop. Add in a touch of rap/hip-hop and plenty of falsetto vocals and I would say that just about covers it. I had an idea what to expect from the gig, however it exceeded even my expectations.

I spent the entire evening dancing as they quite simply don't do many, if any, slower songs! They opened with their best-known song "Busy Earnin" and finished with, what in my opinion is their best song, "Keep Moving". The latter was the only song in their encore. They were on stage for around an hour and twenty minutes. That might seem a little short in comparison to the length of many other gigs, however the entertainment during that time was probably better than the majority of gigs I have ever attended. I have been to four gigs at this venue this year, and this was easily the most entertaining of them all.

Because of the type of music they play, the set list was seamless. It is arranged in such a way that Lydia Kitto takes centre stage around halfway through the show and her vocals come to the fore from this point on. They played all of my favourites including "Candle Flame", "Back on 74", "Casio" and "You Ain't No Celebrity".

I did wonder how they would manage to perform "I've Been in Love" as it includes a rap by Channel Tres, but they managed to incorporate his vocals and his image on a massive backdrop behind them on stage. Very impressive! In fact, the graphics and lighting effects are a big part of their performance.

The audience was very eclectic. I saw plenty of young people. There were older couples as well and some parents with their kids. They are the kind of band who will appeal to the majority of folk. Some of their songs include explicit language, but this does not detract from

the overall quality of the music on offer.

They released a new single titled “Let’s Go Back” a few days before I wrote this article. I would recommend taking a listen to it to get a feel for what they are all about, and I would recommend going to see them to get the full experience if you like it!

ANOTHER FUN QUIZ FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH



Questions:

- (1) What is the capital of Iran?
- (2) What is a kernel?
- (3) How many metres are there in a furlong?
- (4) Who played Samantha in the American series Bewitched?
- (5) What is French for waistcoat?
- (6) Where would you wear a sporran?
- (7) Who is the President of Algeria?
- (8) What currency is used in Madeira?
- (9) What is Spanish for star?
- (10) How old was Bruce Lee when he died?
- (11) Where is the Hoover Dam situated?
- (12) Who is the oldest person ever to have lived?
- (13) How old was Neil Armstrong when he walked on the moon?
- (14) Who played Peter Barlow in Coronation Street?
- (15) When did Leicester City win the Premier League?
- (16) What is a mocktail?
- (17) Where was the genius Leonardo da Vinci born?
- (18) Which horse won the 2023 Gold Cup?
- (19) What is a soutien-gorge in English?
- (20) When was the Penny Black stamp first introduced in the UK?

Answers:

(1) Tehran (2) Is the core of a computer’s operating system that acts as the main interface between the hardware and the software running on the computer (3) 201.2 (4) Elizabeth Montgomery (5) Gilet (6) On the front of a kilt (7) Abdelmadjid Tebboune (8) Euro (9) Estrella (10) 32 (11) In the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona (12) Jeanne Calment, 122 years and 164 days (13) 38 years of age (14) Chris Gascoyne (15) 2015-16 (16) A non-alcoholic drink that’s similar to a cocktail, but without the alcohol (17) Anchiano, Italy (18) Galopin Des Champs (19) Bra (20) May 1840

Editor’s Final Word: Thank you for taking the time and the trouble to read this publication. It would be good if you would consider getting involved with us – you can contact us at: dean@fthm.org.uk Best wishes Dean, Brenda, Robert, Graham and Willow.