

# Flanagan's Running Club – Issue 28

## Introduction

The first rule of Flanagan's Running Club is everyone should be telling everyone they know about Flanagan's Running Club! After all, sharing is caring.

Feel free to forward on to anyone you want, tell people about it the works, and just get them to sign up. It's quick and easy at the website homepage of <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/> enter the e-mail address and select whether you want Flanagan's Running Club or blog post updates or both and then hit submit.

Can I ask you all a favour, please can you review my book on Inkitt, and the link is below. Even if you don't take time to read it properly, please flick through a few chapters, give it ratings and a review and vote for it please. It may help me get it published.

<https://www.inkitt.com/stories/thriller/201530>

## On This Day – 18<sup>th</sup> November

1883 – American and Canadian railroads institute five standard continental time zones, ending the confusion of thousands of local times.

1928 – Release of the animated short Steamboat Willie, the first fully synchronized sound cartoon, directed by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, featuring the third appearances of cartoon characters Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse. This is considered by the Disney Corporation to be Mickey's birthday.

It's Married To A Scorpio Support Day, and  
Remembrance Day of the Sacrifice of Vukovar in 1991 in Croatia.

### 365 Reasons To Be Proud To Be A Londoner - Magical Moments in London's History

#### **So That's How He Got The Job**

Hatton Gardens is one the world's largest jewellery centres with over 300 businesses and 55 jewellery shops. It's the home of De Beres, the firm that has long dominated the world diamond trade. It's been in the gem trade since medieval times and it owes its name to Sir Christopher Hatton (knighted today in 1577). This hugely wealthy noble was quite a mover and shaker. He put up the cash for Francis Drake's famous round-the-world voyage, and Elizabeth I was so impressed with his dancing that she made him Chancellor.

#### Chuck D Presents This Day In Rap And Hip-Hop History

**1985 - LL Cool J releases his debut album "Radio" as the first album on Def Jam.**

LL's platinum-selling debut set featured hip-hop classics like "I Need A Beat", "Dear Yvette", "You'll Rock", "I Can Give You More", and "I Can't Live Without My Radio", which LL also performed in the 1985 film Krush Groove.

LL's clear, articulate, wordy rhymes were heavily influenced by T La Rock's rap style. Def Jam cofounder Rick Rubin was responsible for Radio's sparse stripped down scratch production style, so much so that the album's credits read 'Reduced by Rick Rubin'. Legendary DJ Jazzy Jay did some additional production on the album as well.

The platinum-selling "Radio" reached #46 on the Billboard 100 Chart and #6 on the R&B chart. LL Cool J was the first hip-hop artist to appear on Dick Clark's American Bandstand, when he performed singles from "Radio".

#### Births

1963 – Peter Schmeichel

#### Deaths

1247 – Robin Hood

1922 – Marcel Proust

1962 – Niels Bohr

2002 – James Coburn

#### Number 1's

Number 1 single in 1975 - David Bowie - Space Oddity

Number 1 album in 1970 - Led Zeppelin - Led Zeppelin III

Number 1 compilation album in 1998 - Various - The Annual IV - Pete Tong & Boy George

## Drabble

A drabble is a complete story that is exactly one hundred words long.

### Pizza Night

It's Friday, which means that in our household it's pizza night. After a great deal of trial and error, we've found that the made to order pizzas in Asda are the best for taste and value.

However, this means that we have to run the gauntlet of Asda on a Friday evening, and the usual bun fight that entails. There is no rhyme or reason to the length of the queue, but it seems proportional to the amount of pointless chat the servers on the counter expel.

Don't get me started on their tills.

But for pizza it's worth it.

## Joke

A man is looking in the classified ads for a job. He notices an advertisement for a toothbrush salesman and figured that couldn't such a bad job. So, he calls in, he goes in and they hire him. The next day, he heads out to a neighbourhood to make some sales. Five hours later he comes home and says, "Man, I only sold one toothbrush. That's not enough" So the next day he goes to a richer neighbourhood, thinking maybe those people would buy more toothbrushes. He ends up selling two toothbrushes. So he goes to his boss for advice and his boss says, "Look, you're a great guy and all, but you gotta come up with a gimmick or something." So, the salesman thinks about it and, later that night, he finally comes up with one. So, the next day, he sets up a booth near the subway with a sign that says, "Free chips and dip" A guy walks over and puts the chip in the dip and says, "This tastes like shit." And the salesman replied, "Yeah, it is. Wanna buy a toothbrush?"

## Random Items

### Facts

More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.

The term, "It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye" is from Ancient Rome. The only rule during wrestling matches was, "No eye gouging." Everything else was allowed, but the only way to be disqualified was to poke someone's eye out.

### Thoughts

How many tiny packets of duck sauce and soy sauce do you suppose are tossed out every night with the empty take-out Chinese food containers?

Is boneless chicken considered to be an invertebrate?

### Forgotten English

#### **Roorback**

A falsehood; a bogus newspaper article, especially a false allegation issued for political purposes, and now a general term for any political forgery or fiction. The word was derived from the fact that in 1844 a Whig newspaper, the Ithaca Chronicle, published for political purposes alleged extracts from The Travels of Baron Roorback [1836], which were proved to have been a set up scheme to deceive the public.

### Words You Should Know

#### **Sapient**

Wise, knowing, referring to some sort of innate understanding rather than acquired learning: a sapient remark reveals an insight into human nature that makes it quite different from an erudite one. Modern use tends to be either self-consciously literary or ironic: 'He looked at me with a sapient eye' suggests that he knew I was going to get myself into trouble.

### Popular Expressions – What They Mean And Where We Got Them

## **Cold Enough To Freeze The Balls Off A Brass Monkey**

This means that the weather is extremely cold, and although the expression sounds delightfully vulgar, it was not in fact originally a reference to monkeys' testicles.

A brass monkey is a type of rack in which cannon balls were stored. Being brass, the 'monkey' contracted in cold weather, resulting in the cannonballs being ejected.

The expression has also mutated to a shortened form, again a comment on the temperature, as 'brass-monkey weather'.

## **Flash Fiction**

Something between the 100 word shortness of a Drabble, and the short story, these are works of fiction somewhere between five hundred and seven hundred words.

### **Scratching**

There was a scratching noise at the door, he didn't know how long it had been going on before it had seeped deep enough into his consciousness to wake him up. He opened his eyes and took in the surroundings of the room; it must have been a bright moon outside as the light seeping through the closed curtains was more illuminating than he would have expected for the time it was.

He lay listening, there was definitely a scratching noise at the door, he wasn't imagining it, it wasn't a remnant of a dream he had been having. He was sure that both of the cats had been out for the duration when he had gone to bed, so he was surprised to hear the scratching. Besides, the cats weren't really scratchers; they were more of a whiney, mewling pair of fluff balls.

He dragged himself out of bed and made his way over to the bedroom door to see just what was scratching on it, trying to get in. He flicked the light on before opening the door, so that he could see properly when he did. The light was brighter than he expected it to be, making him blink furiously as his eyes adjusted to the sudden wall of light.

He opened the door slowly, standing in such a place that would prevent one of the cats from rushing in if it was them stood outside his bedroom door. There was nothing outside the door, no little ball of fluff looking up expectantly to be fed. He went out on to the landing to look around for any sign of anything, but nothing was there at all. He leant over the bannister to look down the stairs, but there was no sign of cats or other creatures. All the other doors off the landing were shut tight.

He shook his head and headed back to his room. Closing the door behind him, he turned the light off and felt his way back to the bed with the sudden onset of night blindness that came with dark so soon after light. He crawled back under the covers and closed his eyes to go back to sleep. He was just at the drifting off point about to fall under sleep's sweet spell when he heard the scratching start up again.

This time it was coming from the bed directly behind him.

## **Leicester**

### **Random Historic Item**

#### **Ancient Britons**

Leicestershire seems to have been populated from approximately 70,000 to 100,000 years ago with hand axes been found at Ratcliffe on the Wreake and Flint slates been found at Wanlip.

Due to archaeological finds it can be ascertained that the City of Leicester has been occupied for over 5000 years, as there have been occasional discoveries of stone axes and other finds. Tiny flint blades (microliths) of Mesolithic hunters dated from approximately 4000BC have been found at Leicester and also at Stoney Stanton and Burrough on the Hill. Groups of flint implements have been found at Ratcliffe on the Wreake, and an Iron Age camp was established at Breedon on the Hill. Neolithic axes have been found at Glenfield and Sharnford, and axe hammers from the same period have been found at Leicester, barrow on Soar, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Whitwick and Goadby Marwood. In ancient English tradition it is said that King Lear held his court in Leicester, which would have been about 600BC

Leicester would have been occupied by the ancient Briton tribe called the Corieltavi (or Coritani or Corieltavi), and it's position would have come about due to fords across the River Soar at the points that are now crossed by the West

and Bow Bridges, and it would probably have been the tribe's Civitas capital, or capital city, with about one - two hundred people living in the locality. Even so there doesn't appear to be a name given to the settlement until the arrival of the Romans in or just after 43AD, when the name of Ratae Corieltavorum (or Coritanorum) was applied.

The native settlement encountered by the Romans at the site seems to have developed in the 2nd or 1st centuries BC. Little is known about this settlement or the condition of the River Soar at this time, although roundhouses from this era have been excavated and seem to have clustered along roughly 8 hectares (20 acres) of the east bank of the Soar above its confluence with the Trent. This area of the Soar was split into two channels: a main stream to the east and a narrower channel on the west, with a presumably marshy island between. The settlement seems to have controlled a ford across the larger channel.

Within the County there were substantial ancient settlements at Lockington, Loughborough, Glen Parva and Harston. Furthermore, late Bronze Age and early Iron Age hill forts had been established at Breedon Hill, Beacon Hill and Burrough Hill, and it is thought possible that there may have been hill forts at both Life Hill near Billesdon and Robin-a-Tiptoe near to Tilton.

Burrough Hill is the best example of a univallate hillfort (surrounded by a single ditch and rampart) in Leicestershire. Finds from the site date from as early as the Mesolithic, indicating the area has seen human activity over an extended period of time, however it is likely that a settlement was only created in the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age. The subsequent development of the hillfort is unclear. As yet it is uncertain whether the settlement outside the hillfort was contemporary with the occupation of the hillfort or represents a different phase of activity on the site. The period of most intensive activity at Burrough Hill was between 100 BC and AD 50. Artefacts indicate that the settlement had a wide range of trade links. Towards the end of the Iron Age, the fort gradually degraded.

What is also certain is that the Ancient Britons had developed a large number of trackways throughout the county. One of these was the original Fosse Way which ran virtually north - south through the County with Leicester in the middle. The part to the north of Leicester was adapted by the Romans, and exists today as the A46; the part to the south forms the route of the A426. From east to west through the northern part of the county ran the Salt Way, which crossed the Fosse Way at Six Hills, and forms the B675 today. The road to the East of Six Hills was adapted by the Romans. Along the North-eastern border of the county ran the Sewstern Lane which the Romans again adapted and made into their Ermine Way which today forms the route of the A1. Running east from Leicester and out into Rutland and beyond was an unnamed track which roughly follows the route of the current day A47. Running from north to south through the east of the county coming in near where Bottesford is today and running through Melton Mowbray and Tilton and leaving the county near where Market Harborough is today was another track which today's B6074 follows the route of. Besides these tracks there were numerous other minor tracks, and upon these were a number of minor settlements, which were called trackway foci. These have been found to have existed at Copt Oak, Hunter's Hill, Anstey, Barrow upon Soar, Mowmacre Hill, Belgrave, Syston, Queniborough, Link Hill, Melton Mowbray, Croxton Kerrial, Tilton, The Coplow (Billesdon), Three Gates, Houghton, Kibworth, and Husbands Bosworth.

The Hallaton Treasure, the largest hoard of British Iron Age coins, was discovered in 2000 near Hallaton in southeast Leicestershire, England, by volunteers from the Hallaton Fieldwork Group. The initial find was made by Ken Wallace on 19 November 2000, when he found about 130 coins with a metal detector. Along with local community archaeologists, the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) excavated what turned out to be one of the most important Iron Age excavations and community archaeology projects in Britain.

The hoard includes over 5,000 silver and gold coins, a silver-gilt Roman parade helmet, jewellery, and other objects. Most of the items date to around the time of the Roman Conquest of Britain in the 1st century AD. Of the coins from the site, 4,835 can be attributed to the local tribe, the Corieltavi. This find more than doubled the total number of Corieltavian coins previously recorded. A silver Roman coin from the hoard has been dated by local museums to 211 BC, and is the oldest Roman coin found in Britain.

Some archaeologists have however speculated that it found its way into Britain before the Roman conquest in 43 AD and is evidence of exchange through trade or diplomacy. The site of the treasure proved to be an internationally important ritual site dating mostly to the generations before and after the Roman Conquest. Archaeologists believe that the site is a type of open air shrine that is the first of its kind to have been discovered in the UK. It was located on a hilltop in the Welland valley and was probably enclosed by a ditch and palisade.

In 2012 a silver ring inscribed "TOT" was found in the area that the Hallaton Treasure was discovered. The inscription is believed to refer to the Celtic god Toutatis, corresponding to the Roman god Mars, who Adam Daubney, an expert on this type of ring, suggests may have been worshipped at Hallaton.

## **A Leicestershire Church**

### **All Saints**

Probably the least known, and anonymous of the Leicester medieval churches. Standing on today's Highcross Street, it has no parish and is unused. Of the medieval churches only St. Nicholas' is smaller, and All Saints suffered from not having the associations of the corporation and Castle, as St. Martins and St Mary de Castro, and didn't benefit like St. Margaret's as it was inside the town walls.

It has however outlasted the four other medieval Leicester churches that are no longer with us, St. Clement's, St. Peter's, St. Michael's, and St. Leonard's, and probably due to the fact it had no associations it picked up the traditional parishes from these churches when they closed, and by 1594 was the only one remaining. St. Leonard's made a reappearance from 1875 to 1967, but was then demolished. Today All Saints itself has no parish due to the urban regeneration and renewal that took place during the 1960's and 1970's. It closed in 1982 and was then used as a store. The church was declared redundant on 1 January 1983, and was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust on 8 July 1986. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building, and is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

The original building would have dated from late Saxon times (10th century), although little is left of this. The tower is in an unusual position being to the north east of the structure, and dates to Norman times, and has walls that are six feet thick. It is said to have been the bell founders church.

The church was rebuilt in stages through the 13th century, and the Arcades, chancel arch, tower arch, aisles, and font were erected during this period.

In 1418 Margery Kempe was tried for Lollardy (for being a follower of John Wycliffe) in the church, and was acquitted. In 1583, during outbreaks of the plague, the assizes were held in the church.

In the 15th century the clerestory was added, and the woodwork was all redone, with the pulpit, west doors, and aisle roofs being from this period. The clock was added in the early 17th century, but has been restored twice since in 1899 and 1926.

The chancel had fell into disrepair by the 18th century and was rebuilt in brick during the 19th century. However, the restoration craze of the 19th century bypassed the church with only necessary repairs to the roof, parapets, tower and windows being done, probably due to the fact that the church was in a part of the town that was no longer fashionable.

In 1829 the chancel was demolished and rebuilt. The local architect Henry Goddard added new seating and extended the gallery in 1843, and in 1855–56 he restored the roofs. In 1874–76 Joseph Goddard and Alfred Paget undertook a restoration involving the addition of new windows, building a new nave roof, and removing the gallery. The tower was restored by William Basset-Smith in 1894–95.

The stained glass windows in All Saints' were installed during the 19th century by Heaton, Butler & Bayne, Clayton & Bell and Morris & Co.

The north aisle has the only remaining Mayor's seat in any of the Leicester churches, sturdy and constructed from oak, survives from 1680. Former Mayor and Leicester benefactor Alderman Gabriel Newton is buried in the churchyard, home to many distinctive local shale gravestones.

The parish clock is one of the oldest in the country, thought to have been made in around 1620. The exterior design includes two striking jacks, which ring two of the clock's six bells every hour. An 1899 addition to the exterior of the clock is a painting of Father Time.

The church is now surrounded by scaffolding, and is being held up by supporting steel pillars, being in danger of collapsing. The constant stream of heavy traffic passing on Highcross Street has taken its toll, and it is uncertain whether the church can survive.

## Top Ten

Moh's Scale of Hardness

No	Substance	Chemical Composition
1	Talc	Mg <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>
2	Gypsum	CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O
3	Calcite	CaCO <sub>3</sub>

4	Fluorite	CaF <sub>2</sub>
5	Apatite	Ca <sub>5</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (OH-,Cl-,F-)
6	Feldspar	KAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>
7	Quartz	SiO <sub>2</sub>
8	Topaz	Al <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> (OH-,F-) <sub>2</sub>
9	Corundum	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
10	Diamond	C

## Poetry Corner

### Neglected Respectability

Its profile stands tall and proud  
 In summer it always draws a crowd  
 The limestone blocks reach to the sky  
 Around the castle a lonely crow flies  
 Once this ancient monument was full  
 The crest above the gate wouldn't have been dull  
 Important people would be cossetted inside  
 Behind the barricades they were able to hide  
 Although the structure is still intact  
 Of interior decoration there is a lack  
 On this day we are the only ones there  
 The grounds could do with a bit more care  
 A spiral stone staircase winds up and out  
 From the top of the keep we give a shout  
 The voice echoes down to the street below  
 A small pond from the sunlight glows  
 The view is spectacular for miles around  
 Apart from us and the crow there is no sound  
 Where years ago there would've been hustle  
 And market stalls where the villagers would bustle  
 Now there is only a small gift shop stall  
 Propped up against the ten feet wide wall  
 A reminder of the powerful lords or old  
 Is now empty and all the stone is cold  
 But although it is deserted it hasn't fallen down  
 And English Heritage now run the grounds

## Cathedral Fact Files

Cathedral	Worcester Cathedral		
Dedicated To	Christ and St Mary		
Type	Medieval	Architecture	Gothic
Religion	COE	Tower / Spire	1 Tower
Site Founded	680	Height (External)	196ft
Church Founded	1084	Height (Internal)	68ft
Bishopric Founded	680	Length	425ft
Current Bishopric Founded	680	Width	147ft

## Thirty-Three And One Third Revolutions Per Minute

### Dire Straits – Brothers In Arms

*Brothers in Arms* was the fifth studio album by British rock band Dire Straits, released on 13 May 1985 by Vertigo Records internationally and by Warner Bros. Records in the United States. It charted at number one worldwide, spending 10 weeks at number one on the UK Albums Chart (between 18 January and 22 March 1986), nine weeks at number one on the Billboard 200 in the United States and 34 weeks at number one on the Australian Albums Chart. *Brothers in Arms* was the first album certified 10-times platinum in the UK and is the eighth-best-selling album in UK chart history, is certified nine-times platinum in the United States, and is one of the world's best-selling albums, having sold more than 30 million copies worldwide. The album won two Grammy Awards in 1986, and also won Best British Album at the 1987 Brit Awards.

*Brothers in Arms* was recorded from November 1984 to March 1985 at AIR Studios on the island of Montserrat, a British overseas territory in the Caribbean. The album was produced by Mark Knopfler and Neil Dorfsman. Knopfler became aware of Dorfsman through his 1981 recording of the *Wanderlust* album by jazz vibraphonist Mike Mainieri. In 1982, Knopfler asked Dorfsman to work with him on the 1982 Dire Straits album, *Love over Gold* and his 1983 soundtrack album *Local Hero*. *Brothers in Arms* was one of the first albums recorded on a Sony 24-track digital tape machine. The decision to move to digital recording came from Knopfler's constant striving for better sound quality. "One of the things that I totally respected about him," Dorfsman observed, "was his interest in technology as a means of improving his music. He was always willing to spend on high-quality equipment." Before arriving at Montserrat, Knopfler had written all the songs and rehearsed them with the band. The studio line-up included Knopfler (guitar), John Illsley (bass), Terry Williams (drums), Alan Clark (piano and Hammond B3 organ) and Guy Fletcher, who was new to the band, playing a synth rig that consisted of a huge new Yamaha DX1, a couple of Roland keyboards and a Synclavier. The studio itself was small, with a 20-by-25-foot (6 m x 8 m) recording space that offered virtually no isolation. "It was a good-sounding studio," Dorfsman later recalled, "but the main room itself was nothing to write home about. The sound of that studio was the desk," referring to the Neve 8078 board.

"*Money for Nothing*" was one of the most-played music videos on MTV following its release. It is one of only two Dire Straits songs on a studio album to not be solely credited to Mark Knopfler (the other being "*The Carousel Waltz*" which opens *Making Movies*), with guest vocalist Sting given a co-writing credit due to the melody of the repeated "*I want my MTV*" (sung by Sting) in the song's fadeout echoing the melody of the Police's "*Don't Stand So Close to Me*".

The guitar featured on the front of the album cover is Mark Knopfler's 1937 14-fret National Style "O" Resonator. The Style "O" line of guitars was introduced in 1930 and discontinued in 1941. The photographer was Deborah Feingold. The back cover features a painting of the same guitar, by German artist Thomas Steyer. A similar image was also used, with a similar colour scheme, for the 1989 album *The Booze Brothers* by Brewers Droop.

*Brothers in Arms* was one of the first albums directed at the CD market, and was a full digital recording at a time when most popular music was recorded on analog equipment. It was also released on vinyl (abridged to fit on one LP) and cassette. Producer Neil Dorfsman says the digital multitrack was mixed on an analog board with the resulting two track mix re-digitized via a Prism A/D converter and recorded on a DAT machine. *Brothers in Arms* was the first album to sell one million copies in the CD format and to outsell its LP version.

Original single LP

Side one

No. - Title - Length

1. - "*So Far Away*" - 3:59 - Released as a single as the preview to the album, it got to number 20 in a short chart run. Sampled once and covered twice.

2. - "*Money for Nothing*" - (Mark Knopfler, Sting) - 7:04 - Second single release from the album. Featuring guest vocals by Sting, the CD album version is an epic 8 and a half minutes long but it's the single version that probably made this one of the best-selling albums of all time. Reached number 4 in the UK charts and it was an American and Canadian number 1 and became the first video to be shown on the launch of MTV Europe. It won a Grammy for the best video and for best rock performance by a group. Contains samples from The Police's "*Don't Stand So Close To Me*" and MTV's theme "*I Want My MTV*". Sampled 21 times, and it had the Weird Al Yankovic treatment in his "*Beverly Hillbillies*" track.

3. - "*Walk of Life*" - 4:12 - Fourth single release from the album, which was their highest ever UK charting hit. Getting to number 2 on the UK charts. Samples Gene Vincent's "*Be-Bop-A-Lula*" and covered five times.

4. - "*Your Latest Trick*" - 4:46 - The fifth and final single release from the album, it still reached number 26. Sampled three times.

5. - "*Why Worry*" - 5:22 - Sampled in Deetah's "*Relax*" and covered twelve times including by Art Garfunkel, The Everly Brothers and Nan Mouskouri.

Side two

6. - "*Ride Across the River*" - 6:58 - Contains a sample of E-mu Systems' "*Shakuhachi*".

7. - "*The Man's Too Strong*" - 4:40 - Sampled by the Kleptones.

8. - "*One World*" - 3:40 -

9. - "*Brothers in Arms*" - 6:59 - The Title track, and the third single release from the album, reaching number 16 in the UK charts. It was the first CD single ever to be released, though only 400 copies were ever pressed, and is therefore rare as rocking horse shit, and worth shit loads if you have one. Already 7 minutes long, the tasteful pink covered 12" featured an extended version. Sampled four times and covered seven times.

Total length: 47:21

Personnel

Dire Straits

Alan Clark – keyboards

Guy Fletcher – keyboards and vocals

Omar Hakim – drums

John Illsley – bass and vocals

Mark Knopfler – guitars and vocals  
 Terry Williams – drum intro on "*Money for Nothing*"  
 Additional musicians  
 Nature of contributions uncredited  
 Michael Brecker - saxophone on "*Your Latest Trick*"  
 Randy Brecker - trumpet  
 Malcolm Duncan - saxophone  
 Neil Jason - bass  
 Tony Levin - bass on "*One World*"  
 Jimmy Maelen - percussion  
 Mike Mainieri - vibraphone, keyboards  
 Dave Plews - trumpet  
 Jack Sonni - guitar synthesizer on "*The Man's Too Strong*"  
 Sting - vocals on "*Money for Nothing*"

#### Charts

Chart - Peak position  
 Australian Albums - 1  
 Austrian Albums - 1  
 Canadian Albums - 1  
 Dutch Albums - 1  
 French Albums - 1  
 German Albums - 1  
 Italian Albums - 91  
 New Zealand Albums - 1  
 Norwegian Albums - 1  
 Spanish Albums - 1  
 Swedish Albums - 1  
 Swiss Albums - 1  
 UK Albums - 1  
 US Billboard - 1

#### Sales and certifications

Region - Certification - Certified units/Sales  
 Argentina - Gold - 30,000  
 Australia - 17× Platinum - 1,190,000  
 Austria - 4× Platinum - 200,000  
 Canada - Diamond - 1,000,000  
 Denmark - 5× Platinum - 100,000  
 Finland - 2× Platinum - 116,784  
 France - Diamond - 1,995,300  
 Germany - Platinum - 500,000  
 Hong Kong - Platinum - 20,000  
 New Zealand - 24× Platinum - 360,000  
 Spain - 3× Platinum - 300,000  
 Sweden - Gold - 50,000  
 Switzerland - 6× Platinum - 350,000  
 United Kingdom - 14× Platinum - 4,300,000  
 United States - 9× Platinum - 9,000,000

## Club Fact File

<b>Philadelphia Eagles</b>	
Founded	1933
First Season Played	1933
First Season in NFL	1933
Ground	Lincoln Financial Field
Capacity	69,176
Previous Stadium(s)	Baker Bowl, Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, Connie Mack Stadium, Franklin Field, Veterans Stadium
Previous Names	Phil-Pitt Steagles
<b>Trophies</b>	
NFL Champions	1948, 1949, 1960
Superbowl Winners	2018



NFC Champions	1981, 2005, 2018
NFC East Division Winners	1980, 1988, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2017
NFL East Division Winners	1947, 1948, 1949, 1960
Wildcard Playoff Berths	1978, 1979, 1981, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2008, 2009, 2018
<b>League Seasons</b>	
Seasons in NFL/AFL	86
Seasons in NFC	50
Seasons in NFL East Division	34
Seasons in NFL West (Coastal) Division	3
Seasons in NFC West Division	50

## Story Time

### No Son Of Mine

Joe looked up from his book and turned to the window. It was dark out there now and he could see more of his reflection than he could the passing countryside. He wasn't sure where he was, but he couldn't see a single light out there. No buildings, no roads, no cars, nothing! Not even the moon or stars. An inky blackness sat beyond the window of the train.

He glanced up to the rolling display to see which station was next, but it was blank. Out of order probably, like so much on these trains nowadays. Yet it cost a fortune and it wouldn't guarantee you a seat on whichever train turned up. The luggage racks were built for suitcases belonging to Lilliputians. No use for a standard sized case. Half the seats on the train were occupied by cases of all colours and sizes.

Scanning the carriage there wasn't anyone who might be able to tell him where the train was. Obviously no staff and all the other passengers were plugged into some device or other. Listening to music or watching TV or films on their phone or tablets. A woman across the aisle from him was typing furiously away in an e-mail application. She had buds in her ears as well.

Lights flashed by outside, some village or other close to the tracks, but no station to give him a clue where. How long would it be before he got to Eastbourne and the hell of a weekend with his family? It had been nearly two years since he had visited his parents. He hadn't spoken to them much in that time. He hadn't spoken to his sister Jane much either. He'd never been close to his sister, but at least she understood his reluctance to see his parents.

They were dinosaurs. Racist, homophobic dinosaurs. When Joe had brought his Jamaican boyfriend, Rudy, to meet his parents some years before, they had abused Rudy from the moment he crossed the threshold and they had all but disowned Joe as well.

Jane persuaded him to make this trip. Both his parents were dying. He thought it was from all the poisonous bile they had spouted over the years. He knew it wasn't the case, but it would be a fitting end for them. Joe was only making the trip to make sure they really were dying. When they did he had no intention of going to their funerals. He might visit their graves at some point in the future, but only to dance on them.

More lights flashed by and he could see the back of some platforms from a station his train wasn't going through. He remembered this from previous journeys, he was nearly at Gatwick. The train had obviously been crawling for the first part of the journey if they were only here.

Gatwick saw a changing of the guard. All the suitcases on seats vacated the train to be replaced by a completely different set of suitcases. One hardy soul tried to ram their wheelie cabin bag into the overhead space. Only for it to topple out onto her head as soon as the train started moving. No one went to help them. Either they were too entranced in their devices, or they were too busy trying not to laugh to offer any practical help. No attempt was made to put the case back into the rack.

Joe couldn't get back into his book. He was distracted, dreading the moment he would arrive at his parent's house. Jane was going to pick him up from the station, probably to make sure he went to the house and he wouldn't just turn around and get the first train back. She'd likely have to drag him from the car to the house when they arrived.

He sent her a text message to give an update on how late he'd be and went back to staring out of the window. Imagining the lights were brief glimpses of joy and happiness trying to penetrate the blackness he felt growing inside of him.

The train pulled into Eastbourne station about fifty minutes later than it should have. All the people and cases vacated their seats and shuffled off the train and through the open barriers. Joe stood outside the station trying to see his sister amongst the multitude of random people here to meet their own family or friends. A man approached Joe as he stood there, taking a good look at him before greeting him as if he knew him.

"Hi, you must be Joe; I'm Nathan, Jane's new boyfriend. I've come to pick you up and take you to the hospital. I'll explain on the way."

And Nathan turned and was off, weaving his way through the throng of people to wherever he had parked. Joe stood there for a couple of seconds before following him. He got into the car and asked.

"How did you know?"

"Know what?"

"That I was Joe."

Nathan laughed and replied. "It was easy, Jane said to look for the tallest and widest man at the station, who would have the look of someone who would rather be sticking knitting needles into their own eyes and ears, and those of anyone who approached them. You were the only one fitting the bill."

To be fair it was an accurate description and Joe could imagine Jane giving it.

"So what's with the hospital then?"

"Both of your parents have been rushed in this evening. Both of them collapsed within minutes of each other. The ambulance called for your dad ended up taking both of them."

Joe shook his head and didn't ask anything else. He didn't care enough. He sat in silence staring out of the side window on the short journey to the hospital. He felt Nathan look over in his direction a couple of times, but thankfully he didn't try to keep a conversation going. Nathan dropped Joe off at the reception and went off to find somewhere to park the car. Joe walked up to the reception and asked where he could find his parents.

His mother was still in surgery, but his father was in a ward on the second floor. Joe was told to follow the green line on the floor once he got out of the lift. When the lift doors opened Joe didn't step out. He didn't want to deal with any of this. Just as the doors began to close, his sister appeared and stopped them closing.

"Nathan rang to say you'd arrived. Didn't you get my text?"

Joe hadn't even thought to look at his phone since getting off the train and just shook his head.

"Are you getting out of the lift or what then?"

Before he could reply, Jane reached in and grabbed his arm and started to drag him out of the lift. Joe went with it as Jane continued to talk.

"Mum's had another heart attack. She stopped breathing for a couple of minutes. If the ambulance hadn't been on its way for dad she may not have made it. Dad only fell and hit his head. He's got a lump but he's awake."

Jane led the way into a ward where most of the beds had elderly men with various injuries in them. They stopped at the foot of a bed and Joe hardly recognised the shell of the man who had raised him. A demented smile touched the old man's face and he started to speak.

"So the prodigal son turns up. I know you've only come to make sure I'm going to die. I can tell you for certain I am, and quite soon too. But before I do I've got something to tell you. Something I should have said years ago. I bet you've wondered how a bigoted old fart like me brought up a darkie loving gay boy like you."

Joe could feel himself clenching his fists. He should never have come. He should shout at the old man to shut up, but he didn't trust what would come out of his mouth.

“The truth is Joe, you ain’t my son. I don’t know what kind of liberal tossers your real parents were, but you were adopted. Ethel and I didn’t think we could have kids, so we adopted you when you were a baby. And don’t you know, no sooner had we done it, Jane comes along naturally. If we’d known at the time what a bitter disappointment you’d grow up to be, we’d have given you back in the blink of an eye.”

And the old man started to cackle. Joe lifted up his clenched fists and moved to the side of the bed. He was going to kill the creature in it and sod the consequences. Jane pulled at his arm to stop him, but he shrugged her off. As he did the old man’s cackle turned to a cough and then a choke, and then his breathing stopped.

Nurses rushed in and tried to get him settled. There was a splutter and a wodge of blood came out of the old man’s mouth and one of his eyes turned slowly to red. Nothing the medical staff tried worked. The old man was dead.

Joe felt no sorrow, he looked at Jane who was crying, but he couldn’t find it within himself to reach out and comfort her. The crying turned to wailing when another doctor came in with the news her mother had died on the operating table. Joe headed for the door. He’d seen what he travelled down for. Both of the cruel bigoted old gits had died. Yet they’d left their parting shot. He’d been ready to kill the old man, but it didn’t matter now, he wasn’t related to them.

He glanced at the woman he had thought was his sister all these years and walked out of the ward. Nathan was just arriving; Joe told him to look after Jane and kept on walking.

Out of the hospital and back to the train station. His old life was over.

## Dilbert



04/11/2018

## Epilogue

If you want to catch up on old issues, Drabbles I’ve had published, or the random scribbling from a bored mind on my blog then they are all available at <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/> there are links to a number of older publications I have done in the past, with more of the old stuff being added as time goes by.

Sign up to the mailing list on the home page there. E-mail any ideas or suggestions to [kev@onetruekev.co.uk](mailto:kev@onetruekev.co.uk)

Speak to me about getting a pen, there are currently four colours available; yellow, apple green, dark green and orange, but apple green ones are nearly out.

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