

# Flanagan's Running Club – Issue 46

## 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. Details of how to sign up is in the epilogue.

There is no need to panic, there is no actual running involved, it is not a running club in that sense. The title is made up from extending the title of my favourite book – Flanagan's Run by Tom McNab.

So, sit back, grab a cup of coffee (or beer or wine or whatever), and enjoy the read.

## On This Day – 12<sup>th</sup> April

1937 – Sir Frank Whittle ground-tests the first jet engine designed to power an aircraft, at Rugby, England.

1955 – The polio vaccine, developed by Dr. Jonas Salk, is declared safe and effective.

1981 – The first launch of a Space Shuttle (Columbia) takes place: The STS-1 mission.

It's Children's Day (Bolivia)

International Day of Human Space Flight

National Redemption Day (Liberia)

## Thinker, Failure, Solider, Jailer. An Anthology of Great Lives in 365 Days

Colonel Albert Bachmann, b. 1929, d. 2011

Colonel Albert Bachmann, who died aged eighty-one was Switzerland's best known and most paranoid spymaster, in a country that traditionally has no enemies and refrains from foreign entanglements.

Moustachioed, pipe-smoking and blessed with an ability to wreak havoc within his own organisation, Bachmann's resemblance to Inspector Clouseau was striking; by the time his plots and schemes were uncovered by an astonished commission of inquiry, he had reduced the Swiss military intelligence agency, in which he had mysteriously managed to rise to a senior role, to a state bordering on chaos, not to mention bankruptcy. So catastrophic was his impact that, when he was finally unmasked, many assumed he must be a double agent. He was not.

His most controversial, some would say delusional, acts occurred between 1976 and 1979, when he took charge of top-secret operations for Switzerland's military intelligence force, the Untergruppe Nachrichtendienst de Armee (UNA). Though Bachmann had flirted with communism in his student days, he was by then a fanatical Cold Warrior, and brought the zeal of the convert to the fight against the Soviet Union.

His first significant move was to buy a country estate in Ireland for use by a Swiss government-in-exile in the event of a Soviet invasion. His second bold step was Projekt-26 (P-26), the creation of a clandestine army of Swiss guerrillas trained in weaponry, bombing and assassination techniques to repel the dreaded Soviets.

The problem was that neither the Irish venture nor the secret anti-Soviet army had been officially authorised and were the fruits of what Bachmann called his 'initiative'. Others would come to call it insubordination or even fantasy.

But neither plan stalled Bachmann's rise. Indeed, his intelligence career was curtailed only after a top-level investigation into an operation he sanctioned in 1979 that deeply embarrassed Switzerland and Austria – friendly neighbours with the same neutral status and few if any military secrets to hide from one another.

In November that year, Austrian troops on manoeuvres in the city of St Polten tapped on the window of a parked car at 2.30am and were surprised to find inside not a courting couple but a Swiss management consultant called Kurt Schilling. He had been ordered there, he was happy to recount, by Bachmann, his case officer. His arrest on charges of spying for information freely available to Swiss and other foreign observers at the manoeuvres was portrayed in the press as worthy of a comic opera.

The press mocked Schilling as 'the spy who came in from the Emmenthaler', after Switzerland's famous cheese. But it was Bachmann's career that never recovered. In the wake of the Schilling debacle, it became clear that Bachmann and his department were out of control. His boss was forced to resign, and Bachmann himself – exposed as a loose cannon, unchecked and unregulated – was consigned to early retirement.

Albert Bachmann was born in Zurich on 26 November 1929, the son of a house painter, and grew up in humble circumstances. While employed as a printer, he enrolled in the youth wing of the PDA, the Swiss communist party. But

in 1948, following the communist coup in Prague, he renounced his left-wing sympathies, became staunchly pro-West, and began his National Service with the Swiss Grenadiers.

His military career blossomed, and against expectations (he had completed only eight years at school) Bachmann successfully applied to the officer training academy, where he specialised in intelligence gathering.

After sparking a furore by encouraging Swiss citizens to spy on each other in the event of a Soviet invasion, he headed to Biafra, which was seeking to secede from Nigeria. There he operated undercover as a pipe-smoking upper-crust Englishman called Henry Peel and cultivated an air of mystery, hinting at links to secret arms deals involving the Shah of Iran.

On his return Bachmann was promoted to the rank of colonel in the intelligence and defence section of UNA. The post gave him authority over three units of secret military intelligence, including a special service (Spec D) set up to respond to invasion by an occupying power.

Under Bachmann's eccentric command, its remit grew extensively, and agents were trained as sharpshooters, bomb-makers, codebreakers and even mountain guides who were to lead key government and administration figures to safety over the Alps in the event of an attack. Projekt-26 was born.

Meanwhile, using government funds, Bachmann bought the imposing 200-acre Liss Ard country estate near Skibbereen, in west Cork. Intended for use by a Swiss government in exile, its Georgian manor houses were among the first properties in Ireland to be fitted with hi-tech computer equipment, when most Irish homes possessed at best, black and white televisions. Furthermore, the basement of one was designated as a secret depository for Switzerland's massive gold reserves.

After news of this emerged, Bachmann was obliged to retire in 1980. An official investigation criticised P-26 as an illegal paramilitary programme. When Bachmann's secret army was finally dismantled, its war chest – gold worth six million Swiss francs – was donated to the Red Cross. But he always insisted that it served a vital function. 'How vital', Bachmann told the reporters who sought him out, 'I cannot tell you'.

He remained in Ireland and ran a riding school, and in retirement became a familiar figure in the bars and restaurants of Skibbereen. Wary of being photographed, he would duck out of pictures taken in pubs. But he did not regret his actions, or the notoriety they brought.

'I am not bitter', he said. 'I accept the judgement of others but have enough confidence in myself to know what I am capable of.'

## **Births**

1639 – Martin Lister  
1941 – Bobby Moore  
1947 – Tom Clancy  
1971 – Shannen Doherty

## **Deaths**

1945 – Franklin D. Roosevelt  
1981 – Joe Louis  
1989 – Sugar Ray Robinson

## **#vss365**

A short story in 280 characters or less, based on a prompt word on Twitter.

He'd been on his way to a fancy-dress party as the man with no name when the power went out. Two weeks later he was still dressed as a cowboy. The dishevelled #desperado look was keeping him from being attacked. If they found out the guns were fake, then he'd be a dead man.  
#vss365

## **Joke**

A mother and her very young son were flying Southwest Airlines from Kansas City to Chicago. The little boy (who had been looking out the window) turned to his mother and asked, "If big dogs have baby dogs, and big cats have baby cats, why don't big airplanes have baby airplanes?" The mother (who couldn't think of an answer) told the son to ask the stewardess. So, the boy went down the aisle and asked the stewardess. The stewardess, who was very busy at the

time, smiled and said, "Did your mum tell you to ask me?" The boy said, "yes she did." "Well then, you go and tell your mother that there are no baby airplanes because Southwest always pulls out on time. Have your mum explain that to you."

## **Drabble**

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

### **I Can't Believe You Used A Butter Knife**

Pictures emerged of an armed robber at the garage. He was wearing three hats and purple washing up gloves. He was armed with a knife, though pictures showed it was a butter knife, and he fled empty handed.

"Give me all the money."

"No."

"I've got a knife."

"So?"

"If you don't hand over all the money, I'll spread this butter all over you!"

"Is it salted butter?"

"What?"

"Is it salted butter?"

"erm, no, it's some kind of margarine."

"Do you worst then, I'm only allergic to salt."

"Do you sell salted butter?"

"No."

"I'll be back later then."

## **Random Items**

### **Facts**

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.

Duelling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

### **Thoughts**

Stupidity got us into this mess -- why can't it get us out?

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.

### **Never Eat Shredded Wheat**

Weird Ways to Remember Things.

### **Roman Numerals and the Metric system**

- ~ I = 1
- ~ V = 5
- ~ X = 10
- ~ L = 50
- ~ C = 100
- ~ D = 500
- ~ M = 1000

The traditional mnemonic for this sequence is.  
I value xylophones like cows dig milk.

### **Savoir Faire**

1,000+ Foreign Words and Phrases You Should Know to Sound Smart

**Ersatz** \ er-sahts \ (German)

An imitation, an inferior copy.

### **Strumpshaw, Tincton & Giggleswick's Marvellous Map of Great British Place Names**

Entries from the map of rude and odd place names of Great Britain.

#### **Penistone**

Penistone is actually pronounced 'Penniston', but why let a little detail spoil the fun? This market town on the banks of the River Don in South Yorkshire is situated on a high ridge, which possibly accounts for the 'pen' in its name (from the old Welsh for ridge or high point). Penistone is enjoyably close to the northern fringes of the Peak District, an area with a high concentration of top-notch place names.

#### **Brewers Britain & Ireland**

The history, culture, folklore, and etymology of 7,500 places in these islands.

#### **Pwllheli**

'saltwater pool', Welsh pwll 'pool' + heli 'brine'

A small market town and resort on the south coast of the Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd (formerly in Caernarvonshire), 12 miles west of Porthmadog. It is pronounced, approximately, 'pool-thelly'. It was here, in August 1925, that members of the Army of Welsh Home Rulers and of the Welsh Movement met in the Maesgwyn Temperance Hotel (now a pet shop) to form Plaid Cymru, the Welsh national party. Nearby is a vast former Butlins holiday camp.

If anyone has any place names, they'd like to see then let me know and if they're in the book I'll put them in.

### **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.

#### **A Departed Soul**

He could feel the pressure pushing down on him, he was under pressure the like of which he'd never experienced before. He felt liked he weighed more than a herd of African elephants, and eventually he thought the pressure would kill him. However, before he had quite managed to get to that stage something strange happened; the pressure caused his very soul to pop out of his body and shoot up into the air.

His poor soul took a look at him as it floated above him and wondered how the hell his body had managed to get into such a state. It sat there hunched over his desk, looking like something an anthropology class would discard as being too unlikely to be related to the species homo-sapien. His hair, or what was left of it, seeing as most of it had packed up and bugged off twenty years ago, had gone grey, and he wondered why he hadn't noticed it before, he could have sworn the last time he looked in a mirror it was still jet black.

As the soul watched his body dragged itself upright and lurched over to the door of the manager's office, where instead of knocking on the door, it kicked the door open with a venom and fury not seen since they took Eldorado from the screens many years before. The door flew open at speed and smashed the plant pot containing the manager's rubber plant, which had been somewhat carelessly placed behind the trajectory of the opening door. There again, who would seriously expect the door to fly open so far and so fast? The earth spilled from the remains of the broken pot, and the rubber plant listed to the left and then toppled over completely, as if dizzy and unable to comprehend the change that had just befallen its life.

The manager, a twenty-three-year-old snot faced brat, who had his position solely due to the fact that he was the owner's son, woke with a start, and looked around in bewilderment. He had been out on the piss the night before and had stumbled straight into work from the casino (Viva Las Vegas) at seven this morning, and had been taking a well needed nap, and certainly wasn't prepared to deal with an employee who seemed to have taken leave of his senses (which was exactly what had happened).

The unfortunate manager screamed with panic, as well as a sense of disbelief, as he was picked up, and thrown out of the door of his own office, which he then found slammed behind him. The manager tried to get back into the office, but found he was unable to get the door to open, the handle moved, but he was unable to force the door open.

There was good reason for this. The soulless body had tipped the filing cabinets over and then stacked them up against the door. The soul was amazed, he never realised that his body possessed such strength, especially as he had spent the last five years feeling as if he was a contestant in the Mr. Muscle weakest man contest. The soul watched with a growing dread as the body proceeded to pick up the computer keyboard, rip the keys out one by one and then eat them. There was a blank look on his face as the body did this and the soul wondered what was going to happen next.

The soul didn't have to wait very long to find out, all of a sudden, his body hurled the keyboard (or what was left of it) at the wall, turned and ran full pelt at the window and hurled himself at it. The body bounced back off the window onto the floor, and the window rattled in the frame. The body got back up and took another run at the window, this time the glass shattered, and the body fell from the window with a look of satisfaction on his face, as if he knew that he was coming to the end of a painful existence. However, the body had failed to remember that he worked on the ground floor and fell the two foot from the window onto the grass outside, without causing any further damage to itself.

Disgusted it got up and ran off to stand in the middle of the busy intersection, waiting for something to hit it, but drivers, being of sound body and mind, which was more than can be said for him, swerved to avoid him, which, predictably ended up with there being a crash which totally blocked off all the roads leading onto the intersection. The body looked round in disbelief and moved off the road to find another way to finish it.

It was at this stage that the soul felt itself, being dragged back towards its body, and as it was sucked in the soul began to feel itself become one with the body again. Once joined he came to a complete halt, as he struggled to reconcile the last half an hour of his life. He needed to go and explain it all, but worried about whether anyone would believe him. Preoccupied he started to wander back to his office, but after walking only a couple of yards he fell through an open manhole cover, which had been left unattended by a careless Virgin Media worker and broke his neck. The soul once more departed the body but knew it wouldn't be returning this time.

## Leicestershire

### History

#### Mountsorrel Railway

The Mountsorrel Railway was a network of industrial railway lines that served the granite quarries which dominate the Leicestershire village of Mountsorrel. After being closed in the 1950s, a section was reopened in 2015 as a heritage line run by Mountsorrel & Rothley Community Heritage Centre.

As early as 1860, there were eight-and-a-half miles of track serving the local quarries of the Mountsorrel Granite Company, now owned by Lafarge Aggregates. The line ran from the Great Central Railway at Swithland Sidings, around the quarries, over the Grand Union Canal at Mountsorrel, to the Midland Main Line at Barrow-upon-Soar.

The line fell out of use in the 1950s, the track was taken up in the 1960s, and most of the route was abandoned. Part of the 'main-line' is now covered by a conveyor belt which runs from Mountsorrel Quarry to the site of the junction on the Midland Main Line, near Barrow upon Soar. The conveyor belt replaced the original railway in the 1970s.

A local resident, Steve Cramp, had been researching the railway and, as well as writing a book about it, lead the project to rebuild the part of the railway going from Swithland to Mountsorrel. Donations came in for the project, including from Lafarge. The project reinstated one-and-a-quarter miles of new track to a small halt station under Bond Lane Bridge. This enables the villagers of Mountsorrel to catch a train for nearby Rothley and then onto the rest of the preserved network. The line climbs at a grade of 1-in-62, which is far steeper than the gradients on the Great Central Mainline, as they reached only 1-in-175.

Despite numerous examples, none of the original Mountsorrel wagons had been preserved, so three wooden-bodied open wagons (two 5-plank bodies and one 3-plank) which closely resembled the old ones were selected to be returned to service in the official light grey livery of the old Mountsorrel Granite Company.

Open days had been held on the track bed since May 2009, involving ecology groups and track bed 'tours among' children and adults. When finished, the plan is to provide the Great Central Railway with a secondary attraction, recreating various scenes from the past, including a time when children would ride in the open wagons on Sundays and days out.

By 2010, the group had completed ballast laying over the first mile from the junction with the GCR to Wood Lane. On 10 May 2010, the track work began with the placement of a right-handed point at Swithland Sidings, the first part of the new junction. In June, the group received a £5000 donation from the Great Central's support charity, bringing them closer to their goal to complete the track laying. An ex-British Railways AC Cars rail bus, which has been stored at the back of Loughborough since 2006, is also planned to be restored for use on the branch and the rest of the railway in general, with work due to start as soon as enough money has been raised.

By May 2011, track had been laid over the first 300m of the branch line, which allowed the first trains to run on the railway since the track lifting trains in 1959. The group are currently in the process of fund raising for £16,000 to allow the next 450m of track to be laid.

By the end of April 2012, phase 2 had been completed, with a further 250-300m laid and many hedgerows planted, and fund raising for phase three was well underway (£11,000 of £23,000 raised so far). This will allow laying of the next 500m of track and take the track to Wood Lane, on the outskirts of Mountsorrel.

In early December 2012, tracklaying passed through the bridge at Wood Lane. Materials had also been secured to reach the end of the line at Bond Lane. By this time, total project spend had been £90,000, with £9,500 still to be raised to complete the track to passenger-carrying standards.

One of the original Mountsorrel locomotives was also preserved, Peckett and Sons 0-4-0ST Works No. 1759 Elizabeth of 1928. It is currently undergoing restoration at the nearby Rutland Railway (Cottesmore). It is a long-term ambition of the project team to return this locomotive to the railway in the near future.

On 21 November 2013, the first passenger train travelled the railway towards Mountsorrel hauling the project volunteers. Project leader Steve Cramp said on the day that "It's been an emotional time for us all, everybody has worked so hard over the last six years to bring this vision to reality and it's so nice to actually see a steam train get back up to Mountsorrel."

On 27 January 2014, planning permission for a simple 50m-long platform built into the base of the cutting next to the bridge at Bond Lane was granted by Charnwood Borough Council. The platform was constructed from concrete blocks faced with Mountsorrel Granite. The aim for the new platform was to link up with Stonehurst Family Farm and Motor Museum bringing together the local community.

The Platform is now known as Mountsorrel railway station. The tractor-trailer ride link to Stonehurst Family Farm and Motor Museum is unable to happen after a retaining wall of the embankment for a conveyor belt (built over the original track bed of the Mountsorrel Railway, as a replacement for the railway in the 1970s by Tarmac Group (now Tarmac, formerly Lafarge Tarmac) had collapsed in March 2018. As of August 2019, the wall has still not been repaired and Bond Lane, the road connecting the station with Mountsorrel village itself is still blocked by the obstruction of debris and access is only available via a temporary footpath joining to a public footpath.

After eight years and over 80,000 hours of volunteer time, the Mountsorrel Railway was opened to the public over the weekend of 24 and 25 October 2015 by Lord Faulkner of Worcester, who is President of the Heritage Railway Association and Vice Chairman of the Science Museum.

The site at the former Nunckley Quarry, now occupies Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre, which includes a coffee shop, heritage displays, a railway museum, a recreation of a Stonemasons' hut, like those that would have been used in Mountsorrel Quarry, a demonstrative narrow-gauge railway and Nunckley Hill railway station.

The project (now under the guise of Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre), continues to go on. As of April 2019, funds are needed for the construction of the Discovery Centre, a brand-new building which will include teaching an even-more in-depth history of the local area and will be supplemented with an exhibition area, a library with archive storage, a lecture theatre/classroom, a study room, advanced AR equipment for 'hands-on' learning and a large lobby.

There is also the need for donations to complete the Railway Museum Extension, which will serve as a restoration area for rolling-stock, as well as the new extension of the Nunckley Narrow Gauge Railway, which also needs new track.

The last surviving locomotive of the original railway is a Peckett and Sons 0-4-0ST Works No. 1759 Elizabeth of 1928 currently undergoing restoration at Rutland Railway Museum in Cottesmore, with ambitions to bring it back to the railway once restored.

## **Church**

St John The Baptist – Grimston

The Church of St John the Baptist, Grimston, is a Grade II\* listed building and now consists simply of nave and chancel with south transept, west tower, and south porch. The north transept collapsed in around 1740 and was not rebuilt. It is built largely in the local ironstone, and the present building dates essentially from the early 13th century, with rebuilding around 1400. It has a square embattled tower with three bells.

13th and 15th century ironstone church restored by R W Johnson in 1866. 16th century clock, an early provincial example of an anchor escapement. 20th century stained glass in chancel window by Baguley of Newcastle. Coursed,

squared ironstone, slate roofs. Chancel, nave, S transept, S porch and W tower. 2-bay chancel has 3-light E window with Perpendicular tracery with hood mould and label stops, lancet window to N, 2-light windows to S with straight heads, cued ogee-arched heads to lights and hood mould with label stops.

Nave has blocked arch to forum N transept, blocked N door with chamfer and hood mould, and 3 2-light windows at clerestory level with Perpendicular tracery, 4-centred heads, and hood moulds. 4 similar clerestory windows to S. S transept has small lancet window to E and 3-light window to S with Perpendicular tracery, both with hood moulds. Renewed S door with shafts, many-moulded head and, hood mould in C19 porch with shafted doorway and hood mould. 2-stage tower has 3-light W window with Perpendicular tracery and 2-light bell-chamber openings with Perpendicular tracery, all with hood moulds. Cusped lozenge frieze to base of battlemented parapet; gargoyles and crocketed pinnacles to angles.

Interior: Double piscina in transept with pointed trefoiled arches. Nave has Perpendicular roof with arch-braced ties on carved head corbels, 1 tier of moulded purlins, moulded ridge, and bosses. Clock of c.1600, an early provincial example of an anchor escapement. Stain-glass SE chancel window, early C20 by Baguley, Newcastle.

The church seats 160. The Anglican parish register dates from 1635. The church was in the rural deanery of Akeley East. Kelly's 1912 Directory of Leicestershire places the church in the rural deanery of Framland (third portion).

## **Village**

### **Snarestone**

Snarestone is a small rural village in North West Leicestershire, England. It lies on the edge of the National Forest and is 5 miles (8 km) from the market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It has a population of approximately 300 people and 120 households, increasing to a population of 312 in 128 households at the 2011 census.

The village is surrounded by farmland and open countryside. It is positioned at the foot of a slight hill that gently rises to a height of 115 metres. Other topographical features include the River Mease and the terminus for the Ashby Canal. Both of these waterways are sites of special scientific interest (SSSI).

Although Snarestone is a Leicestershire village it has a Derbyshire postcode and is 3 miles (5 km) from the county boundary of North Warwickshire. The village has an active Parish Council that meets throughout the year and publishes a regular newsletter. Snarestone's amenities include two public houses, a primary school, a church, a blacksmith, an antique reclamation yard, an allotment, a post box, and a traditional red telephone kiosk.

The village has various types of housing from thatched roof cottages, semi-detached houses, and self-contained flats to large, detached properties, complete with private tennis courts. Most settlements in the village extend along Main Road and Quarry Lane. There is another minor road (Derby Lane) that connects to neighbouring Shackerstone.

The area to the south of Snarestone is Crown Estate land and belongs to (but is not the private property of) the British Monarch. Much of this land is agricultural and is the site of a former Georgian country house (Gopsall Hall). It is reputed that George Frideric Handel composed his Messiah oratorio here in 1741.

There was a railway station on the Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway, but it was closed in 1931 and to freight in 1970. There is also a section of the former line still open from Shackerstone to Shenton via Market Bosworth known as the Battlefield Line. There was at one time interest expressed to reopen a new station at Snarestone on the Battlefield Line to serve Measham and the newly restored Ashby Canal. This has since been abandoned due to costs and the land being privately owned. Only the goods shed, and station masters house remain as private residence.

Snarestone is linked via the Ashby Canal to the national network of canals. The canal crosses through the village and terminates in fields just to the north. The 22-mile (35 km) canal meanders through a gentle rural landscape and is free of locks. The canal is popular with leisure boaters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Hedgerows and reeds offer an ideal habitat for many species of plant and animal including herons, kingfishers, moorhens as well as numerous coarse fish including bream, roach, chub, and pike. A stretch of the canal between Snarestone and Carlton has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), mainly because of the aquatic plant life and varieties of dragonfly attracted to the area.

In 2005 the Government approved plans to restore a 2.5-mile (4.0 km) stretch of the canal to provide Snarestone with a green route into the heart of the National Forest. The proposals also include a canal side wharf for the new terminus at Measham.

The village appears in the Domesday Book as Snarchetone and was the farmstead of a man called Snar(o)c. At the time of Domesday Snarestone amounted to a single carucate of waste land. This small area of land was held in 1086 by Robert the Dispensator (or Robert the Bursar). Robert was steward to William the Conqueror and the land was granted by Robert's successor (Henry de Hastynges) to an Adam Stake.

At some time during the thirteenth century the land passed to the Charnell family who held it for the following five centuries. The estate was partitioned in 1796, and half came to Charles Powell Leslie II via his wife Anne (née Ryder). The other half came to Colonel Samuel Madden via his marriage to Katherine (née Ryder). Snarestone was sold some time after Madden's death in 1814 (probably in the 1830s after the death of his father-in-law, the Rev. Charles Dudley Ryder). Snarestone passed in 1846 to Lady Anna Maria Leslie.

Bricks were made in the village during the nineteenth century and a coal mine was sunk in 1875 but found only water. The Ashby Canal opened in 1804 and still runs underneath a section of Main Street (formerly Long Street) via a 400-yard (366 m) tunnel.

The village church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew and has a register dating back to 1559. The church was rebuilt in 1752 and enlarged in 1834 to a capacity of 150 sittings.

## **Top Ten**

The first ten Eric B & Rakim single releases.

	Single	Year Released	UK Chart Position
1	Eric B. Is President	1986	-
2	I Ain't No Joke	1987	-
3	I Know You Got Soul	1987	13
4	Move The Crowd	1988	53
5	Paid In Full	1988	15
6	As The Rhyme Goes On	1988	81
7	Follow The Leader	1988	21
8	Microphone Fiend	1988	74
9	The R	1989	76
10	In The Ghetto	1990	-

## **Poetry Corner**

### **Road Kill**

The poor peasant's pheasant wasn't now present; its sad demise was somewhat less than pleasant.

The car, had travelled far, the wheels rolling over the tar, then there was a judder, a jar.

Splat! Oh drat, now the pheasant is flat. If it is still alive then I'll eat my hat.

There are feathers, in the heather, and I wonder whether what lies on the road looks like leather.

Mouths gape, as I scrape, near fields of rape, a poor bird that seems more like a crushed grape.

The boy, isn't coy, he finds no joy, in watching me scrape up something that looks like his toy.

The sun, the heat's no fun; I want to run, away from this scene as soon as I'm done.

A man, in a van, a peasant called Stan, stops nearby and the road he scans.

The peasant asks, is that my pheasant, it's not looking pleasant, it was going to be a present.

Oh fuck, that's just my luck, no pheasant to pluck; I suppose I'll have to get a duck.



# Musical Madness

## This Day In Music

Born  
1950 - David Cassidy  
Married  
1986 – Belinda Carlisle to actor Morgan Mason  
Event  
2000 – Metallica filed a suit against Napster, Yale University, University of Southern California, and Indiana University for copyright infringement.

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

### **Boogie Down Productions release their sophomore album “By All Means Necessary” on Jive. (1988)**

BDP's first set for Jive was also their first after the tragic murder of group cofounder Scott La Rock the previous year. The album, which takes its title from a famed Malcolm X speech, shows KRS-One looking out of a window while holding an Uzi. This image is similar to a 1965 photo of Malcolm X.

Along with Public Enemy's "It Takes A Nation Of Millions to Hold Us Back", released the same year, the KRS-One produced album ushered in the golden era of political rap.

A 180-degree turn from the group's hardcore debut "Criminally Minded", the socially conscious gold selling album spawned the hit singles "Stop The Violence" and "My Philosophy". "By All Means Necessary" contained classic album cuts like "Illegal Business", "Ya Slippin'", and "I'm Still #1", which referenced KRS's battle with Melle Mel the previous year at the Latin Quarter. The album reached #75 on the Billboard 200 and #18 on the R&B chart.

## Number 1's

Number 1 single in 1969 - Marvin Gaye - I Heard It Through The Grapevine  
Number 1 album in 2003 - The White Stripes - Elephant  
Number 1 compilation album in 1996 - Now 33

## Thirty-Three And One Third Revolutions Per Minute

### **The Who – The Who Sell Out**

The Who Sell Out was the third studio album by the British rock band the Who. It was released on 15 December 1967 by Track Records in the UK and Decca Records in the US.

A concept album, The Who Sell Out is structured as a collection of unrelated songs interspersed with fake commercials and public service announcements, including the second track "Heinz Baked Beans". The album purports to be a broadcast by pirate radio station Radio London. The reference to "selling out" was an intended irony, as the Who had been making real commercials during that period of their career, some of which are included as bonus tracks on the remastered CD.

The album was primarily written by guitarist Pete Townshend, though three tracks were penned by bassist John Entwistle and one by Thunderclap Newman vocalist Speedy Keen, who also sings. Townshend and Entwistle are joined by vocalist Roger Daltrey and drummer Keith Moon, and organist Al Kooper makes a guest appearance on two tracks. The album was produced by the band's manager Kit Lambert.

The album's release was reportedly followed by lawsuits due to the mention of real-world commercial interests in the faux commercials and on the album covers, and by the makers of the real jingles (Radio London jingles), who claimed the Who used them without permission. (The jingles were produced by PAMS Productions of Dallas, Texas, which created thousands of station ID jingles in the 1960s and 1970s.) The deodorant company Odorono took offence that Chris Stamp made a request for endorsement dollars.

The Who Sell Out has received widespread acclaim from critics, some of whom viewed it as the Who's best record. It has also frequently been featured on all-time lists of the best albums, including Rolling Stone magazine's "500 Greatest Albums of All Time".

In his book Maximum R & B, Who confidant Richard Barnes claims to have come up with the idea of the band recording commercial jingles after their cover of the Batman theme appeared on the Ready Steady Who EP. Barnes posited the idea to Roger Daltrey, whose similar suggestions to Pete Townshend were allegedly met with derision.

Initially, the band's follow-up to *A Quick One* was to be titled *Who's Lily* after their recent single "Pictures of Lily." Early cuts such as a cover of "Summertime Blues," the Coke jingles, and the instrumental "Sodding About," showed the influence of Track Records label-mate Jimi Hendrix on Townshend's guitar playing.

Even before the group had formed, the members of the Who had been profoundly influenced by rock 'n' roll appearing on the radio. The BBC did not broadcast much contemporary music at the time, which was left to stations like Radio Luxembourg and then pirate radio stations such as Radio Caroline. By the end of 1966, the Who had achieved commercial success owing to the mod movement that made up a significant section of the group's early audience. However, the movement was fading, and the TV show *Ready, Steady, Go* that had boosted the group to fame had been cancelled. The group started touring the US the following year and started to achieve success with their live act. In summer 1967, the group's managers Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp suggested the band could create a concept album based on pirate radio and structure it in the same manner as that, or a typical US AM radio station. As pirate radio had been influential to mods, it was felt particularly appropriate to pay tribute to it. As well as the music, the inter-song announcements and jingles were a key component of radio, so it was decided to include a selection of humorous asides on the album. The Marine Broadcasting Offences Act came into effect at midnight on 14 August 1967, outlawing all pirate stations and strengthening the album's effect as a tribute. The aspect separated the Who from their contemporaries in the developing underground rock scene, both musically and stylistically.

The first song to be written specifically for the concept was "Jaguar", paying tribute to the car, which was quickly followed by an instrumental the group had recorded for Coca-Cola. "Armenia City in the Sky" was written by a friend of the band, John "Speedy" Keen. According to music critic Richie Unterberger, *The Who Sell Out* featured "jubilant" psychedelic pop music that veers between "melodic mod pop and powerful instrumentation", while Edna Gundersen from *USA Today* said the album's style was power pop.

Having finished touring the US, including an appearance at the Monterey Pop Festival, the group returned to the UK on 16 September to start recording. They made progress on the album for the next three weeks; the first song to be completed was the single, "I Can See for Miles", released the following month. By October, the group had also completed "Armenia City in the Sky", "Early Morning Cold Taxi" and "Girl's Eyes". "Heinz Baked Beans", "Odorono" and "Top Gear" had been completed mid-month, along with a series of linking adverts and jingles mostly recorded by Entwistle and Moon. "Tattoo", "Odorono" and "Rael" were completed by 20 October, while most of the remainder of the album was recorded in between live shows at the end of the month. "Sunrise", a solo Townshend piece, was the last to be recorded on 2 November.

The cover is divided into panels featuring a photograph by David Montgomery of each of the band members, two on the front and two on the back. On the front is Pete Townshend applying Odorono brand deodorant from an oversized stick, and Roger Daltrey sitting in a bathtub full of Heinz baked beans (holding an oversized tin can of the same). Daltrey claims to have caught pneumonia after sitting for a prolonged period in the bathtub, as the beans had been frozen. On the back is Keith Moon applying Medac (a fictitious acne ointment) from an oversized tube, and John Entwistle in a leopard-skin Tarzan suit, squeezing a blonde woman in a leopard-skin bikini with one arm and a teddy bear with the other (an ad for the Charles Atlas course mentioned in one of the album's fake commercials).

Original vinyl copies of *Sell Out* end with an audio oddity that repeats into a locked groove (In response to the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band). The music in the locked groove is a snippet of what was originally intended to be a vocal jingle for the Who's UK label Track Records.

The album was released in the UK on 15 December 1967. It reached number 13 in the charts staying in the charts for 11 weeks. The original release date of 17 November had been pushed back due to arguments about the running order. It was released in the US on 6 January 1968, reaching number 48. On a re-release in 2009 it reached number 92 for a single week in the charts. The concept of the album hampered its commercial performance despite positive reviews, as its irony sat awkwardly with the serious ambitions of the underground music scene, and it was too specific to the mod scene's background for many younger pop fans.

### Track listing

All songs written by Pete Townshend, except where noted. The between song jingles apparently have no official titles and are not listed anywhere on the original album packaging (although they are listed in the inner booklet of the 1995 remaster).

Side one

No. - Title - Writer(s) - Lead vocals - Length

1. - "Armenia City in the Sky" - Speedy Keen - Daltrey and Keen - 3:48. Was released as a single in Japan with "Mary Anne with the Shaky Hand" as the B-side. Covered twice and sampled twice.

2. - "Heinz Baked Beans" - John Entwistle - Entwistle, Moon and Townshend (spoken word) - 1:00. Covered once, and sampled by Young MC.

3. - "Mary Anne with the Shaky Hand" - Daltrey and Townshend - 2:28. Was the B-side of the Japanese single release of "Armenia City in the Sky". Released as a Dutch single in 1968 with "Can't Reach You" as the B-side. Covered five times.

4. - "Odorono" - Townshend - 2:34. Covered once.

5. - "Tattoo" - Daltrey, with Townshend - 2:51. Covered twice.  
 6. - "Our Love Was" - Townshend - 3:23. Covered twice and sampled once.  
 7. - "I Can See for Miles" - Daltrey - 4:05. The only single from the album, it reached number 10 in the UK charts, staying on the chart for 12 weeks. It reached number 9 on the US Billboard singles chart. The B-side was "Someone's Coming". Covered 10 times and sampled twice, including by Oasis in "Cloudburst".  
 Total length: 20:09

Side two

No. - Title - Writer(s) - Lead vocals - Length

1. - "Can't Reach You" - Townshend - 3:03. Was the B-side of the Dutch release of the single "Mary Anne With the Shaky Hand". Covered once.  
 2. - "Medac" - Entwistle - Entwistle - 0:57. Covered once.  
 3. - "Relax" - Daltrey and Townshend - 2:41. Covered once.  
 4. - "Silas Stingy" - Entwistle - Entwistle - 3:07. Covered once.  
 5. - "Sunrise" - Townshend - 3:06. Covered once.  
 6. - "Rael (1 and 2)" - Daltrey - 5:44. They sampled this in their later track "Sparks" and has been covered once.  
 Total length: 18:38

## Personnel

The Who

Roger Daltrey - lead vocals.

Pete Townshend - guitar, backing and lead vocals ("Odorono," "Our Love Was," "I Can't Reach You," "Sunrise," "Rael Naive," "Jaguar," "Glittering Girl")

John Entwistle - bass, horns ("Armenia City in the Sky", "Someone's Coming", "Top Gear"), backing and lead vocals ("Medac," "Silas Stingy," "Jaguar," "Summertime Blues," "John Mason's Cars," "Glittering Girl")

Keith Moon - drums, lead vocals ("Girl's Eyes," "John Mason's Cars")

Additional musicians

Al Kooper - organ ("Rael 1", "Mary Anne with the Shaky Hand (alternative version)")

Speedy Keen - backing vocals ("Armenia City in the Sky")

Personnel

Kit Lambert - producer, engineer

Damon Lyon-Shaw - engineer

Jon Astley and Andy Macpherson - engineers (1995 remaster)

David Montgomery - cover photography

David King and Roger Law - sleeve design

Adrian George - psychedelic poster design

Richard Evans - 1995 and 2009 reissue design and art direction

## Charts

Chart - Position

UK Chart Albums - 13

Billboard Pop Albums - 48

## Certifications

UK - Silver

## Top 10

The top ten in the UK singles chart on this day in 1986

Position	Last Week's Position	Title	Artist	Label	Peak Position	Weeks on Chart
1	1	LIVING DOLL	CLIFF RICHARD AND THE YOUNG ONES	WEA	1	4
2	4	A DIFFERENT CORNER	GEORGE MICHAEL	EPIC	2	2
3	2	WONDERFUL WORLD	SAM COOKE	RCA	2	4
4	3	TOUCH ME (I WANT YOUR BODY)	SAMANTHA FOX	JIVE	3	4
5	10	ROCK ME AMADEUS	FALCO	A&M	5	4
6	5	YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING (THE DECADE REMIX 76/86)	REAL THING	PRT	5	6
7	7	A KIND OF MAGIC	QUEEN	EMI	7	3
8	9	PETER GUNN FT DUANE EDDY	ART OF NOISE FEATURING DUANE EDDY	CHINA	8	4

9	23	TRAIN OF THOUGHT	A-HA	WARNER BROTHERS	9	2
10	14	SECRET LOVERS	ATLANTIC STARR	A&M	10	6

## A Single Life

### **Kenny Loggins - Footloose**

I was crazy about this song when it came out, trying to will it to number one in the UK charts, only for it to stall at number 6, a position bettered by two infinitely inferior songs from the soundtrack - Denise Williams's "Let's Hear It For The Boy", and Bonnie Tyler's "Holding Out For A Hero". The film is also (at least partly) responsible for the us having the plague of shite 3 adverts with Kevin Bacon in nowadays.

Later on, when clubbing became a regular event, this song is definitely a contributing factor to just how fucked up my knees are. Dropping to them for the line "Please, Louise, drag me off of my knees" a few times a week for half a dozen years may help to explain why I limp constantly today.

The film wasn't great, but it was far better than the hellhole of the 2011 remake in which they did a country version of this track as the theme. So many no's needed here. As for the bearded singer, this was one of the few times we hear of him, as they only seemed to wheel him out for film soundtracks, and the only other time I can remember hearing of him is when he did "Danger Zone" on the Top Gun soundtrack.

"Footloose" was co-written and recorded by American singer-songwriter Kenny Loggins. It was released in January 1984 as the first of two singles by Loggins from the 1984 film of the same name (the other one being "I'm Free (Heaven Helps the Man)"). The song spent three weeks at number one, March 31—April 14, 1984 on the US Billboard Hot 100, and was the first of two number-one hits from the film. Billboard ranked it at the No. 4 song for 1984.

The song was very well received and is the most recognizable song recorded by Loggins. When the American Film Institute released its AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs, "Footloose" reached the 96th position.

It was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song at the 1985 ceremony, losing to Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You" from The Woman in Red. Now much as I love Stevie, this is far and away one of his worst songs ever, and there is no way it should have beaten "Footloose" to the Oscar.

In 2018, it was selected for preservation in the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or artistically significant."

### **Personnel**

Kenny Loggins – lead vocals  
Neil Larsen – keyboards  
Steve Larsen – keyboards  
Buzz Feiten – guitar  
Nathan East – bass guitar  
Michael Boddicker – synth bass, percussion  
Tris Imboden – drums  
Paulinho da Costa – percussion  
Marilyn Dorman, Richey Washington, and Steve Wood – background vocalists

### **Charts**

Chart - Peak position  
Australia - 1  
Austria - 8  
Belgium - 26  
Canada - 1  
Germany - 4  
Ireland - 4  
Italy - 17  
New Zealand - 1  
South Africa - 1  
Switzerland - 4  
UK Singles - 6  
US Billboard Hot 100 - 1

### **Certifications**

Region - Certification - Certified units/sales

Italy - Gold - 25,000  
United Kingdom - Platinum - 1,000,000  
United States - Platinum - 1,000,000#

## Story Time

### Tomorrow Is The Big Day

I wish I could fast forward the next few hours and make it tomorrow already. Not that I am wishing my life away you understand; but everyone I meet is talking about tomorrow and what I'm going to do. I'm nervous. I'm not going to lie; tomorrow is going to be a new chapter in my life. I'm a natural worrier. Put me in a situation like this and all I can see is what could go wrong.

Therefore, I can do without the constant stream of messages. I can do without all the people stopping by to have a chat and giving me the benefit of their advice.

To be fair, there has been some really good advice. Whether I can pull it all together and keep my wits about me when it comes to the right time is another matter entirely. Just when I think I've got it all worked out and everything is straight in my head, someone else comes along and throws another piece of advice at me. And then I change my plan slightly once again. I don't need any more advice; I need less, lots less. I need to wind it all back and keep it simple.

Yet if I hear the words 'I remember my first wedding' again today I am likely to have a complete meltdown and curl up on the floor and babble incoherently. I don't want to hear stories of how they messed up their first marriage. I don't need that kind of negativity in my life on the eve of my first wedding.

I could have done without the visit from the bride's mother. Bending my ear about how her precious daughter isn't the best timekeeper in the world, and how I better still be at the altar if she is late getting to the church. I mean, for God's sake, on her wedding day would it really hurt for her to turn up on time for a change?

It took me nearly an hour to persuade her to leave. I know there is a saying about how it is bad luck to see the bride before the service on the morning of the wedding. If you ask me it's even worse luck to have to see the bride's mother on the day before the wedding. Or in Mrs Malone's case, at any time at all.

Then there's the best man. If he has rang me once today, he's rang me a dozen times. Each time with something more inconsequential than the previous time. I've told him more than once it isn't his greatest idea to have a mini stag party at his house tonight. Just a few mates, have a barbecue and a few beers. Last night of freedom and all that. I know all about Lee and his idea of just a few drinks. I can see it getting totally out of hand and it not being the bride who is the late one at the wedding.

And there's the door again. I've only just moved in, yet it seems as if everyone in the village knows where I live. Perhaps if I ignore it, they will just go away. They'll go and talk to some other poor unfortunate about their wedding advice.

<Sigh>

No such luck, I didn't lock the front door either did I? Whoever it is is in the house and heading straight for me.

That's all I need, it's the bishop. What did I do to deserve this? He'll be here for hours imparting his wisdom. It's not like I can get rid of him very easily, "I'm sorry your eminence, could you just do one, I've got a wedding to prepare for." He knows that already and still he turns up here. Not only that but the old so and so doesn't take hints. Perhaps I could fake a seizure and do a runner from the ambulance when it turns up.

No, I can't be doing that, wasting the emergency services' precious time. Plus, it would get everyone else into an even bigger flap over the wedding than they have now. I can feel the force of the fury that would accompany the wedding being postponed. I will just have to sit here and listen to the bishop drone on and try and smile and nod in the right places.

A few drinks at Lee's sounds like a good idea right now. Perhaps I should introduce the bishop to Mrs Malone. He might be able to put her mind at ease about parties turning up late at the church, it must have happened to him before. I'm not really listening. I've gone back to worrying. What if I get the words wrong, or forget them completely? What if I say the wrong name, or laugh inappropriately at the wrong time?

My phone beeps and it's a message from Ed. I haven't seen him since college. I wonder how he knows about the wedding. His message isn't very supportive.

"Don't worry if you make a total hash of your first one. Loads of us did. It took me until my fourth wedding to really get into the swing of things."

I can't be thinking like that. I don't need to be thinking of making a hash of my first wedding, let alone to be thinking of moving on to my next one. I want this one to be successful. For everyone's sake.

Once I get rid of the bishop, I'm locking the door and I'm not going out until tomorrow morning. I don't want to know what's happening at Lee's. It's best that way. Today will come to an end, and tomorrow will be a new day and the wedding will go without a hitch.

I hope.

Lee will get the groom to the church on time, properly attired and he will have the rings with him. Milly Malone will be on time for the first time in her life.

And I will preside over the service as if this isn't my first wedding as the new parish priest. I will not get my words wrong. I will pronounce them man and wife, and most importantly of all, I will not call Milly Molly Malone or start singing about wheelbarrows.

Then, and only then, I can relax, have a drink, and feel fine.

## World's Greatest Cathedrals Top Trumps

<u>Notre-Dame de Paris</u>	
City / Country	Paris - France
Height	90 meters
Commenced Building	1163
Character	14
Global Fame	95
Top Trumps Rating	94
Details	Notre-Dame de Paris is in the French Gothic Style and one of the first buildings in the world to use flying buttresses. Following the French Revolution, the cathedral fell into disrepair, the spire torn down and most of its treasures plundered. The Hunchback of Notre-Dame novel, published in 1831, was written to increase public appreciation for the cathedral, its restoration and gothic architecture in general.

This pack of Top Trumps was produced before the massive fire that ravaged the cathedral.

## Dilbert

**DILBERT**

**BY SCOTT ADAMS**



## **Epilogue – Where To Find More Of My Writing**

To get people to sign up, point them in the direction of my website's homepage of <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/> scroll down past the menu and then enter their e-mail address and select whether they want Flanagan's Running Club or blog post updates or both and then hit submit.

If you want to catch up on old issues, go to the website at <http://www.onetruekev.co.uk/frc.php> where all the issues are available.

For blog posts go to <https://onetruekev.co.uk/Mutterings/> which will have the most current post and the ability to scroll back in time.

Some of the blog posts also get published on my Medium account, especially ones that are picture heavy, as there are no hosting costs to store all the photos there, the link is <https://medium.com/@onetruekev>

For all previous works including the old Surerandomality pieces go to <https://onetruekev.co.uk/Mutterings/else/> where pretty much everything I've written before is linked through to.

Then there are my books. Nothing published yet, but I have one full book available online, it's called "Where The Lights Shine Brightest". 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>

In addition, the first chapter of "Where The Lights Shine Brightest", and my other completed book, "The Talisman", are available on my Goodreads page <https://www.goodreads.com/story/list/77442053-kev-neylon> and the first chapters of two of the four books I have in progress at the moment are on there now and the others will go on there in time. The follow up to "The Talisman" – "The Magicusians" is at <https://www.goodreads.com/story/show/1253978-the-magicusians> and "The Repsuli Deception" is at <https://www.goodreads.com/story/show/1253979-the-repsuli-deception>

I have had a number (seventy-three) of Drabbles published on the BookHippo web site, and they can all be found at <https://bookhippo.uk/profiles/kevin.neylon/drabbles>

You can also follow me on Twitter, where I will occasionally put up some micro fiction or micro poems, my Twitter handle is @Onetruekev – <https://twitter.com/onetruekev>

You can also follow all my writing on the Facebook page Onetruekev which is at <https://www.facebook.com/Onetruekev-102649357993650/>

Speak to me about getting a pen, there are currently eight colours available: red, black, dark green, blue, maroon, orange, purple and grey. In addition, speak to me about Flanagan's Running Club torches, limited stock, bright little so and sos available in red or blue. And new small green leather style notepads, with mini pens and various size sticky notes.

E-mail any ideas or suggestions to [kev@onetruekev.co.uk](mailto:kev@onetruekev.co.uk)

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