

Flanagan's Running Club – Issue 9

Introduction

The first rule of Flanagan's Running Club is everyone should talk about Flanagan's Running Club! Feel free to forward on to anyone you want, tell people about it the works, just get them to sign up.

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>

2018 Pub Crawl – The Fleet on Foot

The pub crawl route has been finalised and the date is set for Saturday 28th July. The theme is to follow the route of the River Fleet, all of which is now underground in sewer tunnels, from its exit out into the Thames, all the way back upstream to the ponds of Hampstead Heath where its western tributary originated. Starting at The Blackfriar, it's a nice easy venue to get to, as it is just outside the north bank entrance to Blackfriars Station, easily reachable from all points south. Finishing in Hampstead Heath, it's only a five minute cab ride to West Hampstead Thameslink station where the last train back through East Croydon and as far as Three Bridges is well after midnight.

No	Pub	Time
1	The Blackfriar 174 Queen Victoria Street. EC4V 4EG	12:00
2	The Albion 2-3 New Bridge Street. EC4V 6AA	12:45
3	Sir John Oldcastle 29-35 Farringdon Street. EC1M 3JF	13:30
4	The Green 29 Clerkenwell Green. EC1R 0DU	14:15
5	Belgo 1 King's Cross Road. WC1X 9HX	15:00
6	Meat Liquor 6 St Chad's Place. WC1X 9HH	15:45
7	The Prince Albert 163 Royal College Street. NW1 0SG	17:15
8	Quinns 65 Kentish Town Road. NW1 8NY	18:00
9	Camden Town Brewery 55-59 Wilkin Street Mews. NW5 3NN	19:00
10	Sir Robert Peel 108 Malden Road. NW5 4DA	20:00
11	The Stag 67 Fleet Road. NW3 2QU	21:00
12	The Garden Gate 14 South End Road. NW3 2QE	21:45
Food	Paradise 49 South End Road. NW3 2QB	22:30

On This Day – 15th June

763 BC – Assyrians record a solar eclipse that is later used to fix the chronology of Mesopotamian history.

1215 – King John of England puts his seal to Magna Carta.

1648 – Margaret Jones is hanged in Boston for witchcraft in the first such execution for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1844 – Charles Goodyear receives a patent for vulcanization, a process to strengthen rubber.

1919 – John Alcock and Arthur Brown complete the first nonstop transatlantic flight when they reach Clifden, County Galway, Ireland.

It's Global Wind Day
And it's National Beer Day in the UK

Mapping The London Year

1381 – Walter 'Wat' Tyler, leader of The Peasant's Revolt, is killed.

Tyler marched a group of rebels from Canterbury to the capital to oppose the institution of a poll tax and demand economic and social reforms. The rebellion enjoyed brief success and Tyler was invited to Smithfield to enter negotiations with officers loyal to King Richard II. Tyler was killed, however, and the King revoked all promises of compromise.

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

2002 - Paul Wall and Chamillionaire release "Get Ya Mind Correct" on Paid In Full Records.

The debut collaborative album from Houston rappers was an indie success story, reaching #67 on the R&B/Hip-Hop chart. Produced by Drathoven, Lee, Bluenote, Pretty Todd, Deep Fried Camp, and Bruce Takara, the album would become a major landmark for early twenty-first century Houston rap, helping further establish the city as one of the biggest centres for southern rap.

365 – Great Stories From History For Every Day Of The Year

68 Today the notorious Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide as soldiers from his rebellious army closed in for the kill.

Only sixteen when he came to power in 54, Nero had for a time been a hard-working and generous ruler, but within five years he had become the ogre of legend, murdering at will (including his mother and two wives) and engaging in sickening sexual conduct with both sexes. (At one point he had a young slave named Sporus castrated and then married him, taking him to bed like a wife. This prompted a Roman joke that the world would have been a better place had Nero's father chosen such a wife.)

By the time Nero was in his late 20s, conspiracies were rising against him everywhere for his cruelty, extravagance and greed. The early ones were snuffed out, but in March 68 Julius Vindex, the Roman governor of Lugdunum (today's Lyon), revolted. At first Nero simply scoffed, 'I have only to appear and sing to have peace once more in Gaul.' Indeed, the Roman army easily crushed the rebels, but not before Julius Vindex had been joined by Servius Galba, the governor of Spain.

Soon other provinces joined Galba, and the senate proclaimed him as Emperor while condemning Nero to death by flogging with rods. Then, on 8 June 68, Nero's own Praetorian commander Nymphidius Sabinus abandoned him. Knowing he could no longer cling to power, the Emperor tried to flee Rome for his eastern provinces, but his guards refused to help him, one asking derisively, 'Is it so terrible a thing to die?'

Nero then retreated to the imperial palace, only to awake at midnight to find himself alone, deserted even by his slaves. Leaving in panic, by chance he encountered one of his freedmen, Phaon, in the street. Phaon smuggled the disguised Emperor to his villa outside the city where the terrified fugitive hid in a dingy room. But soon soldiers were at the door, probably tipped off by Phaon, desperately trying to save his own skin.

Seeing no way out, Nero exclaimed his last, 'Qualis Artifex peres!' (What a great artist the world is losing!) He then stabbed himself in the throat, but, botching the job, he had to call on his private secretary Epaphroditus to finish him off. According to Suetonius, he died 'with glazed eyes bulging from their sockets'. (Epaphroditus later became Emperor Domitian's secretary but was executed by him on the grounds that a freedman should never help in his master's suicide.) When Nero died he was still only 30.

With Nero ended the so-called Julio-Claudian dynasty of Roman rulers that had started 116 years before, when Julius Caesar defeated Pompey and assumed dictatorial powers. They all died miserably:

- Caesar was assassinated in the Senate, bequeathing money and troops to his great-nephew.
- Augustus, who (some say) was poisoned by his wife Livia so that her son
- Tiberius would rule. Tiberius was smothered on orders from his nephew and successor.
- Caligula, who was murdered by officers of his own guard, to be succeeded by his uncle.
- Claudius, who was poisoned by his wife Agrippina to gain the title for her son.
- Nero, who was driven to suicide.

On Nero's death Galba became Emperor, but he too came to a bloody end, hacked to death by his successor Otho's soldiers after only seven months of power.

Births

1843 – Edvard Grieg
1946 – Noddy Holder
1954 – Jim Belushi
1969 – Ice Cube

Deaths

1381 – Wat Tyler
1993 – James Hunt
1996 – Ella Fitzgerald

Number 1's

Number 1 single in 2013 - Robin Thicke feat TI & Pharrell - Blurred Lines
Number 1 album in 1982 - Madness - Complete Madness
Number 1 compilation album in 2011 - Now 78

Random Results

1963 - San Francisco Giants 1 - Houston Colts 0
1996 - England 2 - Scotland 0

Drabble

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

Unintended Outcome

When she woke up after the crash, still sat in the car, her brother had disappeared; the driver's seat was empty with no sign of anyone around.

It was now days later, and no one had seen or heard from him since, her parents had checked all the hospitals, all his friends and all the other drivers but there was no trace, a missing persons alert was out for him.

Even she wondered where he had disappeared to, frustrated that even though he was gone, he was still the centre of attention.

She wished she hadn't caused the accident now.

Joke

There's a guy at the bar, just looking at his drink. He stays like that for half an hour. Then, this big trouble making truck driver steps next to him takes the drink and necks it. The poor man starts crying. The truck driver say: "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't see a man crying." "No, it's not that. This is the worst day of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I go late to my office. My boss, outraged, fires me. When I leave the building, to go to my car, I found it was stolen. The police say there is nothing they can do. I get a cab to return home, and when I get out I leave my wallet and credit cards in it as it drives away. I go home and find my wife in bed with the gardener. I leave home and come to this bar, and when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."

Random Items

Fact

The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher.

Firsts

1564 – Gabriele Fallopius provides the first written reference to a (linen!!) condom.
1881 – The first birth control clinic opens in Holland. They advocate the use of the diaphragm, hence Dutch Cap.
1928 – Ernst Grafenburg develops the first contraceptive coil
1957 – Durex introduce the first lubricated condom
1960 – Envoid 10 becomes the first approved commercially available contraceptive pill.

Thought

Why is it, when a door is open it's ajar, but when a jar is open, it's not adoor?

Forgotten English

Shuckish

Unpleasant, Unsettled, Showery, when relating to the weather.

Ambrose Bierce's Demon's Dictionary

PRICE

Value, plus a reasonable sum for the wear and tear of conscience in demanding it.

Words You Should Know

Discombobulated

A jokey word meaning exactly what it sounds as if it means: confused, disconcerted, 'thrown' in a big way. You might be discombobulated by an interruption or by the appearance of an unexpected guest; on a bad day you could be generally discombobulated, not with it and unable to cope with the many questions that life throws at you.

Popular Expressions – What They Mean And Where We Got Them

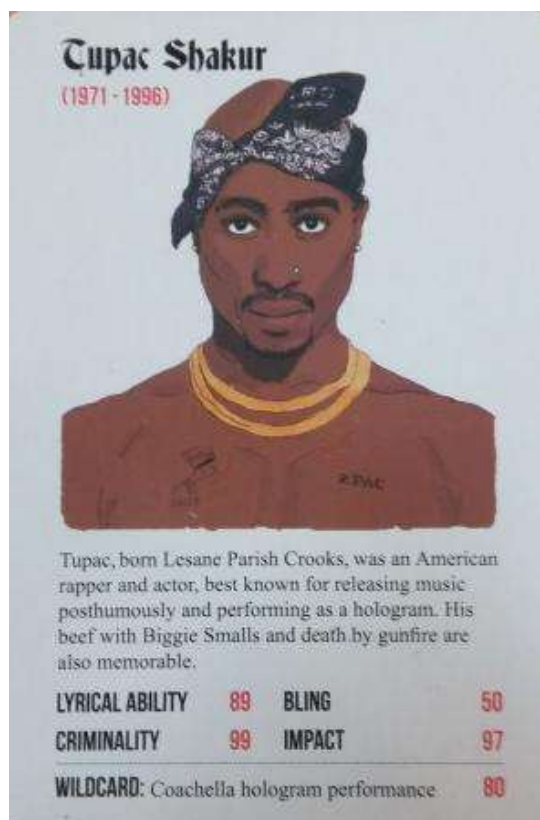
To be born of the wrong side of the tracks

To be born on the wrong side of the tracks is a disadvantage, as it was the part of town deemed to be both socially and environmentally inferior.

The expression originated in America, where railway lines ran through the centre of towns. Poor and industrial areas were often located to one side of the railroad tracks because the prevailing wind would blow smoke from the railway and smog in that direction, leaving the better-off neighbourhoods unpolluted.

The phrase is now used to refer to anyone who comes from a poor or rough background.

Rappers of the Nineties Trumps



Quote(s)

Karen (after picking her team in the World Cup Sweepstake)
Peru? They don't wear any shoes do they?

Liam (during the playoff final whilst Villa were losing)
I'd be surprised if Warnock is still managing Derby in November.
Kev
So would I, seeing as he's Cardiff's manager.

Going Underground

Royal Victoria

Was the name of the docks which were constructed between 1850 and 1855 being named in honour of Queen Victoria. The 'Royal' part of the name was added in 1880 and the docks were rebuilt between 1935 and 1944.

The station was opened on 28 March 1994.

Top Ten

Last 10 Drivers to win the F1 Championship in a car that didn't win the Constructor's title			
Year	Champion Driver	Driver's Car	Constructor Champion
2008	Lewis Hamilton	McLaren	Ferrari
1999	Mika Hakkinen	McLaren	Ferrari
1994	Michael Schumacher	Benetton	Williams
1986	Alain Prost	McLaren	Williams
1983	Nelson Piquet	Brabham	Ferrari
1982	Keke Rosberg	Williams	Ferrari
1981	Nelson Piquet	Brabham	Williams
1976	James Hunt	McLaren	Ferrari
1973	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell	Lotus
1958	Mike Hawthorn	Ferrari	Vanwall

Cathedral Fact Files

Cathedral	Exeter Cathedral		
Dedicated To	St Peter		
Type	Medieval	Architecture	Gothic
Religion	COE	Tower / Spire	2 Towers
Site Founded	1003	Height (External)	130ft
Church Founded	1114	Height (Internal)	69ft
Bishopric Founded	909	Length	409ft
Current Bishopric Founded	1050	Width	158ft

Thirty-Three And One Third Revolutions Per Minute

Arctic Monkeys – Whatever You Say I Am, That's What I'm Not

Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not was the debut studio album by The Arctic Monkeys, released on 23 January 2006 by Domino. The album surpassed Elastica's self-titled album to become the fastest selling debut album in British music history, shifting over 360,000 copies in its first week, and remains the fastest selling debut album by a band. It has since gone quintuple platinum in the UK. It is the only album to feature Andy Nicholson as bass player before he was replaced by Nick O'Malley.

The album includes both tracks from the band's original EP, Five Minutes with Arctic Monkeys, as well as their first two singles and UK number ones, "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor" and "When the Sun Goes Down". It is often cited as one of the best rock albums of its decade. It received the 2006 Mercury Prize for Best Album.

Musically, Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not, features indie rock, garage rock revival, post-punk revival, and punk rock. The common thematic content of the album has led to it being considered by some a concept album concerning "the lives of young Northern England clubbers". All tracks record first-person narratives of observations made within this context. "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor", "Still Take You Home", "You Probably Couldn't See for the Lights But You Were Staring Straight at Me" and "Dancing Shoes" all examine human behaviour in nightclubs. Frontman Alex Turner describes "Dancing Shoes" as being about "people always looking to pull when they go out however much they mask it." Other songs examine other aspects of nightlife; "From the Ritz to the Rubble" is an account of nightclub bouncers, "Red Light Indicates Doors Are Secured" tells the typical experiences and troubles of getting a taxicab after a night out, and "When the Sun Goes Down" was inspired by prostitutes in the locality of their practice room in the Neepsend district of Sheffield. Other songs are themed on romantic relationships, such as "Mardy Bum", or youth subcultures, such as "Fake Tales of San Francisco" and "A Certain Romance".

The album's title was taken from a line from the novel Saturday Night and Sunday Morning written by Alan Sillitoe (and spoken by Albert Finney in the film of the same name). The name was chosen after Turner recognised similarities between the two works and the appropriateness of the title. He said that "it's good because the book is called Saturday Night and Sunday Morning and that's kind of what the album is, so there's a link there. And also, there's a lot of people saying a lot of things about us and you don't have control over it." He also said that "songs including 'The View from the Afternoon', 'Dancing Shoes', 'Still Take You Home' and 'From the Ritz to the Rubble' all cover that bit of the weekend and feature the same character."

Cover artwork of the album is a photo of Chris McClure—a close friend of the band, frontman of The Violet May and brother of Jon McClure of Reverend and the Makers—taken in the early hours of the morning in Korova bar, Liverpool

after the band had given him, his cousin and his best friend "seventy quid to spend on a night out". The image caused some controversy when the head of Scotland's NHS criticised the cover for "reinforcing the idea that smoking is okay". The band's product manager denied the accusation, and in fact suggested the opposite: "You can see from the image smoking is not doing him the world of good." Billboard advertisements for the album used a similar image to the cover picture, but without the cigarette.

Prior to the release of the album, the tracks "Mardy Bum", "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor", "Fake Tales of San Francisco", "Dancing Shoes", "Still Take You Home", "Riot Van", "When the Sun Goes Down" (then known as "Scummy" or "Scummy Man") and "A Certain Romance" had been released for free via the internet in late 2004 and consolidated on the unofficial Beneath the Boardwalk compilation.

The original release date was 30 January 2006, but was brought forward to 23 January 2006 due to "high demand". Although the same was done with Franz Ferdinand, it was speculated that the move was an attempt to counter the effects of the album's leak onto online file-sharing sites. The re-recorded album versions had been leaked onto the internet by December 2005.

On the first day of its release, the album became the fastest-selling debut album in British history, selling just under 120,000 copies. By the end of the week, the album had sold 363,735 copies—more than the rest of the Top 20 combined and making it the overall fastest selling debut album in British history. Its release in the United States on 21 February 2006 saw it become the second fastest selling debut indie album in history, turning over around 34,000 copies in its first week and achieving number 24 in the album charts. The album also went to number 1 in Australia and Ireland. UK sales as of September 2013 stood at 1,475,982 copies. In February 2014, the album was certified 5x platinum, indicating sales of 1,500,000 copies.

Definitely an album that can be played over and over again, without wanting to skip a single track. Nothing reminds me more of my last year living in Manchester than this album.

It won a shedload of awards including

Winner of the Barclaycard Mercury Prize, Best Album – Q Awards, Album of the Year – NME, Album of the Year – Time, Best British Album – 2007 BRIT Awards, Best British Group – 2007 BRIT Awards

All tracks written by Alex Turner, except "Still Take You Home" by Turner and Jamie Cook.

Track listing

1. - "The View from the Afternoon" - 3:38. This was released on the EP "Who The F#@* Are The Arctic Monkeys?" Which was a few seconds too long to qualify for the UK Singles charts, and therefore missed out on securing the hat-trick of number one singles from the album?
2. - "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor" - 2:53. This was released as the first single from the album, the song debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart in October 2005 for one week, knocking Sugababes' "Push the Button" off the top.
3. - "Fake Tales of San Francisco" - 2:57. This was released as the album's third single in the US and peaked at number 30 on the Billboard charts. "Love's not only blind but deaf!"
4. - "Dancing Shoes" - 2:21. Back when any shoes were dancing shoes, no trainer gestapo in Manchester then.
5. - "You Probably Couldn't See for the Lights But You Were Staring Straight at Me" - 2:10.
6. - "Still Take You Home" - 2:53. Especially at ten past two!
7. - "Riot Van" - 2:14.
8. - "Red Light Indicates Doors Are Secured" - 2:23. Yes, yes, another one, who hasn't tried to jump a taxi before.
9. - "Mardy Bum" - 2:55. Have to giggle at the term we would use as pre-teenage kids.
10. - "Perhaps Vampires Is a Bit Strong But..." - 4:28.
11. - "When the Sun Goes Down" - 3:20. This was released as the second single from the album in January 2006, also debuting at number one on the UK Singles Chart, becoming their second consecutive UK number-one single.
12. - "From the Ritz to the Rubble" - 3:13. Honestly, who hasn't had issues with bouncers whilst trying to get in to a club? (or even a pub nowadays.)
13. - "A Certain Romance" - 5:31

Personnel

Arctic Monkeys

Alex Turner – lead vocals, rhythm guitar, lead guitar

Jamie Cook – lead guitar, rhythm guitar, backing vocals

Andy Nicholson – bass, backing vocals

Matt Helders – drums, percussion, co-lead vocals (track 5), backing vocals

Additional musicians

James Ford – electric piano and organ (track 7)

Technical

Jim Abbiss – production, recording, mixing (track 9)

Alan Smyth – production (track 9), additional recording (track 11)

Ewan Davies – recording

Andreas Bayr – recording (track 9)

Henry – recording assistance

Simon 'Barny' Barnicott – mixing

Owen Skinner – mixing assistance

Design

Juno Liverpool – design

Alexandra Wolkowicz – photography

Andy Brown – photography

Charts

Australian Albums – 1, Austrian Albums – 23, Belgian Albums – 9, Canadian Albums – 46, Danish Albums – 6, Dutch Albums – 8, Finnish Albums – 8, French Albums – 17, German Albums – 20, Irish Albums – 1, Italian Albums – 40, Japanese Albums – 9, New Zealand Albums – 5, Polish Albums – 39, Portuguese Albums – 29, Spanish Album – 38, Swiss Albums – 16, Swedish Albums – 26, UK Albums – 1, US Billboard - 24

Certifications

Australia – Platinum, Canada - Gold, Denmark – Gold, Japan – Gold, New Zealand – Gold, United Kingdom - 5x Platinum, United States – Gold

Club Fact File

Manchester City	
Founded	1880
Turned Professional	1887
Admitted to the League	1892
Ground	City of Manchester Stadium
Capacity	55,097
Previous Ground(s)	Clowes Street, Kirkmanshulme Cricket Ground, Queens Road, Pink Bank Lane, Hyde Road, Maine Road
Previous Names	Ardwick
Nickname(s)	Blues, The Citizens
Trophies	
League Champions	1936-37, 1967-68, 2011-12, 2013-14
Division 2 Winners	1898-99, 1902-03, 1909-10, 1927-28, 1946-47, 1965-66, 2001-02
FA Cup Winners	1904, 1934, 1956, 1969, 2011
League Cup Winners	1970, 1976, 2014, 2016, 2018
Charity Shield	1937, 1968, 1972, 2012
European Cup Winners Cup	1970
League Seasons	
Seasons in Premier League (Top Flight)	89
Seasons in Championship (Tier 2)	25
Seasons in League 1 (Tier 3)	1
Seasons in League 2 (Tier 4)	0

Story Time

The Appointment

I knew that I shouldn't be here, not now, not ever, but it was too late to turn around and walk back out of the door I had just entered the building through. A dozen or more pairs of eyes had already seen me, walking back out would only increase the suspicion that my being there would raise, more or likely someone would follow me out, and that wouldn't end well.

I had lived in this city for all of my life, but I had known from an early age that this particular building was somewhere to stay away from; the dregs of the city's criminal underbelly had made this their natural home many years ago, and showed no sign of letting the place out of their grasp.

I had known all of this when I agreed to meet her here, I'm sure I flinched when she had named the place to meet, I was just glad that the conversation had taken place by e-mail, she wouldn't have been able to see my reaction, or hear any change to the pitch of my voice that may have occurred. I couldn't give her the satisfaction that seeing my unease would have given her.

Knowing this place's reputation I had taken the time to choose what to wear, I needed to show enough respect to the meeting due to take place not to show up in the jeans, t-shirt and trainers ensemble that most of the regulars wore as a badge of honour. By the same token I couldn't overdo it and turn up in a suit and tie, turning up like that here could well reduce my life expectancy.

Suits were considered to be worse than gang colours here, the only people who wore suits here were either the police or visiting solicitors, and the latter only ever came by invitation. I had chosen a blue plaid shirt, navy chinos and two tone brogue shoes, carrying my wine coloured Harrington jacket over one shoulder. Even this made me stand out like a sore thumb, though to be fair, as a newcomer in here I would have stood out in anything I wore.

I had arrived a couple of minutes early for the midday meeting, again I suspect that she has chosen "High Noon" as the meeting time to make it more dramatic than it needs to be. I am always obsessively early, embarrassingly so at times, but I had a pathological fear of being late. Today was one of those days where being early, even if only by a couple of minutes, should serve me well. I had been in the vicinity for nearly half an hour before coming through the door, making sure I was on a bus out here in plenty of time before the meeting, there were often delays on the route out here caused by one police incident or another, but it was as clear as a bell today, almost as if no one wanted to be around when this meeting took place.

I paced nervously, slowly walking around the room, ignoring all the staring eyes that followed my movement around the room, not making eye contact with any of those sat or stood around the large room. I was surprised that no one had said anything or challenged my being there. I had heard horror stories of what happened to unsuspecting strangers that had wandered in here unaware.

I heard the door open behind me and I held my breath, unwilling to turn around and check if it was her. I stopped pacing and the eyes in the room were now flicking between me and whoever the newcomer was, then I heard the mocking voice that I had come to know so well over the years,

"I didn't think you would be brave enough to show your face in here, I was hoping to win by default."

There was an undertone of annoyance in her voice, a small victory for me. Someone else in the room had let out a little laugh at her statement, and another voice was now making chicken noises. I couldn't let them show that it affected me.

"Why wouldn't I turn up?"

"Because you are a weak man, I don't know why I married you."

"Well, after today, it won't be your problem anymore, will it?"

"True, but it bothers me that you turned up here today by yourself, and without a solicitor. Why show bravery after all this time my solicitor is going to eat you for lunch."

"I hope he's hungry then, there's a lot of fat for him to make his way through."

I turned around to face her; her face was set in stone, a cold fury in her eyes. She stalked past me and then the reception desk of the solicitor's' office, ignoring everyone else there and marched into an office set in the back corner of the lobby that I hadn't noticed before.

Reluctantly I followed her through the same door past the wall of staring eyes. The door slammed hard behind me as I walked through it and her solicitor appeared at my shoulder as if he had arrived out of the ether. He was licking his lips as if he was eyeing up his next meal.

"I'm surprised to see you here; I thought this was going to be uncontested. No solicitor as well, it must be my lucky day."

"It is uncontested I just want to check and sign the final paperwork and get it over with as soon as possible, no waiting for weeks as it's sent back and forth all over the place."

"Well, I'm still surprised, but it does make things a lot easier, all of the paperwork is prepared, and my client has already signed, if you sign the papers, the marriage will officially be dissolved."

I took a few minutes to read the paperwork carefully, much to the obvious disgust of my soon to be ex-wife and her solicitor. I had read the draft before it had gone before the court and I was checking that there were no additional pages stuck in the middle of the paperwork that hadn't been there initially, I didn't trust my wife or her solicitor as far as I could throw them. There was nothing added, and I found the main point that I was looking for and double checked the details that were printed there. I signed the two copies, and slid them back over to the solicitor along with his pen so that he could sign them.

"Are you happy to have my secretary sign as a witness to the paperwork?"

"I don't care who signs as a witness, as long as it's done and I can get out of here."

Both the solicitor and my wife laughed, and the solicitor, pressed an intercom button and called his secretary in. Less than a minute later a harassed looking older woman came into the room, walked over to the desk and signed the papers, and walked back out without saying a word.

"It's done then," the solicitor beamed, "you are now officially no longer man and wife."

I took my copy of the signed paperwork and I let out a sigh of relief. I got up out of my chair and headed to the door, a smile on my face.

My now ex-wife glared at me and asked, "What are you smiling at? I've just taken everything you own."

"Yes, you did, you took everything I owned at 6pm last night, as per the paperwork, a damp ridden house, and car on its last legs, and two empty bank accounts, plus half of my future pension pot."

"And yet, still you smile?"

"Of course, the paperwork is all signed and official, so anything I get after 6pm last night is mine and mine alone. I went out just after 6pm last night to the local shop, paid five pounds and bought two Euromillions lottery tickets. Then just after ten last night when they announced the numbers, I became a multi-millionaire, I won the Euromillions jackpot last night, all by myself, all one hundred and thirty seven million pounds of it and you are not entitled to a single penny of it. So enjoy all the rubbish you thought you had won, the car and house, and a pension pot that will never be paid into again. I'm off to somewhere that I won't ever have to see your sneering face again."

My ex-wife was too angry to speak, her bright purple face only letting a bit of spittle out of the left side of her mouth. Her solicitor wasn't so quiet; he rushed around the table following me out of the door, trying to make a grab for my copy of the paperwork.

"Free case work for whoever takes the paperwork off of him," he literally screamed.

A room full of hungry eyes were on me and there was a rush in my direction.

Then the single gunshot went off and the room stopped, dust rose from a small hole in the floor where the bullet had gone. A large mean looking man stood just inside the door with a gun in each hand, and he spoke in a loud deep voice.

"The first person to touch him, gets shot, I've got lots of bullets just in case a lot of you try to get brave."

I may well have been a weak man as my now ex-wife had claimed, but I had grown up with one of the meanest men in the city, it's always good to have that insurance policy.

"Cheers mate," I beamed at my friend, "fancy a drink?"

"As long as you're paying and it's somewhere more salubrious, I hate this place."

I walked out with my friend unmolested, the walk to the door was accompanied by a long blood curdling scream; my ex had got her voice back it would seem.

Puzzle Corner

Quiz

Answers from Issue 8

The Countries to have played in the same or more World Cup Finals than England.
Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany (including West Germany), Italy, Mexico, Spain

This Issue's quiz.

Continuing with the World Cup theme, there have been four opening matches of a World Cup finals in which there have been African teams playing. Can you name the four years this has happened, the African teams to play in those matches, their opponents, and whether they won lost or drew.

Crossword

Fuming

Sudoku

Issue 8's Solution

3	4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8
8	1	6	3	2	4	9	7	5
9	2	5	8	7	1	4	3	6
7	9	2	4	3	8	5	6	1
1	6	8	2	9	5	7	4	3
4	5	3	7	1	6	8	9	2
6	3	9	5	8	7	1	2	4
5	7	4	1	6	2	3	8	9
2	8	1	9	4	3	6	5	7

This issue's puzzle

8		5	6			2		
			9		2			
4		2						7
7	5			9			3	
			5		3			
	2			1			9	4
2						8		5
			1		7			
		7			8	9		3

Wordsearch

Found it, along with the rest of the late eighties hip-hop compilation albums on the shelves in the living room. Next to Word 2! And Word 3!

Dilbert



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/>
Sign up to the mailing list on the home page there. E-mail any ideas or suggestions to kev@onetruekev.co.uk