

Published April 2022

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

## APRIL FOOLS

A Western cultural belief, the tradition of April Fools can date back centuries. The first recorded April Fool's Day was in the Nun's Priest Tales in 1392 by Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales author.

In the tale, a vain cockerel is tricked by a wily fox, very much like in an Aesop's fable. Written in old English, the line says, 'Syn March was gon.' This can be translated as 'Since March was gone.'

This sentence led historians to believe that a special occasion occurs on April 1st, in which others can be tricked.

The public Roman festival Hilaria (which has roots as an early April Fools' Day) was traditionally held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The day was a celebration in which meats were roasted over open fires, and alcoholic drinks flowed freely. This was in comparison to the sombre days that the Emperor had hosted previously.

The Medieval Festival of Fools was held on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The tradition died out and was commonly replaced by April's Fools. The Festival of Fools tradition still occurred in Spanish-speaking countries, where the day was devoted to mischief and merriment for all ages.

Old French countries held week-long celebrations that ended on April 1<sup>st</sup>. These traditions were instead of celebrating New Year's Day and making fools of others who did.

Traditionally in places such as Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, April Fools' jokes last until midday. If a joke is played afterward, then they are the April Fool. The old saying says, 'April Fools' Day's past and gone, You're the fool for making one.' However, in countries such as Germany, Japan, and the United States, jokes could last all day.

### **Below are some of the things that have been published to 'fool' the public:**

In 1698, many citizens were told to see the lions bathing at the Tower of London. Of course, when they arrived, there was nothing to be seen. This was one of the most infamous April Fools' Day jokes.

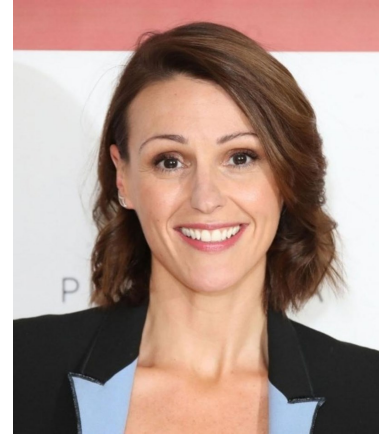
One newspaper reported that police would hire hawks to carry cameras on motorways to catch speeding motorists.

To promote BBC iPlayer, the BBC showed 'video footage' of penguins able to fly in the Antarctic skies.

BMW cars 'developed' a Magnetic Tow Technology. It was able to lock onto the front of your BMW car, and then you would be towed along with no need to have your foot on the accelerator or have a running engine.

## **Suranne Jones**

**Sarah Anne Jones was born on 27th August, 1978, in Chadderton and brought up on Foxdenton Lane. She has an older brother called Gary. She was raised in the Catholic faith, the priest suggesting to her father that she be christened Sarah Anne instead of Suranne, her Great Grandma's name, as Suranne was not a "proper name".**



**Her childhood home was surrounded by 2 farms, and one of her earliest memories was of "cows looking in the window as we ate our tea".**

**She was educated at Cardinal Langley Roman Catholic High School in Middleton. In her teens she joined Oldham Theatre Workshop and completed a BTech National Diploma in Performing Arts at the Manchester School of Acting.**

**Suranne began acting professionally aged 16. Upon joining the trade union Equity, she took on the stage name Suranne, as her birth name was already taken, and union rules dictate that each member must have a different name.**

**After acting in the theatre she started her TV career in 1997 with a small role in Coronation Street. She was later offered the part of Karen Phillips in Coronation Street, making her first appearance in the role on 21st June 2000. After marrying Steve McDonald she became Karen McDonald which brought her to public attention, with episodes involving feuds between her and her rival, Tracy Barlow.**

**Karen and Steve McDonald**



**In May 2004, it was announced that Suranne was to leave Coronation Street, and her last appearance as Karen was on Boxing Day 2004. She described her time on the show as “exhausting”. She remarked, “I was living and breathing Karen McDonald. I just thought while she’s brilliant and I’m enjoying her, I’ve got to get out”.**



**After leaving Coronation Street she starred in ITV’s detective series, “Vincent” with Ray Winstone in the title role. In the same year, 2005, she starred on the West End stage in “A Few Good Men” opposite Rob Lowe and John Barrowman, which earned her the “Theatregoers Choice Award” for Best Supporting Actress. In 2006 she starred as Snow White in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” at the Manchester Opera House. In 2007 she undertook a national tour in the stage run of the film “Terms of Endearment”, playing Emma.**

**Early in 2009 she appeared in “Unforgiven”, a 3-part drama on ITV where she plays Ruth Slater, a woman released from prison after serving a 15 year sentence for the murder of 2 policemen. Her performance earned rave reviews.**

**She also starred in the Manchester Royal Exchange’s production of “Blithe Spirit” by Noel Coward, which ran for several weeks.**



**In 2011 Suranne played Detective Constable Rachel Bailey, in ITV's detective series, "Scott and Bailey", opposite Lesley Sharp. The series is based on an original idea by Suranne and Sally Lindsay, her former Coronation Street co-star, whose character in the show was Shelley. After strong viewing figures, "Scott and Bailey" returned for a further 4 series between 2012 and 2016, with Suranne serving as executive producer on series 5. They ended the series "before people could get bored".**



**In 2005 Suranne was cast opposite Hermione Norris and Oona Chapman in "The Crimson Field", a BBC drama set in a field hospital in France during World War 1. It was her first appearance in a period drama.**



**In September 2015 Suranne starred as a GP in the BBC 1 thriller, “Dr Foster”. For her performance she received the National TV Award for Best Drama Performance, the Broadcasting Press Guild Award for Best Actress, the Royal TV Society Award for Best Actor (female) and the British Academy Award for best Actress, at the respective 2016 ceremonies. In 2017 she was persuaded to film a 2nd series and also served as associate producer.**



**From February to March 2018 she returned to the West End in a revival of the stage play “Frozen”, at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.**



**In May she began filming “Gentleman Jack”, written, produced and directed by Sally Wainwright.**

**Suranne lives in London with her husband, freelance scriptwriter, Laurence Akers whom she met in 2013 at the wedding of her friend, Sally Lindsay. They married the following year and in March 2016 she gave birth to their son.**



## PEOPLE AT WORK

This month's story is from the Women at Work project by Age UK Oldham.

**Read about a woman who stood up for workers rights**



# People at Work

Did anyone famous visit your place of work, did you play a part in the visit?

Did you go to any interesting places relating to your job?

Did you work at a famous place?

Do you remember any funny stories you can remember from your working life?

If you have a short story that you would like to share with us

**CONTACT: 0161 633 0213.**

## WOMAN AT WORK

**Betty Crawford 1938 - 1983** *Memories by her daughter Betty King*

Betty started work at 15 years old. Her first job was at a sweet factory called 'Cowan My Sweet'. Whilst there Betty was involved in a workers dispute with the management regarding poor conditions and wages, little did anyone know but this was the start of Betty's lifelong campaign in standing up for people. Betty wrote over the Cowen's My Sweet sign on the front of the factory with '**Cowans My Sweat!**' This early act of defiance and speaking her mind was the start of the **Betty** everyone eventually knew.

Betty married at 18 and had her daughter (Betty) named after her in 1941. During 1942 whilst the country was still at war, Betty joined Glasgow Transport and became a 'clippie' on the trams. Having no one to look after little Betty she took her along, Little Betty travelled in the front tram car with the driver and during split shifts she took her (*me*) to the nearby cinema for a couple of hours in between.

Betty soon became Shop steward and was a frequent speaker, especially about women's rights. Betty and her colleagues at the depot also supported a local orphanage taking them on outings and buying them Christmas presents.

In 1948 Betty changed jobs and started work in a shop, but this didn't stop her standing up and supporting the people of the Eastend of Glasgow. Betty was instrumental in their right to good housing and helped a lot of people fight for better living conditions.

Over the next 12 years things changed a lot for Betty, she re-married Frank Crawford and moved to Failsworth, Manchester in 1960.

Living in Failsworth Betty started work at Ferranti's and in 1961 she became shop steward in the AUEW, she was nicknamed Red Betty by her colleagues. Betty Crawford was only 5 foot 4 inches tall but everyone knew when she was about. Betty put the fear of God into a lot of people especially those opposed to her at meetings. During her time at Ferranti's work began to slow down so Betty got the management to agree to job sharing. In that way no one lost their job and when work increased it simply happened without a hitch as the workforce was still there. This also included equality in pay for both men and women who shared the same job. Betty's daughter remembers her mother being involved in another dispute; this involved the length of time it took for men and women to go to the toilet.. Betty stood firm on behalf of her female colleagues "***It's just a zip for the men, but a slow strip for women***", won her argument. Whenever the workers at Ferranti's went out on strike, Betty led her colleagues across the road to the Roxy Cinema to have their meeting. It was large enough to hold everyone and it was dry, also everyone could hear the speakers well in the cinema.

After retirement Betty still battled on; it was a lifetime of standing up for others and she carried on helping people until she died.



## A VISIT TO THE OPTICIAN

By Sue Livesey

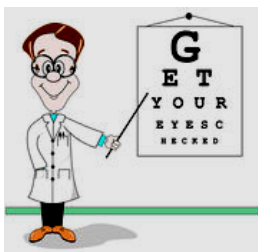
I went to the optician's today, he said I'd need a test  
He asked if I could read the chart I said "I'll do my best"  
The top line was a doddle, the rest I couldn't see  
Then very gently he explained that glasses were for me

There were lots of pairs of glasses of different shapes and size  
The choice was overwhelming, I couldn't believe my eyes  
I tried a pair which were quite nice but really weren't my style  
I realised that choosing some was going to take a while

The next pair were attractive but they didn't flatter me  
So they were discarded and then I found pair number three  
But they were the wrong colour although the shape was good  
Pair number four fit really well but the frames were made of wood

Time moved on, I tried lots more, I was really carried away  
Pair after pair, I couldn't decide, the choosing took all day  
I couldn't make my mind up - is it these or is it those?  
Then the assistant politely said "We're getting ready to close"

I left the shop, I couldn't see, I thought that I was lost  
It soon became apparent that my eyes seemed to be crossed  
Now I'm wearing my new glasses and they suit me just fine  
The next time that I read that chart I'll start at the bottom line!



## REMEMBER WHEN - THE OLD STREETS



St. Mary's, Oldham Centre before regeneration took place, 1960's.



Rhodes Bank. The brave Defence Troops marching 1944. Remember the underground toilets (centre) with the railings round and the Tru-Form shoe shop can just be seen.



You may not remember the Pork Butchers on the corner but for many who were children of the 50's they will remember Gower street, (bottom right) where the dreaded school dentist (Clinic) was.



The back of Salt Street, Shaw, about 1935. Typical of many of the Oldham Streets, outside toilets, washing on the line and woe betide any child that disturbed it.



An old street in the centre of Oldham. Could it be Peter Street?



Wallshaw St, looking towards Rhodes Bank. The building on the left was demolished in the 1930's and the bus station built together with bus stops.

*Jean's recipes from around the world:*



## **GERMANY**

### **SAUERKRAUT PIE**



Serves 6

#### **Ingredients:**

1lb prepared sauerkraut

1lb potatoes

bacon fat      4 ozs bacon

2 cooking apples.

1 pint sour cream

3 tbs each of grated cheese and breadcrumbs

Salt and pepper

#### **Method:**

Scrub potatoes and boil in salted water till tender.

Cool, peel and slice rather thickly.

Melt a little bacon fat in a pan

Add the sauerkraut, chopped bacon and peeled and sliced apples.

Fry gently for a few minutes.

Place a layer of potatoes in the bottom of a casserole,  
cover with sauerkraut, bacon and apples.

Then add another layer of potatoes.

Stir the cream, cheese and crumbs together.

Sprinkle seasonings over the contents of the dish,  
then pour the cream mixture over.

Bake in a moderate oven 350°F for about 30 minutes, till hot and brown on top.

By omitting bacon, it could be used for vegetarians.

*Jean's recipes from around the world continued...*

## **STUFFED CABBAGE LEAVES**

### **Ingredients:**

1 large cabbage

1 slice of bread

½ lb cooked minced meat

1 finely chopped onion

Salt, paprika

1 beaten egg

2 ozs fat

¼ pint water

A little flour

sour cream



### **Method:**

Remove the outer leaves from the cabbage.

Place remainder in pan of salted water.

Boil until leaves separate readily.

Drain and leave to cool.

Soak bread in water, squeeze dry,  
and mix with meat, onion, seasoning and beaten egg.

When the cabbage leaves are cool,  
separate them and place a dessertspoonful of the meat mixture in the centre of  
the leaves.

Fold into neat rolls, tucking in the ends like a small parcel.

Tie firmly.

Melt the fat in a pan, place in rolls and brown all over.

Add the water, cover and simmer for about an hour.

Remove rolls and thicken liquid with a little flour and sour cream.

Season.

Serve and pour sauce around them.

*Jean's recipes from around the world cont...*

## **GREECE**



### **STUFFED PEPPERS**

Serves 2 to 4

#### **Ingredients:**

4 sweet peppers

½ lb cooked lean meat

2ozs rice

small onion

butter

2 teasp chopped mint

salt & pepper

½ pint tomato puree (diluted)

#### **Method:**

Prepare peppers, wash, removing stalks & seeds.

Put the meat, rice, chopped onion and butter in a saucepan.

Fry together for a few minutes.

Add mint and seasoning.

Put the mixture in pepper shells.

Melt butter to coat bottom of baking tin and pour in tomato sauce.

Place peppers in baking tin, cover with lid.

Bake at 400°F for approximately an hour, until tender.

Serve with sauce poured over.

**CAN YOU MATCH ONE DANCE CRAZE WITH ONE DECADE?  
1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990  
AND NAME THE DANCE**



*Answers on next pages...*

## ANSWERS TO DANCE QUIZ

### 1. 1990's Macarena

"Macarena" is a Spanish dance song by Los del Río about a woman of the same name. Appearing on the 1993 album *A mí me gusta*, it was an international hit and dance craze in the latter half of 1996 and part of 1997. The song was inspired on the duo's trip to Venezuela when they spotted flamenco dancer Diana Patricia. When the song became a hit, the dancer became known in Venezuela as "Macarena." The U.S. single was a remix by a Miami-based production team, The Bayside Boys.

### 2. 1950's Rock & Roll

Rock and roll emerged as a defined musical style in the United States in the early to mid-1950s. It derived most directly from the rhythm and blues music of the 1940s, which itself developed from earlier blues, the beat-heavy jump blues, boogie woogie, up-tempo jazz, and swing music. The term rock 'n' roll derives from the more literal "rocking and rolling", a phrase used by 17th-century sailors to describe the motion of a ship on the sea. The first rock 'n' roll record was 'Rocket 88', recorded by Jackie Brenston And His Delta Cats at Sam Phillips' Sun Studios in Memphis, Tennessee.

### 3. 1960's The Twist

The twist is a dance that was inspired by rock and roll music. From 1959 to the early sixties it became a worldwide dance craze, enjoying immense popularity while drawing controversies from critics who felt it was too provocative. It inspired dances such as the Jerk, the Pony, the Watusi, the Mashed Potato, the Monkey, and the Funky Chicken, but none were as popular.

Having seen teenagers in Tampa, Florida doing the dance, Hank Ballard wrote "The Twist", which became the B-side of Hank Ballard and The Midnighters' 1959 single "Teardrops on Your Letter". Dick Clark, having noticed the dance becoming popular among teenagers, recommended to Cameo Records that the more wholesome Chubby Checker rerecord the song, which was released in 1959 and became a number one hit in 1960. The dance became passé among teenagers as it became acceptable among adults and the song was re-released, becoming a number one hit again in 1962.

A world record was set in DeLand, Florida, on October 11, 2012, when Chubby Checker sang the song live and the crowd danced. An estimated 4,000 people twisted along with Checker, surpassing the previous Guinness World Record for most people twisting in the streets at once.



continued...

## *Dance Answers continued...*

### **4. 1940's The Jitterbug**

Swing dancing originated in the African-American communities of New York City in the early 20th century. Many nightclubs had a whites-only or blacks-only policy due to racial segregation, however, the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem had a no-discrimination policy which allowed whites and blacks to dance together and it was there that the lindy hop dance flourished, started by dancers such as George Snowden and Frank Manning. The term jitterbug was originally a ridicule used by black patrons to describe whites who started to dance the lindy hop, as they were dancing faster and jumpier than was intended, like "jittering bugs", although it quickly lost its negative connotation as the more erratic version caught on. Both the lindy hop and the "jitterbug" became popular outside Harlem when the dance was featured in Hollywood films and Broadway theatre, starring the performance group Whitey's Lindy Hoppers.

### **5. 1970's Funky Chicken**

The funky chicken is named after the song it originated from, "Do the Funky Chicken" by Rufus Thomas. The song was released in 1969 but hit its chart peak in early 1970. It spawned the "single goofiest dance craze of the 1970s."

### **6. 1930's Palais Glide**

The Palais Glide is a British 'party dance' dating from the mid 1930s, the same era as the Lambeth Walk. It was introduced in 1935 by Charles Daniels.

### **7. 1920's The Charleston**

In short, the "Charleston" dance phenomenon was a product of various cultural forces originating in Africa and Europe that germinated in the crucible of Charleston and blossomed in Harlem in the early 1920s.

### **8. 1980's The Rowing Boat**

The origin of this unusual dance, is credited to Isle Of Wight, DJ Alex Dyke, who in the early summer of 1980 after a regatta on the island played The Gap Band's tune and urged the crowd to sit down on the dancefloor and "row the boat home."



## THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM - CHURCH LANE

Church Lane is one of the oldest streets in Oldham and one of the few that are still cobbled. It is the only part of the town centre that has survived decades of redevelopment. The oldest remaining building on Church Lane is at number 8 which was built in about 1780 and pre-dates the parish church. This building is possibly the oldest building in the town centre. As a result, all of the buildings on the lane have been designated by English Heritage as Grade II listed buildings. The lane is significant as it was once part of the prehistoric route through the town which meandered from Hathershaw, via Water Street, Market Place, Church Lane, Church Street, Bow Street, Wallshaw Place, Fowleach, Cross Street then on through Hey to Yorkshire.

Its existence and name are due to its proximity to Oldham Parish Church. The current church building is a relatively recent addition but there have been churches on that site since the 11th century. Archaeologists recognise Church Lane to predate the Romans and a road that is "probably as old as human life in this corner of England."

The route of Church Lane passed in front of the old church. It was common in ancient times for the road to pass to the south side of the church or temple as that route was in the sun. To pass to the north would fall within the shadow of the church and was seen as taboo. There is still a superstitious prejudice in parts of England against the north side of a church with many important tombs and monuments being placed to the south.

In 1785, Church Lane was paved at a cost of £20 probably due to one of Oldham's richest men, John Lees, being a resident and owner of a business on the lane and in anticipation of the new turnpike road that was planned.

In 1805 the churchyard was enlarged and Church Lane became a cul-de-sac severing the ancient route for ever. The previous continuance of the road (Church Street) was lowered by 6 feet and became an extension of the recently created Church Terrace.

Church Lane became the legal heart of the town when Oldham County Court opened in 1894. It was designed by Henry Tanner and is red brick with white terracotta dressings and has a Westmorland slate roof. It is referred to in Hansard when questions were asked in Parliament as to the dampness in the building and whether it caused the death of Judge Edwin Jones.

The old court house was occupied by the Methodist Church which ran a cafe named The Salt Cellar, a Christian book shop and a youth outreach centre from there. Following the closure of the county court, the Salt Cellar moved across the lane with number ten becoming the offices of Age Concern Oldham which is now known as Age UK Oldham.

Oldham County Court moved to New Radcliffe Street, Oldham in 1998. Despite the loss of the county court, Church Lane remains one of Oldham's legal streets with firms of solicitors still occupying premises.

*Continued...*



An old photo of Church Lane.



The old Court House and a Methodist Church and until recently home to the Salt Cellar which was a popular venue for lunches.



8, Church Lane c 1950.



The Age UK Oldham office is on the right.

## OLDHAM EDUCATION 1611 / 2022.

The Grammar School was built in 1611 as a one-room school. It was situated in a pleasant area across from the church on the other side of the High Street. Oldham at that time was little more than a Pennine village. By the 1860s, due to the unprecedented growth of Oldham as a cotton-town, the school had become surrounded by slums and an abattoir, and was no longer fit for purpose.

*Photo taken shortly before demolition in 1921:*



The photo below is taken inside the brand new and long-awaited Saddleworth school.

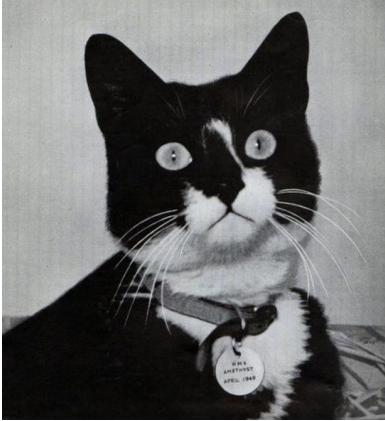


## THE MOST POPULAR NAMES OF THE 1940's & 1950's

<u>1940's BOYS</u>	<u>1940's GIRLS</u>	<u>1950's BOYS</u>	<u>1950s GIRLS</u>
James	Mary	James	Mary
Robert	Linda	Michael	Linda
John	Barbara	Robert	Patricia
William	Patricia	John	Susan
Richard	Carol	David	Deborah
David	Sandra	William	Barbara
Charles	Nancy	Richard	Debra
Thomas	Sharon	Thomas	Karen
Michael	Judith	Mark	Nancy
Ronald	Susan	Charles	Donna
Larry	Betty	Steven	Cynthia
Donald	Carolyn	Garry	Sandra
Joseph	Margaret	Joseph	Pamela
Gary	Shirley	Donald	Sharon
George	Judith	Ronald	Kathleen
Kenneth	Karen	Kenneth	Carol
Paul	Donna	Paul	Diane
Edward	Kathleen	Larry	Brenda
Jerry	Joyce	Daniel	Cheryl
Dennis	Dorothy	Stephen	Janet
Frank	Janet	Dennis	Elizabeth
Daniel	Diane	Timothy	Kathy
Raymond	Janice	Edward	Margaret
Roger	Joan	Jeffrey	Janice
Stephen	Elizabeth	George	Carolyn
Gerald	Brenda	Gregory	Denise
Walter	Gloria	Kevin	Judy
Harold	Virginia	Douglas	Rebecca
Steven	Marilyn	Terry	Joyce
Douglas	Martha	Anthony	Teresa
Laurence	Beverly	Jerry	Christine
Terry	Helen	Bruce	Catherine
Wayne	Bonnie	Randy	Shirley

# ANIMAL CORNER

## SIMON —THE CAT



Simon (1947—28 November 1949) who served on the Royal Navy sloop HMS Amethyst.



In 1949, during the Yangtze Incident he received the PDSA's Dickin Medal after surviving injuries from a cannon shell, raising morale and killing off a rat infestation during his service.

Died: 28 November 1949 (aged 2)

Simon was found wondering the dockyards of Hong Kong in March 1948 by 17 year old Ordinary Seaman George Hickinbottom, a member of the crew of the British frigate HMS Amethyst stationed in the city in the late 1940's. At this stage, it is thought Simon was approximately a year old, and was very under nourished and unwell. Hickinbottom smuggled the cat aboard ship, and Simon soon ingratiated himself with the crew and officers particularly because he was adept at catching and killing rats on the lower decks. Simon rapidly gained a reputation for his cheekiness by leaving his spoils in sailors' beds, and occasionally sleeping in the captain's cap.

**YANGTZE INCIDENT:** On a mission to relieve the HMS *Consort* of its duty in the north Yangtze, the HMS *Amethyst* came under attack from Chinese Liberation Army gun batteries. One of the very first shots tore through the captain's cabin, gravely injuring Simon, and killing Lieutenant Commander Skinner. The ship scrambled to send peace calls, but the newly formed People's Republic of China considered the treaties signed with the British invalid, as they were negotiated by the old government.

Almost everyone aboard the bridge was injured, and as crewmen were being attended to in the infirmary, it too was struck by enemy shells. The *Amethyst* was held under enemy shelling for 10 days, with rescue attempts by other ships proving too dangerous. A small force was able to escape to shore, narrowly avoiding enemy fire.

Simon crawled his way on deck and was taken to the medical bay by the crew. They removed the shrapnel from his back and treated his burn, but did not expect him to make it through the night. During the ten-day siege, Simon recovered, and returned to work.

The crew viewed Simon as a lucky mascot and when ship's commander changed later in 1948, the outgoing Ian Griffiths left the cat for his successor Lieutenant Commander Bernard Skinner.

## SPORTING GREATS

### SAMMY MILLER MBE



Samuel Hamilton Miller, MBE

Is a championship winning motorcycle racer, in both road racing and trials.

**Born:** 11 November 1933.

**Place of Birth:** Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Spouse:** Rosemary.

**Patron:** National Association for Bikers with a Disability.

Sammy Miller MBE is a motorcycling legend. 11 times British Champion and winner of over 1400 events, with a racing career spanning more than 50 years!

He was appointed an MBE in the 2009 New Year Honours. In 2013, Miller was named an FIM Legend for his motorcycling.

The motorcycling bug bit Sammy whilst watching motorcycle racing in Ulster. He went on to compete and win his first event in 1953. The rest, as they say, is history.

Miller's career was an incredible success across several disciplines including, road racing, offroad racing and famously, trials. His career stats make rather impressive reading.

See next page for details...



Sammy Miller  
Motorcycle museum

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 11 times successive British Trials Champion.
- Twice European Trials Champion.
- 13 times successive Hurst Cup winner.
- 18 times successive Walter Rusk Trial winner.
- 5 times winner of the famous Scottish 6 Day Trial.
- 7 times winner of the World's most arduous trial the "Scott Trial" on the harsh and unforgiving Yorkshire moors.
- Winner of over 1482 Trials events.
- 9 Gold medals at International Six Day Enduros.
- Irish Motocross Champion.
- Irish Sand Racing Champion.
- Winner of many Irish Road races, including winning the North West 200 and the Leinster 200 three years in succession.
- Third in the 1957 250cc World Grand Prix Championships on a works Mondial.
- Still rides today at retirement age and wins Trials and competes in classic road race events throughout Europe and as far away as New Zealand.

Miller raced mainly for Ariel motorcycles, in both trials events and the Isle of Man TT races. When Ariel were absorbed by BSA in 1964, he formed a partnership with a Spanish company, Bultaco, and effectively changed the face of Trails by developing the concept of modern two-stroke trials bikes. The bike he created that changed everything was the Bultaco Sherpa T.

Legend has it that the development was done in 12 days. Sammy knew he had shifted the goal posts when he finally cleaned a section on the Sherpa that was uncleanable on his famous Ariel.

Miller famously won the 1965 Scottish Six Days Trial on the Bultaco. It was the first win by a foreign marque and the first by a two-stroke after years of domination by the British four stroke machines.

**'He was the British Champion 11 straight years and at that point in history the British were the best, so really if you won the British Championship you were the best in the world.'** –

Lane Leavitt, three-time American trials champion.

In his later stages of his professional trials career, Miller was involved with developing world championship winning Hondas. Miller is best known for the 500cc Ariel HT5 that he lightened considerably from standard ex-factory condition. The bike was famously known by its UK registration mark, GOV 132. It is now an exhibit in the Sammy Miller Museum.



EASTER

*Children's*  
**Afternoon Tea**

Who said a delicious afternoon tea  
was just for grown ups?!

Indulge your little ones with a home-made array of  
savoury and sweet treats in the beautiful surrounds of  
George Street Chapel in Oldham's town centre.  
Once their tummies are full, head downstairs to  
enjoy some Easter craft workshops.

**\*\*£12.00 per child\*\***

**Tuesday 12th April 2022**

**12.00pm or 2.30pm**

Book your place on 0161 622 9264

58 George Street, Oldham OL1 1LS

[www.georgestreetchapel.com](http://www.georgestreetchapel.com)



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**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM  
LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS  
EDITOR  
JOAN HOLMES**



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

