LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM

BAND CONTESTS

Having started in Stalybridge in the late 19th century the contests go back at least 135 years. Although it started in Stalybridge the contest quickly spread to Mossley and across into Saddleworth.

From the earliest recorded contest in 1884, the event has grown in popularity. There have been over a hundred brass bands participating in some twenty different contests at venues scattered around the moorland villages and towns on the western edge of the Pennines. All of the contests are open-air, many in delightful surroundings. The area has a very strong tradition of brass band music. In the weeks before Whit Friday, the sounds of rehearsals echo across the hillsides from the various band rooms and village halls. There are thriving bands in some of the tiniest villages. And the best bands are world class.

Often described as 'The greatest free show on Earth', the Saddleworth & District Whit Friday Brass Band Contests take place every year on the afternoon and evening of Whit Friday.

Each year, approximately 300 volunteers are involved in presenting the contests at eleven venues in Denshaw, Delph, Dobcross, Diggle, Uppermill, Greenfield, Friezland, Lydgate, Grotton, Lees, Springhead, Scouthead and Austerlands; there are innumerable hours of commitment needed to provide this spectacular, unique event









WOMEN AT WORK TAKEN FROM A STUDY BY AGE UK OLDHAM

Woman at Work

1940 - 1987

Margaret (Peggy) Hannen

After leaving school at 15 I worked in the Ring Room at Willowbank Mill and I stayed there until it closed.

I then went to work at the Lion Mill and moved to Shaw Road in Royton but then that shut down. I received a bit of redundancy money and took advice from the dole office to seek re-training as all the local mills were closing down, one by one. My next job was at Osram and whilst I was there I learned to drive and bought myself a Mini. After about 18 months at Osram, and the fact that I now had a car I started to look around for another job.

In 1973 I saw an advert in the local paper for a conductress on the buses, which was a new post. Oldham Corporation had sold the buses to SELNEC (South East Lancs, North East Cheshire) who employed women as bus conductresses so Oldham had to do the same. I applied, had an interview and got the job, but as it was near the end of the year they asked me start after the Christmas holidays.

On my first day I met Vi and we trained together in the classroom, learning how to 'reckon up' and how much change to give people. After about four weeks I was sent on the buses shadowing another conductor till I got the hang of it. During my time as a conductress many celebrities especially those on Coronation Street came on my bus, I remember Bet Lynch getting on at Heywood Lane, she caused quite a stir as everyone knew her.

Two years after starting as a conductor you got the opportunity to go to driving school to train as a driver. SELNEC taught you to drive, but it was easy for me as I could already, I just had to master the bus. The bus was a double clutch and from 8.30 – 4.00pm every day for a month I drove round Oldham and to all the depots in Manchester with no passengers as I trained. After a month I had my driving test, it was at Sholver, with all those steep hills but I passed. *No problem!* The Prime Minister at this time was Margaret Thatcher who decided that SELNEC was too big so it was split between north and south. Stagecoach took the south and GM Buses took the north. Stagecoach got the most profitable routes.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

I was out driving on my own in an open back loader and people used to jump on and off as the bus was moving. It was lovely and warm on those old buses as the door was at the back and the engine at the front. Things changed when GM Buses brought in the new one man buses, with doors at the front and the engine at the back. Conductors were not needed on these buses as drivers took the fares. The conductors were offered the chance to either drive or work in the cash office.

I drove most routes around Oldham to Manchester, I remember driving the No. 18 bus which went from Rushcroft to Market Street in Manchester. One day approaching Shude Hill Bernard Manning got on my bus with his minders in tow. The area around Queens Street Depot was notorious for trouble, someone once fired a gun through a bus window, the people were rough and there was always trouble. As a woman I had to toughen up, and that's what I did. Male passengers always gave me grief about being a 'woman driver'. I was timid when I first started but I quickly changed and learned to handle myself. I remember once stopping to pick passengers up and a man waiting said to his wife "I'm not getting on, it's a woman". I simply said "Please yourself" and drove off.

As a bus driver you didn't have national bank holidays and worked all through Christmas and New Year, and in all weathers. I remember driving in Sholver one winter when it was thick with snow. If I had stopped the bus I would never have got it going again so I slowed down as much as I could and shouted to passengers to jump off or on. They all did and my bus never got stuck. *Nowadays as soon as a flake hits the ground the buses stop!*

I retired at 62 after spending 24 years as a bus driver.

I loved my time as a bus driver, I loved the people I met and laughed with and those I threw off too. If anyone ever asks me, I always say I enjoyed every single minute of it and I really did.





DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN:



Putting money in the meter to get gas/ electric.



The arcades in Oldham had shops, Morris's Shoes, George Glass, Biscuit Box, Record Shop. Can you remember any more?



Children swinging round the old Gas lamps on the back streets.



Empty bottles left on doorsteps for the milkman to return for reusing.



Buses waiting outside large factories to take people home from work.



The first mobile phone call (1973)

Now almost the whole population have one and landlines will soon be a thing of the past.

Who'd have thout it! (Who would have thought that)

Famous People of Oldham by Rosemary Bailey...

Helen Bradley

Helen Bradley was born at number 58, High Street, Lees on 20th November 1900. Her maiden name was Layfield.

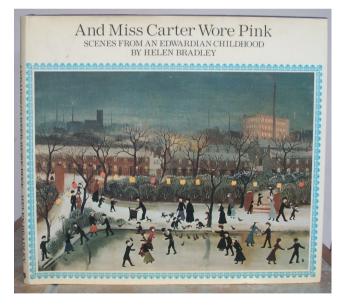
She was educated at Clarksfield School until the age of 13, when she attended Oldham Art School, having won the John Platt scholarship. However, the outbreak of World War 1, plus parental opposition, brought an early end to her artistic ambitions.



In 1926 she married Thomas Bradley, a painter and textile designer and devoted the next 40 years of her life to her family.

Helen only began to paint her distinctive styles of an Edwardian girlhood at the age of 65. At first she simply wanted to show her grandchildren how different a place the world used to be when she was a child.

During the 1960s Helen met L.S. Lowry, the Stretford born artist, and he encouraged her in her paintings. From 1965 when she started painting, to her death in 1979, Helen achieved international celebrity.



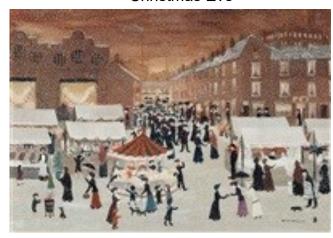
In 1971 the first of 4 books, "And Miss Carter Wore Pink" was published by Jonathan Cape and was an instant success. It was followed by French, German, Dutch and Japanese editions plus a special edition for the USA.

Her first paintings focused on the period 1904 to around 1908. Helen wrote a short narrative account based on memory and then illustrated the text in her own distinctive style. The earliest pictures usually feature Helen herself and her younger brother George, their mother and 3 maiden aunts, family friend Miss Carter (who always wore pink!) and the eligible bachelor Mr Taylor, the bank manager. They are often pictured holidaying in Blackpool, walking in Salford's Peel Park or shopping in Oldham.

Hollinwood Market

Oldham Market in the Snow on Christmas Eve



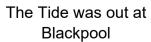


Going to Bailey's pot shop, Oldham





The Wakes came to Lees





Her later works often depicted the Bible stories told to her as a child by Great Aunt Jane "she used to tell us about the flood, and if it ever came to Lees we'd have to overturn the kitchen table and float away on that. She also said that God had a shed near Oldham where He made the stars".

During the 1970s Helen appeared on Pebble Mill at One, Desert Island Discs and the Russell Harty chat show. The BBC and the American NBC network made documentaries of her life, and the Northern Ballet adapted her work for the stage, narrated by Pat Phoenix (better known to many of us as Elsie Tanner from Coronation Street).

Shortly before her death Helen was awarded the MBE for services to the arts. She died on 19th July 1979 at her home in Wilmslow just before she could receive it from the Queen.



Her works are in several public collections including the Yale Centre for British Art, Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Saddleworth Museum and Gallery Oldham.



Her paintings sell at auction for tens of thousands of pounds. In May 2013 "Going for a Walk Before Bedtime sold at Bonham's Auction House in London for £37,250.



AIDS FOR THE ELDERLY

Age is creeping up on us it cannot be denied

The thought of growing older can leave us petrified

But we don't need to worry for help is just at hand

Aids for this and aids for that they're really in demand



Each day the postman calls and leaves some brochures in the box What's on offer this week? - oh those lovely, gentle grip socks

The brochures are so handy and full of little tips

Telling you all you need to know about arthritic knees and hips

Swollen feet? - no problem - we can sort those out

Special slippers, extra wide, for feet that suffer gout

If walking is a problem then we can keep you spry

A walker which will steady you - go on, give it a try

How's your armchair much too low?, here's just the thing for you

A chair to raise you to your feet and ease painful joints too

Need help in the bathroom?, well there's a thing or two

A bath with special handles and the same thing for the loo!

Feeling sluggish?, you just need our special little pills

They're great to keep you looking young and sorting out your ills

So there's lots of aids for you out there but the trick is to decide

Which ones you are going to choose and still be dignified

Consider this, if you can, pay up front for a funeral plan

But do not sit there and worry there really is no need to hurry

Don't let old age give you a scare there's lots of aids for you out there

Ageing gently does not mean you're just another old 'has been'.



By Sue Livesey

PEOPLE AT WORK

Did anything happen at work that you can share with us

Examples:

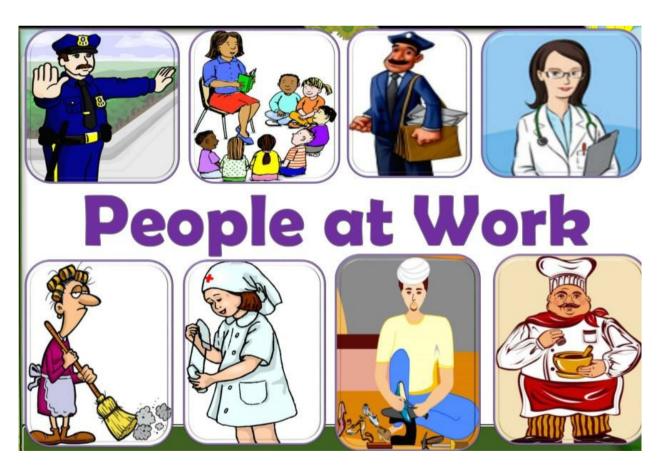
Did anyone famous visit your place of work, did you play a part in the visit?

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**.



This month the contribution comes from one our overseas readers. See next page...

PEOPLE AT WORK

My name is Ian Wynn and for many years now I have lived in Australia the country where I was born and went to primary school. When I was about 10 years old I came to England and lived in Chadderton where I finished my education.

In 1980 I was 17 and fresh out of school in my first year of a four year apprenticeship at Ferranti, Hollinwood, when Prince Charles visited the training room where I was working. I was the first person he noticed when he walked through the room but walked straight past me going on to look at other things. On his way out of the room he turned, stopped and gave me a 'once in a lifetime moment' asking me what I was creating. When I answered, he picked up on my accent and asked me about Australia. I'm 58 now and can't remember all that was said, it's so long ago, but my Australian accent made the conversation that bit longer.

Once the visit was over the food and soft drinks that had been left over from the visit were sent into the department for us.

My first year at work was quite eventful. The Royal visit and then that same year I was awarded 'Apprentice of the Year'.

Whilst I was doing my apprenticeship, one of the men that was training me was telling me about the man that had trained him. It turned out to be my grandad. It was a real co-incidence as it was at a completely different company. My grandad was pleased that the knowledge that he had imparted was now being passed on to his grandson.

1980
Me with Prince Charles 'my once in a lifetime moment'





Thank you to lan for sharing these memories with us

Jean's recipes this month are cooling summer drinks



COSMOPOLITAN COCKTAIL

Serves 2

100g (4oz) cranberries, thawed, if frozen. 1 miniature bottle of Grand Marnier (about 50ml (2 fl oz in total)

Good handful of ice cubes.

Finely grated ring and juice of 2 limes

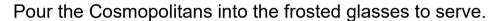
4 tbsp caster sugar.

Method:

Put two Martini glasses in the freezer. Place the cranberries in a liquidizer with the Grand Marnier, ice cubes and half the lime juice and sugar. Pass through a fine sieve into a jug, pressing with the back of a wooden spoon to get all the juice.

Place the remaining lime juice in one saucer, and mix the lime rind with the remaining sugar in another saucer.

Take the glasses from the freezer and dip the tops in the lime juice, then in the lime flavoured sugar.





ORANGE DAIQUIRI

This cocktail could be made with a can of pineapple chunks in natural juice instead of oranges.

Serves 2

4 oranges, 3 tbsp double cream,

1 mini bottle of light rum (about 50 ml (2 fl ozs). Good handful of ice cubes.

METHOD:

Cut the peel and all the white pith from two oranges and cut into segments. Place in a liquidizer and squeeze the juice from the two remaining oranges.

Add cream, rum and ice cubes to the liquidizer and blend until ice is crushed. Pour into tall cocktail glasses and serve.

BAILEYS AND BANANA DREAMBOAT

Serves 2

50g (2oz) plain chocolate

2 ripe mini bananas

100m (3.1/2 fl ozs) Baileys Irish Cream

2 tbsp maple syrup

100 g (4ozs) Greek Yoghurt

100ml (3.1/2 fl ozs) milk

Good handful of ice cubes.

Method:

Break the chocolate into squares and melt into an heatproof bowl **or** heat in the microwave on high for 2/3 mins. Leave to cool for a few minutes and then swirl around two tall glasses and leave to set for 5 minutes.

Peel and slice the bananas and add to liquidizer. Add the Baileys, maple syrup, yoghurt, milk and ice and blend until smooth.

Pour the dreamboat into the chocolate decorated glasses and serve.





BLACKPOOL

The majority of people who have been brought up in the Oldham area have visited Blackpool at some time in their lives so this month we take you down memory lane to the seaside.

Coach and train travel was the popular mode of transport and as soon as you were on the move, the excitement mounted as children stared into the distance hoping to be the first to see this famous tower.

The Tower:

Blackpool Tower



The lift to the top



Tower Ballroom



The Tower Circus — The animals doing their tricks (wouldn't be allowed today). Clowns: Charlie Cairoli and Paul and the ring flooded at the finale.







The Pleasure Beach:

Flying machines



Laughing Clown



The Big Dipper



On the beach:

Punch and Judy shows for the children, donkey rides and ice cream







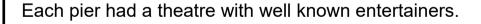
The cabin lift leading down to the Boating Pool on the North Shore



Entertainment:

There were many theatres in Blackpool, where you could see all the comedy and music acts.

Winter Gardens with the Grand Hotel and Opera House











North pier-Pavilion theatre. Central pier-Pierhead theatre. South pier-Regal theatre

Information for this article provided by Reggie Heapy

CAN YOU NAME THE OLDHAM BUILDINGS Some have long gone









Can you name these buildings looking at the insides, both are still standing





Turn page for answers:

1. Blue Coat school before the extensions were added. 2. Wellington Street School that became The School of Commerce, closed 1970. 3. Oldham Infirmary (Oldham Royal) demolished 1989. 4. Buckley & Proctor Bazaar (Department Store) at Mumps long since demolished. 5. Inside the Prudential Building on Union Street. 6. Inside the NatWest Bank at Mumps.

OUR HISTORY

THE CO-OP

From its beginnings with the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844 the idea of retail co-operative organisations, sorted and managed by working men was spread dramatically. Oldham was quick to follow the Rochdale Model once that had proved its durability and vitality.

As elsewhere the first moves were humble and fragile; a number of working men met in a cottage, argued the concept through, put together what small capital they could muster, purchased at wholesale prices a stock of provisions and distributed these according to the capital each had subscribed. By co-operative purchases they were saving a few shillings each week. The next stage was to rent suitable premises for a small shop and widen the participants. The Oldham Equitable started in this way with a small house/shop in Derker Street opening in early 1851.



First co-op in Derker Street

William Marcroft, illegitimately born in the most humble of circumstances and entirely self educated, made his mark as a co-operative idealist in the third quarter of the century. He was involved in the formation of the Oldham Industrial Co-operative. It was in Marcroft's house in November 1850 that the Industrial was formed, starting with capital of £56 and renting a shop in Manchester Street for £30 a year. There were basic rules that had to be followed which involved cash only and no credit which excluded the poorest in the town who relied on credit. In general the two Co-ops worked in harmony.



William Marcroft

A few years later Co-ops opened in Royton, Crompton, Lees and Failsworth. Saddleworth had at least three Co-ops. Chadderton didn't start its own society as the population grew around the new mills on the fringe of the Borough and branches of the Oldham Industrial could meet its needs.

Progress at first for the new societies was slow as they were feeling their way and competition did their best to rubbish the new stores, however, the movement grew massively in the great Oldham boom of the 1870's and the following two decades as the population continued to grow. The co-op proved themselves as efficient traders and by the end of the century there were 26,000 members of the two Oldham societies with about 70% of all households doing at least some of their shopping at the Co-op.

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The increase was so huge in people using the Co-ops that new branch stores were opened at convenient locations selling a wider range of goods. Most of the stores by the late century were offering a comprehensive range of groceries with the emphasis on food. Fresh bread was a convenient replacement for bread that had been traditionally baked at home. Butchery was another essential area. As individual societies merged their purchasing operations in the Co-operative Wholesale Society, set up in 1863, their volume increased and the movement became a manufacturer of their own brands. Flour was a principal item of sale so in 1868 the Society invested in the Star Corn Mill in Glodwick. The co-ops were able to offer good wholesome quality foodstuffs at competitive prices.

They expanded their operations into other types of merchandise, bagged coal, clogs and shoes, drapery and with much less success into tailoring, furnishing, mantles and millinery. It was said that all household wants could be had at the Co-op. That may have been true and the two huge central stores, King Street and Huddersfield Road were, in their way, vast emporiums but having said that the greatest part of the business, about 75%, was done in grocery.

For working class people the Co-op retained one big advantage the 'Divi' and for many, mainly women, they saved their tin checks, received from each purchase and presented them for the quarterly dividend. This was a way of saving that provided a regular invaluable lump sum. For years several local societies paid a dividend of 3s in the pound, an average of £1 for each member paid four times a year.

Other retailers fought back against the Co-op tide. Side by side with the branches of the Co-ops were hundreds of small independent family run shops at the corner of every street, offering convenience, and also, when the need arose, credit, and they opened all day and late into the evening. Many bought their supplies from large provision dealers in the town centres. Only by the end of the century were they served by specialist wholesalers, or the Salesmen of the emerging manufacturers of branded and packaged groceries.



As Oldham grew in the late nineteenth century its two Co-operative Societies boomed. New Central Premises for the Equitable Society in Huddersfield Road were completed in 1900 to celebrate its jubilee. The architect's drawing catches the confidence and pride of the time. The building became known as Hill Stores. Its large hall, capable of seating 1,000 people, later became Oldham's principle dance venue.

PETS CORNER

TELEVISION'S FIRST 'BLUE PETER' ANIMALS



Petra the Dog appeared on Blue Peter between 1962 and 1977 and was the first ever television pet. She didn't actually like the studio when she first arrived. Presenter, Peter Purves took responsibility for her soon after he joined and then she seemed to settle down. She is also immortalised as the nation's favourite pet and as a statue in the Blue Peter garden.



The original tortoise on Blue Peter was called Fred and lived from 1963 to 1979. Fred would appear as a regular until it was Autumn and then they would have a big session on how to care for him over winter. In time it was recognised that Fred wasn't a boy at all and they added an 'A' and Fred became Freda.



The Blue Peter parrot—Joey, and one successor, Barney—featured in the 1960s, but when Barney, a blue-fronted amazon, died he was not replaced.



Jason, a seal-point Siamese cat arrived on 1 June 1964. Jason, who was very nearly christened Jumbo, turned out to be the perfect television cat, sitting so still that some viewers thought he was stuffed!

MODERN TECHNOLOGY

If you were born before the advent of all the modern technology we have today, computers, smart phones, MP3 Players, etc, etc, and have found it challenging to get to grips with it all, don't worry you are not alone:









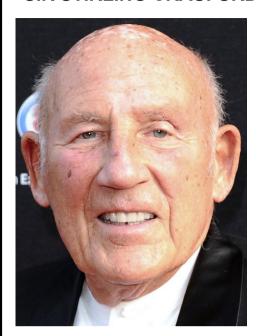




SPORTING GREATS

SIR STIRLING CRAUFURD MOSS OBE





Born: 17th September 1929, West Kensington.

Died: 12th April 2020, Mayfair, London

Parents: Alfred Moss, & Aileen (née Craufurd). His father was a dentist and amateur racing driver and his mother had also been involved in motor sport.

Spouse: Susie Moss (m. 1980–2020), Elaine Barberino (m. 1964–1968), Katie Moss (m. 1957–1959)

Children: Elliot Moss, Allison Bradley

Also been involved in: TV, Films & Books

Stirling Moss was a British Formula One racing driver. An inductee into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, he won 212 of the 529 races he entered across several categories of competition and has been described as "the greatest driver never to win the World Championship".

Moss received his first car, an Austin 7, from his father at the age of nine, and drove it on the fields around Long White Cloud House where he was brought up. He purchased his own car at age 15 after he obtained a driving licence.

Known for his brash, puckish persona, he won 212 of his 529 races, including 16 Grand Prix victories, but never won the Grand Prix Championship title. In the 1950s, small boys wanted to be Stirling Moss, and so did men. Boys saw him as the swashbuckling race car driver whom many considered the best in the world.

He raced professionally over 500 times until his near fatal crash in 1962. At the end of his racing career, he was the most famous Briton - no footballer, jockey, boxer or pop star has approached the national adulation Moss received.

Active years	<u>1951</u> – <u>1961</u>
Teams	<u>Mercedes-Benz</u> <u>Maserati</u>
	<u>Vanwall</u>
	Rob Walker <u>Cooper</u>
	<u>Lotus</u>
	HWM
Entries	67 (66 starts)
<u>Championships</u>	0
<u>Wins</u>	16
Podiums	24
Career points	185 % (186 % 14) [1]
Pole positions	16
Fastest laps	19
First entry	1951 Swiss Grand Prix
First win	1955 British Grand Prix
Last win	1961 German Grand Prix
Last entry	1961 United States Grand
	<u>Prix</u>

SPORTING GREATS

RED RUM Champion Thoroughbred steeplechaser.



Born: In May 1965

Died: October 1995

Owner: Noel le Mare

Trainer: Ginger McCain

The name came from his parents:

His sire? Quorum. (1954–1971) His dam? Mared. (1958–1976)

Red Rum was bred at Rossenarra stud in Kells, County Kilkenny, Ireland, by Martyn McEnery.

Achievements: Red Rum achieved an unmatched historic treble when he won the Grand National in 1973, 1974 and 1977, and also came second in the two intervening years, 1975 and 1976.

Red Rum's early trainers and riders thought that Red Rum would be a sprinter, until he became the property of Noel le Mare. Together with trainer Donald 'Ginger' McCain, who dreamed of training a Grand National-winning horse. The two picked up Red Rum, then an uninspiring sprinter with a bone problem, for 6,000 Guineas in August 1972 and less than a year later the 85-year old owner filled the last of his three lifelong dreams by winning the Grand National.

Ginger McCain had noticed that many working horses recovered from similar bone conditions as Red Rum when toiling on the soft Southport sands so he was run frequently in the beach's shallow waters and the problem vanished.

'Rummy' was famed for his huge leap and in 100 races he never fell to the ground; an astounding record.

At the 1977 BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony, Red Rum was 'interviewed' alongside Ginger McCain. "He's been listening to the applause at the back, and he thinks it's for him all the time" said McCain. Red Rum pricked up his ears and stood to attention when he heard his best jockey Tommy Stack talking on a video link. Red Rum retired from racing in 1978.

Although he passed away in October 1995, **Red Rum** will always be a household name. Winner of three Grand Nationals, he was simply something special, and will always be remembered as one of the best racehorses to grace a track in Great Britain and Ireland. He is buried at the winning post at Aintree.

PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS EDITOR JOAN HOLMES



Every life has a story...