

Issue 2. Published November 2020

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

Welcome to our second newsletter in which we would like to share our good news. Nicola Shore, the Engagement and Wellbeing Service Manager for Age UK has received funding from Neil Smith at Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The group are responsible for the planning and commissioning of care in their areas. The money we received has enabled us to buy some much needed new equipment.

For the volunteers on the Life Story Team this is brilliant news. It means no more sitting tearing our hair out whilst we sit waiting for our old secondhand lap tops to update and if we are lucky switch on.



This will help our volunteers who are working from home and, once we are able to return to normal office working, the equipment will be used for our group typing sessions. We will be able to work more efficiently producing the Life Story Books that are so helpful in keeping memories alive.

For further information or to make a referral please ring 0161 622 9272 or email [sophie.smith@ageukoldham.org.uk](mailto:sophie.smith@ageukoldham.org.uk)

Alternatively, a template can be self-completed with the help of family or carers and passed to our volunteers for typing.

An example of a Life Story book can be found at [www.ageuk.org.uk/oldham/our-services/home-and-care/life-story](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oldham/our-services/home-and-care/life-story)

*The book is completely free of charge. Additional copies are available but we ask for a donation to help cover our printing costs as we are a funded project.*

## **EDITORS NOTE**

Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful comments that have been received after our first edition went out in October. Also a huge thank you to all the volunteers who kindly submitted such interesting and varied articles.

## **Stuart Vickers 1947-2020**

In October this year we said goodbye to Stuart Vickers, one of our longstanding life story volunteers, who sadly died.

Stuart was a real gentleman and was with us on the Life Story project for several years, from 2006 to 2017 when his health started to deteriorate and he was unable to get into the office.

He was one of the first volunteers to join the project when Diane Pullan ran the project and he used to trek up the stairs to sit in the office with the other two volunteers at the time, Tony and Anne, and with all us project staff. We used to have lots of laughs together! Should he learn to cook? find a nice woman? or buy a microwave? This was one of his discussion points which caused a few laughs. Needless to say he did go for the microwave – much less trouble he thought! And we teased him about 'being sent to Coventry' where he went regularly to visit his good mate from his childhood.

Anyone who worked at Ferranti, Cairo Mill in the early seventies may have known Stuart. At the time he was working on F Floor, in the clean room and in an area just outside the clean room. I'm not sure how long he worked for the company.

Stuart had to give up his job due to disability and, after considering his options, decided to enrol on a lifelong learning computer course 'Absolute Beginners'. He was really pleased to pass his exam and after a visit by Diane to Cherry Hinton, where he was living at the time, he signed up to be a life story volunteer. He was starting to gain more technical skills and really started to enjoy learning more about people's life stories into the bargain.

He decided to go to typing classes after being inspired by watching us all type in the office. He then continued, doing a few other lifelong learning courses including CLAIT and word processing.

His role was to type up the notes from the visiting volunteers and to design the book, putting in photos and images from the Internet and borders; making it look nice and personal to the individual. It said it helped to give him some confidence back and he went with some of the other volunteers to a special award ceremony where the life story project was recognised.

In his younger days he was a good footballer, good enough to be scouted by Manchester United. Unfortunately he was on the wrong side of the religious divide at the time so this was never pursued. His school friends remembered that he was very proud of his hair – his quiff was so firmly in place that it didn't move when he headed the ball! He also used to play tennis in his younger days - he worked on a life story for a woman who he used to play tennis with and recognised her from her black and white tennis-playing photos.

He enjoyed the camaraderie and fun that the volunteers all had together but was a shy chap and wouldn't often come along to social get-togethers. He would sometimes attend the life story presentations and enjoyed seeing how much the person enjoyed the book that he had contributed to.

We will all miss Stuart and his valuable contribution to the Life Story Project!

*Read what happened when Viv, one of Life Story's long-serving volunteers first started visiting:*

My first placement was in June 2006 and was with a lovely lady called Annie.

During one of my visits with Annie she mentioned that she had seen an article in the Oldham Chronicle about a man who was asking if anyone had any information about a baby who had been abandoned in a cardboard box and left on Oldham Mumps Railway Station. Annie said she remembered the baby as she worked at Boundary Park Hospital, Oldham (now the Royal Oldham) on the Childrens' Ward and she used to take the babies out for walks in a pram (she said that there were so many in the pram they were hanging over the sides) and the baby referred to in the article was one of her charges.

I mentioned this to Diane at Age UK Oldham (Co-ordinator of Life Story at the time) who contacted the gentleman in question and she was told that he was that baby and would like to meet Annie.

When the book was finished the gentleman came to the presentation along with a representative from the Oldham Chronicle.

The headline in the Oldham Chronicle read:

'REUNITED' (Abandoned as a baby, ex-mayor meets nurse who helped save his life 66 years ago) Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017,

To read the full article and see the photographs as it appeared in the Oldham Chronicle see next page....

# REUNITED

## Abandoned as a baby, ex-mayor meets the nurse who helped save his life 66 years ago

A FORMER mayor has been reunited with the nurse who helped to save his life after he was abandoned as a baby in a cardboard box at Mumps Station.

The emotional meeting between Wigan councillor John Hilton and 84-year-old Annie Mills took place at Springfield Residential Home, Waterhead, where she lives.

Councillor Hilton (66) — Mayor of Wigan in 2004-5 — was two days old when he was found by porter Arthur Ripley and taken to Boundary Park Hospital in 1940.

Critically ill, he spent three years there recovering and Annie was one of the nurses who cared for him.

The pair met yesterday for the first time in more than 60 years and she said: "It is the best day of my life. He was such a perfect baby. I did wonder what had happened to him."

Recalling taking him for walks, she added: "I had a right ramshackle pram to push the children in. John was the pride of my pram and I wanted my mother to adopt him."

But appropriately it was Wigan railway guard George Hilton, the uncle of another

by **KAREN DOHERTY**  
Pictures by **ANTHONY MILLER**

nurse, and his wife Elizabeth who adopted John.

And John, named after the husband of a matron, became a railway driver before entering politics.

The pair were reunited after Age Concern volunteer Vivienne White (60), from Waterhead, researched Annie's past for a life history project.

She took part after seeing an advert in the Oldham Chronicle and the charity tracked down John.

### DEDICATION

Yesterday's visit was a surprise for Annie and John added: "She was over the moon and can remember a lot more than I can."

"The only thing I remember is leaving hospital. It must have been Christmas, I walked out of the hospital and there were barrage balloons in the sky for the air raids.

"I was looked after very well at Oldham. With the care and dedication of the nursing staff I pulled through."

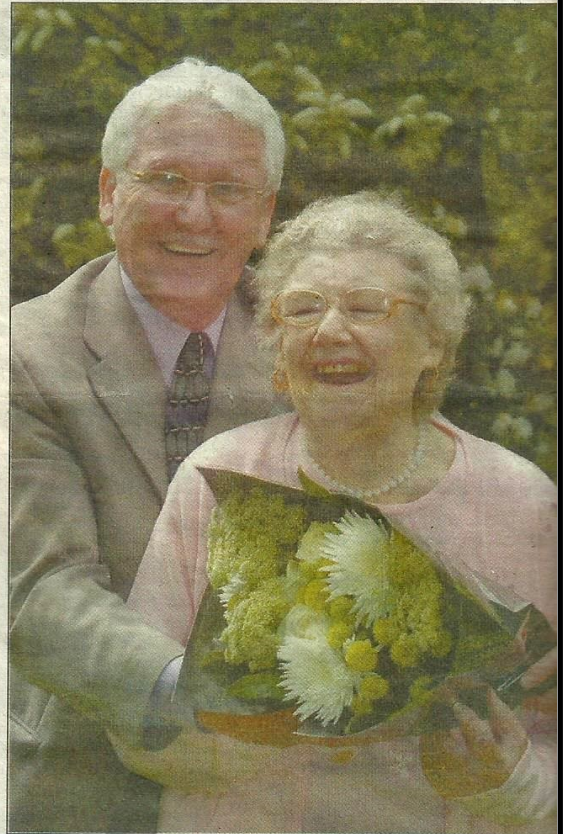
Annie, who married twice, went on to run a bakery in Rochdale Road, Oldham, and has three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

John is married with three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He first publicised his story to raise funds for his mayoral charity, a neonatal unit in Wigan.

As a result he met Arthur Ripley's daughters, Avis Scholefield and Maureen Hopkins, from Oldham.

However, he has never tried to track down his parents and said: "If it's not broken don't fix it. The parents I got were absolutely superb."

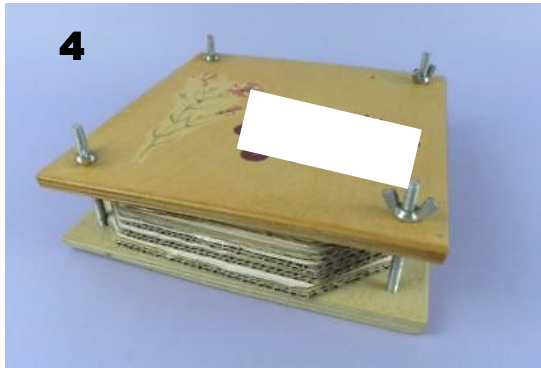


GREAT to see you . . . Councillor John Hilton and former nurse Annie Mills



A GOOD READ . . . Councillor John Hilton and Annie Mills read her life story, with (back, from the left) Ann Greenwood, Age Concern co-ordinator Diane Pullan, and Age Concern volunteer Vivienne White, who researched the book

## Match the tools with the crafts



**Turn Page round  
for Answers**

1. Basket Weaving. 2. Lace Making. 3. Shoe Mending (Cobbling). 4. Flower Pressing. 5. French Knitting or cork work. 6. Peg or Rag Rug Making.

## REMEMBER, REMEMBER, THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER, GUNPOWER, TREASON AND PLOT

At the end of October whilst today's generation celebrate Halloween, their grandparents were more than likely to have waited until November and celebrated Bonfire Night. It was a big event and took weeks of preparation and they were as much a part of the enjoyment as the night itself. Anything that would burn had to be collected for the fire, a 'guy' had to be made, old clothes were used for this. Once the 5th of November drew nearer 'cob coaling' began. This involved going round knocking on doors and singing this song (or a variation of it):

*"We come a Cob-coaling for Bonfire time,  
Your coal and your money we hope to enjoy.  
Fal-a-dee, fal-a-die, fal-a-diddly-i-do-day.  
For down in yon' cellar there's an owd umberella  
And up on yon' cornish there's an owd pepperpot.  
Pepperpot! Pepperpot! Morning 'till night.  
If you give us nowt, we'll steal nowt and bid you good night.  
Up a ladder, down a wall, a cob o'coal would save us all.  
If you don't have a penny a ha'penny will do.  
If you don't have a ha'penny, then God bless you.  
We knock at your knocker and ring at your bell  
To see what you'll give us for singing so well."*

Men did the lighting of fire and the fireworks and the women were in charge of the food. Traditional food on the night included, parkin/ gingerbread, treacle toffee, black peas and chestnuts roasted on the bonfire. There was always a big shout went up when the guy was thrown on the fire.

*For any younger readers: Things were much different in your grandparents time, children were allowed to play out much later and around 9:30 pm was about the time older children had to be home. Health and Safety didn't really exist, although children were made aware of the 'dangers of fire'.*

## MEMORIES OF 5th NOVEMBER - BONFIRE NIGHT



**Top Row:** Parkin, A lighted Sparkler, Bowl of Black Peas.  
**Centre Row:** Treacle Toffee, Bonfire, Packet of Sparklers.  
Guy Fawkes,  
**Bottom Row:** Box of Fireworks, Roasted Chestnuts.



KEEP YOUR PETS  
SAFE

# Fireworks Safety *for pets*



**Keep your pets secured INSIDE your home.** Even dogs in fenced yards find ways to escape the scary sounds.

**Give them a safe place to hide.** Set up a comfortable room or crate in your house just for them.

**Use ambient noise to mask the noise.** A radio or TV playing comforting music works well.

**Update their IDs & microchips** *(just in case).*

**Skip the celebration and stay home with them.** Sometimes your presence makes all the difference.

**Keep them busy.** Treat toys, like Kongs, can help distract them during the display.



[thatpetplace.com](http://thatpetplace.com)

## Our changing Language

How modern technology has changed the way we use words, this is what they would have meant before the age of the computer:

**ON LINE**



**POWERPOINT**



**STREAMING (COLD)**



**CUT**



**PASTE**



**SPREAD SHEET**



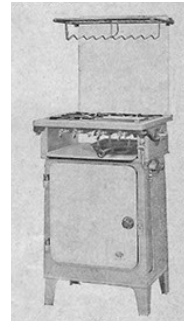
**LOCKED OUT**



**TIC TOC**



*This is another old recipe from Jean. It will have been made by many people over the years, during the war when fat wasn't available due to rationing and in later years it was always a favourite on bonfire nights.*



### Gingerbread without fat. (serves 4)

4oz plain flour,

2oz sugar

3oz medium oatmeal

2 level teasp ground ginger

2 level teasp mixed spice

1/4 pint milk

3 level tablesp treacle or syrup

1 level teasp bicarbonate of soda

### Method

Mix the flour, oatmeal, ginger, spice and sugar in a bowl. Heat the milk and treacle or syrup in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the soda and stir until dissolved. Pour into dry ingredients and mix quickly and thoroughly. Turn into a well greased shallow tin, about 9" x 6", and bake in a moderate oven for about 50 minutes.

*Provided By Jean Ryder*

*Here is poem which conveys the idea that washing your hands is no longer the simple task it once was.*

## **WHEN IS A TAP NOT A TAP**

Years ago when we were kids a tap was just a tap  
You turned it on, turned it off, these days you need an 'APP'  
You walk into a washroom - you're in a twilight zone  
Confronted by these 'aliens', you've entered the unknown

Do you press it, lift it, pull it or maybe give a twist?  
It's much more complicated than a quick flick of the wrist  
You go to try a different tap but find out very soon  
You place your hands beneath it and it starts to play a tune!

You just can't comprehend it, it's so hard to believe  
All you really want to do is wash your hands and leave  
Who can we blame? - or is it just the 'generation gap'  
Can we please go back to the days when a tap was just a tap



*Composed by Sue Livesey*

## PETS CORNER

### WALNUT

My name is Walnut. I am 3 ½ years old and I was born in Chester. I now live in Ashton near Ashton Golf course. I like to go hunting in the trees for shrews and field voles.

When I am indoors I am always hungry. I like to pretend I haven't been fed so I can have double portions! I am also partial to nibbling on house plants. If I'm left alone I will usually do something naughty. Me and my sister once pulled a curtain rail off the wall and another time we broke a lamp.

Because I like to play on the golf course my ears are both looking a bit raggedy because I have got them caught in the blackberry bushes.



My mummy and daddy are Nicola and David and I can wind them round my little paws .....but don't tell them I said that!

**TAKE A LOOK BACK IN TIME TO HOW KITCHENS  
CHANGED FROM THE 1940'S TO THE 1960'S.  
DO YOU REMEMBER HAVING ANY OF THESE?**



From a Dolly Tub with Posser, Mangle and Scrubbing Board to a Twin Tub Electric Washing Machine



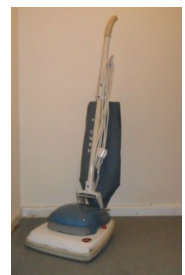
From a Meat and Cheese Safe to a Kitchenette but for a lot of people it would be a while before they had the luxury of a Fridge.



Both Gas and Electric Cookers improved and became easier to clean. This example shows an old 1940s Gas Cooker to a 1960s Electric Cooker



From a Manual Eubank Sweeper to an Electric Vacuum



1940s Kitchen with the Clothes Rack hanging from the ceiling to a 1960s Kitchen. It looks like the start of the fitted units that we take for granted today.



# SPORTING GREATS

## LEN HUTTON



**Born:** 23 June 1916

At Fulneck Moravian Settlement  
in Pudsey.

**Died:** 6 Sept 1990

Kingston upon Thames

Sir Leonard Hutton was a Cricketer  
who played opening batsman for  
Yorkshire County Cricket Club  
from 1934 to 1955.

He played for England in 79 Test  
Matches between 1937 and 1955  
scoring 6971 runs.

(He was a right handed batsman)

### **Achievements:**

Test Debut (Cap294) 26 June 1937 v New Zealand

Aged just 22 at the Oval in 1938 he set a record for the highest individual innings in a Test Match in only his sixth appearance scoring 364 runs against Australia, a milestone that stood for nearly 20 years.

In 1956 he was knighted for his contribution to cricket.

He went on to be a Test Selector, a Journalist and  
Broadcaster.



## ANITA LONSBROUGH



### **MARRIED:**

Hugh Porter MBE

Olympic Cyclist

### **Born: 21 August 1941. Yorkshire**

Anita Lonsbrough, MBE, later known by her married name Anita Porter, is a former swimmer from Great Britain who won a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics

Although born in Yorkshire she first learned to swim in India where her father was serving in the Coldstream Guards. After the family returned to England she began her swimming career at Huddersfield Borough Club where she was an average freestyle performer. She turned to breaststroke in 1958 and became an almost instant world class performer.

### **Achievements:**

At the 1960 Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games and European Championships of 1958 and 1962, she won a total of seven gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

The highlight of this impressive series of performances was her gold medal in the Olympic 200 metres breaststroke when she set the second of her four individual world records. At the ASA Championships she won a total of eight titles in the breaststroke, freestyle and individual medley. Her eighth and last ASA victory came in the individual medley in 1964 and this was the event she contested at the Tokyo Olympics, in preference to defending her breaststroke title. She reached the final of her new event but finished seventh.

### **Awarded MBE** in 1963

Retired after the 1964 Olympics and followed a career in journalism and is currently the swimming correspondent for the Telegraph Newspapers.




**LEST WE FORGET**



# **Armistice Day**

**November 11th**





They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.

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LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS  
EDITOR  
JOAN HOLMES**



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

