

Published JANUARY 2021

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

## EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

As we start another year are you old enough to remember any of the following events that have happened during past decades?:



**See next page for answers**

## EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS ANSWERS

**1937:**

The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey on 12 May 1937

**1945:**

12 May 1945 World War 2 in Europe ended (VE DAY) but it was not until 15 AUG 1945 that the War in Japan ceased (VJ DAY)

**1953:**

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953

**1953:**

New Zealander Sir Edmund Percival Hillary, Mountaineer, Explorer and Philanthropist together with Sherpa Mountaineer Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers confirmed to have reached the summit of Mount Everest.

**1954:**

Sir Roger Bannister ran the first sub-4 min mile and set a British record in the 1500 meters and finished in fourth place at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. (At the time this was front page news).

**1966:**

England won the FIFA World Cup, Score: England 4 West Germany 2. Do you remember this quote?: **They think it's all over. It is now.** When the last England Goal was scored in the final minutes.

**1969:**

On 20 July 1969 Neil Armstrong became the first human to step on the moon (APOLLO 11) Do you remember these words:

**One small step for man one giant leap for mankind**

**1977:**

The Silver Jubilee marked 25 Years of Queen Elizabeth II accession to the throne.

*Read how when Sue our poet first decided to become a visitor volunteer, her first visit didn't go exactly as she was expecting:*

My name is Sue and I have been a volunteer for the Life Story project since 2012, first as a visitor to care homes but more recently as a member of the typing team. I want to tell you about my very first visit to a gentleman in a care home:

His name was Bob and when I arrived at the home he was very reluctant to get involved at all. He told me that he wasn't interested and didn't want to do it! I felt awful as if I was invading his privacy. I then left him alone for 15 minutes and decided to try another approach.

I asked Bob if he would just chat to me for a few minutes as I had gone to the home especially to see him. He reluctantly agreed and we had a (quite uncomfortable) chat for about 20 minutes.

Eventually I told him that we were finished but asked if I could return the following week to continue but he wasn't very enthusiastic.

So the following week I returned thinking that I was probably wasting my time. However, when I walked into the lounge Bob waved to me and said "I'm glad you're here - I've got things to tell you". He was a different person and I think that he'd had time to reflect and realised that the visits would be just for him and that he would have me to himself for that time.

After that we got on really well. He made me laugh so much when he told me about some of the things he'd got up to (some of which never made it into the book!).

We became good friends - so much so that he asked me to marry him!

Why don't you think about having YOUR Life Story made into a book which will take you down memory lane and include family photographs of your choice. It's a really nice thing to participate in and at the end of it, you will be presented with a book which is a lovely memento for you and also a nice legacy for your family.

*By Sue Livesey*

**If you are interested Contact: 0161 633 0213**  
**Your copy will be free but for any additional copies we ask for a donation to cover our printing costs.**

## OUR HOLIDAYS

It's at the beginning of a new year that people start to think about their summer holidays and it was Lancashire cotton workers in the 1870s who helped develop a genuine working-class seaside holiday system. They saved all year to convert the traditional (unpaid) one-week Wakes holidays into seaside breaks, and in doing so helped change the character of many northern seaside resorts. It was known as 'Wakes Week' when factories closed.



An early 20th century picture of Blackpool Central station during Lancashire Wakes Week

During the 1950/60s coach travel was very popular, do you remember going on any coach holidays? Look how the people were dressed going to catch their holiday coaches. *Not a pair of jeans in sight!*



Holiday camps were popular destinations for holidays during the 1950/60s before the boom in air travel. For anyone who went to any camps here are a few pictures to bring back memories:



If you went abroad for your holidays do you remember your first holiday abroad and your first flight? What a difference it is today, with access to places worldwide and cruises; once the bastion of the rich now frequented by people from all walks of life. In the 1950s the most popular places were France, Irish Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg. The 1960's were the golden age for travel, when the package holidays arrived and £70 would have bought you a fortnight's holiday on the Costa del Sol – and it would still have left you change for souvenirs.

The accommodation in the Spanish hotels, many newly built was a world away from the boarding houses of the Lancashire resorts. All the rooms had their own bathrooms with showers which for many was a new experience and also private balconies. The hotels had swimming pools surrounded by loungers and in the hotel bars drinks were poured straight from the bottle, no measures back in the early days. Despite all this luxury it wasn't unknown for people to take some home comforts including jam/marmalade for breakfast, teabags and toilet rolls. Yes, *toilet rolls!*

A few pictures to take you back to those first holidays abroad:



Typical Spanish Hotel

Boarding the 'plane ready to take them to the sun. No t shirts, shorts or jeans. Photographers would sometimes take photos to be bought as souvenirs.

*Another poem composed by Sue one of our volunteers:*

*GOODBYE 2020/HELLO 2021*

*Goodbye to 2020 it really wasn't great*

*Now the New Year has arrived but we can't celebrate*

*Good riddance to the old year it sure did leave its mark*

*It seemed the nation as a whole had suddenly lost its spark*

*Goodbye to 2020 we've had enough of you*

*So off you go and please just take coronavirus with you*

*Let's hope by this time next year we'll all be covid free*

*And getting ready to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee*

*Goodbye to 2020 that year was no one's friend*

*It's finally been laid to rest we're glad it's at an end*

*Hello to 2021, let's open up the door*

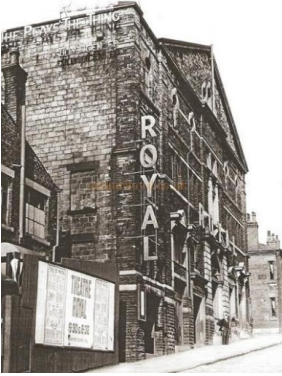
*To see what's on the other side — **Oh NO** it's Tier 4!*

*Happy New Year  
2021*



## Oldham Theatres/Cinemas of the past: Do you remember any of them?

### Theatre Royal



Built as an exhibition Hall and then later converted into a theatre in 1849. Rebuilt after a fire in 1878. Heyday between the wars when all manner of variety, drama and cinema was shown. Demolished 1969.



Odeon Cinema

Opened as Palace Theatre of Varieties in 1908. All the main stars of music hall and variety appeared on stage. Closed in 1935 and transformed into an Art Deco Style cinema. Reopened in 1936 as the Odeon Theatre. 1974 converted into a triple screen cinema. Closed 1983. After remaining empty for 9 years it was demolished and in 1992 the Link Centre was built on the site.



ABC Cinema

The Palladium Cinema was opened in 1913 and was closed for modernisation in November 1958 and re-opened in 1959 as the ABC. It closed in 1977 and was converted into a Bingo Club, however, it re-opened as a cinema in December 1985 using only 420 seats, this closed in June 1986 and continued to be a Bingo Club until it eventually closed and was demolished in 1990.



King's Picture Hall

Opened in 1911 and in 1912 a café was opened in the building. It closed and was converted into a Bingo Club. In 2006 it was operating as a nightclub.



It was built in 1897 and was the first building in Oldham to show silent films in 1911. By 1955 it had converted to almost full time cinema use although it did host the occasional show. Cliff Richard and Cilla Black both performed there.



Built as a Music Hall in 1868 it had many name changes including the Hippodrome Theatre, The Adelphi and in 1919 when it was converted into a cinema, Victory Cinema De Luxe. In 1970 it changed to Bingo and in 1978 an Amusement Arcade. Now a block of flats has been built on the site called Victory Apartments.



It was opened in 1920 and showed the first 'talkie' in Oldham 'The Singing Fool' starring Al Jolson. Closed in 1963 and converted to Bingo. It later became a nightclub 'Cats Whiskers' and after a change of owner 'Eddies Place'. It closed in 1984 and Oldham Job Centre is now on the site.



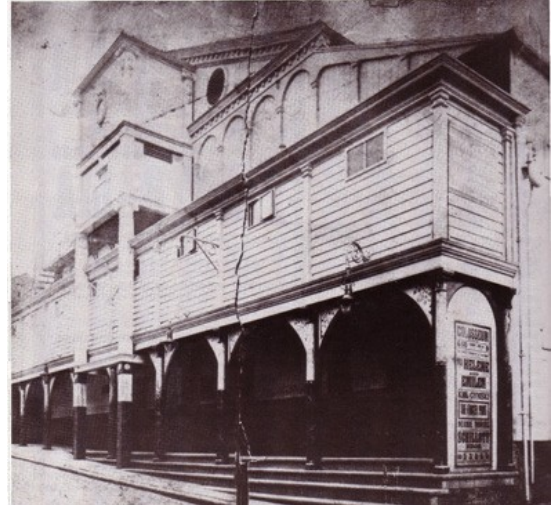
**Gaumont**

The Grand Theatre opened in 1908 and in 1937 was radically altered and became the Gaumont Super Cinema. In the 1960's it was the Astoria dance hall and The Beatles performed there. A Bowling Alley was also built on the site. It has changed several times since then and at one stage it was Butterflies and in 2008 Rainy City/ Roller Derby.

## Oldham Coliseum



**Colosseum 1913**  
**Notice the spelling.**



### A Brief History of the Theatre

It is one of the oldest theatres in Britain and still in operation today. Started life as Grand American Circus and Hippodrome in Oldham Town Centre. Henshaw Street in **1885**

**1887.** The wooden theatre is dismantled and moved to Fairbottom Street. (*Where it still is*) Later rebranded as the Colosseum.

**1903.** Sold. Variety Shows & Music Hall for next 28 years.

**1931.** The theatre is converted into a cinema, closes 9 months later.

**1938.** Oldham Repertory Theatre opens

**1947.** Anthony Oakley, playing MacDuff, accidentally stabs Harold Norman, playing Macbeth, in a production of *The Scottish Play*. Norman dies of his injuries on 27 February.

**1978.** Oldham Rep is re-constituted as Oldham Coliseum Theatre and opens under the direction of Kenneth Alan Taylor.

Some of the famous faces that have appeared at the theatre over the years: Judith Barker, Dora Bryan, Charlie Chaplin, Minnie Driver, Ralph Fiennes, Dame Thora Hird, Kathy Staff, Eric Skyes, Claire Sweeney, Kenneth Alan Taylor and over the years stars from TV's *Coronation Street*.

*Do you remember any of these sayings/words from your childhood?:*

**Good Old Lancashire Dialect** They may vary in different districts

**Barm** *Meaning: Bread roll*

**Put wood in th'ole:** *Meaning: Shut the door*

**Corporation pop:** *Meaning: Water*

**It's cracking flags:** *Meaning: it is so hot outside that the stone pavings are breaking*

**Use yer loaf:** *Meaning: Use your brain*

**I've not got out fort do:** *Meaning: I don't have anything to do*

**A'v cum b'out any money:** *Meaning: I haven't got any cash on me today*

**Stop skriking:** *Meaning: Stop crying followed by or I'll give you something to cry for.*

**Mitherin':** *Meaning: Annoying/pestering*

**Wot you sayin'?** *Meaning: What's up? or What are you up to?*

**Proper reet good:** *Meaning: That is very good*

**Give us a nicker:** *Meaning: Please may I have a pound*

**A doll and a drum and a kick up a bum:** *Meaning: That is what you get for being cheeky*

**What ya on wi lad:** *Meaning: What have you been up to?*

**How's yer sen?** *Meaning: How are you?*

**Stop pace egging about:** *Meaning: Stop messing around*

**Not all these exist anymore but do you remember any of them? Perhaps you used to visit them.**



**1**



**5**



**2**



**6**



**3**



**7**



**4**



**8**

**Turn Page round for Answers**

- 1. Rushcart Festival, Saddleworth
- 2. Belle Vue
- 3. Alexandra/Oldham Park Lake
- 4. Daisy Nook Easter Fair

- 5. Grotton Lido
- 6. Oldham Carnival
- 7. Billingtons Dance Hall.
- 8. Heaton Park

This months recipes supplied by Jean, one of our volunteers, are to celebrate 'Burns night' on the 25th January.



## **ROBERT BURNS:**

Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Burns worked on the family farm which was hard physical work. He preferred poetry, nature, drink and women. At the age of 27 and with the success of his first published collection that made him famous across the country. In just 18 months, Burns had spent most of his wealth.

In 1793 he began work as an Excise Officer in Dumfries.

Burns died in 1796 aged 37.



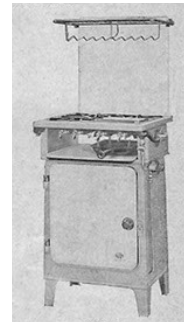
*Information and the following recipes Provided By Jean Ryder*

## A typical Burns night menu:

Cock o Leekie Soup

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

Clottie Dumpling



### **Starter:** Cock o Leekie Soup

1 sml chicken

1 onion, chopped

6 leeks, chopped into 1" pieces

2ozs long grain rice

1 sml carrot, grated

1 tsp salt

3 pints water

Salt and pepper

1 tbsp. chopped parsley

### Method:

Place chicken and onion in large pan, add water, bring to boil. Cover and simmer for 1/2 hrs. Remove from heat and skim off white scum. Take chicken out and strip meat from bones. Return meat to stock. Add leeks rice and carrot. Bring back to boil, cover and simmer for 30 mins. Add parsley before serving.

Serves 4-6

## **MAIN COURSE:** Scottish Beef and Haggis Meatloaf

450 g Haggis  
500 g Scottish beef mince  
1 sml onion, finely chopped

### Method:

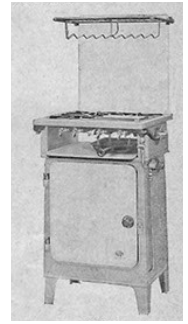
Prepare oven 180°

Remove haggis from outer wrapping and cut into small cubes.

In a large bowl combine the beef mince, haggis cubes and chopped onion.

Place the meatloaf mix into a Non stick 2lb loaf tin and cook 45 mins. Turn out and top with neeps (swede), serve with generous amount of tatties (mashed potato)

Accompany with a dram of whiskey.



## **DESSERT:** Clottie Dumpling

4 oz s.r. flour  
2 oz breadcrumbs  
3 oz shredded suet  
2 oz sultanas  
2 oz currents  
2 oz brown sugar  
1 tbsp golden syrup  
½ oz mixed spice  
1 egg lightly beaten  
4 fl oz milk

### Method:

Grease 3 pint pudding basin.

Mix all dry ingredients in large bowl. Stir in egg, syrup and milk to soft consistency. Fill the basin with the mixture, leaving room for pudding to swell. Cover with greaseproof paper buttered on both sides and seal with kitchen foil. Place on heat proof plate in a large saucepan. Fill the pan with water halfway up side of basin. Cover and simmer for 2 hours. Top up with boiling water as necessary. Turn out and serve with warm syrup and whipped cream.

Serves 4.



## DOWN MEMORY LANE IN OUR HOMES



Shelving for ornaments



Do you remember these plants. Your Grandparents may have had one (Aspidistra)



Black & White TV

Fireside Companion Set



Tiled fireplace



Radiogram



Vintage Portable Radio

## WERE YOU THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST?



Soda Syphon



Ice Bucket



Hostess Trolley

# PETS CORNER

## GREYFRIARS BOBBY

This month in pets corner we stay with the Scottish Theme: The story has attracted the attention of many authors, among them the Scottish writer and historian, the late Forbes Macgregor, who published 'Greyfriars Bobby: the Real Story at Last', revised in 2002.

His detective work in Edinburgh's archives revealed that Bobby's owner was definitely one John Gray, who died in 1858.

Indeed, he had been a farm labourer but joined the police force later. His occupation is recorded as such in the Greyfriars Burial Register. This also gives his address – sure enough, just off the Cowgate.

According to records, policemen patrolling the city market beat were obliged to have watchdogs with them – so we can say that it is likely Bobby was a policemen's dog.

The dogs helped the policemen guard the animal pens overnight ahead of the weekly sales of stock in the Grassmarket, below Edinburgh Castle.

For sure, Bobby frequented the kirkyard, it seems, but was not averse to offers of a warm bed sometimes. Yup, certainly sounds like a dog...

For example, Macgregor suggests that this terrier's loyalty did not necessarily involve sleeping out in all weathers. During his researches in the city archives, by sheer good luck the author found a kind of witness statement to the effect that the occupants of two houses in Candlemaker Row, adjacent to Greyfriars, habitually looked out for Bobby and gave the wee dog food and shelter.

As for the One o' Clock Gun 'tradition' – the firing of a time-check gun didn't get under way till 1861 – three years after Bobby lost his master and took up residence by his burial plot.

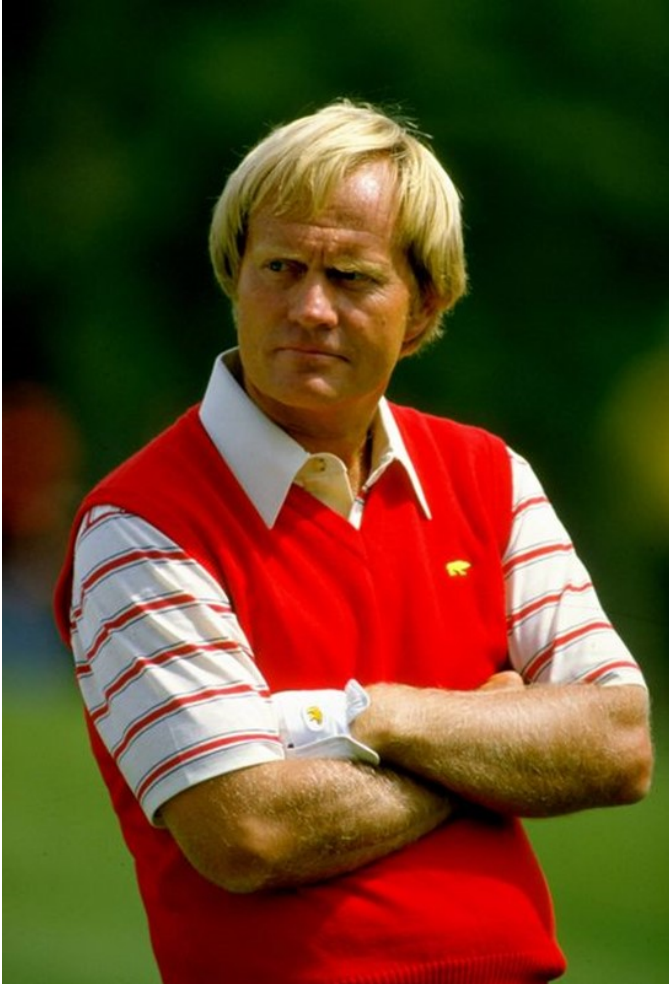
Apparently, it was a certain Sergeant Scott, based at Edinburgh Castle who heard about Bobby in 1861, befriended him and taught him to turn up at the restaurant after he heard the gun go off.

So, we have a core of provable facts, that over the years became a little embellished.



# SPORTING GREATS

## JACK NICKLAUS



Born 21 January 1940  
in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Nicknamed: The Golden Bear

He is widely considered to be  
one of the greatest golfers of all  
time.

### **Achievements:**

Won 117 professional tournaments in his career.

Won a record 18 major championships.

Competed in 164 major tournaments, more than any other player.

Won the 1986 Masters, his 18<sup>th</sup> and final major championship at age 46, the tournament's oldest winner.

He hit 20 holes-in-one in professional tournament play.

This month's suggestion for sporting great was supplied by Mike Shore who himself is no stranger to the Golf Course:

## **MIKE SHORE**



Mike is a local Golfer and scored his **14th hole-in-one at the age of 84.**

Lives on Waterton Lane, Mossley.

Plays off a handicap of 20, having once been as low as 6.

Golfer for 49 years.

Member: Saddleworth Golf Club.

### **Achievements:**

14 Holes-in-one.

The latest ace shot came at the 10th hole.

Using a seven wood, Mike sank his tee shot on the challenging, uphill 150-yard hole.

It was achieved with playing partner Ross Sutton looking on just as he was 18 months ago when Mike scored his previous hole-in-one.

It was back in 1975 when he scored his first 'holed' from the tee at the 15th.

He has also achieved considerable success as his victories in majors run into the teens.

Finished runner-up in a major in his 80s.

Scored all but one of his aces at Saddleworth, the other being on an away day at Stamford.

Now aged 85, Mike still usually plays golf four times each week although he admitted to being frustrated during lockdown when he had to turn to reading, crosswords and gardening for relaxation.

*Just in case anyone is wondering: Yes, Mike is Nicola's Dad.*

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



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

