

Published July 2022

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

Welcome to the July Issue of our Newsletter. On behalf of the team I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the success of the paper so far this year and hope that you continue to enjoy reading it.

We are always looking for articles that we think would be of interest to our readers and if you have a story to tell, together with any photos you may have we will only be too happy to print them. **If you don't want to write the article yourself, no problem, just get in touch and we will write it for you.**

Ideas for stories/articles:

Your pets, an interesting job, met someone famous, volunteer for something, a special achievement, or maybe about an award you have won.

If you have a longer story to tell you may consider putting it into a Life Story book, something for you to pass on to future generations. Your book is completely '**free of charge**' Extra copies are available but we do have to ask for a donation to cover our printing costs for these.

The aim of our Newsletter is to bring back memories for older people whilst at the same time giving younger readers a look back in time. We want it to be a light hearted read that everyone can enjoy.

We look forward to hearing from anyone with a story to tell or would be interested in having their Life Story Book done.

**Contact us on 0161 633 0213**

Please be aware that we won't print anything that may cause offence to other readers.

*Joan Holmes (Editor)*

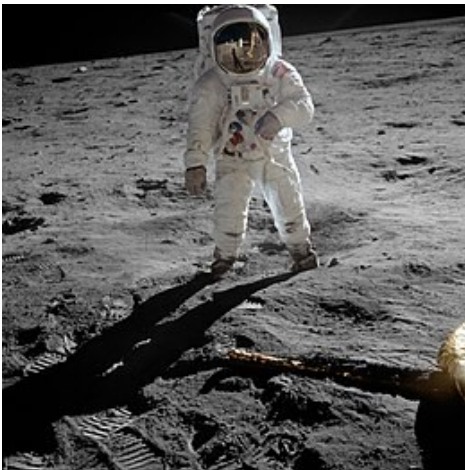
## MOON LANDING

**Are you old enough to remember, did you watch it:**

On July 20, 1969, American astronauts Neil Armstrong (1930-2012) and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin (1930 - now in his 90's) became the first humans ever to land on the moon. About six-and-a-half hours later, Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon. As he took his first step, Armstrong famously said, **"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."** The Apollo 11 mission occurred eight years after President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) announced a national goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

When the lunar module lands at 4.17pm EDT, (*Eastern USA Time zone*) only 30 seconds of fuel remain. Armstrong radios Houston, Tranquility Base here. **"The Eagle has landed."** Mission control erupts in celebration as the tension breaks, and a controller tells the crew **"You got a bunch of guys about to turn blue, we're breathing again."**

An estimated **650 million viewers worldwide** watched the first steps on the moon.



Buzz Aldrin on the moon photographed by Neil Armstrong. Although it's too small to see here apparently Neil Armstrong can be seen in the visor reflection along with the Earth. The Lunar Module Eagle and the American flag.



Apollo 11 lunar landing mission. From left to right they are:

Commander, Neil A. Armstrong,  
Command Module Pilot, Michael Collins,  
Lunar Module Pilot, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr.

On the return to earth the astronauts splashed down at 12:50 p.m., July 24 in the Pacific Ocean 950 miles southwest of Hawaii.

## Bernard Cribbins

Bernard Joseph Cribbins was born on 29th December 1928 in Derker, Oldham, the son of cotton weaver Ethel and war veteran John Edward Cribbins. He has two siblings alongside whom he grew up close to poverty. He described his father as a “jack of all trades who also dabbled in acting”.



Bernard left school at the age of 14 and found a job as an assistant stage manager at a local theatre club, where he also undertook some small acting roles. He then served an apprenticeship at Oldham Rep and worked there for several years.

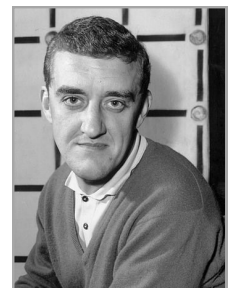
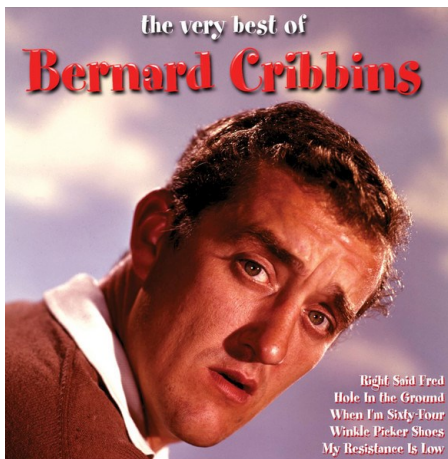
The original Oldham Rep on Fairbottom Street was made of wood which was why it had to be a members' club.

In 1947 Bernard commenced national service with the Parachute Regiment in Aldershot, Hampshire and Mandatory Palestine. On 30th May 1948 he was awarded the General Service Medal for his service in Palestine. It bears the clasp “Palestine 1945-48”.



In 1956 he made his first London West End theatre appearance in “A Comedy of Errors” at the Arts Theatre. He then co-starred in the first West End production of “Not Now Darling”, “There Goes the Bride” and “Run For Your Life”.

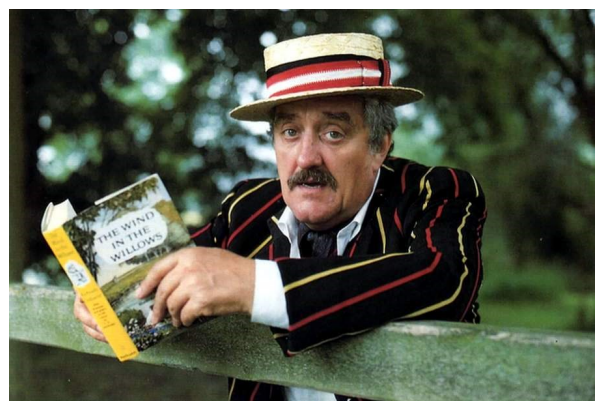
In 1962 three songs which Bernard had recorded were released and entered the UK singles chart. “The Hole in the Ground” and “Right Said Fred” both reached the top 10 and the third song, “Gossip Calypso” made the top 30.



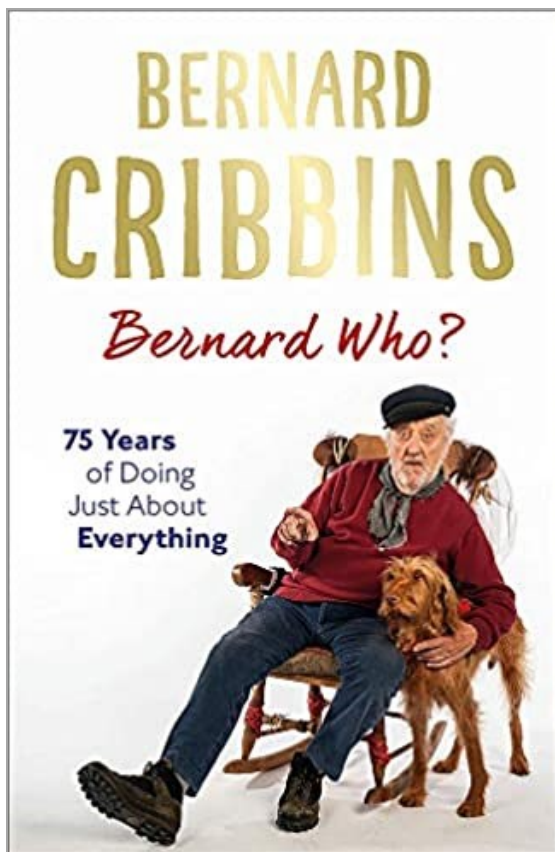
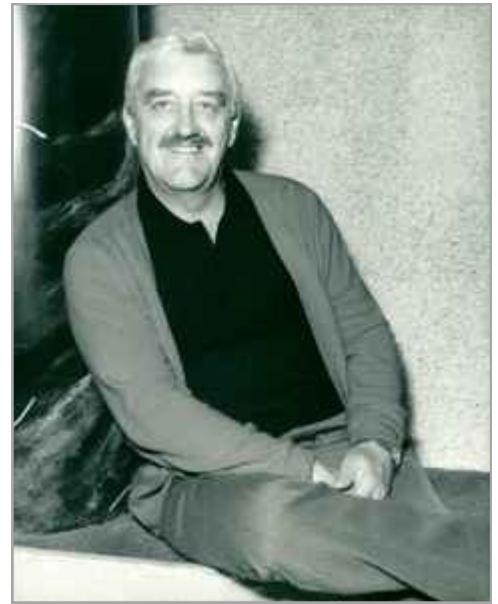
Bernard appeared in lots of films including “Two-Way Stretch” (1960), “The Wrong Arm of the Law (1963) with Peter Sellers, and three Carry On films, “Carry on Jack” (1963), “Carry On Spying” (1964) and “Carry on Columbus” (1992). Other appearances include the 2nd “Dr Who” film (1966) as Special Police Constable Tom Campbell; “Casino Royale” (1967) as Carlton Towers; “The Railway Children” (1970) as Mr Albert Perks, the station porter; and the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, “Frenzy” as Felix Forsythe. Later films include “Dangerous Davies - “The Last Detective” (1981), “Blackball” (2003) and “Run for Your Wife” (2012).

Bernard on Jackanory

Bernard has done lots of voice work. He was the narrator of “The Wombles” from 1973 to 1975, and was the celebrated storyteller in more episodes of “Jackanory” than any other personality, with a total of 114 appearances between 1966 and 1991.



Bernard was the star of the ITV series “Cribbins” (1969 - 1970). Other TV appearances include “The Avengers” in 1968 and “Fawlty Towers” in 1975 as the spoon salesman, Mr Hutchinson, who is mistaken by Basil Fawlty for a hotel inspector. Alongside Julie Covington he starred in the BBC’s 1975 Christmas production “Great Big Groovy Horse”, and he regularly appeared on BBC TV’s “Good Old Days”, recreating songs made famous by the great stars of Music Hall.



On 9th May 2015, Bernard gave a reading at “VE Day 70: A Party to Remember” in Horse Guards Parade, London, which was broadcast live on BBC1.

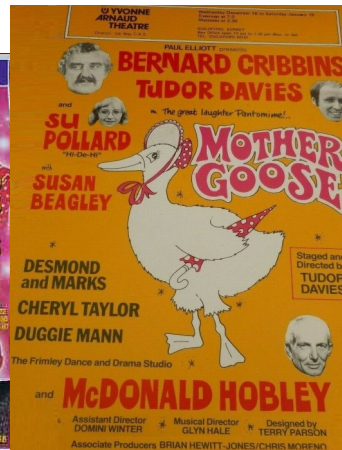


His later theatre credits include the role of Nathan Detroit in “Guys and Dolls” at the National Theatre, Moonface Martin in “Anything Goes” at the Houston Opera House, Texas, and Watty Watkins in “Lady Be Good” at the Regent s Park Open Air Theatre and on tour.

Bernard has appeared in lots of pantomimes.

In 2009 he was honoured for his work in children's TV with a Special Award at the British Academy Children's Awards. It was presented by former co-star Catherine Tate, who portrayed his character's granddaughter in "Dr Who".

He received the OBE in 2011 for his services to Drama.



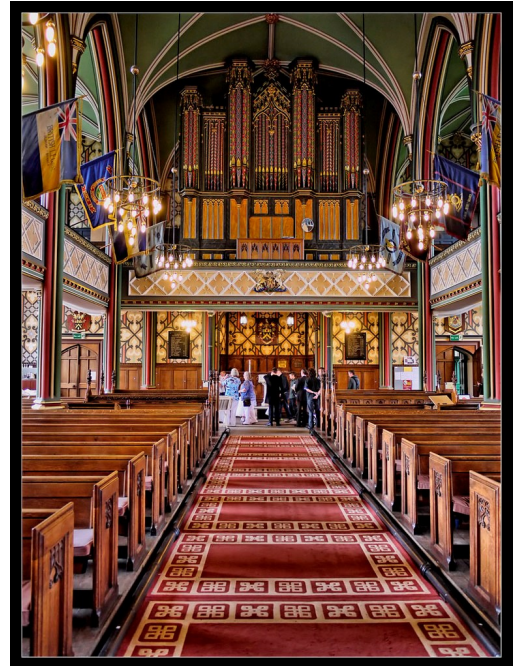
In 2014 Bernard was reunited with his co-stars from "The Railway Children" when he received the JM Barrie Award in recognition of his lifetime of work which made him a well-known figure for generations of children. In the photo with Bernard is Deddie Davies who played his wife, and Jenny Agutter and Gary Warren who played two of the Waterbury children in the film.

Brian met his wife, Gillian McBarnet, an aspiring actress, while he was at Oldham Rep. Living in Weybridge, Surrey, they were married from 1955 until her death on 11th October 2021.

We should certainly feel proud of Bernard Cribbins whose remarkable career spans 7 decades.

## THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM - OLDHAM CHURCH

The Church of St. Mary with St. Peter, mostly known as Oldham Parish Church, is the Church of England parish church for Oldham. It forms part of the Diocese of Manchester, and is one of several Grade II\* listed buildings in Greater Manchester.



A church building had existed on the site since 1280. During this time, a small chapel stood on the site to serve the local townships of Oldham, Chadderton, Royton and Crompton. This was later replaced by an Early English Gothic Church in the 15th century. With the coming of the Industrial Revolution, the population of Oldham increased at a rapid rate (from under 2,000 in 1714, to over 32,000 by 1831). The rapid growth of the local population warranted that the building be rebuilt into the current structure. Though the budget was originally agreed at £5,000, the final cost of building was £30,000, one third of which was spent on the crypt structure. Alternative designs by Sir Charles Barry, the designer of the Palace of Westminster, although now regarded by some as superior, were rejected. In 1805 the churchyard was enlarged and nearby Church Lane became a cul-de-sac severing an ancient route through the town. The previous continuance of the road (Church Street) was lowered by 6 feet and became an extension of the recently created Church Terrace.

The church, in its present form, dates from 1830 and was designed in the Gothic Revival Style by Richard Lane, a Manchester-based Architect. It has been designated by English Heritage as a Grade II\* listed building. It was linked with St Mary's Church in Prestwich and together the sites were principal churches of the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Prestwich-cum-Oldham.

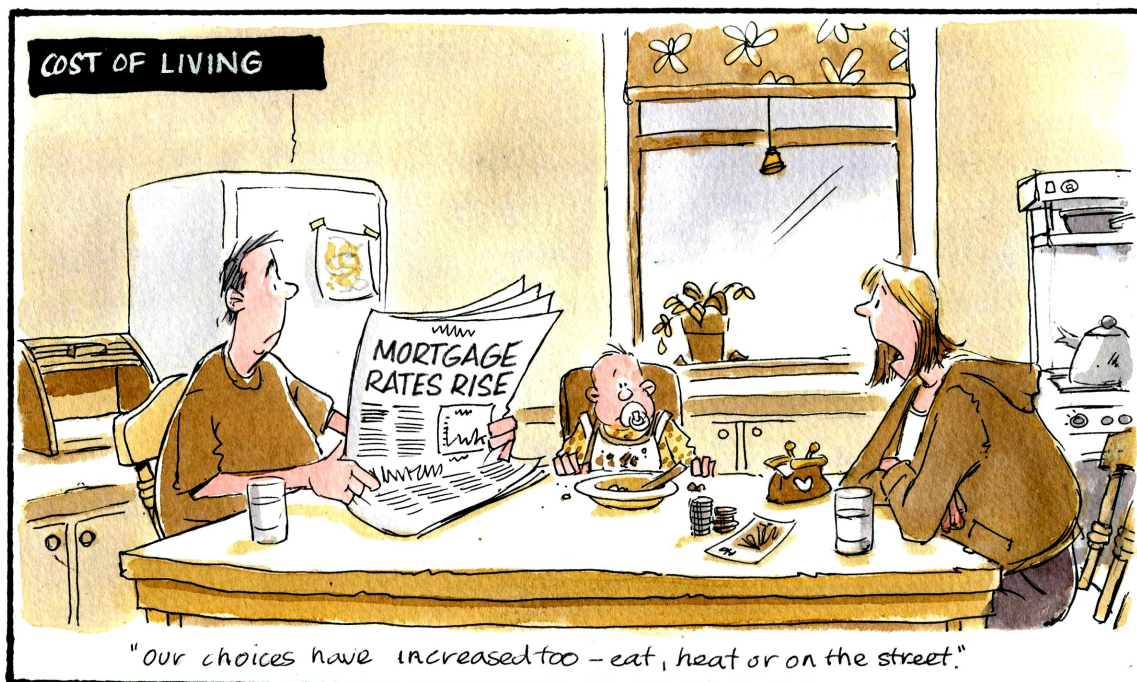
The peal of twelve bells was cast in 1922 by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough. An additional flat 6th was cast in 1978. The church also retains its original bell, cast in 1722 by Abraham Rudhall II of Gloucester.



*Sue's poem*

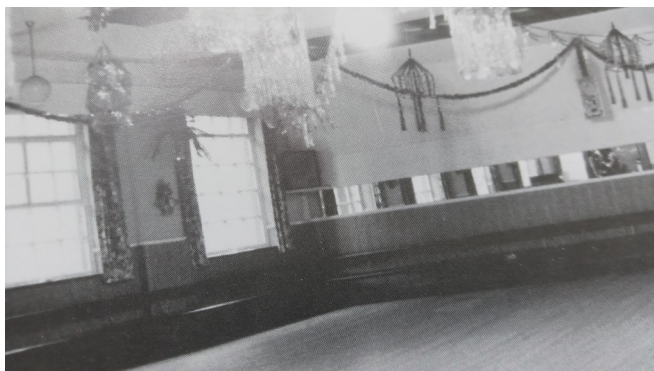
## HARD TIMES

Times are getting really hard, life's becoming tough  
Money is in short supply there never is enough  
The cost of food and clothing - fuel prices through the roof  
They're never going to go back down and sadly that's the truth  
Prices are soaring every day we need to make a plan  
We have to think of ways to manage our budget if we can  
Leave the car parked up at home the bus or tram will do  
Or even Shanks's pony 'cos walking's good for you  
Why have a shower every day? - it just wastes too much water  
It won't do you any harm to have one once a quarter  
Flush the toilet once a day and turn the heating down  
Don't turn lights on when it's dark - fumble your way around  
And there's no need for toilet rolls, newspaper will do  
Cut it into little squares and hang it in the loo  
But hey, don't be downhearted, let's not admit defeat  
There'll be no more obesity because we can't afford to eat!



## REMEMBER WHEN — THE DANCE HALLS OF OLDHAM

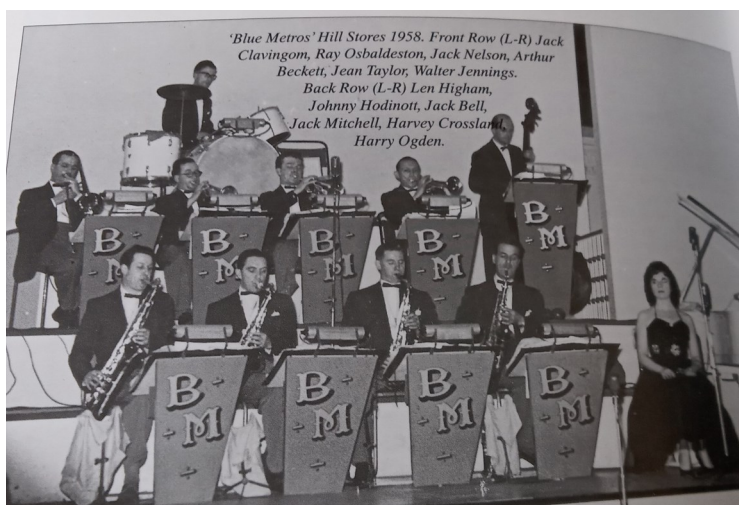
In the days before it was unheard of to get a taxi unless it was for some special reason, very few people had cars and it was much safer to walk the streets at night. Do any of the men reading this remember asking to walk a girl home from a dance and then find out that she lived at the other side of town and you had missed the last bus home and would have to walk? I'm sure many women reading this will remember saying **'My feet are killing me'** whilst walking home in high heeled shoes.



Anyone remember learning to dance at Billington's on Ascroft Street



Mr & Mrs Billington



Hill Stores (Co-op building)

In the 1960's Groups replaced bands. Girls used to leave their bags at the front of the stage whilst they danced, There was always more girls than lads until after the pubs closed and when the lads arrived they would walk round the edge of the dance floor eyeing all the girls up dancing in the middle.



White Star Band Froggatts, Bottom o'th' Moor



Stained Glass Window at Hill Stores

Continued...

Dancing continued...



Astoria - Above when the 'Beatles' came in Feb 1963. Any ladies remember dancing round their handbags at the Astoria?

Later the Astoria became Butterfly's and Romeo & Juliet's amongst others.



The Cats Whiskers, Union Street

I'm sure many of you reading this will also remember going to your local church hall or community room where regular dances would be held, sometimes with an interval for refreshments and maybe a Whist Drive. Remember the Barn Dance. Waltz, Quick Step and then as time moved on to the 1950's, Rock and Roll followed in the 60's by The Twist and many more dances over the years. However, the 1960's were a time of change with the new modern Discos arriving.



Tommy Smiths Band - Savoy

In the 1960's the Savoy became the Candlelight Club



## PEOPLE AT WORK

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

Contains tragedy and a life long friendship.



# 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?

Are there 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.**

## WOMEN AT WORK

### Edna Abbott - 1943 – 1991

Edna started work like many others, aged 14, at Hardcastles Department store on High Street in the centre of Oldham. She wasn't working on the shop floor but in the office dealing with the clothing coupons, she had to check them and then pay them into the bank just like cash.



Hardcastles 1941 queuing for nylon stockings.

In 1949 Edna worked in a local corner shop for about a year before going to work at Park Mill Nursery in Royton. Her role was to collect children from their homes at 6.00am in a pink van so their mothers could go to work at the mill. The mother would hand the baby over to Edna for it to be strapped into a bunk bed in the back of the van and the older children were strapped onto wooden seats. Edna said this wouldn't be allowed now, the van was just 'kitted out' with lots of bunks on the sides and wooden benches in the middle and there were lots of children on board. Health and safety laws today would not let it happen! Children stayed in the mill nursery all day until their mothers finished work.

In 1955 Edna had her second child and stayed at home, not just looking after her own children but also nursing her mother until her death aged only 48, sadly leaving ten year old twins. Edna, now besides her own two children had her twin siblings to bring up and her family grew from two to four and she spent the next five years bringing them up.

In 1960 she went back working in the corner shop, fitting in her busy family life around her shifts in the shop.

After a few years Edna was on the job move again, this time to the Furnishing Department at the Co-op on King Street. It was here she met Karen, a young, bubbly and often cheeky girl and they became great friends sharing lots of laughs whilst they worked. Edna retired from the Co-op when she was 62.

To date Edna and Karen are still friends and are in regular contact chatting, laughing and reminiscing about their time in the Furnishing Department at the Co-op (*King Street Stores*).

*Jean's recipes from around the world:*



## **JAPAN**

### **JAPANESE EGG SOUP**



Serves 3 or 4.

#### **Ingredients:**

5 cups clear soup stock

2 teasp cornflour

Salt

Soy sauce

2 eggs

1 piece of ginger

Springs of parsley

#### **Method:**

Prepare the soup stock, add cornflour, diluted with a little stock, soy sauce to flavour (approx. 2 teasp) and salt to taste.

Simmer till cooked.

Beat the eggs till frothy, then spread over the surface of the soup so that they float on it.

Add ginger, sliced or grated, and sprigs of parsley.

Cook for a few minutes before serving.

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



## **JAMAICA**

### **JAMAICAN FRUIT LOAF**



Makes approximately 12 slices.

#### **Ingredients:**

3ozs margarine

4ozs brown sugar

3 tbs clear honey

2 eggs - beaten

8ozs peeled bananas, medium

8ozs S R flour

1 heaped tsp ground allspice

1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1/2 tsp salt

8 ozs raisins

#### **Method:**

Pre-heat oven to 350F° Gas Mark 4.

Cream the margarine and sugar together.

Stir in 2 tbs of honey.

Add beaten eggs and mashed bananas. Mix well.

Sieve flour with the ground allspice, bicarbonate of soda and salt.

Carefully fold in the flour mixture and raisins into the creamed ingredients.

Place in a 8" x 4" (200 x 100 mm) greased and lined loaf tin.

Bake for approx. 1 hour or until well risen and firm to touch.

Remove loaf from tin.

Glaze top surface with the remaining honey.

Leave to cool.

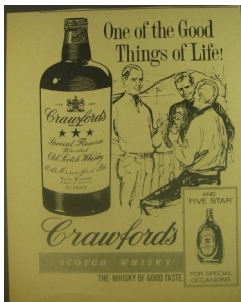
# REMEMBER WHEN - 1962 PRICES - IF ONLY



A **GALLON** of Petrol  
6s.2d. (31p)



**RENT** Black & White Ferguson  
19" TV 8s.6d to 11s. per week.



Half Bottle of  
Scotch Whisky  
£1.1s.9d to  
£1.5s.3d.



Pint of Beer  
2s.4d (12p)



Large White  
Loaf 1s.2½d.



Pint of Milk  
9½d.



Average price for cinema Ticket  
14/15s approx



Polo  
Mints  
2d



Daily Mirror 3d

*Some of the prices could have varied.*



## OUR HISTORY - GROTTON LIDO

Constructed on the site of an old mill lodge on the opposite side of the road to the Grotton Hotel. It was built by a firm called Whitehouse and Stubbs, who also built a number of the new houses in Grotton in the 1930s.



It was the opening of the Lido that really put Grotton on the map and when the Chairman of Springhead Council, Councillor Harry Wilde JP formally opened the Lido on the 11th May 1935 it was watched by a crowd the size of which Grotton had never seen before. It was believed to be the largest open-air bathing pool in the country with the best water purification plant in England. The pool was 180ft long and featured a water slide and a high diving board.

Tennis courts were added to the Lido and along with the pool there was a bandstand and dance floor, and every Tuesday and Saturday evening the White Star Dance Band would belt out the popular tunes of the time. So people would go for a swim and then round off the evening with a slow romantic waltz. (*The girls must have worn good bathing caps to keep their hair dry*).

It would cost you 3d (old pence) to sit and watch the fun, or 6d to use the pool. On Saturdays you could enjoy both the pool and a dance for just a shilling, which in modern money is the equivalent of 5p. Not bad for a night out.

Regular activities were held at the Lido such as beauty contests and swimming tournaments, and in its heyday the facility was attracting visitors from a wide area.

Although it only lasted for a few years the Lido has left a lasting impression on the area with the Sheltered Housing built nearby carrying its name.

If you've ever heard any stories about the Lido we would love to hear from you.

**Contact us on 0161 633 0213.**



# ANIMAL CORNER

## BLACKPOOL DONKEYS



Blackpool donkeys are part of the long tradition of donkey rides being a staple at UK seaside resorts. The practice began in the Victorian era, first becoming popular back in the late 1880s.

In Blackpool, it's widely thought that the first donkey rides were enjoyed in 1890, generally in the summer months. Right at the start, it's entirely possible that the donkey packs were joined by horses and mules, as the 'draught horses' of the cockling industry were the first to give rides to children.

Back in the 1800s, the welfare of the Blackpool donkeys probably wasn't the foremost concern of their operators, but that's most definitely not the case today.

There's a height and weight restriction to ensure that the donkeys won't be carrying a rider who might hurt them, with 8 stone (50kg) or 16 years of age being the usual cut-off point. Each proprietor also has to renew their licence annually to make sure they're keeping their standards high. All donkey stables in Blackpool are regularly checked too, and the animals now receive "home visits" from vets.

Just like in Victorian times, the little ones can enjoy picking the donkey with the name that they like the best, because the old habit of the donkeys displaying their names on their bridles or nose bands still happens today! A lot of the donkeys retain old-fashioned names too, Dolly, Daisy, Bronco, Bobby with *Daisy* being a favourite but that tradition only adds to the charm of the experience.

The donkeys live in Blackpool from April to October, and go to Lancashire farms over winter for their own holidays.

## SPORTING GREATS

### JOE ROYLE



**Joseph Royle**

**Born:** 8th April, 1949

**Place of Birth:** Liverpool

**Spouse:** Janet Royle

**Children:** Lee, Darren & Mark.

Former footballer and Manager and the man that took the 'Latics to Wembley'

**Books:** This is how it feels (An English Football Miracle). Royle Autobiography. Royle Flush.

In his playing career as a striker, he debuted for Everton at the age of 16 and went on to play for Manchester City, Bristol City, Norwich City, and the England national team. Scored four goals for Bristol City FC on his debut.

Joe Royle has managed Oldham Athletic, Everton, Manchester City, and Ipswich Town.

Royle was something of a North West legend following his playing career. He had represented Everton 270 times between his debut in 1966 and his final runout in 1974 before he moved to Maine Road and Manchester City. 119 goals for Everton was followed by 23 in 99 games for City before less productive spells at Bristol City and Norwich saw his career close out in 1982 due to injury.

Royle won six England caps, scoring twice – and following his retirement from playing he, as expected, was straight into the dugout and embarking on a managerial career.

In June 1982, Royle was unveiled as the new manager of Oldham and set off on an initial journey with the Latics that would last 12 seasons – with the highs of reaching Wembley and playing in the first ever season of the FA Premier League and the lows of being relegated at the end of the 1993/94 season.



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



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

