

Published March 2022

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

## SPRING IS SPRUNG

According to the astronomical calendar Spring starts on the 20th of this month but for meteorological (weather) purposes it starts on the 1st March.

**Can you remember any of these years when the weather was extreme:**

The warmest spring on record was:

**2011** with an average daytime temperature of 9.2°C. **(48.56°F)**

The coldest spring was:

**1962**, with an average daytime maximum of 5.8°C. **(42.44°F)**.

**The winter of the big freeze 1962/63**

The wettest spring was:

**1947** saw the wettest spring to date with 331.7mm **(13.059055 ins)** of rainfall.

**The winter of the heavy snowfalls.**

The sunniest spring was:

**1948** which a total of 558 sunshine hours were recorded.

### OLD SUPERSTITIONS & RHYMES:

If Easter should fall on Lady Day (March 25) then some disaster will shortly follow.

*"When my lord falls in my Lady's lap, England beware of some mishap"*

The last three days of March were said to be borrowed from April:

March said to April,  
I see 3 hoggs (hoggets, sheep) upon a hill;  
And if you'll lend me dayes 3  
I'll find a way to make them dee (die)  
The first of them was wind and weet,  
The second o' them was snaw and sleet,  
The third o' them was sic a freeze  
It froze the birds' nebs (noses) to the trees.  
When the 3 days were past and gane.  
The 3 silly hoggs come hirpling (limping) hame.

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz  
I wonder where the boidies is  
They say the boid is on the wing  
But that's absoid, the wing is on  
the boid!

Spring is here and the grass has grown.  
I wonder where the birds are hiding?  
They say the bird is "on the wing" (flying.)  
But that's absurd. (It's the other way  
around.) The wing is on the bird!

## LOST PUBS

Once the heart of their communities but now either demolished or changed for another use. You will see that some of the pictures were taken just before the changes took place. Do they bring back any memories for you?

*See next page for answers...*

Clue: Curzon Street



Clue: Holts



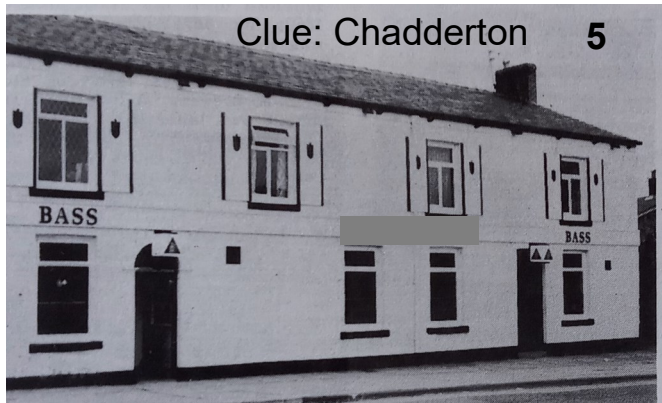
Clue: On the outskirts of Oldham



Clue: Manchester Rd. Werneth



Clue: Chadderton



Clue: Ashton Rd.



## Answers to Lost Pubs:

### 1. Market Hotel

The Market Hotel was built in 1854 the year before Victoria Market was completed and was originally called the New Market Tavern. After the new market had been established it became the Market Hotel in 1859. Not much happened to the hotel apart from the gaining of a side aspect when a neighbouring property was demolished in 1906 to make way for a new road (Albion Street). The Market Hotel closed in 1980 and was demolished. The Halifax Building Society offices now occupy the site.

### 2. Red Rose Inn, Holts Estate.

The Red Rose Inn was situated on Lees New Road halfway between the junction with Wildmoor Avenue and the junction with Near Birches Parade. It was built in 1964 and typical of "estate pubs" of the time. The Red Rose closed early in 2011 and in October that year was sold. It is now a convenience store.



### 3. Grotton Hotel.

In the years between the two world wars, Grotton began to develop as a desirable place to live. It was close enough to Oldham for people to commute to, but far enough away from the factory chimneys to allow a taste of the rural life, particularly as there were fewer houses in the village back then. As part of this migration to fresher pastures, work on the rather grand-looking Grotton Hotel began in 1938. The decision to erect such an imposing hostelry was clearly influenced by the growing number of residents in the area, along with visitors to the popular Grotton Lido. The pub remained a popular venue with locals for over 70 years but in 2011 the final pint was pulled and the pub was put up for sale. It was acquired by the Co-op and opened to customers in February 2012.



*Lost Pubs of Oldham continued...*

#### **4. Plough Inn**

The Plough Inn was situated at 334 Manchester Street and dates back to 1784. It started life as the Cheshire Cheese and didn't become the Plough until 1828. Whitbread rebuilt the plough in 1968 although the name "New Plough" seems to have come about when the pub was modernised around 1995. The Plough closed in 2006 and in 2007 became an Indian restaurant.

#### **5. Owd Tatts**

The Owd Tatts at 21 Butler Green, Chadderton, may have existed as a beer house before 1860 and was originally known as the Commercial Inn. By 1890 it had obtained a wine licence. About this time the Openshaw Brewery of Gorton purchased it and owned it until 1956, when the company was taken over by Charrington Breweries and a full licence was granted in February 1960. After a merger Charrington Breweries became Bass Charrington. Over the years the pub had several landlords and from 1977-1983 whilst David R Nutter was the landlord it was decided to give the house a more locally flavoured name, and the 12th February 1981 it became 'Owd Tatts'. It was named after the Tetlow family who kept the pub from 1911 to 1955. The pub has been closed for several years.

#### **6. Mare & Foal**

The former Mare and Foal is situated at 2 Ashton Road in the Primrose Bank area of Werneth. It started life as the Horse and Jockey in 1802 and in 1811 it became the Mare and Foal. By 1939 the pub was in poor condition and the owner Wilsons Brewery submitted plans for a new Mare and Foal. The Second World War postponed the rebuild and strict control regarding the use of essential building materials meant that the new Mare and Foal wasn't built until 1957. The Mare and Foal closed in 2003 and became a restaurant/takeaway the following year. This is certainly a unique building for Oldham, a 1930s pub built in the 1950s and to top it survived a war and two regeneration projects in the area.

## Shobna Gulati

**Shobna Gulati was born in Oldham on 7th August 1966 to Hindu Indian parents. Her father had arrived in Oldham from Bombay in 1960. She has two older sisters, Sushma and Hema and a younger brother, Rajesh.**

**She was educated at Hulme Grammar School before attending the University of Manchester, where she graduated in 1988 with a BA in Arabic and Middle Eastern Politics. In 2006 she received an Honorary Doctorate Of Letters from Huddersfield University.**

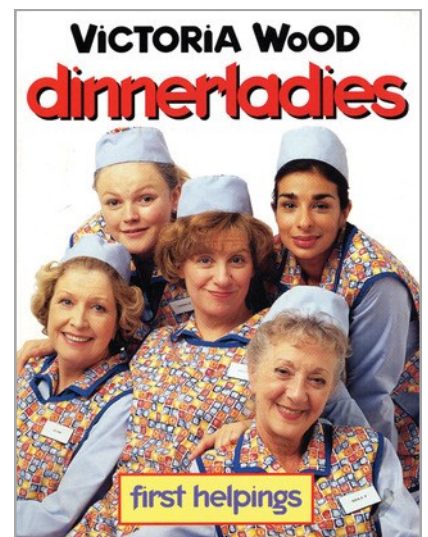


**University of Manchester**

**Shobna is an actress and presenter. One of her earliest appearances was as a dancer in the video for Boy George's 1991 single, "Bow Down Mister".**

**In the late 90's she appeared in both series of Victoria Wood's BBC sitcom, "Dinner Ladies".**

**From October to December 2000 she played Ameena Badawi in "EastEnders".**



## **Sunita marrying Dev**



**In 2001 she was cast as Sunita Alahan in “Coronation Street”. She left “Coronation Street” for the first time in 2006.**

**In 2008 she returned to her role as Sunita staying for a further 3 years. In 2011 she announced her**

**departure citing her desire to write and perform more comedy than her work in a soap would permit her to do.**



**After she left “Coronation Street” for the first time in 2006, she played Nisha Clayton, a recurring role in the final series of “Where the Heart Is”.**



**She was one of the storytellers in a CBBC revival of “Jackanory” and in the UK tour of the hit play, “Girls Night” by Louise Roche. She also took part in the Channel 4 special, “Empire’s Children” tracing her family’s history during the partition of India.**

**Shobna became a regular on “Loose Women” from March 2013 to May 2014. In 2016 she appeared in the ITV/Netflix series “Paranoid”.**



**Shobna played Ray in the West End production of “Everybody’s talking About Jamie” at the Apollo Theatre in 2018. Now adapted as a screenplay, Shobna plays the part of Ray alongside Sarah Lancashire. “Everybody’s Talking About Jamie” was released in September 2021.**



**In May 2021 she starred as Vicky in a 3-part comedy drama murder mystery series, “Murder They Hope”.**

**She wrote a memoir on losing a parent to dementia based on her experience of caring for her mother who died in 2019.**

**Everybody’s Talking About Jamie**

**Shobna married an architect, Anshu Srivastava in a Hindu ceremony on 10th November 1990. They divorced in 1994.**

**At the age of 28 she became pregnant with her son, Akshay, after meeting his father in London. Although they split up she did not want a termination so went ahead and had the baby.**



**She is a season ticket holder of Manchester United.**

**In 2015 she was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, which gives her the right to use for life the letters DL after her name.**

**Throughout her career Shobna has appeared in several TV films but is best known for her roles in “Dinner Ladies” and “Coronation Street”.**



## ERIC'S UNLUCKY DAY

Eric Turner was a man who couldn't read or write  
But Eric had a special gift - the gift of second sight  
He lived out in the country where he led a quiet life  
Together with his dogs and cat, he'd never had a wife  
He could tell you when a storm was due to the very first raindrop  
And he knew right to the second the time that it would stop  
He also saw disasters be they famine, war or flood  
But it wasn't all disaster, he also saw the good  
So one day it came to pass that he played the lottery  
"I've seen six numbers in a dream I know they're meant for me  
I've never bought a ticket but I know I'm going to win  
It's my second sight that's telling me - a feeling from within"  
On the evening of the draw the balls came shooting out  
All lined up, the numbers matched and Eric had no doubt  
That he had won the jackpot and would be very rich  
Prayed that Camelot would pay out and there wouldn't be a hitch  
He walked down to the lottery shop about to claim his prize  
When a gust of wind came along and blew dust into his eyes  
Within seconds he was nearly blind, he couldn't see a thing  
And he let go of the ticket as his eyes began to sting  
The ticket gently sailed away right up into the air  
Never to be seen again, how totally unfair!  
He hadn't seen that coming despite his special gift  
The big win now was just a dream as the ticket went adrift  
Now Eric sits at home alone, thinks of what might have been  
To lose the winning ticket was something he hadn't foreseen  
A mug of tea in his hand and on his knee his cat  
"My second sight just let me down, it never foretold that!"



## PEOPLE AT WORK

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

### A courageous woman's story of survival in a foreign land



# 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

### Anna Biczó 1945 - 1988

Anna was born in Hungary and in 1945 started work as a maid, working for a family with two children. Her duties included washing, cleaning the house and washing dishes. When it was the 'big wash' of bedding and clothes another lady would be employed for the day to help her. Anna sometimes helped with the cooking and the lady of the house herself was a very good cook, so Anna learnt a lot from her.

Due to the difficult communist situation in Hungary Anna fled to Austria in December 1946, her brother was already working on a farm in Austria so Anna found a position there helping in the vineyards and fields as well as cooking and washing.

Upon the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, the victorious Allies asserted their joint authority and sovereignty over 'Germany as a whole', defined as all territories of the former German Reich which lay west of the Oder–Neisse line, having declared the extinction of Nazi Germany at the death of Adolf Hitler. The four powers divided 'Germany as a whole' into four occupation zones for administrative purposes, under the United States, United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union respectively; creating what became collectively known as Allied-occupied Germany.

Anna was in the United Kingdom Zone and work was sparse, so with her two brothers they headed to Salzburg which was in the American zone but they were caught on route and sent to camp. Strict rules enforced, that people could not travel more than 10km and Anna and her brothers had done that so they were confined in a camp near Salzburg. In 1948 recruitment for workers in England gave Anna and her brothers the opportunity to move to the UK. Women were asked to work in cotton mills and in hospitals and men encouraged to work in the mines.

The family arrived in the UK, her brothers went to work in mines but the coal mining union objected to foreigners working as they did not understand English so they said they caused a safety risk. So her two brothers went to work on a farm in Oxford. Anna travelled by train up north from London travelling through Preston. At each town a number of people were off loaded from the train to fill the vacancies in each mill. Anna remembers stopping at lots of towns but especially a place called Todmorden. At Oldham Anna was asked to leave the train and the ex prisoner of war camp Glen Mill became her new home. A little while after Anna moved to Walsall Hostel and lived there before finding digs.

*Cont...*

*Cont...*

Anna was sent to work at Park Mill in Royton and later her two brothers joined her and they bought their first home for £500. It had only cold water, a tippler toilet but it had a front door and a back door and it was theirs! By the time they sold the house a few years later as each of them married and moved on, it had hot water and solid fuel heating, they had completely modernised it and reaped the rewards as they sold it for a staggering £1000!

In 1951 Anna had mastered the English language and could read and write English with the help of Mrs Spencer a colleague from Park Mill. Anna started training at Crumpsall school of nursing as a midwife. The training took three years and she spent her last six months with a placement at a maternity unit in Worthing in Sussex. This unit had no resident doctors and was run completely by midwives.

After that placement Anna was offered a Sister position at Crumpsall Hospital so returned to Oldham and later in 1960 she embarked on a two year course to become a tutor at a college in London.

In 1964 Anna herself became a mother and her nursing career took a different path as she started working part time at Oldham Hospital as a tutor in the School of Nursing.

Anna stayed there until she retired in 1988.



*continued*

Cont...



Nurse Tutors & others at the Royton Assembly Hall. Mike Levins, Anne Squire, Harry Seymour, Ruth Scholes, Tony Kilroy, Mr Boyton, June Higgins, Margaret Burkin, Anne Frost, **Anna Biczco**, Renee Carter, Barbara Brierly.



Alice Rideough, Barbara Brierley, Sister Johnson, Mr Holmes, Kath Higson, Wilf Boyton, Teresa Burgoyne, Harry Seymour, Ruth Scholes, Renee Carter, Anne Frost, Mr Ball, (Surgeon) Ian Valentine, **Anna Bizco**.

## QUIZZES

Each number in brackets stands for a word.

Example: 366 **D** in a **LY** (4,2,1,4,4) = 366 **Days** in a **Leap Year**

Can you work out the following, they cover a wide range of subjects:

### QUIZ 1

1. 147 HB in S (7,5,2,7).
2. 1971 Y of DC (5,2,7,8).
3. 18H on a GC (5,2,1,4,6).
4. 24 BB in a P (10,5,2,1,3).
5. 13 U for S (7,3,4).
6. 12 F on a D (5,2,1,12).
7. 1605 GP (9,4).
8. 5 S on a P (5,2,1,8).
9. 5 OR (7,5).
10. 7 YBL (5,3,4).

### QUIZ 2

Find the **Animal, Bird or Fish** from the clues below:

1. Rough Justice (8,5).
2. Jack Nicklaus (6,4).
3. Tenerife etc (6,7).
4. Intoxicated (4,2,1,4).
5. Showed no surprise (5,3,2,6).
6. Move aimlessly (4,5).
7. High ranking politician (4,5,4).
8. Feigning sadness (9,5).
9. Men only (4,5).
10. Jumble sale item (5,8).

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ 1

1. Highest break in snooker.
2. Year of decimal currency.
3. Holes on a golf course.
4. Blackbirds baked in a pie.
5. Unlucky for some.
6. Faces on a dodecahedron.
7. Gunpowder plot.
8. Sides on a pentagon.
9. Olympic rings.
10. Years bad luck.

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ 2.

1. **Kangaroo** court.
2. Golden **Bear**.
3. **Canary** Islands.
4. High as a **kite**.
5. Didn't **bat** an eyelid.
6. **Swan** along..
7. Lord Privy **Seal**.
8. **Crocodile** tears.
9. **Stag** night.
10. White **Elephant**.

# THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM

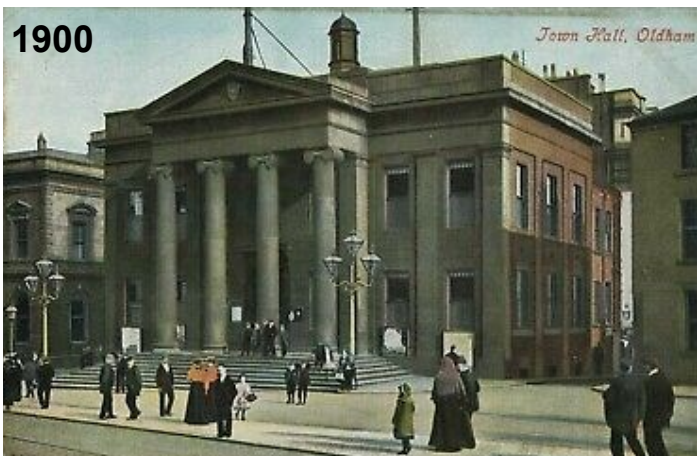
## The Old Town Hall - Grade II Listed

The building, which was designed by George Woodhouse in the Greek revival style, was completed in 1841 and extended in 1880. It has a tetrastyle Ionic portico, (*the entrance with four columns*) copied from the temple of Ceres, on the River Ilisos, near Athens. A blue plaque on the exterior of the building commemorates Winston Churchill making his inaugural acceptance speech from the steps of the town hall when he was first elected as a Conservative MP in 1900.

The building became the headquarters of the Municipal Borough of Oldham in 1849 and the headquarters of the County Borough of Oldham in 1889. Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Oldham and inspected a guard of honour outside the town hall in October 1954.

The town hall became the headquarters of the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham in 1974 but, after the council moved to Oldham Civic Centre in 1977, the building stood empty for many years. In October 2009 the Victorian Society declared the Town Hall as the most endangered Victorian structure in England and Wales. Proposals were sought for the redevelopment of the building and following works undertaken by Morgan Sindall to a design by the Building Design Partnership, it re-opened as a modern multiplex Odeon cinema in 2016.

After a fund-raising campaign supported by the locally-born actress, Maxine Peake, a bronze statue of the local suffragette, Annie Kenney, funded by public subscription, was unveiled outside the building in December 2018.





## REMEMBER WHEN - DRIVING



Do you remember the days before  
Traffic Wardens, Double Yellow Lines and Parking Meters?



If you have ever been  
through an Automatic Car  
Wash can you remember  
your first experience and  
did you remember to shut  
all your car windows?



Do you remember the  
old 'Indicators' used to  
let other drivers know  
you were about to turn?



### The Preston bypass

5 December 1958) 2,300  
drivers drove along a new  
road for the first time and  
straight into the history  
books. The eight-mile  
section of road they were  
driving on was **the Preston  
bypass** – the very first  
motorway in Britain, which  
is now part of the M6.

Car manufacturers have had to install  
seatbelts since 1965 but the law requiring  
drivers to wear them did not come in to force  
for another 18 years. 31 January 1983.

The UK crash helmet law was introduced on  
7 February 1973 and debated at the House of  
Commons on 5 April 1973. The law was  
finally put into operation on 1 June 1973.

Do you remember how they used to be?



Jean's recipes from around the world:



## FRANCE

### COURGETTE AND GAMMON BAKE. (*Jambon au four*)

**Serves 4**

#### Ingredients:

2 fl oz olive oil

6oz gammon steak (cubed)

1 onion, sliced and separated into rings

1 garlic clove, crushed

1/2 tsp dried thyme

1 tsp fennel seeds

2 medium courgettes, sliced

14oz tin of chopped tomatoes

3 fl ozs dry white wine

Salt and pepper

2 ozs Port Salut cheese, (or cheddar cheese) grated

French bread to serve

#### Method:

Preheat oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5

Heat 1 tbsp of oil in pan, add gammon and cook on high until browned.

Put in oven proof dish.

To the pan add onion, garlic, thyme, fennel seeds and courgettes and sauté for 5 mins.

Put in the dish with the gammon and stir in the chopped tomatoes, wine, salt & pepper.

Pour over the remaining oil and bake for 15 minutes.

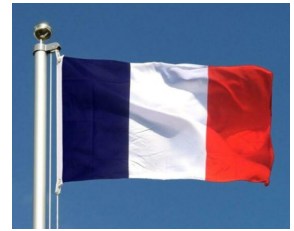
Top with grated cheese and return to the oven for 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and bubbling.

Serve at once with crisp French Bread.



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

## **FRANCE**



### **DEEP FRIED CAMEMBERT** (*Camembert frit*)

**Serves 4**

#### **Ingredients:**

8 individual wedges of Camembert cheese (approx. 2 ozs each, chilled)

2 tbs plain flour

2 eggs, beaten

3 ozs fresh white breadcrumbs

Oil for deep frying

Watercress, lettuce for garnish

4ozs redcurrant jelly to serve

#### **Method:**

Dust the cheese wedges with the flour then dip in beaten egg and coat with the breadcrumbs, pressing on firmly to give a light and even covering.

Chill in fridge until firm and set.

Heat the oil, check if hot enough by dropping in a cube of bread, it should turn brown in 1 min.

When hot enough, drop cheese wedges in deep oil and fry for 3 to 4 mins until crisp and golden.

Remove and garnish.



## THE MOST POPULAR NAMES OF THE 1920s & 1930s

| <u>1920's BOYS</u> | <u>1920's GIRLS</u> | <u>1930's BOYS</u> | <u>1930s GIRLS</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Robert             | Mary                | Robert             | Mary               |
| John               | Dorothy             | James              | Betty              |
| James              | Helen               | John               | Barbara            |
| Charles            | Betty               | William            | Shirley            |
| George             | Margaret            | Richard            | Patricia           |
| Joseph             | Ruth                | Charles            | Dorothy            |
| Richard            | Virginia            | Donald             | Joan               |
| Edward             | Doris               | George             | Margaret           |
| Donald             | Mildred             | Thomas             | Nancy              |
| Thomas             | Frances             | Joseph             | Helen              |
| Frank              | Elizabeth           | David              | Carol              |
| Harold             | Evelyn              | Edward             | Joyce              |
| Paul               | Anna                | Ronald             | Doris              |
| Raymond            | Marie               | Paul               | Ruth               |
| Walter             | Alice               | Kenneth            | Virginia           |
| Jack               | Jean                | Frank              | Marilyn            |
| Henry              | Shirley             | Raymond            | Elizabeth          |
| Kenneth            | Barbara             | Jack               | Jean               |
| Arthur             | Irene               | Harold             | Frances            |
| Albert             | Marjorie            | Billy              | Beverly            |
| David              | Florence            | Gerald             | Lois               |
| Harry              | Lois                | Walter             | Alice              |
| Eugene             | Martha              | Jerry              | Donna              |
| Ralph              | Rose                | Joe                | Martha             |
| Howard             | Lillian             | Eugene             | Dolores            |
| Carl               | Louise              | Henry              | Janet              |
| Willie             | Catherine           | Bobby              | Phyllis            |
| Lewis              | Ruby                | Arthur             | Norma              |
| Clarence           | Eleanor             | Carol              | Carolyn            |
| Earl               | Patricia            | Larry              | Evelyn             |
| Roy                | Gladys              | Ralph              | Gloria             |
| Fred               | Annie               | Albert             | Anna               |
| Joe                | Josephine           | Willie             | Marie              |

# ANIMAL CORNER

## GUSTAV



Gustav was a grizzle coloured cock pigeon trained by Frederick Jackson of Cosham, Hampshire

Gustav died after the war in an accident, when someone cleaning his pigeon loft accidentally stepped on him.

Gustav was one of the RAF's messenger pigeons during the Second World War and one of six birds given to Reuters news correspondent Montagu Taylor ahead of D-Day. On 6 June 1944 Gustav carried back the first news from the D-Day landings in Normandy. He flew more than 150 miles (241 km) from Sword Beach, Normandy, on the northern coast of France to his loft at RAF Thorney Island near Portsmouth, where his handler Sgt Harry Halsey received him, in just over 5 hours and sixteen minutes, while facing a headwind of up to 30 mph (48 km/h), to deliver this message: 'We are just 20 miles or so off the beaches. First assault troops landed 0750. Signal says no interference from enemy gunfire on beach...Steaming steadily in formation. Lightnings, typhoons, fortresses crossing since 0545. No enemy aircraft seen'. (See next page for image).

Gustav's message was the first word of the invasion to reach the British mainland, due to the fleet undergoing radio silence at the time.

Later that day, fellow pigeon Paddy became the first pigeon released to return to the British mainland with news of success of the landings ,

For his act Gustav was awarded the Dickin Medal for bravery, considered to be the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. He was presented with his medal on 27 November 1944, by Mrs A. V. Alexander, the wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty. The citation for his Dickin Medal read, "For delivering the first message from the Normandy beaches from a ship off the beachhead while serving with the RAF on June 6 1944." He was one of thirty two pigeons awarded the medal who carried messages during the Second World War.

After the war, Gustav was given back to Fred Jackson, his original trainer, together with his Dickin Medal. This medal was later donated to the Portsmouth D-Day Museum

*Continued...*

PIGEON MESSAGE FORM.

To:— Publications London

From:— Taylor for Reuters

Series No.

Date

We are just twenty miles  
or so of the beaches.  
First assault troops landed  
0750 Signal says no  
interference from enemy  
gunfire on beach.  
Passage uneventful. Steaming  
steadily on formations  
lightnings Lyshoone.  
Fortresses crossing since  
0545 No enemy aircraft  
seen

Liberated 0830

Time of origin:

Sender's Signature:

Taylor

Time received  
at loft:

134.10.

Should this bird fail to return to its own loft, the finder is requested to telephone or otherwise deliver the message it carries to the nearest R.A.F. Unit, or Post Office. It may save life if this is done promptly.

Continued...



Message Received



Dickin Presentation on 27 November 1944, by Mrs A. V. Alexander, the wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty.



The Dickin Medal  
Portsmouth DD Museum.

## SPORTING GREATS

### Beryl Burton OBE



Beryl Burton, OBE was an English racing cyclist

**Born:** 12 May 1937, Halton, Leeds

**Died:** 5 May 1996 (aged 58) Yorkshire

**Spouse:** Charlie Burton (m. 1955–1996)

**Children:** Denise Burton  
(Denise Burton Cole)

**Books:** Personal Best: The Autobiography of Beryl Burton OBE

Made an MBE in 1964 and an OBE in 1968

Beryl Burton OBE is one of the most influential names in British Cycling and one of the most successful British Sportswomen of all time. She grew up in Morley and spent her illustrious career cycling with Morley Cycling Club and Knaresborough CC.

Throughout her career, she achieved more than most athletes can dream of. She won seven world titles, two road race championships and five track pursuit titles and 96 national titles. 12 road race championships, 13 pursuit titles and 71 trial titles against the clock. She set a women's world record for a 12 hour time trial in 1967 which has not yet been beaten at 277.25 miles. She won stage 19 of the Tour de France in 1968. Beryl and her daughter Denise both set a record for a British 10 mile ride on a tandem bicycle which took them only 26 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1960 she refused to sign a contract with Raleigh Bicycle Company, keeping her name as an amateur cyclist with no financial backing or professional training throughout her career.

Beryl used to work on a rhubarb farm, even when racing, which was run by cyclist Nim Carline. She worked 12 hour shifts every day during the winter.

She believed that due to her family ancestry of Aryan cyclists, she had an unusually powerful heart and set of lungs. When she was just 11 years old she had chorea and rheumatic fever and had to stay in hospital for 9 months. She met her husband Charlie Burton when she was just 17 working at a tailoring company in Leeds and he introduced her to cycling. After dying at the age of 58 of heart failure whilst cycling a memorial garden was made in her honour in her home town in Morley, Leeds.

*If you enjoyed reading about Beryl, during May Oldham Coliseum are staging a play about her life.*



## SPORTING GREATS

### JACK BERESFORD CBE



Jack Beresford CBE was a British Rower who won five medals at five Olympic Games in succession. Not matched until 2000 when Sir Steve Redgrave won his sixth Olympic medal at his fifth Olympic games.

**Born:** 1 January 1899, Chiswick, London

**Died:** 3 Dec 1977, aged 78 years. Shiplake, Oxon.

**Educated:** Bedford School

**Father:** Julius Beresford. (Rower)

**Children:** Elizabeth, John, Carina & Pandora

**Nephew:** Michael Beresford. (Rower)

#### ACHIEVEMENTS:

Olympic Medals: three gold, two silver.

First rower to compete at five Olympics with his 1936 Olympic appearance. This feat would be unmatched for forty years until Soviet rower Yuriy Lorentsson made his fifth Olympic appearance in 1976, and unsurpassed for another sixteen years until Czechoslovak rower Jiří Pták made his sixth Olympic appearance in 1992.

The family name was Wisniewski but his father dropped the name after Jack was born. His father won an Olympic silver medal for Great Britain rowing at the 1912 Summer Olympics as well as winning several times at Henley. Rowing at school Jack stroked the eight and also captained the rugby football XV.

During the First World War he served in the Liverpool Scottish Regiment and was wounded in the leg in France. He returned to London and learned the craft of furniture-making for Beresford & Hicks in his father's factory.

He took up sculling because the leg wound put an end to his rugby career. Throughout his competitive career, Beresford (like his father and his brother, Eric Beresford) represented Thames Rowing Club and his nephew Michael competed in rowing at the 1960 Olympics.

In later life Jack was elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in 1946. He was a member of the organising committee of the 1948 London Olympic Games. His contribution to rowing was recognised with two honours in the 1940s: the gold medal of the international rowing federation (1947), and the Olympic Diploma of Merit (1949). In 1960, Jack was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He was President of Thames Rowing Club from 1970 until his death in 1977.

In 2005, a Blue Plaque was erected by English Heritage at 19 Grove Park Gardens in Chiswick, West London, which was Jack Beresford's home from 1903–1940. Beresford is one of the first sportsmen to receive this honour.



WOULD BE ACTORS WANTED—GO ON, HAVE A GO!



# HERITAGE TOURS



# GEORGE STREET CHAPEL



READ ALL ABOUT IT ON NEXT PAGE...

## **We are looking for new people to join our team!**

Have you ever been to George Street Chapel and watched the tour with the volunteer interactors?

Our tour is really different, and this is made possible by having real characters (interactors) who, in costume, tell our history and personal stories of characters who lived 1850's Oldham. This makes the experience very enjoyable and entertaining. All our interactors are volunteers who always fancied 'having a go' at acting but never tried it, however with some training and support from each other they now provide tours to adults and children.

As our tours become more popular we are urgently looking for additional volunteers to help us, we are looking for a variety of people, ages and genders to take on the roles of characters as well as Tour Guides at George Street Chapel.

Could this be you? Would you like to join our friendly team of volunteer interactors?

To help us explain what we need and how you could help, I would like to invite you to a Interactors Day at George Street chapel, we will provide refreshments and give you a bigger insight into the roles of volunteers working in our chapel.

The date is **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00am** at George Street Chapel, George Street, Oldham.

We will look again at the history of the chapel, show you around and provide the details of characters you could portray should you decide to volunteer. We will also have costumes available so you could even see how 'Victorian Oldham' feels and even try something on if you like...

Tour guides will explain what they do and happily share with you the history of the area and the chapel, they will even take you around George street to re-cap the local history and stories.

This really is one of the most exciting volunteer roles in Oldham, I do hope you will join us; you can even bring along a friend to see more about us and how you / they could help.

If you want to ask any more questions or let us know if you can make it just give me a call on 0161 622 9252 or 07827 498098

I do hope you can come along

Kind Regards

Maggie Hurley  
Volunteer & Community Service Manager, Age UK Oldham  
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# Life Story

Every life has a story...

