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# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

Welcome to our October Newsletter. October the month when the clocks go back and we get an extra hour in bed. At the end of the month many people, especially children will be celebrating Halloween. When the older generations were growing up it was hardly recognised, the big event being Bonfire Night on the 5th November.

Halloween is an ancient festival, which has its roots in the Celtic festival of Samhain (Sah-ween), this was when the Celts (the ancient inhabitants of Great Britain) celebrated their New Year and the day they believed that the souls of those who had died that year progressed to the underworld. It was said to be a night when ghosts, demons and witches roamed the earth. According to tradition, the spirits of the dead were able to come back to life to harm people and crops in the physical world and they tried to placate the restless spirits with offerings of nuts and berries. These practices led to many of today's Halloween traditions

Nowadays these offerings are more likely to be a few sweets given out to children trick or treating, but it remains a day when we can acknowledge our fears and celebrate forces we do not understand. Today in the UK it is celebrated on All Hallows Eve, the evening before "All Saint's Day", on the night of October 31st, the last night of October which was originally the eve of Samhain.



## Matt Walls

Born in Oldham in April 1998, Matt Walls is the son of Lorraine and Larry Walls. He was educated at St Joseph's Primary School in Shaw, followed by Crompton House Secondary School.

At the age of 9, he had a velodrome 'taster session' and became hooked on cycling.

He is a road and track cyclist, and in August 2020 the BORA-Hansgrohe professional team signed him on a 3 year contract.



Matt around the time he was signed by the BORA-Hansgrohe professional team



In November 2020 when racing resumed at the UEC European Championships in Bulgaria, following Covid lock-downs, he was a double gold medallist in the omnium and the elimination race, a non-Olympic event. It was his first full season at the élite level, having enjoyed a long run of success at both junior and under-23 level.

He triumphed in the men's Omnium discipline and was awarded the gold medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics, held in 2021 in Tokyo. He also won silver in the men's Madison.



He sustained injuries as a result of having his bike thrown over the barriers and into the crowd at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.



The horrific accident

Matt in his hospital bed

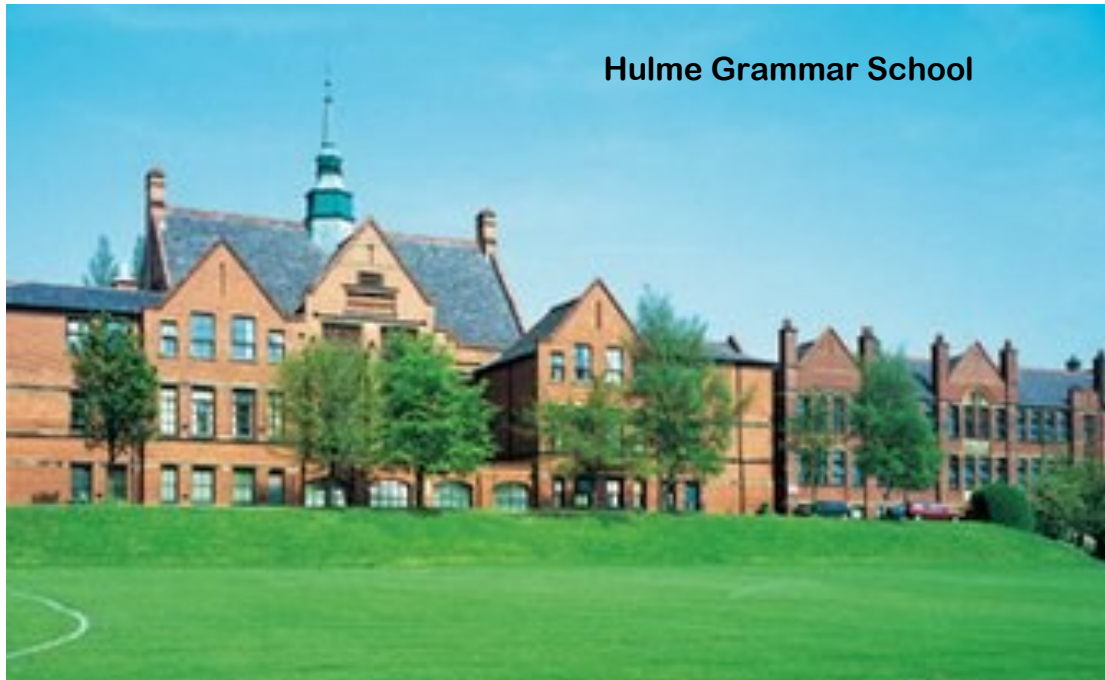
Oldham bestowed the honour of “Freedom of the Borough” to him on September 8th 2021.

An even greater honour came his way in 2022 when he was awarded the title “Member of the British Empire” (MBE), in the New Year’s Honours list.

## Nicola White

Nicola White, an international field hockey player, who played as a forward for both England and Great Britain, was born in Oldham on 20th January 1988.

From an early age Nicola excelled at hockey, athletics, netball and swimming. She also loved playing the piano.



Nicola picked up her first hockey stick at age 7 and has never looked back. From representing her school, Hulme Grammar School, through to county level and being picked to represent her country at under-21's, Nicola rose through the ranks to become one of Team GB's biggest stars.



Nicola with her brother Thomas

Nicola graduated from Loughborough in 2013 with a BSc in Applied Sports Science, making her senior international debut in hockey in 2009. Nicola has 180 caps to her name and 13 medals from 2 Olympic Games, 2 Commonwealth Games and several World Cups and Championships. She was one of the youngest members of Team GB when they took Bronze at the Olympic Games in London in 2012. She was one of four Loughborough graduates awarded Honorary Doctorates by Loughborough University in 2018.



After winning a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Rio, Nicola, along with her team-mates, was awarded an MBE in the 2017 New Year Honours List.



She officially ended her 10 year international career in July 2021, having not played for Great Britain since March 2018 when she collided with an Ireland player during a warm-up match for the Commonwealth Games. She suffered debilitating after-effects from concussion and her recovery took a long time.

She now plays club hockey for Hampstead and Westminster after many successful years playing for Holcombe.



## FAMOUS QUOTES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

I'm very pleased to be here. Let's face it, at my age I'm pleased to be anywhere. *George Burns.*

Do you think policemen walk up and down the street thinking how old the public are getting these days? *D. Tucker.*

A British Gas salesman, replacing a defective boiler, told me "The makers will tell you this boiler will give 25 years' service. He looked up at me, hesitated, and continued, "But of course to you that would not be a selling point". *Anon.*

I've started wearing cardigans and saying things like "Woopsadaisy" and when I take a sip of tea, "Ooh, that hits the spot!" *Gary, Men Behaving Badly.*

Signs you're getting on a bit :- your back hurts; you eat food past its sell-by date; your carpet is patterned; you go supermarket shopping in the evening to pick up marked-down bargains; you can spell; you hang your clothes on padded coat hangers; you save the hearing aid flyer that falls out of the colour supplement; you try to get electrical gadgets repaired when they go wrong; you save the free little packets of sugar from cafes; you have worn a knitted swimsuit; when you watch black and white films you spend the whole time pointing at the screen going, "He's dead.....she's dead..... and your car stereo is tuned to Radio 2. *Colin Slater.*

You know you're getting old when you're interested in going home before you get where you're going. *Alan Mainwaring.*

I'm so old that when I order a 3-minute egg, they ask for the money up front. *Milton Berle.*

I do what I can to help the elderly, after all, I'm going to be old myself some day. *Lillian Carter, Aged 76.*

## REMEMBER WHEN

### THE DAYS OF THE WIRELESS.

During the early 50's very few people actually had a television and it was seen as very much second fiddle to radio. The early 50's was still experiencing the wartime years' left overs, so the wireless, as the radio was called back then, was often quite jolly and steered towards leaving your troubles behind you.



There were three radio stations broadcasting in Britain in the 1950s. The most popular was the Light Program (*Radio 2*) for popular music, variety shows, comedy and drama. The Home Service (*Radio 4*) was mainly for news items. The Third Program (*Radio 3*) was more highbrow in character and only broadcast in the evening for classical music, concerts and recitals, talks on matters scientific, philosophical, and cultural, together with poetry readings and classic or experimental plays. In 1957 its weekly hours were cut by 40%.

The General Overseas Service (previously The Empire Service) now the BBC World Service. Anyone remember the words “**This is London**” followed by the **Time Signal** and then the news?

#### Popular Wireless programs from the 1950's:-

Children's Favourites, Worker's Playtime, Housewives Choice, Mrs. Dales Diary, The Archers, Dick Barton, The Goon Show, Beyond Our Ken, Take it from Here, Life with The Lyons, Listen with Mother, Family Favourites. Anyone who was a teenager in the 1960's do you remember the pirate ship, Radio Caroline?

#### BBC Broadcasting house:

Designed by G Val Myer and built in 1932, Broadcasting House was the BBC's first purpose-built home for radio broadcasting. It is situated in central London between Oxford Street and Regents Park, adjacent to John Nash's All Souls' Church and is Grade II\* listed.

Built of Portland stone, with 9 floors above ground and 3 below, its central heavy masonry tower originally contained all the studios. A lighter steel-framed 'shell' provided acoustic buffering.

With its accentuated front section bearing a clock tower and aerial mast, the building has been compared to a ship. The *Architectural Review* of 1932 described it as the 'new Tower of London'. It is strangely asymmetrical, because Val Myer had to adapt his first plan when local residents complained about the shadow the building would cast on houses in Langham Street, and their loss of natural light.





## Queen Elizabeth II: Poet laureate Simon Armitage marks death of monarch

### Floral Tribute by Simon Armitage

*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.  
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -  
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.*

*Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day  
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE POP GROUPS OF THE 1960'S



Answers to 60's Pop Groups.

**1. The Animals** (1962–1966) Formed in Newcastle upon Tyne during 1962 and 1963 when Eric Burdon joined the Alan Price Rhythm and Blues Combo, the original line up was Burdon (vocals), Price (organ and keyboards), Hilton Valentine (guitar), John Steel (drums) and Bryan "Chas" Chandler (bass).

Songs: "House of the Rising Sun," "I'm Crying," "We Gotta Get Out of This Place," and "It's My Life."

**2. The Rolling Stones** are a British rock group, formed in 1962, that drew on Chicago blues stylings to create a unique vision of the dark side of post-1960s counterculture. The original members were Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Brian Jones, Bill Wyman, and Charlie Watts.

Songs: "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," (1965) "Paint It, Black," (1966) "Sympathy for the Devil," (1968) "You Can't Always Get What You Want." (1969).

**3. The Kinks** were an English rock band formed in Muswell Hill, north London, in 1963 by brothers Ray and Dave Davies. They are regarded as one of the most influential rock bands of the 1960s. The Kinks' music drew from a wide range of influences, including American R&B and rock and roll initially, and later adopting British music hall, folk, and country. The band gained a reputation for reflecting English culture and lifestyle, fuelled by Ray Davies' wittily observational writing style.

Songs: "You really Got Me". Albums "*Face to Face*" (1966), "*Something Else*" (1967) *The Village Green Preservation Society* (1968).

**4. Freddie and the Dreamers** were a Manchester beat band that had a number of hit records between 1963 and 1965. The band's stage act was enlivened by the comic antics of Freddie Garrity, who would bounce around the stage with arms and legs flying. Bernie Dwyer, Pete Birrell, Freddie Garrity, Derek Quinn, Roy Crewdson.

Songs: "If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody", "I'm Telling You Now", "You Were Made for Me".

**5. The Beatles** were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960, that comprised John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. They are regarded as the most influential band of all time.

Songs: "Love me Do". "Please, please, me". "I want to hold your hand". Etc.

**6. The Searchers:** The Searchers are an English Merseybeat group who emerged during the British Invasion of the 1960s. Members in the 1960s  
Tony Jackson, lead and backing vocals bass. Mike Pender: lead guitar, lead and backing vocals. John McNally: rhythm guitar, backing and lead vocals.

Chris Curtis: drums, backing and lead vocals.

Songs: "Don't Throw Your Love Away", "Sugar And Spice", "Needles And Pins".

**7. Dave Clarke Five:** Were an English rock and roll band formed in 1958 in Tottenham, London. Drummer Dave Clark served as the group's leader, producer and co-songwriter. In January 1964 they had their first UK top ten single which knocked the Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" off the top of the UK Singles Chart. Members: Rick Huxley, Dave Clark, Mike Smith, Lenny Davidson and Denis Payton.

Songs: "Glad all over". "Bits and pieces". "Glad all over".

**8. Gerry and the Pacemakers:** Were a British beat group prominent in the 1960s Merseybeat scene. In common with the Beatles, they came from Liverpool. Members: Gerry Marsden – lead vocals, Les Chadwick – bass. Les Maguire – piano, backing vocals, harmony vocals and Freddie Marsden – drums and backing vocals.

Songs: "Ferry cross the Mersey". "How do you like it". "You'll never walk alone".

(The members of the groups are based on the 1960s. Some of the groups have changed members over time. Not all the groups hits have been listed.)

Apologies if your favourite group hasn't been shown.



# THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM

## THE PRUDENTIAL BUILDING

The Ex-Prudential Assurance Company Offices is Grade II-listed and was built in 1889.

It was designed by Alfred Waterhouse who also designed the Natural History museum and the Town Hall in Manchester. He's often described as the one of the Victorian period's greatest architects.

It is in red brick on a granite plinth, with buff and green terracotta dressings and a red tiled roof. There are three storeys with a basement and attics, and a symmetrical front with three bays flanked by polygonal four-storey turrets. At the base of the turrets are projecting gabled porches with round-headed doorways and flanking columns. In the ground floor is an arcade of round-headed windows, and in the upper floors the windows are mullioned and transomed. At the top is a modillion cornice and a lozenge frieze. Behind the turrets are wings extending to the rear.



Named one of the most endangered buildings in the country by the Victorian Society.



The two photos above are inside the building.

The building has had several uses including the famous Café Monico (Berni Inns) downstairs, where they served the very popular Schooners of Sherry

The building has been mostly unused now for many years and it's sad the way it's been left to rot. According to local news reports Oldham Council issued a compulsory purchase order on the building so hopefully it will be given a new lease of life. It is in an ideal spot facing Oldham Central Tram Stop.

## PEOPLE AT WORK

This month's people at work we concentrate on the Apprentices, mainly men who serviced their time to trades during the 1950s and 60's.

### THE PRANKS THEY HAD TO ENDURE



# 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?

Do you know any Volunteers that are worthy of a mention?

If you have a short story that you would like to share with us

**CONTACT: 0161 633 0213**

During the 1950s boys who didn't stay on at school would more than likely go to train for a trade. They left school at 15 training to be Engineers, Joiners, Plumbers, Brick Layers, Plasterers, Painter and Decorators, etc. The Apprenticeship could last until they were 20 or 21 years old with their earnings rising each year. Many attending college for one day a week.

In small companies without canteens apprentices were expected to go out for the workers lunches, brew up and wash the pots.

Apprentices were always the butt of jokes, their older colleagues having gone through it all themselves.

### **Below are some of them:**

#### **Wheelbarrow proficiency test:**

The Apprentice was told that he must pass a wheel barrow proficiency test and he had to drive the wheelbarrow around the site. It was filled with water and he hadn't to let any of the water drop out. He was instructed that he must do 3 point turns and reversing around the corner.

#### **Things that apprentices were asked to go for in the Store Room:**

A replacement bubble for the spirit level;

A glass hammer;

A tin of striped paint;

A bucket of steam;

A left handed screw driver;

A short circuit;

Elbow grease;

A 'long stand';

Fetch me 'a skirting board ladder'.

#### **Other pranks were:**

To give them the number for a zoo, and tell them to call for Mr C. Lyons, or the number for a garden centre and tell them to get hold of Holly Bush.

I'm sure many tradesmen after reading this will have their own memories of tricks played on them whilst serving their time as an apprentice and later tricking the new lad.

*Jean's recipes from around the world:*



## **MEXICO**

### **MEXICAN CASSEROLE**

**SERVES 4**

#### **Ingredients:**

Pre-heat oven to 350oF 180o C, Gas Mark 4

1lb stewing steak, diced

2 tbs cooking oil

2 tsp mild chili powder

3oz grated cheese

1 tsp ground cumin

1oz plain flour

Tin of chopped tomatoes

1.1/2 tsp salt

1 chopped onion

3/4 pint of beef stock

1 green pepper, deseeded and cut into small pieces

7oz frozen or tinned sweetcorn, drained.

8oz tin red kidney beans, drained.

6oz uncooked long grain rice.

#### **Method:**

Fry the meat in the oil until browned. Drain off excess oil. Stir in the chili powder and cumin and cook over a low heat for 1 minute. Stir in the flour and blend in the tomatoes and juice. Add the salt, minced onion and stock. Bring to the boil. Transfer to a casserole dish, cover and cook in the oven for 1.3/4 hours. Add green pepper, sweetcorn and kidney beans then return to the oven, covered, for a further 15 mins.

Meanwhile, place the rice in boiling water and cook for 15/20 mins until soft, Drain and add to the beef casserole, stir well, add grated cheese whilst still hot, and serve with tossed salad.





*Jean's recipes from around the world:*

## **MALAYSIA**

MALAYSIAN AYAM

SERVES 4

### **Ingredients:**

10oz chicken breast, cut into strips

6oz peeled prawns

2 tbs soy sauce

1 tsp sugar

2 tbs cornflour

4oz dried egg noodles

5 tbs cooking oil

4oz white cabbage, chopped

4oz onions, thinly sliced

3 tbs oyster sauce

1 tsp garlic granules

1 tsp ground ginger

1/4 tsp ground black pepper

2 tsp dried parsley

1oz mushrooms, sliced

1/2 pint cold chicken stock

### **Method:**

Place the chicken and prawns in a bowl. Blend together the soy sauce, sugar and 1 tbs of the cornflour. Pour over the chicken and prawns and mix well. Place the noodles in a bowl of boiling water and let them stand for 5 mins. Drain and stir in 1 tbs of the cooking oil to prevent the noodles sticking together. Heat 2 tbs of the cooking oil in a large frying pan. Add half of the onions and the cabbage and fry for 2 mins. Stir in the noodles and oyster sauce. Heat thoroughly, then transfer onto a large serving plate. Keep warm. Heat the remaining oil in the frying pan, add the remaining onions, garlic, ginger and pepper and fry for 1 min. Add the chicken, prawns and mushrooms and stir fry for 5 mins. Blend the cold chicken stock with the remaining cornflour. Add to the pan with parsley. Bring to the boil. Spoon over the noodles and serve.



# ANIMAL CORNER

## RIP



Rip was a rescue dog, who searched for people buried in the rubble after bombing raids during the Blitz .

**Breed:** Mixed breed terrier. (Male).

**Died:** 1946.

**Owner:** E.King.

**Awards:** Dickin Medal,  
Blue Cross Medal.



Rip was found as a stray following a heavy bombing raid of Poplar, London in 1940 by Air Raid Warden Mr E. King. He was thrown scraps by Mr King. Mr King worked at post B132 in Poplar, London where Rip was adopted as mascot of the Southill Street Air Raid Patrol. He began acting as an unofficial rescue dog, being used to sniff out casualties trapped beneath buildings and became the service's first search and rescue dog.

Rip was not trained for search and rescue work, but took to it instinctively. In twelve months between 1940 and 1941, he found over a hundred victims of the air raids in London. His success has been held partially responsible for prompting the authorities to train search and rescue dogs towards the end of World War II.

Rip was awarded the Dickin Medal in 1945, two years after it was introduced. The citation reads: "For locating many air-raid victims during the blitz of 1940". He would go on to wear the medal on his collar until the day he died. His medal was sold at auction in Bloomsbury, London on 23 April 2009. At the auction it fetched £24,250, a record price for a Dickin Medal. The Dickin Medal is often referred to as the animal metaphorical equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

When he died in 1946, Rip became the first of a number of Dickin Medal winners to be buried in the PDSA Cemetery in Ilford, Essex.



## SPORTING GREATS

### KING CHARLES III

This month on our sporting page in honour of our new king, we take a look at the young Prince of Wales, Polo Player:

From his youth until 1992, Charles was an avid player of competitive polo. He continued to play informally, including for charity, until 2005. He was occasionally injured after falling off horses, and underwent two operations in 1990 to fix fractures in his right arm.

You can often tell someone's character by the way they conduct themselves as a sportsman. Geoffrey Kent, who captained Prince Charles' Windsor Park polo team, put it simply, "*It's not 'in vino veritas' but 'in polo veritas'.*" You can tell a lot about a man by the way he plays polo. If that's the case, Charles, the then Prince of Wales, is going to be an exceptional legatee of the British throne.

On the field Charles embodied the same quiet dignity and sense of duty that endeared so many to his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and the drive and determination that made his father, Prince Philip, an international calibre polo player with a 5-goal handicap.

Charles was no hobbyist on a show pony. Quite simply, he could play.

As soon as there was the Guards Polo Club - originally the Household Brigade Polo Club, which Philip helped establish in 1955 - there was Charles, aged 7, playing with a polo mallet. A polo pony was the first gift he received from his father.

The Duke of Edinburgh with a young Prince Charles



# OUR TRIBUTE TO H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Remembering the Queen's happiest times.

## One is Amused!



The Queen in high spirits watching traditional Scottish sports at Braemar Highland Games alongside Princes Philip and Charles.



Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee kicks off at the races.



Royal Yacht Britannia



Platinum Anniversary concert with Paddington Bear.



Platinum Jubilee talking to Great Grandson, Louis

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# Life Story

Every life has a story...

