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LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

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Welcome to our September Newsletter. Autumn is on its way and the children will soon be back in school or starting school for the first time, a new chapter in their young lives.

Perhaps you would like something new to do in your life. Here at Age UK Oldham we are looking for Visitor Volunteers for our Life Story Project. The job entails talking to a person either in person or over the 'phone and taking down notes about their Life Story. You don't need an A-Level in English, we can cope with spelling mistakes and we aren't going to criticise your work. All we ask is it makes sense and we can read it.

As a Visitor Volunteer you will meet people from different backgrounds all with their own individual story to tell, that's what makes the job so interesting and enjoyable.

Some of our visiting volunteers have become friends with a person they have visited and long after the book has been completed they are still in touch.

If you enjoy talking to people and have a few spare hours each week on your hands this might just be for you. You will be given all the support you need to show you how things work and a member of staff or an experienced volunteer will accompany you on your first visit.

If you feel it's something you would like to try or would like more information give Anne or Nicola a ring on:

Tel: 0161 633 0213



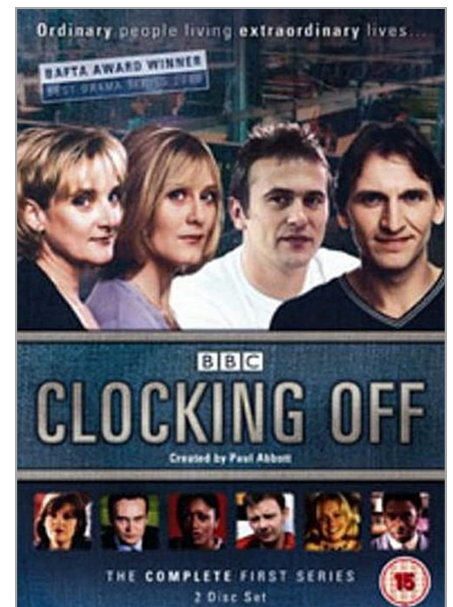
Siobhan Finneran

Siobhan Margaret Finneran was born on 27th April 1966, in Oldham, to Irish parents. Inspired by Eric Morecambe, she was always drawn to the performing arts, and after completing a Theatre Studies course, she made her screen debut in the 1987 Independent film, “Rita, Sue and Bob Too”.



Between August 1989 and March 1990 she appeared as factory employee Josie Phillips in “Coronation Street”. Siobhan continued to appear regularly on TV, making guest appearances in numerous drama series such as “Heartbeat”, “Peak Practice”, “Out of the Blue”, “Where the Heart Is” and “Emmerdale”. She also established herself in comedy roles including “Cannon and Ball’s Playhouse” and “The Russ Abbot Show”.

Between 2000 and 2002 Siobhan appeared as Julie O’Neill in 3 series of the BBC 1 drama series “Clocking Off”. Subsequent roles include a modern re-telling of “Wuthering Heights”, scripted by Sally Wainwright, and the 2-part thriller “Passer By” starring James Nesbitt.



In 2005 she was cast in the female lead, Alice Holmes, in the original stage production of “On the Shore of the Wide World” at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester. Her performance earned her the Manchester Evening News Theatre Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role. In 2006 she became a series regular in “The Amazing Mrs Pritchard”, and the following year she appeared as Kelly in the British Independent film “Boy A”.

The same year she was part of the original cast in the sitcom, “Benidorm”. She described her character, Janice Garvey, as “feisty, foul-mouthed and quite fantastic”. She remained in the role through Benidorm’s 7th series which aired in 2015.



Benidorm

Benidorm was filmed on location in Benidorm, so her parents stepped in to help with childcare back home, with the children visiting her in Spain during half-term. She left at the same time as her screen husband, Mick, (Steve Pemberton) as they both wanted to spend less time filming abroad, but she found leaving a wrench as she had forged a close bond with her co-stars and crew.



As Sister Ruth in “Apparitions”

Alongside her role in “Benidorm” she portrayed Sister Ruth in 5 episodes of the supernatural thriller “Apparitions”.



In 2009 she was a main cast member in the 3-part ITV thriller “Unforgiven” alongside Suranne Jones.



In 2010 it was announced that Siobhan had been cast in “Downton Abbey”.

This was her first role in a costume drama. Her character, lady’s maid Sarah O’Brien, serves as a villain in the series storyline, whose schemes affect both her employers and her colleagues. Siobhan stated that she enjoyed the response to her character, noting that viewers “love that she’s a nasty piece of work” and “that they love to dislike her”. She announced her departure in March 2013 ahead of the 4th series, explaining that she had only been signed for 3 series and did not wish to extend her contract.



Downton Abbey



In 2013 she starred in the second series of “The Syndicate” on BBC1. Also in 2013, she earned a British Independent Film Award nomination for her performance in the independent film “The Selfish Giant”.

In 2014/15 she acted in a stage production of “3 Winters” at London’s Royal National Theatre.



Performing at The national Theatre in London

Also in 2014 she was cast as a recovering heroine addict named Clare, in BBC1's "Happy Valley". She played the sister of Sergeant Catherine Carwood (Sarah Lancashire) and earned a British Academy TV Award nomination for her performance. By the time of Happy Valley's 2nd series, Siobhan had known Sarah for over 30 years.



Acting alongside Sarah in "Happy Valley".



In 2017 she portrayed Detective Constable Christine Freeman in the 2-part drama "The Moorside," a depiction of the 2008 disappearance of Shannon Matthews. The same year she became Detective Chief Inspector Laura Quigley, in "The Loch", a 6-part TV drama crime mystery. Also in 2017 she played Nikki Kirkbright in ITV's "Cold Feet" and Marilyn in "The Other One" pilot.

In 2020 she reprised her role as Marilyn in the comedy series "The Other One", and narrated the ITV documentary series "Inside Britain's Food Factories".

She met actor Mark Jordon during the late 1980's. They married in 1997 and had 2 children, a son named Joseph and a daughter named Poppy. She and Mark divorced in 2014. Siobhan currently lives in Saddleworth.

With husband Mark Jordon



FAMOUS QUOTES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

During the

If you say war, I'll pour this tea over your head!

I wasn't going to say during the war! Bloody little know-all!

Alright then. Sorry.

That's alright. During the 1939 -1945 conflict with Germany

Del Boy Trotter and Uncle Albert - Only Fools and Horses.

It's only natural that a person becomes quieter as they grow older. They've more to keep quiet about . *Samuel Butler.*

By the time you're 80 years old you're learned everything. You only have to remember it. *George Burns.*

We're obsessed with age. Numbers are always and pointlessly attached to every name that's published in a newspaper: 'Joe Creamer, **43**, and his daughter Tiffany-Anne, **9**, were merrily chasing a bunny, **2**, when Tiffany-Ann tripped on the root of a tree,**106**. *Joan Rivers.*

When I was 55 I decided to start telling people I was older so they would compliment me on how young I looked for my age. But I was hoist by my own petard when the first person I told I was 60 laid a sympathetic hand on my shoulder and said "Not to worry, we old timers must stick together".
Lydia Martinez.

A young boy down the road tried to help me across the road this afternoon. I gave him a swift cuff round the ear. Only be a matter of time before they're forcing me on a day trip to Eastbourne. *Victor Meldrew, One foot in the Grave.*

I'm so old I daren't even buy green bananas. *Bruce Forsyth.*

REMEMBER WHEN — AT SCHOOL



Did you ever get the strap or cane or any other form of corporal punishment at school? I wonder how the children of today would react!



If you had a gym at school do you remember climbing the ropes? Did you enjoy it or dread it?



Did you learn Country Dancing at School?



Do you remember in the school yard making slides when it snowed? '**Slippy curries**'



Did you have a school 'Tuck Shop'? Can you remember what you used to buy?

Anyone who went to a church school do you remember saying prayers before and after going home for lunch (dinner time)? *For what we are about to receive..... and For what we have received.....*

Sue's poem

THE DEMONSTRATION

I'm going on a 'demo' I don't know what it's for
Maybe it's the price of bread or could be someone's war.
A placard's pushed into my hand as I join the throng
I have no chance to change my mind as I'm quickly swept along.
We walk for miles, it's raining hard, getting colder by the minute
It's not much fun but I suppose there must be purpose in it.
The reasons for this demo I'm still trying to ascertain
My hands and feet are numb with cold, and the same goes for my brain.
The others are now chanting but I'm not joining in
I've tried it and it's not for me, some you lose and some you win.
It's only curiosity which brought me here today
Now there's sirens in the distance and the police are on their way
They rapidly surround us and ask me to explain
The reasons for this demo in the pouring rain.
I don't know what to answer so I think of an excuse
In case they think I'm trying to be awkward or obtuse
"I thought I'd see why people want to be glued to the road
Or lie in front of traffic shouting "SAVE THE TOAD"
Sausage rolls or toilet rolls, anything will do.
They say that given half a chance they'll march against them too."
I'm calling it a day now I've really had enough
I thought that I could last the day but it seems I'm not that tough
I've done my bit, I'm going home, I need a cup of tea
If they want to save the planet they'll have to do it without me!



THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM — MUMPS BRIDGE

Built in 1891 by Liverpool firm Holme and King, the bridge consisted of two 11ft deep wrought-iron plate girders, each more than 100ft long and weighing more than 50 tons. The floor carrying the railway weighed a massive 80 tons.

The northern span of the bridge famously proclaimed Oldham as ‘the home of the tubular bandage’.

The advertisement was unveiled by local firm Seton in 1961 recognising Oldham’s contribution to medical science, and the firm’s partnership with the local cotton manufacturer.

After 120 years the bridge was demolished in January 2011 as part of the plan to bring Metrolink to Oldham.



You can just see the policeman in his white coat standing at the far side of the bridge directing traffic.

Look how little traffic there is!



Would you have known that Oldham was the ‘**home of the tubular bandage**’ without that sign on the bridge? It must have been a good advert for Seton.

End of an era!
When the bridge was demolished.

HOW IT USED TO BE LOOKING FOR A JOB

Below are examples of how some jobs were advertised before the laws on sex and age discrimination came in to force.

It is not just a **pretty face and good dress sense** that makes the perfect shorthand typist. 'If I could pick one asset needed for the girl who comes up for training I would say common sense,' declared Mrs Smith. 'Of course, a girl has to be able to concentrate and keep her mind on what she is doing, but if she has the ability to think for herself, she's the kind of girl we want.'

An opportunity for an intelligent young man has arisen in our Domestic Appliance Division. We are looking for a young man who should be **21 to 26 years of age** and have some experience of selling. He must be well groomed and mannered, well spoken, educated to GCE O Level standard and with above average ability in the use of the English Language.



GIRLS & WOMEN

Required for relay and adjusting, wiring and assembly.



Fascinating Airline Careers Open for Women!
Romance! Adventure! Travel! Good Pay!

How times have changed, way back when these were advertised implies that to be a shorthand typist you must be female with a pretty face, to sell Domestic Appliances you had to be male, in your twenties with a posh voice and if you wanted to be an Air Hostess besides good pay and travel there was a chance of Romance and Adventure.

PEOPLE AT WORK

This week's story from the Age UK Women at Work Survey is about a lady who had a long and varied working life, working well beyond retirement age.



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.

WOMEN AT WORK

Eileen Jinks 1952 — 1997

In 1952 Eileen left school not knowing what she wanted to do. Some of her friends were applying to ICI for jobs so she followed them. Eileen started work aged 16 for ICI Ltd - starting first in the training school for 3 months before moving to the typing pool.

She worked there for two years, but didn't get promoted as others did (even people who came later than her) all because of her OLDHAM accent which was not 'posh' enough - others who spoke without the Oldham Twang made it up the ladder before her. Supervisors thought Eileen talked too much so she was moved to the front row and watched.

In 1955 at last! Eileen became a supervisor in a small typing pool at the Supply & Purchasing Department, working with a pool of around fifteen girls.

In 1957 she married and also changed location, as the Supply Department moved to a new building, Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester. There she was one of three supervisors in the typing pool.

In 1975 Eileen had her first child a boy John, twenty three years after starting work.

In 1976, as well as a new baby, Eileen started a new job working an evening shift at 'Nettle', which later became 'Delta', making plugs in the Moulding Shop. She didn't like it and said it was a horrible job, it was really noisy and dirty. The men hated the women who had started to work there and made things very difficult for the them, with the attitude of why are women here?

Eventually she got used to it and so did her male colleagues and she continued working there for a further seven years.



Continued...

Cont...

In between her time at Delta Eileen also worked at Holy Family school as a school clerk and, eventually, she left the 'plugs' behind and started working full time as a school clerk.

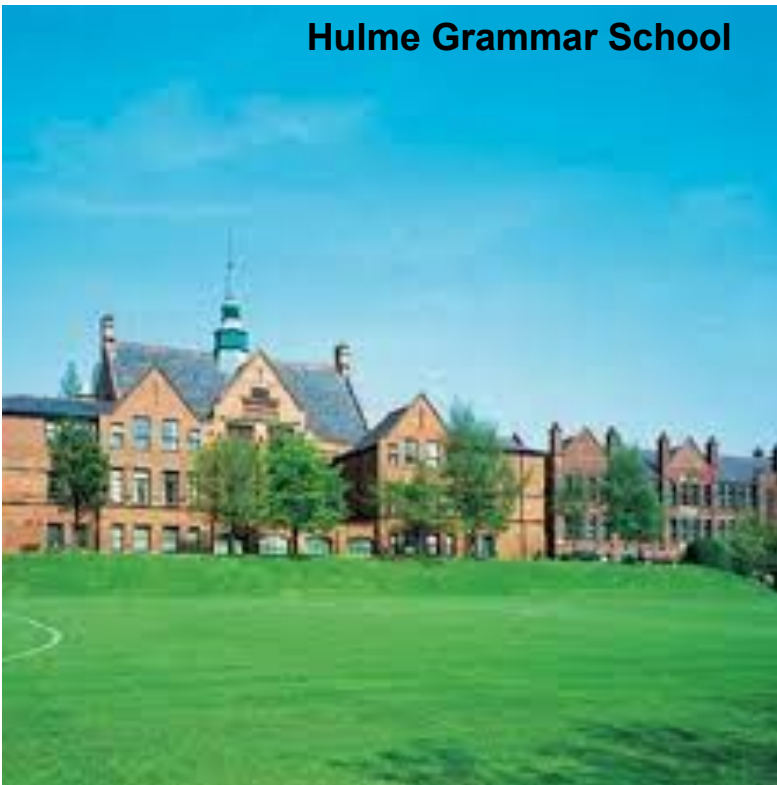
First at Holy Family, then at St Patricks and eventually at Summervale school. Whilst at Summervale school she saw an advert for a temporary job delivering Yellow Pages, so during the school holidays that's what she did alongside her son John.

After a long career Eileen eventually retired aged 60. Parents from school still remember her as Mrs Jinks.

Retirement didn't stop Eileen, she helped with the census which she found really interesting.

In 1998 Eileen went back to work as a lunchtime supervisor at Hulme Grammar school and continued working there until she was 71.

Hulme Grammar School



Yellow Pages



Jean's recipes from around the world:



LUXEMBOURG

QUETSCHENTAART

(Plum/Damson Tart)



Serves 4.

Ingredients:

125g butter

50g sugar

1 egg

250g white flour

Pinch of salt

500g Plums/Damsons

2tbsp Caster/icing sugar.

Method:

Pre-heat fan oven 200°.

Prepare dough: Beat butter and sugar, add the egg and beat until fluffy.

Stir in flour, salt and knead until firm.

Wrap in cling film and put in fridge for 30 mins.

Wash plums/damsons, halve, remove stones and cut into wedges.

Roll out the dough and put into a 9" buttered tart tin.

Arrange plums/damsons slices in a circle on tart base.

Bake for 40 mins until the base is not too soggy as plum juices escape.

Dust with castor/icing sugar and serve with whipped cream.



HOLIDAY PARKS — HOW IT ALL STARTED

Back in the early 1920's when the car-pulled caravan was slowly taking off, no official sites existed, so it was a case of stopping by the side of a quiet lane or getting a farmer's permission to pitch up. By the 1930's, small unofficial caravan sites started forming and larger tourers would be laid up and left 'static.'



The 1940's and World War II saw caravans being left sited due to petrol shortages and after the war these unofficial sites became permanent. Then new laws saw sites close or upgrade with better road systems, landscaping and toilet blocks.



The 1950's saw the boom in static caravan holidays as static caravans became popular for hiring, especially those located by the sea and by the end of the 50's sites were having their own shops built, keeping visitors spending their cash on the park. Plus there were outdoor swimming pools and clubhouses with entertainment laid on.

The 1960's would also be a time when caravan park owners would look at full plumbing for the larger, better equipped holiday caravans, coming on to the market. Shower blocks/and baths were now available and the toilet blocks were more modern. The quieter parks were seeing more planning taking place with tree screening. With new planning laws it wasn't as easy to get planning permission for a caravan park as it had been just after the war.

Many parks had post cards made for visitors to send back home, it also advertised the park too! By the 1970's some holiday parks were adding mains sewerage, as well as electrics, as the new holiday caravan owner demanded more, better landscaping, planning and facilities became the norm.



By the 1990's, holiday parks were now light years away from the once unkempt field, with a tap in the corner, and the holiday lodge was gaining new buyers. Over the years the sites have continued to improve, becoming more environmentally friendly, with improved facilities and some are now lodge only sites with a host of activities.



ANIMAL CORNER

SMOKY (Yorkie Doodle Dandy)



Born: c.1943

Breed: Yorkshire Terrier (Female)

Died: 21 January 1957. (Aged 14 years).

Weight: Only 4 pounds (1.8 kg).

Height: 7 inches (180 mm).

Known for: War dog; First therapy dog.

Smoky was a war dog who served in World War II and is credited with beginning a renewal of interest in the once obscure Yorkshire Terrier breed.

According to Corporal William A. Wynne, in February 1944, Smoky was found in an abandoned foxhole in the New Guinea jungle by Ed Downey, a friend. Not liking dogs, he gave it to motor pool's Sgt Dare, who then sold it the next day to Corporal Wynne for two Australian pounds, so that he (Sgt Dare) could return to his poker game.

Smoky was already a young adult Yorkie (fully grown). The soldiers initially thought the small dog belonged to the Japanese, but after taking her to a nearby prisoner-of-war camp they realized she did not understand commands in Japanese or English and her origins remained a mystery.

For the next two years, Smoky back-packed through the rest of the war and accompanied Wynne on combat flights in the Pacific. She faced adverse circumstances, living in the New Guinea jungle and Rock Islands, suffering the primitive conditions of tents in equatorial heat and humidity. Throughout her service, Smoky slept in Wynne's tent on a blanket made from a green felt card table cover; she shared Wynne's rations and an occasional can of Spam.

Unlike the "official" war dogs of World War II, Smoky had access to neither veterinary medicine nor a balanced diet formulated especially for dogs. Despite this, Smoky was never ill. She even ran on coral for four months without developing any of the paw ailments that plagued some war dogs.

Corporal Bill Wynne
with Smoky



Continued...

Smoky continued...

From the beginning, Wynne and Smoky were inseparable and Wynne spent his downtime working with Smoky. He started with basic obedience commands and then went on to various tricks. One of the tricks Wynne invented was quite a complex version of "play dead." Smoky would drop down on command, and she didn't move even when poked until Bill lifted her "lifeless" body up by the feet.

While Smoky initially performed for the men around her barracks, she soon became so well known that Wynne would be asked to bring her to nearby military hospitals to perform. Everywhere they went, the two of them brought smiles.

She became a war hero in January 1945 in the Luzon campaign when she helped engineers build an airbase at Lingayen Gulf. A telegraph wire needed to be run across an airplane strip through a 70-foot pipe that was only eight inches in diameter. Construction work would take the strip out of action and expose American planes to Japanese bombs. Instead, Smoky pulled the cable through the pipe, over soil that had sifted inside, giving her only a few inches of headroom. Her efforts turned a three-day dangerous project into an exercise of a few minutes. It saved approximately 250 ground crewmen from having to move around and keep operational 40 United States fighters and reconnaissance planes, while a construction detail dug up the taxiway, placing the men and the planes in danger from enemy bombings.



When they arrived home from the war, Wynne and Smoky became a national sensation appearing in 42 live-television shows without ever repeating a trick. Smoky and Wynne were also very popular entertainers at the veterans' hospitals.

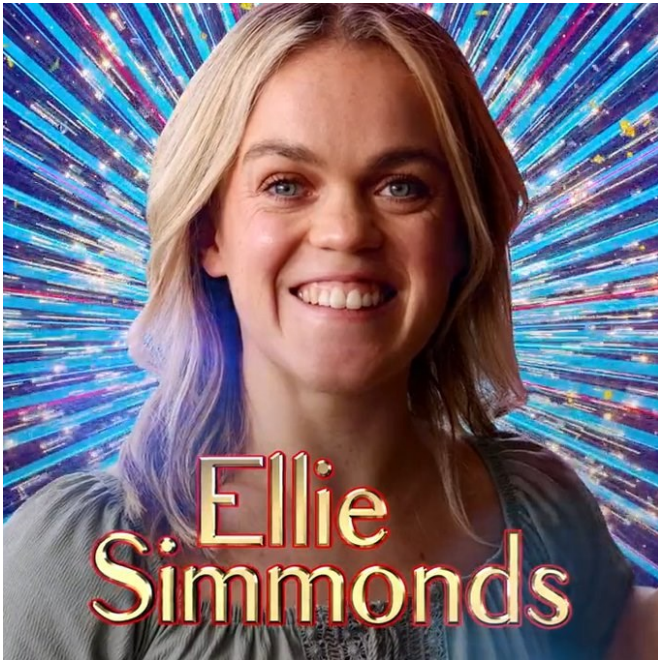
On February 21, 1957, "Corporal" Smoky died unexpectedly at the approximate age of 14. Nearly 50 years later, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2005, a bronze life-size sculpture was unveiled. It is placed above the very spot that Smoky was laid as her final resting place. This monument is dedicated to "Smoky, the Yorkie Doodle Dandy, and the Dogs of All Wars".



The statues of Smoky that are part of the memorials to her, generally show her in a helmet. This was not a "cute" pose; it was a practical one. Because of Smoky's hair and the jungle climate, Wynne found that he needed to bathe her regularly to keep her pest-free and the best way to bathe a four pound dog was in a helmet.

SPORTING GREATS

Eleanor May Simmonds, OBE



Born: 11 November 1994
(age 27 years), in Walsall.

Height: 1.23 m

Disability: Achondroplasia

Nationality: British, English.

Education: Olchfa Comprehensive School, Loughborough College, Loughborough University, Aldridge School

Studied: Psychology

Parents: Val & Steve Simmonds

Siblings: Georgina, Pauline, Katie and Steven Simmonds.

Ellie is a British former Paralympian swimmer who competed in S6 events. She became interested in swimming at the age of five and swam for Boldmere Swimming Club in Sutton Coldfield, under Head Coach Ashley Cox, but she and her mother moved to Swansea when Ellie was 11 to take advantage of the city's world-class swimming pool. They returned to the family home at weekends.

At the age of 13, Ellie Simmonds was the youngest British athlete at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing, competing in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle, 50m butterfly, and 200m Individual Medley. She won gold medals in the 100m and 400m freestyle events.

On 1 September 2012, Ellie repeated her gold performance to win the 400m freestyle at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London, in which she took five seconds off the World Record time. Two days later, on the evening of 3 September, she took Gold in the 200m Individual Medley, breaking the World Record that she had set in the qualifying round that morning.

On 12 September 2016, at the Rio Paralympics, Ellie defended her Gold medal for the 200m individual medley setting a new world record, the first below 3 minutes at 2:59.81. She also won a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle at the 2016 Summer Paralympics.

In addition, Ellie Simmonds has won ten gold World Championship titles.

On 2 September 2021, Ellie announced her Paralympic retirement after missing out on a medal in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Continued...

Ellie Simmonds continued...

HONOURS & AWARDS:

Ellie Simmonds won the 2008 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award.

She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2009 New Year Honours. At 14 years old, she became the youngest person ever to have received this honour. She received the honour from Queen Elizabeth II on 18 February 2009.

In March 2012, in the 200 m individual medley, she became the first swimmer to break a world record at London's Aquatics Centre. Her victory in a time of 3:08.14 broke her own previous best time by over half a second.

In 2011, Ellie won the award for 'Best British Sporting Performance for an Athlete with Disability' at the Jaguar Academy of Sport Annual Awards. At the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London Ellie won four medals, two golds, a silver and a bronze. She took gold in the S6 400m with a new world record, gold in the S6 200m again with a new world record, silver in the S6 100m and a bronze in the S6 50m. In celebration of her two gold medals, two Royal Mail post boxes were painted gold in her honour, one in Aldridge and one in Swansea.

Ellie Simmonds was elevated to Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours for services to Paralympic sport.

CHARTITY WORKS

Ellie Simmonds is very involved with charity work, with much of her focus being on sports, young people and water. She is a WaterAid ambassador and an ambassador for The Scout Association. She is also a Girl Guide leader in Manchester, where her pack name is Aqua Owl.

She is a patron of the Dwarf Sports Association UK, along with swimmer Matthew Whorwood. Simmonds says of the charity, "It's a charity that supports people of short stature and helps them get into sport. One of the highlights of the year is the convention we have in the spring. There's everything from power lifting to athletics."

In January 2019, Simmonds was appointed to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee board.

On 7 August 2022, it was announced that Ellie Simmonds would be participating in the twentieth series of the BBC One show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Ellie has written a biography and several children's books, some about baking and cooking which she loves.



**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM
LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS.**

**EDITOR
JOAN HOLMES**



Life Story

Every life has a story...

