

**PLATINUM JUBILEE EDITION JUNE 2022**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**Celebrating 70 years**

## REMEMBER WHEN - OLDHAM

### ROYAL VISIT - 22nd October 1954



It was seen as a great honour for the town to receive a royal visit so soon after the coronation. In the photograph the Royal party can be seen arriving at the Town Hall. The rain soaked pavements were tightly packed with cheering Oldhamers and school children. Every vantage point had been filled from early morning.



Following the presentation of the civic dignitaries at the Town Hall the Queen inspected a Guard of Honour of the 41st (Oldham) Royal Tank Regiment (TA). The band played 'Greensleeves' as the Queen walked along the line of soldiers. She was wearing a kingfisher blue princess-style coat with a matching close-fitting hat. She had a triple link necklace of pearls and a diamond brooch. Her shoes were of black patent leather with her handbag and gloves also in black.



The Queen and Prince Philip left the centre of Oldham to visit Lilac Mill, Shaw. This was the first visit to the Urban District of Crompton. The Duke had a special word with Mrs Elsie Rogers of Royton who had been absent from work after fracturing her right arm. When reporters asked if she expected the Duke to speak to her, Mrs Rogers replied, 'Did I 'eck. I'm thrilled to bits!'. The visitors also visited the Mill Nursery.

## **John Stapleton**

**John Martin Stapleton is an English journalist and broadcaster. He was born in Oldham on 24th February 1946. His father was secretary of a local Co-op and his mother was a classroom assistant.**



**John was educated at Diggle Primary School and Hulme Grammar School. He left Hulme to study “A” levels at St John’s College for Further Education in Manchester.**

**At the age of 17 he started working as a trainee reporter on the Eccles and Patricroft Journal. He was later indentured to the Oldham Evening Chronicle for 3 years, before moving to the Daily Sketch, first in Manchester and then in Fleet Street, London.**

**His first job in television was as a researcher and script writer on “This is Your Life”, presented at the time by Eamonn Andrews. He subsequently worked as a reporter on the Thames TV regional news magazine show, “Today” from 1971 to 1975, after which he joined the BBC “Nationwide” programme as a reporter, becoming one of the main reporters from 1977 to 1980, during which time he carried out major investigations into council corruption in South Wales, and protection rackets in Northern Ireland.**

**From 1980 to 1983 he was a correspondent on the BBC’s “Panorama” and “Newsnight” programmes, reporting from trouble spots such as the Middle East and El Salvador. He also worked for 3 months as Newsnight’s correspondent in Argentina covering the Falklands War. From 1983 to 1985 he worked at TV-am as a reporter and a presenter of “Good Morning Britain”.**



In 1986 he rejoined the BBC, where he presented the BBC 1 peak time consumer programme “Watchdog” until 1993, alongside his wife, Lynn Faulds Wood.



John and Lynn presenting “Watchdog”

During this time John was also a presenter for BBC’s “Breakfast Time” when, in 1986 the programme switched over to a news format.

In 1993 he returned to ITV to front the live morning talk show, “The Time, The Place”, and for 4 years he presented the ITV Sunday morning programme “My Favourite Hymns”, in which he interviewed a wide variety of guests about their faith including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Earl Spencer (Diana’s brother), Princess Michael of Kent, the former President of South Africa, F W de Klerk, and Coronation Street’s William Roache (Ken Barlow).

The Boxing Day Tsunami in the Indian Ocean

In 1998 he joined ITV’s breakfast programme “GMTV” as a presenter of the Newshour, where he anchored many major news stories including the war in Kosovo, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in South East Asia, Pope John Paul 2nd’s funeral in Rome and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.



In 2003 John appeared on a celebrity edition of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”, alongside Lorraine Kelly, and they won £8000 for charity.

Lorraine and John being presented with their cheque by Chris Tarrant

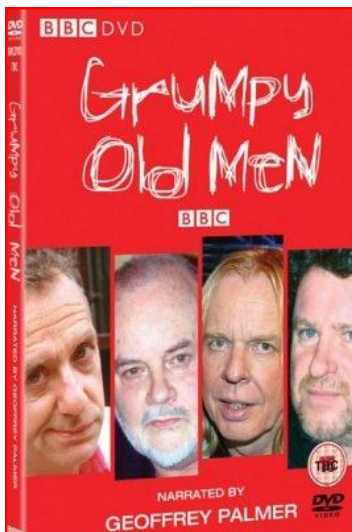


In 2004 he was made the Royal T.V. Society’s News Presenter of the Year, largely for his work on GMTV covering the war in Iraq, and interviews he conducted with political party leaders including the then Prime Minister Tony Blair.

He was also a reporter for the prime time ITV “Tonight” programme.



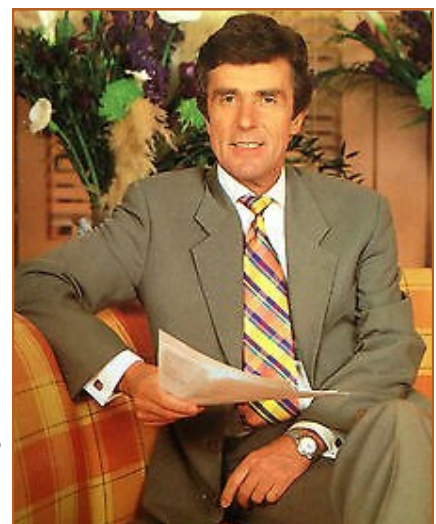
John has interviewed every Prime Minister since James Callaghan in the 1970s, and is one of the contributors to the BBC series, “Grumpy Old Men”.



He currently presents 3 political discussion programmes for ITV Central, “The Lobby” transmitted in the Midlands, “Last Orders” for ITV Yorkshire, and “The London Debate” transmitted in London and the South East.

In 2010 John joined the newly established ITV breakfast programme, “Daybreak” as its Special Correspondent and subsequently its successor, “Good Morning Britain” where he remained until July 2015.

He still works in radio, standing in for other presenters. He also appears on TV as a pundit for the BBC News Channel. In addition he writes for newspapers.



After his mother died from complications arising from Parkinson's disease in May 2007, 6 years after being diagnosed, John became an ambassador for Parkinson's UK, aiming to raise awareness and encourage research into this cruel disease.

His mother died in Kingston Upon Thames, having moved south with her husband some 20 years earlier. John's dad died in 2003 from a stroke.



John and Lynn on their wedding day

John met his wife, Lynn Faulds Wood in 1971. Their son, Nick, was born in 1987.



With their son Nick



The family lived in St Margarets, Richmond-

Upon-Thames and were married for 43 years until her untimely death at the age of 72 on 24th April 2020. She died from a massive stroke caused by a little known disease, APS, (also known as Hughes Syndrome or sticky blood). She had previously battled bowel cancer and skin cancer.



She and John had just been clapping for the NHS as we were at the beginning of the pandemic, when she suddenly collapsed. John and their son, Nick, were at her bedside when she died.



John has been a Manchester City supporter ever since his father took him to see Stanley Matthews play for Blackpool against City at their old Maine Road ground in the 1950s.

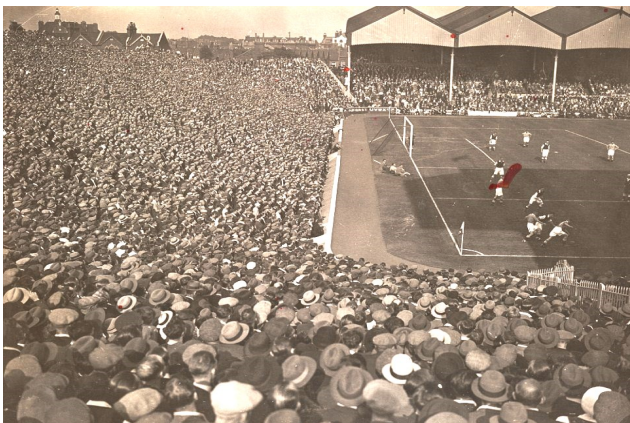
# A GLIMPSE OF HOW LIFE WAS WHEN THE QUEEN CAME TO THE THRONE



Queuing for the cinema



Shopping



Football, watching from the terrace



Travelling by train



Going uptown



Dancing

## CORONATION DAY MEMORIES

### Anne Ashton

Now Aged 84 – Anne is one of our valued Interactors here at Age UK Oldham and was aged 14 at the Coronation back in 1953

Anne was on her way home from France on a school trip and they went into London on the coach after getting off the boat. It was very early in the morning after travelling back through the night from France and they had a quick ride through London on the coach before heading home.

The unexpected ride around London was memorable. She remembers the sights vividly and saw all the crowds and the flags which had been placed on lampposts throughout the capital. It was very early in the morning so they saw none of the celebrations but she did see hundreds of people asleep on the pavements all waiting in anticipation for the day ahead. It was a wonderful experience and made her feel really excited about the event to come later in the day.

Once Anne came home to Audenshaw in Manchester, she arranged to join her friend Kathleen at her home to watch the Coronation on her TV as Anne's family didn't own one. She enjoyed sandwiches, cakes and jelly with her friend Kathleen and her parents and brother.

Even though Anne was really tired after a long journey back from France, she was really excited to watch the Queen's Coronation on a new television. It was the first time Anne had ever seen a TV and she thought it was magical. Being a normal 14 year old Anne said spending the day with her best friend on such an important day was a memory she still treasures, but the excitement of a television and seeing the Queen and hearing the cheers of the crowds as well as the music was amazing.

The local council gave every child a commemorative spoon and her school gave her a badge to celebrate the day. Anne still has these items today.



*Sue's poem*

## LOCKDOWN POUNDS

I think I need to start a diet , my clothes are getting tight  
I wasn't like this yesterday it happened overnight  
I haven't really snacked a lot (well maybe once or twice)  
Just biscuits, cakes and bags of crisps because they taste so nice  
I don't eat lots of chocolate bars and I don't eat lots of sweets  
Maybe sometimes in the day but you have to have some treats  
The evenings are so boring just sitting watching telly  
I ensure I have some snacks on hand to satisfy my belly  
Before I go to bed at night I always have my supper  
A stack of toast and crumpets just while I drink my cuppa  
I need to have some comfort food to maintain my morale  
Tasty meals to uplift me (and I don't mean lentil dahl!)  
As you can see I don't eat much so I don't feel any shame  
It's not my fault I've put on weight - lockdown is to blame  
It's true I've eaten more than I should but it's really not a sin  
So I'll start the diet tomorrow, today I'm comfy in my skin



## PEOPLE AT WORK

This month's story from the Women at Work project done by Age UK Oldham. shows what can be achieved with a little encouragement.



# 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 - Sheila Brooker (*née Smith*) 1960 - 1992**

I left school with no qualifications and started work on my 15th birthday, 31st July 1960. My first job was at Failsworth Hats. I was a runner, providing trimmings for the machinists at each stage of the process. My wage was £3.10s.0d a week. I didn't stay long, the money was too good elsewhere...

In 1962 to earn more money, I joined my friend and went working at Coldhurst Hall Mill. My mother told me I would hate it and she was right. I was a bobbin winder. It was hot, it was smelly, cotton fluff everywhere even up your nose. The wage was £7 so the money was much better but there was also the risk of getting byssinosis. I left in 1963. I was still living at home and I didn't really know what to do next.

Me and another girl went to Easifit covers, which was at Hope Mill. It was a nice little family-run business. I was an inspector checking the fabric for ladders, dropped stitches, oil and any marks. The customers didn't want to pay for fabric with flaws in it. It was better working conditions and I was on £11 a week including overtime on a Saturday morning. We wore overalls and had a nice clean atmosphere with music playing and a canteen.

One of my work colleagues said I could do better for myself and said she thought I would make a very good nurse and gave me details on how to apply to be an Auxiliary Nurse. At the interview Matron thought I would be able to do the SEN (State Enrolled Nurse). After my initial doubts I started my training in September 1964 and finished in 1966. When I got my uniform and free work shoes, brogues, they were very uncomfortable and I got a corn through wearing them.

During my training at Oldham School of Nursing it was more practical nursing, nursing the elderly, known as geriatric nursing. We went into school and were there for six weeks, training to go on to the wards. We were on £26 a month. For two years we covered various departments to learn as much as we could in dealing with the illnesses and doing the ward duties. It was low wages but we had our meals provided and our laundry done on the premises. I was also a shop steward for the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), the health service union, which amalgamated and eventually became UNISON. At the beginning of my training conditions were much different from today; we didn't have curtains on the wards and we had to take screens to each bed for every procedure. Smoking was allowed for the men's wards and Oldham Brewery supplied beer and Guinness.

I worked during the Hong Kong flu epidemic in '68 and '69 when the hospital was mowed out and we struggled for beds. There was no privacy and you hoped you wouldn't get the flu yourself. It was an awful experience. The rest was ordinary, everyday training in the wards and you did what you were told. You were nearly at the bottom, just above the cleaners and the auxiliaries.

*Continued...*

Cont...

I nursed a man who'd had a heart attack; he was about 59 and spent 6 weeks on his back until slowly we could get him out of bed. A student nurse was busy doing dinners when he was due an injection. I told her off saying, 'his injection was more important than the dinners'. He overheard me and because of this he said that I had saved his life. Eventually he did get better and came out of hospital.

I married John Charles Brooker in 1969 and we got lots of presents from patients. I got a free minibus to take my family up to Denshaw. I was always popular even though I was strict and used my authority. I was only doing as I was told to get the patients well and back home.

I was suffering with my back so in 1972 I made a move to Bankside School in Droylsden for 'maladjusted children' (nowadays they would say for children who had educational and emotional disabilities), it was better hours and better pay. I finally finished on over £1,000 a month. You got 'special needs' pay and extra for being in the union. I think it might have been about £500 a month at that time and I got paid in the holidays the same as the teachers did.

As the School nurse I worked with social workers and other agencies and did home visits with the head teacher to get a feel for the children's backgrounds to see how vulnerable they were. Eleven year olds that didn't know their alphabet! The enjoyment when they achieved was so joyous. I used to give the children hugs, which wouldn't be allowed nowadays and we taught them how to play. I told the head teacher that we needed toys in the yard as they were all fighting each other. Manchester and Salford Taxis gave us lots of equipment, climbing frames, bikes, etc. I lived for them kids, they were my life. There were seven children per teacher and me. I supervised lunchtimes. We had outings, sometimes with the Variety Club, and went on the Santa flight from Manchester.

A lot of the children ended up in prison. I used to dread getting the paper to go and see them. The kids were crafty. I remember one girl pinching jelly and sitting eating it in the toilets. I used to tell them not to show me up.

They were trialling something for ADHD and I had a row about it. I said it was unfair to give it to someone in school without knowing the effects of it properly. It had a strong effect and one girl's face ended up in her dinner but I was supervising the lunchtime so, fortunately, was close by.

During my time at the school I went to the Deaf Club to learn sign language to have another feather in my cap.

In 1992 I retired from Bankside School on ill health because I needed a new hip. I was heartbroken. I'm still in touch with many of my former work colleagues from my different jobs.

*Jean's recipes from around the world:*



## **INDIA**

### **INDIAN PILAU**

Serves 2

#### **Ingredients:**



1 onion

1oz butter or other fat

Small stick of cinnamon

3 or 4 cloves

3 or 4 cardamoms

3 or 4 black peppers

½lb green peas

1 pint of water

½lb rice

Salt and pepper

#### **Method:**

Chop the onion finely and put in a large pan with the butter.

Fry till pale brown, then add spices, green peas and ½ pint of the water.

Simmer for 10 to 15 mins.

Wash the rice and add the remainder of the water or sufficient to cover the rice.

Cook slowly till tender, adding salt etc., to taste.

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



## ITALY

### ITALIAN VEAL IN MARSALA

Serves 4

4 thin veal slices or pork steaks

Seasoning salt

1oz plain flour

2oz butter

4oz back bacon, de-rinded and finely chopped.

4oz mushrooms, sliced

½ pt chicken stock

½ teasp Oregano

½ teasp Basil

3 tbsp Marsala or med sweet sherry.

#### **Method:**

Flatten out the veal slices or pork steaks with a mallet.

Sprinkle both sides lightly with seasoning salt.

Coat in ½ oz of the flour.

Melt the butter in a large frying pan and quickly brown the veal/pork on both sides.

Reduce the heat and cook thoroughly (approx. 5 mins veal, 10 mins pork)

Remove from the pan and keep warm.

Using same pan and butter, gently fry the bacon and mushrooms for 2 mins.

Stir in remaining flour and cook on low for 1 minute.

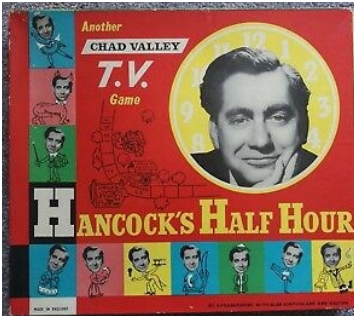
Gradually blend in stock.

Stir in Oregano, Basil and Marsala or Sherry.

Return veal/pork to pan, cover and simmer for 2 minutes.

Serve on a bed of rice or pasta with green vegetables.

RADIO & TV MEMORIES FROM THE 1950s.



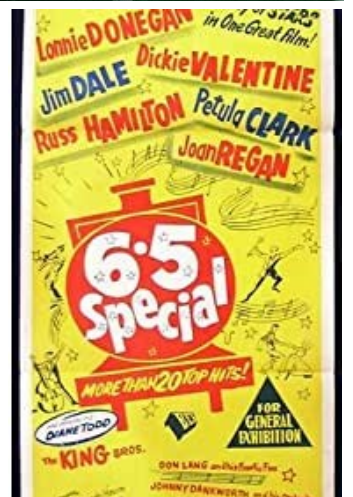
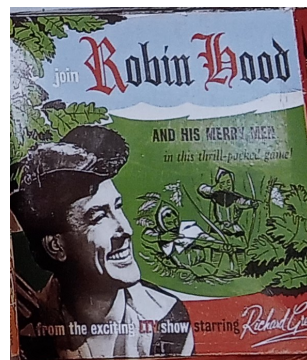
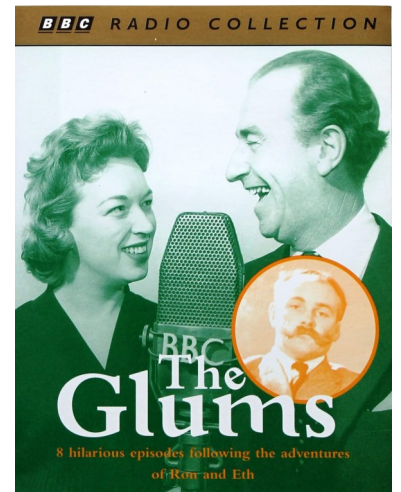
The Phil Silvers show Sgt. Bilko



The Archers



Fanny Craddock



These photos were taken many years ago,  
from the clues can you guess where they are?:

1



Today we travel around from  
here.

2



It was taken from Sholver in the early 1930's.

3



Dean Shutt Farm demolished in  
the 1950's to make way for a  
Housing Estate. The name is still  
used.

4



It was know as Chadderton Roughts.  
Today supposedly the largest private  
housing development in Europe  
occupies the site.

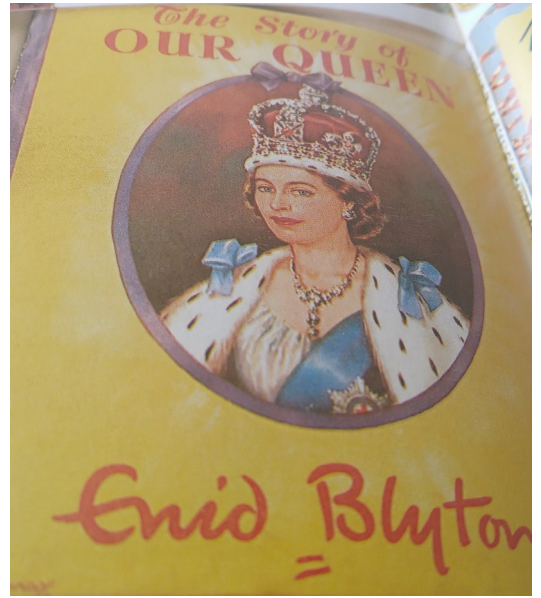
**TURN PAGE FOR ANSWERS**

1. Shaw.
2. Cheapside, now the site of Oldham Bus Station
3. Fittion Hill Estate (Deanshut Road)
4. Firwood Park Estate (Taken from Middleton Road West)



# ROYAL SOVENIERS

Have you any memories of the Coronation? Did you have any souvenirs?



Ladies Head Scarf



# ANIMAL CORNER

## THE ROYAL CORGIS



The Queen with Susan

The Queen first fell in love with the Corgi breed back in 1933 when her father, **King George VI**, brought home a corgi for Elizabeth and Margaret. The sisters went on to name their new addition, Dookie. The Queen's second corgi, Susan, was given to her as a gift to celebrate her 18th birthday in 1944.



Royal corgis were the Pembroke Welsh Corgi dogs owned by Elizabeth II and her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Fond of corgis since she was a small child, Elizabeth II has owned more than 30 corgis since she became Queen of the Commonwealth realms in 1952.

Elizabeth II owned at least one Corgi at any given time between the years 1933–2018.

The royal pets are said to lead a luxurious life at Buckingham Palace. Their base is apparently referred to as 'the corgi room' where they sleep in elevated baskets to avoid the draught and it has been reported that they have their own menus.



## SPORTING GREATS

### THE QUEEN'S HORSES



The Queen's first pony

Peggy



Queen Elizabeth's 96 Birthday Portrait Honours her Equestrian Background.

The Queen received her first pony at the age of four from her grandfather King George V and inherited racehorses from her father, King George VI, in 1952 when she came to the throne. She is a keen rider, owner and breeder, and a regular at British horse racing events including Royal Ascot, the Epsom Derby and the Grand National.

The Duchess of Cornwall said, "She can tell you every horse she's bred and owned, from the very beginning, she doesn't forget anything. I can hardly remember what I bred a year ago, so she's encyclopedic about her knowledge."

When the Queen picked out her most-loved steeds for Horse & Hound magazine, she showed a deep personal connection to each one. Her choices included tributes to the memory of her late father George VI with Aureole which she inherited from the King, and the moment when her daughter Princess Anne won the European Eventing Championships on Doublet, a horse bred by the Queen.

She also chose the racehorse Estimate which triumphed in the Ascot Gold Cup, making her the first monarch to win the trophy.

Others included Burmese, the mare she rode at Trooping the Colour for 18 years, her trusty fell pony Emma, and Sanction with whom the monarch had an "almost telepathic" bond.

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# Life Story

Every life has a story...

