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LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

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Welcome to our March Newsletter - the month of St David.

The 1st of March is St David's Day, the patron saint of Wales. Traditionally, the Welsh celebrate by wearing a daffodil and/or a leek. It is also usual for Welsh people to dress up in national costume which always includes a yellow daffodil on the lapel. This flower is the Welsh national symbol and its bright yellow colour is also the colour of Saint David.

St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.

St David became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including, possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury. St David reputedly made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, from which he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.

St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water, which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

The most famous miracle associated with St David took place when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. When people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill. A white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

St David died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589 AD. He was buried at the site of St David's Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.' The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales.



To say “Happy St David's Day” in Welsh is “Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!”



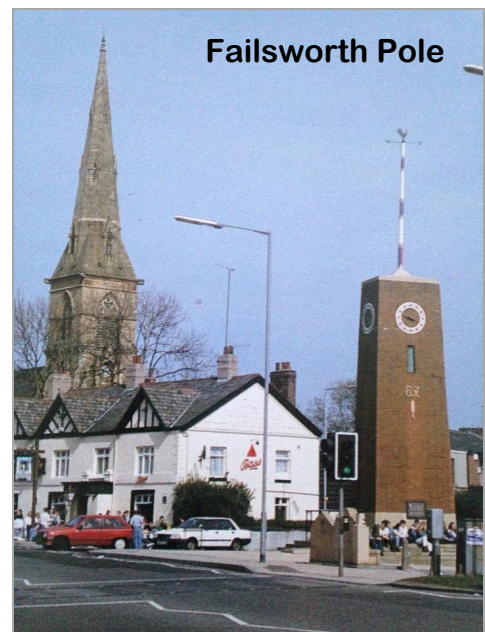
Sir Jim Ratcliffe

James Arthur Ratcliffe was born in Failsworth on 18th October 1952. He is a billionaire, chemical engineer and businessman. He is the chairman and CEO of the INEOS chemicals group, which he founded in 1998 and of which he still owns two thirds.



In May 2018 he was listed as the richest person in the UK. In September 2020 he officially changed his tax residence from Hampshire to Monaco, a move which is estimated to save him 4 billion in tax.

Jim's father was a joiner and his mother was an accounts office worker. He has a brother named Bob. They lived in a council house until Jim was 10, when his father got a job running a factory making laboratory furniture and the family moved to Hull.



Jim attended Beverley Grammar School.

He later studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, and in 1974 graduated with a BSc degree.

His first job was as a chemical engineer with Esso, but then he decided to broaden his skills into finance by studying management accounting, attending London Business School from 1978 - 1980 and taking an MSc in Finance.

In 2016 he donated £25 million to the Business School.



London Business School

The handshake following the generous £25 million donation



After leaving Esso he obtained a position with the American private equity firm, Advent International, before moving to Courtaulds.

At age 40 he co-founded INSPEC, which leased the former BP Chemicals site in Antwerp, Belgium. He risked everything to succeed. He mortgaged his house and ploughed every penny into the deal.



In 1998 he formed INEOS in Hampshire to buy out INSPEC and the freehold of the Antwerp site. He built up the chemicals company from scratch, after again risking everything he had to raise the finance.

The company manufactures the raw materials for products that we use in our day to day lives, including everything from toothpaste to bottle tops, to cars and computers. INEOS has refineries and plants in Scotland, Italy, Germany, France, Belgium and Canada.



In April 2010 he moved the Head Office from Hampshire to Switzerland decreasing the amount of tax the company paid by £100 million a year.

In May 2009 he was granted an honorary fellowship by the Institution of Chemical Engineering.



In 2015 he opened the Headquarters of the chemicals and energy group in Knightsbridge, London, along with gas and oil trading and said he was “very cheerful about coming back to the UK”.

Jim enjoys physical adventure and has made expeditions to the North and South Poles as well as a 3 month long motorbike trek in South Africa. In 2013 he completed the Marathon Des Sables across the Sahara Desert.

Since 2017 Jim and his company, INEOS, have invested in lots of sporting activities, including football, sailing, cycling and Grand Prix motor racing. Having lost out on a bid for Chelsea Football Club, he has recently entered into the formal process of bidding for Manchester United.



He has homes in Monaco and Hampshire. He also owns an estate in Switzerland and 2 hotels, one in France and one in Hampshire.

He has owned 2 super yachts, still owning the second one which he took delivery of in 2012. He also owns 4 private jets.

He has 2 sons, George and Samuel, with his former wife, Amanda Townson, to whom he was married from 1985 to 1995.

He also has a daughter, Julia, from a relationship with Maria Alessia Maresca, a tax lawyer of Italian descent also known as Alicia Ratcliffe.

He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2018 for services to business and investment.



Sir Jim and his wife

He remains a very private man despite his global success.

READERS CORNER:

We all read different genres of books and if you would like to share any books or authors with us please get in touch using the contact details below.

EDITORS CHOICE:

The Miss Read Books. (the real life Dora Jessie Saint MBE 17 April 1913 – 7 April 2012), the **Fairacre novels** and the **Thrush Green novels**. A very easy read about village life. First published 1950's and based on her own lifelong involvement with country schools as a village schoolteacher in Berkshire.

Gervase Phinn and Jack Sheffield both write about village school life, and all their books are good reads and make you smile. I can never decide who I like best Gervase or Jack.

The Bletchley Girls by Tessa Dunlop: The women of Bletchley Park Tell Their Story; an interesting read.

Thomas Hardy Books: I find the classics a bit heavy going but I read some of these years ago and enjoyed them at the time.

MY FAVOURITE AUTHOR:

Rebecca Shaw: The multi-million selling author wrote 28 novels, all still in print. There are 19 books set in a fictional English village called **TURNHAM MALPAS**. They chart the lives and loves of the village inhabitants. A further six novels tell the stories of the vets, veterinary nurses and animals at a veterinary practice in the fictional English market town of **BARLEYBRIDGE**. She also wrote three standalone novels.



Rebecca lived with her husband in a beautiful Dorset village where she found plenty of inspiration for her contemporary stories about rural life. Rebecca sadly passed away in 2015, but her stories continue to be enjoyed by readers across the globe.

I've read the Turnham Malpass novels several times and am always sorry when I come to the end. I've also recommended them to friends who have also enjoyed them.

I know my choices might not be to your taste, whilst I'm engrossed in village life, you may be wondering who the killer is in a good thriller, or engrossed in someone's life story, just let us know.

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REMEMBER WHEN

The only thing you spent was cash!

We went to the shop and paid with cash; we'd never heard of debit and credit cards. Do you remember when shops used to send the money up stairs on a pulley system in a little container and you waited until your change came back down? (see photos on right)

The days before the average man in the street used a cheque book and the only 'pin' we'd heard of was used when sewing and had nothing to do with numbers.



Passwords were something gangsters used when entering 'shady' nightclubs at the cinema.

People got 'shot' in films, we'd never heard of 'screen shots' and we didn't drink them either!

If anyone had any money to save it went into a bank or post office account or even a premium bond. Postal orders were given as gifts, the average man in the street didn't delve into Stocks and Shares and ISA's didn't exist.



Although this poem has been attributed to Pam Ayres it has actually been composed by Bill Daniel who is known as the Chichester Poet.

I have a little satnav, it sits there in my car.
A satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.
I have a little satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the usual ones, my satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five."
It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the brake
It also tells me that it's never safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front and all those to the rear
And taking this into account it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car it still gives me advice
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught.
So why don't I exchange it and get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.
It washes all my shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed.
Despite all advantages and my tendency to scoff
I only wish that now and then I could turn the bugger off.



OLDHAM NOW AND THEN



It's hard to tell where the above photo was taken or how many chimneys?
Below trees replace chimneys



Quiz provided by Viv White

Can you find the names from the Anagrams below:

BOYS NAMES

1. sin town
2. ill toe
3. end sin
4. the rag
5. egg roe
6. pest hen
7. mix mail nail
8. shy ale
9. ore land
10. sum ale

GIRLS NAMES

1. tram gear
2. a tin sheep
3. in the race
4. her seat
5. main eel
6. sly eel
7. thank eel
8. voile
9. need a girl
10. mad ana

Answers on next page...

ANSWERS TO NAMES QUIZ

BOYS NAMES

1. Winston
2. Elliot
3. Dennis
4. Gareth
5. George
6. Stephen
7. Maximillian
8. Ashley
9. Leonard
10. Samuel

GIRLS NAMES

1. Margaret
2. Stephanie
3. Catherine
4. Theresa
5. Melanie
6. Lesley
7. Kathleen
8. Olive
9. Geraldine
10. Amanda

WATERWAYS OF OLDHAM

Can you name where the pictures are?



Answers on next page

Answers to Waterways of Oldham:

- 1. Rochdale Canal, Chadderton.**
- 2. Strinesdale (Waterhead), Golden Steps.**
- 3. Canal at Uppermill, Saddleworth.**
- 4. Daisynook Country Park.**
- 5. Dovestones Reservoir.**
- 6. Oldham Park Lane.**

PLACES OF OLDHAM — OLDHAM BYPASSES

The first Oldham bypass was not the one built in more recent times but was originally via King St., Union St., Rhodes Bank and Mumps Bridge.

It was developed to allow traffic from Manchester, en route to Oldham and all points North, to bypass the High Street in Oldham, which had become far too narrow for the amount of traffic passing along it.

In 1948 a master plan was proposed for Oldham and the southern bypass was one of two projects to have gone ahead as close to the plan as possible. The Oldham Way was completed in the early 1970s, starting from Mumps Bridge and finishing at Chadderton Way. It has the look of 'urban motorway', and was probably engineered to allow this in future years. Today, the roundabout at Mumps Bridge has been eliminated to allow for the Metrolink trams with the Manchester Street junction realigned for similar reasons.





TURKEY

SHISH-KEBAB



Serves 6

Ingredients:

2lb shoulder lamb or mutton chops about 1/2" thick,
4 onions,
2 med sized green peppers,
4 tomatoes,
½ cup salad oil,
Salt and pepper,
1 teasp crumbled marjoram,
2 teasp lemon juice.

Method:

Remove the bones and cut the meat into cubes.
Peel and slice the onions, slice the pepper and tomatoes.
Put the meat and vegetables in a bowl.
Mix the remaining ingredients together and pour over the meat.
Leave for an hour or so in a cool place.
Then put the meat and vegetables, alternately, on skewers and grill under a moderate heat for about 15 minutes, turning the skewers as required.
Pile on a hot dish, garnishing the meat with vegetables.

ANIMAL CORNER

BETTY WHITE 17 JAN 1917 — 31 JAN 2021



Betty White's show 'Betty White' captivated television and film audiences for 80 years. She was well-known to fans of *The Golden Girls* – and also to the various animal organisations she supported.

The prolific star's animal work contributed to advancements in research and veterinary science, as well as animal welfare policies and practices. Her business career spanned eight decades, but Betty White was an animal lover from being a child. The remarkable nonagenarian supported a variety of animal organizations, and worked to better the lives of dogs, cats and other critters.



She's devoted much of her time to helping zoos.

That desire led to many trips to the zoo, and eventually, she started working with the Los Angeles Zoo in the 1960s. "My interest [in zoos] started early on, tagging after my mom and dad, who went to the zoo often, not just to please their little girl, but because they enjoyed the experience." she wrote in her book.

White's volunteer work went beyond just the zoo in Los Angeles. Starting in the 1970s, she also worked with the Morris Animal Foundation, which "advances animal health by funding only research that meets the highest scientific standards" .

White worked closely with the training of Guide Dogs for the blind and was also made an honorary forest ranger by the Forest Service and helped out whenever her schedule allowed.

"I have this very expensive habit," she told the magazine *Parade* of her animal volunteer work. "Thankfully, my work makes it possible for me to support and volunteer my time with many different animal welfare organizations."

SPORTING GREATS

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER



Johnny Weissmuller born **Johann Peter Weißmüller**

Born: June 2, 1904

Died: January 20, 1984

He was an American Olympic swimmer, water polo player and actor. He was known for having one of the best competitive swimming records of the 20th century.

He set numerous world records alongside winning five gold medals in the Olympics. He won the 100m freestyle and the 4 × 200 m relay team event in the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris and the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam. Weissmuller also won gold in the 400m freestyle, as well as a bronze medal in the water polo competition in Paris.

Following his retirement from swimming, Weissmuller played Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan in twelve feature films from 1932 to 1948. Six were produced by MGM, and six additional films by RKO. Weissmuller went on to star in sixteen *Jungle Jim* movies over an eight year period and then filmed 26 additional half-hour episodes of the *Jungle Jim* TV series.



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LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS
EDITOR
JOAN HOLMES**



Life Story

Every life has a story...

