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LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM

Welcome to our April Newsletter when we celebrate Easter and Spring is on it's way.



Louise Brown

Dr Kershaw's in Royton, (now a hospice), started life as a cottage hospital in 1930. During the 1970's it became home to Mr Patrick Steptoe's in-vitro fertilisation clinic. In November 1977 the world's first test tube baby was conceived there.

Lesley Brown and her husband, John, were the first people to become parents following conception through IVF. They were from Bristol where John worked for many years as a train driver. He had 2 daughters from a previous marriage.

However Lesley longed for a baby of her own, but her fallopian tubes were blocked. In 1976 she was referred to obstetrician and gynaecologist Mr Patrick Steptoe, in Oldham.

Mr Steptoe had been researching new reproductive techniques, and pioneered IVF together with Cambridge physiologist, Professor Robert (Bob) Edwards and embryologist Jean Purdy.

After undergoing numerous tests and an operation, the successful removal of the egg and implant of the embryo took place in November 1977, and Louise was born on 25th July 1978, by planned Caesarian section at Boundary Park (then known as Oldham General Hospital).



The happy parents with baby Louise

She was given the middle name “Joy” at the suggestion of Mr Steptoe and Professor Edwards, as they said that her birth would give hope and joy to many other childless couples.

Louise was brought up in Whitchurch, Bristol.



Her birth sparked huge international interest in the press, and media appearances have formed part of Louise’s life ever since.

The British TV production, “To Mrs Brown a daughter” aired in 1978. The following year 4 month old Louise was taken by her parents to Canada to participate in a programme about IVF. Later that year they appeared on a Japanese TV show and then one in Florida.

The young Louise with her parents



A book entitled “Our Miracle Called Louise” tells the story of her birth. It was published in June 1979. That Autumn they travelled to North America and Canada for a book promotion tour.

They took part in press conferences again in America, in 1983 and 1993 and a symposium in Paris in 1995.

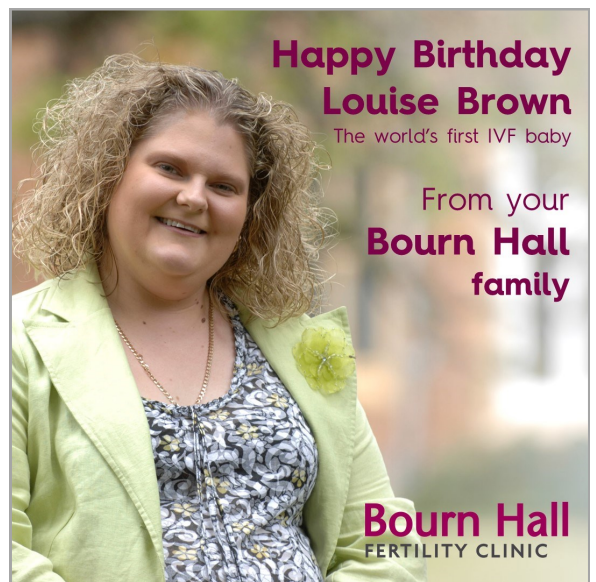
In 1980 Mr Steptoe and Professor Edwards opened Bourn Hall Clinic in Cambridgeshire, the world’s 1st IVF centre. With the help of the clinic Lesley conceived a 2nd daughter through IVF. Natalie was born in June 1982 at Bristol Maternity Hospital, and in 1999 became the 1st IVF conceived person to give birth herself naturally.



Throughout the years, the Brown family stayed in touch with the team at Bourn Hall and participated in events. These included the 1st Bourn Hall Baby Party held in 1989 in tribute of the late Patrick Steptoe, and a further baby party in 2003 celebrating Louise's 25th birthday.

Louise has lived and worked all her life in Bristol, first as a nursery nurse and later as a postal worker.

More than 8 million test tube babies have been born world-wide since the birth of Louise 44 years ago.



In 2004 Louise married a Bristolian doorman, Wesley Mullinder. They have 2 children, both conceived naturally. Cameron was born in 2006, followed by Aiden Patrick Robert born in 2013 and named in tribute to Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards.



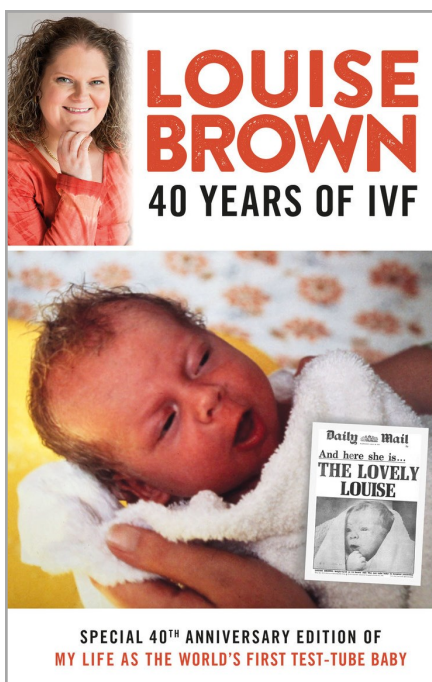
Louise and her husband with their 2 sons

Louise was 10 years old when Mr Steptoe died and the family received the news in a phone call. Louise cried when she was told, and recalled in a BBC interview in 2015 that “It was like losing a dear member of the family”. Her father died in 2006 and her mother in 2012. Sir Robert Edwards whom she regarded as a grandfather, died in 2013 at the age of 87 years.

Louise and her boys with her sister, Natalie, and Natalie’s children



Louise continues to take part in worldwide IVF events, and the media resumes reporting on her birthdays and other special occasions.



Louise with Sir Robert Edwards



In 2015 a book, “Louise Brown: my life as the world’s 1st test-tube baby.” was published.

MY FAVOURITE BOOKS BY SUE LIVESEY:

I have always enjoyed reading and have been a member of Oldham libraries since I was about seven. I find it relaxing and you can also learn a lot from it.

In my later teens/early twenties I was reading books by Phillipa Gregory (historical novels) and Catherine Cookson, whose books centered on life in the north east of England. I started to read Danielle Steel books and did enjoy them for a time but then they became really 'cheesy'- all the characters seemed to be perfect with perfect jobs, partners, children and home lives.

I then ventured into thriller books and these are now, by far, my favourites. I think I can relate my love of thrillers to a time when, aged about nine, I went to Chadderton library and chose a book entitled 'The Sinister Signpost' and, as the title suggests, it **was** sinister I loved it and used to regularly take it out.

As an adult I probably started down the 'thriller road' with James Patterson the American author who has written countless books. His first book was entitled 'Along Came A Spider' and the following few also had titles alluding to nursery rhymes. These books were quite creepy but really enjoyable. However, I now find that his latest books, which he 'co writes' with other Authors, are not as exciting as his early books.

My favourite authors (many of whom are Scottish) include Ian Rankin (Rebus), Anne Cleeves (Vera and Shetland), Mark Billingham (Tom Thorne), Peter James (Roy Grace) and L.J. Ross (D.C.I. Ryan).

There are lots of other authors I enjoy reading (too many to mention) but I am never without a book on my bedside table and I currently have a stock of approximately 40 books waiting to be read. I love anything to do with forensics which I find fascinating (my friends think I'm odd!).

I have also been reading the 'The Thursday Murder Club' series by Richard Osman. It is set in a retirement village and the books centre round four elderly, amateur sleuths who are friends and residents. They meet each week and try and solve crimes. They're all a bit 'dotty' but the books are really heartwarming and humorous - a very enjoyable read. So far there have been three books in the series with, I believe another to be released later this year.

Although I enjoy this genre of books I'm not averse to occasionally reading other genres but thrillers will always be my number one choice of books.

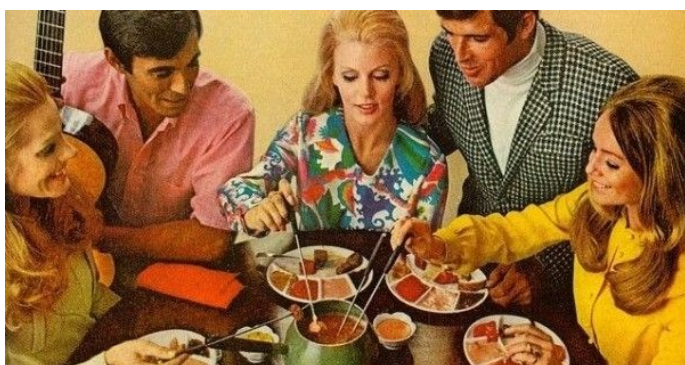
N.B. I have **never** read a Barbara Cartland book!

Anyone who would like to suggest any books please email Anne at :-
lifestory@ageukoldham.org.uk

FOODS THAT EVOKE MEMORIES



Fondue



Savory Ducks
(They had nothing to do with ducks).

Pub meal - chicken in a basket



Did you buy packets of potato puffs from the school tuck shop?



Scotch Eggs



Pickled Eggs



Prawns, Cockles, Mussels, Seafood....Who remembers the Cockle man doing the rounds in the Pubs and Clubs?

A traditional tale told by grandmothers in Oldham and district years ago was that of Dildrum-Dolrum. An old farmer returned to the farmhouse late one evening, sank into the chair in front of the fire and said to his wife, who was sitting in the rocking chair opposite, "I've just witnessed the strangest thing that I have seen in my life".

"What was that?" asked his wife, putting the large copper kettle back onto the fire.

"Well as I was walking home past the orchard, I heard a strange muffled sound coming from under the hedge, it sounded like a dull tramping of feet. I peered into the hedge bottom and what so think I saw on the other side of the hedge?"

"Come on Jack", said his wife impatiently, "what did you see?"

"You'll not believe this but there were twelve black cats, each walking on it's back feet only, and they were carrying a coffin. In front of the procession was a large white cat. Every few steps the white cat stopped and let out a loud.....?"

"Miooow" said the farmers fine black cat, which had suddenly wakened up from the rug in front of the fire and was listening to every word which was being said.

"Aye" said the farmer, "It sounded just like that"

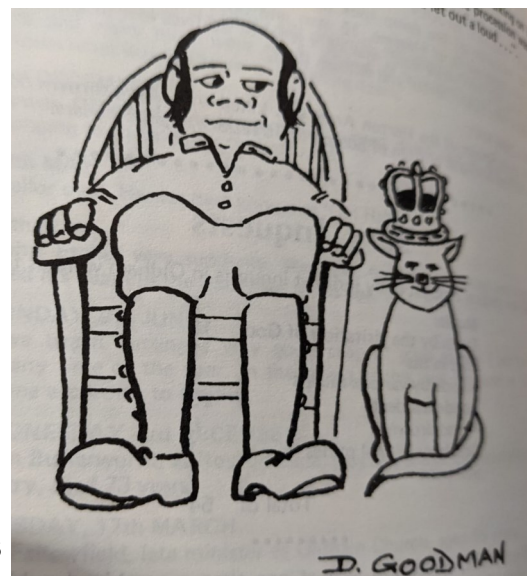
"What happened then?" asked his wife.

"Well they were walking towards me and every now and then the great white cat would stop and let out a loud.....".

"Miooow", said the cat in front of the fire, who was now standing up on his four legs looking intently at the farmer. "Aye" said the farmer "just like that. I was petrified and then as they came level with me the white cat suddenly spotted me, lifted up his paw and the procession stopped. They put the coffin down and they were all looking at me, yes, all thirteen of them. Suddenly, in one voice they all said, "Go and tell Dildrum, Doldrum's dead".

"What, Doldrum's dead!" said the farmer's cat his green eyes as large as saucers, "Doldrum's dead, so now I'm King of the Cats!"

As soon as he said this, with a great leap, he disappeared up the chimney and was never seen nor heard of again.



(Taken from a book by Dennis Ball)

Quiz provided by Viv White

1. The late Queen Mother had 3 Christian Names : Elizabeth Marguerite and ?
2. What is Jimmy Carter's other Christian Name?
3. Give the feminine of Executor?
4. Name the last driver from the USA to win World Driver's Championship?
5. What do **Rods** and **Cones** relate to?
6. What was the name of the last Steam Locomotive?
7. In which city does OZ live?
8. In a **Bond** film what was **Goldfinger's** first name?
9. What do you call an American train driver?
10. What is the name of the Ethiopian Desert?
11. Who was founder of the Jewish Faith?
12. What is the study of UFO's called?
13. Name the fabled American City rich in treasure?
14. Name the Swiss Cheese full of holes?
15. **Ring, stalk, shank, crown, arms** are all part of what?

Continued...

16. What is the largest artery?
17. What product does **Ted Moulton** promote?
18. Which vowel is not on the top row of a typewriter?
19. Who or what was Tarka?
20. What is the collective name of a group of Larks?
21. Who is otherwise known as **Mrs. Waters**?
22. What metal is obtained from the ore Bauxite?
23. **Belleek** is a famous kind of pottery coming from which country?

Answers on next page...

Answers to Quiz

1. Angela
2. Earl
3. Executrix
4. Mario Andretti
5. Eyes
6. Evening Star
7. Emerald City
8. Auric
9. Engineer
10. Ogaden
11. Abraham
12. Uphology
13. El Dorado
14. Emmental
15. Anchor
16. Aorta
17. Everest
18. A
19. Otter
20. Exultation
21. Enid Blyton
22. Aluminium
23. Ireland

CAN YOU NAME THE ESTATES OF OLDHAM FROM THE OLD PHOTOS?



Answers to the Estates of Oldham and photos showing the changes that have been made to the estates today although some things remain the same:

1. Crete Street new builds



2. Werneth new builds



3. Holts new builds



4. Limeside new builds



5. St Mary's new builds



6. Primrose bank new builds.



7. Sholver new builds.



Some of the estates shown have had large redevelopment and have changed a lot from when they were first built. Not all the photos are taken in the same places on the estates, it just gives some idea of the changes that have been made over the years.

PLACES OF OLDHAM — OLDHAM COLISEUM

Established in 1885, the Coliseum – then the Colosseum – began its life as a circus on Henshaw Street.

However, when Oldham Council demanded that site for use as a market – now Tommyfield market – its owner and builder, Thomas Whittaker, was forced to relocate two years later. The entire wooden building was dismantled and moved plank by plank to its current site on Fairbottom Street.



After becoming an established location for entertainment, the building was bought by Peter Yates, of Yates' Wine Lodges' fame, in 1903. The venue was then transformed, and for the next 28 years, it became known as a popular music hall visited by the stars of the time. Following a brief spell as a cinema in the early 1930s, the theatre closed and its furniture and fittings were sold off.

In 1938, the building was given a new lease of life when it was reopened as the Oldham Repertory Theatre under the direction of Douglas Emery. At this point the theatre had been stripped of the majority of its interior, including the floorboards, and as a result the auditorium actually had an earth floor. Due to licensing issues at the time (the building was primarily made of wood and had no fire escapes), the venue could only operate as a private club with a strict rule that only members could attend to see plays.

The theatre soon developed a reputation for the quality of its shows and performances. By the end of the 1950s the resident repertory actors' talents were so acclaimed that this led to many of them being lured away from the stage towards the glamorous television industry then in its infancy.

Because of their authentic Northern voices, many Oldham Rep actors, including Jean Alexander (Hilda Ogden) and Pat Phoenix (Elsie Tanner), became cast members for *Coronation Street*. Other Oldham Rep cast members who became main characters in *Coronation Street* include: Barbara Knox (Rita Sullivan), Roy Barraclough (Alec Gilroy), William Roache (Ken Barlow), Anne Kirkbride (Deirdre Barlow). Minnie Driver (Betty Turpin).

The Oldham Repertory Theatre lasted until 1978 when it was reconstituted as the Oldham Coliseum Theatre. For over 70 years the Coliseum has been a home of producing theatre and has worked with many successful and innovative artists. Among other famous names, Charlie Chaplin, Ralph Fiennes, Judith Barker, Dora Bryan, Thora Hird, Kathy Staff, Eric Sykes, Claire Sweeney and Kenneth Alan Taylor have graced the stage here.

Sadly as you are all probably aware the theatre has now closed and is to be replaced by a new theatre on Union Street in Oldham.

The photo on the following page shows the theatregoers leaving the theatre in March 1946. The people of Oldham were happy to get some relief after the difficult years of the war

In 1947 the year after the photo was taken, Anthony Oakley who was playing the character of MacDuff in *Macbeth* accidentally stabbed to death Harold Norman, the actor playing *Macbeth*.

Photo of people leaving the Rep in 1946



UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN EASTER PASKA BREAD. (PASKA MEANS EASTER)



Ingredients:

- 1.1/2 Cups milk,
- 1/2 cup sugar plus 1/2 teasp. extra for the yeast,
- 1/2 cup water, lukewarm,
- 1 0.25 ounce packet of active yeast,
- 7.1/2 cups of all purpose flour,
- 3 large eggs, beaten,
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter,
- 1.1/2 teasp. fine salt,

For Egg Wash:

- 1 large egg at room temperature,
- 2 tbsp water.

Method:

In a heavy saucepan scald the milk and set aside to cool until lukewarm.

In a large bowl, dissolve 1/2 a teaspoon of sugar in the lukewarm water and sprinkle the yeast over it.

Mix and let it stand for 10 minutes.

Add the lukewarm scalded milk and 2.1/2 cups of flour to the yeast mixture.

Beat until smooth.

Cover and let it rise until light and bubbly.

Add the eggs and the remaining 1/2 cup sugar, melted butter, salt and 4.1/2 to 5 cups of the remaining flour to make a dough that is not too stiff and not too slack.

Continued on next page...

Recipe continued...



Knead until the dough no longer sticks to the hand and is smooth, about 7 mins in a stand mixer, longer by hand.

Place the dough in a greased bowl, turn and grease both sides, cover with greased plastic wrap and let it rise until doubled.

Punch down, cover and let it rise again.

Reserve a 1/3rd of the dough for decorating.

Shape the rest into a round loaf in a 10/12" greased round pan.

Shape the reserved dough into a swirl or roll and arrange on top of dough.

Cover the pan with greased plastic wrap and let it rise until doubled.

Heat the oven to 400°F.

Brush the bread with beaten egg.

Bake for 15 mins, reduce temperature to 350°F and bake for an additional 40 mins. If necessary cover the top of the bread with foil to prevent over browning.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool.



ANIMAL CORNER / UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS



SPORTING GREATS

DICK FOSBURY



Full Name: Richard Douglas Fosbury

Born: 6 March 1947

Portland, Oregon, U.S.

Died: 12 March 2023 (Aged 76)

Height: 6ft. 4 ins. (193 cm)

Weight: 184 lbs. (83 kg)

Sport: Athletics - High Jump

ACHIEVEMENTS: Gold Metal 1968 Mexico Olympics. Personal Best 2.24 m (7 ft 4¼ in)

Fosbury is considered one of the most influential athletes in the history of track and field. He won a gold medal at the 1968 Olympics, revolutionising the high jump event with a "back-first" technique now known as the **Fosbury flop**. His method was to sprint diagonally towards the bar, then curve and leap backwards over the bar, which gave him a much lower centre of mass in flight than traditional techniques. This approach has seen nearly universal adoption since Fosbury's performance in Mexico. Though he never returned to the Olympics, Fosbury continued to be involved in athletics after retirement and served on the executive board of the World Olympians Association.

Fosbury started experimenting with a new high-jumping technique at age 16, while attending Medford High School. Fosbury had difficulty competing using the dominant high-jumping techniques of the period and he failed to complete jumps of five feet (1.52 m), the qualifying height for many high-school track meets.

Fosbury later recalled, "I knew I had to change my body position" and over the next years he experimented until gradually, Fosbury shifted his positioning during the jump, such that by his senior year he had begun to go over the bar backwards, head-first, curving his body over the bar and kicking his legs up in the air at the end of the jump. This required him to land on his back, but, prior to his junior year, his high school had replaced its wood chip landing pit with a softer material, so he was able to land safely. The technique gained the name the "Fosbury Flop" when in 1964 the Medford Mail-Tribune ran a photo captioned "**Fosbury Flops Over Bar,**" while in an accompanying article a reporter wrote that he looked like "a fish flopping in a boat." Others were even less kind, with one newspaper captioning Fosbury's photograph, "**World's Laziest High Jumper**"



In 2014, Fosbury unsuccessfully challenged Steve Miller for a seat in the Idaho House of Representatives. Fosbury ran for Blaine County Commissioner against incumbent Larry Schoen in 2018, won the seat, and took office in January 2019. Sadly he died in March 2023.

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EDITOR
JOAN HOLMES**



Life Story

Every life has a story...

