

Published February 2025

LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM

Welcome to our February newsletter, the first of 2025. It was on the 9th February, 1964 that the Beatles made their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and it was seen by over 73 million viewers and came to be regarded as a cultural watershed that launched American Beatlemania - as well as the wider British invasion of American pop music and inspired many young viewers to become rock musicians.



Also in February 1964 these events took place:

29 January - 9 February: Great Britain and Northern Ireland competed at the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria and won one gold medal.

6 February: The British and French governments agreed a deal for the construction of a Channel Tunnel. The twin-tunnelled rail link was expected to take five years to build.

11 February: Southampton was granted city status, it was the first such designation of the reign (Queen Elizabeth II).

19 February: The actor Peter Sellers married actress Britt Ekland.

21 February: £10 banknotes were issued for the first time since the Second World War.

JACK DYSON



Jack Dyson was born on Sunday 8 July 1934 in Boundary Park Hospital (*now Royal Oldham*). He was both an English first-class cricketer and a professional footballer. There is very little known about his life outside sport although he was married to a Beauty Queen. When he died in Oldham, on 22 November, 2000, aged 66 a spokeswoman for the hospital had to ask for information about his relatives. A friend explained the absence of order in his life: "He was a happy-go-lucky sort of a lad who always seemed to be on his uppers. He just enjoyed being a player".

Jack Dyson was one of the leading all round sportsmen of the 1950s and was a very good player, at cricket and football, better than his figures suggest. He won an FA Cup winners' medal with Manchester City, scoring a goal in the 1956 final against Birmingham. A sharp, incisive inside-forward, he scored 26 goals in 62 matches during four seasons at Maine Road.

In 1956 the following was written by a Sports Columnist about Dyson: The more I see of Jack Dyson the more his play confounds me. Time and again as he sets off in a mazy run one feels he is attempting the impossible, yet so often words of condemnation die on the lips as his slight, fair haired figure eventually emerges from a corkscrew line of defenders to the astonishment of friend and foe alike. Brilliant ball control and sheer determination and tenacity are the qualities which could spell a lustrous football future for Dyson. There must be very few footballers in the game today who can beat two or even three men in less space than the City inside left.

Jack Dyson joined Manchester City in October 1951 from non-League Nelson FC but didn't make his League debut until 8th October 1955 when he scored in a 1-1 draw at Joe Mercer's Sheffield United. He became a key part of the City line-up in 1955-56 scoring 13 times in 25 League appearances to help City climb the table. Dyson operated as part of the famous 'Revie Plan' often forming an effective striking partnership with Joe Hayes or Bobby Johnstone. He also played a major role in the 1956 FA Cup Final against Birmingham City, which the Blues memorably won 3-1 at Wembley just 12 months after losing in the final to Newcastle. With the teams level at 1-1, Jack scored City's all-important second goal after 65 minutes and turned provider for the Blues' third netted by Bobby Johnstone.

Dyson's career was however marred by injury. The following term in a pre-season practice match Jack broke his leg in a challenge with team mate Bill Leivers. On his return to the side later in the year, Jack broke his leg a second time and this effectively ended his football career. In total Jack made 72 League and Cup appearances for City scoring 29 goals. He was also a member of the side that faced United in the 1956 Charity Shield match at Maine Road. In March 1961 he left the Blues for Stirling Albion. Then in October 1962 Jack joined his home town team Oldham Athletic, although he did not make any League appearances while at Boundary Park.

As a cricketer, he would have come more into his own a decade later when the one-day game began to blossom. He was a gifted right-handed batsman, capable of batting anywhere in the order - in 150 matches for Lancashire he scored 4433 runs at 21.41 - and was also a useful offspinner, claiming 161 wickets at 27.62. Dyson was a first-class cover point, and played his cricket with a cheerful and engaging grace that hinted at a free spirit.



He made his debut for Lancashire in 1954, introduced by the new captain Cyril Washbrook, and his best season followed only two years later when he was capped. That year he scored a century against Scotland, and he played a major part in the victory over 44 Leicestershire at Old Trafford that was historic because Lancashire did it without losing a wicket. After the first day was lost to rain, Leicestershire were bowled out on the second afternoon for 108. In the remaining 150 minutes Alan Wharton and Dyson put on 166. When Geoff Edrich declared on the third and last morning and Leicestershire reached 95 for 3 at lunch, a draw seemed assured. But Brian Statham bowled Charlie Palmer with the first ball after lunch, and the last six wickets fell for 25 runs.

Needing just 65 to win, Wharton and Dyson knocked off the runs in 52 minutes. Dyson was the central figure in an even more memorable match at Old Trafford in 1960 when Lancashire had the chance of completing a double over Yorkshire for the first time in 67 years. Lancashire were left to score 78 in 125 minutes and, when the news reached offices in Manchester, many members found an excuse to leave work early. "Greater excitement may not be generated at Lancashire's headquarters for countless seasons," wrote Denys Rowbotham in the next day's Manchester Guardian. "The great climax came when Dyson hit the last ball of the last over, bowled by FS Trueman, off his leg stump for four, giving Lancashire a famous victory."

Jack Dyson did not conform to the standards the Lancashire committee expected of their professionals in 1960 and a few ill-chosen words prompted Lancashire to dismiss him. He was charged with "a serious breach of discipline and an act of insubordination and insolence to the captain" He moved to Scotland where he had two years with Stirling Albion. He also played cricket for Forfarshire who decided very generously that he was too good for their class of cricket, and suggested to Lancashire that it was time they took him back. In September 1962 the Lancashire committee was overthrown and Dyson returned to the county for two more seasons, but was released again at the end of the 1964 season.

Dyson played briefly in Staffordshire and then spent happy years in league cricket where the keen play and sharper humour suited his lifestyle. In September 1963 a members' revolt overthrew the Lancashire committee. A Manchester textile merchant, Cedric Rhoades, became chairman - a man who, it is said, could have understood and might have brought the best out of Jack Dyson.

JACK DYSON



Dyson was also an established all-rounder for Lancashire County Cricket Club where in the same month as winning the 1956 FA Cup, he starred for Lancashire against the touring Australians taking four wickets for 17, while also scoring 41 runs.

Jack's cricket career spanned 10 years from 1954 to 1964. In 150 appearances he scored over 4,400 runs and took 161 wickets. His only century in 150 first-class matches came against Scotland, and he had to cement his place with back-up off-breaks, taking 7 for 83 at Taunton in 1960. He was a right-handed batsman and handy offspinner.

In 1973, 13 years after Jack Dyson left Maine Road – he was still there! Not as a coach or administrator but as an area representative for the Greenall Whitley brewery and his job meant that he teamed up with his former playing colleague Roy Clarke, now manager of the City Social Club, at least once-a-week. In fact, Jack and Roy used to be room-mates during their days with City and they both shared some exciting incidents:

Including the first time Jack found himself on the carpet just 12 days before the 1956 Cup Final. Jack recalls: "It was the first time we'd relaxed. Suddenly, we forgot about all the tensions that go with a Cup Final and we relaxed, "I didn't drink then but I had a couple, and arrived back late at the hotel. Manager Les McDowell punished me by making me report three times a day after that – but it was nothing compared to the rollicking I got from Roy."



JACK DYSON



ROY CLARKE

In his days of stardom, Dyson married a beauty queen, but his later life was apparently blighted by poverty and unhappiness. When he died in Oldham

1. Which Latin phrase refers to an unwanted person?
2. Who or what was 'Big Bertha'?
3. From what was the name 'Nike' derived?
4. What is a young hare called?
5. In rhyming slang, who is "trouble and strife"?
6. What is another name for 'deadly nightshade'?
7. What is the common name of the disease variola?
8. Is 'fustian' a type of vegetable, mould or cloth?
9. In wartime, who are Fifth Columnists?
10. In what country are Magyars the predominant race?
11. What do Scots call the last day of the year?
12. What is faux-pas?
13. What are so-called 'white ants'?
14. What does Schadenfreude mean?
15. Soho is London district and what else?
16. What is the collective noun for a group of bears?
17. How did Queen Elizabeth II describe the year 1992?
18. In World War 2, who was the 'Forces Sweetheart'?
19. What type of aircraft was first called a 'jumbo jet'?
20. The US State of Florida is known as what?

Answers to Quiz

1. Persona non grata
2. A World War 1 long range German Gun
3. The Greek Goddess of Victory
4. A leveret
5. The wife
6. Belladonna
7. Smallpox
8. A type of cloth
9. Traitors
10. Hungary
11. Hogmanay
12. An indiscretion or social slip
13. Termites
14. Taking pleasure in others misfortune
15. An old hunting cry
16. A Sleuth
17. As an annus horribilis
18. Vera Lynn
19. The Boeing 747
20. The Sunshine State

Jenny Joseph (1961)

WARNING

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.



Provided by Gabrielle, Age UK Oldham

THE SNOW WAS ALL AROUND JANUARY 2025

London



Cotswolds



Barnsley, Yorkshire



North Wales



Rochdale Canal



Mossley



Manchester Airport



**Moorside
Oldham**



VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWERS

Crocuses: The Real Valentine's Day Flowers

Crocuses are closely associated with **St Valentine's day**. Roses may steal the show on that day, but Crocuses are the real Valentine's Day flowers!

Valentine's Day honours Saint Valentine, a Roman physician and Christian martyr who was jailed and sentenced to death for practising Christianity. St Valentine is believed to have been a priest during the third century in Rome, when Christianity was not welcome in Roman society. It was a time when Christians were mistreated for their faith and horribly persecuted. Valentine had the reputation of healing the sick and praying for his patients. When he was caught marrying couples, he was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to death.

During his imprisonment, Valentine befriended a jailer Astorius who respected his wisdom. He discovered that the jailer's daughter, Julia, was blind and the only world she knew was through the eyes of her father. Valentine was executed on February 14, 269 AD. On the day of his execution, he sent Julia a hand-written letter wrapped with a yellow Crocus, one of his healing plants. He signed it, "from your Valentine", which is where the name comes from. When she opened the letter, she discovered a yellow Crocus inside and miraculously restored her eyesight. Suddenly, she experienced the feelings of joy and pleasure.

Therefore, the Crocus is often referred to as St Valentine's flower and is associated with cheerfulness, pleasure, gladness and joy.



THE HOME FRONT IN WW2



Shell Factory



Munitions Factory



Women Factory Workers—
East Midlands



Home Guard

Digging for Victory



Girls in a Manchester Shelter

CRUSTED CAULIFLOWER WITH SAFFRON COUSCOUS

Serves 4

Ingredients:

3 tbsp Mixed Spice

6 shallots, thinly sliced.

2 tbsp veg oil

1 head of cauliflower, cut into four 2.5 cm thick steaks.

100g pine nuts.

For couscous:

300g couscous

30g butter

50g soft dried apricots, chopped

Zest and juice of one lemon

A pinch of saffron.

Salt and pepper to season.

To Garnish:

Freshly torn mint leaves

For method see next page...

Jean's recipe continued...

CRUSTED CAULIFLOWER WITH SAFFRON COUSCOUS

Method:

Preheat the oven to 210°C/gas mark 7

Toss the shallots and 1 tbsp of oil in a large roasting tray.

Roast for 10 mins.

Prepare a frying pan or griddle over a high heat.

Put remaining oil in the pan and char the cauliflower steaks on both sides, turning each one after 1 or 2 mins.

Add the charred cauliflower steaks to the pan with the roasting shallots, adding a generous sprinkling of mixed spice and pine nuts over the top of the cauliflower and return to the oven.

Roast for 7 to 10 minutes, until both the cauliflower and pine nuts are golden.

Combine all the couscous ingredients in a large heatproof bowl and pour over 800ml of boiling water.

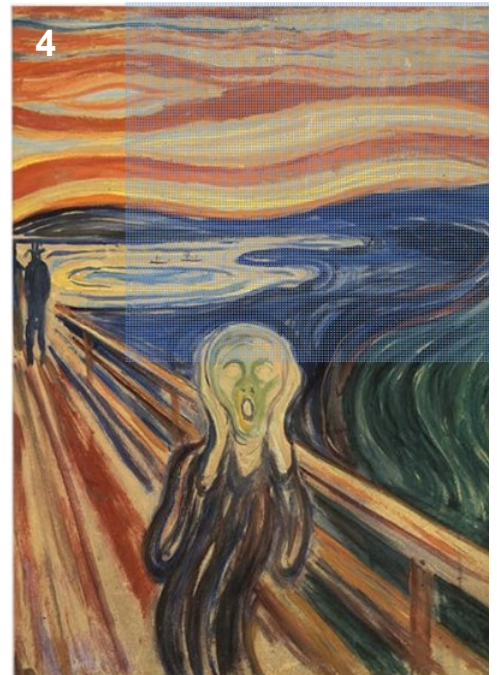
Leave to soak for 10 mins until water is absorbed, then break apart and fluff up. Season to taste.

Serve the couscous with the cauliflower steaks and roasted shallots and top with torn mint leaves and pomegranate seeds.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW - ART

Name the paintings and the artists: You might know more than you think!



Answers on next page...

Answers to How well do you know your Art:

1. The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci.
2. The Hay Wain by John Constable.
3. Coming from the Mill (1930) by L.S. Lowry. There is also a painting by Lowry titled Coming Home from the Mill (1928).
4. The Scream by Edvard Munch.
5. The Blue Boy by Thomas Gainsborough.
6. The Laughing Cavalier by Frans Hals



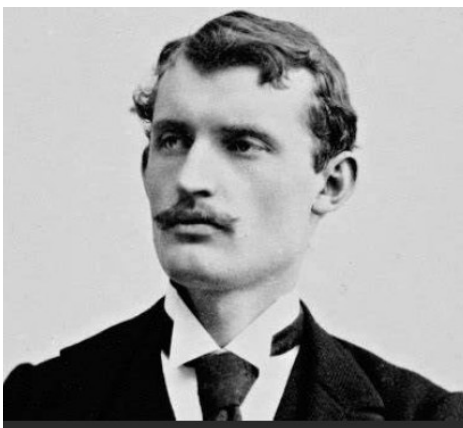
Leonardo da Vinci



John Constable



L.S. Lowry



Edvard Munch



Thomas Gainsborough



Frans Hals

PEPPER



PETS CORNER

Pepper was a Mountain Search and Rescue Dog.

Qualified: at 18 months old.

Died: Aged 9 yrs.

Owner: Dr. Neil Powell founder of Search and Rescue Dog Association in Northern Ireland (SARDA Ireland North),

Pepper was just 18 months old when he became a qualified search and rescue dog. Throughout his career, he played an instrumental role in saving lives, including rescuing a young German boy who had been missing for over 36 hours in terrible weather.

However, Pepper's most significant contribution came after the tragic 1988 Lockerbie bombing, when he, along with other rescue dogs, worked tirelessly in harsh conditions sifting through the wreckage. Tragically, their efforts came at a cost, as Pepper and several of the other dogs later developed cancer due to exposure to the contaminated site, all passing away at a young age. Pepper was just 9.

In a recent episode of the Repair Shop shown on BBC 1 his owner Dr Neil Powell brought in his distinctive green jacket and collar that he always wore when working. For Neil, it was imperative that Pepper's well-worn search and rescue jacket and collar were restored to keep his memory alive. Team Members: Suzie brings life back to the leather collar, whilst Rebecca washes away years of dirt from the jacket to reveal something special for Neil." Pepper was honoured by the show for his sacrifice and bravery

He was a beautiful, a very, very special little dog and such a character. He had a thing for playing with anything, paper, rubbish, anything and he's greatly missed. The brightest dog Neil has ever known.



Neil Powell

SPORTING GREATS

LUKE LITTLER



Luke Littler is an English professional Darts Player.

Parents

Born: 21 January 2007

Place of Birth: Runcorn

Parents:

Anthony Buckley & Lisa Littler.

Siblings: older Brother, Harry and older Sister, Caitlin.

Education: Padgate Academy, Warrington.

Nickname: Luke the Nuke



Luke competes in Professional Darts Corporation events, where he is currently ranked world number two. He is the reigning PDC World Champion after winning the 2025 World Championship, defeating Michael van Gerwen in the final, where he became the youngest world champion in darts history, at 17 years and 347 days old. Littler has won 11 senior PDC titles and is the reigning Premier League, Grand Slam and World Series Finals champion. He has also won two World Series of Darts titles and the 2023 PDC World Youth Championship making him a very wealthy young man.

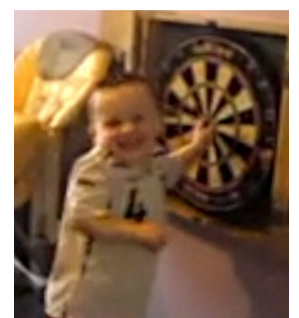
His achievement in the sport has been nothing short of remarkable. He is characterised by early acclaim for outstanding performances and notable achievements in youth competitions.

Luke's ascent began to turn heads with his remarkable skill, which he showed through consistently high averages. In 2019, he won at the England Youth Grand Prix and the Isle of Man Masters youth competition.

Littler seized two titles during the 2020 JDC tour. He solidified his place in the darts arena with his remarkable performances.

Luke's calmness is really invaluable in allowing him to stay in a bubble of high-focus concentration, which means he can repeat high-scoring sequences regularly. Away from the sport he loves playing on his Xbox and watching football, previously revealing that he got an Xbox controller and two tickets for the Manchester United stadium tour for Christmas. He is also a rugby league fan, supporting his local club, Warrington, and is in a relationship with his girlfriend.

Littler threw his first dart onto a magnetic board at 18 months old. He started throwing steel tip darts at the age of 4 or 5, and he says he was throwing them from competition length — from an oche, or throwing line — at age 6 or 7. He won his first title at senior level when he was age 14, at the Irish Open in 2021. In 2024 Luke won the young BBC Personality of the year award.





COME ALONG TO OUR OVER 50's

WINTER WARMTH & WELLBEING EVENT

10.30am - 1.30pm Thursday 6th February

Chadderton Over 60s Centre, 298A Broadway,
Chadderton, Oldham OL9 9QU



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PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM
LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS
EDITOR
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Life Story

Every life has a story...

