

Published November 2023

LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM

Welcome to our November Newsletter. Last month we outlined our Befriending Service. This month we look at:

MEN IN SHEDS

Our Men in Sheds project is an initiative by Age UK Oldham that aims to reduce isolation among men over 55. The project has a distinct community development philosophy and positively impacts the health and wellbeing of men who have become socially isolated due to life changing circumstances or long term or acute health conditions.

According to research for Age UK, more than one million older men now live alone in the UK, and this number is only set to rise. Many of these older men have faced issues associated with significant changes in their lives including ageing, health, retirement, isolation, redundancy, unemployment, disability, bereavement, etc.

A concept originally developed in Australia, Men in Sheds involves providing a workshop, tools and equipment to men in later life. They can use existing skills, learn new ones and get involved in productive activity, while enjoying the benefits of working in a social group. Men can get together in the sheds to make things, repair things and generally tinker, and of course put the world to rights over a cup of tea.

Activities:

We are getting men in one place to improve their wellbeing, engage in activities they enjoy to help them relax and to encourage them to come regularly by being involved in activities such as:

- Refurbishing furniture.
- Framing pictures / photographs.
- Wooden toy making.
- Making bird tables and window boxes.
- Assembling hanging baskets / tubs, etc.
- The project also provides an opportunity for men in later life to access information, advice and other services which they might not otherwise seek out. It ensures older men are having fun and keeping well.
- Gives structure and purpose to participant's daily routine.
- Offers the opportunity to share and learn new skills.
- Improves long term employment prospects (if appropriate).
- Establishes new friendships / renew past friendships.
- Improves physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Increases opportunities available to contribute and participate in the local communities.
- Enables older men to access services and benefits which support independent living.
- Provides access to ensure that older men claim and receive the financial benefits they are entitled.
- Improves confidence and self-worth.
- Provides respite for carers as appropriate.
- Reduces social isolation and resultant poor health.

Costs: There is a charge of £3 per session.

Locations and times:

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am - 4pm Charles House, Albert St West, **Failsworth**, M35 0JN

Thursday & Friday, 9am - 4pm, Tanners Waterside Mill, Chew Valley Rd, **Greenfield**, OL3 7NH

For further information contact:

John Scholes - Men in Sheds Coordinator

Phone: 0161 682 4747

Email: meninsheds@ageukoldham.org.uk

Mark Owen

Mark Owen was born in Oldham on 27th January 1972. He was brought up in a council house with his brother Daniel and sister Tracey.

His father Keith was a decorator and later worked at a police station, and his mother was a supervisor in a bakery.

Mark was educated at Holy Rosary Primary School and St Augustine's Secondary, both Catholic schools, in Oldham.



While at school he showed little interest in Music but was a keen footballer playing briefly for Chadderton Football Club, plus having trials for Manchester United and Rochdale.

After leaving school he worked at Barclays Bank in Failsworth.

Manchester-based Nigel Martin-Smith decided to create a band and in 1990 he assembled Gary Barlow as lead singer, Mark Owen, Howard Donald and Jason Orange all from the Manchester area. He advertised for another singer and chose Robbie Williams from Stoke-on-Trent.

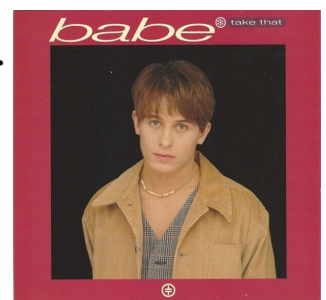
The group were named Take That and signed to RCA records. After a number of top 40 hits they eventually secured their first number 1 with Gary Barlow's "Pray".



The band's debut album, "Take That and Party" was

released in August 1992 and reached No. 2 on

the UK Album Chart. The following year saw the release of their second album, "Everything Changes", which went straight to No. 1 and spawned 4 No. 1 singles.



Mark sang lead vocals on "Babe" which was released in December 1993.



Their 3rd album, “Nobody Else” went straight to no. 1 and was their last studio album of the 90’s. The album had 3 no. 1 singles including “Back for Good” which peaked at no.7 on the US Billboard Hot 100. Mark sang lead vocals on “The Day After Tomorrow” from the album.



A “Greatest Hits” collection followed, again reaching No. 1. The album featured the band’s 8th No.1 single “How Deep Is Your Love”. This was to be the first single released by Take That as a 4 piece band, following the departure of Robbie Williams, and it was their last single until they reformed in 2005.

Mark was a very popular member of the group on account of his boyish good looks. Before the group became famous, while still living at home, his parent’s house was regularly targeted by fans hoping to catch a glimpse of him.

The group split in 1996, following the completion of their world tour and Robbie Williams’ 1995 exit.

After filming a TV documentary in 2005 “Take That : For the Record” and releasing a new greatest hits album, a 4 piece Take That announced a reunion tour around the UK entitled “The Ultimate Tour”.

They released their 4th studio album, “Beautiful World” in 2006 followed by “The Circus” in 2008. The group achieved new success as a 4 piece, scoring a string of chart hits across the UK and Europe.

Robbie Williams rejoined them in 2010 for the band’s 6th album, “Progress”, which became the 2nd fastest-selling album in British history.

In 2014 they recorded a 7th album, this time as a trio without Robbie or Jason Orange. The album “111” became the band’s 7th No. 1 and was preceded by the single “These Days” which was their 12th No. 1 single in the UK.

In 2011 they set a new record for the fastest selling tour of all time in the UK with “Progress Live”, and at the Brit Awards the same year they won “Best British Group”.

In 2012, Forbes named them the 5th highest-earning music stars in the world.

They performed at the 2012 Olympic Games closing ceremony, singing “Rule the World” while the Olympic flame was extinguished.



After the band's split in 1996 Mark released 3 singles plus an album "The Green Man". His first 2 singles, "Child" and "Clementine" got to No. 3 in the UK singles charts but neither the 3rd nor the album did well and he was dropped by BMG Records in late 1997.

He won the 2nd series of Celebrity Big Brother in November 2002.

Mark started to date actress, Emma Ferguson, becoming engaged in 2006. On 8th November 2009 they married and have a son and two daughters.

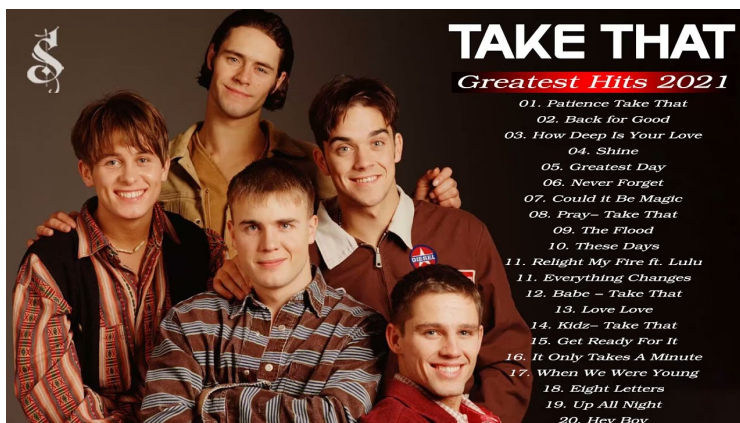
After selling their Hampshire mansion for £6.5million about 5 years ago, Mark and his family moved to California to live. His children are named Willow Rose born in 2008, Fox India born in 2012 and Elwood Jack.



Mark and Emma's Wedding Day



Mark performed with his Take That bandmates Howard Donald and Gary Barlow at the Coronation Concert on Sunday May 7th this year.



Something to make you laugh:

FUNNY ANSWERS GIVEN BY QUIZ SHOW CONTESTANTS

Beg, Borrow or Steal

Jamie Theakston: "Where do you think Cambridge University is?"

Contestant: "Geography isn't my strong point."

Theakston: "There's a clue in the title."

Contestant: "Leicester."

The Weakest Link

Anne Robinson: "In the Lord's Prayer, what word beginning with 'H' meaning 'blessed' comes before 'be thy name'?"

Contestant: (quietly) "Howard."

Anne: (incredulously) "Pardon?"

Contestant: (louder) "Howard."

Anne Robinson: In science, what is botany the study of?

Contestant: Bottoms.

The Chase

Bradley Walsh: "What is the only planet in the universe known to support life?"

Contestant: "Mars".

Answers given on Family Fortunes

Name: A famous bridge.

Contestant: The Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

Name: Something a train-spotter would have in his pocket:

Contestant: "A magnifying glass."

Name: An animal with horns:

Contestant: "A bee."

Name: Something made to be wheeled around:

Contestant: "A hammer."

Name: Something that Father Christmas does when he comes to your house:

Contestant: "Feeds your pets."

Name: Something you hide in your socks when you go swimming:

Contestant: "Your legs."

Extracts from a poem by Pam Eyres

The missus brought a paperback down Shepton Mallet way
I took a look inside her bag, t'was Fifty Shades of Grey
Well I just left her to it and at ten I went to bed
An hour later she appeared - the sight filled me with dread

In her left hand was a rope and in her right a whip
She threw them down upon the floor and then began to strip
Well fifty years or so ago I might have had a peek
But Mabel hasn't weathered well she's 84 next week

Watching Mabel bump and grind could not have been much grimmer
And then things went from bad to worse as she toppled off her zimmer!
She put her teeth back in and said "I am a dominator"
And then struggled back upon her feet a couple of minutes later

Now if you knew our Mabel you'll know just why I spluttered
I'd spent two months in traction for the last complaint I'd uttered
Well readers I can tell no more of what occurred that day
Suffice to say my jet black hair turned fifty shades of grey!



QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. In golf, what is the traditional name for the number 3 wood?
2. Who wrote *The Female Eunuch*?
3. How many times did Peter deny Christ?
4. Where in Scotland would you find the principal winter sports' centre in Great Britain?
5. Which musical concerns the life of an Argentinian dictator's wife?
6. Lee Marvin's hit single in 1970 was the theme tune for which popular film?
7. How many triple score squares are there on a Scrabble board?
8. Which sport would you be playing when competing for the Davis Cup?
9. Who popularised the Christmas tree in England in the nineteenth century?
10. Which actor said "Italy is full of actors and it's the bad ones who go on the stage"?
11. What name is given to the *Cricketers Year Book*, where all the cricketing laws and scores are reported?
12. Who wrote *'Kidnapped'*?
13. What is the American slang name which describes the world of popular composers of modern music?
14. What are the 'Hoover' and 'Grand Coulee'?
15. Which golfer had a massive band of followers collectively known as 'Arnie's Army'?
16. Who created 'Noddy'?
17. What do you acquire if you kiss the Blarney Stone?
18. What is the maximum possible break in snooker?
19. What would you be eating if you were served 'Bombay Duck'?
20. Which stretch of water separates Sicily from Italy?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Spoon
2. Germaine Greer
3. Three times
4. Aviemore
5. Evita
6. Paint Your Wagon was the film - Wandering Star- single
7. Eight
8. Tennis
9. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband
10. Orson Welles
11. Wisden
12. Robert Louis Stevenson
13. Tin Pan Alley
14. Dams
15. Arnold Palmer
16. Enid Blyton
17. The Gift of the Gab
18. 147
19. Dried Fish
20. Straits of Messina

THE PLACES WE WORKED — FERRANTI

Ferranti or Ferranti International PLC was a UK electrical engineering and equipment firm that operated for over a century from 1885 until it went bankrupt in 1993. The company was once a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index. There were lots of Ferranti's in the area including Hollinwood, Cairo Mill at Waterhead, Gem Mill in Chadderton and Ferranti Moston. It wasn't unusual for different members of one family to be working at the same site and did so for years.

This is how it all started:

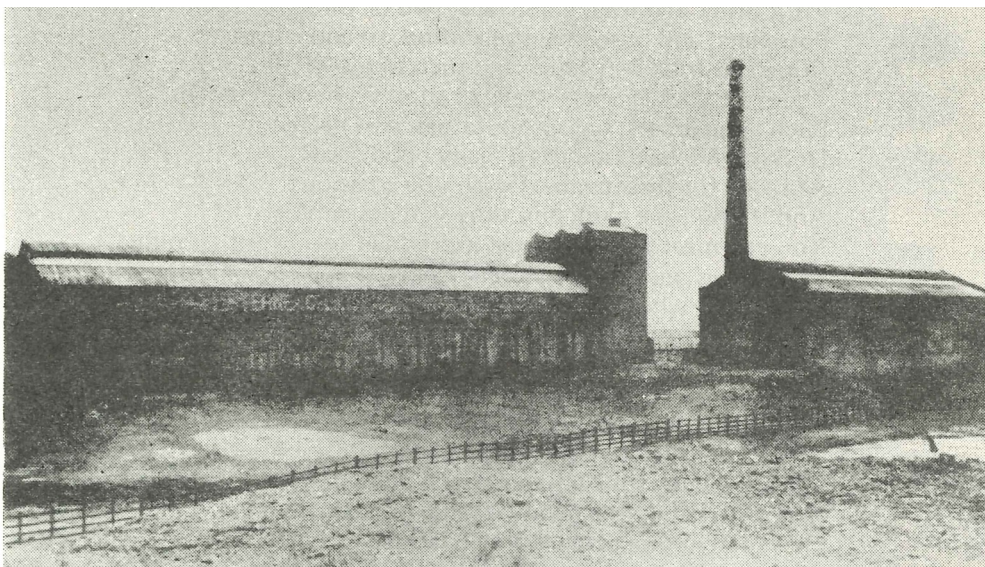
S.Z. de Ferranti of the Royal Society, Doctor of Science was founder of the Company. The Italian name can be traced back to the 12th century, although Ferranti himself was born in Liverpool in 1864.

At an early age he showed clearly an ability for engineering. His inventive faculties were well above that of an ordinary man. After leaving school he started work with Siemens, a large firm of electrical engineers. In 1882 he began to manufacture electrical equipment (mainly meters with clockwork counting mechanisms) at Clarksenwell in London, in the heart of the clock-making territory.

Ferranti began to look at heavier types of electrical machinery, switchgear, alternators and in particular the steam engine. He did much work in these fields and was responsible for great improvements in equipment.

He soon realised that he would have to expand his business as more and more orders came to the firm.

Where better than to Lancashire, where the workforce was available? So in 1896, after examining several sites, de Ferranti purchased a building in Hollinwood which had previously been used as a factory, together with 76,000 square feet of land.



The photograph shows the premises bought by Ferranti in 1896.

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So began the marriage of Ferranti and Hollinwood, a union which brought a great prosperity to the people of the district. When the firm moved from London to Oldham about three hundred employees, together with their wives and families, also made the move and many of their descendants are probably still living in the area. What a contrast it must have been in the pubs in the district the 'cockney' dialect mixed with 'broad Lancashire'.

No one could have visualised at the time that the old boiler works at the top of Hole Bottom would, in less than 100 years be associated with such a well-known name and with an amazing man responsible for scores of patents and inventions.

Ferranti was an inventive genius and of the foremost pioneers of the electrical industry. His death in 1930 was a sad loss to the country.

In establishing his works at Hollinwood, Ferranti did a great service to Oldham and over the years provided many men and women with 'a good job' especially during the dark days of the cotton slump.



The Ferranti Electrical Engineering works, Hollinwood in 1935.



The Power Division on Hollinwood Avenue in later years.

Some of the information for this article has been taken from Oldham Pastimes by Dennis Ball

FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT APPLES

1. Apples float because they are 25 percent air. Idea for apple bobbing!
2. Apple juice is said to act as an antidepressant, partly because the fruit contains serotonin which helps to reduce anxiety.
3. The seeds of an apple contains a compound that can turn into cyanide when chewed. This could be lethal in high doses. This might explain the story of Snow White who fell into a coma after biting the poisoned apple.
4. The popular Granny Smith got its name from Maria Ann Smith in Sydney, Australia. It is thought that she had been cooking crab apples and throwing the cores into her garden. Some grew into seedlings which eventually turned into trees bearing exceptional fruit.
5. One of the most popular cooking apples is the Bramley. The very first one was planted by a child in Nottinghamshire, Mary Ann Brailsford, who took a pip from an apple being baked by her mother. It grew into a superb fruit-producing tree that was subsequently purchased with the house by a butcher, Matthew Bramley. When a local nurseryman asked if he could take cuttings from the tree, Bramley asked that the apples be given his name.



Article supplied by Reggie Heapy.

Jean's recipe:

QUICK AND EASY

SMOKED HADDOCK CHARLOTTE

Serves 4

Ingredients:

1lb Smoked Haddock,

1 egg, beaten, 5 fl oz milk,

Grated rind of half a lemon,

1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley, salt and pepper,

5 slices white bread, buttered, with crusts removed and cut into fingers.

Method:

Pre heat oven to 350°F (180°C) or Mark 4.

Separate haddock flesh from the skin and remove all bones.

Mince or cut the fish into small pieces, put into a bowl with beaten egg, milk, lemon rind and parsley, season with salt and pepper, mix well together.

Line the bottom and sides of the pie dish with about half of the bread slices, butter sides outwards.

Now put a layer of half the fish mixture on the bread in the pie dish and cover with a layer of bread and butter.

Repeat, putting in another layer of fish and finish with a final layer of bread and butter, butter side upwards.

Bake in the oven for 40 to 45 minutes until the top is crisp and golden brown.

Unsmoked haddock can be used if preferred, but smoked fish has more flavour.

SAYING GOODBYE TO WW2



In 1945 in Times Square, New York a photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt captured a photo when a sailor, overjoyed because of the end of the Second World War, kissed a beautiful nurse. This photo, called “V-J Day in Times Square” became one of the most famous photos of all time and a symbol of the euphoria that swept America that day. Let’s trace its history and the fate of the heroes of the image.

The two main characters in the image are the then student of dentistry Greta Friedman and sailor George Mendosa. At first glance, the scene presents their romantic kiss, but nothing could be more wrong – Greta did not know George until that moment. When the surrender of Japan was announced, the sailor was in Times Square on a date with his future wife, Rita.

Being after a few drinks and happy because of Japan’s surrender, George grabbed the beautiful student and stole her a long kiss. As Greta mentioned later, she was not too pleased with the situation and did not return the kiss. (probably slapped the sailor).

For decades, the identity of Greta and George remained undetermined, and in addition many people falsely identified themselves as one of the people in the photo. It was only in the 1980s, with the help of the scientific analysis of the photographs, that the names of the kissing couple were confirmed. Similarly, there were attempts to determine the exact time the photo was taken, because Eisenstaedt did not remember exactly when it was caught. Scientist Donald W. Olson determined the moment of taking the photograph as 17:51 based on the arrangement of the sun’s rays in the scene.

George and Greta met in later times, mostly for parades and other ceremonies for which they were invited and 67 years after making the memorable photo they appeared again in Times Square.

In their honour there were created a series of monuments, called “Unconditional Surrender”.

Greta Friedman died on 8th September, 2016 in Richmond, Virginia.

George Mendosa died on 19 February 2019 in Rhode Island where he lived with his wife of 70 years.

ANIMAL CORNER — UNUSUAL FRIENDS



SPORTING GREATS

BOBBY CHARLTON



Sir Robert (Bobby) Charlton

Date of Birth: 11 October 1937

Place of Birth: Ashington, Northumberland.

Height: 5ft 8 ins.

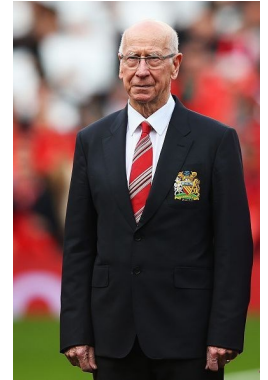
Died: 21 October 2023 (Aged 86).

Father: Robert "Bob" Charlton.

Mother: Elizabeth Ellen "Cissie" Charlton (*née* Milburn)

Siblings: Jack and Tommy.

Wife: Norma Ball. **Daughters:** Suzanne & Andrea.



Bobby Charlton was related to several professional footballers on his mother's side of the family: his uncles were Jack Milburn (Leeds United and Bradford City), George Milburn (Leeds United and Chesterfield), Jim Milburn (Leeds United and Bradford Park Avenue) and Stan Milburn (Chesterfield, Leicester City and Rochdale), and legendary Newcastle United and England footballer Jackie Milburn was his mother's cousin. However, Charlton credited much of the early development of his career to his grandfather Tanner and his mother Cissie. His elder brother, Jack also become a professional footballer.

On 9 February 1953, then a Bedlington Grammar School pupil, Charlton was spotted playing for East Northumberland schools by Manchester United chief scout Joe Armstrong. Charlton went on to play for England Schoolboys and the 15-year-old signed amateur forms with United on 1 January 1953 along with Wilf McGuinness, also aged 15. Initially his mother was reluctant to let him commit to an insecure football career, so he began an apprenticeship as an electrical engineer; however, he went on to turn professional in October 1954.

Charlton became one of the famed Busby Babes, the collection of talented footballers who emerged through the system at Old Trafford in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s as Matt Busby set about a long-term plan of rebuilding the club after the Second World War. He worked his way through the pecking order of teams, scoring regularly for the youth and reserve sides before he was handed his first team debut against Charlton Athletic in October 1956. At the same time, he was doing his National Service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in Shrewsbury, where Busby had advised him to apply as it meant he could still play for Manchester United at the weekend. Also doing his army service in Shrewsbury at the same time was his United teammate Duncan Edwards.

Cont...

Charlton played as an attacking midfielder, central midfielder, and left winger. Widely considered one of the greatest players of all time, he was a member of the England team that won the 1966 FIFA World Cup, the year he also won the Ballon d'Or. He finished second in the Ballon d'Or voting in 1967 and 1968. He played almost all of his club football at Manchester United, where he became renowned for his attacking instincts, passing abilities from midfield, ferocious long-range shooting from both left and right foot, fitness, and stamina. He was cautioned only twice in his career; once against Argentina in the 1966 World Cup, and once in a league match against Chelsea. With success at club and international level, he was one of nine players to have won the FIFA World Cup, the European Cup and the Ballon d'Or. His elder brother Jack, who was also in the World Cup winning team, was a former defender for Leeds United and international manager.

Charlton made his debut for the Manchester United first-team in 1956, aged 18, and soon gained a regular place in the team, during which time he became a Football League First Division champion in 1957 then survived the Munich air disaster of February 1958 after being rescued by teammate Harry Gregg; Charlton was the last survivor of the crash from the club. After helping United to win the FA Cup in 1963 and the Football League in 1965 and 1967, he captained the team that won the European Cup in 1968, scoring two goals in the final to help them become the first English club to win the competition. Charlton left Manchester United to become manager of Preston North End for the 1973-74 season. He changed to player-manager the following season. He next accepted a post as a director with Wigan Athletic, then became a member of Manchester United's board of directors in 1984.

At international level, Charlton was named in the England squad for four World Cups (1958, 1962, 1966, and 1970), though he did not play in the first. At the time of his retirement from the England team in 1970, he was the nation's most capped player, having turned out 106 times at the highest level. Also the long-time record goal scorer for both Manchester United and England, and United's long-time record appearance maker – his total of 758 matches for United took until 2008 to be beaten. With 249 goals, he was the club's highest all-time goal scorer for more than 40 years.

He received a knighthood in 1994 and was an Inaugural Inductee to the English Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

Charlton was involved in a number of charitable activities, including fundraising for cancer hospitals. After visits to Bosnia and Cambodia, Charlton became involved in the cause of land mine clearance and supported the Mines Advisory Group as well as founding his own charity Find a Better Way, which funds research into improved civilian landmine clearance.

In 2016, Manchester United announced the South Stand of Old Trafford would be renamed in honour of Sir Bobby Charlton. **Statue:** United Trinity, at Old Trafford, George Best, Denis Law, Bobby Charlton.



'One Thousand Men Are Walking'

*One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men*

Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14)

UP COMING EVENTS AT GEORGE STREET CHAPEL



 Oldham
age UK

Christmas Carol Concert

**3pm Sunday 3rd December 2023
at George Street Chapel**

Celebrate in beautiful surroundings and join us for our annual festive carol concert and a glass of mulled wine!

Stay and enjoy a delicious freshly cooked, 2 course meal served to you in the festively decorated chapel.

Licensed bar will be open.

Adults concert with mulled wine £6.00

Children with soft drink FREE

Adults concert, mulled wine and meal £22.00

Children concert, drink and meal £6.00

Book now to avoid disappointment!

Call us on 0161 622 9264



**Tuesday 5th , Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th
December 2023
7pm - 9pm**

Impress friends, family, neighbours and your postman by making your own Christmas wreath this year!

A friendly and festive tutorial from Occasions Florist in the stunning surrounds of George Street Chapel, including mulled wine & a mince pie!

£35.00 per person

**Can't make it or prefer your home comforts?
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If you love meeting new people, enjoy being someone else for a few hours, then we would love to have you on board!

You could be:

- Playing a character and retelling local history
 - Helping children with craft activities
- Helping host as one of our knowledgeable tour guides
 - Or just want to help set up behind the scenes

For more information or to join our team
call Maggie on 07557 276518 / 0161 622 9264

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EDITOR
JOAN HOLMES**



Life Story

Every life has a story...

