

Published October 2023

# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

Welcome to our October Newsletter. Winter is creeping upon us. The clocks go back one hour and the nights get darker. (*'nights are drawing in'*).

If you or anyone you know feels that they need extra support to get through the months when the weather can be inclement restricting your social life making you feel lonely and isolated, struggle with shopping or just need extra support. - there are many ways Age UK in Oldham can help. There is a 'Service Guide' for what Age UK can do to help. Below is just one of the options available.

## **BEFRIENDING SERVICE**

Our Befriending Service offers friendship and companionship to older people who live alone and feel lonely or isolated.

People can become isolated for a variety of reasons - ill health, disability or social disadvantage - but here at

Age UK Oldham we passionately believe that no one should have no one. Being matched with a volunteer befriender often fills a big gap.



Our scheme offers friendship and companionship through a registered volunteer befriender who is matched to the older person and visits each week.

The results can be significant as befriending often provides people with a new direction in life, opens up a range of activities leading to increased self-esteem and self-confidence.

Sometimes finding a visitor can take some time, but our in-touch telephone service will provide a weekly call to keep us in touch with those people awaiting a volunteer befriender. A friendly call and chat will ensure regular contact until we match you with a new friend.

Perhaps you would like to become a Befriender yourself or just want to see what it's all about. We are only a phone call away.

Contact:

**Maggie Hurley - Volunteer and Community Services Manager**

Phone: 0161 622 9252 / 07827 498098

Email: [maggie.hurley@ageukoldham.org.uk](mailto:maggie.hurley@ageukoldham.org.uk)

## DAVID PLATT



David Andrew Platt was born on the 10th June, 1966 in Chadderton and went to South Chadderton School. He is an English retired football coach and player who played as a midfielder. Platt began his career as an apprentice at Manchester United before moving to Crewe Alexandra, where he began building a reputation as a goal-scoring midfielder.

Platt signed for Manchester United as an apprentice on leaving school in 1982 and was a product of the club's youth academy having been spotted playing for Chadderton. He accepted manager Ron Atkinson's offer of a professional contract at the start of the 1984 - 85 season, but was given a free transfer on 23 February 1985 without ever playing for the first team. After a mere six months he found himself at Crewe Alexandra in the Fourth Division after being discarded by the club. To his credit, he bounced back and showed them how wrong they were in letting go of him.



He is one of the players that Manchester United regretted selling.

At the age of 22, he signed for Aston Villa and gained the attention of the England manager Bobby Robson, with whom he soon made his debut. At the 1990 World Cup, Platt increased his reputation with impressive performances, and by scoring goals with his head and feet. According to Rob Bagchi in *The Guardian*, Platt "seized Bryan Robson's role with riveting aplomb." His performances in the World Cup earned him a move to Serie A club Bari in 1991.

In 1992, Platt moved to Juventus, where he spent one season. Platt continued scoring goals for England, playing in Euro 92 and 96. (England failed to qualify for the 1994 FIFA World Cup.) In 1993, he moved to Sampdoria where he stayed for two seasons before he returned to England to join Arsenal. Platt was at the London club for three years, featuring in the Arsenal side that won the Premier League and FA Cup Double in 1998.

Platt went on to manage Sampdoria and Nottingham Forest, as well as England's Under-21 team. He later became a coach with Manchester City.



After being picked for a friendly against Italy in November 1989 David Platt was included in the 1990 World Cup Squad.

He became one of the most versatile and reliable England midfielders of the nineties and will be fondly remembered for his first England goal in the 1990 match, a fantastic volley scored in the last minute of extra time. It was his England success that took him to Italy and his time there as a player, captain and manager is fondly remembered. During his time spent in Italy he became fluent at speaking Italian.



### **STATS:**

In a playing career which spanned 16 years he amassed an impressive amount of silverware including the UEFA Cup with Juventus, the Coppa Italia with Sampdoria and the Premier League and FA Cup double with Arsenal in 1998. In total he made 448 appearances for seven different clubs and scored an impressive 150 goals from his midfield position.

Platt also had a stellar international career with England, winning 62 caps, scoring 27 goals and was part of the 1990 FIFA World Cup squad and the 1992 and 1996 UEFA European Championships squads.

He retired from football in 2001.

## COACHING:

Upon retiring from playing, Platt went into coaching and returned to Italy to join former club Sampdoria as their new manager. Unfortunately he had to leave after just six games when other clubs protested that he didn't have the correct qualifications to manage in Serie A.

He then returned to England to manage newly-relegated Nottingham Forest but had two largely unsuccessful seasons at The City Ground and left in 2001 to take charge of the England under-21's squad.

Under his guidance the side reached the 2002 under-21 European Championships but were unfortunately knocked out in the group stages. After failing to reach the 2004 competition, Platt left his post.

After taking some time out of the game he made a return to football management in 2010 when he joined up with former Sampdoria team-mate Roberto Mancini as his first-team coach at Manchester City. He was promoted to assistant manager in 2012 before leaving the club when Mancini departed the following year.

In May 2015 Platt was appointed manager of Indian side FC Pune City but left the club after just one season with his team finishing the campaign in 7th position in the league, winning just 4 of 14 games.

In late 2018, it emerged that Platt had been working as a consultant for Global Futures Sport who bought Italian side Palermo for just 10 Euros. He was bought in as an adviser as he had both played and managed in Italy and has his own management consultancy firm called Approach Associates.

Away from his business interests he has made appearances as a pundit and match analyst on various channels including Sky Sports and beIN Sport

In 2001 David Platt sat down with Sky Sports News as part of a special Boys of '96 series to relive his memories from that summer, including how an injury on the golf course ruled him out of England's key game against Scotland and how some international networking helped play a part in bonus negotiations with the FA.





David Platt married wife Rachel in 2000, with the pair travelling to the Seychelles for their honeymoon. They welcomed a son, Charlie, in 2006. Outside of his professional obligations, Platt values quality time with his family. He cherishes the precious moments spent with his loved ones and actively engages in activities that foster strong bonds.

In addition to his fitness routine and coaching responsibilities, David Platt also prioritises personal growth and continuous learning. He sets aside time each day to read books and articles on various subjects, expanding his knowledge and staying up-to-date with current trends and developments.

After bidding farewell to the football pitch, David has mainly resided in his hometown of Chadderton. Having spent several years travelling for matches and training, Platt now cherishes the tranquillity and comfort of his familiar surroundings. Despite the occasional appearances at events and charity functions, he prefers to maintain a relatively low profile, focusing on his personal and professional pursuits.

He has invested in several local businesses, including a restaurant and a sports academy, aiming to support the community and provide opportunities for young athletes. David has also been actively involved in charity work. Over the years, he has supported numerous charitable organisations, utilising his platform and influence to raise awareness and funds for various causes close to his heart.

Golazzo Group have recently delivered some much-needed aid to Oldham grass roots football club Boundary Park Juniors. The company was formed by David Platt and grass roots football club chairman Scott Hannah and after hearing of the plight of the club and its potential demise they stepped in to help.

In addition to his involvement in the football academy and grassroots football programs, David has also been actively engaged in promoting sports education in schools.

Remembering his early days with Boundary Park Juniors David stated that now after all these years I have a much greater admiration for my mother and father who stood on the sidelines all those years getting wet through and freezing cold! You appreciate what parents and these clubs do for young players, so now at Golazzo, we want to help clubs like Boundary Park Juniors as much as we possibly can.

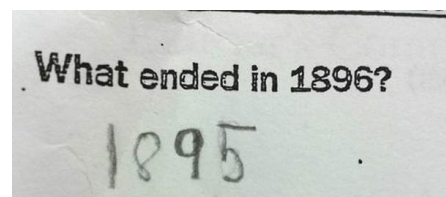
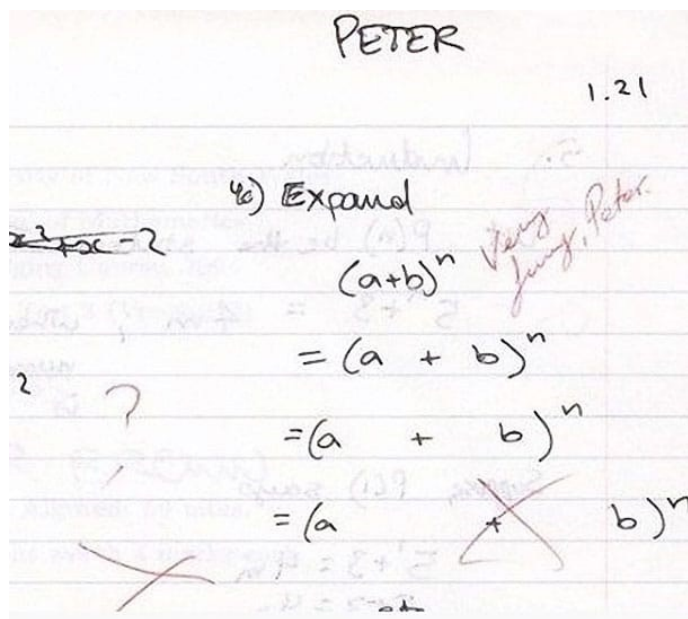


Proud B.P.J. showing off their new strips along with Club chairman John Francis (back row, far left), David Platt (fourth from right), and his Golazzo business partner Scott Hannah (far right)

A local lad that has never forgotten his roots.

Something to make you laugh:

### FUNNY ANSWERS GIVEN BY CHILDREN IN EXAMS

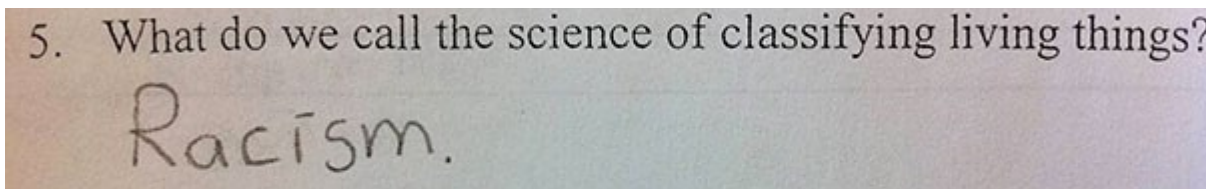
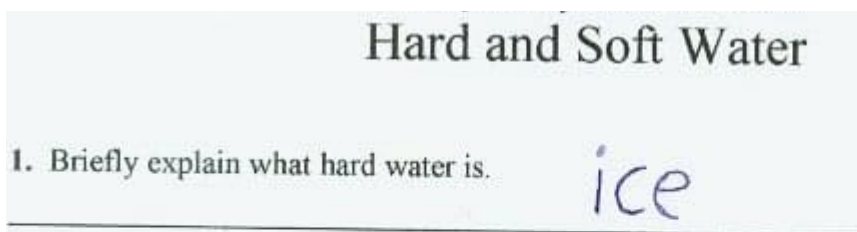


Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed:

At the bottom

To change Centimetres to meters you?

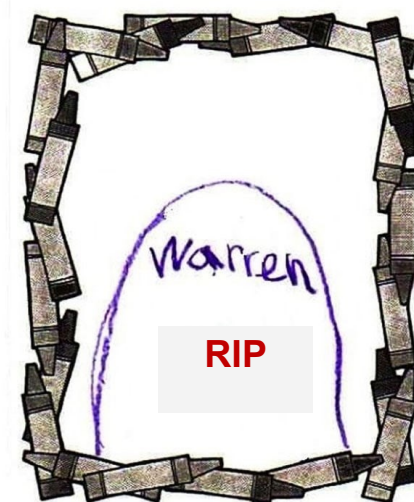
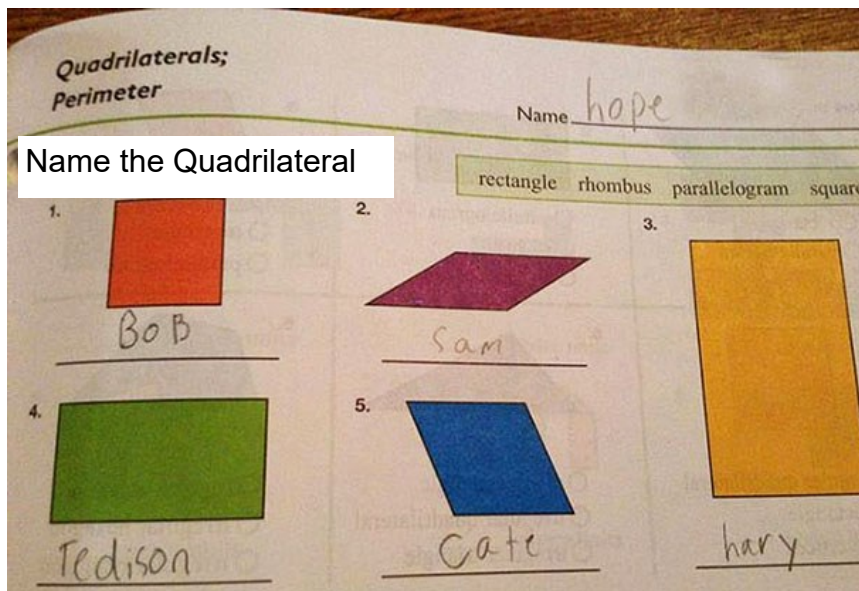
Take out Centi



Explain the phrase: 'Free Press'

When your mum irons trousers for you

Draw a picture of what you will look like in 100 years time. In 100 years I will be .....years



## REMEMBER WHEN - Rag 'n' Bone men

Many from younger generations may never have heard of them but 'rag-and-bone men' were well-known on the streets of Greater Manchester.

For those who don't know, rag-and-bone men, sometimes referred to as 'totters,' or rag tatters would collect unwanted household items to sell on themselves. They were a familiar sight travelling slowly down our roads and, in the 60s and 70s, the trade was immortalised by the BBC sitcom Steptoe and Son.

Known for travelling on a horse and cart, the rag-and bone-man would collect anything that homeowners no longer wanted. Hearing their calls, Greater Manchester residents would bring out their second-hand items and the rag-and-bone man would let them know if he wanted to take it or not.

Rags, or any type of clothing, were usually sold on for recycling and animal bone, such as that left over from meals, could be used for fertiliser or to make other items. Rag-and-bone men would pay for the unwanted treasures, usually giving something to children of the household such as balloons or sweets.

Many will remember getting 'donkey stones' from them in exchange for items, donkey stones being the scouring stones that could be used to clean a doorstep, window sill or other stonework.



Not a bit of litter in sight and the houseproud housewives beavering away at their doorsteps and the paving stones outside their houses. They will be using the donkey stones given to them by the rag-and-bone man in payment for their unwanted goods.





*A poem by Pam Ayres:*

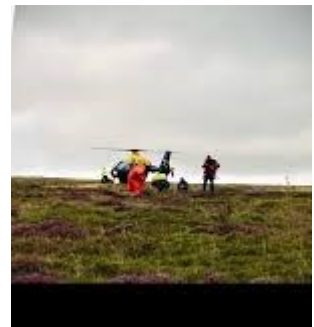
## CALL OUT THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Call out the Mountain Rescue I came up for a lark  
But the night is getting chilly and the fells are getting dark  
My shoe's lost its stiletto heel, my frock is feeling thin  
Call out the Mountain Rescue and let's get taken in

Call out the Mountain Rescue to search the hills and vales  
Swathed in ropes and cables like a team of Chippendales  
Release the search and rescue dogs they'll find me by my smell  
I ate a Kendal Mint Cake and I'm wearing my Chanel

Call out the Mountain Rescue I am stranded on a crag  
My hairstyle's badly damaged and I've snapped my shoulder bag  
I'm utterly exhausted, cannot move another inch  
So hail the helicopter I am ready for the winch

Call out the Mountain Rescue wrap me warm and well  
Lay me on a stretcher bed and bear me down the fell  
Heal me with your tenderness, drench me with your sorrow  
Drop me off at home...I'll call you out again tomorrow



## PLACES OF OLDHAM/SADDLEWORTH — Black Chew Head

This is a place that you may never have heard of:

It is in the north of the Peak District National Park, Black Chew Head resides as the **Greater Manchester county top, at 1,778 feet (542 m)**. A small cairn in a vast expanse of peaty moorland, you won't find soaring views here. The summit can be reached from a variety of places and the Pennine Way passes close by.



It goes without saying that this walk is only for the **very experienced walker** wearing all the correct equipment and well prepared for inclement weather.

## BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM — Greaves Arms



The Greaves Arms was situated at 13 Yorkshire Street. This pub was built in 1925 and closed in January 2014. It has now been converted to a restaurant.

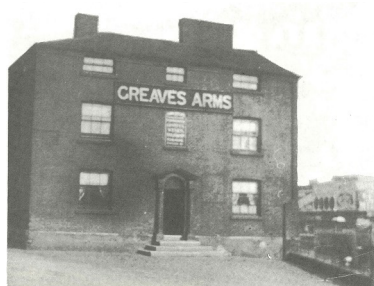
The room upstairs at the Greaves was very popular for functions and I'm sure many of our Readers will remember going to 'Do's' there and many will have had their own Wedding Reception there.

The first recorded inn here was the Blue Ball. It stood on land belonging to Edward Greaves and was kept by Robert Newton from 1744 to 1759. James Newton succeeded his father and he preferred the name Old Church Inn. The inn was probably rebuilt when William Wright took over and the sign was changed to Nelsons Ball. The inn was sometimes listed as just the Ball. In 1926 there was a complete change of name and it became the Greaves Arms. The property was owned by Edward Greaves executors in 1829 and that year's survey found the building covered 160 square yards. From this time the address appeared variously as Church Street, Greaves Street, Yorkshire Street and in 1837, Church Terrace.

William Mason took over in that year but he lost his licence after a court appearance when he was found guilty of stealing hay.

In 1868 the police told the licensing magistrates that the Greaves Arms was full of thieves and prostitutes and the landlord, Charles Meadowcroft, was doing nothing about it. The following year he also had two convictions for allowing out of time drinking but remarkably was still running the pub in 1875.

Oldham Brewery bought the pub from John Greaves of Turton in 1891 and three years later it was described as a good class house. When in 1923 the War Memorial was unveiled it was only two feet from the pub and plans were made to build the new Greaves Arms completed two years later. Annie Platt was the landlady at the time and served customers from a temporary hut whilst the building work took place. Over the years the pub has seen extensive alterations and lost its 'Arms' in 1984 and to be restored in 1992.



The Greaves Arms  
1922

## **QUIZ QUESTIONS**

1. Through the streets of which city is Lady Godiva said to have ridden naked?
2. Which new international language was created by Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof in the 1880's?
3. What word is used to describe a grotesque carving of an animal, man or devil?
4. When was Samuel Morse's dot-dash alphabet first introduced:  
1821,1829,1838,1845,1857?
5. Although he led a plot to kill James 1, Robert Catesby is not as well remembered as which co-plotter?
6. Which declaration binds doctors to observe a strong code of medical ethics?
7. What is the name given to carbon dioxide when it is frozen to  $-78.5$  degrees C ( $-173.3$  degrees F)?
8. Name the gruelling test of stamina which takes place at Aintree in late March or early April each year?
9. Which famous fictional characters lived at 221B Baker Street, London?
10. When were the last convicts deported from Britain to Australia:  
1837, 1852, 1861, 1873, 1885?
11. In 1865, who left his work as a Methodist Minister to form the Salvation Army?
12. At what US Army facility near Louisville, Kentucky, are the USA's gold reserves held?
13. In 1720, what speculative venture brought ruin to thousands of wealthy families in England?
14. What is the name of the wave which sweeps up the Severn Estuary and river?
15. What handy item was invented by Swede Johan Edvard Lundstrom in 1855?
16. Exactly where in London can the famous Whispering Gallery be found?
17. Which Creek in North-West Canada was the scene of a great gold rush at the end of the 19th century?
18. What do the five interlinked rings of the flag of the Olympic Movement represent?
19. In 1775, who made a famous ride to warn colonists of Massachusetts that British troops were on the way?
20. In 1996, which tennis "great" made his professional golf debut on the European tour in the Czech Open?

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Coventry
2. Esperanto
3. Gargoyle
4. 1838
5. Guy Fawkes
6. The Hippocratic Oath
7. Dry Ice
8. The Grand National Steeplechase
9. Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Mrs. Hudson
10. 1852
11. William Booth
12. Fort Knox
13. The South Sea Bubble
14. The Severn Bore
15. The safety match
16. The dome of St Paul's Cathedral
17. Klondike
18. The five inhabited continents
19. Paul Revere
20. Ivan Lendl

*A true short story.*

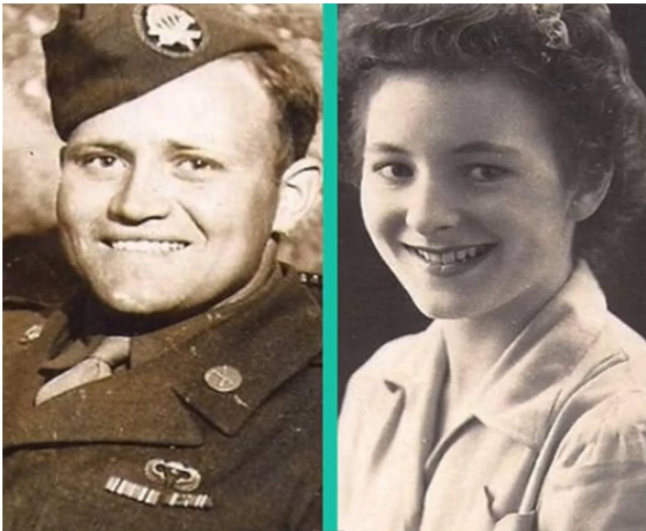
## YEARS APART

In 2015, the virtual reunion of Norwood Thomas and Joyce Durant Morris made headlines. They were apart for 70 years, married other people, and had children and grandchildren. Their lives were good, but when they saw each other for the first time on Skype after decades apart, the memories came flooding back.

Norwood and Joyce's love story started on the River Thames in 1944. After dating for a few months, they separated when Norwood joined the paratroopers who were dropped into Normandy, France, on D-Day. The separation lasted seven decades until Joyce's son found contact information for Norwood's son.

Their first reunion was via Skype in November 2016, with Norwood living in Virginia Beach in the U.S. and Joyce in Australia. The world fell in love with their story, and a GoFundMe campaign was started so the former lovers could reunite. Air New Zealand offered to fly Norwood and his son to Australia.

Norwood and Joyce finally shared a hug in February 2016 when they reunited Down Under. They spent a couple of weeks together, including Valentine's Day. Hopefully, the lovebirds get another reunion in the afterlife. Joyce passed away 10 months after their reunion, and Norwood died in February 2021.



## **EASY MUSHROOM PILAU**

Serves 1

Preparation time less than 30 minutes

Cooking time 10 to 30 mins

### **Ingredients:**

3 tbsp vegetable oil

1 onion, thinly sliced

150g/5½oz mushrooms, thickly sliced or halved if small

1–1½ tsp medium curry powder, to taste

85g/3oz long-grain rice

½ vegetable or chicken stock cube, crumbled

50g/1¾oz frozen peas

Ground black pepper

### **Method:**

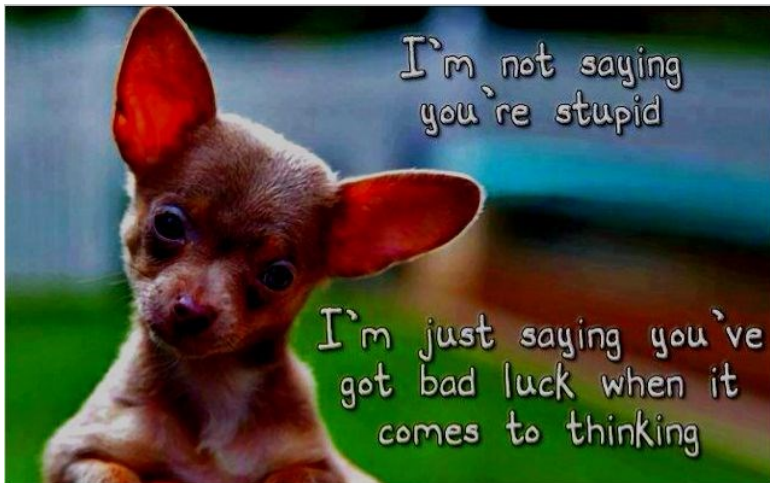
Put the oil, onion and mushrooms in a large saucepan. Season with lots of pepper and fry over a high heat for 4–5 minutes, or until the onion is softened and the mushrooms are lightly browned, stirring regularly with a wooden spoon. Sprinkle over the curry powder and cook for 1 minute more, stirring constantly.

Tip the rice into the pan and stir in the stock cube and 400ml/14fl oz water. Cover the pan with a lid and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and cook the rice at a low simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove the lid, stir in the peas and cook over a high heat for 2–3 minutes or until the liquid has almost all gone and the peas are hot, stirring constantly.

For a more authentic flavour, add crushed garlic and grated ginger at the same time as the curry powder. Or swap the curry powder for garam masala and add a few extra spices if you have them in the cupboard.

IT'S A DOGS LIFE





## ANIMAL CORNER

### Sir Nils Olav



Edinburgh Zoo is home to a knighted penguin.  
**Major General Sir Nils Olav III.** (Norwegian Army)

**Full title:** Major General Sir Nils Olav III, Baron of the Bouvet Islands.

Sir Nils Olav is named after Major Nils Egelien and the King of Norway at the time, King Olav V and the name has passed down through three generations of king penguins since 1972.

When the Norwegian King's Guard visited the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1961 for a drill display, Major Nils Egelien fell in love with the zoo's penguin colony, with the regal march of the king penguins reminding him of how the Norwegian King's Guard soldiers marched. When they returned to Edinburgh in 1972 Egelien arranged for the regiment to adopt a king penguin as their military mascot.

Following his adoption, Nils was given the role of mascot for the Norwegian King's Guard and has quickly moved up the ranks:

1982 - Corporal  
1987 - Sergeant  
1993 - Regimental Sergeant Major  
2001 - Honourable Regimental  
Sergeant Major  
2005 - Colonel-in-Chief  
2008 - Knighthood (When Nils was knighted it was such an important promotion it had to be approved by King Harald V of Norway.  
2016 - Brigadier  
2023 - Major General



Nils is regarded very highly among the Norwegian King's Guardsmen and has received his honours and medals due to his outstanding service and good conduct! The Guardsmen like to visit Nils every few years while they are in the city performing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. They last visited in August 2023.

Major General is the third highest rank in the Norwegian Army. Sir Nils lives with the rest of the colony in Penguins Rock, the largest outdoor penguin pool in Europe. The first ever king penguin was presented to the zoo in 1913 by the Norwegian family of Christian Savesen. Sir Nils now outranks Major Nils Egelien, the soldier he was named after in 1972.

In 2005, the Zoo was presented with a 4-foot tall bronze statue of Sir Nils which takes pride of place outside Penguins Rock. A statue also stands at the King's Guard compound at Huseby Leir, Oslo.



## SPORTING HISTORY

Games and sports began as simple folk games played in small towns and villages. Over the centuries, traditional folk games played in villages, towns and schools have evolved into massively popular – and hugely lucrative – international industries.

England has often been at the forefront of creating and codifying games and sports. Cricket, football, rugby, darts, badminton, boxing, table tennis, squash and even baseball all have English roots. England took part in the first international rugby match, the first international football match and the first international test cricket match as early as the 1870s.

**JOUSTING:** Jousting is one of the world's oldest equestrian sports, and it was arguably one of England's first national sports. Originally a form of medieval military training, it developed into a competitive sport, and a way for kings and knights to display their courage and skill.

In the 14th century, the *Chronicles of Froissart* records the story of a French squire who challenged Joachim Cator, an English squire, to a 'feat of arms', including a joust. The fighting took place over two days, and eventually had to be stopped after the Frenchman sustained severe injuries. Cator won, but the Earl of Buckingham rewarded the Frenchman with 100 francs for acquitting himself to the Earl's satisfaction.

It was undoubtedly one of the most dangerous sports in history. In 1559 King Henry II of France died after a splinter from his lance pierced his eye. King Henry VIII was badly injured while jousting in 1536 – he was rendered unconscious, and the ambassador to the Holy Roman Empire wrote that 'every one thought it a miracle he was not killed'.

There's been a resurgence in competitive jousting in recent years, and tournaments now take place around the world – including at our historic sites during the summer. It remains a physically demanding sport – a study showed that competitors have the strengths, agility and skills required of today's top athletes.



During the summer at Historic sights the Knights of Royal England entertain visitors with exhilarating displays of action, stunts, falls and fights in an authentic arena complete with a Royal Box. Battling it out in the saddle and on foot in one-to-one combat, the valiant knights will then compete for points to find this season's ultimate champion. Photo on left was taken at Hever Castle. Join Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and the Knights of Royal England in the procession to the Jousting arena.

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LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS  
EDITOR  
JOAN HOLMES**



# Life Story

Every life has a story...

