

Newsletter Number 5 for August 2015



Introduction

In this issue we will concentrate on the concepts of Nostalgia and Memories. Are museums the places where we store, order & catalogue nearly all our nostalgia and memories? Is nostalgia a good thing for us? Do we use nostalgia as a source to ground and add scale to today's experiences? Is nostalgia too selective so that it reinforces the pleasant past to the exclusion of the painful, the mistakes and the regretted?

One clothing company specialises in t-shirts with mottoes for mature chaps. A favourite is 'The older I get the better I was'. That's one warming aspect of nostalgia. Other familiar stories include: the long golf putt that gets longer; the prize fish; quiet, hot summer days; the power of that car; the perfect dress, how slim I looked; the memorable meal and the way mother used to say and do it.

This newsletter focuses on the contributions nostalgia and your memories make to daily life. The focus is on Winchcombe but for our readers further afield just replace our examples with your own. The bus stop, local pub, cricket field, church, school, best mate and girlfriend are possibilities. Its time to enjoy again part of what you became.

Here are three short lists to help you on your way.

Nostalgia for the nineteen fifties includes:

Pat Boone, The Potters Wheel interlude, Dick Barton, Hangman game, Listen with Mother, the Goon Show, PYREX, Formica, Eye Level Grill, Remploy, Bubble Cars and the Step Stool.

Nostalgia and the nineteen sixties includes:

Berni Inns, Ajax and Vim, Continental quilts, Blackforest Gateau, Avocado coloured bathrooms, Irish coffee, Diana Dors, Desk Planners, 'Roman Holiday', Scalextric, Atrixo hand cream, the Austin Cambridge, Bubble Lamps, G-plan, the Twist and ARPANET the precursor of the Internet.

Nostalgia for the nineteen seventies includes:

Bridge over Troubled Water, Kevin Keegan, Tiswas, Polo mints, Three day week, Concorde, Morecambe & Wise, Flares & Platforms, Play School, Dymo Label Makers, The Goodies, Space Hoppers, Cassette Tape Recorders and Apple II.

For each of these lists the decade is rather flexible!

Now here are some Winchcombe nostalgia questions for you. Please do not look at the answers until you have tried to answer numbers 1 to 10.

1. Where was Winchcombe Gas Works located?
2. Winchcombe had a cinema but where would you find it?
3. Where was Jim's garage?
4. Where did Dr Halliwell live in 1914?
5. In which street was Winchcombe's first laundrette?
6. What did Haywards sell and where was their shop located in Winchcombe?
7. Where was the Winchcombe street fountain located and opened on the 21st June 1887?
8. Winchcombe has a drinking trough for horses and cattle. Where was it first located and where is it now?
9. Where was H.W. Barton's electrical shop?
10. Where was the Winchcombe VAD hospital located during WW1?

Here are some statements which may be folklore – do they have any substance? If you can help us with information on these sites we would be very grateful. Send your email to john@hancojohn.plus.com

11. Lloyds Bank, Winchcombe used to be located in the premises of the current Sue Ryder shop.
12. The MEB had a show room in what is now Lady Jane's tearoom.
13. There was a police lock-up down near the footbridge.
14. Pat Smith's Anchor garage and cycle repair premises were opposite the old police station.
15. That Granby House is named after an ale house called the Marquis of Granby.
16. In the 1950's Winchcombe had a Department Store called Dunkin's.
17. The swimming pool and bowling green were at the bottom of Vineyard Street.
18. Wherry & Martin were motor and cycle repairers at 21 North Street with a telephone number Winchcombe 151.
19. Winchcombe Fever Hospital was in Langley Road.
20. One local estate agency was Royles.

Next page to find some of the answers.

Answers

1. The gas works was located at the junction of Hailes Street, Broadway Road and Silk Mill Lane. To the rear of the gas works is a footbridge over the Isbourne which gave access to the field where Winchcombe held its annual fete. [The Museum holds a fine air photograph loaned by the Winchcombe History Group.]
2. The cinema could be found about half way along Silk Mill Lane and is now converted to houses. The silk mill was actually at the other end of Tannery Lane. Tannery Court didn't sound right so it was called Silk Mill Court. The films showing in September 1954 were:
Jack Hawkins and Michael Dennis in Angels One Five;
Jack Hawkins and Donald Sinden in The Cruel Sea;
Olivia de Havilland and Richard Burton in My Cousin Rachel;
Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding in Derby Day.
[The museum holds a folder giving more information and photographs about the cinema. The special doors of the cinema are now in a private house in Winchcombe.]
3. In Queens Square, Jim's Garage was owned by Jim Norton and opened on 1st July 1937. It was formerly known as the Cotswold Garage and Mr H.G. Greening was Jim's first customer. Petrol was available as well as repairs. There was also a petrol pump outside the George Hotel. [Splendid photograph of Jim's in the museum.]
4. In the building currently occupied by Lloyds Bank. When Dr Halliwell lived there the building had a small front garden with railings. The large, today rather untended, back garden was used by the WW1 soldiers – no local men were ever treated there as they went to hospitals in other parts of the UK, Australia and Canada. A very detailed history of the VAD hospital and its use has been written by Carol Harris. The museum has letters, photographs and autograph albums from this period.
5. The first laundrette was located in the building currently occupied by Beauty Beyond in Bull Lane.
6. Haywards was a DIY and general hardware and gardening materials store. It was located to the left of the museum entrance. The store is still present in Tewkesbury. [The museum holds a photograph of the store in Winchcombe.]
7. The street fountain was located in front of what is now Lloyds Bank on Abbey Terrace. It was opened on the 21st June 1887. It marked the availability of a piped water supply and iron pipes had been laid to most of the built up area of the town. The supply was a gift to the town from Mrs Dent as part of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations. Ownership passed immediately to the Rural Sanitary Authority who were instructed to supply water at the lowest possible cost. Water hydrants were added for fire and other uses. [The museum has photographs of the 1910 opening when a large marble fountain, built by Waddinghams, was unveiled and also holds a list of the streets served.]
8. Initially the drinking trough was located where the Greet and Gretton roads meet on the corner of North Street. It was later moved, after a great dispute, to the corner of Crispin Road and Greet Road. The drinking trough was given by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association. They were formed to give water to the many horses and dogs travelling the roads. We believe there is still one in the

Promenade in Cheltenham as well. Does the Winchcombe trough have any inscription?

9. Barton's electrical shop was located where today the kitchen shop is in the former Assembly Rooms where Abbey Terrace meets Vineyard Street. Bill Barton and his son in law Alan Wright ran the shop and repair centre.
10. The VAD hospital had two wards. One, Ward B, was in the Assembly Rooms in what is now the Conservative Working Men's Club. The other, Ward A, was in the Parish Hall in Cowl Lane. [The museum has substantial folders about the patients and local volunteers who ran these wards. It also holds great detail about the names on the war memorial.]
11. Is this correct?
12. It may have been the MEB or the Gas Showroom. Any information welcome.
13. Rumour has it this is correct. Any information?
14. Correct. Pat Smith ran the famous 'Hell of the North' off-road cycle races from this site. The race continues today. Any more information on the garage?
15. Correct. The only ale house we can think of in Winchcombe that has given its name to a later building.
16. Correct. It occupied the site currently of Anton & K and Mercia Fine Art, the picture frame shop next door. Originally called Mitchells Emporium the store moved to what is now the Wesley Tapas Bar and then into North Street.
17. Correct but do we have any more information out there?
18. Correct according to an advertisement held in the museum. Wherry & Martin also had a Motor & Cycle Repairs operation along the Gretton Road at the corner of Delavale Road.
19. Is this correct? Any information welcome.
20. This is correct but where were the premises?

Detailed answers to questions 11 to 20 are planned for Newsletter 6.

I hope you have enjoyed this nostalgic trip down memory lane of the fifties, sixties and seventies and then reflected on the changing area in which you live. My thoughts for this Nostalgia newsletter began when I heard Flanders and Swann singing 'Slow Train' and I leave you with their words:

No, I think I agree with the old lady who said, "If God had intended us to fly, He would never have given us the railways!" [Michael Flanders introduction to the song.]

SLOW TRAIN

Miller's Dale for Tideswell ...

Kirby Muxloe ...

Mow Cop and Scholar Green ...

No more will I go to Blandford Forum and Mortehoe
On the slow train from Midsomer Norton and Mumby Road.

No churns, no porter, no cat on a seat
At Chorlton-cum-Hardy or Chester-le-Street.

We won't be meeting again
On the Slow Train.

I'll travel no more from Littleton Badsey to Openshaw.
At Long Stanton I'll stand well clear of the doors no more.
No whitewashed pebbles, no Up and no Down
From Formby Four Crosses to Dunstable Town.
I won't be going again
On the Slow Train.

I am very grateful to Tim Noise and Ian Margrett for their help with this newsletter. They have lived in Winchcombe for most of their lives and gave freely of their memories. I also acknowledge the contributions of Anne Crow, Carol Harris and Barbara Edward whose encyclopaedic knowledge of Winchcombe helped massively with the answers to the questions in this newsletter and have encouraged me to press on with Newsletters 6 and 7.

John Hancock
August 2015

[The Winchcombe Town Trust, Registered Charity No. 234734]