



9th December - 15th December, 2013

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### On This Day

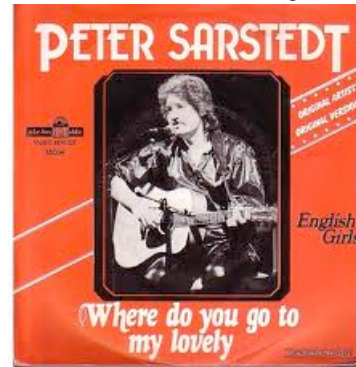


First Episode of Coronation Street

On 9th December, 1960, the first episode of *Coronation Street* was broadcast. It was originally produced as 13 pilot episodes. No-one knew whether it would be successful or not. Well we know now don't we? It has been going for over 50 years!

There were some memorable characters in the early days of *Coronation Street*. Ena Sharples and her pals Minnie Caldwell and Martha Longhurst always knew the latest gossip. Ken Barlow was a student who always seemed a bit snobbish when he came home to *Coronation Street*.

### On This Day



Peter Sarstedt

On 10th December, 1941, Peter Sarstedt was born in India. His parents were British and they worked for the civil service in India before India became independent.

Peter Sarstedt became a musician and played for many years. Even if you can't remember any of his other hits, I bet everyone will remember "Where do you go to my lovely?" It reached the top chart position in 14 different countries. The song won an Ivor Novello Award in 1969. Peter Sarstedt was the younger brother of 1960s pop star, Eden Kane.

## On This Day



Liz Smith

On 11th December, 1921, English actress, Liz Smith, was born. Her real name was Betty Gleadle, and she came from Scunthorpe. Her mother died two years after she was born, and her father abandoned her. She was brought up by her grandmother.

Liz Smith had a hard life, bringing up two children as a single parent after she divorced. The amazing thing is that she took up acting at the age of 49 and became really successful. She didn't give up the career she loved until she was 87. I thought she was brilliant playing eccentric characters.

## On This Day



Princess Anne Married

On 12th December, 1992, Princess Anne married Commander Timothy Laurence. The ceremony took place at Crathie Church, near Balmoral in Scotland.

Princess Anne had been married before to Captain Mark Phillips. Their daughter, Zara Phillips was bridesmaid. They also have a son, Peter.

Princess Anne wore a simple white suit, and beautiful white flowers in her hair. Commander Laurence looked handsome in his Royal Navy uniform. Well-wishers had gathered outside the church to greet them as they came out.

## On This Day



Feast Day of Saint Lucy

13th December is celebrated in many countries as the Feast Day of Saint Lucy. She is believed to have died in 304 AD, at the age of 21. Saint Lucy was a young Christian woman who wanted to dedicate her life to the church.

According to the traditional story, Lucy was born to rich and noble parents. Her father died when she was about 5. Lucy was brought up by her mother, who found a suitable man to be her husband. This was not what Lucy wanted. She began to give away her money and jewels. This made her fiance angry and he had her executed.

## On This Day



Saddam Hussein Captured

On 14th December, 2003, the former president of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, was captured by American soldiers. He had been found hiding in a bunker at a farmhouse near his home town. There had been a tip-off about his hiding place from a member of his family.

Saddam Hussein came to power in Iraq in 1979. He was widely condemned in the west for the brutality of his dictatorship.

It has been estimated that he was responsible for the deaths of more than 50,000 people. He was executed 3 years later.

## On This Day



Leaning Tower of Pisa

On 15th December, 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa was re-opened to the public. It had been closed for 11 years. Major structural work had been needed to make it safe. It was straight when it was built. It was never meant to tilt!

When building work started in 1173, it had very shallow foundations. It was also built on very soft, unstable ground which gradually sank. And one side sank more than the other. When I first saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa it made me laugh! It was as if my eyes were playing tricks. It's amazing that it is still standing today.

## The Way We Were



Men and Cooking

Did the men in your family do any cooking? My father would not have entertained the idea. He was a conventional meat-and-two-veg man. He liked his dinner to be on the table by the time he had got his coat off. That was how my Stan was to begin with, although he was always willing to help.

He looked terrified the first time I asked him to do some cooking. I think it was a rice pudding that I wanted him to make, when I was ill in bed. It was different when Stan retired. He didn't mind having a go then. He even did the washing up.

## The Way We Were



Hairdressers

Did you ever feel that it was a constant battle to stay neat and tidy when you were rushing around, shopping and taking children to school? In winter, I always felt as though my hair was all over the place within minutes of leaving the house. Not surprising with the windy weather and the rain! I liked to have my hair permed a few weeks before Christmas.

I enjoyed going to the hairdresser, but I only went when my hair needed to be cut. In between times, I washed and set it myself with setting lotion to try to make it last. (Was it just me, or did Amami have a slightly peppery smell?)

## The Way We Were



Dates

I've always liked dates. I used to eat bits off the big square block of dates when I was making Date and Walnut Cake, or a steamed date sponge. We always used to have a box of dates at Christmas. They weren't all chopped up and squashed together like the blocks were, but the boxes of dates were separate, on a kind of twig. They were recognisable as separate fruits.

What I liked best was the name. They were called 'Glove Box Dates' if they came in an oval box made out of very thin curved wood. You picked the dates out with a little wooden fork.

## Do You Remember?



The Pagoda, Kew Gardens

We live far enough from London that trips there are still a treat. Despite the hustle and bustle, it's amazing how much green space there is. One place we like especially is Kew Gardens. You could be a million miles from the City.

The Great Pagoda in Kew Gardens is a lovely building. It's much older than I realised. It dates back to 1762. "Let's go up it," said Angie. "No, it's been shut to the public for years," I replied. "They reopened it in 2006," came back Angie. "Oh!" I said.

So up we went. I can tell you, there are 253 steps to the top: I've counted them all! Phew! But it was worth it: what a view!

## Do You Remember?

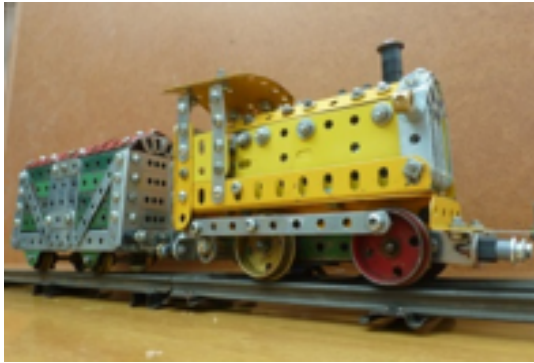


The Bedford OB

Do you remember charabanc holidays? The days out to the seaside? The mystery tours? Do you remember the old coaches? The coaches of the 40's and 50's? And especially this one: the Bedford OB coach with Duplex Vista bodywork.

With the war over, and before most people had cars, this was the nation's holiday transport. Dad, Ma, Nan Stanley, Susie and me. We'd all go with bottles of pop and sandwiches wrapped in old bread wrappers. And 4d worth of sweets for the journey. A day out to Clacton sticks in the mind. In my mind I can still see that Bedford OB rolling across Essex towards the sand and the sea.

## Do You Remember?



<http://bit.ly/reisRbB>

Meccano

How many engineers started out with Meccano? I loved making things with Meccano. It seemed so real: pulleys, gears, worm-screws, sheets of metal, angle girders, and real nuts and bolts. I built all sorts: cranes, tanks, bulldozers, bridges, lorries. But I never built a train.

I spent hours on the floor of my bedroom. My Meccano had the traditional red plates and sheets, and green metal strips. It taught me lots about levers, engines, strength and design. After school I had a spell in an office. Then I went back to college to train in electrical engineering. I found that what I had learned with Meccano stood me in good stead.

## Over To You



The Avengers

*Dear Mary and Jimmy*

*Of all the TV dramas I have watched over the years, my all-time favourite was The Avengers. 'John Steed', played by Patrick Macnee, was my heart-throb. He looked so debonair and suave with his rolled umbrella and bowler hat.*

*I also loved the glamour and adventurousness of the women in the series. Honor Blackman played 'Cathy Gale', and later Diana Rigg played 'Emma Peel'. As soon as the jazzy theme tune started, I felt excited and knew I was in for an hour of good entertainment.*

*Best wishes from Sheila*

## Over To You



Christmas In Other Countries

*Dear Mary and Jimmy*

*Can we please have some articles about how people in other countries celebrate Christmas? I would also like to hear about other festivities that take place in the winter.*

*When we were first married, my husband was in the Army and we had several postings abroad. Although I missed being with my family at Christmas, I really enjoyed seeing how other people did it. I was especially interested in the food. I still have several recipes that were given to me by people I met in Germany and Cyprus.*

*Best wishes from Nora*

## General Knowledge Quiz

1. In the famous painting by Frans Hals, what is the cavalier doing?  
*drinking, singing, laughing*



2. Where do we find geothermal energy?  
*waves, rocks, stars*

3. What is a pagoda?  
*A Buddhist Temple, a shelter, a covered walkway*

4. In which sea is the island of Crete?  
*Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Caspian Sea*

5. What nationality was the poet Goethe?  
*Polish, Russian, German,*

6. What colour is emerald?  
*Purple, blue, green*

## Answers

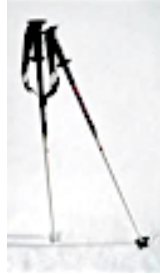
*1. Laughing  
2. Rocks  
3. Buddhist temple  
4. Mediterranean  
5. German  
6. Green*



## Sporting Chance Quiz

In which sports are these items used?

1. A chilly, but exhilarating sport.



2. The winner might jump over this to celebrate!



3. An indoor game with a high net.



4. You need a smooth stretch of grass for this sport.



5. A challenge for you and your horse!



### Answers

1. *Skiing*
2. *Tennis*
3. *Badminton*
4. *Lawn Bowls*
5. *Show Jumping*

## Colour Me Quiz

These questions are all to do with colour.



1. On traffic lights, which colour tells you to stop?

*Red, amber, green*

2. What does the word *camouflage* mean?

3. If a person has *flaxen* hair, are they blond or brunette?

4. Which colour family does *terracotta* belong to?

*Blue, green, red*

5. Which is the darkest colour of the rainbow?

*Navy blue, indigo, black*

6. What are the two colours of a wasp?

*Orange & brown, black & yellow, black & white*

### Answers

1. *Red*
2. *Colours that make animals hard to see.*
3. *Blond*
4. *Red*
5. *Indigo*
6. *Black & yellow*

## Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Let your heart be light  
 From now on your troubles will be out of sight, yeah  
 Have y\_\_\_\_\_ a  
 m\_\_\_\_\_ little C\_\_\_\_\_ s  
 Make the Yuletide gay  
 From now on your  
 tr\_\_\_\_\_ s  
 will be miles a\_\_\_\_\_, oh  
 Here we are as in olden d\_\_\_\_ s  
 Happy g\_\_\_\_\_ en days of yore,  
 ah  
 Faithful fr\_\_\_\_\_ s who are  
 dear to us  
 They gather near to us once  
 more



<http://bit.ly/16H45SP>

### Answers

- |             |          |              |             |         |         |           |            |
|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1. yourself | 2. merry | 3. Christmas | 4. troubles | 5. away | 6. days | 7. golden | 8. friends |
|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|

## Galway Bay

If you ever go across the sea to  
 Ir\_\_\_\_\_ d,  
 then maybe at the closing of  
 your d\_\_\_\_,  
 you can sit and w\_\_\_\_ ch the  
 moon r\_\_\_\_ e over Claddagh,  
 and see the sun go d\_\_\_\_\_ on  
 Galway B\_\_\_\_ .

Just to hear again the ripple of  
 the trout st\_\_\_\_\_ m,  
 The women in the meadow  
 making hay,  
 just to sit beside the turf fire in  
 a cabin,  
 and watch the barefoot  
 gosoons as they pl\_\_\_\_\_.



<http://bit.ly/1aKqN26>

### Answers

- |            |        |          |         |         |        |           |         |
|------------|--------|----------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Ireland | 2. day | 3. watch | 4. rise | 5. down | 6. Bay | 7. stream | 8. play |
|------------|--------|----------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|