


The Weekly Sparkle® Carer's Notes

9th December - 15th December, 2013



Each week, our writers Mary and Jimmy, bring their memories and reminiscences to life, in a variety of columns that are written especially for your residents.

Use these pages to encourage your residents to relive *their* own memories. Ask questions, listen, reassure. Acknowledge each person's contribution, as this is a great opportunity to give quiet people a chance to express themselves.

On This Day • *through the years*

PAGE 1 ~ 9 December 1960 ~ First Episode Of Coronation Street

Background: Coronation Street is the most watched series on television in the UK. It has also been broadcast in several other countries, including Australia. It was devised by Tony Warren for the newly formed Granada Television Company. The soap is set in 'Weatherfield' a fictitious suburb of Manchester.

Questions: Do you watch Coronation Street? Who are your favourite characters? What do you like about them? Do you think events on Coronation Street are 'true-to-life? Do you watch any other soaps?

PAGE 1 ~ 10 December 1941 ~ Peter Sarstedt

Background: Peter Sarstedt worked as a musician in various settings for many years, but most people associate his name with that one song - Where Do You Go To My Lovely. It's a song about a girl from a poor family who becomes part of a wealthy crowd but keeps her background a secret. It was probably the catchy tune rather than the words that accounted for its popularity.

Questions: Do you remember Peter Sarstedt? Can you remember any other records he made? What was the tune of 'Where do you go to my lovely'? What was your favourite song of the 1960s? Which singers did you like best?

PAGE 2 ~ 11 December 1921 ~ Liz Smith

Background: Liz Smith played all sorts of eccentric old ladies in comic roles like 'Nan' in The Royle Family, as well as straight parts in serious dramas. It's heartwarming to think that someone can have such a successful career despite starting it at almost 50.

Questions: Did you see Liz Smith in any TV programmes? Which ones? If you had taken up a new career at the age of 49, what would you have chosen to do? At what age do you think actors should stop work? What would be the hardest part of being an actor?

PAGE 2 ~ 12 December 1992 ~ Princess Anne Married

Background: This was a second marriage for Princess Anne and holding the ceremony in Crathie Church near Balmoral ensured that it was a small event, compared with many Royal weddings. The Queen, Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother were guests so it still attracted a crowd of well-wishers and Royal watchers.



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Questions: Do you like Princess Anne? Which member of the Royal family do you think works the hardest? Why do you think the couple chose to get married in Scotland? [The Church of Scotland allows divorced people to marry in church whereas the Church of England does not]

PAGE 3 ~ 13 December each year ~ Feast Day of Saint Lucy

Background: Because the name Lucy is derived from the Latin word for 'light' (luce), many of the traditions associated with Saint Lucy relate to light, or seeing. Many of the portrayals of Saint Lucy in old paintings, stained glass etc show her with her eyes on a plate (very gruesome) because she is said to have had her eyes gouged out by her furious suitor before he had her killed. In Scandinavian countries, Santa Lucia is usually shown with a crown of candles.

Questions: Is there a Saint associated with your name? Which other Saints do you know about? Why do you think the church tells us about Saints?

PAGE 3 ~ 14 December 2003 ~ Saddam Hussein Captured

Background: Saddam Hussein was a despotic and brutal dictator with a policy of ethnic cleansing aimed mainly at Kurdish people, who were killed in large numbers under his regime.

Questions: Do you remember reading about Saddam Hussein when he was finally captured. Who do you think have been the most wicked people in history? Do think people like that should be kept in prison or given a death sentence?

PAGE 4 ~ 15 December 2001 ~ Leaning Tower Of Pisa

Background: The tower was built as a free-standing bell tower for the cathedral of Pisa. It has almost 300 steps and it leans at an angle of 5.5 degrees. On a building of this height, this means that the top is displaced approximately 3.9 metres (12 ft 10 ins) from where it would be if the building was perfectly vertical.

Questions: Have you ever seen the Leaning Tower of Pisa? How do you feel about heights? What is the highest building you have ever been in? How did you get to the top? How did things look if you looked down?

The Way We Were • *from Mary's point of view*

PAGE 4 ~ Men and Cooking

Background: Household tasks used to be sharply divided into men's roles and women's roles. Men who had been brought up with traditional views did not usually do laundry or cooking or cleaning. On the other hand, they were usually the breadwinners and did the outside jobs like gardening, DIY etc.

Questions: Did the men you knew - family or friends - do much around the house? What jobs did they do? Were there any jobs they refused to do? Who did the cooking in your household? Did you enjoy cooking? How did you persuade other people to help with chores?



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PAGE 5 ~ Hairdressers

Background: There are so many hair care products on the market now, for men as well as women, that it should be easier to keep hair nicely styled. Perms and Wave Setting Lotion were used in the 1940s and 50s. Hair Laquer was probably a late 1950s/60s product, much needed for 'beehive' hair-dos.

Questions: When did you first move house? How did you take all your belongings to the new place? What was the most difficult task about moving?

PAGE 5 ~ Dates

Background: 'Glove-box Dates' used to be a traditional thing to have at Christmas. They were served perhaps like nuts, after a celebratory meal. Blocks of chopped and compressed dates for cooking with were available all year round. So are Glove-box Dates nowadays, but I don't remember seeing them except at Christmas time when I was young.

Questions: Do you like dates? How did you buy them? What recipes did you have that used dates? How often did you make it? Do you like 'Glove-box dates'?

Do You Remember • *from Jimmy's point of view*

PAGE 6 ~ The Pagoda, Kew Gardens

Background: The Great Pagoda in Kew Gardens was opened in 1762. It is based on the traditional Chinese pagoda, or Ta. This was originally a round-topped building to house religious relics and manuscripts. The Chinese altered its form to include octagonal roofs. Many of the original pagodas were built in China from the 5th to the 10th century AD.

Questions: Have you ever been to Kew Gardens? When did you go? What did you see? Which is your favourite park, in London or elsewhere? Why do you like it?

PAGE 6 ~ The Bedford OB

Background: The Bedford OB was built at Vauxhall Motors' Luton factory between 1939 and 1951, but with a gap for the war. Bedford used the Hendon-based firm of Duple for most of their coach bodywork. It could reach speeds of 40 mph, which was quite fast back then. In total, nearly 13,000 were built, making it by far the most popular coach of its time. (Charabanc was a popular name for a coach.)

Questions: Do you remember days out by coach? Where did you go? Who went? What did you do? What was it like on a coach back then? How did it sound? How did it smell? What were the seats like? Was it comfortable? Did you ever go for a longer holiday by coach? Where did you go? What made days out by coach so special, especially for children?

PAGE 7 ~ Meccano

Background: Meccano was made in Britain until 1980. Meccano is still available, though now it is made in France and China by a Japanese company. Though many of the parts are now plastic and not metal, the ½ inch perforation spacing and the 5/32 inch 'Whitworth' thread for the nuts and bolts is still the same as in 1901.

Questions: Did you or someone else in your family have a Meccano set? What did you/they build with it? What was your favourite toy when you were young? Did Meccano and similar toys encourage an interest in engineering? Would youngsters nowadays do better playing with such as Meccano rather being on the computer all the time? Or will they learn new skills from the computer? What do you think?

Over To You • Readers' Letters

PAGE 7 ~ The Avengers

Background: The Avengers ran from 1961 to 1969, in hour long episodes.

Questions: Did you watch The Avengers? Which of the female actresses did you like best? Which did you like best, dramas based on action and adventure, or dramas based on romance?

PAGE 8 ~ Christmas In Other Countries

Background: Christmas is a Christian Festival celebrated all over the world, usually on 24th/25th December although the Orthodox Church celebrates the event of Jesus' birth in early January. Traditions and customs, especially around food, vary from country to country and culture to culture.

Questions: Have you ever spent Christmas in another country? Why were you there? How did you celebrate Christmas? What local foods, customs and traditions do you know about Christmas in other countries?

Quizzes • for fun

PAGE 8 ~ General Knowledge

PAGE 9 ~ Sporting Chance Quiz

PAGE 9 ~ Colour Me Quiz

Singalongs • to prompt recall

PAGE 10 ~ Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

PAGE 10 ~ Galway Bay