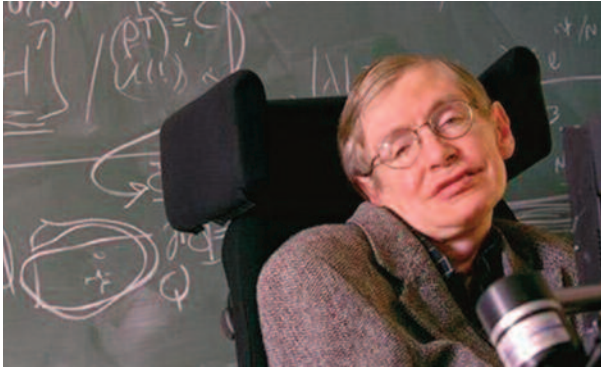


## Today in History



Stephen Hawking

On 8th January, 1942, Stephen William Hawking was born in Oxford. The family was considered to be highly intelligent and rather eccentric. Stephen was clearly very bright, and he went to Oxford University at the age of 17.

It was while he was at University that Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. It didn't stop him becoming one of the world's most brilliant theoretical physicists and cosmologists.

Professor Hawking speaks through a voice synthesiser.

## The Way We Were



Shoelaces

Oh what a struggle it was, learning to tie my shoe laces. In those days our winter shoes were lace-ups, and plimsolls had laces in them too, and so did hockey boots.

My Dad tried again and again to teach me how to do it but I was really ham-fisted. Sometimes I thought I'd done it, but then I couldn't untie them because they had gone into knots.

Children today are lucky. They have shoes with elastic sides and velcro fastenings. Some of them even have flashing lights in the heels – I'd have loved some like that.

## Do You Remember?



bit.ly/ixTpk2

Doing The Books

Some people think that bureaucracy is something new. Not a bit of it. I remember going to see Mr Bailey the farmer in our village back in the Fifties. It was a decent sized farm for the time and he employed three men.

‘Paperwork is the bane of my life,’ said Mr Bailey. His wife laughed like mad. ‘Don’t believe a word he says. I’m the one that has to do all the paperwork. Doing the books is the bane of *my* life not his!’

‘True enough,’ said Mr Bailey. ‘The Ministry want to know every blessed thing. I’m only glad that Mrs Bailey is a book-keeper. I don’t know how I’d cope without her.’

## Over To You



binged.it/WyLcuq

Pantomime

*Dear Mary and Jimmy*

*After the fuss of Christmas and New Year were over, my family always had one more exciting event to look forward to. We always went to the pantomime in January - to a matinee.*

*It was great fun to see such glittering and spectacular versions of familiar stories played out on stage. The Princess was always breathtakingly beautiful. Her clothes were wonderful – especially in the inevitable wedding scene at the end. And when we came out of the theatre it was dark. It felt very grown up.*

*Best wishes, from Vera*

## The Wine Quiz



All these questions are about wine and wine-making.

1. An easy one to start with.  
What is traditionally used as the stopper in wine bottles?

*Rubber or Cork*

2. Which colour of wine can be made from Chardonnay grapes?

*Red or White*

3. Claret wine comes from which part of France?

*Bordeaux or Burgundy*

4. What is the most famous Spanish sparkling wine?

*Asti or Cava*

5. What is another name for a wine-maker?

*Sommelier or Vintner*

### Answers

1. *Cork*  
2. *White*  
3. *Bordeaux*  
4. *Cava*  
5. *Vintner*

## Cheek To Cheek

Heaven, I'm in h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
And my heart beats  
So that I can ha \_ \_ \_ \_ speak  
And I seem to find the  
happiness I seek  
When we're out tog \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
Dancing cheek to ch \_ \_ \_

Heaven, I'm in heaven  
And the cares that hung  
around me  
Through the w \_ \_ \_  
Seem to vanish like a  
gambler's lu \_ \_ \_ streak  
When we're out together  
da \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ cheek to cheek



### Answers

1. *heaven*  
2. *hardly*  
3. *together*  
4. *cheek*  
5. *week*  
6. *lucky*  
7. *dancing*



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### Thursday, 8th January, 2015

#### **PAGE 1 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 8 January 1942 ~ Stephen Hawking**

**Background:** Professor Stephen Hawking is one of the cleverest most brilliant men in the world. He has had a distinguished academic career, for many years as Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. He has been married twice and has 3 children. Despite his amazing brain, his body has continued to deteriorate and he speaks through a voice synthesiser. He has no plans to retire.

**Questions:** Have you ever seen Professor Stephen Hawking on television? Can you name any other famous scientists? [Marie Curie - X Rays, Alexander Fleming – penicillin] Did you learn any science at school? Did you find it easy or difficult?

#### **PAGE 1 ~ THE WAY WE WERE ~ (from Mary's point of view) ~ Shoe laces**

**Background:** Shoelaces are difficult for young children to manage. There are several ways of tying bows and children can practice on lacing cards but its not quite the same. Even for adults velcro fastenings on trainers, slippers, etc make life easier.

**Questions:** When did you first learn how to tie shoe laces? Who taught you how to do it? What sort of shoes did you wear in the winter? Where could you buy new ones if a shoelace broke? Have you ever tripped over untied shoelaces. Have you ever had shoes or boots that needed really long laces? What colour were they?

#### **PAGE 2 ~ DO YOU REMEMBER ~ (from Jimmy's point of view) ~ Doing The Books**

**Background:** 'Doing the books' – keeping accounts, book-keeping, filling in forms and keeping all invoices, bills and letters neatly filed – will be familiar to many people, either because they ran a small business, were a farmer like the Baileys, or worked as a book-keeper or office clerk themselves.

**Questions:** Have you ever been involved with 'doing the books'? What did that involve? Have you ever run a business of any sort? Why do all kinds of businesses need to keep good records? What is it like to have to sit down to 'do the books'? Some people say there is more bureaucracy nowadays. Others, like Jimmy, say there has always been a lot of paperwork. Who do you think is right?

#### **PAGE 2 ~ OVER TO YOU ~ Pantomime**

**Background:** Pantomime has a long history in British stage history. Pantomimes are family shows with music, comedy, and spectacular scenery and costumes. Traditionally the Principal Boy was played by a woman (a 'trouser role') but this is not always the case nowadays. The story is usually a fairy tale eg Snow White, Cinderella, Aladdin etc, or a children's classic like Peter Pan or Robinson Crusoe.

**Questions:** Have you been to a pantomime? What was the story? Who else went with you? What was the best bit? Did you join in the singing? Did you go in the afternoon to a matinee or in the evening? How did you feel when you came out of the theatre?

#### **PAGE 3 ~ Quiz ~ The Wine Quiz**

#### **PAGE 3 ~ Singalong ~ Cheek To Cheek**