

## Today in History



binged.it/1r5y6q

Jane Wyman

On 5th January, 1917, American singer, dancer and film star Jane Wyman was born. (At least that's the date we think she was born.) She claimed to have been born on January 4th 1914, (3 years earlier) so that she could get work despite being a minor.

She began her showbiz career as a singer on radio, while she was still a schoolgirl. She dropped out of High School and went to Hollywood. She took on odd jobs as a manicurist and switchboard operator.

Jane Wyman's second husband was Ronald Reagan.

## Today in History



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Doris Stokes

On 6th January, 1920, Doris Stokes was born in Grantham. She became a household name through her many public performances and television appearances as a psychic and medium.

Doris Stokes said that she started to see spirits and hear voices in her early childhood. She had a warm and down-to-earth manner, but many people did not believe what she did was genuine.

She received a lot of criticism from the Church of England. Some people said that she had accomplices in the audience and used deceptive methods.

## Today in History



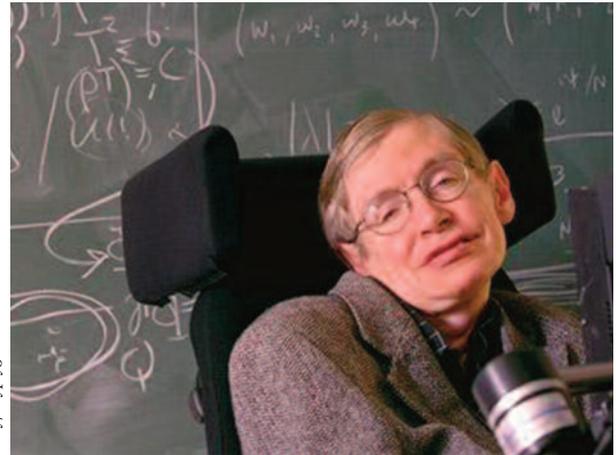
Alvar Lidell

On 7th January, 1981, Alvar Lidell died. He was a BBC radio announcer and news reader whose voice was familiar to millions of listeners. His full name was Tord Alvar Quan Lidell and his parents were Swedish.

After some brief teaching and singing jobs, he joined BBC Birmingham as chief announcer. He soon transferred to London.

Alvar Lidell made some of the BBC's most historic announcements. He told us that Edward VIII had abdicated, and that Britain and Germany were at war.

## 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.

## Today in History



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Chan Canasta

On 9th January, 1920, Chananel Mifelew was born in Krakow, Poland. We know him better as Chan Canasta, who appeared frequently on television in the 1950s.

Chan Canasta was a card magician. He performed tricks that often involved amazing feats of memory. He went on to appear in TV shows in America as well as the UK – more than 350 appearances during his career.

Surprisingly, when he was at the peak of his popularity, Chan Canasta retired from showbusiness to be a painter.

## Today in History



bit.ly/WzayohI

Johnny Ray

On 10th January, 1927, Johnny Ray was born in Oregon, USA. He was a singer, songwriter, and pianist. He was really popular during the 1950s.

Many critics think that his music was an important influence on what later became Rock'n'Roll. Johnny Ray was not just a star in America. He enjoyed huge success in the UK and Australia.

His hits include 'Cry', 'Don't Blame Me', 'Walkin' My Baby Back Home', 'Somebody Stole My Gal', and 'Just Walkin in the Rain'.

## Today in History



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Melvyn Hayes

On 11th January, 1935, actor Melvyn Hayes was born in London. He joined a group called 'Terry's Juveniles' and one of his earliest parts was in the BBC TV adaptation of Billy Bunter of Greyfriars.

Melvyn Hayes had various film roles too, including parts in Cliff Richard's films 'Summer Holiday' and 'The Young Ones'.

One of the roles Melvyn Hayes will be remembered for is the rather effeminate Gunner Beaumont in 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum'. That series ran on BBC TV from 1974 to 1981.

## The Way We Were



binged.it/1qwxzia

Tinned Crab

One of the things I always used to have in the store cupboard was tinned crab. It was a good stand-by. You could rustle up sandwiches if someone came unexpectedly. Or crab fishcakes if you had a bit of time to prepare them.

Crab salad was good, but I didn't serve that very often at this time of year. I liked us all to have a hot meal at least once a day in the winter.

My Stan and the girls liked that too. We enjoyed sitting down together at meal times. It was a good opportunity to talk to each other about how the day had been.

## The Way We Were



binged.it/r6B3/q1

Scorch Marks

Wasn't it annoying when you were ironing and you got a nasty scorch mark on something? Sometimes it happened because the iron was too hot for the fabric. Or it could happen if you left the iron on the fabric for too long.

It was bad enough getting that tell-tale brown mark on the front of a good shirt or a white pillowcase. But it was even worse if you were ironing synthetic fabrics.

Too much heat could actually melt the fabric. I did that once on my very best blouse. Boy, was I cross, but it couldn't be rescued. It was ruined.

## The Way We Were



binged.it/pEeVfh

Cure For Hiccups?

How long is it since you had hiccups? I remember getting them quite a lot when I was a child. (It always gave me the giggles, too, waiting for the next hiccup).

There are all sorts of remedies to try to make them stop. Some people say hold your breath, or breathe in and out of a paper bag. Or startle the person who is hiccuping.

I don't think any of those things really work. Hiccups usually go away of their own accord. (But not for a man in the USA who hiccuped for 68 years – a world record!)

## Do You Remember?



bit.ly/1qFKrNV

Fisherman With Catch, River Tweed

This photo took me back. It's a fisherman on the River Tweed back in the 1950's. He's done well catching salmon and trout on one of the finest rivers in Britain.

It made me think of Uncle Fred, who was a keen fisherman. He lived not far from us here in the east of England. Trouble was, the best rivers for fishing were in the north and west and especially in Scotland.

Every year Uncle Fred and two or three mates would get together and have a trip up to Scotland to fish. The River Tweed was a favourite spot for them. He would bring back photos of their catch, but never a haul like this one.

## Do You Remember?



bit.ly/1pxtUo8

Sydney Opera House

Recognise this building? People say it is one of the best known buildings in the world. It's the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

I've never been to Australia myself, but our granddaughter, Sophie, was there last month and sent us this photo. Sophie said the Opera House is meant to look like the sails of a boat, and you can see what she means.

Sophie was working out in Australia but she managed some time on the beach. She also went to Sydney Opera House to see a well-known ballet. It was The Nutcracker – perhaps the most famous ballet of all – with that lovely music by Tchaikovsky.

## Do You Remember?



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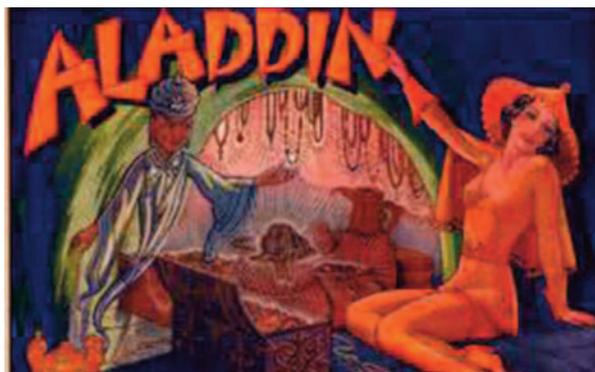
Doing The Books

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*

## Over To You



Haliborange

*Dear Mary and Jimmy*

*Many people of my generation were brought up on a variety of potions. They were for making us strong and healthy. I suppose on a war-time diet, when fruit, vegetables and meat were expensive or rationed, parents wanted to do their best for their children.*

*There was virol and cod-liver oil. They were horrible. Then there was Delrosa made from rose-hips. We gave our kids Haliborange. It was orange with a hint of halibut! There was a very fishy aftertaste – a very strange mixture of flavours!*

*Best wishes, from Judith*

## Piggy In The Middle



In terms of size, which of these are in the middle?

1. Mouse, Pig, Cow
2. Mansion, Cottage, Palace
3. Shrub, Bush, Tree
4. Continent, Country, County
5. Pound, Ounce, Ton
6. Wales, France, Russia
7. Football, Cricket ball, Table-tennis ball
8. London, Luton, Leeds
9. Page, Chapter, Book
10. Tablespoon, Teaspoon, Dessert spoon

### Answers

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pig            | 9. Chapter      |
| 2. Mansion        | 7. Cricket ball |
| 3. Bush           | 5. Pound        |
| 4. Country        | 3. Bush         |
| 6. France         | 1. Pig          |
| 8. Leeds          | 2. Mansion      |
| 10. Dessert spoon | 3. Bush         |

## The Wine Quiz



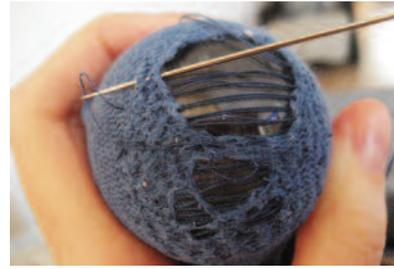
All these questions are about wine and wine-making.

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*

## Household Chores



All these jobs had to be done.

1. Joyce was darning the:  
*Pots or Socks*
2. Sally was ironing the:  
*Shirts or Floors*
3. Bill was washing the:  
*Cats or Dishes*
4. Joan was blackleading the:  
*Sink or Grate*
5. Keith was chopping the:  
*Windows or Sticks*
6. Barbara was sweeping the:  
*Floor or Bath*
7. Harriet was making the:  
*Cooker or Dinner*
8. Bridget was polishing the:  
*Sheets or Brasses*

### Answers

1. *Socks*
2. *Shirts*
3. *Dishes*
4. *Grate*
5. *Floor*
6. *Floors*
7. *Dinner*
8. *Brasses*

## 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



bit.ly/1s1XUKg

### Answers

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

## Fire Down Below

Don't believe my eyes  
 They're as cold as i \_ \_ \_  
 But I'm not so co \_ \_ \_  
 Let me put you right  
 Keeping the temperature  
 so low  
 This is a work of art  
 For there's a f \_ \_ \_ down  
 below  
 Down below in my h \_ \_ \_ \_

And my crazy lips  
 They're such lazy li \_ \_ \_  
 But they'll come to life  
 Should we come to grips  
 If you have anything in mind  
 Warn you before you start  
 For there's a fire do \_ \_ \_ below  
 Down bel \_ \_ \_ in my heart



bit.ly/1IT9rPO

### Answers

1. ice  
 2. cold  
 3. fire  
 4. heart  
 5. lips  
 6. down  
 7. below

*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.*

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## Today in History • *through the years*

### **PAGE 1 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 5 January 1917 ~ Jane Wyman**

**Background:** Jane Wyman appeared in many films, from 1932 to 1979. She was nominated for Best Actress Award for her roles in 'The Yearling (1946), 'Johnny Belinda' (1948). 'The Blue Veil' (1951) and 'Magnificent Obsession' (1954). She also appeared in many TV series, notably 'Falcon Crest' 1981 -90

**Questions:** Do you remember seeing Jane Wyman in films? Which ones did you see? Did you watch Falcon Crest on television? Who was Ronald Reagan's wife when he was President? [Nancy]. Have you ever given a false age or birthdate? Why? Do you think a lady should reveal her age?

### **PAGE 1 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 6 January 1920 ~ Doris Stokes**

**Background:** Anything concerned with mediums and communicating with the dead is bound to be controversial and this was true of Doris Stokes. She first came to the public's attention when she appeared on a television show in Australia. In 1980 her autobiography, 'Voices in My Ear: The Autobiography of a Medium', was published. It sold more than 2 million copies.

**Questions:** Do you remember Doris Stokes? What did you think of her? Why do you think her shows were so popular? Have you read her autobiography? Do you ever read your horoscope? Have you ever been to see a medium's show, or a magic show?

### **PAGE 2 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 7 January 1981 ~ Alvar Lidell**

**Background:** BBC announcers and newsreaders used to be anonymous. During the Second World War, in order to distinguish them from enemy propaganda broadcasters, they were allowed to give their names. "Here is the news, and this is Alvar Lidell reading it" became his catchphrase. Alvar Lidell retired from the BBC in 1969. He recorded over 230 Books for the Blind.

**Questions:** Do you remember Alvar Lidell? How would you describe his voice? Which other newsreaders and announcers do you remember? What did newsreaders wear when they appeared on TV News?

### **PAGE 2 ~ 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 3 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 9 January 1920 ~ Chan Canasta

**Background:** Chan Canasta was a pioneer of 'mental magic' and he has been a big influence on some of today's performers like Derren Brown. The name 'Canasta' came from a popular card game. He established a successful second career as an artist and had shows in galleries in London and in New York.

**Questions:** Do you remember seeing Chan Canasta on television? Did you like that style of magic? Did anyone in your family do card tricks? Where did they learn how to do them? Have you ever played Canasta?

## PAGE 3 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 10 January 1927 ~ Johnny Ray

**Background:** Johnny Ray was the pop idol of his day with a big fan base in Australia. His recording of 'Cry' is said to have influenced many other stars including Elvis Presley. It was not just his style of music that made him popular but he also had great stage presence and gave very energetic performances.

**Questions:** Do you remember Johnny Ray? What do you think was the reason for his popularity? Which other singers were popular in the 1950s? Did you buy records? Did you prefer to buy LPs or singles? Did you follow what was in the Hit Parade?

## PAGE 4 ~ TODAY IN HISTORY ~ 11 January 1935 ~ Melvyn Hayes

**Background:** Melvyn Hayes had a cheeky smile. He was not very tall and when he left school he tried training as a jockey. (He left after 2 weeks because he didn't like the horses!) He also had a job as a 'disappearing boy' in an Indian Rope Trick act. In recent years he and his wife have fostered over 50 children.

**Questions:** Do you remember Melvyn Hayes? What films or TV programmes have you seen him in? Which other actors were in 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum'? [Windsor Davies, George Layton, John Gunn, Kenneth MacDonald] Which comedy series have you enjoyed most on television?

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

### PAGE 4 ~ THE WAY WE WERE ~ (from Mary's point of view) ~ Tinned Crab

**Background:** Crab is expensive, but it has a strong flavour so you can make a little go a long way. Fresh crab is fiddly to cook because you have to pick the meat out of the shell unless you buy it as 'dressed crab' and then the work is done for you. Tinned crab is easy to use in a variety of recipes. When people didn't have freezers, tinned goods were easy to store.

**Questions:** Do you like crab sandwiches? How else would you use tinned crab? Have you ever cooked fresh crab? Which other foods did you have in your store cupboard? Did you have a freezer? What was your favourite meal to make if you had unexpected guests?

### PAGE 5 ~ THE WAY WE WERE ~ (from Mary's point of view) ~ Scorch Marks

**Background:** Does anyone actually like ironing? It's bad enough to struggle through a great pile of it without the irritation of scorching something. Books of household tips do give suggestions for removing scorch marks, using bleach or lemon juice, but it's not always very successful. If synthetic fabrics are scorched they are usually beyond repair.

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**Questions:** Did you like ironing? Have you ever had scorch marks on something you were ironing? What did you do about it? What sort of iron did you use? Which household chores did you like least? Did anyone else help with chores?

**PAGE 5 ~ THE WAY WE WERE ~ (from Mary's point of view) ~ Hiccups**

**Background:** Hiccups are a reflex action, an involuntary spasm of the diaphragm that is repeated several times a minute. Hiccups can be triggered by laughing, spicy food, intense emotions like fear, eating too fast, or coughing. Even unborn babies can get hiccups, but that's caused by a stage in the development of the diaphragm and chest muscles.

**Questions:** When did you last have hiccups? Did you get hiccups when you were a child? What do you think caused it? What did you do to try to make them stop? What other reflex action do human beings have? [blinking when something approaches your face, knee jerk when hit with reflex hammer]

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

**PAGE 6 ~ DO YOU REMEMBER ~ (from Jimmy's point of view) ~ Fisherman, River Tweed**

**Background:** Fishing (or angling) was, and still is, a favourite sport or pastime for many people (nearly all men). Some go sea fishing, but most fish in rivers and lakes. Trips to the best Scottish salmon and trout rivers can be expensive, but they would be the high-point of the year for a serious angler.

**Questions:** Did you ever go fishing? Where was this? What sort of fishing tackle (equipment) did you have? What sort of fish did you try to catch? Did you ever get a really good haul – can you describe it? What must it be like spending a day fishing on a river? What would you think of all day?

**PAGE 6 ~ DO YOU REMEMBER ~ (from Jimmy's point of view) ~ Sydney Opera House**

**Background:** Sydney Opera House was built during the 1960's and opened in 1973. As well as opera, ballet, theatre and music concerts are all performed there. It is Australia's most important cultural centre. Some people will have visited Australia, some will have relatives living there, and many will have children, grandchildren or nephews and nieces who have been to Australia.

**Questions:** Have you ever been to Australia? What about relatives or the younger generation – have any of them been to or lived in Australia? It is winter here at home now: what season is it in Australia? (Summer.) If you were going to the Opera House tonight, what would you like to see or hear?

**PAGE 7 ~ 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?

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## Over To You • *Readers' Letters*

### PAGE 7 ~ 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 8 ~ OVER TO YOU ~ Childhood Supplements and Tonics

**Background:** Haliborange was one of various vitamin products that Sparkles readers may remember from when they were parents of young children. Many of these products were based on sugary syrups, in an attempt to make them taste nice so that children would take them, regardless of the potential damage to teeth.

**Questions:** Did you take any tablets or health products like this when you were a child? Did you like them? What did they taste like? What benefits were they supposed to have? What did you give to your children when they were little?

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## Quizzes • *for fun*

PAGE 8 ~ Quiz ~ Piggy In The Middle

PAGE 9 ~ Quiz ~ The Wine Quiz

PAGE 9 ~ Quiz ~ Household Chores

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## Singalongs • *to prompt recall*

PAGE 10 ~ Singalong ~ Cheek To Cheek

PAGE 10 ~ Singalong ~ Fire Down Below