On 29th October 1891, Fanny Brice was born in New York. She was an American Broadway star on whose life the film *Funny Girl* was based. She was born in New York. She dropped out of school to work in a burlesque revue. She joined the famous Ziegfeld Follies in 1910.

Fanny Brice made many recordings of popular songs. Her signature songs were ‘*My Man*’ and ‘*Second Hand Rose*’. From the 1930s, until she died in 1951, she was also in a radio show, playing the part of a toddler called ‘Baby Snooks’.

On 30th October, 1485, King Henry VII established the Yeoman Warders of His Majesty’s Royal Palace and Fortress, the Tower of London. With a long title like that, no wonder they are more often known as *Beefeaters*.

They are the ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London. This means that they are responsible for looking after any prisoners at the Tower, and safeguarding the Crown Jewels. Since no-one gets locked up in the Tower now, in practice they act as tour guides, and are a tourist attraction themselves.
On 31st October 1971, an IRA bomb exploded at the top of the Post Office Tower in London. It caused extensive damage to the building, but fortunately no-one was injured. It is thought that the bomb had been planted in a toilet on the lowest of the public viewing galleries.

It happened in the small hours on the 33rd floor. The police had received a message warning them that there was about to be an explosion. It came from a man claiming to be from the Kilburn Battalion of the IRA. Security at all public buildings was stepped up for fear of more attacks.

On 1st November 1967, Rolling Stone magazine made its debut. It was of the first national periodicals in America dedicated to rock’n’roll. It was set up in San Francisco by Jann Wenner and Ralph Gleason. Wenner was 21 at the time. He is still the Editor and publisher, and Rolling Stone is still going strong.

As well as being about music, Rolling Stone has always had strong political messages too. The first few issues featured John Lennon, Tina Turner, the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Eric Clapton.
On 2nd November 1936, the TV Age began. An estimated 100 television set owners all living within 25 miles of the studios at Alexandra Palace watched the opening ceremony performed by The Postmaster General. In these early days, there was a 40 second delay between the event and the picture on the TV screen.

There were 2 one-hour broadcasts a day. Audiences were small because it was all so new. Television sets cost up to £100 which was a lot of money in those days.

On 3rd November 1954, the French painter and sculptor, Henri Matisse, died. He was one of the 19th and 20th century’s most highly regarded painters. His paintings are very colourful and fluid.

In 1887, at the age of 18, Matisse went to Paris to study law. He began to paint after he had been ill with appendicitis. His mother bought him some artists materials to keep him occupied during his convalescence. He discovered “a kind of paradise” and decided to become an artist. This was disappointing to his businessman father.
On 4th November 1890, the Prince of Wales travelled on the Underground, from King William Street to the Oval. This historic journey marked the opening of the first electrified underground railway system.

It’s impossible to imagine London without the Underground - the Tube. It was very technically sophisticated for its time. As the network expanded, it made a huge difference to travelling across London. Some other cities in the UK copied London and built underground railways too.

Can you eat a jam doughnut without licking your lips? Not many people can do that! Doughnuts leave that lovely sugary coating on your lips and it’s almost instinctive to stick your tongue out and lick it off.

To me, a doughnut is not a doughnut unless it’s got raspberry jam inside. I don’t like the American ring doughnuts, with a hole where the jam should be. Nor do I like Apple doughnuts, or custard doughnuts. I’m very traditional in the doughnut department. (But I still don’t know how they put the jam in)
I was very fond of a red and black mohair skirt I had in the early 1960s. Mohair was very popular for coats too. You could buy mohair yarn to knit hairy jumpers with, if you were any good at knitting which I wasn’t. It was altogether very popular and ‘with it’.

Perhaps it was because fewer houses had central heating, but everyone seemed to wear thicker, warmer, clothing in those days. My mohair skirt was cosy like a blanket and I loved wearing it.

What was your favourite recipe book? I used my Good Housekeeping Everyday Cookery so much that some of the pages stuck together with a few splashes of the vital ingredients here and there.

It was a good all-round book. All the basics were in there from Angel Cake to Zuchini. It also had other really useful things like menu planning, and store cupboard standbys. Over the years I collected other cookery books, but I bet I used the Good Housekeeping one 100 times more often than the others.
I used to hate my school half-term at this time of year. For some reason we had a different week off to the other schools in the area. This meant that I had a lonely break but it did give me plenty of time to catch up on my homework and reading. There was no daytime TV to distract me – well we didn’t have a TV at the time!

Looking back this turned out to be good for me in many ways. Two things that I did enjoy were when our coalmen came and when the chimney sweep arrived. That was fun. However, just for now, imagine me sitting at home, all alone during the day, doing school work on my half-term. Do you feel sorry for me?

This is a memory both old and new. As you read this I may well be out leading a ghost walk telling stories about ghostly happenings at Hallowe’en. Three years ago Stuart, my ‘partner in crime’ on these walks scared the living daylights out of one of the group with just a white towel like this.

What I hadn’t told him was that I once saw a ghostly happening just like this – but I was all alone at the time on a dark lane near where we lived. There was no sound, no ‘whoooo’, just this floating white image. It did me no harm – but I did have concerns on the state of my trousers!
DO YOU REMEMBER?

Every year, quite soon after the chimney had been swept the coalman would arrive. I loved that. There were two men with the coal lorry. The lorry itself was piled high with black and silvery sacks – black for coal, silver for the coke.

Behind our house were three galvanised iron bins – two for coal, one for coke. The coalmen would handle the sacks as if they were full of feathers. To start, one coalman would bring the coal round while the other did the coke. When the coke bin was full to the brim they’d both carry on with the coal. All being well that lasted us through to the New Year.

OVER TO YOU

Dear Mary and Jimmy

My friend Marjorie and I were the Land Girls during the war. We still keep in touch by letter and occasional phone calls. We have been talking recently about how Land Girls are portrayed on TV programmes and films.

We always thought we looked rather fetching in our Land Girl uniforms. We had to wear breeches because it wouldn’t have been practical to wear skirts for the kinds of jobs we had to do (Mucking out pigs and digging potatoes for example). The most unrealistic aspect about the Land Girls’ TV programme is their immaculate hair-dos!

Best wishes from Eva
Dear Mary and Jimmy

I do miss my Cornish-ware crockery that we used for years at home. The blue and white stripes always looked very fresh. We had a china dinner service and tea-set, for best, but the Cornish ware pottery was our everyday stuff.

For years we had a dresser in the kitchen. The blue ringed plates always stood up on the shelves at the top. The rest of the kitchen was blue and white too. It reminded me of the seaside, although I think it was actually made in Staffordshire.

Best wishes from Nina

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**VEGGIE VARIETY QUIZ**

Identify these common vegetables. They all begin with the letter C.

1. Often shredded and pickled.
2. Good with cheese sauce.
3. Crisp and crunchy
4. Supposed to help you see in the dark.
5. Goes with egg in sandwiches.
6. Sweet and delicious dripping with butter.

**ANSWERS**

1. Cabbage
2. Cauliflower
3. Celery
4. Carrots
5. Cress
6. Sweetcorn

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WINTER TREES QUIZ

Use the pictures and the clues to identify these winter trees.

1. From tiny acorns mighty ---- trees grow.

2. A sad tree beside a lake.

3. There will be conkers next Autumn.

4. You can roast and eat the chestnuts from this tree.

5. This one might come indoors at Christmas.

ANSWERS


GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. According to the rhyme, Monday’s child is ‘fair of ------’ what?

2. What is the green herb often served with roast lamb?

3. What is the equivalent English word for the American word ‘Cookie’?
   Pancake, biscuit or bun.

4. When would you usually eat Bran Flakes?
   Breakfast, dinner or supper.

5. On which part of the human body might a bunion grow?
   Elbow, nose or foot.

6. What is a Gnu?
   a fish, a bird or an animal

7. What is the name of the moisture found on grass early in the morning?
   Frost, dew or fog

ANSWERS

**BLESS YOUR BEAUTIFUL HIDE**

Bless y--- beautiful h---,
wherever you may be
We ain't met y-- but I'm willing to b--
You're the g-- for me

Bl--- your b------ hide
You're just as good as lost
I don't know your name but
I'm stakin' my cl---
Lest your eyes is crossed

Oh, I'd swap my gun 'n' I'd swap my mule
Tho' whoever took it would be one big fool.
Or pay your way thru cookin' school.
If you would say I do.

**HOME ON THE RANGE**

Oh give me a home where the buffalo ----.
Where the deer and the antelope ----
Where seldom is ----- a discouraging word,
And the ----- are not cloudy all day
Home, home on the ----- Where the ---- and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging ----
And the skies are not ------ all day

--- your b------ hide
You're just as good as lost
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I'm stakin' my cl---
Lest your eyes is crossed

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