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 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 29 October 1891**

**Fanny Brice born**

**Background:** It was even harder for women to become comedians than for them to become actresses in the early part of the 20th century, but Fanny Brice was one of the few.

**Questions:** Have you seen the film *Funny Girl*? Who do you think are better at being funny, men or women? Which female comedians do you like? Who are your favourite male comedians?

**PAGE 1 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 30 October 1485**

**Beefeaters**

**Background:** Beefeaters wear very distinctive red and black uniforms with a black hat and ruff collar. They do not act as guards any more, although this was their original function. Tourists often like to have their photo taken with Beefeaters, because they are such a well known feature of London and Great Britain.

**Questions:** Have you ever seen Beefeaters? Have you been to the Tower of London? Which landmarks in London do you think are the most important or famous?

**PAGE 2 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 31 October 1971**

**IRA bomb at Post Office Tower**

**Background:** The Post Office Tower was a well known landmark on the London skyline. It had a rotating restaurant at the top when it was first built. There was an atmosphere of fearfulness about IRA bombings during the 1970s.

**Questions:** Have you seen the Post Office Tower? Do you remember reading about the explosion in the Post Office Tower? How did you usually find out what was happening in the news - radio, TV or newspapers?

**PAGE 2 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 1 November 1967**

**Rolling Stone Magazine**

**Background:** The youth movement started towards the end of the 1950s. Before that, people went from childhood to being adult with little acknowledgement of a stage in between. ‘Teenagers’ were a product of those years and by the ‘Swinging Sixties’ youth culture was a powerful influence on the way young people looked, dressed, and spent their money. Rolling Stone magazine was part of that trend, and demonstrated how important music is to teenagers.
Questions: Did you like rock’n’roll music? What sort of music was popular when you were a child? Did your parents like your choice of music? Did you buy magazines when you were in your teens?

PAGE 3 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 2 November 1936
TV Age begins
Background: Although very few people had television sets to watch these early broadcasts, it was really the start of a new age of entertainment and communication. They were experimental programmes, and only broadcast for a few hours a day. Sales of televisions rocketed in 1953 when many households bought their first TV set to watch the Coronation.
Questions: When did you first see a television programme? Where was that? Who did the TV set belong to? What did it look like? What was the picture like? Did you like listening to the radio? If you could only have one or the other, would you choose television or radio?

PAGE 3 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 3 November 1954
Henri Matisse
Background: Henri Matisse was regarded as one of the first modern painters, who interpreted colours and shapes expressively rather than trying to reproduce an image of photographic reality.
Questions: Do you like modern paintings or traditional ones? Have you ever had a go at oil painting or painting with watercolours? If you were an artist, would you want to paint people or landscapes?

PAGE 4 • ON THIS DAY • through the years • 4 November 1890
Opening of London Underground system
Background: This was a radical new form of transport for big cities. It took thousands of men and thousands of hours to dig the tunnels.
Questions: Have you travelled on the London Underground? Have you travelled on an Underground system in any other city? Where was that? What did it feel like the first time you tried it? What is your favourite means of transport?

THE WAY WE WERE • from Mary’s point of view

PAGE 4 • Jam doughnuts
Background: Doughnuts are made from dough similar to bread dough but it is sweetened. They are deep fried. They are made even sweeter by being dusted with sugar or sugar syrup, and filled with jam or fruit or even chocolate.
Questions: Do you like doughnuts? Have you ever made them? What are the ingredients? What sort of doughnuts do you like best? What other cakes and pastries do you like?
PAGE 5 • Mohair
Background: Mohair was soft and shaggy, whether it was in ready made clothing like skirts and coats, or wool to knit jumpers and cardigans. It comes from goats, not sheep.
Questions: Did you have any clothes made of mohair? What did it feel like next to your skin? Have you ever knitted anything using mohair wool? What colour was it?

PAGE 5 • Good Housekeeping Cookery Book
Background: Many Sparkles’ readers will remember this or similar everyday cookery books from their own lives. Good Housekeeping magazine had its own Good Housekeeping Research Institute to evaluate products, including food and kitchen equipment, and the information it produced in products like cookery books was always dependable and reliable.
Questions: Which cookery book did you use most often? Did you weigh ingredients or guess quantities? Which dishes did you make most often? Did anyone else in the family cook? Who did the washing up?

DO YOU REMEMBER? • from Jimmy’s point of view

PAGE 6 • School Half-term
Background: The school half-term was one of those breaks that children and teachers looked forward to. A week to re-charge the batteries, catch-up on unfinished work or just ‘waste time, doing nothing’ as one teacher told me. That hurt in my case because there was little I could do as I went to a different school, with a different half-term than all of my friends.
Questions: Were your parents/guardians out at work during half term? What sorts of things did you do during half-term? Were you given home-work to do?

PAGE 6 • A ghostly happening at Hallowe’en
Background: All Hallows’ Eve or Hallowe’en is observed and celebrated round much of the world. It was traditionally believed that the souls of the departed wandered the earth until All Saints’ Day, and All Hallows’ Eve provided one last chance for the dead to gain vengeance on their enemies before moving onto the next world. To avoid being recognised people wore masks and costumes to disguise themselves.
Questions: Do you believe in ghosts? Have you seen one? Can you tell me about it? Did you celebrate Hallowe’en as a child? What do you think about the big thing that is made of it now?

PAGE 7 • The Coalman’s coming
Background: The coal lorry was once a common sight around every town and village in the country. Everyone needed coal for the fire that heated the house, cooked the food and boiled the water for the washing. Nutty Slack was the cheapest - a mixture of coal dust with plenty of lumps of ‘real’ coal. It was great for banking up the fire in the evening so that the room was warm in the morning.
Questions: Did you have an open fire? Did you use coal or coke? Where did you keep your coal? Do you remember ‘Nutty Slack’?
OVER TO YOU • Readers’ Letters

PAGE 7 • Land Girls
**Background:** The Women’s Land Army came into being during the Second World War because men in farm labouring jobs had been called up into the forces. Farm work was more important than ever when less food could be imported from abroad. As much as possible had to be grown at home to keep the country fed.

**Questions:** Do you know anyone who was in the Land Army? What sort of jobs did they do? Did they have any experience for the job before the war? Did they enjoy farm work?

PAGE 8 • Cornish Ware
**Background:** ‘Cornish Ware’ is a well known design of blue and white striped pottery. It was made in Staffordshire, but the blue and white colours reminded people of the seaside - hence it name. It was everyday pottery, and not expensive, but original Cornish Ware has now become collectable.

**Questions:** Did you have any items of Cornish Ware in your household? What design of crockery did you have for everyday use? Did you have any that you saved for best? When did you use those? What colours and designs do you like for pottery?

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**QUIZZES • for fun**

PAGE 8 • Veggie variety
PAGE 9 • Winter trees
PAGE 9 • General knowledge

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**SINGALONGS • to prompt recall**

PAGE 10 • Bless your beautiful hide
PAGE 10 • Home on the range