

Inside this Issue

- Your 7 days Weather forecast
- Porridge
- Mollie Sugden
- & all your usual fun!!!!

This Week in History

Smoking 'Causes Lung Cancer'



27th June 1957: The link between smoking and lung cancer is one of 'direct cause and effect', a special report by the Medical Research Council has found.

The report, published today, studied the dramatic increase in deaths from lung cancer over the past 25 years and concluded the main cause was smoking.

But tobacco firms have rejected the findings saying they are merely a 'matter of opinion'.

The government has indicated that an educational campaign to raise awareness on the dangers of smoking will be launched via local health authorities.

The report states that in 1945 the mortality rate from lung cancer was 188 deaths in every million. Ten years later the figure had almost doubled to 388 in every million. Mr Vaughan-Morgan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of

Health said: "The government feels that it is right to ensure that this latest authoritative opinion is brought effectively to public notice, so that everyone may know the risks involved." But he made it clear that people, armed with the facts

Welsh pit blast kills miners

28th June 1960: At least 37 men have been killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in Monmouthshire, Wales. Another eight miners are trapped, feared dead, after the accident at Six Bells Colliery, 1,000 ft (305 m) below the surface. They include two fathers, each with their two sons. Six teams of rescuers were quickly assembled after the alarm was raised, but their progress was hampered by roof falls triggered by the explosion and the large amount of gas still present in the mine.

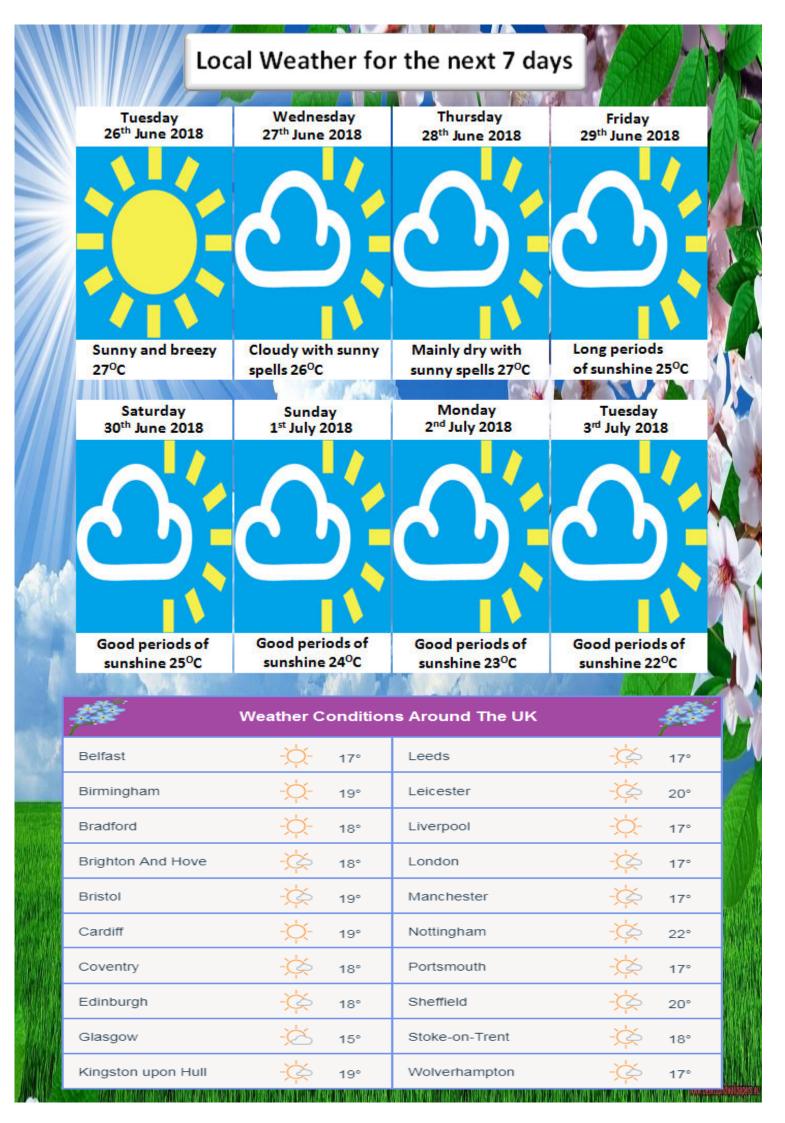
A spokesman for the National Coal Board said there was "little hope" of finding survivors in the Abertillery colliery, but the search for missing men would continue.

There were 700 people underground in the 70-year-old pit at the time of the blast. Miner Harold Legge told reporters he was about half a mile from the coal face when he heard a roar and saw a "terrific flash" at about 1045 BST.



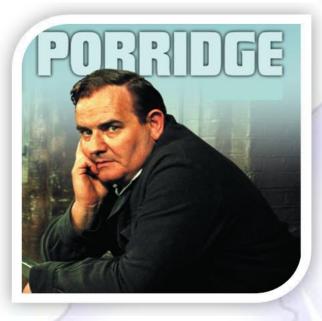
"I had a job to breathe and I stumbled to pit bottom through the dust - afterwards I discovered there was a young man killed 20 yards [18 m] away," he said.

As reports of the accident spread, crowds of local people gathered at the pithead, anxious for more news about friends and relatives. Six Bells Colliery is one of the largest in Monmouthshire and employs 1,450 people - many of them from Abertillery. "A great many of them lived in the town and several more lived in one small street," said one woman.



Porridge

prison.



The character of jailbird Norman Stanley Fletcher was originally conceived for a one-off comedy, Prisoner and Escort, forming one of Ronnie Barker's 1973 season of TV pilots, Seven of One. When the new show first aired in 1974 it was greeted with outrage in sections of the tabloid press, shocked at the notion of a comedy programme glorifying

Little time was needed, though, before any complaints were drowned out underneath a chorus of critical acclaim and public adoration for what remains one of the most classic British sitcoms ever produced.

Fletcher himself is an old hand at 'doing time', and we meet him serving a five-year stretch at HMP Prison Slade for breaking and entering - each episode would begin with the booming voice of the judge recorded by Barker passing sentence and the stark slamming of prison doors.

Fletcher expects to enjoy a single cell but he is forced to share with a first-time offender, a naive, young Brummie called Lennie Godber played by Richard Beckinsale.



Fletcher reluctantly takes Godber under his wing and helps him to 'keep his nose clean' but together they always end up getting into trouble (often for reasons



beyond their control), either with other inmates or the prison officers at Slade.

While the richly comic dialogue between the two cellmates was a joy to watch, Clement and Le Frenais' wonderful writing didn't stop there, and they populated HMP Slade with a host of memorably eccentric characters, from kindly but senile Blanco played ingeniously by a young David Jason, disgraced dentist Harris and dim-witted Warren to the irascible Scot MacLaren, conman Ives and the prison Mr Big, Harry Grout.



While Fletcher's knowledge and experience saw him regarded highly by most fellow inmates, it didn't stop him being used and blackmailed from time to time by Grout, who'd often force Fletch into tasks against his will.

It was Fletcher's day-to-day job to juggle life on the landings with not getting caught by the wardens, which meant taking advantage of the kind-hearted and soft-natured Mr Barrowclough, and sidestepping the eagle eye of the harsh, suspicious Mr MacKay (portrayed with delicious menace by Fulton McKay). Episodes would usually involve Fletcher and Godber getting into trouble but somehow scoring a minor

victory, usually against MacKay. The glee Barker injected into Fletcher's little triumphs was magical to watch.

Porridge is probably the classic realisation of the sitcom method of putting characters in a situation where they're trapped with each other. In Fletcher's case it was with his cell-mate Godber, and the wonderful relationship between the pair in the scripts was elevated to pure gold by the sparkling chemistry between the two leads, Barker and Beckinsale.

Writers Clement and Le Frenais were so successful that the show became essential viewing inside Britain's real jails, and prisoners claimed it was the most accurate portrayal of real prison.





Its massive success spawned a superior spin-off movie and a Bafta-winning sitcom sequel Going Straight, set around Fletcher's life on release from Slade, before more episodes were curtailed by the untimely death of Richard Beckinsale in 1979.

Porridge was a show never afraid to throw into the mix scenes of true drama, as Godber and sometimes even Fletcher occasionally struggled to cope with the grind of being stuck behind bars.

The way in which such moments were woven into episodes, adding depth and realism to the series without ever diminishing the humour, is yet another reason why it remains unarguably one of the all-time classics.

Mollie Sugden



Mollie Sugden was born in Keighley in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1922. When she was four years old, she heard a woman reading a poem at a village concert making people laugh. The following Christmas, after being asked if she could "do anything", Mollie read this poem and everyone fell about laughing. She later remarked that their response made her "realise how wonderful it was to make people laugh". Shortly after she left school, World War II broke out, and Mollie worked in a munitions factory in Keighley making shells for the Royal Navy. She was later made redundant, so she attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

When Mollie graduated from the Guildhall School of Drama, she worked in repertory for eight years with a company that included

Eric Sykes and Roy Dotrice. She also had work in radio and made her television debut in a live half-hour comedy show. Sugden's other appearances before "Are You Being Served?" included parts in The Benny Hill Show, Just Jimmy, Z-Cars, Up Pompeii!, The Goodies, Steptoe and Son and five episodes of Jackanory in 1968.

Mollie's first regular sitcom role was from 1962 to 1966 when she played Mrs. Crispin in the sitcom Hugh and I. Hugh and I was written by John T. Chapman and when he got involved with The Liver Birds, he suggested Mollie for the role of Sandra's mother, Mrs. Hutchinson. She portrayed Mrs. Hutchinson from 1971 to 1979, and years later in 1996, when 'The Liver Birds' was revived Mollie reprised the role, despite being on steroids at the time due to suffering from polymyalgia. In 1973, she appeared in Son of the Bride.

Mollie was already a well-known face on British television when she was given the role that brought her international fame, that of Mrs. Slocombe, a department store saleswoman with a socially superior attitude, a repertoire of double entendres, and a penchant for bouffant, pastel-coloured coiffures, in the popular and long-running "Are You Being Served?", which ran from 1972 to 1985. In 1978, when it was thought that "Are You Being Served?" was over, she was the lead star in Come Back Mrs. Noah, a sitcom that is regarded by some as one of the worst ever made. From 1965 to 1976, she intermittently played Nellie Harvey, the landlady of The Laughing Donkey pub, in Coronation Street. In this she often appeared opposite Annie Walker, landlady of the Rovers Return. Later in 1986, she had a 23-week stint on That's Life! She played Mrs. White in the Second Season of the British game show Cluedo.

Mollie also played main roles in other sitcoms, including That's My Boy, which ran from 1981 to 1986 and My Husband and I. My Husband and I ran from 1987 to 1988, and she played opposite her husband, the actor, William Moore whom she married on 29 March 1958 having met him at Swansea rep. They had twin sons, Robin and Simon, who were born in October 1963.

Seven years after the end of "Are You Being Served?" five of the original cast - including Mollie - came together to appear in Grace & Favour, where the staff are left a manor house in the country, in which they have to live. This was titled "Are You Being Served? Again!" When it aired in the United States. It lasted for two seasons until 1993. Other appearances around this time included Just William, Oliver's Travels and The Bill. Mollie also appeared as herself in comedy sketch show Little Britain.

In 2002 a tribute programme called Celebrating Mollie Sugden: An Are You Being Served? Special aired on American PBS stations featuring several members of the cast of "Are You Being Served?"

Mollie died at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford on 1 July 2009 of unspecified heart failure.

Who am I?

I was Comedian born in Collyhurst in 1931. My first job was in the parcels department of the Manchester Co-op. I also worked briefly as a journalist on the Bury Times. I'm remembered for my deadpan style and jokes about my mother-in-law and wife. I presented Blankety Blank from 1984-1989. Who am I?

Famous people born this Week





Mel Brooks Actor / Director Born 1926 He is known as a creator of broad film farces and comic parodies. His films include The Producers, The Twelve Chairs and Blazing Saddles



John Inman Actor and singer Born 1935 He was best known for his role as Mr. Humphries in Are You Being Served?, a British sitcom in the 1970s and 1980s



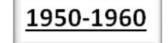
Olivia de Havilland Actress Born 1916 Starred in Gone with the Wind, The Adventures of Robin Hood & Dodge City



Debbie Harry Singer Born 1945 singer-songwriter and actress best known as the lead singer of the new wave band Blondie.



Peter Kay Comedian Born 1973 He is regarded as one of the UK's most prolific comedians. Holds the record for biggest selling British stand up DVD of all time.



1) Who was Prime Minister of Britain in June 1950 when the Korean War broke out?

- a) Winston Churchill
- b) Harold MacMillan
- c) Anthony Eden
- d) Clement Attlee

2) In June 1951 Burgess and Maclean were in the news. What for?

a) British diplomats that had spied for the USSR

- b) Greatest art robbery in the 20th century
- c) Members of Labour government that had resigned
- d) Horrible murder case

 When Princess Elizabeth ascended the British throne, Sir Winston Churchill was in office as Prime Minister.

- a) True
- b) False

4) In which month of 1953 did the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth take place?

- a) July
- b) September
- c) August
- d) June

5) In July 1954 an Anglo-Egyptian agreement is reached to withdraw British troops from Suez Canal Zone. Who was in power at the time in Egypt?

- a) General Naguib
- b) Gamal Abdel Nasser
- c) King Farouk
- d) Fouad II

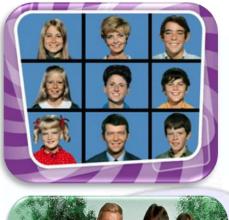
6) 1954 is the year that all food rationing ends and Parliament passes the Independent Television Act, which was to give the British people 'Commercial Television'.

- a) True
- b) False

7) In 1955 there was a rebellion within the Labour party over the support given by Clement Attlee to the Conservative Government's decision to manufacture the hydrogen bomb. Oddly enough, the Labour Party Whip himself led the rebels. Who was he?

- a) Ernest Bevin
- b) Harold Wilson
- c) Hugh Gaitskell
- d) Aneurin Bevan

Name the TV family







- 1) This TV family appeared on TV between 1969 & 1974.
 - a) The Addams family
 - b) The Simpsons
 - c) The Brady Bunch
- 2) This TV family appeared on TV between 1970 & 1974.
 - a) The Griffins
 - b) The Partridge family
 - c) The Trotters
- 3) This TV family appeared on TV between 1978 & 1991.
 - a) The Windsors
 - b) The Boswell Family
 - c) The Ewing Family
- 4) This TV family appeared on TV between 1964 & 1966.
 - a) The Windsors
 - b) The Boswell Family
 - c) The Munsters
- 5) This TV family appeared on TV between 1971 & 1981.
 - a) The Smiths
 - b) The Waltons
 - c) The Flintstones

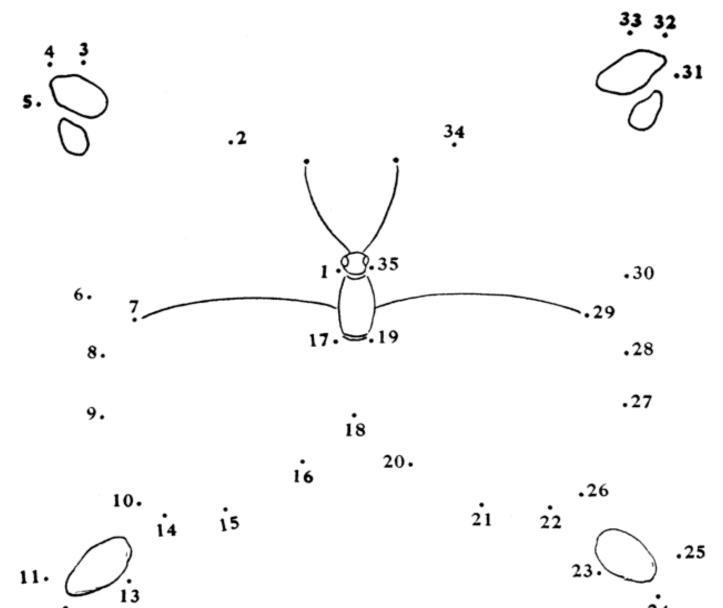
Word Search

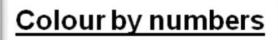
Friendship

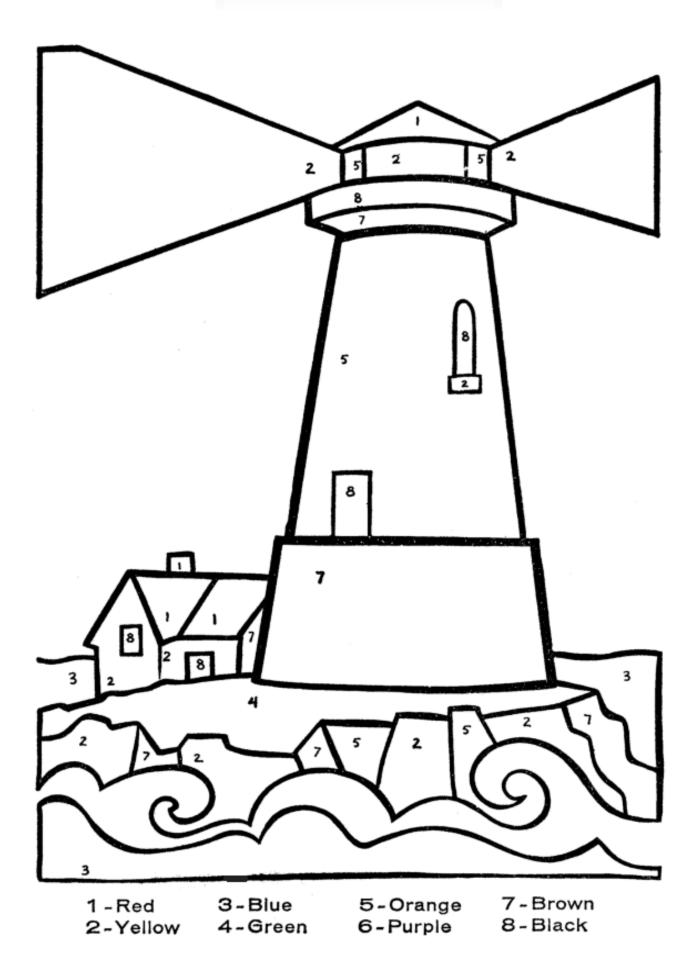
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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	CONFIDE						GOOD TIMES					SHARE				

Connect the Dots







The Answers

Name the TV Families

1 c) The Brady bunch

- 2 b) The Partridge family
- 3 c) The Ewing Family
- 4 c) The Munsters
- 5 b) The Waltons

<u>1950-1960</u>

1 d) Clement Attlee

- 2 a) British diplomats that had spied for the USSR
- 3 a) True
- 4 d) June
- 5 b) Gamal Adbel Nasser
- 6 a) True
- 7 d) Aneurin Bevan

Who Am I?

Les Dawson



Dementia Assistance Cards

Designed and sponsored by



Advice and information for anyone caring for the elderly or someone with dementia.

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