

J2 Agenda

Time out EXTRA

who, what, where, when?

WHO was the famous stepson of Dionysius Bainbridge?
WHAT group recorded the album More Songs About Buildings and Cows?
WHERE in Africa are the Banana Islands?
WHEN did David Owen become British Foreign Secretary?

remember when...

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory. Can you guess the year?
1 Tony Jacklin became the first Briton to win the US Open for 46 years
2 Bertrand Russell and Janis Joplin died
3 The Old Testament section of the New English Bible went on sale
4 Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl was published

impossipuzzles

"So you have five kids, with the one girl in the middle," said Alan. "How old is she now?"
Steve smiled. "Work it out yourself," he replied. "They're all spaced two years apart, and the youngest boy is just half the age of the oldest."
Well?

wordwise

The word may sound familiar, but what does it mean?
DIPHTHONG
A Shorthand sign
B Of dual origin
C A double-vowel sound occupying one syllable

who am I?

An actress and model, I was born in Vancouver in 1960. A Playboy Playmate of the Year, I also had a starring role in the 1981 film They All Laughed, which was released a year after my murder at the hands of my husband, promoter Paul Snider. The 1983 film Star 80 tells the story of my life and untimely death.

10 questions

1. If you walked the length of the Derwent Valley walk starting at Swalwell, Gateshead, where would you end up?
2. The Mangalica is a woolly breed of which animal?
3. Before decimalisation, how many half-crowns made up a pound?
4. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and which country have coasts on the Adriatic Sea?
5. Which late singer's albums include Faith and Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1?
6. What is the name of the geological fault that runs through California?
7. Who established the Habitat furniture business in 1964?
8. Who starred alongside Al Pacino in the 1991 film Frankie and Johnny?
9. In which decade was St James' Park first lit by floodlights?
10. A medical substance that neutralises stomach acid is known as a what?

answers

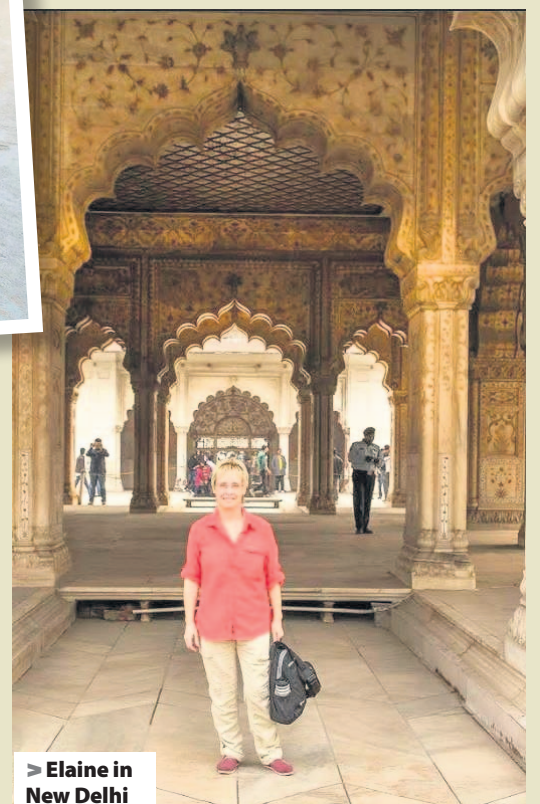
WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN: Guy Fawkes; The Meat Purveyors; Off the coast of Sierra Leone in the North Atlantic Ocean; 1977
REMEMBER WHEN: 1970
IMPOSSIPUZZLES: Girl, 12 years old
WORDWISE: C
WHO AM I: Dorothy Stratten
10 QUESTIONS: 1 Consett, 2 Pig, 3 Eight, 4 Slovenia, 5 George Michael, 6 San Andreas, 7 Terence Conran, 8 Michelle Pfeiffer, 9 1950s (1953), 10 Antacid



> Camping on the Ganges



> Sunrise on the Ganges



> Elaine in New Delhi

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diagnosis.

"With support from my husband, John, and my family, and permission from my consultant, I picked myself up, dusted myself off and boarded the flight for my adventure of a lifetime," she said. "My future was uncertain, so I was determined to make the most of any time I had left and face my treatment on my return home."

And like many good stories, hers had a happy ending.

"I survived cancer and fell in love with India. I'm now cancer free," said Elaine, who revealed the reason for writing the book, which she described as a "labour of love", was "a wish to help other people".

Elaine added: "These are the messages I hope to get out there. If you're faced with a frightening diagnosis, don't give up hope."

"You do have the courage to take that trip you've always yearned for."

She said she found the book quite easy to write.

"As India is such an inspirational country, some aspects of weaving the narrative into an entertaining read evolved naturally," she said. "What I wasn't prepared for was the emotional impact writing A Geordie Up the Ganges would have on me."

"The story is mainly fiction inspired by some events which happened to me. Writing this book unleashed emotions that I didn't realise were stored away. I cried and my skin tingled when I reminisced. But I also laughed a lot."

Elaine turned the spare room in the family house into her "writing cave", hung a huge poster on the wall with the words 'She believed she could so she did', and spent every spare moment on what she described as her "writing obsession".

"I'd written my first draft six years ago but life happened, and it sat gathering dust on my hard drive," she revealed. "When I felt the time was right for me to commit to finishing what I started, it



> Elaine Cook in her writing 'cave'

took me two-and-a-half years to bring the manuscript to completion."

Elaine, 61, was born in Princess Mary's Hospital in Newcastle and grew up in Springwell Village, Gateshead.

She worked for the Civil Service at Longbenton and Washington after leaving Usworth Comprehensive School.

After becoming a single parent, she moved out of the region 37 years ago with her mum and dad when they bought a guest house in Blackpool, where she gained accountancy qualifications.

Over the years she worked as a management accountant for the likes of Butlin's Hotels, Blackpool Tower, Louis Tussauds Waxworks and Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

After a time as company accountant for a manufacturing firm, Elaine began working in management accounts in the NHS at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, and more recently Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, where she has worked for the last four years.

She is now happily married with a grown-up daughter and a 16-year-old granddaughter, but despite the years living away from the region, Elaine still

gets homesick.

"There's nowhere else on earth like Geordieland and the people of the North East," she said proudly. "I try to get home twice a year. My spiritual home is the Northumberland coastline, my family had a caravan at Amble and I have golden memories of time spent there as a child."

"One of the best things to happen since the launch of my novel is meeting up with friends I haven't seen since childhood."

"A recent visit home was the perfect opportunity for me to sign the books they'd bought, and I'm so happy A Geordie Up the Ganges has brought us back together."

Elaine has a second book in the works.

"I have a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia planned in February 2020, and the Mekong River will feature in my second book," she said. "My next adventure awaits, and that tale is yet to be told."

■ A Geordie Up the Ganges by Nell Cook is now available to buy on Amazon in paperback or ebook.

