

Keeping Brain Fit At Home

Our Groups: *Pick and Mix, The Giggly Group, Young at Hearts, The Urchins, Passmore Pals, Happy People, Us Lot and Freya's Friends.*

This week our topic is: **TRANSPORT**



“Any ideas on how we are going to stop?!”
Photo Source: Flickr

Here at Memory Matters we have been talking about how we used to get around in years gone by:

Clarinda: *“I recall the summer bus tours that the local coach company would put on. My Mum would always buy a quarter of Barley Sugars which we were told would stop travel sickness. The seats in the coach always felt prickly on my legs and we played ‘I Spy with my little Eye’ to pass the time away. On the homeward journey another passenger would have a whip round the coach with someone’s cap to collect a tip for the driver.”*

Kate: *“I have childhood memories of travelling to the south of France, all squished in the back of the car (no seatbelts), very sweaty and sticky. We always had a competition - whoever sees the sea first won a polo mint! We lived in Derbyshire so seeing the sea was very exciting!”*

- How did you used to travel to school?
- What was the journey like in the depths of winter?
- A new bicycle was a rare treat, who taught you how to ride a bike?
- Were you a bit of a daredevil? How many of your friends could ride a bike with “no hands?”

From a Railway Carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson



Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
 And charging along like troops in a battle,
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
 All of the sights of the hill and the plain
 Fly as thick as driving rain;
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
 Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
 All by himself and gathering brambles;
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
 And there is the green for stringing the daisies!
 Here is a cart runaway in the road
 Limping along with man and load;
 And here is a mill, and there is a river:
 Each a glimpse and gone forever!

We like this poem as it seems to capture the sights you used to see on a train journey as the train sped through the countryside!

- What did you and your family use the trains for?
Going to work Visiting family or friends Sight seeing A shopping trip
- The Orient Express runs between London and Venice nowadays. It is unmatched in luxury and comfort with its oriental rugs, velvet draperies, mahogany panelling and fine cuisine!
- What is the most luxurious trip you have ever taken?

People used to spend hours on a Sunday washing and polishing their cars with a bucket, sponge and chamois leather.

Ford Cortina Vauxhall Viva Hillman Minx Triumph Herald

- Tell us about your first car or motorbike, was it your pride and joy?
- What happened if you suffered a breakdown, did you call the AA man or just roll up your sleeves and try to fix it yourself?
- What do you think about the number of cars on the road nowadays?
- If a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce turned up at your door tomorrow, where would you like to go?

“Are we there yet?” was a frequent query from any children in the family – usually five minutes after the start of a journey!

- How did you used to while away the time on long journeys?
 - Some of our favourites were playing I Spy and First to Spot ... e.g a Red Car.
 - We’ve also been known to sing a few verses of She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain When She Comes and Ten Green Bottles Standing on the Wall.
- How many different types of transport can you think of?
- Which would be your favourite way to get around?

We wondered about:

Hot Air Balloon (if you’re not in a hurry) and a Formula One Racing Car (when you are in a hurry).

What was the snail doing on the motorway?

– A couple of miles a week!

Photo Archive:



Hazel and Jo checking out the resources at St Austell.