Back in The 1950s

IN THE NEWS

1950: The United Nations condemn the North Korean invasion of South Korea. American troops clashed with North Korean soldiers in the first engagement, the Battle of Osan.

1951: The Festival of Britain was opened by King George VI in May. It was the last public event he and the Queen attended together.

Guy Burgess and Donald McLean defected to the Soviet Union.

1952: King George VI died on 6th February. Princess Elizabeth was pronounced Queen of England on 8th February.

On 25th November Agatha Christie's play, *The Mouse Trap* opened at the *New Ambassador Theatre* in London. Although the venue has changed it is still running 70 years later and is the world's longest-running production.

The first American servicemen arrived in Britain in January.

1953:The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place on June 2nd. The event was watched by millions, broadcast live on British Television.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first men to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain – Mount Everest.

1954: The Boeing 707 made its maiden flight, the first commercial Jet airliner.

There was a total eclipse of the sun, the first since 1927, not to occur again until 1999.

1955: Rosa Parks, an African-American bus passenger was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. This action will be remembered.

1956: The Suez crisis began in July and lasted nearly a year. Britain and France had formed the Suez Canal Company but they didn't agree to financing Egypt's nationalisation, this led to a stand-off.

1957: Sputnik 1 becomes the first artificial satellite to be launched into space by the USSR, on August 21st.

1958: The Munich Air Disaster happened on the 6th February. The football world suffered a terrible disaster when the aircraft carrying the Manchester United team crashed and 7 of the players and many of the staff were killed.

1959: Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba with the help of the revolutionary Che Guevara. Cuba became the first communist state of the west.

UK Prime Ministers:
Clement Attlee 1945 -1951
Winston Churchill 1951 - 1955
Anthony Eden 1955 - 1957
Harold Macmillan 1957 - 1963

US Presidents:
Harry S. Truman 1945 - 1953
Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953 - 1961

World Population:
1953: 2.677 Billion 1958: 2.967 Billion

UK Population:
1953: 50.79 Million 1958: 52.06 Million

AVERAGE COST

	1953	1958
House	£1891	£2,049
Yearly income	£400	£514
New Car	£650	£750
Gallon of fuel	4/-6d	5/-7d
Potatoes (5lbs)	1/-1d	1/-2d
Loaf of bread	6d	9d
Pint of milk	4 1/2d	7d
Postage Stamp	2 1/2d	3 1/2d

Most Popular Baby Names
DAVID, JOHN, SUSAN & LINDA

INNOVATION

1953: First colour TV sets go on sale for around $1,175, First 3-colour traffic light system in New York
1954: Commercially available Transistor Radio
1958: Integrated Circuit (IC), LASER
1959: Xerox launches the first commercial copier, First section of Britain's first motorway, the M! opens between London and Birmingham

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

1950: URUGUAY won the World Cup in Brazil
NEWCASTLE UNITED: F.A Cup winners 1951, 1952 and1955:
1953: BLACKPOOL beat Bolton Wanderers in what became known as *'The Matthews Final'*

1956: BERT TROUGHTON the Manchester City goalkeeper survives a broken neck in the Cup Final

MANCHESTER UNITED were Football League Division 1 Champions 1951-52,1955-56, 1956-57 and were runners up in 1958-59 despite the Munich air disaster wiping out most of the team

1954: ROGER BANNISTER ran 3.59.4 at Oxford to become the first man under 4 minutes for the mile. John Landy, Derek Ibbotson and Herb Elliot all broke the mile record before the end of the decade.

PETER THOMPSON: won four of his five British Open Golf Championships:
1954, 1955, 1956 and1958:
SURREY were 7 times in a row County Cricket champions continuously from 1952 -1958

ROCKY MARCIANO Retired as Boxing world heavyweight champion in 1956 undefeated after defending hs title six times.

ENTERTAINMENT

1950 The Blue Lamp 1951: The African Queed 1952: Tales of Hoffman 1953: From Here to Eternity 1954: White Christmas 1955: The Lady Killers 1956: The Ten Commandments 1957: The Bridge on the River Kwai 1958: South Pacific 1959: Look Back in Anger, Ben Hur

IN THE CHARTS ...

Top Artists: Perry Como, Jo Stafford, Guy Mitchell, The Stargazers, Frankie Laine, Eddie Calvert, Doris Day, Johnnie Ray, David Whitfield, Frank Sinatra, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Lynn, Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Bill Haley and his Comets, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Dean Martin, The Dream Weavers, Pat Boone, Winifred Atwell, Frankie Vaughan, Andy Williams, Lonnie Donegan, Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, The Crickets, Harry Belafonte, Jerry Lee Lewis, Connie Francis, Vic Damone, The Platters, Russ Conway, Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Bobby Darin, Adam Faith, The Everly Brothers, Little Richard, Chuck Berry.

Top Hits: 1950: Mona Lisa 1951: Tennessee Waltz 1952: Here in My Heart 1953: I Believe 1954: Secret Love 1955: Rose Marie 1956: I'll Be Home 1957: Diana 1958: Jailhouse Rock 1959: Livin' Doll

OSCAR WINNERS:

1950: Broderick Crawford, Olivia de Havilland 1951: José Ferrer, Judy Holliday 1952: Humphrey Bogart. Vivien Leigh 1953: Gary Cooper, Shirley Booth 1954: William Holden, Audrey Hepburn 1955: Marlon Brando, Grace Kelly 1956: Ernest Borgnine, Anna Magnani 1957: Yul Brinner, Ingrid Bergman 1958: Alec Guinness, Joan Woodward 1959: David Niven, Susan Hayward

LITERATURE:

Mary Norton: *The Borrowers 1952*
Ray Bradbury: *Fahrenheit 451 1953*
J.R.R. Tolkein: *The Lord of The Rings Trilogy 1954 -1956* Dodie Smith: *The Hundred and One Dalmations 1956*

ON TV: • The Good Old Days • Panorama • The Flower Pot Men • The Quatermass Experiment • Andy Pandy • Watch With Mother • Robin Hood • The Appleyards • Come Dancing • What's My Line • Sherlock Holmes • The Warden • Women's Viewpoint • Sports View • Crackerjack • Opportunity Knocks • Emergency Ward 10 • Dixon of Dock Green

WHO WE LOST: *1950: George Bernard Shaw, Al Johnson 1951: Ivor Novello 1952: Eva Péron 1953: Edwin Hubble1954: Alan Turing 1955: Albert Einstein 1956: A.A. Milne, William Boeing 1957: Humphrey Bogart 1958: Duncan Edwards, Ronald Colman 1959: Buddy Holly, Eryl Flynn*