

**THE
ELDON
STREET
ISSUE**

TEENAGE WILDLIFE BARNLSLEY

MUSIC.

FASHION.

TEEN LIFE.

**HOBBIES &
HANGOUTS.**



**WHO DID
WHAT,
WHEN AND
WHERE?**

**REAL LIFE
STORIES!**



INTRODUCTION

READ
ALL
ABOUT
IT!

Contents

- 2 Introduction
- 4 Eldon Street - A Week in the Life
- 6 Secondary School
- 8 Aspirations on Leaving School
- 10 College & Career
- 12 Part-time Jobs & Pocket Money
- 14 Mucking About Outdoors
- 15 Youth Clubs & the YMCA
- 16 Hobbies & Hang Outs
- 18 Performing Arts: Music, Theatre, Dance
- 20 Music Charts & Record Shops
- 22 Mixtape Jukebox
- 24 Night Life: Live Music
- 26 Night Life: Pubs, Discos & Nightclubs
- 28 Fashion: 50s – 70s
- 30 Fashion: 80s – 00s
- 32 Relationships
- 34 What Advice Would You Give Yourself?
- 35 Now & Then
- 36 Teen Issues
- 38 Teenagers Born Elsewhere
- 40 2022: Today's Teens Talking
- 42 Eldon Street Today
- 44 Vintage Barnsley Adverts

Teenage Wildlife is a community engagement project from Barnsley Civic, celebrating 70 years of youth culture and teenage experiences in the Eldon Street area of Barnsley.

Over 18 months we collected oral histories, photographs, and ephemera from local residents, with the aim to explore the similarities and celebrate the differences between generations and look at the impact that youth culture has left on the local area.



The project was supported by Historic England and Barnsley Council, and was part of the wider Eldon Street High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ); a four-year partnership between Barnsley Council and Historic England and one of 68 similar HSHAZ schemes across the county, and one of only nine in Yorkshire and the North-East.

The Eldon Street HSHAZ will help to restore historic buildings on the west side of Eldon Street, between Regent Street and the junction of Market

Hill. Teenage Wildlife offered a unique way for multiple generations to engage with and be a part of their own local history.

Between October 2021 and December 2022, over 150 people between the ages of 14 and 84 were interviewed, either as an individual, as part of a group, or as part of a workshop. Their interviews covered topics including home-life, education, youth employment, nightlife, hobbies, fashion, music, food, holidays, and dating. The

post-war history of Eldon Street was always the starting point for these conversations - the buildings included theatres, cinemas, fashion shops, youth clubs, newsagents, art schools, libraries, fast food chains, salons, and the local bus station.

This publication captures some of the conversations that happened, and stories that were told. It includes images that were donated to the project from interviewees, local business archives, the Tasker Trust, and Barnsley Archives.



In the summer of 2022 Barnsley Young Writers, aged 12 – 19, took an historical tour of Eldon Street. They were shown some of the stories and photographs donated to the project.

In a workshop exploring the hustle and bustle of the high-street of yesteryear, they picked out the buildings and histories that resonated with them the most and created these poems.

Monday

Ben Whiston

Hot morning sun. I'm old McDonald's on the corner, smelling of Egg McMuffins and grilled chicken salads, listening to office workers grumbling as they sip my black coffee. Soon the people will thin out, disappear to their boring jobs, the kids to school. Then dinnertime, and they'll be back, mostly my regulars, workmen ordering Quarter Pounders with cheese, the woman who always screams at the server because there are too many gherkins in her double Big Mac. That's when I'll turn to look out of my windows and remember the good times on the street, that are no more. Now I just listen to old people trying to figure out their pension.

Tuesday

Sofie Stothers

Sunshine, but clouds loom nearby. Now I go by the name Connection Clothing, but once I was Warner Gothard, the home of the camera flash, the snap-snap, of endless smiling faces all day long – giddy families in Santa hats wishing for a festive memory while holding down that one hyper toddler, the fake smiles of exhausted parents trying to get their fussy, teething baby to grin. The place to sit up straight and giggle at the camera man, shouting cheeeese! The place where Harry and Jane wished for the perfect wedding keepsake – later a reminder of the lost centre-pieces and squished cake. I used to be the place of the perfect picture. Now I am nostalgia, a hazy snapshot of the ghosts of those who once sat in front of my all-seeing lens..

Wednesday

Onyx Izzy Whiston

Dark skies. I am the Centenary Rooms, thudding with another group of Metallica wannabies, as they rock out to their heavy basslines and guitar solos. My spotlight eyes shine bright over the swirling pit of teenagers seeking a bit of a thrill, to counter the dull reality that lies beyond me. These shrieking lyrics are nothing to me now. I am one with the noise. A safe place, a haven of chaos, for all the freaks of the world.

Thursday

Kes

It's cloudy, and I am the hairdressers. My doors fly open and in pour the elderly, the divorced, the stay-home mums. Sandra's come in for a colour – lush blonde, and the smell of peroxide floods over the chatter about Millie's new husband, and Katie expresses, more than once, her *complete intolerance of Maurice and his boyfriends*, while simultaneously slagging-off her ex for the tenth time this week. Hair flutters seamlessly to my floor, itches at my corners while Lucy happily goes on about her mum's new Shatner perm. And as the day darkens, in come the youngsters for mohawks and blacks with neon greens and hot pinks, buzzing about upcoming gigs and dates. Eventually, talk dies down, and the people and their shiny new hair disappear, to leave my floor to be swept for the last time, brush stroking me to sleep. Then I close my shutter-eyes, prepare myself for Friday's weekend, hairspray rush.

Friday

Chloe Pearson

It's a cloudy sun above me. I am the cinema, watching you people come and go, seeing love bloom and wilt, couples kiss and handhold. I wait patiently to tell my story, but you only want the stories I play to you through my portal to other worlds. The hums and thrums of lights and speakers, the snap of twigs, a gunshot in the middle east. All day and night, I open my flickering, square eye and let the adverts roll. I've heard every naughty whisper, every crunch and rattle. I wait for you to cheer and applaud me when I've done my job, but it's only what I offer that you pay attention to. And I'll never be able to smell my freshly-popped corn, my delicious pick and mix, nor lounge in my comfy seats. At least, I like the dark, it means I can shine brightly for you all.

Saturday

Becca Green

9 o'clock on the dot, and the bullet train cuts through relentless rain, shuttle carriages carry the dreamers, the lost souls, the lovers out of town. Moon beams dance through murky windows, painting the silence of each passenger in a new light, endless possibilities. Inside, the ticket box is jammed, crowded by bustling travellers who missed their chance to escape, now returning home for the evening, to desolate rooms and eerie hallways, wishing they were flying with the forlorn blur of the train.

Sunday

Brooke Lees

Trying to rain. I'm that big black and white clock with some dude's name across my cheeks, listening to grandparents try to explain about me to kids who bury their eyes in their phones. My face stares down onto the street where hundreds of them walk by every day. I watch them all, remembering this one sunny day in the late 80s – the day I stopped ticking. It was a Wednesday just like today in mid-June. A cute couple had just walked out of Benjamin Harral's, the jewellers below. She gushed about the sparkling, new ring on her finger, and held it up, as if for me to see. He smiled down to his shoes, his own feelings hidden from my view. Then they held hands and disappeared out of sight and into history.

ELDON STREET A WEEK IN THE LIFE



SECONDARY SCHOOL

Eldon Street was once home to Barnsley School of Art and Eldon Street Junior School (now Mini Me's Nursery).

The people we interviewed talked about the transition from primary school, the national move from the grammar school system to secondary moderns, and later to the modern academy. People remembered the different learning styles, gendered learning, friendship groups and even bullying. For some, school was an enjoyable time, for others, it was painful.



"In the first year you had to wear a pinafore dress that marked you out as being a newbie, after that, you went into your pleated skirts and white shirts and ties. Berets, which we all used to wear and hated, and we would take them off at any opportunity. If you were caught without your beret you were put in detention."
Susan 60s/70s teen (Barnsley Girls High School)

"It was too strict really. Also, there was a bit of a difference in the way the teachers treated pupils. If they came from 'business people' they were treated differently from somebody like us from a council estate. You could feel that all the time."
Stuart 50s/60s teen (Holgate Grammar School)

"I enjoyed school. I wouldn't say I was academic, I muddled through. I used to do drama, I enjoyed English, Music. They were good teachers, and we were made to respect them. We did what we were told to do, we daren't cross teachers like they do now."
June 60s teen (White Cross)



"Horrible, hated it. Nasty. I was bullied quite a lot, so I hated school, yeah."
Jason 90s teen (Holgate)

"My music teacher said in my report 'Graham shows no interest whatsoever!' All I wanted to do was sing sea shanties. I was interested in The Rolling Stones."
Graham 60s teen (Mexborough)

"I weren't very good, I weren't academic. Poor at writing, maths were a struggle. I did really well in woodwork, metalwork, technical drawing, all them sort of practical sort of things."
Wayne 60s/70s teen (Kendray Oaks)

"It was strange mixing with girls from different communities around Barnsley and different levels of income. I remember being really embarrassed about having to give me address because there were all these posh kids who were living in these lovely bungalows in Monk Bretton and I'm living in this two up, two down, no inside toilet. So that was a really strange experience."
Linda 60s/70s teen (Barnsley Girls High School)

"I'd passed me 11-Plus so I went to Barnsley Girls High School. Everybody seemed to be a lot more knowledgeable than me. Or I thought that at the time. I always felt as though I'd got a lot to prove, all the time."
Catherine B 60s/70s teen (Barnsley Girls High School)

"I hated it. It was typical of the secondary modern school in the '70s. It was sexist, geared towards putting children in boxes. Girls did cookery and needlework and the boys they did carpentry, woodwork, metalwork, and gardening. It was preparing us to be wives and mothers, which I'm happy to say that I was able to do but even then, there was that feeling I think that I don't want just to be a wife and mother, I want to do something else."
Kath P 60s/70s teen (St. Helen's)

"The school that's shown in Kes is exactly the same as our school was. Very cold long corridors. We all got the cane, got the blackboard rubber chucked at us or the teacher holding you down on the floor and all that kind of stuff, that was everyday occurrence for many kids, not just one or two. That's just the way it was. In fifth year, I hardly went at all. I didn't bother turning up for the exams. I knew I wasn't daft, I just wasn't interested in being educated that way at that time."
Tony 70s/80s teen (White Cross)

"It was still coming out of the grammar school kind of era and if you were academically capable, they pushed you. I remember we were in 'X' stream, and 'You're doing ten O-levels, whether you like it or not!'. But that worked for me, so it was good."
Louise 70s/80s teen (Broadway)

"It was okay but we were just girls, which I think impeded my development! Although we probably did better because we weren't distracted. It was a really good basic education that we got and they were very strict with us."
Beverley 70s/80s teen (Barnsley Girls High School)

"I couldn't grasp things. What we didn't know at the time and what we didn't know for a long time after, was that I'd got dyslexia. Anybody on the bottom end that was struggling, we were just kind of left to struggle with it all. You'd be treated like you were stupid. And that's probably not quite fair but there didn't seem to be any drive to drag us up."
Michaela 80s teen (Penistone)



"It's really daunting going to secondary school when you're quite shy but I had a situation whereby something happened and everybody stop talking to me. From that point on, I made friends with the group of people who were the most accepting, the ones that got involved in drinking and smoking and doing all the things that maybe you shouldn't do. So I went from being a goody two shoes to being involved with the bad kids if you like, who welcomed me with open arms. So yeah, that was a very interesting experience."
Faith 00s teen (Penistone)



"I went from being a big fish in a little pond to being a little fish in an ocean basically. Especially with Horizon as is it is a massive school. There were so many students and rooms and it were like a maze trying to get around there for first month. I didn't like it. I got bullied a lot. I just weren't a fan of school in general, being sat in a classroom and being taught. I'd rather have it explained to me as I'm doing it, I'm more of a hands-on kind of person. I've never really been good in class environments. It was probably because I'm dyslexic, and dyscalculia. That's my issues."
John 10s teen (Horizon Community College)

ASPIRATIONS ON LEAVING SCHOOL

What did you want to do when you left school? And what options were available?

Throughout the decades, our teens faced uncertainty about what the future might hold. Here's what you told us about your prospects on leaving school...

"I wanted to be a nurse, until at fourteen, I had to go into hospital and saw what they actually did, and realised it wasn't for me. I couldn't stomach the things that they had to do so that went by-the-by. I didn't really know what I wanted to do. We were told that we could do anything that we wanted to do if we aspired. But there was a shortage of jobs for the amount of youngsters that were leaving school."

June 60s teen

"I wanted to stay on at school and do A-levels and go to university. That is what I thought I would be doing. I could have left school at 15 but in order to sit GCEs you had to stay on that extra year. My parents allowed me to do that but made it perfectly clear that I had to leave school and get a job because being the eldest of six, money was needed in the household."

David P 60s/70s teen

"When you're 15 or 16 you know everything. You've been at the top of the tree, haven't you? But then you leave school and go back down to the absolute bottom. You've still got that cockiness of youth that makes you think anybody else older knows nothing and I know everything."

Wayne 60s/70s teen

"I couldn't see any career for me at all. When I was at school, as far as the High School were concerned, you either taught or you went to get a degree somewhere, or you went in a bank, or they'd let you, allow you to go into Marks and Spencer's management."

Linda 60s/70s teen

"I didn't feel we were being prepared for university or anything like that. We were the failures. We didn't get to high school, to grammar school, you know, so we were the factory fodder or whatever."

Kath P 70s teen

"You got it instilled into you at school to get these qualifications to get a good job. But what were a good job? I mean, at that time, it were a choice of being a nurse or working in a supermarket, basically."

Catherine B. 70s teen

"I were in the top form and it was always, 'You boys, you are the doctors, the lawyers, you are the future, blah blah blah' and that was pushed on you by teachers. To a degree I rebelled against that. What I wanted to do was get a job, earn some money to buy stuff for the band."

Andy S 70s teen

"All we did about careers was they took us down Grimethorpe pit one day. They got all the lads in hall one afternoon and showed us how to put these respirators on, and that were us careers talk. I thought to myself that I'd never go down again. I got to the bottom, it was all black. I just thought, I could never work here."

Rob 70s teen

"A lot of my mates went straight down the pit, finished on Friday and went down the pit on Monday. Quite a few went to the steel works and a couple of kids went on to do A-levels and uni but back then you could count on one hand the kids in our year who went to uni."

Tony 70s/80s teen

"I remember going into a careers talk with some old lady who said, 'And what do you want to do?' And I said, 'I want to be famous. I want to sing and dance in London on the stage'. And she looked at me with disdain and said, 'Wasn't your sister a schoolteacher? Go and be a schoolteacher', and I went, 'Oh, alright then' and that was that, end of the dream."

Beverley 70s/80s teen

"I didn't want a job, I wanted to carry on as I were being a lad and do what I were doing, going down Cawthorne basin, in the woods, fishing. I wanted to carry on doing that but I got a rude awakening, I had to find a job."

David 50s/60s teen

"None of my family had gone to uni, so that's something that I really wanted to do. I had quite a few ideas of what I wanted to do, and it always changed. When Uni started coming up, I started talking to people about it, I would really get put off that as well. So, then I've sort of just lost all hope, and didn't really know what to do. I stuck with it, went to college and all that and then at the end of college, I just decided not to do uni and just get a job instead."

Jess 10s teen



COLLEGE & CAREER

Finding a full-time job and earning money, moving into higher education or taking on a YTS or apprenticeship, teens faced big life choices as they entered into the world of work or further study.

"I was a Saturday girl for Mr Leslie Frances, and when I did leave school at 15 he took me on straightaway. I did try to get my City & Guilds in Leeds but a couple of times coming back wasn't very nice on my scooter, so I trained there at the salon. To begin with all you did was shampoo but it was up to you how quickly you got on. I had a box put at the back, and although I was an apprentice, I used to go to different villages and cut hair."

Maureen 60s teen

"I left school, went for the Parks and Amenities. It was the first year that we started to leave at 16. We went to the Barnsley College on a Monday and Thursday evening. Everybody learnt on the job."

Arthur 60s teen

"When my father knew I was going to work at a pit, he put a stop to it which blew my mind because I'd done what I was told, to leave school, get a job - but it wasn't the right sort of job. So, I wanted to go into banking. Failed the Yorkshire Bank entrance exam (believe it or not, you did have to sit entrance exams for banks in those days) and stumbled into working in construction."

David P 60s/70s teen



"At Leslie Frances, you just wanted to improve all the time and impress them, be part of a group. There were a lot of banter, there was some trickery as well. There used to be a hardware store up the Arcade so they used to send you up there for a 'long stand', all the usual tricks, a tin of striped paint."

Catherine B 70s teen

"I left school early and went away dancing. I went to Spain. There were a lot more available to us as dancers than there is today, there were always contracts coming up in places."

Eleanor 80s teen

"I left school on the day of my last exam. Walked out and thought, 'Great, I'm not coming back there again, the world is my oyster'. And it didn't take long to figure out that actually it wasn't. So a friend and I started a window cleaning round in Silkstone Common. Ultimately, I took a job and then got put on a youth training scheme for £28.70."

Michaela 80s teen

"I've got an apprenticeship and that has got me where I am now so I'm really happy that I chose to do that. I find that I've picked up a lot more life skills from volunteering and going into jobs and then doing an apprenticeship rather than just going to uni."

Jess 10s teen

"I decided I wanted to go to Manchester Art School. You had to get certain number of A-levels to get there so I just ignored everything else and swatted away on my English and Art. The English teacher was beside himself; I was only the second grade 'A' English they'd ever had at that school. He went nuts. He said 'Here, have a cigarette'. I said 'I don't smoke sir.'"

Kate 60s teen

"I decided to go to Sixth Form College which basically meant I bummed around all summer. Got to Sixth Form College, didn't like it and my dad said, 'Right well you're getting a job now whether you like it or not'. He got his mate who were a plasterer and said, 'Do you want a labourer?' I spent the next two and a half years doing that, it were brilliant, loved it."

Dave P 70s/80s teen

"I did a course at the Tec for six months that were doing building, plastering, plumbing, and all that. I didn't want to go into pit because it seemed a bit scary but I went and I absolutely loved it."

Simon 70s/80s teen

"I just came up Eldon Street and I saw a sign in Lodges window saying: 'Shop assistant wanted'. Just walked in and got the job, basically".

Kath 70s teen



"I got this job at Woolley Hall. I used to clean thousands of windows, I used to do boilers, clean toilets out, sweep yards up, anything."

David 50s/60s teen



"I'm only person in my family to go into further education. Someone suggested Barnsley Art College, and I didn't realise that even existed at that point. It actually blew my mind that I could go to college and just do all the subjects that I wanted to do, that I were interested in. It were two of the best years of my life, because it really informed my pathway into my career and what I did."

David S 80s teen

"A-Level route then I had a year off before I went to university. I was offered a job as a youth leader and was considering that. I put it to my mum that I was going to do that and she was just like, 'Not going to university is not an option!'. It's the only thing that I can remember my mum putting her foot down about."

Taryn 90s teen

"Barnsley College probably wasn't the best place for me to go because there were loads of people and I felt a bit overwhelmed. So I went to this place called Aspire, on Regent Street South. I chose to do Health and Social Care. It's not what I actually wanted to do but just for a couple years until I got more confident, that's what I did."

Mads 10s/20s teen



"Because I couldn't think what to do, I stayed on into the Sixth Form. Different things became important then, getting engaged became important whereas to others, who were off to Cambridge and Oxford, they were just completely driven. I just got away with as much as I could, I think. I spent most of the time in the toilet or down the banking!"

Linda 60s/70s teen

"I did the pre-cert prep which was aimed at anybody who hasn't got any qualifications. I got really into it because it was talking about adult things that I could relate to rather than a curriculum that didn't mean a thing to me. It was a year long course, quite hard work, but by the time I got to the end of it, I'd got a place at Leeds University. It just shows that not everybody is ready to learn at age 14 to 17/18 but even just a few years later you might be."

Tony 70s/80s teen





"The first job that I got paid for was working on Barnsley market for Algy, the stocking man. I worked for him for a day or two days and I think he paid me 50 pence. I was only about 13, and I'd got all this blue, green and silver eye make-up on and I thought I were wonderful."

Linda 60s/70s teen



"I was 19 in the Miner's Strike. I was a bit worried we weren't going to get paid. When I went on strike, I'd just do the odd thing, cut grass, help my mum with shopping, do this and that."

Simon 70s/80s teen



"I worked at Red Lion. One job I hated was cleaning ashtrays out with a paintbrush, that was disgusting. Obviously in them days you could smoke in the pub. I used to restock the shelves with all the bottles, do a few general jobs."

Tony 80s teen

PART-TIME JOBS & POCKET MONEY

Our teenage years bring an increased independence and a want to buy and own things for ourselves, whether that be clothes, accessories, records, ice cream for a date or tickets to the latest film.

To do this we went out and got ourselves part-time jobs. Paper rounds, early morning work on the markets or being a shop assistant on a weekend. Here are some of the ways our interviewees earned their own money while still at school.

"I was a Saturday cashier at Wilsons dress shop, in 1970-71, which was where the library is now, and one of the windows overlooked the fish market. I often sat there at the end of the day logging all the garments sold. All the staff were called Miss or Mrs, never first names. We had to wear black dresses in the winter and navy blue in the summer. There were three girls who were called window dressers and whose main job was to ensure all the models in the windows were dressed nicely. Purchases were packed at a packing table into a proper paper carrier bag. That was where I learned to fold garments properly when I wasn't needed as a cashier."

Christine 60s/70s teen

"I was always trying to look after myself. I used to collect wood would you believe, and chop it up and sell to the pensioners."

Maureen 50s/60s teen

"My grandma worked in a hotel in Blackpool so four of us up sticks and we went to work there for about eight weeks. As a 15 year old, going away from home in a place like Blackpool, it was the equivalent of today going and working in Las Vegas, and that may sound bizarre and a stupid comparison, but it was! We were only working in kitchens, scraping tatties and just emptying bins but it were a great period."

Wayne 60s/70s teen

"I used to babysit for me younger brother and my sister. My dad used to give me a couple of quid. In 1979, an album were like £2.99. I had a paper round later towards like '79 and I started taking Pools coupons. I weren't old enough to do it but my dad signed it in his name and I did that."

Simon 80s teen

"I got a job in my first band at 14 and that's all I wanted to do. I had a falling out with my music teacher who said that I'd never make it as a drummer as I can't commit to anything."

Andy 80s teen

"I've never not worked. I worked in the local corner shop at 10 years old, got paid a Kinder Egg and a pound. At 13 I got a paper round delivering to shops in town on an evening. Age 16, I sold pies in the away stand at Oakwell, the season Barnsley got in the Premiership. I had long hair and wore metal band t-shirts, so I think the bosses shoved me in the away stand to take the mick, as I blatantly didn't care a bit about football. When I left school, I asked around a few shops in town and got myself a job at Iceland on Peel Street. I was there throughout college and uni. I always had a good work ethic and always made sure I had money to buy records, books and beer. I had friends who were getting jobs in McDonalds and pubs, which meant they had to work evenings. I'd much rather my evenings be free."

Jason 90s teen



"I started working at Regent's nightclub, initially glass collecting. I stayed there maybe two or three years. Then I worked at Hedonism. I think that were a defining moment, working and nightclubbing. I just lived there! I used to go in through the day and clean, then go and meet friends at the pub before you started work at nine o'clock, then work through until three or four."

Taryn 90s teen



© Barnsley Archives

Somehow I landed this Saturday job at Barnsley Library, which was at the Civic Hall. I started there when I was about 15. I got paid one pound a day and I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. It was just a fantastic job if you liked people watching because it was such a mix and a melee of different people that used to come in."

Susan 60s/70s teen



MUCKING ABOUT OUTDOORS



One thing that has become obvious during this project is that young people don't spend as much time outdoors as they used to.

It's generally considered that it was safer for children and young people to play outdoors alone in previous decades. The advent of cinema, video games and social media may also have had an impact on the amount of time young people spent outside.

Parks and woodlands offered a world of imagination, with youth clubs and outdoor pursuits tempting more adventurous teens.

"My mum's warning shots as I went out were no drinking, no smoking and no going around the back of garages with lads. That's what she used to say to me every time, and so I used to do all three, just you know, to prove her wrong."

Linda 60s/70s teen

"We seemed to do a lot of standing about in phone boxes, I don't know why. There might be three or four of you all stood chatting in a phone box around Athersley but that's just what you did to shelter from weather because there weren't many other places to go to at that time. You'd get told off by people who lived nearby, 'Come on out of that telephone box!' I suppose as we got older there were cider involved, but you know, we weren't causing any problems."

Catherine B 70s teen

"A lot of times we just used to go out on the street or go down and play in the woods. I always remember going down to Rockley Woods, I spent many hours in the rhododendron just climbing, climbing, just climbing the trees. You'd go out in the morning and your mum and dad wouldn't see you 'til tea time, well, when the sun was going down actually...in the school holidays, it must have been twelve hours, and we just went out and played, climbed, walked. And then perhaps at thirteen we were starting to go to the youth clubs, things like that."

Tony 80s teen

"Nowadays, I'd dread being a teenager, there's nowt for them to do. In my days, we used to get up in the morning, 'Right mum...', I'd jump on my bike, 'I'm off for the day', and you're gone. And you could. You daren't let kids out nowadays on bikes, cos there's too much traffic on roads."

Mr Craddock 50s/60s teen

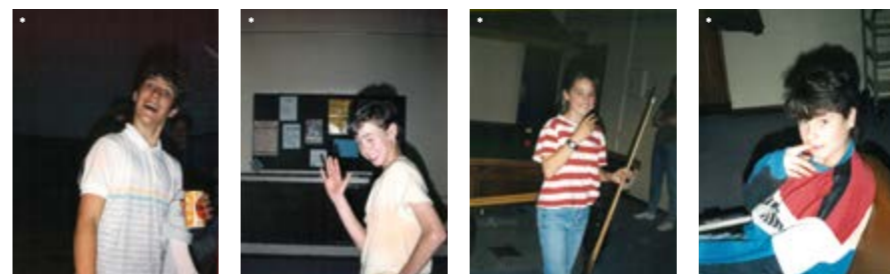
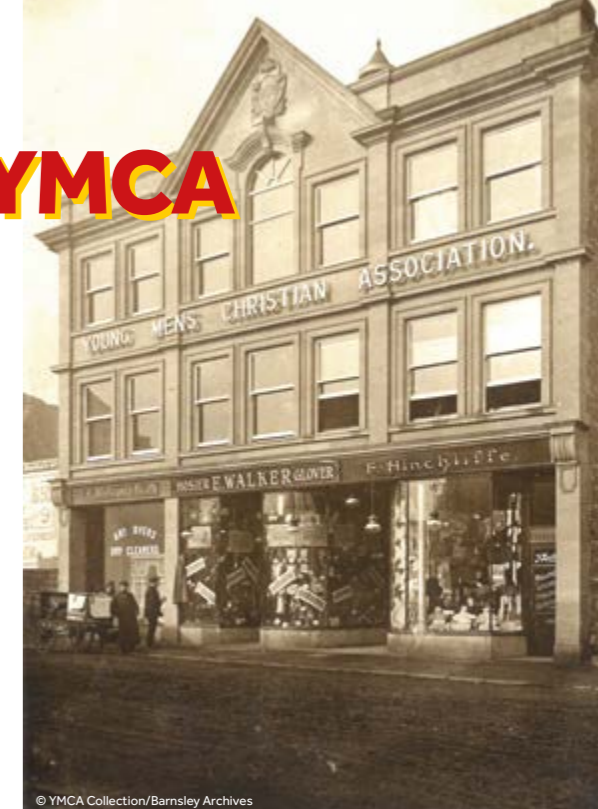
"At weekends we used to just muck about...it's a cliché now but we'd go out at dawn and come back in at dusk. And that were it, you were just wandering about, mucking about but not getting into trouble as such. You'd get up to mischief, of course you did, but no major, major issues."

Wayne 60s/70s teen



YOUTH CLUBS & THE YMCA

Until the 1960s, the upper floors of 12 – 18 Eldon Street were home to Barnsley's YMCA. In early 1966, a new YMCA was built on the corner of Blucher Street and Pitt Street. Until the 1990s, youth clubs existed all over Barnsley, with most principle towns and villages having their own, being sited in village halls, church halls and community centres.



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"A friend of mine, called him John, he knew I'd been playing guitar and practicing and he said, 'There's a few lads up in Worsborough at a youth club, they're looking for a guitarist to make a group', I said, 'Oh, might be interesting', so he went up with me, introduced us, and we got on just like that - house on fire."

Stuart 50s/60s teen

"There was a youth club down by St. George's Church by the swimming baths. We had good swimming baths in Barnsley in those days, very good swimming baths, and it had a dance floor in the winter period."

Arthur 60s teen

"If you got stopped from going to the youth club for whatever reason, whether it be from school, or from domestic, your parents, it was an horrendous punishment. I suppose the equivalent in today's terms would be having your phone took off you. It had everything, whatever your interests were. The youth club had a little disco, a little cafe, table tennis, snooker, five aside football. And my choice was trampoline, I used to love trampoline. And I were quite good at it actually, believe it or not, I were quite good at trampoline."

Wayne 60s/70s teen

"Football, cricket during the summer. Never much good, but thoroughly enjoyed the participation, and that's what it was all about for me. Camaraderie. We all went to the same youth clubs and started going out together when we knew that there were bands on, we'd be able to earn some money, go off and see the bands."

David P 60s/70s teen

"In my late teens, I became a youth leader. We did the Millennium project, where you had to do volunteer hours for it. I've still got my certificate for my Millennium volunteering that we did. Then I went from being in a youth group to being a youth leader and taking all the young people out to do climbing, canoeing, walking, all that sort of thing."

Taryn 90s teen



"We'd get all the kids together in the village and set up like two armies; one'd come out from the rec, one'd already be in the woods. I mean, we were at that all day long. Summer holidays there was a bunch of us used to go down the old railway track right down to Wombwell. So we'd be out all day. We just explored and they were the things we did in them days. Kids don't seem to do that now, for a variety of reasons. But it was fun. We found an old signal box once and we decided that was going to be our den and then we turned up one day and they'd knocked it down. So, that wasn't our den anymore, we had to go and find somewhere else. But yeah, it was good."

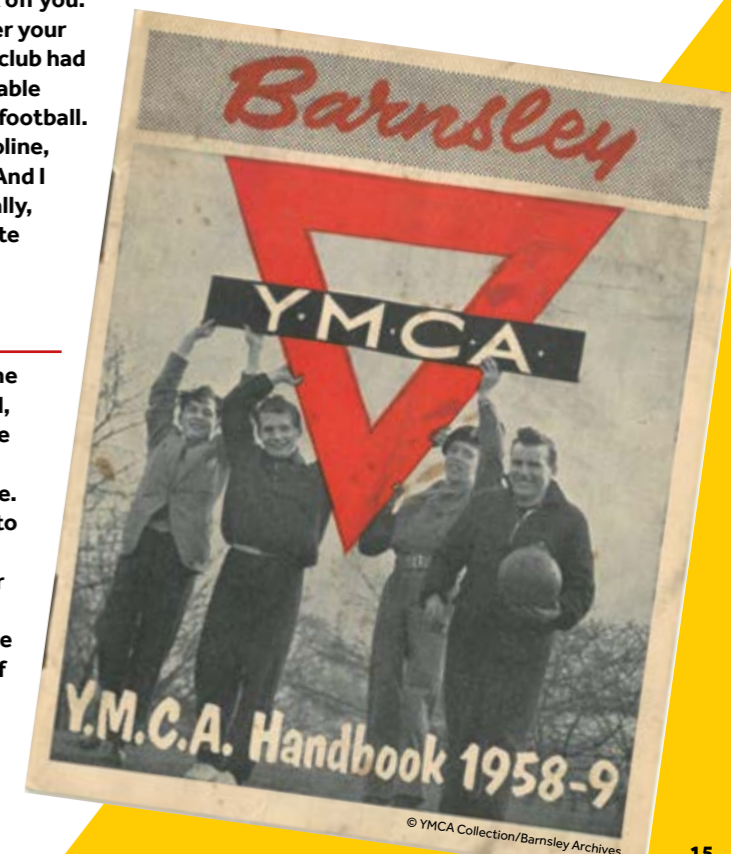
Michaela 80s teen

"I think the culture in our area were to let off steam on a Friday night, when everybody went down to the park and had a bottle of cider and all that sort of thing."

Taryn 90s teen

"Me and my friends used to spend a lot of time in Locke Park. We'd have picnics, goth picnics, and we'd have music playing, and just eating snacks and drinking alcohol. And just literally spend like four or five hours in the park in late summer just having fun. I don't know, maybe we felt safer up in Locke Park than we did in the town."

Jason 90s teen



© YMCA Collection/Barnsley Archives

HOBBIES AND HANG OUTS

When not mucking around in youth clubs or local woodlands, many teenagers opted to hang out in the town centre and spent their hard earned pocket money in cinemas, shops, watching shows, football matches or even in fast food restaurants. Some opted to get up and go out of town.

Where was your fave teen hangout?

How did you spend your free time?

"I used to go to Robinson's Feast in Barnsley, it was a regular thing down near the bus station area. I used to go to cinemas; The Bug Hut on Sheffield Road, The Gaumont, now Parkway, the Ritz where Quality Save is. Then there was The Princess up Racecommon Road. I used to watch a lot of cowboy films, you know like Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea, John Wayne."

David 50s teen

"The Barnsley bus station had a newspaper kiosk called the Threepenny Bit, that was a very popular congregating place for boys and girls in their teens in this era. There was the Aloha coffee bar and the Wimpy bar. The coffee bars were the McDonald's of their day, a huge meeting place for kids and teenagers to go. They'd have their Lambretta scooters parked up outside and it was like the American Dream."

Susan 60s/70s teen

"The cinema was a regular place to visit, but it was more of a treat because we had a local cinema at Elsecar that was much cheaper than coming into town. If you came to the cinema in town you made an event of it. I was quite familiar with Eldon Street but it was also full of businesses that I didn't really know anything about. I was aware of the YMCA. It was just a place that you walked along to get from A to B, I suppose."

David P 60s teen

"You couldn't be a self-respecting Mod without a scooter. And this applied to all my peer group. I got this scooter and a whole new world were opened up. You met up, you exchanged tips on how the scooter worked, the Mod thing at the time were mirrors, spotlights, so everybody customised their scooters."

Wayne 60s/70s teen

"One of the places that sticks in my mind is Benjamin Harrals, and I remember going to have my ears pierced there in my lunch hour. I always wanted my ears pierced and my mum said, 'You're not having them done while you're at school! When you're working, you can please yourself'. I remember coming home one day and saying, 'I had them done!'"

Kath P 70s teen

"I used to spend a lot of time on Eldon Street. We used to go round corner to what were called Hagenbachs, which were just next to Frank Birds, a bakery and pasty shop. We used to go and get us dinner there sometimes. There was a Wimpy, if you went out at back of theatre and up the back alleyway."

Eleanor 80s teen

"I've always loved football, massive part of my life football, always has been always will be. I loved playing but I was always the last to be picked, I was stuck in the nets but I was fine with that."

Tony 80s teen



"I was in the Barnsley Lambretta club, we used to go to either Filey, Whitby or Scarborough with the scooter club. There must have been 20-odd of us on Lambrettas. Mainly guys really, but it was such fun."

Maureen 60s teen



"Eldon Street and The Civic felt not the most prosperous part of Barnsley at that point. It felt a bit like a forgotten part of the town in a way. The top of the Victorian Arcade, there was that shop Pollyanna's. It felt like this isolated style guru that was sat there. I remember Singer Sewing Machines centre being pretty much next to The Civic and we would go in, park up, you would certainly go into The Civic that way. There would be a pop-up kind of comedy club in The Courthouse pub."

Mark 80s teen

"You had McDonald's and what we called 'The Circle', which was this big circular plinth in the middle of Peel Square. That was like a meeting place for students, teens, rockers and druggies. We'd just be like 'Oh yeah, meet you at the circle at one'. I was one of these art students that always carried a notebook around and would like write stuff and draw in it and things like that. I'd be in the Minerva Café by the bus station having a cup of tea, having a cig, writing in my diary, like some existential lost teen with my music magazine at my side as well."

Jason 90s teen

"When did Titanic come out? I watched that. I would have been about eighteen. I'm ashamed to say, I was suckered in by the sheer melodrama of it all and walked out, walking down Eldon Street going, 'Oh, that was absolutely outrageous that they did that to those people, and they all drowned'. I was totally sucked in by the Hollywood-ness of it, I'm afraid."

Steven 90s teen

"When I was going through my Emo phase, we would go to the Mandela Gardens at the back of The Civic quite a lot, and we'd all meet up there, pretty much every weekend. We'd all sort of just sit around there, rolled cigs and had a good time and played music on us phones. In college, we started going to Parkway a lot more. We'll still go whenever there's a new horror on at Parkway. And it's the same order every time, two bags of sweets and a mixed Slush."

Jess 10s teen



PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC, THEATRE, DANCE

Barnsley has a rich heritage for performing arts, and teens through the decades have enjoyed spending their free time at dance schools, with theatre groups, studying at Barnsley or Bretton College, the Electric Theatre, as well as PADS on Grove Street. The Civic Hall on Eldon Street was a very familiar home away from home for many teens with annual panto's, operatic shows and school productions which saw them take to the stage and experience that rush of performing in a real theatre.



"When I was about 13 or 14 and I got involved with the local Gilbert and Sullivan society. It was performing arts, mainly singing but there was obviously movement and choreography that went on. I'd been to dancing class for many years to learn tap, ballet and modern. I did a number of productions and got involved in Barnsley Amateur Operatic Society as well. The operatic scene for teenagers and young people was brilliant because it was like a youth club but with a musical and performing arts slant. It was absolutely fantastic, it ticked a lot of boxes, you got to meet the boys, you got to perform. It was great."

Susan 60s/70s teen

"I just loved Bretton [College]. Bretton was this kind of punky, agitprop, living in the country doing weird versions of Medea by the lake. And living there as well, because for the majority of Bretton, you can live on campus and that's always been really attractive to me - that you can live and work the experience, rather than go there 9 to 5 and go back."

Mark 80s teen



"I did Barnsley Art College, the performing arts course the first year it started, it became Electric Theatre. We thought we were the kids from Fame, we would be bursting into song and dance anywhere and everywhere that we possibly could. So it was great. There was a mixture of dancers, singers, people more into the tech side, radio side, we just did productions constantly."

"I went to Central School of Ballet and auditioned there and I remember throughout the day the numbers were knocked off until there were maybe just eight of us left. And it got to "Okay, we're gonna measure... Oh, you're not going to be much taller, are you? No, no, no". Mavis Burrows was very honest with us that that's what would happen but still go - go for the experience. It wasn't just teaching us dancing, she taught around upbringing and manners and everything."

Louise 80s teen



"I was at dancing class every day, Monday to Friday nights. We were there most of the day Saturday, Sunday's we had panto rehearsals. Duggie Chapman did, say Aladdin, and he'd either approach my mum Rosalyn Wicks, Betty Chapelle or Mavis Burrows. He used to send her the music and say, 'Right these are the dances I need you to learn.' My mum used to teach us. We used to rehearse for months and months on a Sunday, and then the week before the pantomime, we went into the theatre, we put all together with the cast. I don't think as well we realised what kind of famous people we were working with."

Eleanor 80s teen

"My friends were all dancing friends and still are. Sometimes I never went to school, majority of the time I was at studio. My mum used to train a lot of teachers and I used to demonstrate. I mean I weren't up to no good. I did have my moments, but I weren't particularly up to no good, I just wanted to dance that's all I wanted to do."

Eleanor 80s teen

"I started at Mavis Burrows' when I was about five until I was eighteen when I left to go to college. It quickly became all-consuming so that we would come every night apart from Wednesdays and Saturdays and really, other than school, that was completely the life that I had that I loved. I remember us doing classes, finishing the class, and if there was a show on upstairs we would sneak in and sit at the back watching the wrestling, tapping our tap shoes together as we watched. So even when we could have left, we didn't, we stayed."

"Mavis Burrows moved into The Civic. Every year she'd do an annual show, then we started with amateur operatics and would be dancers for their shows. I can remember the smell of the theatre and the lights and the applause and the heat and the excitement and the rooms and it was always a bit dirty and dusty. I can still remember really clearly those performances."

"I wanted to perform in London, sing, dance onstage. I remember having one audition, I was 16. We did a ballet class and I got through to the next round and she said, "You do realise to be a dancer you have to be as thin as a pin, don't you?" And I went 'Ahhhh'. I was always a bit curvy anyway, but I was doing my A-levels so I think maybe I'd put some weight on. She said, "Come back when you're eighteen and lose a bit of weight" so off I went."

Beverley 80s teen

"The Performing Arts Development Service [PADS] came into my primary school when I were 11 and did some workshops. I've always been interested in dance but it were never an option for me as a kid because we couldn't afford it really. I stayed with them until I was 16. I did my GCSE Dance with them, rather than through school and just continued to love it. That was my inspiration to take it up - somebody coming in and performing for us and doing workshops with us."

"I don't think I were a particularly sociable person so dance, it's just really free and I just can't really explain it. I just love it. Not to sound like Billy Elliot, but you just can't explain it. The joy that I get from it is just unbelievable."

"We did perform with PADS at the Civic a couple of times, but my main memory of performing at The Civic was with school. Two nights at The Civic when it were a proper theatre. It was just unbelievable to walk in and it be a real stage, and tiered seating. After being in the school hall, performing on these stages it just felt really special. Going up into the changing rooms, rather than being some scruffy block in the back of the school hall, there were lights around the mirrors and it just felt really special to be there. Getting the call like you were a proper professional: 'Five minute call to stage!'. It was just like 'Wow, this is brilliant'. Great, great memories of that."

Taryn 90s teen



MUSIC CHARTS & RECORD SHOPS



"Music's always been a massive part of my life and obviously '94, Oasis releasing Definitely Maybe, I was definitely a bit of a 90s Indie kid. Still am."

Taryn 90s teen

"I didn't have lots of current singles - we used to tape things from the radio!"

Beverley 80s teen

"I used to listen to lots of things on the radio but music was Radio Luxembourg."

David M 60 teen

"In the Arcade was Neal's record shop. I just used to spend hours in there because it fascinated me. They had the wooden booths that you went and stood inside and listened to music on headphones. It was just brilliant. Then there was Casa Disco was on Peel Square and I used to spend hours in there, just hanging out and flicking through all the vinyl."

Susan 60s/70s teen

"I can remember getting my first record in 1962 because even though at that time we didn't have electricity, my parents had wind up gramophone and you were able to play 78s and 45s on there. I developed an interest in music and started collecting records and wanted to see the bands live. That's what drew me in to Eldon street where the Civic Hall were putting on performances every week."

David P 60s teen

"My sister used to buy records, she used to always have the Top 10 in her record collection and me and my middle sister we used to say, 'Oh you want to get this one and you want to get that one'. So we had a right collection of records between us. You just used to play them on a loop all the time, so you knew all the words. We used to drive me dad bonkers. He'd say, 'You want to listen to some right music, nevermind all this new stuff. It's all rubbish. You can't tell what they're singing'. And now you find yourself saying same thing!"

Catherine B 70s teen

"Music played a big part, just you know, whatever was top of the charts ... up the Arcade there used to be a record shop, you could go in and listen to records and you'd be saving up to buy the latest number one."

Kath P 70s teen

"I'd got three brothers and sisters that were all obsessed with music. I was just immersed in it from day dot. My oldest brother, in the 1960s, he got a record player and got the first copy of The Beatles' White album in Barnsley. I used to skive off junior school to play his records. I always wanted to be a bass player, and the one thing that got me into wanting to play guitar were Elton John on Top of the Pops and Davey Johnstone with a Flying-V on Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting and I thought yeah, I want to do that."

Andy 70s/80s teen

"I was trying to educate myself in other ways, mainly through music. That was how I was broadening my horizons. We'd read every interview in all the different music magazines. We'd get Japanese imports and we'd be queuing up for them on the day that came out. We were searching, listening for radio interviews, getting every bit of information we could about the songs. Sometimes on the album sleeves there'd be more information or a quote or a lyric or something like that and you'd go and chase it up and find out what he meant when he wrote it. So we were trying to learn about things that way."

Tony 70s/80s teen

"I spent all my money on records. Straight down into town on a Saturday morning, into Casa Disco usually, for the latest picture disc which probably would be Iron Maiden or AC/DC. Saxon even. There were quite a few record shops in town. You'd got Casa Disco, EGS, WHSmith's. Even Boots had a good record department. There were two other record places upstairs in the market."

Michaela 80s teen

"I'm a child of the late 80s I suppose. I remember getting bought my ghetto blaster with a vinyl deck that sat on top of it, very exciting. I was about 12 or 13 and my brother bought me the Top 10 singles at the time."

Andrea 80s / 90s teen

"I dipped in and out of record shops all the time. I just loved looking through record shelves. I always remember the ceiling in Casa Disco was just like a collage of posters that they'd stuck to the ceiling. Sometimes on Mondays when I were at school I'd sneak out on lunchtime and go into town and buy cassettes, and then later CDs because it was record release day. I used to go to the library and they'd have a music room and I'd take out cassettes and CDs. I'd go to the photocopier in the library, photocopy the cover, go home, record the cassette and then I'd have my own copy. And I did meet a girlfriend in the library once!"

Jason 90s teen



"There weren't many pop records at that time, early '60s. Not 'til '64 really that Radio Caroline came on 199 meters, and that's when all this music business took off on different radio stations. Every Friday I'd come straight down to towards the bus station, call into Lodges and get New Musical Express for sixpence. There were lots of articles, but I got it mainly for the charts."

Stuart 50s/60s teen



MIXTAPE JUKEBOX

We asked everybody to share special songs or artists that encapsulated their teenage experience, something they felt could have been written especially for them, capturing their feelings and emotions at certain period in time, or simply something they danced to at a disco or nightclub.

What songs would feature on your teenage jukebox?



A	COUNT	B	COUNT
* 1950s *		* 1970s *	
Dion & The Belmonts - Teenager in Love		David Bowie - Rebel Rebel	
Cliff Richard - Living Doll		Grease - Summer Lovin'	
Marty Wilde - Bad Boy		The Jam - When You're Young	
		Sex Pistols - Anarchy in the UK	
* 1960s *		* 1980s *	
The Shadows - Apache		The Specials - Too Much Too Young	
Bob Dylan - Subterranean Home-sick Blues		Saxon - Wheels of Steel	
The Beatles - Hard Days Night		Human League - Don't You Want Me	
The Supremes - Stop! In the Name of Love		Madonna - Material Girl	
		Stone Roses - This is the One	

BIAS Fe NORMAL EQ 120 µs		Stereo <input type="checkbox"/>	Mono <input type="checkbox"/>	Dolby <input type="checkbox"/>	Nr.
* 1990s *		* 2010s *			
Alanis Morissette - You Oughta Know		Arctic Monkeys - Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?			
Nirvana - Come As You Are		Billie Eilish - Bad Guy			
Pulp - Common People		Taylor Swift - Blank Space			
Britney Spears - Baby One More Time		Kenrick Lemar - Alright			
* 2000s *		Stormzy - Crown			
My Chemical Romance - I'm Not Okay		* 2020s *			
Eminem - The Way I Am		Ed Sheeran & Bring Me The Horizon - Bad Habits			
The Strokes - Last Nite		BTS - Butter			
Amy Winehouse - Back to Black		Harry Styles - Watermelon Sugar			
Linkin Park - Crawling					

NIGHT LIFE: LIVE MUSIC

Barnsley has been a thriving centre for live music for as long as we can remember. Eldon Street has seen variety acts appear in venues such as the former Civic Theatre.

Barnsley Folk Club has made a number of venues its home over the years, including the Centenary Rooms on the upper floors of The Civic, which was also home to local live rock, metal, punk and blues bands; while national touring bands played in the main hall.

In the last twenty years, The Room, which was a pub on Eldon Street saw occasional live alternative rock and acoustic music, while these days Barnsley Civic plays host to folk music and tribute acts.

Parkway Cinema still hosts very well attended live tribute acts.

BARNSELY FOLK CLUB

"I went to the Barnsley Folk club regularly when it was at the Centenary Rooms in the Civic Centre, shortly after it had moved from the Wheatsheaf at Town End, and I saw lots of up-and-coming performers there, people like Mike Harding, Tony Capstick, and thoroughly enjoyed it."

David P 60s/70s teen

"Before they made the Centenary Rooms, it was held in the main part of The Civic. They had all kinds of bands on. They put two stages up in the main hall. The main band took the main stage, the second band had a stage at the side of it. But it was a good period for music. There was so many good bands from all over, there were plenty came out of Sheffield. We had plenty of good local singers, there were a big folk scene in Barnsley."

Arthur 60s teen

"The rooms on the upper floors, the Centenary Rooms were also used for Ceilidhs and I remember bands like Oscar the Frog playing. The manager of the Civic at the time was a Mr Simmonds. My dad knew him so perhaps that's why we were allowed to go to events."

Kay 70s teen



ROCK N ROLL

"I always wanted a guitar. When I left school I could afford one out of my mum's catalogue. Broadway they called it. If I weren't eating or sleeping or working, I was practicing guitar. And that was my life."

...

"So what we used to do, I think usually about four 20-minute spots. So we'd go on, play an instrumental, he'd come on and sing, and then we'd finish off with an instrumental, that was the routine. And then at night, we'd finish off with - I used to play Shadows 'Midnight', and that's when we used to play that then just tone it down a bit while you say goodnight to everybody - 'it's nice being here, we hope to see you again' - and then back up for the rest."

Stuart 50s/60s teen

ALTERNATIVE ROCK

"My first band was called SOB. One of the first gigs we did was at Dorothy Hyman Centre at Cudworth. That were 1970. We had a little J4 van and we'd travel to Bridlington, Sheffield, Doncaster. We ended up playing Changes at Barnsley too."

...

"We played the Centenary Rooms, and we did main The Civic theatre as guests to The Frank White Band. We even did a movie night once, where we hired the screen and projected a Rory Gallagher film and shot the movie for people to see and then we played after."

Graham 60s/70s teen
(on SOB and Saxon)



"The Centenary Rooms had porthole windows, if you walk past now, you can see them up top. The Restricted, Barnsley's first punk band allegedly got banned from somebody chucking a pint glass out of them. I think it fit 150 to 200 in there. Probably a lot less than that, but we played to 150 people in there and it were rammed. The bar was in a side room. There was this little old lady serving 14 year olds all sorts of drinks. 'Tell all your mates from school to come down - they'll serve yer, they're serving us'."

Kev 70s/80s teen

"The Centenary Room - it was literally a step onto the stage and literally the lights are on like lanterns next to your head, and that's how close it was from floor to ceiling. So tiny stage."

Paul 70s/80s teen

"I would have been fifteen or sixteen. I'd formed my own band, so there were me, Spud were on drums, Benny were on bass and I bought this cheap guitar out of the Freeman's catalogue, you know, with the combo amp thing. I had no idea that you needed a PA to sing through. So I just bought a microphone, I stuck that into the amp as well. We played the school Christmas party in fourth year. We were called Borstal. We had three songs! When we got into fifth year, we did another gig in the local community centre and we actually managed to learn ten songs for that one, which went down really well."

...

"Our band Lotus Cruise put on us own gigs at Centenary Rooms. We could actually charge a pound to go in Centenary Rooms and it were brill 'cos it had a little stage at one end didn't it, and then it had bar that ran off. I was still about 18/19. You just phoned them up and ask "Can I have the room for the night?"

Dave 70s/80s teen

"We'd do like an hour in the town shopping and then we'd usually go to Ryan's house, he lived in Monk Bretton and we had a little band. We used to rehearse in his conservatory. When we got to about 15 we upgraded to a church hall instead of a conservatory."

We took part in Barnsley's first 'Battle of the Bands'. I think it only ran for about five years. It was on a stage outside Woolworths in the Alhambra and I remember there were like local newspapers and I think like local radio there and stuff and there was a big audience there. There were about ten bands altogether from different schools around Barnsley. But we came joint first. We did a Def Leppard song, a Metallica song, and then a Van Halen song. It was all very much late 80s / 90s metal and stuff."

Jason 90s teen



FIRST GIGS

"As a teenager, many well-known groups came to play at the Civic in the 1970's. I was lucky enough to be allowed to go with my friends to see Mud, Suzi Quatro and Bay City Rollers. They were all fantastic - Barnsley's own Glastonbury style crowds and singing along, particularly with the hits from Mud and the Bay City Rollers. Whereas you felt you'd lost your hearing after Suzi Quatro. It was quite something at that time to have a girl guitarist playing rock like her hit Devil Gate Drive. I always remember my dad being so worried as he waited outside to meet us after the concert - a condition for allowing us to go in the first place as he saw girls being brought out on stretchers by medics as they had fainted with hysteria. The Civic was an impressive venue for us growing up in Barnsley in the 1960's/70's."

Kay 70s teen



"I think first gig I ever went to was at The Civic. I was 15. I'd seen stuff in The Red Lion, like club acts kind of thing, but the first proper gig that I went to on my own, with mates, it was The Chords supported by the Kilometres at Barnsley Civic and that was a real buzz. We felt, you know, we're part of something. We couldn't believe it, because we'd gone from just listening to music in youth clubs, where we danced and stuff like that but going to see a live band after listening to the records, it was just mind blowing, it still sends a shiver down me thinking about. I can remember coming in from the queue outside on Eldon Street. The doors opened and everybody went upstairs. Some great music playing, I can't remember who the DJ was but some good tunes and then the first band came on and we were just blown away."

Tony 80s teen

"I went to see Mud. My mum took me to see them at Civic, I think it was '74. 'Tiger Feet' were number one, and that were my first gig."

Simon 70s/80s teen

"Our first band was Alien, then we morphed into Warguest. To start with, our typical setlist used to be Rush and Led Zeppelin. We were fourteen years old. Fletch had got a SG Double Neck, Andy had got a Flying V. I'd got this Marshall Stack. We'd got ideas above our station. We told people we'd got poor parents. We musta nicked it. At fourteen years old we were doing recording in a mobile studio at Bretton Hall and doing gigs in The Centenary Room. We shouldn't have even been there. Who booked us?"

Kev 70s/80s teen

NIGHT LIFE: PUBS, DISCOS & NIGHTCLUBS

"The Teen Scene was a dance club for pre-18 year olds with nowhere else to go. That was in the main Civic theatre hall. Every Monday, about seven while ten. I would think at least 300 on just a normal night, it used to get jam packed. I think it was about two shilling, ten pence. It was all pop music. Most nights or most weeks it would be records but then occasionally they'd have live bands. A lot of Beatles, and Rolling Stones, all the things from the 60s basically."

Jean and Terry 60s teens

"I started to get into the world of the dinner dance. The operatic societies would have their annual dinner dance and that was held at the Arcadian Hall, which was one I absolutely loved going to. I used to go to the CEAG annual Christmas dinner and dance, where they had a live band that used to play like a Jazz Blues, Glenn Miller style and it was just brilliant. The Arcadian is an absolutely iconic place in Barnsley, and The Queen's Hotel at the bottom of Regent Street is another venue I used to go to for dinner dances."

Susan 60s teen

"I remember The Civic Hall for like a dance or disco. I just remember it being really important at the time. You used to dance downstairs and then sit upstairs in the circle and snog, that was basically what it were all about. I remember enjoying that every Monday and Wednesday. I used to like dancing."

Linda 60s/70s teen



"It were all just disco. It'd be somebody's birthday and we'd all toddle off, there'd be quite a few of us. You'd have it planned for weeks, there'd be shopping beforehand to get all your outfits ready and you were all helping each other with outfits and stuff."

Catherine B 70s teen

"The National Reserve Club, or The Nash, used to be at the top of Harborough Hills. It was like an old-fashioned working men's club. It was just fantastic. I were only 15, so I shouldn't have been there. Just non-stop heavy metal, you're only drinking a couple of pints because you'd be up on the dance floor. Depending on who would do DJing at the time, there were a lot of older rockers there so you always seemed to start off with a lot of older, early '70s stuff, Zeppelin, Sabbath and stuff like that. I loved all that anyway. I think nearly everybody had a turn at DJing there at one point"

Dave 80s teen

"When I started working at the pit, I got into music. Ring O'Bells were a massive, huge part of my life. To consider that your local pub and it were smack in the middle of town - it would not work now, absolutely no way whatsoever at all. It were brilliant. Getting to know new music, new people who knew a band that you didn't know."

Simon 70s/80s teen

"When I were at Art College, there used to be absolutely fantastic art college discos in the Centenary Rooms, which used to be upstairs in The Civic. It were a phenomenal space for discos. The art school used to hire it and we used to put on parties. The whole art school used to pile down there and, you know, dance and be weird. And even though it weren't specifically a gay space, that always felt like a really safe space."

David 80s teen



As of February 2023, Barnsley town centre has been awarded a coveted Purple Flag for four consecutive years in recognition of its outstanding night-time economy.

Eldon Street has been the location of four pubs, clubs and hotel bars over the years, including The Devonshire Hotel, The Three Cranes Hotel and The Queen's Hotel. While the Centenary Rooms on the top floor of The Civic hosted Teen Scene and Teens & Twenties discos in the 1960s, 25 Eldon Street which has the location of four different pubs since 1913; Magnet Hotel, Dolly's, Barnsley Beer Emporium and The Room.

"People came on bus journeys to go out around the pubs in Barnsley. I was in awe. I'd never seen anything like this, I'd grown up in Shropshire and this concept of a route around the town for pubs fascinated me. Wellington Street, going to all those kinds of local clubs and discovering them. We came to Barnsley a lot because there was so much to be involved in, there were gigs to go see, there was stuff going on, there were just endless pubs and nightclubs that you could be part of."

Andrea 80s/90s teen

"The Student Union was on Eastgate, you'd go in there in the afternoon and it would be full of students watching Neighbours and drinking upstairs. This was 1997, 98. Bodegas, which I think for the most part was full of postmen, under-age schoolgirls, and rockers; that's where you went to buy your tobacco. Peels Bar, previously Ring O Bells, had been a rock bar for many years, so people would hang out there during the day. Tut n Shive, opposite the car park on Wellington Street. That was a really nice place, it had leopard skin pool tables and benches and a jukebox. There was a painted mural on the wall that featured many of the regulars. I'd go most days to just listen to rock music, just sit around and chill, even do homework. There was a great student rock scene. You'd meet up on the Wednesday night and chat, dance, drink in the pubs. Regents on a Wednesday night, sometimes a Monday night as well at Hedonism, because they had a student night there as well."

Jason 90s teen

"Some of my favourite and best times of being late teens are of being in the pub The Room, which was on Eldon Street. I used to work in The Room. That was about my love for music, and particularly alternative kind of music. I guess for the other part of my identity, which might be classed as my sexual orientation, I went over to Chicago Rock and spent quite a bit of time, completely different scene, completely different cohort of people."

Faith 00s teen



"I can remember going to Regent's on a Thursday night. Like 16, 17 years olds would turn up at Regent's. It were free in and I'd have 50p on me to hang my coat up, I drank water and we danced all night and that's what we did every Thursday."

Taryn 90s teen



© Leslie Francis



FASHION: 50S - 70S

From the Teddy Boys of the 1950s, through the Swinging Sixties, to disco inspired '70s looks, experimenting with fashion, hair and makeup has always been a mainstay of teen culture. Popular town centre shops like Chelsea Girl or Wilson's catered to the image conscious teens who wanted to emulate their idols, and many people made their own clothes, visiting places like Barnsley Market or the Singer Sewing shop on Eldon Street for materials.



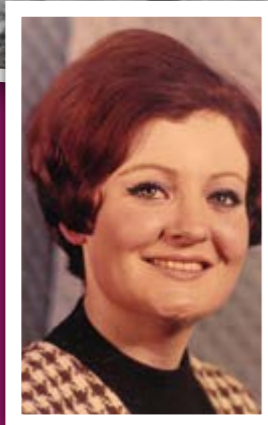
"Always a follower of the fashion. I had my hair cut unbelievably short a la the Twiggy look of the moment, then it was psychedelia all the way. Short mini dresses in an A line, very short, and then white PVC boots to the knee. Absolutely the Mary Quant, Twiggy look, the dark heavy eyes. Just trying to replicate those looks. You didn't go into fashion shops, you saw pictures in magazines, you bought a pattern and you had it made, or you made it yourself."

Susan 60s/70s teen



"The day I got engaged, I'd got a knee peeper on, my dad said it was disgusting showing my knees. Minis were just coming in, my dad wouldn't let me wear minis. There were no big labels and things like that then, you just bought what you could afford really."

June 60s teen



"I used to have a big bouffant, I don't know how I got my helmet on for the scooter, I don't know!"

Maureen 60s teen

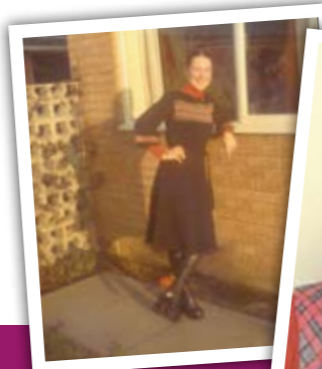
"In my band The Easybeats, we always wore white shirts, black trousers, black shoes and these Dallas boys ties just fitted underneath the collar with a pearl button on it. We had some blue lurex jackets made which look a bit ostentatious nowadays, but that were the sort of thing."

Stuart 60s teen



"I suppose you're inspired by people. My absolute idol was Diana Rigg - I used to get a fancy glass out of the cupboard, a Babycham glass and fill it with lemonade and then I'd be leaping about the settee and pretending to be her. Magazines, Jackie, Romeo, all the ones that were out at that time, and then Chelsea Girl in town. I can remember getting some Levi's off Barnsley Market, first pair of Levi's and just absolutely thinking I was the business when I bought them... getting in the bath to shrink them. My mother thought I were absolutely mental, but that's what everybody said you did, so I did what they said!"

Linda 60s/70s teen



"In 1969, fashion had not really reached the provinces. The Carnaby Street revolution, which was around the Beatles, '67/'68 were still a world away for people in Yorkshire. Fashion for a man in 1970 was going to a tailor's and having a suit made. The High Street was full of tailors, but not fashion. You went and you bought a suit, and the suit was the same as what your dad had ten years previously. So fashion had not really filtered its way down."

Wayne 60s/70s teen



"My dad just used to laugh because he'd got three daughters and we were always getting ready to go out always doing us hair and us makeup and stuff. And he used to laugh at me trotting off up the street in a green mac and these red sandals that tied up your legs and these sandals were too high for me so I'd be lurching forward. He used to just watch us going up the street laughing and taking the mickey, but there were three of us so we were all as bad as each other, all borrowing each other's clothes and arguing."

Catherine B 70s teen

"I had some black hot pants on, some boots that came up to here... platforms and wide trousers, big collars for the men ... I had long hair at that time, long auburn-y sort of hair but various styles, cut shorter, bigger as we moved into the '80s."

Kath P 70s teen



FASHION: 80S - 00S

Culture and clothing has always gone hand in hand, with music or film and television having a strong influence on the latest teen looks and fashion choices.

As we moved through the 80s we saw the Mods, New Romantics and Miami Vice as sartorial influences, then the grunge, Britpop and nu-metal scenes which dominated the 90s. For the alternative teen, Famous Army Stores on Eldon Street was a mainstay.

"It was denim and leather all the way. A big leather motorbike jacket or denim waistcoat full of patches and badges, long hair, but it wouldn't behave itself. It just curled and curled, and it looked a mess. As I got a little bit older, I went into that Miami Vice look with these kind of Crimplene white trousers, white jacket, thinking I were cool and I probably still looked stupid. It started to change around about 18, started to get a bit more fashionable but it was still jeans and trainers all the way."

Michaela 80s teen

"I think three of us were dressed as Bananarama, someone else was Boy George, and we came into Barnsley and pretended we were making a music video with all the video equipment and we thought we were so cool."

Louise 80s teens

"I could get away with being more flamboyant because I was at art college and it was time of the New Romantics. I wore makeup, crimped hair, wore really outrageous clothes, because it was a part of the music scene, which were easier to kind of hide yourself behind. At that point, it were Boy George, Pete Burns, Duran Duran - some of them were straight men wearing makeup and more outrageous clothes. And you can just say, 'Well, yeah, I'm just doing it because they're doing it.'"

David S 80s teen



"Famous Army Stores was famous for selling surplus army gear so army coats, combat trousers or cargo trousers with the big pockets on the sides. It was a big thing at the time amongst all kinds of people, because it was big in pop, with acts like All Saints wearing them.. But then in the rock scene it was big, a lot of goths used to wear them or people into metal used to wear them and hang chains from them."

Jason 90s teen



"We were trying to be Mods. We had stay pressed drainy's on or Levi's 501 straights. Harrington's, T shirts, buttoned down collar, jam shoes - back then some people call them badger boots in Barnsley or monkey boots. We were all trying to be like Paul Weller, you could tell the Mods, like you can now, stand out a mile with their haircuts. There was a shop on Sheffield Road had these German parkers and they weren't fish tails but it was better than nothing, still put your patches on the back and the beer towels and everything but it wasn't the same as the original fishtail parka."

Tony 80s teen



"I tended to dress more like a boy in my teens. You went through a trackie bottoms stage as everybody did. I think I were a normal teenager ... I think my standard uniform was a pair of flares, a Fred Perry shirt, and some trainers, vintage Adidas tracksuit top, thinking I were Justine Frischmann, I had that sort of vibe. I'm sure there'll be photos knocking about somewhere that say I wasn't as cool as I thought I was."

Taryn 90s teen



"In high school, I went down the Emo route, all band t-shirts, going to Lucorum and going out with all these gothic Emo kids. I had long feathered, back-combed hair with coloured streaks. I didn't really wear a lot of makeup though, just sort of eyeliner. I sort of wore red jeans and bright coloured tutus and anything neon that was on Wombwell and Barnsley Market at that time that. And then really bright cartoonish shirts. I grew a little bit older and it were coming towards college, I toned it down a lot. Kept quite Gothic, but toned down Goth. I mainly wore greys and blacks, cut my head short and I had skull accessories."

Jess 10s teen



RELATIONSHIPS

The 1950s saw Eldon Street become part of The Bunny Run, an early version of a pub crawl that took in pubs, hotel bars, cinemas, theatres and pool halls, which also included Regent Street and Market Hill.

The Bunny Run was a rite of passage for many teenagers looking to find love.

Attitudes to relationships and changes in laws, including for same sex relationships, have had a big impact on dating, marriages and teen pregnancy over the last 70 years, as some of our interviews demonstrate.



"She says 'I've put you on a blind date. You've to meet her at the Threepenny Bit in Barnsley Bus Station'. I met her, this day like, and we got on very well right from the start. We went to the pictures, just walked to Gaumont, it was Gaumont then and we went to see Blue Jeans. And then we just started meeting each other ...she used to come to our house and then I used to go up to theirs. Pictures, Gaumont, you know just walking round. We'd not much money to go anywhere, it were just a matter of courting."

David 50s/60s teen



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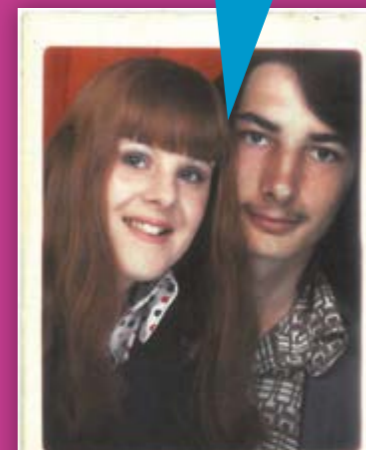
"She were 18 and I was 17 at that time, it might have been beginning of autumn 1970. At Christmas she got pregnant so we 'ummed' and 'ahh'd' about what we should do and what we shouldn't do, and we ended up getting married in August, and Simon us son was born in September. So yeah, it was a bit of a whirlwind thing, but we are still together now 51 years later, so something must have been right."

Wayne 60s/70s teen



"We got married when we were sixteen and everybody gave it six months, but we were stupid and young and we thought we'd live happily ever after. And strangely we did. Fifty years later, we're still married, and of course, it was hard. It was hard. It worked out for us, but we had a lot of support. We lived with my parents for a year and then we were able to get a rented house, and a few years later, we were able to save up and get a deposit on our own home. We had our first child in 1973, just a month off 17 actually, still 16."

Kath 70s teen



Stuart "We got engaged on June's 18th birthday and then we got married, bought a house. We moved in when we got married. We couldn't move in before that was a different era. My mum bought us a bed, she wouldn't let us have it until just a couple of days before we got married."

...

June "He'd to ask me dad's permission to get married because you'd to be 21, so that was another thing. I couldn't have my name on mortgage because I wasn't 21 so he bought the first house in the sense it were on his name."

Stuart and June 60s teens



"There was zero lesbian culture at college in 1968. There weren't any such things. Stonewall Riots hadn't even happened – that was the next year. It used to be Butch and Femme, and you had to choose, and if you didn't choose you were looked at with great suspicion. A lot of young women who may well have been lesbians and in fact often became lesbians later on, they got married and had kids. It's what you did."

Kate 60s teen

"We were looking to buy a house and getting married basically. We got married when we were 19 and so a lot of our efforts at that stage were getting a home together. Working and saving. Working and saving."

Terry and Jean 60s teens

"I had my proper first girlfriend, at like 16. If you had a house phone downstairs, and there was one also upstairs, your mum could pick up the phone upstairs and listen in to the conversation, so you always had to make sure that wasn't happening. If I really wanted privacy, then I had to walk down to Agnes Road, or Park Grove telephone box and drop a few 20 pences in there and have a proper conversation out in the cold. There was obviously no texting or anything like that then. We'd even write letters and postcards. I didn't get a mobile phone until I was probably 20 when I was at uni, so that would have been like 2000."

Jason 90s teen

"I met my partner in the final year of high school, but we went to different schools. We met on Facebook through a mutual friend and started talking. Up until that point, I didn't really sort of talk about or even think about LGBT at all. I didn't consider myself that. I didn't really have an interest in anyone in a romantic sense. I just wanted friends and fun, and that were it. As soon as I got talking to my girlfriend, I sort of then started realizing, 'Oh, wait, does this make me gay?' Once we made it official, I started telling like my close group of friends, and it were instantly accepted, because all of them were gay, or bi or even trans. So, it was respected as well. No one told anyone else. It would just be kept to us and that were it."

Jess 10s teen



"I was an only child and I went to an all-girls school, I had very little contact with boys, and boys when you're a teenager are very exciting and you want to get some contact with them and find out what this is all about."

Susan 60s/70s teen

Q

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELF?

We asked all of our interviewees what advice they would give their teenage self. Here's what some of them had to say.

A

"I'd still do the same thing but I'd go back and make a better job of it."

David 50s/60s teen

"It would be, whatever you're interested in, just stick at it. Whatever you're gonna do, stick to it. And if you can't do it, walk away, come back another day."

Stuart 60s teen

"I think don't put your own self under too much pressure. And just enjoy growing up basically."

Catherine 70s teen



"Concentrate on education more. Just take whatever education was on offer. Just get any qualifications that you could. It worked out for me getting married - I wouldn't advise anybody to do that. It was really hard. I would just say, concentrate on your education, find out who you are. It's about opportunities, it's about options. Get your qualifications, if you want to go and sweep the road, and that's gonna make you happy, that's absolutely fine, do it. But it's about having a choice."

Kath 70s teen

"To my younger self, I would say it will never be as bad as you think it's going to be. It'll only get better."

June 60s teen

"I thought about that many times, and it would just be carry on doing what you're doing. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life but I'm doing a job that I absolutely love and I'm proud of the work I do and I love going to work. I'm helping people. It took me a long time to get here but I think I learned something from all those mistakes I made. So just learn from your mistakes that you're making."

Tony 80s teen

"I find this difficult because I think I'm still very much a work in progress. I sort of need the advice now as much as I did then. But I guess mine would be kind of 'Just calm down. You're okay.' It's that simple."

Steven - 90s teen

"Don't do things to make other people happy. Only do things to make yourself happy. Which you might not know what they are, but I think I've made the mistake throughout my life of doing far too many things for other people and not for myself. That would be my advice to me."

Faith 00s teen

"I think my advice would be to just be more confident and be more open. Because I think I'm quite a private and shy person, but I think if I'd have just been honest and straight up with my family, I think I'd have saved myself a lot of worry and a lot of stress. I think if I'd have just spoken up a little bit, I'd have probably dealt with things a lot quicker and a lot easier without any of that stress and worry."

Jess 10s teen

"I'm not sure if I would have changed anything, any route or made different decisions. I'd certainly say that once you hit 24 and your hair started to fall out: 'Stop dying your hair, mate, stop dying your hair black!' I'm not the kind that offers advice. I wouldn't have changed anything. Not my teens at least, despite the bad stuff."

Jason 90s teen



<NOW & THEN>

We also asked our interviewees what they see as the main difference between teenagers in 2022 and teenagers from their youth.

"We never used to drink very much those days. We always liked to puff on a cigarette now and again, where today, that's the main thing and the very young ones can drink, so I think that's different. And also, in my day, when you had a boyfriend, they would never be staying over with you like they do today."

Maureen 60s teen

"The modern teenager is far more friendly towards others, openly friendly than in previous decades, where there has traditionally been lots of hostility between unknown groups. I think that was influenced a lot by the football stuff and all the violence that went on in the '70s, '80s and '90s. But it got nipped in the bud in the '90s. It does reoccur, but I think young people are far more friendly towards each other now than they have been for decades."

David P 60s teen

"A lot of pressure to go to university, and a lot of them think that's the be all and end all whereas I think there's other ways to learn through life and experiences. And you can still achieve a high level by not going to university... There's many going to university now that can't get a job when they're finished, end up back at McDonald's. To go through that, get debt and then have that hanging over them at a time when you need money, if you want to buy a property or you're saving up for a deposit for a house. It must be an awful pressure to think that it's always going to be there."

Catherine 70s teen

"I feel really disappointed. I think we've let kids down. I often hear that this is the first generation are going to be worse off than their parents and I don't think it's just financially, I think it's in many ways. Big, big worries about the climate emergency, big worries about the cost of living crisis, jobs. There doesn't seem to be as much of an opportunity for kids. I'm inspired by kids doing things like climate marches, because I hope that they take it in their own hands and do something, because our generation is not doing much to help them as far as I can see."

Tony 80s teen

"I think we were more social, I think we were more active. I don't think gadgets have done kids today any good at all. I think it isolates them. Obviously we've just been in lockdown as well, and I think that's just finished it all off really. We were always at each other's houses. We were always having sleepovers."

Eleanor 80s teen

"I think they're just exposed to so much. I think that a lot of that naivete has been lost. They've been exposed to a lot but they've got a lack of understanding as to what they've been exposed to. Nowadays, I think being a teenager today is really difficult. You can't have fun without some finding out about it."

Taryn 90 teen



"I don't think there's as many jobs about. If you're looking for a job now, your vast employers is gone aren't they? You know the steelworks and these days, have a bit of knowledge and education."

David 50s/60s teen



"I think teenagers now, especially those that have spent the last few years in lockdown, they've come out of that without having any connection to specific places in the town centre, and there aren't really many anyway. I don't think there are many places for teenagers to go, when I speak to them, they certainly say there isn't. You know, they might go to the cinema, they hang around the Mandela Gardens, but I think a lot of the time they just go home. And they live a lot of their life out on the internet."

Jason 90s teen



TEEN ISSUES

Our Teenage Wildlife oral history interviews and workshops provided a safe space for many people to share personal memories of more serious issues, such as bullying, mental health, teen pregnancy, LGBTQIA+ rights and divorce. Wider political issues of the time prompted teenagers to take to the streets and protest, such as Section 28, Poll Tax, Climate Change and the Miner's Strike.



Politics

"In the 80s, you know, we didn't change the world but we might have slowed things down from being as bad as what they could have been. I've got memories of going to London on loads of marches, CND marches, Poll tax, all that kind of stuff. Now people just don't seem bothered or they don't think that it's worth it. I think the miner's strike has got a lot to do with that, the spirit of the community was taken, people's willingness to fight - it's gone, apart from a few people, because they think we're not going to get anywhere and that was down to the miner's strike. It was a big turning point."

Tony 80s teen

"We used to have rallies and sit-ins at college about Section 28. It was just really frightening - the thought of eradicating any conversations about same sex relationships or anything to do with being gay. You have to stick together with any of these conversation. You have to have to take stand and be counted and that's kind of what we did."

David 80s teen

"I saw much more political activism, much more anger, much more frustration, that people wanted change. I don't think young people now are responding in that way. I remember that first vote, I remember the excitement, and the desperate need to want to vote and wanting to vote in age change, so we could vote at 16."

Andrea 90s teen

LGBTQ+

"I found it incredibly difficult in the 80s to actually come to terms with my sexuality and even admit that I was gay just because I didn't have any positive stereotypes in my life at that point. There were really huge advertisements on TV about AIDS being the been like the gay plague. Thankfully I never got attacked, I never got any verbal abuse, because I've always been a big bloke, so people never really picked on me. It were just really scary, you had to look over your shoulder the whole time. There was still a risk of people being outside queer bashing, verbal abuse, physical abuse, so we were always on your guard."

David S 80s teen

"I didn't know about transgender people before, certainly not in those days. I knew about gay people, gay men, not so much gay women, not lesbians. It just weren't talked about. The 80s compared to now, totally different kettle of fish."

Michaela 80s teen

"My uncle was like a brother, he's only four years older than me, he used to say things like, 'Gay people should be euthanised and shot' and all sorts of things over the dinner table. My God, if I told him. I couldn't even tell my dad, I was going to have to write him a letter, couldn't even tell him to his face - he's a coal miner. So even though I do have a loving family, you still had those sort of aspects. I'm only just now learning about how impactful they were on me. I just didn't have enough self-awareness to realize how sort of damaging they were, unintentionally, by the people who did those things."

Steven 90s teen

Bullying

"I was very quiet and shy, like at school I didn't feel settled, 'cos I were bullied, I were bullied at local school. I think they used to pick on you 'cos you were different, you know what I mean."

David M 1950s teen

"The trauma of it still stays with me now. It was that bad, the messes that I came home in. Yeah, that trauma does carry. A couple of lads that used to bully me relentlessly, I'd had air rifles and all sorts of things shot at me by this kid. They came up to me this particular night and decided they were going to have a go. I grabbed one of the lads, and I still don't know how I did it but I kind of just threw him over my shoulder, and he ended up starfish on the floor. Oddly enough, from there, we ended up being really good friends. I look back and I think, if the 18 year old me had known that, I could have made my life so much better."

Michaela 80s teen

"It's no different now in terms of the kind of like bullying and name calling, it's always very homophobic bullying, even if the person that's being bullied isn't gay. It's the kind of language that's used, and because I had long hair, I suppose it was about what's considered masculine and what's feminine. And I had a lot of female friends, and you know, the males didn't like that. So I was bullied quite a lot. I hated school."

Jason 90s teen



© Helen Constantinou



TEENAGERS BORN ELSEWHERE

Barnsley is home to many people who spent their teenage years elsewhere; other towns, other countries. In some of those countries, the concept of the teenager doesn't exist like it does in the UK.

While many teenagers in Barnsley might have grabbed a quick snack from McDonald's or attended dance

lessons in a theatre, we wanted to find out about the teenage experiences of some of those people born elsewhere, so we spoke to members of Feels Like Home, an open group that uses the history, art and culture of Barnsley to inspire anyone wanting to learn English conversation and make new friends.



"My first memories in my teenage years were when Barcelona city had a big transformation. In 1992, we had the Olympic Games, a big transformation with improved services, the buildings, everything and this feeling was spread in all our people. It was really nice, the feeling of being global. We wanted to make remarkable memories in our history. Some of our peers were volunteers as well. We were interested in sharing our culture, our language, and our experience, open our city to everybody, and to the world. And I think that experience gave us the opportunity to open our minds."

Meri – Spain 90s teen

"All of my teenage memories are of the time when the communism regime was about to collapse and every Albanian wanted to leave the country, it looks so crazy.

I was really into Western music like everyone else. When the weather was good, the antenna would help us to watch Italian TV and this was all done in secret, as if someone would know, all the family would be in trouble. The worst that could happen is my Dad would go in prison, or my whole family would move from that city to a place further away, like a concentration camp. So this was really scary. We used to listen to dance music and rock n roll. At the time it was Madonna."

Artela – Albania 80s/90s teen

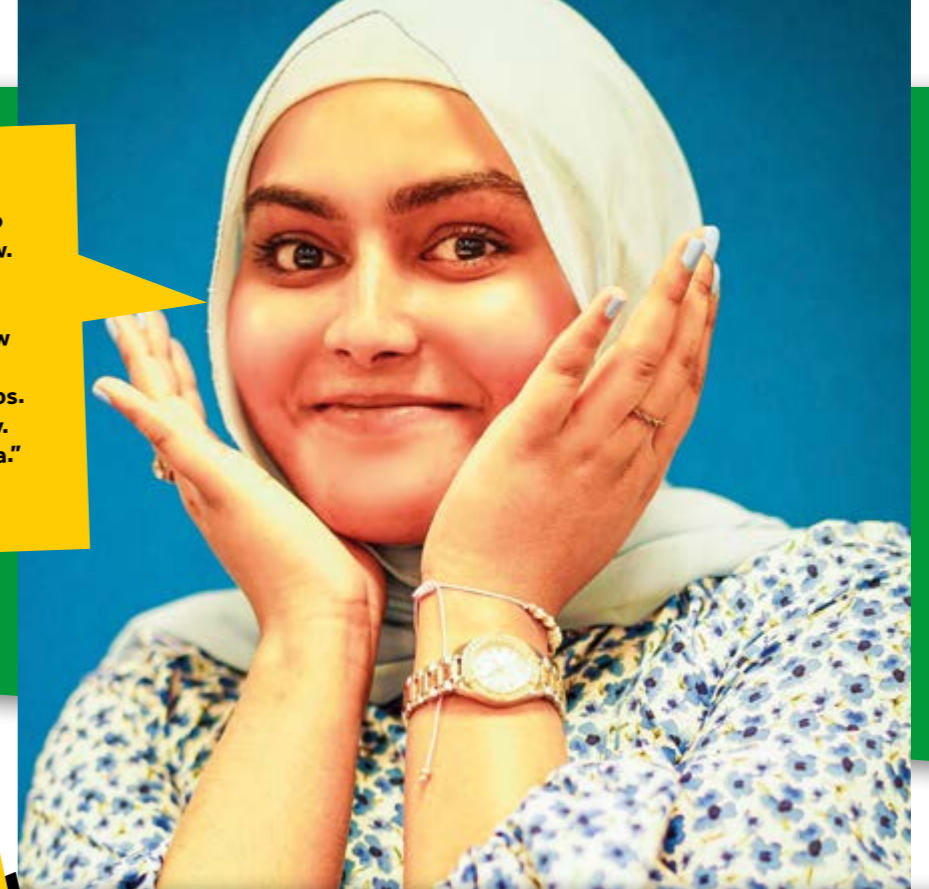


"When I was teenager, we collect some money from everybody and we rent films from Blockbuster. Very cheap. We used to enjoy watching action films; Rambo, Terminator, Van Damme. If a friend had more space, we could go to their house and watch TV. We have VHS. We had fizzy pop and nachos with spices and lemon, and sometimes popcorn, sometimes bread. We was living in a small village, but my grandmother had a coffee plantation, so sometimes we went to play there and play war! Shooting, after watching the films. Copy the style, sometimes the hair, like Rambo. But afterwards, our lives changed because our country was very violent. It was the start of the war. We had many problems. Now we can't go anywhere because it's dangerous. Teenagers still aren't free there. No way. It's dangerous for them. The gangs control some areas."

Oscar – El Salvador 90s teen

"I learn English here with my friends. I made friends in Primary school. Two best friends and still best friends now. They are from another country too. Both are from Bulgaria. We didn't go outside until we were like 14, but now we do. We go out to Meadowhall and have fun. We walk around in the shops. If we want to buy something, we buy. We eat food and have fun. Bubble tea."

Nimra – Pakistan 10s/current teen



"I am from Turkey, but I am Kurdish. I was born in a very strong political situation. During this time, from when I was 17, 18, it was really hard. We had to move different cities because my dad was in trouble with the state because of his political opinions. My uncle was a student at university and was arrested. They destroyed our village. It was a really bad time for me. And when I see it from here, now, I just feel so sorry. We are all human, why did we experience this thing at such an early age."

Narin – Turkey 90s teen

"In Pakistan, my one cousin Sana, we was really friendly, going out, dancing together and having fun. We lived in a joint family in Pakistan. It was a big house, three families in one house. We played board games together. It was so nice, eating together, going to restaurants. I came to England as a teenager. I was learning English as well. I didn't have friends. I had my aunt's family, three cousins. We had lots of fun watching TV dramas with them, movies as well. Lots of English movies, to learn English. Cartoons as well, like Mr Bean. I've been here eight years. We didn't get visa yet. We're still waiting a really long time."

Alina – Pakistan 10s teen



"When I was about 16 or 17 years old, I told to my parents that I was going to go on a school trip with my teachers and my classmates, but in our mind, we were arranging a trip with our friends! We went to the North of Iran, which has beaches and is near the seaside, so it has very great nature. We went with our friends for about three days.

The problem was, in Iran, if the boys and girls travel or be together, without any official relationship, it is a big struggle. If the police found out, they could send a group of boys and girls to jail and after that court, so we would be in big trouble, and it was a very risky trip at that age. But, you know, we were teenagers, and we didn't think about anything. We just wanted to enjoy and have fun and be with our special friends.

About 4 years later, my parents did find out that we had been with our friends. I was talking to one of my cousins and explaining about that trip, and my mum overheard and said, 'What did you say?! When were you with your friends in North of Iran?' And I said 'No, nothing!' It was very good trip, and we had a great time there, but it really was a big risk, and it was because of our age at that time."

Nasim – Iran 90s teen



2022: TODAY'S TEENS TALKING

CHILYPEP'S YOUNG COMMISSIONERS X TEENAGE WILDLIFE

Inspired by an American feminist textiles project called Tiny Pricks, which turned misogynistic Donald Trump campaign trail quotes into beautiful embroideries and tapestries, here Chilypep's Young Commissioners explored the negative language that young people experience as teenagers. The themes were explored in a safe space and countered with an exploration of the positive and empowering words young people need and deserve to hear.

The young people that took part in this project were aged between 14 and 24. The topics of conversation covered included misogynistic, homophobic and transphobic bullying, mental health, knife crime, sexual abuse and lack of support in education for neurodivergent young people.

Barnsley artist Charlotte Fairclough AKA Citizen of Stitch supported the group in turning the ugly into beautiful. A selection of the group's embroideries were exhibited at Barnsley Civic in February 2023.



Throughout the duration of this Teenage Wildlife project, many young people have been engaged in conversations about what it is like to be a teenager today.

Some of this took place in safe conversational workshops; others in more creative workshops. Regardless of the format, the output was always an unfiltered and honest reflection of teenage life in Barnsley in 2022.

NEXT BIG THING PRESENT TEENAGE WILDLIFE:

Guided by performers We Great Ladies, young people's group Next Big Thing created and performed original monologues, inspired by real teenage stories donated to the project, each from a different decade in the last seventy years.

This excerpt was inspired by the story of Tony, who was a teenager in the 1980s. It was performed by Adam

Tony 1980's

The bedroom can be seen there is vinyl everywhere. Posters littered the walls, piles of clothes and shoes are on the bed. Town called malice is playing on the record player. A young man walks in, he has a cigarette in his hand and pair of boots in the other. Over his shoulder is a German coat that is fashioned to look like a mod Parker. He puts his cigarette out. Opens up the coat and looks at the patches that have been sown on. The record finishes and he walks over and takes it off the turn table. He replaces in the sleeve and starts to look through the collection on the floor. He lifts up The Jam Sound Affects album. He reads;

"Rise like lions after slumber, in unvanquishable number! Shake the earth, like dew which in sleep had fall'n on you. Ye are many - they are few."

I read this to my Grandad, I was working at his pub, The Red Lion at Worsbrough, it's my job to clean the ashtrays out, I have to brush them out with a paintbrush, I hate that job. So, I was stalling and I'd just come back from town, where I'd bought this from Casa Disco and I was desperate to go home and listen to it.

My grandad saw the bag "You'd do better than to spend all your wage filling your ears with all that noise".

"Grandad it's The Jam. It's more than just music, it's a movement for my generation. They're speaking for us. The world's got to change Grandad, in London..."

"London lad? This is Barnsley. Don't be telling me about London, I used to live there, and I tell you this for nothing, London might as well be Marrakesh for the ways its different to Barnsley."



Grand Piano

The Civic, storage room,
August 2022

Hidden in the corner, she rests
where dust collecting. She rots, splinters,
her keys silenced, stuck resonating
somewhere in history. She has become
out of tune. Sweet symphonies
are now her memories, her losses.
She longs for slick fingers to trace her
ivory kingdom, aches to envelope
the choked-up air, to unfurl further
her swan song. Nostalgia beats at her
bronze bodice, holds her hostage,
on a pedestal of forbidden melodies.
Becca Green

BARNSELY YOUNG WRITERS

Barnsley Civic is home to Barnsley Young Writers, a free to access supportive environment where aspiring young writers aged 14 - 19 can explore their craft, run in partnership with Hive South Yorkshire.

As well as working with award-winning, professional writers to explore different writing forms through fun exercises that will build writing confidence, the group meet every two weeks in accessible spaces and is a safe space for LGBTQIA+, disabled and neurodivergent young people.

Since relaunching post-lockdown in February 2022, Barnsley Young Writers has reached over 35 young people. They are currently working on their first group publication which will collect their writing from the last 12 months.

The following three pieces were written as part of the Teenage Wildlife project; two are inspired by the buildings of Eldon Street.

If you would like to find out more, visit www.hivesouthyorkshire.com



Mavis Burrows School of Dance The Civic 1962 - 1982

The sun shines bright through my glass eyes.
Morning has arrived, though I've been up for hours.
Parents fly through my doors to drop off her
and pick up him, to hand in their monthly payments.
To the ladies too old to still be working, you remember
how Mavis's voice would bounce brisé off my walls,
and even your grandmothers were once the mothers
who saved for the tap and ballet shoes that drummed
my shiny wooden boards. The ghosts of girls still
lean against my black polished bars, complaining about
foot arches and waist sizes, and how on earth did she
manage to bend her leg like that? Delicate piano
accompaniments fill my air as young instructors
drill out counts and steps, complimenting her turn
or his temps levé. I can still see them all as they
practice, practice, perfecting their turns, letting out
curses when their fragile frames hit the floor.
Then comes the halt of music, the corrections,
adjustments, the clap, clap - Again! Again!
Before legs leap, and the show starts once more.
Onyx Whiston

Teenage Sunset

And finally the sun went down,
While they went down the ramp for the last time,
While they wobbled on the spot, balanced,
While they kicked their foot up for their signature olly,
While they spun on their back wheel till they landed in
position,
While they rode away from their familiar and into the new,
While they raced down the hill risk free,
While their head buzzed with anticipation,
While they shoved through people and posts and bushes
with thorns,
While they kept going for the past, for the present,
While they turned to the curb,
While they heard the honking, the screeches, the bang,
While they fell,
While they lay,
While they bleed,
Until the sun will rise again.
And despite the screams, and the snap of the board,
they couldn't feel more at peace.
After all, they always preferred to be a memory;
a dream; forgotten.
Elliot Blades

ELDON STREET TODAY

ELDON STREET, THE HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE



© Barnsley Civic

The Eldon Street High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is a 4-year partnership scheme between Historic England and Barnsley Council. Its aim is to revitalise the historic Eldon Street in the heart of Barnsley as part of the ongoing regeneration of Barnsley town centre. The HSHAZ is supporting Eldon Street to find a vibrant new future and creating an important link between the new Glassworks development and the cultural offer in the Old Town.



© Barnsley Council

Parkway Cinema Theatre of Dreams

The heart of Barnsley cinema on Eldon Street

As Barnsley's only independent cinema, we are proud to bring joy to our communities and to provide a place to get away from the everyday. We are also proud to continue a century-long tradition of film and cinema here on Eldon Street.

There has been a cinema on this site for over a century. The Empire Palace of Varieties Theatre opened on 8 June 1906. It specialised in music hall variety acts and had some amazing and unusual acts, including a school of performing sea lions in 1911.

The theatre was converted into the Empire Super Cinema, opening on 22 March 1920. Sound was installed in 1929 and the first 'talkie' was shown in November of that year.



As well as offering restoration grants to owners of historic properties, including a landmark project to bring the Eldon Street frontage of Barnsley Civic back into active use, and a project at Parkway Cinema which will improve the frontage and reinstate the 1950s' style illuminated signage, the HSHAZ has funded a range of exciting creative projects to research and celebrate the important stories of Eldon Street, engaging local people and visitors alike.

This has included a high-profile residency with poet

laureate Simon Armitage, work with Barnsley Archives and commissions with other artists including Liz West, Gary Clarke, James Mulkeen, James Lockett, Andrew West, Patrick Murphy, Seanna Doonan, Hand Made Parade, Mark Mark Productions and the We Great Ladies. This work has involved public events, exhibitions, street theatre history tours, digital activities and micro-residencies with local businesses. The programme has been supported by local schools, and colleges, young carers, the

Barnsley U3A and the Barnsley Civic Trust, amongst others.

A key part of the HSHAZ cultural programme has been the Teenage Wildlife project, led by Barnsley Civic, which has recorded the experiences of teenagers on Eldon Street over the past 70 years and worked with groups of young people from Barnsley to explore and respond to these stories. The HSHAZ will finish in March 2024.

Dr. Tegwen Roberts, Heritage Action Zone Officer, Barnsley Council



© Barnsley Council



This magazine has been edited by: Jason White and Gemma Geldart.

Project Coordinators: Jason White, Gemma Geldart and Dr Tegwen Roberts.

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Designed by Black Bee Creative.



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ALL SEATS £3.50
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SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 1990 7.30pm

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THURSDAY 22nd FEBRUARY, 1990

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