

Back In The 20th Century - Computing Activity

How did you keep in contact with people?

My grandad exchanged letters for communication, and he used his voice and spoke to his family and friends.

How did you socialise with other people?

My Grandad went to parties with his friends and sometimes he attended dances. He spoke of going around his friends houses for dinner or a playdate when he was little. Most people went to the public house and when my grandad got older he went as well.

Did you go to the cinema?

The children's cinema was every Saturday morning, a man would collect everybody's tickets and then one lucky child would win a packet of sweets or a tub of popcorn to eat whilst watching the screen. There weren't many people that were fortunate enough to have a television, or if they did it would have been very expensive. My Grandad would attend the Saturday cinema with his friends and his brothers every week. He enjoyed watching all of the programmes or films. My Grandad explained to me that the cinema was the highlight of his week.

How did you do your Shopping?

When my Grandad was a young boy, there were not any supermarkets. He had to buy everything separately. For example, he brought the meat from the butchers and the bread from the bakers. If you wanted something that didn't have a specific shop devoted to it then you would have to go to the hardware or general store.

How did you handle your money?

When my Grandad was young, not many people had bank accounts, only if they were a professional worker like a doctor or a lawyer. There weren't any banks so you therefore had to get a book from the post office that carried all of your money details in it. Most people got paid in cash and weekly although people who worked in the city were normally paid monthly and had bank accounts. Before desmilliseation, there were actually 240 pennies in a pound although now (after desmilliseation) there are 100 pennies in a pound. After the 60s people got more jobs and therefore more money was being awarded, so there had to be a change to satisfy everybody earning weighes. More money had to be made or in this case it had to be split, now 240 pennies is equivalent to 2 pounds and 40 pennies.

Working life

There were a lot more factories and industries in the past. In Britain, there were a large number of car industries and there were many engineering firms. Although Britain had a lot of car industries in the past, nearly all of them have been transferred and amended by other countries like Japan and China.

What was education like?

Back then, there were no comprehensive schools, there were three types of secondary schools, grammar school, Technical school and finally modern school. The highest was grammar then technical and finally modern. Very few teenagers went to university, after they left at the age of 15 most teenagers got a job in a factory or in an industry. Most children attended assembly everyday, mainly at christian schools were they sing christian hymns. Most schools had a playing field where children could play sports. My grandad stated that back then children and people were far more active and there was more emphasis put on physical education. Children had more exercise by walking to and from school since there were schools around everywhere.

How did you keep yourself entertained?

My Grandad found entertainment by playing football and sport. He loved running and playing football matches against his friends. As i mentioned before, his favourite part of the week was the cinema although as he grew older he found different ways to entertain himself. There was a huge change after the war when people began to care so deeply about music and fashion. People spent time at theatres in London and music festivals around the country. My Grandad had 13 siblings to keep him entertained and he told me that all he really needed were his family and friends, they made their own entertainment.

How did you do your Research?

Back then, everybody learnt from books and school. You also learnt a lot from life in general. Most people left school at the age of 15 and then got a job in a factory or industry. When the 60s came it was like an explosion of culture where people could go on adventures to other countries. People read about all of these countries and places although they never imagined they would actually get the chance to explore them.

How did you travel and holiday?

Most people holidayed in the UK, if they could afford it, they went camping or went to caravan sites. Very few people travelled abroad. The 60s changed the way people lived forever, after many people had died in the war, things became very difficult. When the 60s arrived, music and fashion was brought with it. Suddenly everybody wanted to look fashionable and cared about their appearance. Music bands become extremely popular, for example the Beatles and Rolling stones. My Grandad referred to this change as a firework of colour as well as an explosion. In this time period, more younger people got jobs and earnt enough money to travel to places such as Spain, it was very cheap to travel there. People experienced this new lifestyle and they enjoyed the sun for weeks, it was a way to relax but it wasn't expensive to do so.

Was life better before or after technology became very popular?

Life was simple and less complicated before technology, however technology is a wonderful thing and when used intelligently it can be very rewarding. It can also be used in an abusive way, those people have always existed but they are now disguised.

