October u3a Meeting: The 1960s, a Decade of Change with Delia Taylor

At the u3a Meeting on Wednesday 14th October we were taken on a nostalgic journey through the 1960s by Delia Taylor and her husband, Clive. Delia asked how many of us remembered the 'Swinging 60s' and it seemed that most of the audience did. However, the talk covered many facts we may not have known or remembered. Here are some of them...

1960. **6th May**, Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones. **30th October**, Dr. Michael Woodruff carried out the first kidney transplant. **8th November**, John F. Kennedy elected as U.S. President. **10th November**, Penguin published 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' by D.H. Lawrence and 200,000 copies were sold on the first day. **9th December** saw the first episode of 'Coronation Street', Britain's longest running TV programme. **31st December**, conscription for National Service was finally ended for men.

1961. **7th January** saw the first episode of 'The Avengers' on television. **9th February** the Beatles first sang at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. **12th April,** the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to orbit the Earth. **13th August**, Berlin Wall construction began. **25th October,** first issue of the satirical magazine 'Private Eye'.

1962. 8th May was the last day a trolleybus ran on London roads. September of that year saw the start of many favourite TV series, including University Challenge, That was the Week that Was, Steptoe and Son and Z Cars. **5th October** brought Sean Connery to the big screen as James Bond in Dr. No. The year ended with the 'Big Freeze', months of wintry weather which gripped the U.K. from December 1962 to March 1963.

1963. The Profumo Affair was a major scandal during this year. John Profumo, the U.K. Secretary of State for War had an affair with Christine Keeler, who was also dating Captain Yevgeny Ivanov, a Soviet naval attache, leading to a fear that state secrets had been revealed. **8th August** was the date of the Great Train Robbery where £2.6 million was stolen, most of which was never recovered. **28th August**, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his 'I have a Dream' speech in Washington. **22nd November** President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who was himself murdered the following day by Jack Ruby. **23rd November** saw the first episode of 'Dr. Who' on BBC.

1964. 1st January gave us the first episode of 'Top of the Pops'. **20th April** a new TV channel, BBC2 officially launched, but due to a blackout on the day, programmes began on **21st April**. In summer that year there were clashes between Mods and Rockers at seaside towns around Britain. Mary Quant brought us the Mini Skirt, Vidal Sassoon did our hair and Avon began selling makeup door-to-door. Carnaby Street became the centre of fashion and Terence Conran launched Habitat to furnish our homes with such items as 'lava lamps'. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage and conspiring to overthrow the state.

1965. 30th January was the date of Winston Churchill's funeral. Although he was not royal, he was given a state funeral. **February 28th** Goldie, a Golden Eagle escaped from London Zoo and was free for 12 days before his keeper recaptured him. TV programmes which started that year included 'The Magic Roundabout' and 'Till Death us Do Part'.

1966. 16th June the Beatles made their first and only appearance on 'Top of the Pops' singing 'Ticket to Ride'. **30th July** World Cup Final, England beat West Germany 4-2. The World Cup was then stolen and discovered by a dog, Pickles, who received a medal from the RSPCA! **21st October,** the Aberfan disaster in Wales. £350,000 was raised to support the families of the victims, but the

National Coal Board tried to take 50% of the money to clear the site. They were made to pay it back with interest by the Government.

1967. 4th January, Donald Campbell crashed his speedboat 'Bluebird' and died attempting to break his own record. **18th March,** oil tanker 'SS Torrey Canyon' ran aground, spilling 100,000 tons of oil into the Atlantic Ocean. **8th April**, Sandie Shaw won the Eurovision Song Contest for the U.K. with the song 'Puppet on a String'. **27th May**, Francis Chichester returned from single-handedly sailing around the world in his ketch 'Gypsy Moth'. **3rd December**, in Cape Town, South Africa, Christiaan Barnard carried out the world's first heart transplant.

1968. 4th April, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. **7th June** saw the beginning of a strike for equal pay by female sewing machinists at the Ford motor factory in Dagenham. **31st July,** first episode of 'Dad's Army' shown on TV.

1969. In this year, two iconic planes appeared; the Harrier Jump Jet and Concorde. **1st July** was the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. **12th July** gave us the first showing of 'Star Trek' on U.K. TV followed closely on **20th July** by the real thing, the first humans to walk on the Moon. The Beatles were photographed walking across the Abbey Road crossing and on **8th August** the music festival Woodstock was held in the U.S.

Delia closed the talk with a video of Neil Diamond singing 'Sweet Caroline' and many of us joined in.