

REFLECTIONS.

All those exciting times like having a new girl/boy friend, a new job, visiting a new country, being taken by mum and dad to a pantomime.

Gosh, a new school uniform showing you were a prefect. Pretending not to show off when you got on the bus. Putting on what you thought was a mature expression.

War, depression, the General Strike, rationing, all were receding into the history books as I went through my teens. My father now had a car! When other boys spoke of their dads' latest car I could keep up.

The Empire was becoming the Commonwealth.

Ramadan and Valentine, Laker and Lock.

In a few years I shall take my driving test!

When I did it was in a Wolsey Fifteen Hundred but the parents of a girlfriend had a Riley One Point Five. I still dream of having one.

Teenagers of today, what dreams and experiences are you having?

Inspired by today's powerful politicians?

Loving your local library?

Dreaming of your first kiss?

Daring to hold hands?

Me in my eighties am scared for you. My generation had no idea that we were educating and raising the likes of Starmer and Musk. How on Earth did we create them? But we did and now we must counter them, oppose them, defeat them so that teenagers today can be confident that a few nice dreams can deliver a good life.

Cliff Jones, 14th. January 2025

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