

LINK Box - Colerne - Rudloe

Feeling my age

It's not just being arbitrarily put into the "vulnerable" group of those of us over 70 that's helped me to feel my age, it's also chats on Facetime with two of my grandchildren, aged 10 and 7. These conversations usually happen when they're eating their evening meal and one of the topics is what's for dinner. Like most children they have a much more varied diet than I had at the same age in the 1950's and talking to them about the changes amuses them quite a lot. For example, when I tell them that rice only came in a milk pudding and was never part of a main meal, a Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining, fish didn't have fingers and none of us had ever heard of yoghurt. I've had to enlighten them about the strictures of rationing, in force until 1954, and tell them that the first time I bought a Mars bar it cost six old pence, two and a half new pence, and I couldn't eat all of it. They're surprised that pineapples came in chunks in a tin and we'd only ever seen a picture of a real one, bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time and "kebab" wasn't even a word let alone a food. Being brought up in Sheffield, we had lovely soft water which came out of the tap, it was known as "corporation pop", and if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more for it than petrol, we'd have thought they were mad. I think some of these memories of mine will strike a chord with many of our LINK clients who are in the same vulnerable category. They might prove to be a talking point when we can resume more normal operations. Oh, and by the way, spaghetti came in a tin!

Steve Drew

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