

Marking Moments

Your newsletter from the
M&S Archive

January – February 2022

From first cars to special journeys by plane, in this issue we look at all things transport-related – cars, trucks, planes... we've even got a hovercraft!

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Cars parked near Blackburn Store, 1963



Ipswich Store Staff Outing, 1930s

During the 1930s staff at Marks & Spencer enjoyed a range of social activities from sports days to trips to the theatre. Here the staff at Ipswich are just about to set off on a day trip in a charabanc. The group might have been heading for the Suffolk Coast. Lots of the women in the photo are wearing cloche hats, the man on the right wears a smart trench coat.



Marksman Spitfire, 1940s

Staff at M&S raised £5,000 for the presentation to the nation of a Spitfire Fighter Aircraft. It was named The Marksman, in tribute to those who donated to the cause. The aeroplane was flown by Sergeant 'Tommy' Rigler who shot down three enemy fighters in one day in June 1941.



Marks & Spencer Ambulance

As well as raising money for a Spitfire, staff at Head Office also raised money for a Red Cross Ambulance. If you look closely at the photograph you can see printed on the side 'Presented by the Head Office Staff of Marks and Spencer Ltd'. We don't know where this ambulance was used, but many Red Cross ambulances were driven by volunteers who helped people affected by bombing in the UK.



St Michael News, September 1955

This front cover of the M&S staff magazine shows three ladies boarding a British European Airways plane. One lady holds onto her hat as a helicopter approaches. St Michael News was a magazine for all employees of M&S – the edition gave a preview of the new range of womenswear for Autumn 1955.



Stepney Green Warehouse, 1950s

During the 1950s this warehouse in Stepney Green, London, was where fruit sold at M&S was packed and distributed. This photograph shows a busy day at the warehouse, with lorries parked outside being unloaded. We don't know what the make and model of these trucks was, but Leyland, Bedford and Commer were all common commercial vehicles in the 1950s.



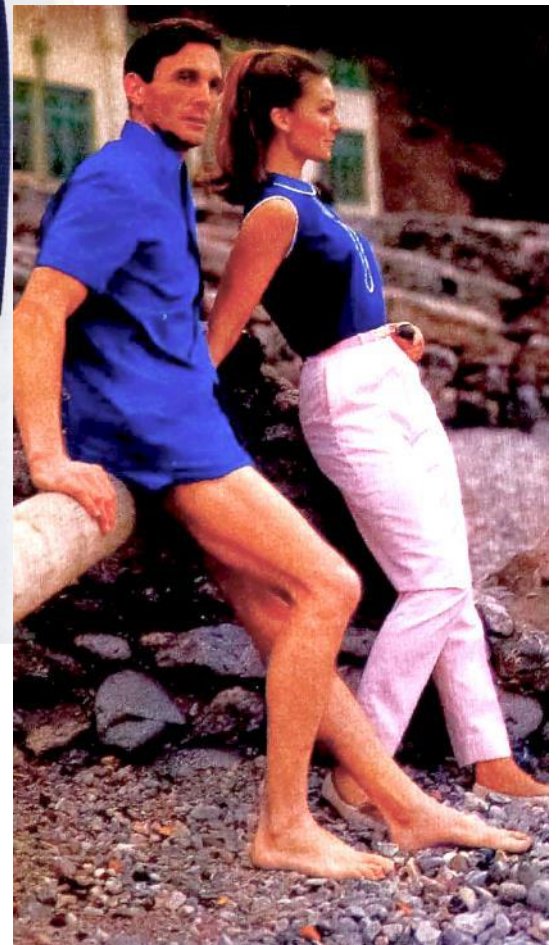
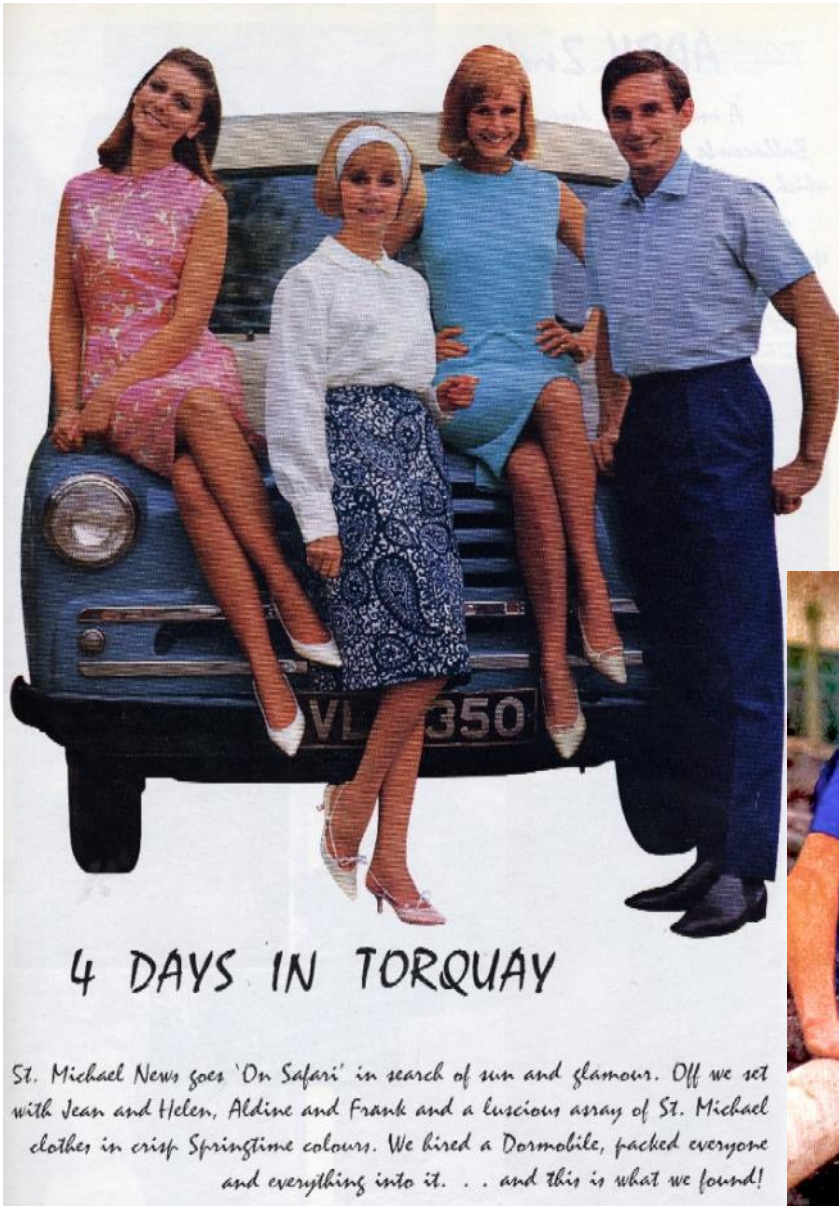
Preston, 1958

This photograph shows a busy street in Preston. Marks & Spencer can be seen on the right-hand side, the department store Owen Owen is on the left. The vehicle at the front of the photo looks like a Morris Traveller. Popular cars at the time included the Ford Anglia, Ford Popular, and the Hillman Minx.



J&P Jacobs' Bedford Van, 1960

This photograph shows a Bedford delivery van. The van was owned by The Jacobs Group of sewing factories. Jacobs manufactured garments for M&S and delivered them directly to stores. The van carries the M&S brand name 'St Michael'. Jacobs had factories in the north of England including St Helens, Bradford and Liverpool.



Fashion Shoot, Spring 1965

This advert for M&S menswear and womenswear features four models and their adventures around Devon in a Dormobile. The women wear dresses in Tricel and Crimplene, the man wears a terylene shirt and trousers. The Bedford Dormobile was a popular campervan in the 1960s.



tourist
attractions
from
M & S

At the peak of the tourist season in Britain we thought it timely to show you a selection of the newest looks from Marks & Spencer. These are a sample of what visitors spend their foreign currency on — high-quality British-made clothes well worth crossing the Channel for.



1 Hovercraft captain John Syring stopped to admire our girls and their summer-white knitted dresses — Orlon/antron, 59s 11d. The flag-red Orion cardigan with low neck and gilt buttons is fully-fashioned, 35s and 37s 6d. Cling-fit tights, 7s 11d; vinyl patent sling-back shoes, 29s 11d; coin-dotted rayon twill square, 6s 11d.

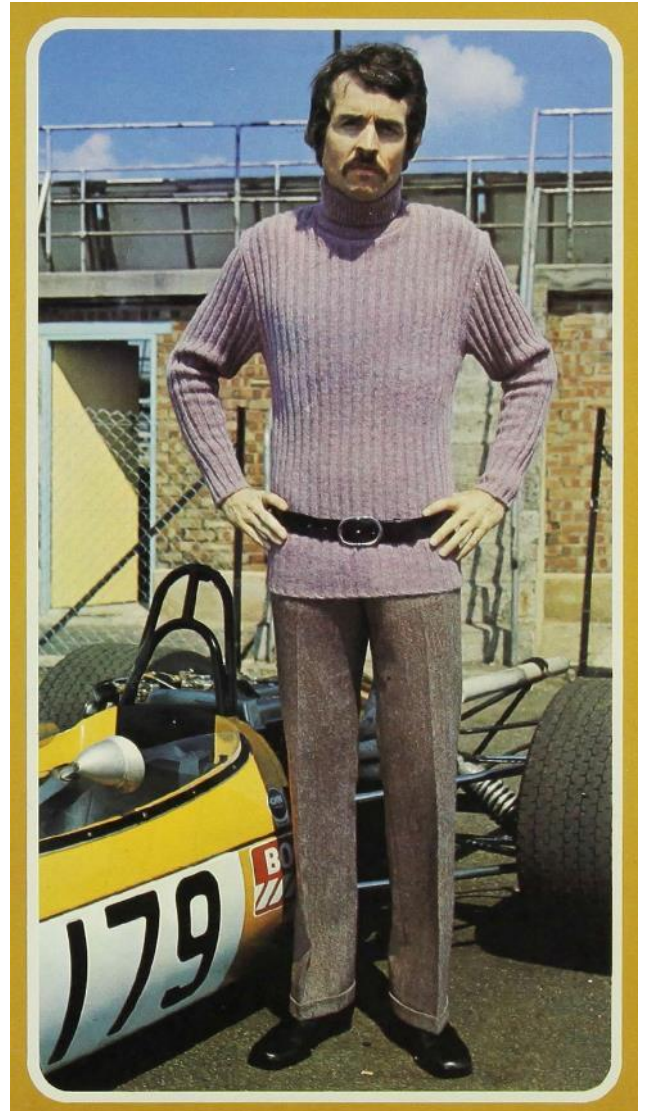
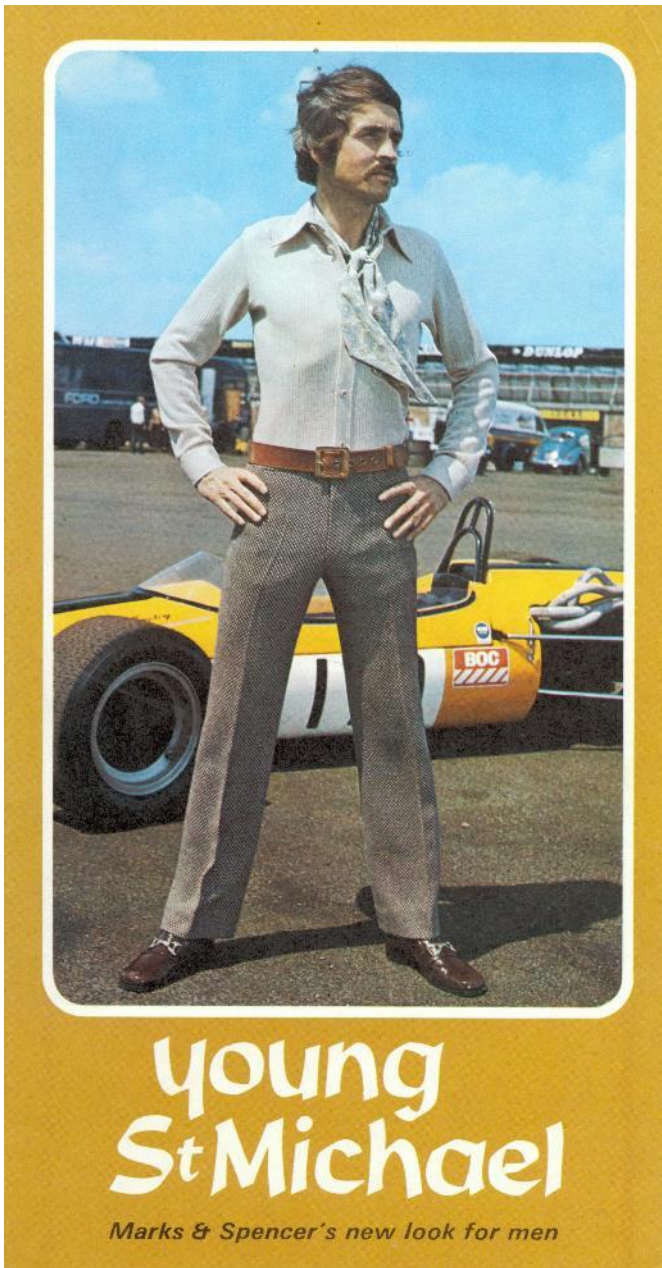
2 Casual elegance in patriotic colours. Belted cable and rib patterned jumper, 42s 6d and 45s; worn over sleek Crimplene trousers with flared legs, 75s. The pants-suit in crisply tailored Complete is sold separately as — pants, 75s and tunic top, 70s. Filmy cotton voile shirt in floral print, 39s 11d. Both girls wear high-vamped shoes in the new material Poromar, 39s 11d.

3 Junior edition in contrast Crimplene, buttoned and belted. Ages 2 to 8, 45s and 49s 11d. Available from August. Knee-high nylon socks, 3s 11d and 4s 11d; and leather sandals, 25s to 29s 11d.



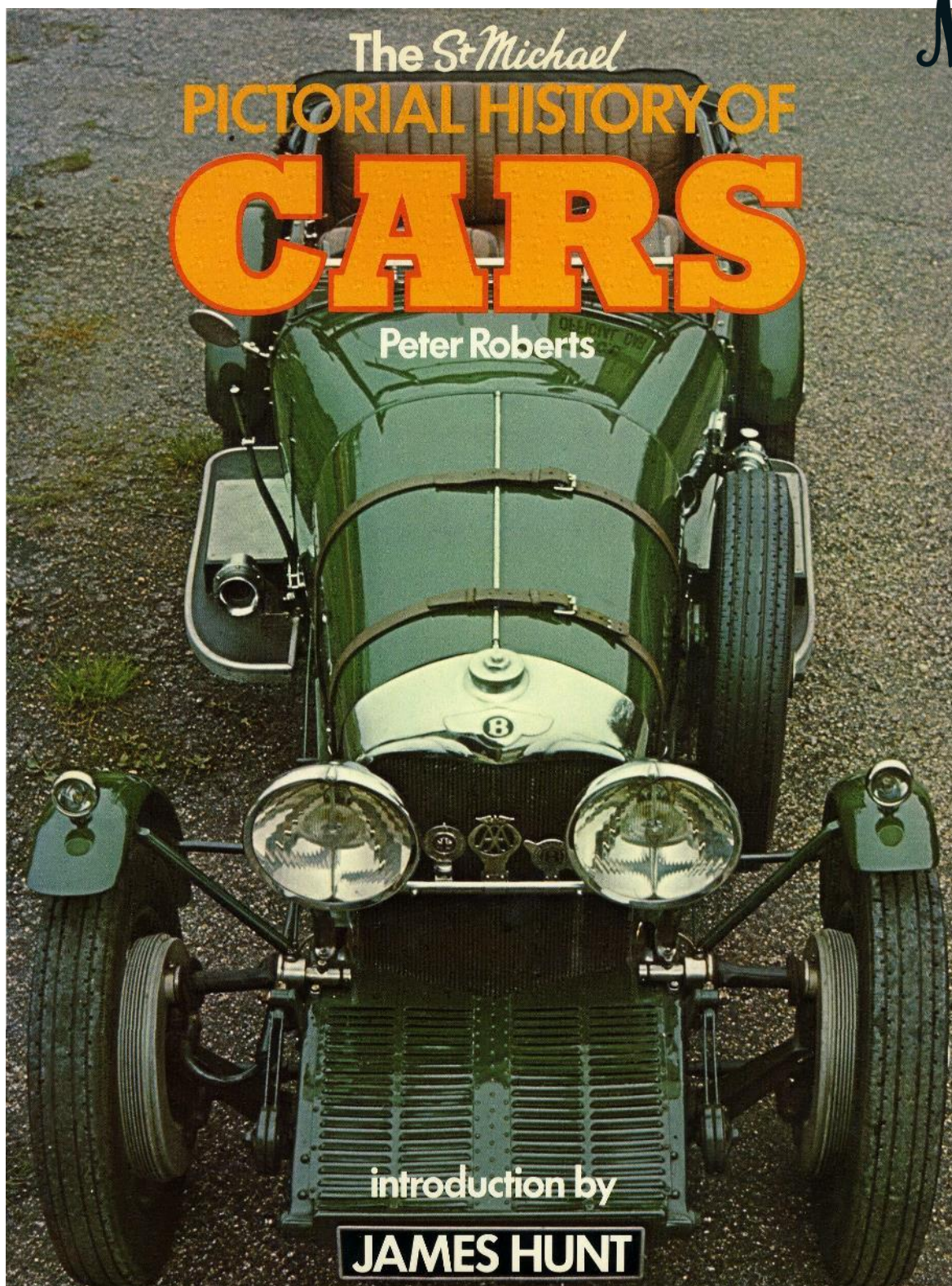
July 1969

Here's another 1960s fashion shoot, this time on location at British Rail's Hoverport in Dover. The models pose with the world's largest hovercraft at the time — the 'Princess Margaret'. The man in the top photograph was the Captain of the hovercraft — John Syring.



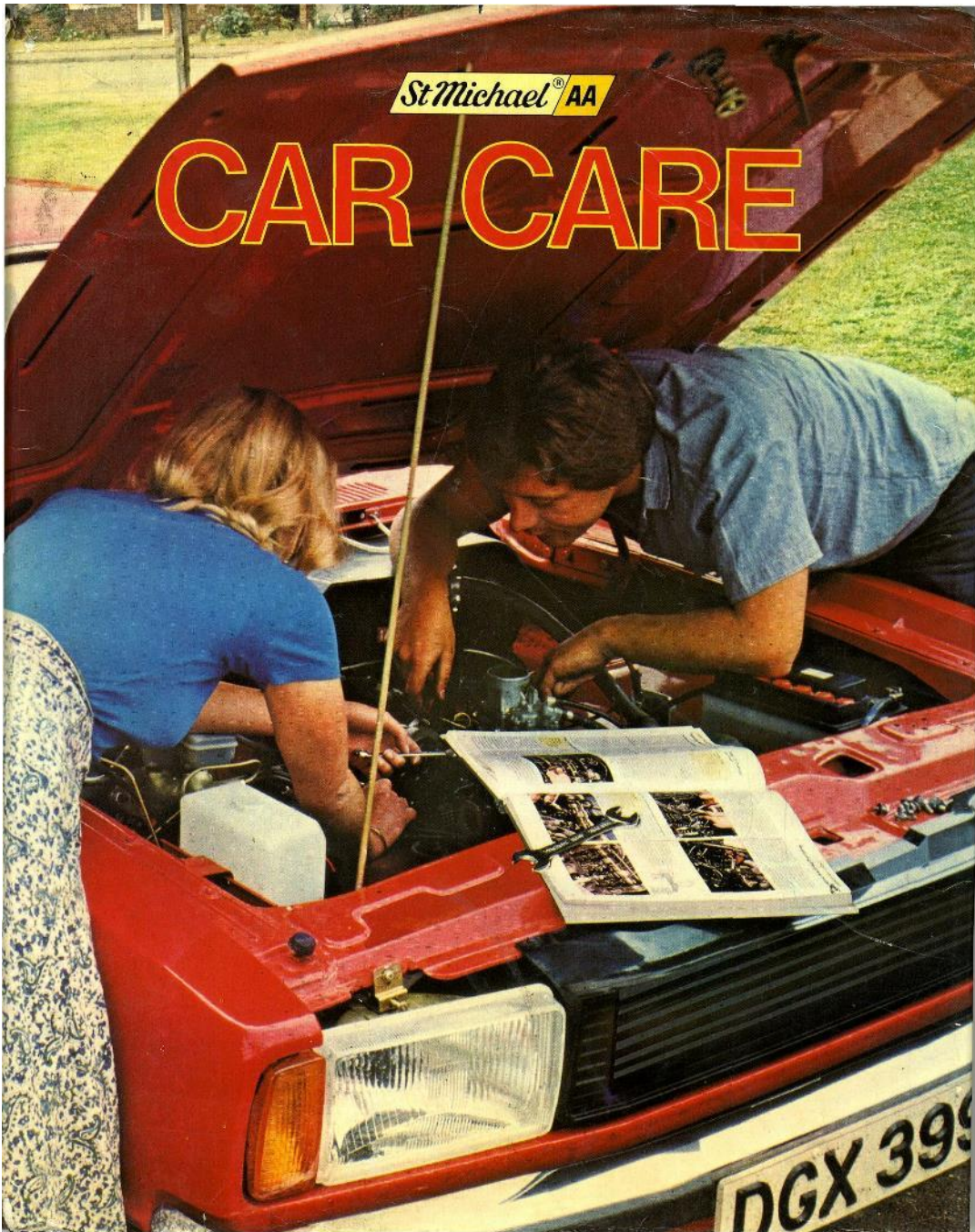
Young St Michael advert, 1970

This leaflet promoted a new range of clothing aimed at young men. The range was introduced in 1970 and promised 'Trendy styles for all'. The models stand by a racing car, likely to be a Formula Ford 1600.



History of Cars, 1977

This book on the history of cars was sold at M&S in 1977, it features a Bentley in classic racing green. The foreword is by racing driver James Hunt who had won the Formula One World Championship in 1976.



Car Care, 1979

This book, featuring a Ford Cortina with its bonnet open, gives readers helpful advice on car care. During the 1970s and 1980s M&S sold non-fiction books on lots of subjects including cooking and baking, make-up, toymaking and baby-care. This book includes chapters on paint repairs, starter motors, cooling systems and electrical components.



Brent Cross Goods Entrance, 1983

This photograph shows the goods entrance at M&S in Brent Cross. A large refrigerated lorry has reversed up to the loading bay for warehouse staff to unload. Parked in the car park are cars including a Rover, Ford Cortina and a Talbot Sunbeam.

HELPING W.V.S.



★Mrs. Lily Gibbons and right, Miss Cynthia Woods serve refreshments to the crowds queueing for the lying-in-state of Sir Winston Churchill. In spite of the intense cold, the two sales assistants from Brixton store worked on the W.V.S. canteen. Three management trainees, Michael Bonner, Richard Dixon, and Lawrence Robinson helped unload supply lorries and did much heavy work. Well done, Brixton !

Churchill's Funeral, January 1965

This cutting shows Lily and Cynthia, staff at Brixton store in the 1960s. They both volunteered with the Women's Voluntary Service in their spare time, and in 1965 the WVS served hot drinks to queues of people visiting the lying-in-state of Winston Churchill. Churchill passed away on 24th January 1965, and the lying-in-state lasted from Wednesday 27th January to 6:00 am on 30th January.

This Month in... 1987



EXPLORER Sir Ranulph Fiennes enjoys a take-away with a difference on his recent expedition into the Arctic Circle.

Sir Ranulph, acclaimed in the Guinness Book of Records as the 'greatest living explorer', took a supply of St Michael long-life foods on his trek to the North Pole.

A variety of hot dishes, including Irish stew, beef stew and dumplings and steak and kidney pudding helped him to survive the sub-zero temperatures.

With the weather like it's been in recent days, we might all be advised never to leave home without a supply of St Michael foods!

Ranulph Fiennes, Jan 1987

Arctic explorer Ranulph Fiennes is picture here tucking in to an M&S ready-meal. On his 1987 expedition to the Arctic Circle he took a selection of St Michael long-life meals to eat on his travels.

Have a Go... Quiz

Find the answers to these transport-themed questions on the next page

1. What was invented by Kirkpatrick MacMillan, a Scot, in about 1840?
2. How did Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Una Stubbs and other friends travel for their Summer Holiday in 1963?
3. If you arrive by train at Lime Street station, in which UK city would you be?
4. What, according to tradition, takes four years to paint from end to end?
5. In which country is Fiat based?
6. Which form of transport, that derives its name from the French for 'carriage with wooden benches', was once common for works outings during the early 1900s?
7. What do the initials HGV stand for?
8. Albert Gunton made headlines in 1952 when he jumped his number 78 bus across where?
9. Which ocean liner was retired from service in December 1967 and was sold to the city of Long Beach, California?
10. What nickname was given to the Shinkansen high-speed trains of Japan because of their appearance and speed?

Have a Go... Quiz

Answers

1. The First Pedal Bicycle
2. London Bus
3. Liverpool
4. Forth Railway Bridge
5. Italy (Turin)
6. Charabanc
7. Heavy Goods Vehicle
8. The opening of Tower Bridge
9. RMS Queen Mary
10. Bullet trains

Have a Go... Wordsearch

Find as many of the transport-related words below as you can. Don't forget, the words might go diagonally, or even backwards!

N V D S G A Y N L K A I R P O R T X O P T G G
 P N V S D Z Z J O U R N E Y T A O B E S U O H
 M Z J J J P B Y E H I P B G H H P G A T R A C
 K F C I O G O C N A B A R A H C N M Y X W Y V
 Q R D Q E A T C Y C L E R E T P O C I L E H X
 S I L V E R S T O N E E E M H U R G F Z O K C
 V F R X S O N V N L O S N D O X L H V K G M K
 B V P B H G T C Y Y Z C I S Y T L T Z I Q T R
 A G V T I J I J Q I Q A G J J T O O W A Z R G
 L B Z E P K H Q P G S L N M T I Q R R M C A N
 L O F P P R X X X D G A E B V C F Q W R W I I
 O R K Y I S D T X F V T Y P S W G F U A Y N D
 O Q X T N X T X Q G Q O Y L J W B G M M Y U E
 N K R L G Q H V L I E R E H I O L Q W S Q Z E
 A M B U L A N C E R A D D I B L R D E D D X P
 D B C A D L Z S L N Q B J H A U L A G E W K S

AIRPORT
 AMBULANCE
 BALLOON
 CART
 CHARABANC
 CYCLE
 ENGINE

ESCALATOR
 HAULAGE
 HELICOPTER
 HOUSEBOAT
 JOURNEY
 LORRY
 MOTORWAY

SHIPPING
 SILVERSTONE
 SPEEDING
 TRAIN