

# Marking Moments

March/April 2021 - Notes for Carers

From shopping with parents, to playing golf with friends, this month we're looking at spending time with family and friends.

## **From the Archive**

These notes give more information on the archive images, as well as some example questions to help start conversation and inspire memories. The images could be used as part of a reminiscence session either with a group or one-to-one.

Sheet Music, c1915

The piano was a popular form of entertainment for families in the early 20th century. Sheet music was a best-seller at M&S, some stores even had a pianist to encourage customers to buy the music! As well as romantic songs, customers could buy sheet music for folk songs, music to dance to, hymns and national anthems. Pianos were at the heart of many homes, and provided entertainment for the whole family as they enjoyed live music together.

Can you play the piano? Do you have a favourite song? Did anyone you know have a piano at home?

Cheery Families Card Game, c1920

This card game is a version of 'Happy Families' and features illustrations of families of four, for example, Mr Trim the Tailor and his wife, son and daughter. The object of the game is to collect complete families.

In the 1920s M&S sold a wide range of products – from swimming costumes to lightbulbs and rolling pins to children's toys. This card game would have been an affordable treat for a child. Other characters featured in the game include Mr Grub the Gardener, Mr Dram the Doctor and Mr Batter the Baker.

Do you have a favourite card game? Or a favourite board game? Do you know anyone who is a gardener, or doctor, or baker? What jobs have you had?

## From the Archive - continued

Press cutting, 1938

This advert promotes the opening of a new Marks & Spencer store in Kirkcaldy. The advert shows a family leaving the shop with their purchases.

The 1930s was a period of huge expansion for M&S – many new stores opened across the country. The same advert was placed in many local newspapers to publicise the store opening and promote M&S as a shop for all the family.

What do you think the girl has bought? What could the little boy be carrying? Do you like shopping? What is your favourite shop?

A Holiday with Friends, 1955

St Michael News was the in-house magazine produced by M&S from 1953 until 1999. It included information on new products, store openings and colleagues across the business. The September 1955 issue featured a photoshoot based at an airport, to promote the new autumn range. The three friends all wear hats, and two of them wear short, white gloves. One woman holds on to her hat in case the breeze from the helicopter blows it away!

Have you been on an aeroplane? Do you enjoy flying? Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Family Breakfast, 1956

This photo is from a feature advertising the latest range of school uniform at M&S. The boy is about to sit down and join his mother and sister for breakfast. The boy's woollen blazer cost 23s 6d, the girl's wool worsted pinafore cost from 25s to 35s.

Do you have any brothers or sisters? What colour was your school uniform? What is your favourite type of breakfast?

## From the Archive - continued

### Table Tennis Game, 1957

This table tennis set was sold at M&S in 1957. It came with two bats, a ball and a net with clamps so it could be fixed to any table. The design shows a very modern front room, with a mother and father sat reading. The man is wearing a suit, whilst the woman is smoking a cigarette.

Do you think M&S would use the same packaging design today? Do you enjoy playing any sports? Did your parents have jobs?

### Family Shopping, 1966

This photograph was used to advertise the food ranges at M&S. The man carries a shopping basket, the little girl holds a packet of biscuits. The advert is similar to the 1930s drawing we saw earlier – both are designed to promote M&S as a store for all the family. In the mid-1960s M&S sold small pork pies for 10d, 1lb of sausages for 3s, and chocolate-covered coconut bars cost 1s 4d for six.

Did you help with the shopping when you were a child? What was your favourite food then? What is your favourite food now?

### A Round of Golf with Friends, 1969

This photo shows a group of friends at the golf course. The photo was taken to advertise the summer menswear range at M&S. Advertising campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s often featured exotic locations or showed people going on holiday – these men were photographed at a hotel golf course in Bermuda!

Do you enjoy golf? What do you do when you meet up with friends?

## From the Archive - continued

Family Meals, c1985

This recipe book was sold at M&S in the 1980s. It gives advice on how to plan balanced meals, with information on the nutritional values of different foods. The front cover shows a delicious chicken and mushroom pie – can you see the pie funnel shaped like a bird?

M&S sold a wide range of recipe books in the 1980s. They were very popular as the recipes were simple to follow. This book includes recipes for Pear & Orange Tart, Creamed Spinach and Onion & Anchovy Flan. The book was written by Elizabeth Seldon, a Home Economist, who gave lots of advice on healthy eating and a balanced diet.

Do you like cooking and baking? Have you ever had to cook for a lot of people?

Matching Pyjamas, 2020

This family wear matching red checked pyjamas. The photograph was used to advertise the range of nightwear at M&S in 2020. M&S have sold nightwear for adults and children since the 1920s. Winceyette pyjamas were popular in the 1950s, whilst Bri-Nylon nighties were a big seller in the 1960s.

Have you ever owned Bri-Nylon nightwear?

## This Month In...

Val Doonican, March 1970

In March 1970, staff at M&S Pantheon in London were surprised when Val Doonican popped in to their canteen. The Irish singer had called in to collect a donation on behalf of the Children in Need charity. He's pictured here with two sales assistants, Lynn and Katherine.

The staff at Pantheon store had raised £65 for the Children in Need appeal. Staff Manageress Mona Carter decided she would contact the BBC to ask if Val would visit the store - she was surprised when they said yes!

Val had many hit songs through the 1960s and 1970s, including 'Walk Tall' and 'Memories Are Made of This'. He was born in 1927 in Waterford and moved to Britain in 1951 to tour with the 'Four Ramblers'.

Stirling Moss, 1961

In April 1961, Stirling Moss won the Vienna Grand Prix in a Lotus18. The same year he won the Grand Prix races in Monaco, Denmark, Modena and Germany. Stirling is pictured here in a 1955 edition of 'St Michael News', the M&S staff magazine. He describes his Ideal Salesgirl - "A smile, a charming personality, and an expression of the joy of living... that's what I like to see!".

An inductee into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, Stirling won 212 of the 529 races he entered across several categories of competition. He retired after a crash in 1962, but returned to racing in the 1970s and 1980s, finally retiring for good in 2011 aged 81.

## Have a Go...

### Home Sweet Home

Print out copies of the house template on page 14. Find appealing images in magazines, or use those provided on page 15. Cut them out and choose which room to stick them into. Participants could draw people in the rooms, or find pictures of people to cut out and stick in.

### Family Tree

Print out copies of the family tree on page 16. Ask participants to write their name at the bottom or draw their face. On each branch you can either write or draw a person's name or face. Participants could include anyone important to them, or they could try putting the Royal Family on the tree.

### Wordsearch

The wordsearch includes words related to family and friends - some words run backwards and some go diagonally.