

Memories by Gary Marsh

- 1) EARLIEST. I remember lying in my pram and being cooed at by a shadowy anonymous figure, probably a well meaning lady. Funny...I can't remember what I had for dinner yesterday !
- 2) FIRST DAY AT PRIMARY SCHOOL. Mum. Where are you going Mum? Don't leave me crying in this huge hall with these strange scary smiling people. Crikey there's girls. Come back Mum!
- 3) WINTER 1963. We went to Oxfordshire to stay with Aunty and got snowed in. Made a proper igloo and a brilliant version of the Cresta Run around the garden. Brrrrr!
- 4) NEW BABY SISTER. When my second sister was born I asked my Mum how old Dad was. She said he was 32. I thought that was very very old, which makes me an ancient 52 year old fossil !
- 5) FIRST DAY AT GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Teacher said "stand in two rows, first boy to talk gets 100 lines ". Never having heard the expression, I said "Sir, what are lines? " Hmm, guess what....
- 6) SCOUTCAMPS. A horribly long journey at summer, Easter and Whitsun. Digging out latrines and wet/dry pits for rubbish. Earned badges for character-building accidents with axes, canoes and potato peelers!
- 7) ST.GEORGES DAY PARADES. Every Scout, Cub, Guide and Brownie was in immaculate uniform, accompanied by both parents. In the 15th Ealing (St Stephens) we used to fight each other to carry the flag!
- 8) LAZY SUNDAY AFTERNOON. Helped Dad clean the car, or even dismantle what appeared to be a perfectly good gearbox, while listening to 'The Billy Cotton Band Show' and 'The Clitheroe Kid'.
- 9) GIRLS, PUBS and EXAMS. Two became constant attractions, much to the detriment of the other. (see if you can guess which one!) Met Jill during this period. (Don't let that affect your answer !!!)
- 10) INTO THE BIG WIDE WORLD. I knew I'd arrived when I got my first proper job offer since resigning from my paper round. Joining the Civil Service was fine, but making maps was the tops!
- 11) POPPING THE QUESTION. Got the ring. Prepared a candlelit supper. Had prepared to ask prospective Father-In-Law but bottled out! Well, two out of three aint bad! At least Jill said yes!
- 12) WHEN TWO BECAME THREE. Drove like a Ferarri driver in my FIAT 128 to get to the hospital. After all the to-ing and fro-ing, pushing and pulling was over, another person (Nicky) was in the room. Wow!
- 13) SHOCK AND AWE. During the first Gulf War, myself and colleagues had to find all powerlines a Tornado might fly into. When the first one came down everyone thought 'was that my fault?'



- 14) CURIOSITY. Interrupting a trip abroad for Lauren's birth one very hot July, I returned looking browner than ever. Nearly not recognising me, Nicky opened the front door and said "Are you my Daddy?"
- 15) TRIP OF A LIFETIME. We all flew to Washington and stayed for three months. Saw The Blue Ridge Mountains, The Smithsonian museums, The Whitehouse. The kid's favourites? Yep. Burger King!!!
- 16) WINNERS. Family holiday to...er... Cleethorpes! We were the only southerners at the holiday camp. We won 'Who wants to be A Millionaire!' Shame it was a million 'Bradley Bear' notes and not real cash!!
- 17) PRIDE. Nicky, Rebecca, Emily and Lauren have 'turned out ok', well actually more than ok, but when Emily passed out from Hendon Police College I was welling up. I blame the parents!



- 18) ENGLISHNESS. Summer- badminton in the back garden. May Queen and Maypole dancing at Brentham. Winter- Sunday dinners with the windows steaming up, followed by 'The Big Match' on TV.
- 19) FIRST TIME. Went to Jersey (Silver Wedding Anniversary), became a Grandad (Baby Scarlett), finally made it to a Lords Test Match (thanks Ray), and went to the new Wembley.
- 20) NOSTALGIA AINT WHAT IT USED TO BE! Aztec (choccy bars), Johnny Seven (Toy gun), Tommy Gunn (English equivalent of Action Man), Cine Film, writing letters by hand, etc, etc, etc.....



Baby Scarlett "No memories yet, but I'm working on it !"