

From Austerity to Posterity

In May 2018 the Events team organised a talk by Paul Harding from Discover History (<http://www.discover-history.co.uk/>) to give a talk on the 1950s, from the Austerity following World War 2 to Posterity by the end of the decade.

Paul was able to put the changes in context by comparing them with the Medieval Ages, which lasted from 1066 to 1485, where little changed over 400 hundred years to the massive changes in the 1950s where it started with coming out of the War to Space exploration by the end of the decade. There was no money in the Britain at the start of the 1950s and the country owed the USA about £21Bn, which we finally paid of in 2006, but the Festival of Britain was designed to start the change process so the country could get back to normal.

In a very funny and enlightening talk we were told about Prefabs, which were supposed to be temporary structures although many are still in use today, Co-op Divi and Greenshield stamps. Some of the audience even remembered the Festival of Britain and their Co-op Divi numbers! How housewives were given leaflets explaining how to shop in the new supermarkets, where you picked up your shopping from the shelves rather than asking for it from an assistant!

Another change over the decade was the way children evolved, at the beginning they were children, who then became 'adults' and went to work. However, by the end of the decade the 'teenager' had arrived was interested in music such as Skiffle and Roc n' Roll.





