

**John Lynch** b1958 Wimbledon

Went to various Butlins and Pontins from 1962 to 1970 and again in 1978 when he performed in a tribute band in Butlins Minehead. Dad was war blinded. Originally from Ireland and had never had holidays as a child. John had 5 siblings - grew up without much money. Travelled with family in old Ford Zephyr for 2-week holiday every summer - magic an excitement - special time. Always went self-catering as cheaper - there would be aorta among children of chores. Occasional treat of fish and chips, even a Bernie Inn. Always loads of activities - sports, table tennis all day an entertainment in the evenings - variety performance much in the tradition of music hall - songs and interaction. Plus competitions - glamorous granny. Mum and Dad would enter dancing competition - knobbly knees, bingo. Differed from "normal life" as could stay up late and could be around drinking adults (pubs off limits to children in those days). Was an opportunity to spend time with dad which did not happen much normally - learned to swim with him at camp. Made friends with other children. Recalls as a toddler escaping from the creche and being chased by Red Coats - hidden by another family! Would stay in camp all the time. Trip to Pontins Dorset, much smaller - would leave for day trips. Started going abroad from age 11 - Benidorm - Mum didn't have to cook so really holiday for her for the first time. Became musician and did 70s weekend in 1978.