

John Neville b 1945, North Kensington

Went 6 times from 1954 to 1960 to lots of Butlins from Clacton to Skegness, last 9me aged 15.

Generally went with Mum and two sisters. Dad was a docker. John in charge of photography and had a Kodak Brownie 127. Butlins considered "the Rolls Royce" of the holiday camps - like Waitrose compared to Tesco's (Pontins and Warners). Parents saved very hard to pay for it. they'd get the train from Fen Church St - holiday would begin on the train. 2 weeks every year. All in one tariff. Memories of the din and clamour and chat in the dining hall. Fairground rides all day until sick. The camp photographer. Smell of the swimming pool. Would be out all day with kids he met and see parents for lunch and dinner. Viennese ball room. Variety type acts - musicals, people join in. Food was "normal" - spag bol was foreign in those days. Skegness was vast. Contact to being in war damaged London - but led a free life in London so no different in camps - but so much colour. No cars. Felt alike a very safe contained world. Cliff Richard "Please don't tease" takes him back to camp life. Thought about going back as adult for music weekends but never went.

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