

What was the world like in the 1950s?

Television

There was only one channel to watch and that was the BBC. This channel is now called BBC 1. It was to be September 1955 before another channel started, and then only in London at first. This was ITV. All programmes were broadcast in black and white. The first regular colour television programme was transmitted in November 1969.

Home entertainment

Portable radios had not been invented. Huge radios and television sets with very small screens worked with valves, which took several minutes to warm up. Record players were available, but tape recorders, cassettes, CDs, iPods, mp3 players, video recorders, DVDs and home computers did not exist. The Internet only became available in 1988, but it was to be another ten years before many homes were connected.

Money

There was a different currency. Twelve pennies made a shilling, and twenty shillings made a pound. The decimal coins, where a hundred pennies make a pound, were introduced in February 1971.

Roads

There were no speed limits on roads outside of towns, but cars could rarely reach speeds of more than 50 or 60 mph. There were no motorways at all, the first was to be part of the M6 near Preston, opened in November 1959.

Buses

Buses had a crew of two people, the driver and the conductor. It was the conductor's job to ring the bell (once for "next stop, please", twice for "go" and three times for "keep going, the bus is full"). The conductor carried a ticket machine, and collected the fares from the passengers.

DEWSBURY BUS MUSEUM

WEST RIDING OMNIBUS MUSEUM TRUST

Write your name here _____

EHL 344 - Ethel - is a very old bus!

The bus you are looking at today is very special.

It is a Leyland Tiger that was built in the year 1952.

It took the people of Wakefield to school, to work and to the shops every day for nearly 20 years. Then it went to the Bus Museum, where the people take care of it - and it still goes out from time to time.

Inside there is a picture for you to colour and some questions about the bus. If you have listened carefully, you should know all the answers!

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Ethel - a very old bus

Can you answer these questions?

What colour is Ethel?

How old is the bus this year? _____

How many wheels does this bus have? _____

How many passenger seats are there? _____



Now, here is a photograph of Ethel the bus. Can you colour in the big picture on the next page?

Ask at home if you can take a look at our website:

www.dewsburybusmuseum.org

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst all material on our website is suitable for children, we cannot vouch for other websites to which we provide links. Young children should always be supervised by a responsible adult when using the Internet.

