

Once Upon A Time in Walthamstow

by Alan Miles, April 2014 [[email](#)]

3. "Oh Micky you're so Fine"

After leaving Dog-Shit Alley, I thought I had better get some fags out of the fag machine at Old Ogdon's. When it comes to doing a bit of thieving, you only get nicked if you take it steady, a little bit at a time like.

Anyway, I fancied some Kings Size Rothman, they came in 10s on the left hand side of the machine, and here is the reason why I smoked them. It was because out of this drawer you got 'em free like this. You put your half a crown in the machine; pulled the draw with the Rothmans in, open. There would be a clink of change in the change tray, and here comes the free bit.

Now the draw is open push the draw back very slowly, then if you listen carefully you could hear a very slight 'tick', then yank the draw back very hard and Bingo, there's your free Rothmans and change. Now steady one more pull, take out the fags, let the draw slide back slowly, listen for the tick, then pull the draw out quickly. Plonk goes the change in the change box, and you've got yourself 20 Rothman free of charge with a profit! Then whoa that's enough... don't get greedy and you won't get nicked.

Anyhow, as I began to walk up Winns Avenue an old school mate of mine who actually was also a school prefect, and because I liked Micky me and a couple of the lads never hurt him, not like some of the others. Mick crossed the road towards Carr Road "Hi Mick" I called out. Mick came over to me, and I noticed that his hair was growing over his ears and his collar, I said to him "Your hairs getting a bit long Mick", he turned to me and said "don't laugh but I thought I'd never have a haircut again in my life".

He was holding a little magazine in his left hand, it was a little book called 'Learning To Play The Guitar The Easy Way' by Bert Weedon. I said to Mick "are you learning to play the guitar?" he said "nah a fu*k*ng triangle!" I said "no seriously Mick I know you was really into The Shadows and that your favourite record was Summer Holiday and that you idolised Hank Marvin". He said "Well Al, I'm starting a little group, called Oliver Twist" I replied "You should call it The Box Tops". We then parted on the corner of Carr Road where Micky lived. I said to him "goodnight c*n*" and he replied back "goodnight prat".

As I continued along Winns Avenue, I heard the droan of a scooter behind me; it was an old mate of mine called Chris who lived along Winns Avenue. I noticed he too, now had a nice white Vesper GS with foxtails and lights, it was the bol&o*ks.

I waved and shouted out "Alright Chris?" He replied "Alright Al". He had a lovely fur lined parka and another little blonde bird sat on the backseat. As I reached my road which was Fleeming Road, I looked at my old school William Fitt Secondary Modern, and recalled some of the old times I had there.

My favourite time was, when I used to sit next to a girl who shall remain nameless, but I used to my hand up her skirt simply because ... she liked it. There were also two girls sitting behind me and I used to reach behind me and put my hand up their skirts too, making out I was looking for my pencil. Anyway I got caught by a woman teacher, who sent me to the Headmaster. I accused her of being jealous.

Oh well those were the days....

P.S.

The Micky that I write of here is actually Micky Box of Uriah Heep, who lived at Carr Road and in Lloyds Park he used to play football with Sam of Sam Apple Pie. In Brettenham Road near the exit of Lloyds Park lived Dennis Paynton, the late great saxophonist of The Dave Clark Five.