



CREWE
TOWN COUNCIL

CREWE



Raz Ahmed

1964

Hello, my name is Raz and I am 9 years old. My family are from a country called Bangladesh.

We moved over to England and we came to Crewe so my father could work as a railway engineer.

He makes sure the trains work properly.

Our flight took 48 hours to reach here from East Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a Commonwealth country which means we are connected with Britain.

I found it difficult at first to get used to the way of life and language here but I have made really good friends and I now call this place my home.

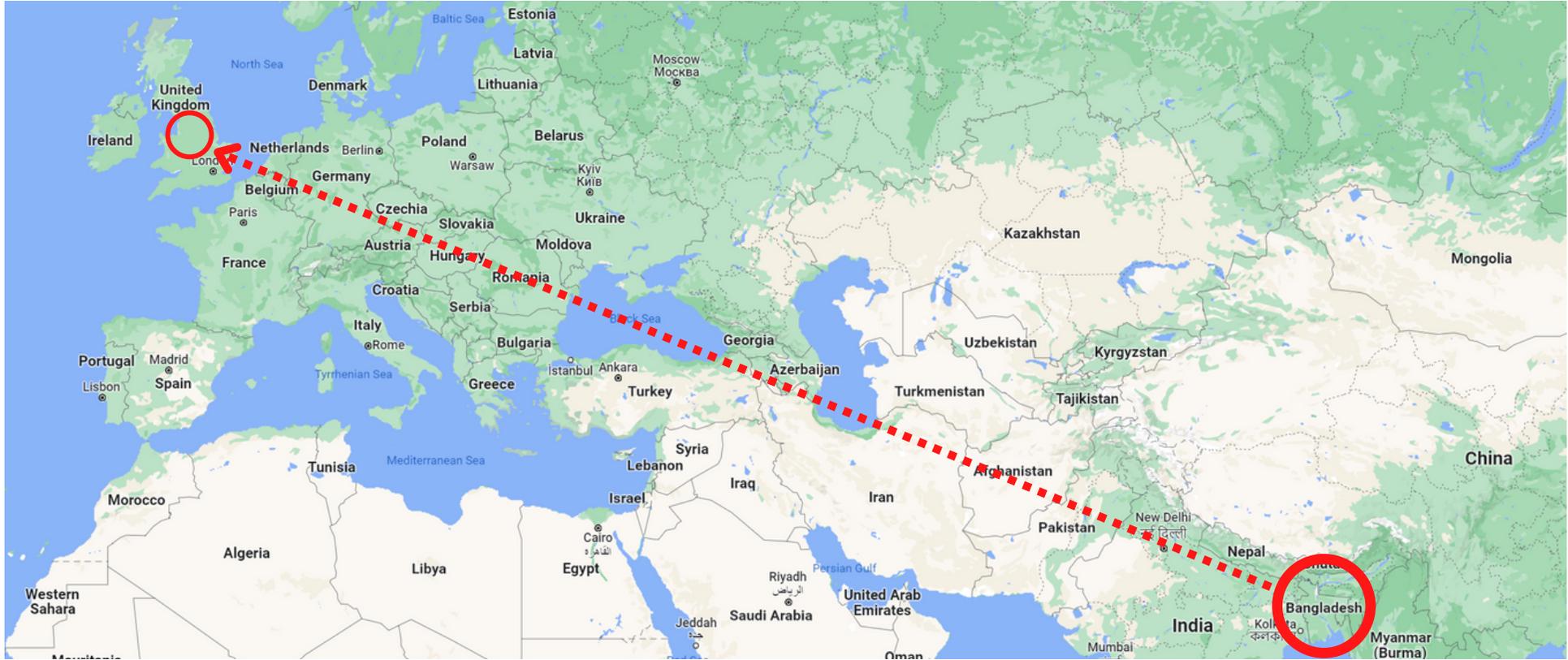
Let me share with you my favourite memories of growing up as a child in Crewe in the 1960's.



1. Take a look at the map to show my journey from Bangladesh to Crewe.

2. Take a look at the images below to see Crewe in the 1960's.

- **Does it look different to Crewe now?**
- **What differences can you spot?**
- **Where are your favourite places in Crewe now?**
- **Why are they your favourite?**





Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



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School

School is very different in Britain compared to Bangladesh.

In Crewe, I go to Beech Street Junior School in Crewe.

Every day we have to drink a glass of milk as soon as we get into school!

The teachers say this is because we need strong, healthy bones!

Every day, the teacher puts on the radio and takes us all into the school hall to do our 'Music and Movement' class.

We have to follow the instructions on the radio. One of these instructions is "Sway like trees in the wind".

We also do singing classes together too.

There are 45 children in my class! Apparently this is a 'baby boomer' year when a lot of children were born after the Second World War!

Our lessons are reading, writing and maths and we sometimes say out loud our times tables and read out poetry.

My teacher says my handwriting is not good enough and I need to practice harder!

We also learn a lot about typical British celebrations which I find interesting- it's different to my culture where we have different traditions.

Last week, we learnt about dancing around the maypole for May Day.

This is where we each have to take a piece of coloured ribbon and dance around each other.

It is danced to celebrate the coming of the Summer season.

I've noticed that in Britain, people pay attention to the different seasons- Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn.

In Bangladesh, we pay attention to the monsoon season.

The monsoon season is when it rains all the time!



- **Can you sway like a tree in the wind?**
- **What is your favourite part of going to school now?**
- **Are there any differences at your school compared to when Raz was at school?**

Sweet shop

I also love sweets!

In Crewe, we have the Tuck Shop on Ruskin Road.

They sell amazing sweets there and you can pick any sweets you want to go into your paper bag!



- **Take a look at the sweets.**
- **Which 1960's sweets are you going to choose?**
- **What is your favourite sweet now?**
- **Do you recognise any of the sweets?**



Fruit salad



Liquorice wheels



Lemon sherberts



Flying saucers



Parma violets



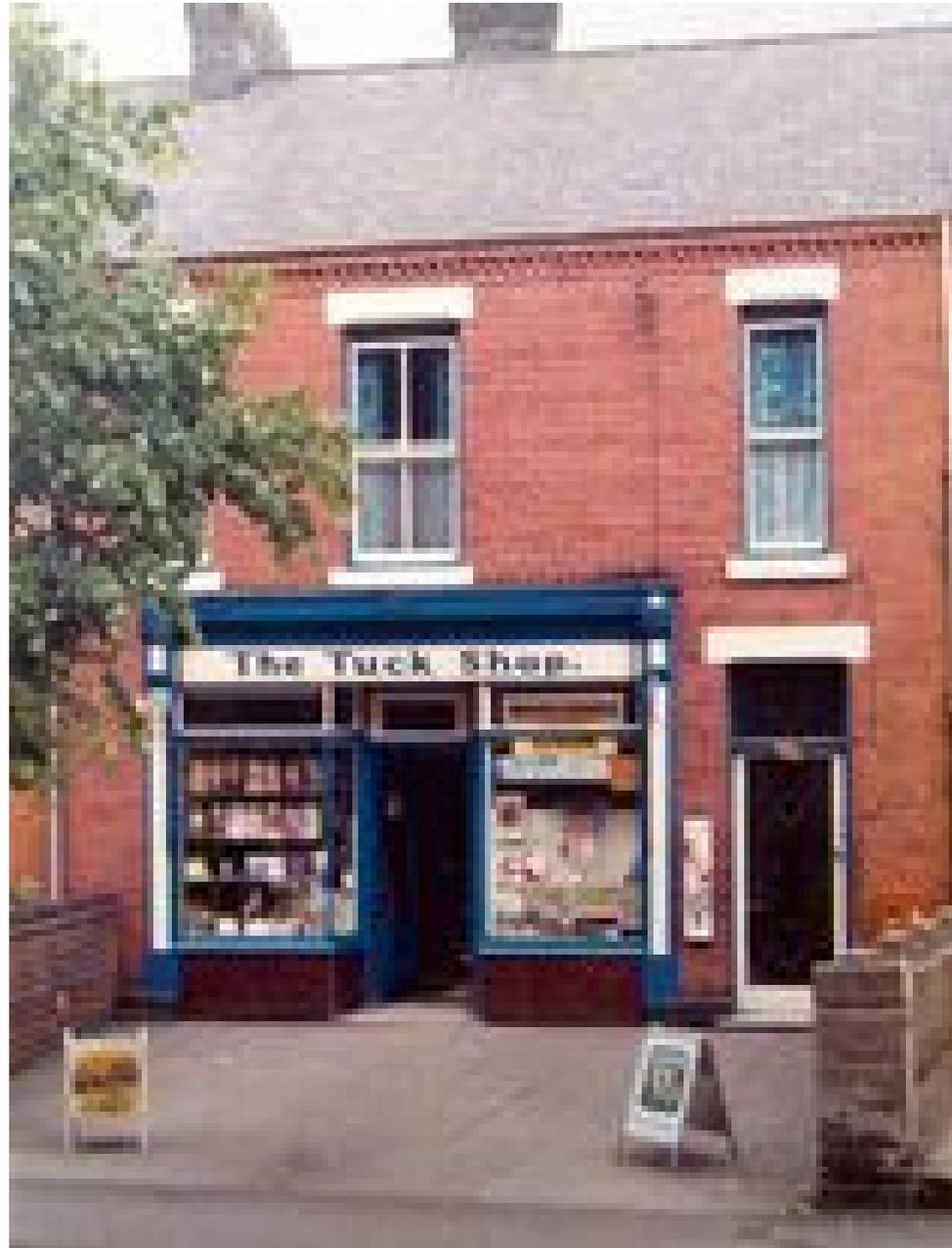
Drumsticks



Milk bottles



Dip dab



Ruskin Road Tuck Shop

Credit: Rob Holland

Toy shop

My favourite thing about Crewe is visiting the toy shop! I get 50p pocket money a week and I'm trying to save up to buy a new Action Man!

I always visit here every Saturday morning with my friends to see what new toys are in!

Take a look to see my favourite toys.



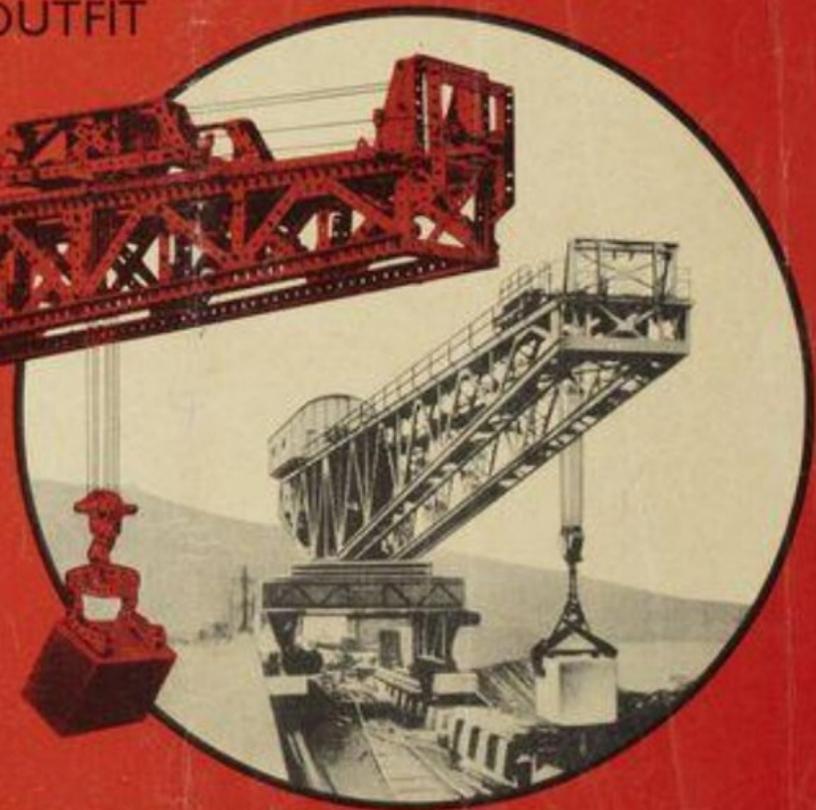
- **Can you see any toys you recognise?**
- **What toys do you play with now?**
- **What do you notice is different to my toys?**

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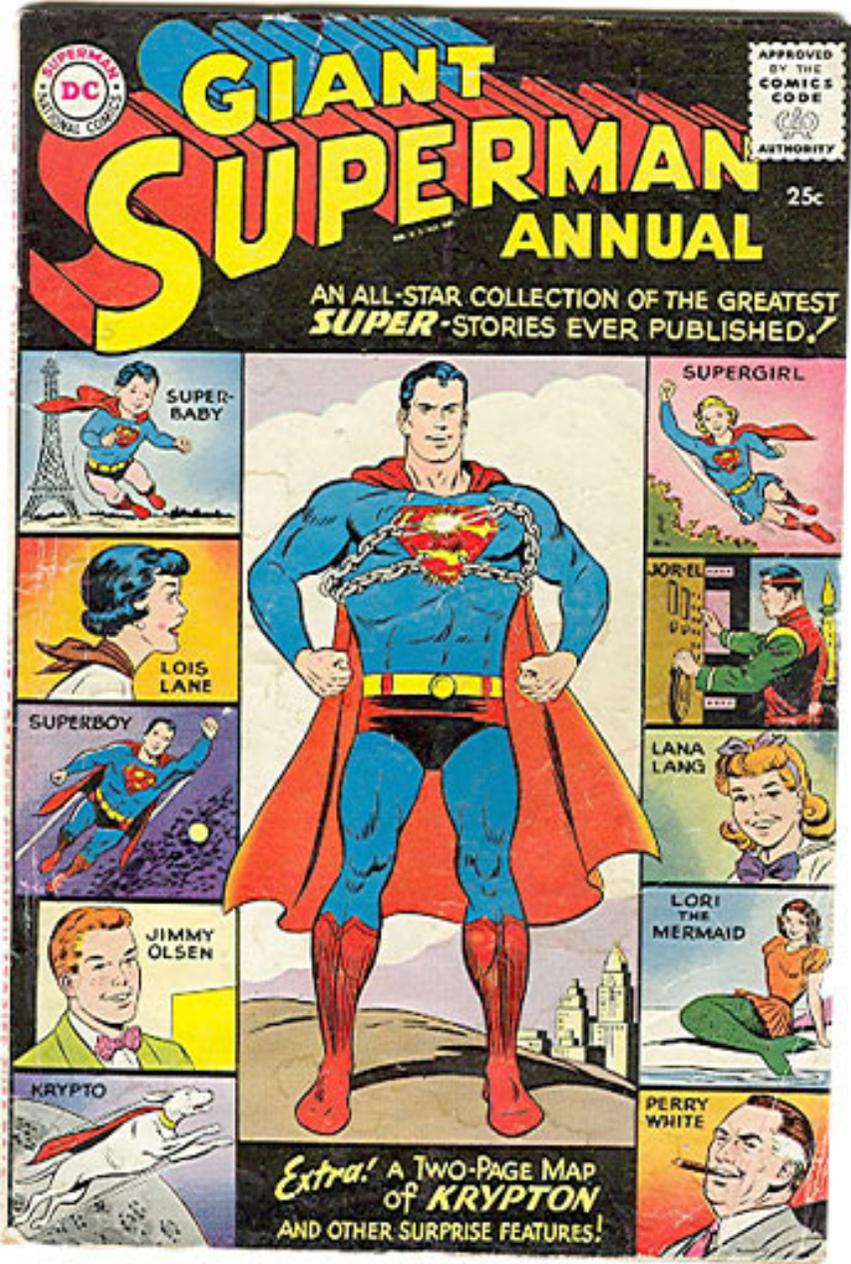
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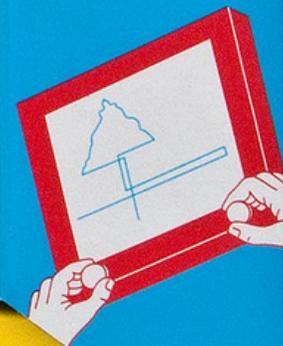
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The butcher shop, the grocer shop and the bakers

Some people in Crewe still eat very basic food because their parents were brought up during World War 2.

This was a time when all food was 'rationed'.

Rationing was when you could only buy a limited amount of food every week because of the war- there was less food to go around.

Rationing stopped 7 years ago but some people still don't buy much because that's what they are used to.

You could not buy spices during World War 2 in Britain.

Even now, they are not that popular.

In Bangladesh, we flavour our food with a lot of spice so the food tastes a bit different!

I help my family out with the shopping but we can't just go to one shop to buy everything. We go to individual shops to buy our food.

We get our meat from the butchers, our vegetables from the grocer and our bread from the baker.

We also get milk delivered to our door by the milk van every week.

Last week, I was invited round to my school friend's house on Friday and we had fish and chips for dinner.

We went to collect it from the fish and chip shop- it was delicious!

There are a couple of supermarkets opening up that sell everything under one roof- they are called supermarkets!



Talk to your partner:

- **Where does your family shop for food in Crewe?**
- **What is your favourite thing to eat now?**
- **How is your life different in Crewe now to Raz's life in the 1960's?**



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Having fun!

On the weekend, I am allowed out to play all day as long as I'm back by dinner time.

Sometimes, I come back home with scraped knees and muddy clothes from playing football and my parents aren't happy!

Crewe has a lot of hiding places and quiet places to play.

I've been learning to do new hobbies in Britain which I had never tried before.

I've been fishing in the Valley Brook and tried to catch fish with the bait on my hook!

I have also learnt how to play with a skipping rope and hop skotch but my favourite of all has been playing football.

I played this before in Bangladesh but now, I'm on my school's football team.

On Saturday's, I go with my friends to play football in Queen's Park. We can take out boats onto the lake and buy ice creams!

Sometimes, me and my family go to the Odeon Cinema on Delamere Street in Crewe to watch new films.

Last week, I went to see the Mary Poppins movie.

I've also seen 101 Dalmations and Peter Pan!

The cinema is really fun- you walk into a bright red room with balconies and curtains and you can get a whole bucket of salty popcorn for 10p!

I am also going to the Lyceum Theatre for the first time next week to see a circus!

I have never been inside but my friend has and said there are red velvet seats all sat around the stage.



- **Take a look at the pictures of the Odeon Cinema and Queen's Park in Crewe in the 1960's**



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: www.queensparkcrewe.com

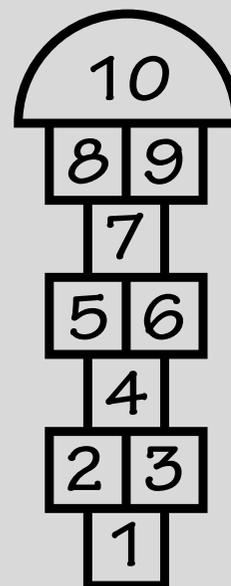


Credit: www.queensparkcrewe.com

Let's try playing some of the games that I play in the 1960's!

Hopscotch

1. Try drawing the pattern below using chalk on your playground.



2. You can hop using one foot on the single squares and then jump on the double squares with both feet.



3. If you wanted to make it harder, you can try finding a beanbag, conker, twig or a stone.
4. Throw your object onto square 1. Make sure it lands inside the square! If it lands outside the square, you have to miss your turn.
5. If your object lands inside the square, you can hop through all of the squares.
6. If your object lands outside the square, you have to miss your turn.
7. When you get to the end, turn around and hop again through the squares.
8. When you're on the square before your object, lean down on one foot and pick it up.
9. When you have finished, pass your object to the next person.
10. When it is your turn again, throw your object onto the next number and keep doing this until you get all the way to 10!
11. How fast can you do this? The Guinness World Record has someone completing it in just 68 seconds!

Jacks

1. You need a small bouncy ball and a set of 'Jacks'.
2. Usually, Jacks are made of metal but you can use any objects you can find.
3. You could use rubbers, conkers, coins or small stones.
4. Find 10 of these.
5. Make sure you're playing on a hard surface like your playground or a table.
5. You can play with as many players as you want. When you have everyone, decide who goes first.
6. Scatter the Jacks over the surface- make sure none of them are touching.
7. The person going first, throws the ball into the air.
8. While the ball is in the air, scoop up a jack into your hand before the ball has had a chance to bounce.
9. Catch the ball once it has bounced once using the same hand as your Jack.



10. Once you have caught the ball, transfer your Jack to your other hand.
11. Keep repeating the process until you have picked up all the Jacks.
12. Remember to keep the Jacks in your hand!
13. If you don't pick up the ball in time or you let it bounce more than once, the game moves onto another player.
14. If this happens, scatter the Jacks on the surface again.
15. If you want to make it harder, try picking up 2 Jacks and then picking up the ball after it has bounced once on the surface.



My Grandmother's Trunk

1. Everyone playing should all sit in a circle.
2. Pick someone to start.
3. Decide if you are going in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction.
4. The first player says "In my grandmother's trunk, there was a..."
5. The first player can pick anything they want.
6. The next player will then repeat what the first player said and then they will say "In my grandmother's trunk, there was a..."
7. The players continue to repeat everything said before them as well as adding their own word.
8. Can you remember all of the words?
9. You can try asking all the players to say a word in alphabetical order- apple, badger, cat, drum etc.



The Post Office

I still keep in touch with my friends and family in Bangladesh and the only way to talk to them is by writing letters.

I write about everything in my letters talking about life here in Crewe.

It costs me threepence to send a letter.

Because my letters are going to another country, I can't post them in the red post boxes. I have to take them to the Post Office in Crewe to be stamped.

At the post office they check how big my letter is and then they put a stamp on it with a picture of Queen Elizabeth II.

She has been Queen of Britain for 12 years!

I can't wait to get letters from my friends and family!

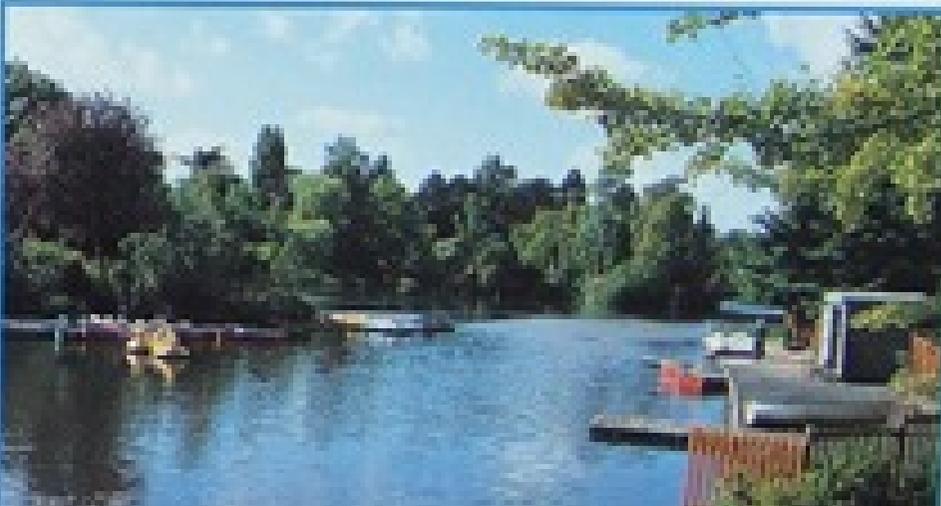
The post is delivered to our house twice a day so I'm always really excited to see if they have any letters for me!



- **How often does the post come to your house?**
- **Do you like to write letters?**
- **Take a look at the postcard that I sent to my family.**
- **Take a look at the picture of the Post Office in Crewe in the 1960's.**



Queens Park, Crewe





Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Suggested activity



- Do you have a family member who lived in Crewe in the 1960's?
- Talk to them about their experiences.