

'Chitty' star was a Lancs lad

(For a little while anyway)

BY JUDITH DORNAN
judith.dornan@lep.co.uk

THE death of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang actor Lionel Jeffries has sparked fond memories for Chorley residents who met the star before he was famous.

Actor and director Lionel, who died aged 83 at his Dorset home, was best known for the role of mad inventor Grandpa Potts in the 1968 movie classic about a family's adventures in a flying car.

He was also famous for directing the 1970 adaptation of E Nesbitt's *The Railway Children*, buying the rights after his then eight-year-old daughter Martha read it and told him: "I think that would make a good film."

But as a young man, locals recall him living in Chorley for a time when his father,

Bernard, was manager of the Highways Hostel in Euxton with wife Elsie.

David Birtill, whose father, George, was formerly editor of the *Chorley Guardian*, said: "I met him on several occasions.

"His death evoked vivid memories of attending the dances at the hostel pre-disco days, when all the music was provided by live bands."

The Highways, which is now long gone, used to house workers from Leyland Motors and ROS. A housing estate, known locally as the Highways Estate, now stands on the site.

Pat Callender, who lives in Bredon Avenue, recalls photographing Bernard and wife at functions at the Snakes Club when a photographer for the *Chorley Guardian*. She said: "I remember going to the Royal

Oak pub taking photographs and the Jeffries were always there. Lionel was tall and slim with dark hair. His mother and father were also tall and his mother had white hair. I can picture them now, standing there."

Known for his bald head, bristling moustache and his deep baritone voice, Jeffries was born in London's East End and trained at RADA, making his screen debut in 1950.

With renowned actor Sir John Mills, he starred in *The Colditz Story* in 1955, alongside Pink Panther star Peter Sellers in *Two Way Stretch* in 1960 and Oliver actor Mark Lester in 1970's *Eyewitness*.

He also played the lovable Grandad in kids' TV show *Woof!* and had roles in *Inspector Morse*, *Holby City*, *Lovejoy* and *Casualty*.



● Do you recall Lionel Jeffries' time in Euxton? To share memories, call Judith Dornan on 01772 838109.



Win free space on market

BUDDING entrepreneurs are being given the opportunity to win six months rent-free trading space at markets in Preston and Chorley.

The offer is part of the annual Make Your Mark in the Markets competition run by Enterprise UK.

The contest, now in its second year, was set up to enable budding and fledgling entrepreneurs to turn their business ideas into reality.

The 2010 competition is split into two categories. The first is for entrepreneurs who have been trading for less than six months and the other for those growing an existing, but still relatively young, business.

One shortlisted applicant per market will win up to 10 days free trading to prove that their product or service has what it takes to cut it in a real trading environment.

Judges will visit each stall to assess sales, customer feedback and presentation before choosing two national winners who will receive the top prize of six months' free trading and £1,000 towards stock.

Applicants should visit www.enterpriseuk.org/markets. Deadline for entries is March 22.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The 'highbrow' way to shed unwanted hair



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STYLISH: Reena Parekh from M:ask Brow Bar

PRESTON'S first brow bar is opening at The Mall on March 6.

M:ask is run by qualified beauty therapist Reena Parekh and will be the only salon in the city to offer the ancient Indian threading.

Threading is a depilation technique performed using pure cotton thread to remove unwanted hair.

The thread is twisted in between the fingers and rolled along the surface of the skin, entwining the hairs on the face. The twisted action of the thread traps the hairs in the thread and lifts the hair deep within the follicles, leaving the treated area clean and free of any unwanted facial hair.

And it is fast becoming recognised in the Western world as the preferred technique for facial hair removal as it results in clean lines and shapes the face.

Reena has been threading for 14 years and giving treatments to friends and family. She said: "I learnt the

technique from India when I went on holiday. Since then I have been threading all my friends and family.

"In 2004 I went to Preston College and completed a course in beauty therapy to become a fully-qualified beauty therapist.

"Now I feel that I have enough knowledge and experience to be able to give treatments to other people."

Threading is beneficial for everyone, including people with sensitive skin, as it does not cause breakouts or redness or pigmentation like waxing, plucking or shaving.

Threading is a great method of hair removal for both women and men with unwanted facial hair.

If done on a regular basis, threading weakens the follicle, meaning the hair grows back finer.

M:ask will be based on the lower mall, outside H&M.

For more information, contact Reena on 07957 941083 or 01772 864038.