

# paul nicholas just good friends

## Exploring the Heartwarming Tale of **Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends**

When delving into the realm of classic British television and musical theatre, one phrase often emerges: "Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends." This phrase encapsulates a beloved era of entertainment, highlighting the enduring appeal of the sitcom Just Good Friends and the talented actor and singer Paul Nicholas. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the origins of the show, Paul Nicholas's role within it, its cultural significance, and the lasting legacy it has left behind.

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### The Origins of Just Good Friends

#### The Birth of a Classic British Sitcom

Just Good Friends was a British sitcom that originally aired from 1983 to 1984 on the BBC. Created by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, renowned for their work on classic series like The Good Life, the show quickly captivated audiences with its relatable humor and engaging characters.

### Plot Summary and Themes

The series revolves around the lives of two main characters:

- Lynn Booth (played by Jan Francis): A cheerful and optimistic woman navigating her life after a breakup.
- Roy Hudd (later replaced by Paul Nicholas): A charming but somewhat cynical man trying to rebuild his life.

The show explores themes of love, friendship, and second chances, resonating deeply with viewers who appreciated its honest portrayal of everyday life.

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### Paul Nicholas's Role in Just Good Friends

#### Who is Paul Nicholas?

Paul Nicholas is a distinguished English actor, singer, composer, and television personality. Known for his dynamic performances across stage and screen, Nicholas's career spans several decades, making him a household name in the UK.

#### Paul Nicholas's Character in the Series

In Just Good Friends, Paul Nicholas portrayed David, a charismatic and somewhat roguish character who becomes a pivotal figure in the storyline. His character was introduced during the second season as a love interest for Lynn Booth, adding new layers of complexity and humor to the series.

### Key Contributions and Performances

- Charismatic Presence: Nicholas's natural charm brought a fresh energy to the series, making his character instantly likable.
- Comic Timing: His comedic skills enhanced the show's humorous elements.
- Musical Talent: As a talented singer, Nicholas occasionally incorporated musical performances, adding variety to the show.

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## The Impact and Cultural Significance of Just Good Friends

### Viewer Reception and Popularity

Just Good Friends was well-received by audiences, achieving respectable ratings during its run. Its relatable characters and witty writing made it a favorite among sitcom enthusiasts.

### Influence on British Comedy

The series contributed to the evolution of British sitcoms in the 1980s, emphasizing character-driven narratives and situational humor. It also helped pave the way for later shows exploring middle-aged life and romantic relationships.

### Paul Nicholas's Career Boost

His role in Just Good Friends marked a significant milestone, showcasing his versatility as an actor capable of blending humor with emotional depth. The show also benefited from his musical background, allowing for a broader range of performances.

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## Notable Episodes and Highlights

### Memorable Moments from Just Good Friends

- The chemistry between Lynn and David in the episode "Second Chances."
- Comedic exchanges that highlighted Paul Nicholas's timing and delivery.
- Musical interludes performed by Nicholas, adding a unique flavor to select episodes.

### Awards and Nominations

While Just Good Friends did not garner major awards, it received critical praise for its writing and performances, with particular commendation for Nicholas's portrayal of David.

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## Legacy of Just Good Friends

### Influence on Future Television

The show's success influenced subsequent sitcoms that explored mature relationships and realistic characters, such as *As Time Goes By* and *Last of the Summer Wine*.

## Cultural References and Reboots

Although Just Good Friends did not have a formal reboot, its themes and characters continue to be referenced in British pop culture, and reruns remain popular among nostalgic viewers.

## Paul Nicholas's Continued Relevance

Beyond his role in Just Good Friends, Nicholas continued to build a diverse career, including:

- Stage performances in musicals like Jesus Christ Superstar.
- Solo albums and musical collaborations.
- Television appearances in various shows.

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## Why Just Good Friends Remains a Beloved Classic

### Relatable Characters and Themes

The show's focus on everyday struggles and genuine relationships makes it timeless.

### Strong Cast Performances

Paul Nicholas's charismatic portrayal of David contributed significantly to the show's appeal.

### Quality Writing and Production

The collaboration of John Esmonde and Bob Larbey resulted in sharp, heartfelt storytelling that endures.

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## Exploring Paul Nicholas's Broader Career

### From TV to Stage

Paul Nicholas's transition from television to theatre showcased his versatility, including starring roles in major musicals.

### Musical Achievements

His hit singles and albums, such as "Forever Young," cemented his status as a musical performer.

### Contributions to British Entertainment

Nicholas's work continues to influence new generations of performers, blending acting, singing, and songwriting.

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## Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of Just Good Friends and Paul Nicholas

The phrase "Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends" encapsulates a nostalgic admiration for a beloved era of British comedy and musical talent. The show's blend of humor, relatable characters, and heartfelt storytelling, amplified by Nicholas's charismatic performance, has ensured its place in the annals of classic television. Whether through its memorable episodes or Paul Nicholas's versatile talents, Just Good Friends remains a shining example of quality entertainment that continues to delight audiences decades later.

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## FAQs About Just Good Friends and Paul Nicholas

Q1: Was Paul Nicholas a main character in Just Good Friends?

No, Paul Nicholas played a significant supporting role as David, a love interest introduced later in the series.

Q2: Did Just Good Friends win any awards?

While it did not win major awards, it was critically praised and remains a beloved classic.

Q3: What other shows did Paul Nicholas star in?

He appeared in shows like The Benny Hill Show, EastEnders, and starred in musicals such as Jesus Christ Superstar.

Q4: Is Just Good Friends available for streaming?

Some episodes are available on DVD and occasionally on streaming platforms that feature classic British television.

Q5: How did Paul Nicholas influence British entertainment?

Through his work in TV, music, and theatre, he has contributed significantly to the entertainment industry's diversity and richness.

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## Final Thoughts

The enduring appeal of Just Good Friends and the charismatic presence of Paul Nicholas exemplify the magic of British sitcoms and musical theatre. Their combined legacy continues to entertain and inspire audiences, reminding us of the timeless nature of good humor, heartfelt storytelling, and genuine talent. Whether revisiting classic episodes or exploring Nicholas's broader career, fans and newcomers alike can appreciate the rich history behind the phrase "Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends."

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the song 'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas about?

'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas is a reflective song about friendship and the complexities of relationships, emphasizing the value of genuine connections over romantic involvement.

## **Was 'Just Good Friends' a hit for Paul Nicholas?**

While Paul Nicholas is best known for his hit 'Donna,' 'Just Good Friends' is appreciated by fans for its heartfelt lyrics, though it did not achieve major chart success.

## **In which album or compilation can I find 'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas?**

The song appears on Paul Nicholas's compilation albums and some of his 1970s albums, often featured as a notable track highlighting his vocal style.

## **Did Paul Nicholas write 'Just Good Friends' himself?**

Yes, 'Just Good Friends' was written by Paul Nicholas, showcasing his songwriting talents alongside his performing career.

## **Has 'Just Good Friends' been covered by other artists?**

There are no widely known covers of 'Just Good Friends,' but the song remains a favorite among fans and is sometimes performed in tribute or live settings.

## **Is 'Just Good Friends' related to the TV show or film 'Just Good Friends'?**

No, 'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas is a separate song and is not directly related to the British sitcom 'Just Good Friends' or any film of the same name.

## **What genre does 'Just Good Friends' belong to?**

The song is primarily classified as pop/soft rock, reflecting Paul Nicholas's musical style in the 1970s.

## **Are there any notable live performances of 'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas?**

Yes, Paul Nicholas has performed 'Just Good Friends' in various live concerts, often highlighting its emotional depth and lyrical significance.

## **How has 'Just Good Friends' influenced Paul Nicholas's career?**

'Just Good Friends' is considered one of the songs that showcase Paul Nicholas's songwriting ability, contributing to his reputation as a versatile artist in the 1970s.

## **Where can I listen to 'Just Good Friends' by Paul Nicholas online?**

You can find 'Just Good Friends' on major streaming platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube, often on compilations of Paul Nicholas's music.

# Additional Resources

Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends is a classic television series that has left an indelible mark on British entertainment history. First aired in the early 1980s, this sitcom captures the humorous and often poignant nuances of friendship, love, and everyday life. With its engaging characters, witty dialogue, and relatable scenarios, the show continues to garner praise from audiences and critics alike. In this comprehensive review, we'll delve into the show's origins, themes, characters, production quality, and legacy, providing a detailed analysis that highlights its strengths and areas for improvement.

## Overview and Background

Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends originated as a British sitcom that first graced television screens in 1983. Created by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, renowned for their work on classic series like "The Good Life" and "Ever Decreasing Circles," the show aimed to explore the humorous side of human relationships in a relatable urban setting. The series ran for four seasons, concluding in 1986, and featured a stellar cast led by Paul Nicholas, whose charismatic performance as Vince Pinner became iconic.

Set in London, the series centers around Vince Pinner, a charming, somewhat cheeky man navigating the challenges of romantic relationships, friendship, and career setbacks. His interactions with friends, family, and romantic interests form the core of the narrative, often highlighting the humorous contradictions of modern life. The show's writing combines sharp wit with heartfelt moments, making it both entertaining and emotionally resonant.

## Plot and Themes

### Plot Summary

At its core, Just Good Friends follows Vince Pinner's journey through the ups and downs of romantic pursuit and friendship. The series begins with Vince's initial romantic misadventures, including his pursuit of various women and his attempts to balance personal aspirations with social obligations. Over the seasons, viewers see Vince develop as a character, experiencing both successes and setbacks that reflect the universal struggles of love and friendship.

The plotlines are interwoven with comedic moments that arise from Vince's interactions with his close-knit circle—his best friend, his family members, and the women he dates. These storylines often feature misunderstandings, humorous dialogues, and moments of genuine tenderness, which altogether create a well-rounded portrayal of adult life.

### Themes Explored

- **Friendship and Loyalty:** The series emphasizes the importance of steadfast friends who support each other through thick and thin.
- **Romantic Relationships:** It explores the complexities of dating, commitment, and the pursuit of love.
- **Work-Life Balance:** Vince's career uncertainties mirror the broader theme of balancing personal aspirations with everyday responsibilities.

- Humor in Ordinary Life: The sitcom celebrates the comedic elements inherent in mundane routines, misunderstandings, and human folly.
- Emotional Growth: Characters evolve over the series, learning from their mistakes and growing emotionally.

## Characters and Performances

### Main Characters

- Vince Pinner (Paul Nicholas): The charming, quick-witted protagonist whose charismatic personality drives much of the show's appeal. Nicholas's performance balances comic timing with moments of vulnerability, making Vince a relatable and likable character.
- Betty Pinner (Gilly Coman): Vince's patient and often amused wife, providing a grounding presence. Her interactions with Vince often serve as comedic counterpoints.
- Lyn Pinner (Diana Weston): Vince's sister, who offers sisterly advice and adds depth to the family dynamics.
- Frank (Gerald Sim): A wise and often humorous friend of Vince, representing the older generation's perspective.

### Supporting Characters

The supporting cast includes a variety of women Vince dates, friends, and work colleagues. Their diverse personalities introduce different comedic and dramatic elements, enriching the narrative.

#### Performance Highlights

- Paul Nicholas's portrayal of Vince is widely praised for its natural charisma and comedic timing.
- Gilly Coman's Betty offers a perfect foil to Vince's antics, delivering humor with warmth.
- The chemistry among cast members contributes significantly to the series' enduring appeal.

## Production Quality and Direction

#### Visual and Cinematic Elements

Just Good Friends features traditional multi-camera sitcom production, with studio sets reflecting typical British homes and cityscapes. The camera work is straightforward, focusing on character interactions and comedic timing rather than elaborate visuals.

#### Sound and Music

The series' soundtrack includes a memorable theme tune that encapsulates the lighthearted tone of the show. Sound design is minimal but effective in emphasizing punchlines and emotional beats.

## Direction

Led by experienced directors, the pacing of the series maintains a brisk rhythm, balancing comedic timing with character development. The direction ensures that each episode feels cohesive, engaging, and true to the series' tone.

# Strengths and Features

## Pros

- Engaging and relatable characters that reflect everyday British life.
- Sharp, witty writing with a mix of humor and heartfelt moments.
- Strong performances, especially by Paul Nicholas.
- Timeless themes of friendship, love, and personal growth.
- Well-paced episodes that balance comedy and drama.
- Notable for its portrayal of middle-aged relationships and social dynamics.

## Cons

- Some comedy may feel dated to modern audiences.
- Limited diversity in character backgrounds, reflecting the era's social context.
- Certain plotlines rely on stereotypical portrayals of gender roles.
- Production values are typical of the period, which might seem simplistic to contemporary viewers.

# Legacy and Cultural Impact

Just Good Friends holds a special place in British television history. Its honest depiction of adult relationships and friendship resonated with viewers in the 1980s and continues to be appreciated by fans of classic sitcoms. The show contributed to the careers of its cast, especially Paul Nicholas, who gained widespread recognition for his role.

The series influenced later British comedies that explored similar themes of everyday life and relationships. Its portrayal of middle-aged characters navigating love and friendship was somewhat ahead of its time, offering a nuanced perspective often lacking in sitcoms centered on younger protagonists.

Furthermore, the series has experienced periodic reruns and has been made available on various streaming platforms, allowing new generations to appreciate its humor and warmth.

# Conclusion

Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends is a quintessential example of British sitcoms that blend humor with genuine human emotion. Its well-crafted characters, sharp writing, and relatable themes make it a timeless piece of television. While some elements may feel rooted in the era's social norms, its core

messages about friendship, love, and personal growth remain relevant today.

For fans of classic sitcoms or those interested in exploring British television history, Just Good Friends offers a delightful mix of comedy and heart. It stands as a testament to the enduring power of well-written, character-driven comedy that celebrates the quirks and comforts of everyday life.

### Summary of Key Features

- Engaging portrayal of adult friendships and romantic pursuits
- Memorable performances, especially by Paul Nicholas
- Witty dialogue and heartfelt moments
- Reflective of 1980s British social dynamics
- Enduring legacy as a beloved classic sitcom

### Final Verdict

Just Good Friends remains a highly recommended series for those seeking a warm, humorous, and honest depiction of life's everyday struggles and joys. Its blend of comedy and tenderness continues to resonate, making it a noteworthy addition to the canon of British television comedy.

## [Paul Nicholas Just Good Friends](#)

**paul nicholas just good friends: Only Fools and Horses - The Official Inside Story** Steve Clark, Theo Paphitis, 2011-08-30 Only Fools and Horses - The Official Inside Story takes us behind the scenes to reveal the secrets of the hit show and is fully authorised by the family of John Sullivan, the show's creator and writer. The book is based on dozens of one-to-one interviews conducted by author Steve Clark with the show's stars including Sir David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst and key members of the production team.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Love Always** Harriet Evans, 2011-06-21 A compelling and heartrending tale of lost love, family secrets, and those little moments that can change your life forever. When Natasha Kapoor returns to her grandparents' idyllic coastal home for her beloved grandmother's funeral, her life is at a turning point. She thought by now she'd be a successful jewelry designer in London with a perfect marriage. Instead, she's got mounting bills and a soon-to-be ex. After the funeral, Natasha's grandfather gives her the long-lost diary of her aunt Cecily. No one in her large and complicated family has ever discussed the tragic accident that took Cecily's life as a teenager, and within the diary's pages, Natasha finds a gripping and shocking tale of forbidden love, rivalry, and heartbreak. Nearly fifty years later, will Cecily's diary finally explain her family's dark past and the terrible secret her aunt left behind? Is it possible it's just the inspiration Natasha needs to take a fresh look at her future, and maybe even give love a second chance? Fans of Jennifer Weiner and Emily Giffin will get hooked on internationally bestselling author Harriet Evans's warm, witty, and absorbing novel filled with original, rootworthy characters and complex family issues.

**paul nicholas just good friends: HOPEFUL - an autobiography** Omid Djalili, 2014-08-28 Omid Djalili's childhood was unconventional, to say the least. He was raised in a beautiful, chaotic, cramped, colourful and legally dubious guesthouse where his parents fed and watered Iranian nationals flocking to the UK. Over twenty years almost 2000 'cousins' passed through the Djalili's doors and the young Omid played translator to each. Although these years taught him a lot about the rich tapestry of life, this parenting by committee led to a slightly chequered school career which saw

Omid taking his A levels a record six times and eventually fake his own university entrance papers. Desperate to be free of his cramped living quarters he escapes to the University of Ulster where he lives a life of wonderful solitude. Full of the warmth and intelligence that makes Omid such a successful comedian and sought-after actor, this memoir takes us on an incredible and laugh-out-loud funny journey through an unusually British life.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Mind the Bollocks** Johnny Sharp, 2012-08-02 Popular music has always attracted the kind of morally bankrupt individuals who are too unhinged to hold down a proper job. And that's just as well. After all, if your local fishmonger told you he'd just snorted his father's ashes, you might think twice about doing business with him. But when Keith Richards says it, you think 'Nice one, Keef!' and have a flick through your iPod to find 'Honky Tonk Women'. From deeply suspect sexual politics to crackpot religions, musicians' elevated position in popular culture allows them to hold forth freely on subjects about which they know precious little. For the first time, Mind The Bollocks collects some of the finest stools of wisdom ever to fall from their foul, ill-educated mouths. Mind The Bollocks also digs beneath the culture of nonsense surrounding popular music and asks: Are the X-Factor auditions all they appear to be? Is there really a musical frequency that can make you soil yourself? And which world-renowned rock guitarist sliced his own penis off? All is revealed herein, with bonus satanic messages included if you read it backwards. Word count: 40,000

**paul nicholas just good friends: Britain's Heroes and Villains** Navdeep Rehill, 2013-08-23 There was a time when people in Britain weren't interested in the antics of American wrestlers. We had our own grappling superstars. Navdeep Rehill looks back at how the likes of Big Daddy, Giant Haystacks, Les Kellet and Young David used to entertain us on ITV'S World of Sport show every Saturday afternoon. He also reminisces about British heroes and villains that didn't compete in the wrestling ring.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Sir David Jason - A Life of Laughter** Stafford Hildred, Stafford Hildred & Tim Ewbank, 2012-09-03 David Jason is Britain's best-loved star. From his wonderful characterisation of Del Boy in Only Fools and Horses to Detective Jack Frost and Mr Micawber, he has captured the heart of a nation. This remarkable biography traces the life of Britain's favourite actor from his humble roots in north London through his days as an electrician to Sir David Jason, the icon we all know and love. Recruited to an early Monty Python project for his masterful sense of timing, David soon attracted the attention of Ronnie Barker with whom he appeared in episodes of the classic BBC comedy series Porridge and Open All Hours. He has gone on to create many of television's popular and enduring characters, earning numerous accolades, including the Royal Television Society's Award for Best Actor, a Top Television Comedy Actor at the British Comedy Awards and a BAFTA fellowship for his outstanding contribution to television. He also received the ultimate tribute in 2005; a knighthood from the Queen. Revealing the man behind Del Boy, Pop Larkin and Jack Frost, this authoritative biography offers valuable insight into his life and loves, covering the tragic loss of his partner of eighteen years, Myfanwy Talog, and the joy of his secret wedding to new love Gill Hinchcliffe, and the birth of their daughter Sophie Mae. It paints a complete portrait of one of England's funniest and most talented actors; a true national treasure.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Welcome to Just a Minute!** Nicholas Parsons, 2014-08-18 'A joyous compendium of facts, fun and stories. This hilarious and informative guide is destined to become the companion to radio's most enduring panel game' PAUL MERTON In this first ever official companion, chairman Nicholas Parsons tells the fascinating story of the much-loved panel game and Graham Norton, Sue Perkins, Jenny Eclair and Gyles Brandreth share their memories of the show. Over the decades, the greats of British comedy have entertained Just a Minute listeners with performances that have come to define our comic heritage - from Kenneth Williams' outrageously funny 'battles' with Sheila Hancock, Clement Freud's acerbic wit and Derek Nimmo's tall tales to Paul Merton's imaginative flights of fancy, Julian Clary's flagrant innuendos and Pam Ayres' poetic humour. Welcome to Just a Minute! is an entertaining journey through British comedy history and a master class in comic timing, verbal dexterity and sharp one-liners.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Raising Laughter** Robert Sellers, 2021-09-01 The 1970s were the era of the three-day week, the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the winter of discontent, trade union Bolshevism and wildcat strikes. Through sitcoms, *Raising Laughter* provides a fresh look at one of our most divisive and controversial decades. Aside from providing entertainment to millions of people, the sitcom is a window into the culture of the day. Many of these sitcoms tapped into the decade's sense of cynicism, failure and alienation, providing much-needed laughter for the masses. Shows like *Rising Damp* and *Fawlty Towers* were classic encapsulations of worn-out, run-down Britain, while the likes of *Dad's Army* looked back sentimentally at a romanticised English past. For the first time, the stories behind the making of every sitcom from the 1970s are told by the actors, writers, directors and producers who made them all happen. This is nostalgia with a capital N, an oral history, the last word, and an affectionate salute to the kind of comedy programme that just isn't made anymore.

**paul nicholas just good friends: *The A-Z of 1980s British Comedy*** Brian Carver, 2025-02-10 The 1980s was a golden age for British comedy. There were many sitcoms made, with traditional series such as *Yes, Minister* and *Only Fools and Horses*, as well as new inventive shows such as *The Young Ones*. A new style of alternative comedy created many memorable shows. As well as sitcoms, there were a huge number of sketch and stand up comedy shows, both traditional and more radical in style. Find out more about the huge range of comedy in Britain in 1980s with this book.

**paul nicholas just good friends: *The Golden Age of Children's TV*** Tim Worthington, 2024-10-24 For decades, British children's TV was surely the finest entertainment in the world. From *Thunderbirds* to *The Clangers*, *Blue Peter* to *Magpie*, *Camberwick Green* to *Tiswas*, and *Captain Pugwash* to *The Magic Roundabout*, there was a huge variety on offer for kids - and adults - to enjoy. Now, in *The Golden Age of Children's TV*, Tim Worthington brings back the joy of those times and the programmes we loved, sharing a deep-dive behind the scenes of key programmes, how they came about and the stories behind the shows. From Saturday morning telly to teatime favourites, discover everything you never knew about the programmes you loved as well as the gossip from behind-the-scenes. Written with affection but also with a wry appreciation of the shortcomings of the times, this is the hugely engaging and entertaining story of a key part of our pop culture, from a time long before streaming and the internet, when we sat down together to watch brilliant British telly.

**paul nicholas just good friends: *The Ultimate Pub Quiz*** Pinkmint Publications, 2007-03-01 *The Ultimate Pub Quiz*

**paul nicholas just good friends: *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography 2005-2008*** Lawrence Goldman, 2013-03-07 Who made modern Britain? This book, drawn from the award-winning *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, tells the story of our recent past through the lives of those who shaped national life. Following on from the *Oxford DNB's* first supplement volume-noteworthy people who died between 2001 and 2004-this new volume offers biographies of more than 850 men and women who left their mark on twentieth and twenty-first century Britain, and who died in the years 2005 to 2008. Here are the people responsible for major developments in national life: from politics, the arts, business, technology, and law to military service, sport, education, science, and medicine. Many are closely connected to specific periods in Britain's recent history. From the 1950s, the young Harold Pinter or the Yorkshire cricketer, Fred Trueman, for example. From the Sixties, the footballer George Best, photographer Patrick Lichfield, and the Pink Floyd musician, Syd Barrett. It's hard to look back to the 1970s without thinking of Edward Heath and James Callaghan, who led the country for seven years in that turbulent decade; or similarly Freddie Laker, pioneer of budget air travel, and the comedians Ronnie Barker and Dave Allen who entertained with their sketch shows and sit coms. A decade later you probably browsed in Anita Roddick's *Body Shop*, or danced to the music of *Factory Records*, established by the Manchester entrepreneur, Tony Wilson. In the 1990s you may have hoped that 'Things can only get better' with a New Labour government which included Robin Cook and Mo Mowlam. Many in this volume are

remembered for lives dedicated to a profession or cause: Bill Deedes or Conor Cruise O'Brien in journalism; Ned Sherrin in broadcasting or, indeed, Ted Heath whose political career spanned more than 50 years. Others were responsible for discoveries or innovations of lasting legacy and benefit-among them the epidemiologist Richard Doll, who made the link between smoking and lung cancer, Cicely Saunders, creator of the hospice movement, and Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans. With John Profumo-who gave his name to a scandal-police-man Malcolm Fewtrell-who investigated the Great Train Robbery-or the Russian dissident Aleksandr Litvinenko-who was killed in London in 2006-we have individuals best known for specific moments in our recent past. Others are synonymous with popular objects and experiences evocative of recent decades: Mastermind with Magnus Magnusson, the PG-Tips chimpanzees trained by Molly Badham, John DeLorean's 'gull-wing' car, or the new British Library designed by Colin St John Wilson-though, as rounded and balanced accounts, Oxford DNB biographies also set these events in the wider context of a person's life story. Authoritative and accessible, the biographies in this volume are written by specialist authors, many of them leading figures in their field. Here you will find Michael Billington on Harold Pinter, Michael Crick on George Best, Richard Davenport-Hines on Anita Roddick, Brenda Hale on Rose Heilbron, Roy Hattersley on James Callaghan, Simon Heffer on John Profumo, Douglas Hurd on Edward Heath, Alex Jennings on Paul Scofield, Hermione Lee on Pat Kavanagh, Geoffrey Wheatcroft on Conor Cruise O'Brien, and Peregrine Worsthorne on Bill Deedes. Many in this volume are, naturally, household names. But a good number are also remembered for lives away from the headlines. What in the 1980s became 'Thatcherism' owed much to behind the scenes advice from Ralph Harris and Alfred Sherman; children who learned to read with Ladybird Books must thank their creator, Douglas Keen; while, without its first producer, Verity Lambert, there would have been no Doctor Who. Others are 'ordinary' people capable of remarkable acts. Take, for instance, Arthur Bywater who over two days in 1944 cleared thousands of bombs from a Liverpool munitions factory following an explosion-only to do the same, months later, in another factory. Awarded the George Cross and the George Medal, Bywater remains the only non-combatant to have received Britain's two highest awards for civilian bravery.

**paul nicholas just good friends: All in the Best Possible Taste** Tom Bromley, 2010-08-19  
Television past, as LP Hartley might have once said, is another country. And, in the early 1980s it certainly was a different beast. There were still only three channels to watch; the evening's programmes finished with the playing of the national anthem; and the biggest prize on TV was not Chris Tarrant's million pounds but a speedboat on Bullseye . . . But as Tom Bromley suggests in this funny and warming memoir, all that was about to change: The 1980s saw the end of the original golden era of television, and the beginnings of TV as we know it today. In 1982, Channel 4 became the first new terrestrial channel for almost twenty years and by the end of the decade, Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television was vying to become Britain's first multi-channel provider. The result of all this was that slowly but surely, British viewers had more choice than ever before and the cost of this choice was the erosion of television as a shared national event. And no-one felt this change more deeply than Tom Bromley. Television played a large part in Tom's childhood. His first word was 'two', as in BBC Two, and his earliest childhood memory is seeing Johnny Ball at a church fete. With great humour and affection, Tom Bromley tells the story of a childhood spent with his three siblings and that other all-important family member; the television set.

**paul nicholas just good friends: Complete UK Hit Albums 1956-2005** Graham Betts, 2005  
The most complete guide to every artist and album that has ever charted in the UK Album chart, with details on over 14,800 albums and biographies on every one of the 3,180 acts that have appeared since the chart first started in 1958. From a Top Ten in 1958, the album chart has grown in both size and stature over the years. Increased to a Top Twenty in 1960, the chart grew to a Top 30 by 1966, a Top 40 later that year, a Top 50 in 1971, a Top 75 in 1978 and a Top 100 in 1981. By 1989, when compilation albums and soundtracks were a major factor in the chart, a decision was taken to produce two charts; a Top 75 artist chart and a Top 20 compilation chart. Every single entry on all these charts is included in Collins Complete UK Hit Albums. 3,180 acts have registered just

over 11,300 hit albums; also listed are the approximately 3,500 soundtracks and compilation albums that have also hit the charts. Hit Singles: a brief biography of each of the 3,180 or so artists who have had hit albums, details of BPI awards, Platinum Europe awards and RIAA Diamond awards and details of BRIT, Grammy awards and US Number Ones. Just as with the single chart, the album chart is not without its peculiarities and so you will learn of the album that took nearly four years to hit the number one spot, the album by Sigur Ros that had no title as opposed to that by Fiona Apple which registered the longest title (all 89 words), the artists whose chart career consists of a single week at position 100 as opposed to Fleetwood Mac's Rumours which has spent 477 weeks on the chart, including one week at number one.

**paul nicholas just good friends:** The Ultimate Biography Of The Bee Gees: Tales Of The Brothers Gibb Melinda Bilyeu, Hector Cook, Andrew Môn Hughes, 2011-01-01 The definitive biography, now updated to include the death of Robin Gibb in May 2012. The Bee Gee's journey from Fifties child act to musical institution is one of pop's most turbulent legends. Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb somehow managed to survive changing musical fashions and bitter personal feuds to create musical partnership that has already lasted four times as long as The Beatles. Described by the authors as their objective tribute, this unflinching biography chronicles everything - the good, the bad... and the bushed-up. Youthful delinquency, disastrous marriages, bitter lawsuits, gay sex scandals, serious drug problems and the death of younger brother Andy have sometimes made the personal lives of the Brothers Gibb look as bleak as the low spots of a career that once reduced them to playing the Batley Variety Club. Yet every time the Bee Gees roller coaster seemed derailed for good, they recorded and went on to even greater triumphs. Today they are revered among pop music's all-time great performers, producers and songwriters. But the true story of their success and the high price they paid for it has never been fully revealed... until now. This new edition of The Ultimate Biography incorporates a complete listing of every song written or recorded by the Gibbs.

**paul nicholas just good friends:** *BBC Worldwide* , 1995

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