

Old and lonely people

THE ZIMMERS

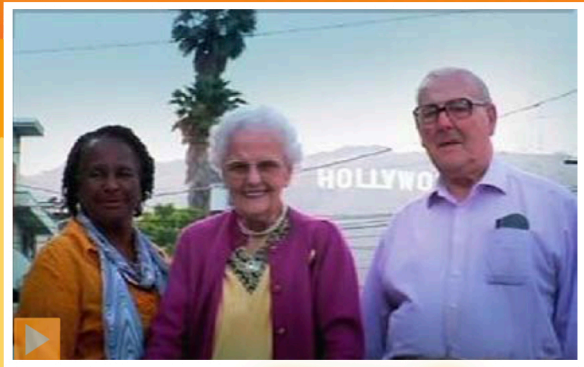
PREVIEW

- 1 What sort of life would you like when you are older? What problems do you think other people sometimes have?
- 2 Read the programme information and answer the questions.
 - 1 Who are The Zimmers?
 - 2 What makes The Zimmers different to other rock groups?
 - 3 How did they become famous?
 - 4 Why are they going to America?

BBC Power To The People: The Zimmers Go To Hollywood.

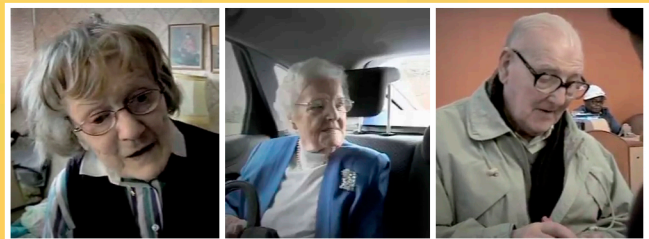
Power To The People is a BBC documentary series. For this episode, film-maker Tim Samuels wanted to make a film about what it's like being old in Britain. So he found a group of people who had something to say, and they started a rock band. 'The Zimmers*' were born. With a combined age of over 3,000, they are the world's oldest rock band. They went to the famous Abbey Road studios to record a version of The Who's song, *My Generation*. It became an instant success on YouTube. Now, they're off to Hollywood to appear on America's biggest chat show. Tim Samuels follows them in the studio and on their travels.

* A zimmer frame – a frame that helps people to walk



VIEW

- 3 Watch the video and choose the correct alternative.
 - 1 Three years ago Alf/Joan/Winnie fell and injured herself. The only time she leaves her home is when she needs to go to the doctor or the dentist.
 - 2 Alf/Joan/Winnie is ninety-nine years old. She lives in care homes, but she can't find one she likes. She left her last home because she was bored.
 - 3 Alf/Joan/Winnie likes to meet his friends and play bingo. Now the bingo club is closing and he is worried he will lose his friends.



Joan

Winnie

Alf

- 4 Answer the questions.
 - 1 How do you think the Zimmers changed Alf, Joan and Winnie's lives?
 - 2 Do you think it was a good idea to form a rock band? Do you think it will change things for older people?
- 5 Have you heard the song "Eleanor Rigby"? Who was it written by? What is it about?



HOLLYWOOD

Eleanor Rigby

by John Lennon and Paul McCartney



Vocabulary

jar [dʒɑː] a wide-mouthed cylindrical container made of glass or pottery, especially one used for storing food

keep (kept)

to keep a family — содержать семью

to keep house — вести хозяйство

to keep in touch (with) — поддерживать отношения, поддерживать контакт

sermon ['sɜːmən] a talk on a religious subject during a church service based on a passage from the Bible

darn [dɑːn]

to darn socks — to repair socks

care [keə] беспокоиться, тревожиться, волноваться

Who cares? — **разг.** Не всё ли равно?

I don't care what they say. — Мне всё равно, что они скажут.

He doesn't care a bit. — Ему наплевать.

What do I care? — Мне-то что?

bury ['beri] that's what people do with dead bodies

wipe [waɪp] вытирать, протирать, утирать

to wipe one's eyes — осушить слёзы

to wipe one's hands on a towel — вытирать руки полотенцем

He wiped the dishes dry. — Он досуха вытер всю посуду.

Using a second cloth, wipe the floor dry

dirt ← dirty

[dɜːt]

grave [greɪv] that's what you see on the right of the left picture

Complete the gaps:

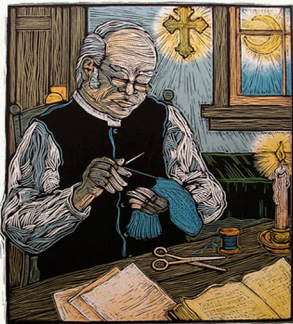
Ah look at all the lonely
Ah look at all the lonely

Eleanor Rigby, picks up the
In the church where a wedding
Lives in a dream

Waits at the , wearing the
That she keeps in a jar by
Who is it for

All the lonely people
Where do they all
All the lonely people
they all belong?

Father McKenzie the words
Of a sermon that no one will
No one comes near
Look at him , darning his socks
In the night when there's there
What does he care

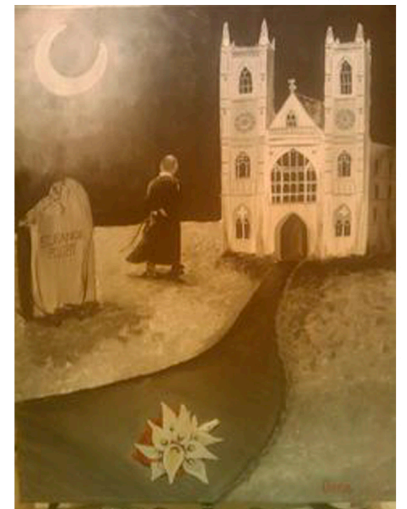


All the lonely people
Where do they all
All the lonely people
they all belong?

Ah look at all the lonely
Ah look at all the lonely

Eleanor Rigby in the church
And was buried along with her name
Nobody
Father McKenzie, wiping the dirt
From his as he from the grave
No one was saved

All the lonely people
Where do they all
All the lonely people
they all belong?



Eleanor Rigby

Ah look at all the lonely people
Ah look at all the lonely people

Eleanor Rigby, picks up the rice
In the church where a wedding has been
Lives in a dream
Waits at the window, wearing the face
That she keeps in a jar by the door
Who is it for

All the lonely people
Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people
Where do they all belong?

Father McKenzie, writing the words
Of a sermon that no one will hear
No one comes near
Look at him working, darning his socks
In the night when there's nobody there
What does he care

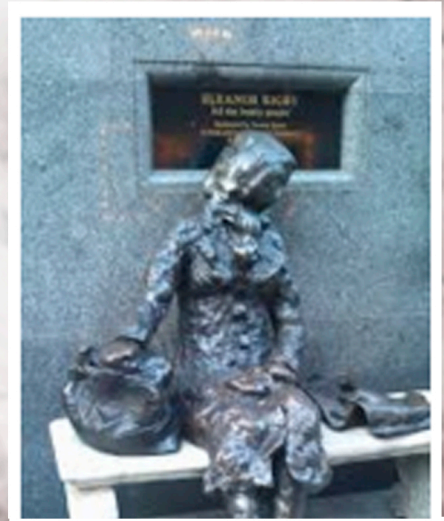


All the lonely people
Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people
Where do they all belong?

Ah look at all the lonely people
Ah look at all the lonely people

Eleanor Rigby, died in the church
And was buried along with her name
Nobody came
Father McKenzie, wiping the dirt
From his hands as he walks from the grave
No one was saved

All the lonely people
Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people
Where do they all belong?





Eleanor Rigby Story

It was at a church festival in 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney first met... just yards away from the grave of scullery maid Eleanor Rigby, who had died in 1939.

maid - girl servant

scullery - small room for washing dishes

Nine years later, when Paul McCartney was writing the lyrics about a lonely old woman who "died in the church and was buried along with her name", he had the name Daisy Hawkins in his mind. Later he changed it to Eleanor Bygraves, after the actress, who starred with the Beatles in the film HELP! But McCartney wanted the name to sound natural, so he changed the surname to Rigby.

It is possible that Paul McCartney saw the Rigby grave and kept the name in his memory, but actually nobody knows.

The gravestone itself is regularly visited by guided tours.



And an Eleanor Rigby sculpture can be found in Stanly Street in Liverpool.

Music critics describe the song as "perfect", both in its melodies and its representation of an old woman of the time.

Read all the questions and make a story.

- 1 Do people have more problems when they get old?
- 2 Is there a problem with how old people live in your country?
- 3 Are their pensions big enough for a decent standard of living?
- 4 What is the retirement age?
- 5 What do people do after they retire?

You might need these words:

retirement /care homes
tramps (homeless people)
on the verge of poverty
in dire poverty

an emergency state flat



grubbing about in rubbish
in search for food



a house falling into ruin



6 Can they afford paid doctors, travelling, sports etc.?

7 Do the old use the Internet?

8 Is there a difference between how pensioners spend their time in your country and in other countries?