

## Characters

<http://www.pomeroyofportsmouth.uk/portsmouth-local-history.html>

### Bird Fortune Teller

An old woman stood in Pier Road with a cage of Lovebirds on a pram  
The cage had a gallery around it filled with tiny envelopes. For around  
6d she would get a bird to peck out an envelope and that was your  
fortune 9

### Blackman

American born in Barnum & Baileys Circus in Connecticut, Pete Cornell 9  
Lived on corner of North Street and Blossom Alley had 15 children 9  
1930s Busked in Commercial Road area, dressed in check suit would sing, dance,  
tap dance and play the bones 9  
He could also turn a double somersault un-aided. 9  
Sometimes teamed up with a peg legged busker. 9  
Also played outside the Coliseum, Hippodrome and pubs 9

### Blind Fanny

An objectionable women who always said "Take me across the road"  
With no please or thank you 9

### Blind Woman

Sat by Southsea Castle with her dog and a basket of wares  
A widow Mrs Bailey, lived at 25 Stone Street with Mrs King 9  
Mrs King took her down to her pitch everyday 9

### Bunky-doodle-I-doh

Alf Nicholson  
1914 Born  
Lived with his adoptive parents, Eric Adye in Sultan Road 9  
Went to New Road School  
Self taught piano-accordionist 9  
Gained his nickname as his 'theme' song was a Jack Hylton band  
number sung by Leslie Sarony "Bunky-doodle-I-doh"  
Appeared on Carroll Levis Discovery Show at the Old Empire 9  
Entertained the queues on an old concertina singing Bunky Doodle  
I doh follow the Sergeant Major 9  
Favourite song She Walks The Bloody Tower but he would never say  
Bloody instead he sang what's its name tower 9  
1939 Found to be unfit for war service due to chest problems 9  
Played in tunnels under hill 9  
Worked in the Dockyard during the war 9  
After the war he played the accordion to cinema queues 9  
Helped with boy's club opposite St Marys 9  
Made large Meccano model including Queen Elizabeth or Mary 9  
Sold Football Mail at the top of Sultan Road 9  
1980-88 Attended WEA Local History Group  
1988 Died 9

### Dynamite

Played the piano in pubs around Somers Road, Grantham, Bakers Arms,  
was also an acrobat 9  
1940s Well known to people in Charlotte Street area where he would cycle  
around wearing shorts and wellington boots 9  
Behind the saddle was a mast with a sail and battery operated port  
and starboard lights 9  
He was last seen cycling around Paulsgrove 9

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### Gramophone Man

Had both legs cut off above the knee, sat in a wheelchair. He had a gramophone and was accompanied by a poor, twisted, wizened scrap of a man who played the bones 9

### Hurdy-Gurdy Man

Wore a cap with ear flaps 9

### Harry Ingamills

Played the accordion and sang Marta to Theatre Royal Queues 9

### King Neptune

Wore a costume covered with shells  
Alfred George Wilkins, 22 Albert Grove

### Megaphone Man

Went around the streets singing through a cardboard megaphone, favourite song was Pennies from Heaven 9

### Merry Andrew

Had a pitch in Eastney side of South Parade Pier where he entertained with ventriloquist dolls Gussie, George, Jane and the Galloping Major 9  
1934 52 Kings Road 1

### Music Box Man

1930s Nautical busker with peg leg and small music box sat on corner of Gordon Road and Pier Road 9

### Newfoundland Dog Man

A blind man who stood with his dog under the last of the few remaining Elm Trees in Elm Grove and sold Old Moore's Almanacs 9

### Norman Empire

The Pearly DJ  
1923 Born Albert Norman Hayter 9  
While working at Royal Beach Hotel as page boy joined the Little Southsea Entertainers. 9  
Invalided out of army in World War II, toured air raid shelters with portable gramophone. 9  
Later went around old peoples homes and clubs under the name Norman Empire 9  
Jul 1998 Died in nursing home. 9

### Piano Man

Used to play the piano in Charlotte Street market, the piano was pulled there by a blind pit pony. Visits stopped after the pony was found dead one day 9

### Piccolo Joe

1920s/1930s Played his piccolo in football crowds home and away 9

### Postcard Man

He wore an old fashioned white sailor suit, and had a hook for one hand. He sold picture postcards along the seafront 9

### Punch & Judy Showman

1891 William Pettitt, 105 Charlotte Street 171

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### Sailor with no hands

James Lodder, lost both arms in 1876 while serving on HMITS Jumma, used to sell Naval artifacts and views of Solent from telescope near the Victory Anchor 9

### Singer

Sang Hearts of Oak on weekdays and Rock of Ages on Sundays 9

### Singing Gypsy

Sold fish and sea-food, in Sackville Street area 9  
Appeared on London Palladium as Singing Gypsy, Theatre Royal 9  
Danny Purchase or Purches of Edinburgh Road 9

### Southam & Purchase

One played piano accordian, one sang 9

### Tandem Taxi

John Boyle  
1958 Sitting on a tandem by the Dockyard he was asked to give a lift,  
at the destination he was given a tip and decided to start Jack's Tandem  
Taxi Service 9  
1964 Closed 9  
17 Jan 1997 Died 9

### Tooth Man

Smart man who sold teeth cleaning powder in the Charlotte Street area 9

### Trumpet Man

Harry Schoffield  
Played trumpet to theatre queues 9