

## Freedom of expression

THE SWINGING SIXTIES introduced major social and economic changes across a Western world that metaphorically switched from monochrome to Technicolor. In the UK, freedom of expression in song and behaviour saw a revolution in popular music with groups from the UK dominating the music charts. 'Baby boomers' in the UK had become teenagers. They wanted their own music, while London's Carnaby Street ruled fashion and the ubiquitous Mini car and miniskirt became favourites.

The invention of the contraceptive pill produced many changes in society and its values. There was more freedom in relationships, and women pursued many varied careers. The move to bring the UK into Europe began.

On 12 April 1961, the Soviet Union put the first man into space; Major Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth in 108 minutes. Down on Earth, a pop group called The Beatles were rejected by recording company Decca because 'experts believe they will never make it to the music charts', before they became icons of the era.

A decade of freedom that saw the Woodstock music festival and the hippy movement ended spectacularly with man's first space travel outside Earth's atmosphere. On 21 July 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon for the first time and ended the space race begun in the late 1950s.

Ask any male in England the greatest achievement of the 1960s and they would probably reply that it was England's victory at Wembley in the 1966 Football World Cup.

The decade also saw a spate of major overseas political developments. In Europe, the building of the Berlin Wall, in August 1961, separated East and West Germany leading to tension between the major powers.

It wasn't just in Europe that there were major changes. In Africa, and around the world, colonies became independent. As the decade began the world learnt that there was a township called Sharpeville in South Africa where 72 black Africans were massacred as they protested against carrying identification papers. The British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, declared in Cape Town, in

'...I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth.'  
President John F Kennedy



After his assassination in Dallas in 1963, President John F Kennedy, seen here in 1961 launching the US space programme to land a man on the moon as a response to the much decorated Yuri Gagarin's space flight, was commemorated on the half-dollar coin. Five years later, his younger brother Robert was murdered in Los Angeles during his 1968 presidential primary campaign.



1960 'The wind of change is blowing through this continent and, whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact'. Southern Rhodesia unilaterally declared independence.

Also at the beginning of the decade, the USA's difficult relationship with the USSR deteriorated after Gary Powers was captured when his U2 spy plane was shot down. In 1961, US concerns over Cuba grew and a bungled attempt by the American military to invade at the Bay of Pigs was defeated by Cuban troops. The following year a US blockade prevented the deployment of Russian missiles in Cuba: the Western powers were, temporarily, on the brink of nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

Vietnam was a country that many people had not heard of in the early Sixties. The defeat of the French colonial regime by communist forces saw the USA gradually becoming involved in that country, leading to troops being sent in the mid-Sixties and a war that lasted until the middle of the 1970s.

Among the speeches made during the 1960s, Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' still echoes around the world. John Kennedy's 'Ich bin ein Berliner' speech, in which he also said 'All free men, wherever they live, are citizens of Berlin', set out American determination to support its European allies just weeks before his tragic assassination in Dallas. Martin Luther King was also assassinated five years later. US Senator Robert Kennedy, younger brother of the assassinated president, was fatally wounded in Los Angeles in June 1968.

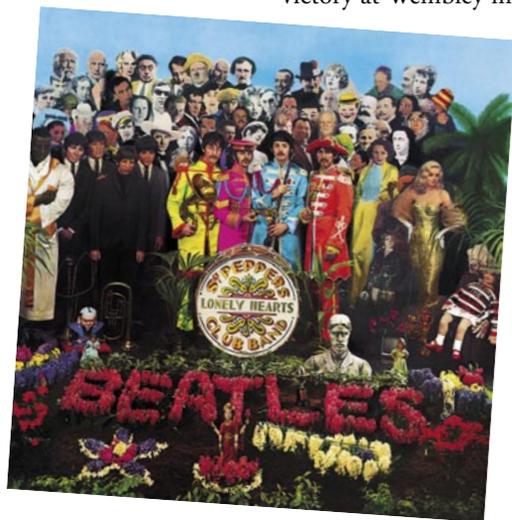
For the film, art, music and book buffs, the Sixties produced or continued to feature a plethora of key figures. Andy Warhol, Robert Bolt, Bob Dylan, Benjamin Britten, Pablo Picasso, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Francis Bacon, James Baldwin, Gore Vidal, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Neil Simon, Leonard Bernstein and Kurt Vonnegut were all prominent in the world of the arts, while Joseph Heller published the unforgettable novel *Catch 22*.

On 3 December 1967, in Cape Town, Dr Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first heart transplant. Eight days later, on 11 December, the world's first supersonic airliner, Concorde, rolled out of a hangar at Toulouse. On a less cheerful note, the early 1960s saw the first UK parking tickets and traffic wardens.

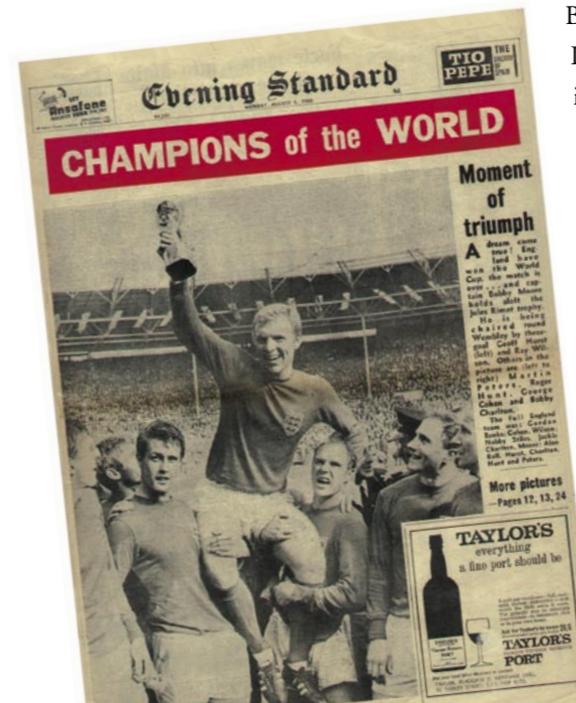
Nobel peace prize winner Martin Luther King was murdered in Memphis in April 1968. King is most famous for his 'I Have a Dream' speech, given in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



The Sixties' revolution in fashion and music echoed a widespread change in attitude towards authority.



A propaganda disaster for East Germany, the Berlin Wall closed the border between East and West Berlin for 28 years. Political liberalisation led to its dismantling in 1989.





An all time record membership of 15,646 is reached in 1966

Diamond Jubilee address by insurance doyen C. E. Golding, with over 60 years in the London Market

IIL West End and Ealing Centres are especially active

IF THE 1950S HAD REPRESENTED an emergent era, the decade that followed set the seal upon the IIL's activities that are still very much in evidence today. An abundance of talks, debates, site visits and ASG publications were made available to Members that numbered 'some 15,000' by the date of the IIL's Diamond Jubilee during the 1966 – 1967 session.

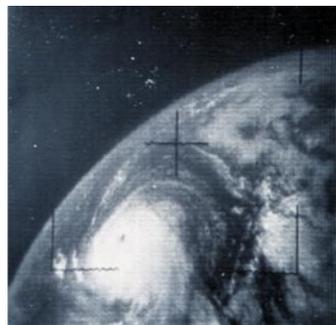
The IIL's 1960's lecture programmes were still held in the evenings at Aldermanbury and names familiar to the older generation in the insurance industry today began to appear as speakers. Senior figures like Raymond Sturge, Eric Orbell, Basil Edmunds, Sir Francis Sandilands, Sir Henry Mance, Ron Bishop and Julius Neave all graced the lecterns at The Insurance Hall. Dr W. Dinsdale, Director of Education, CII, spoke throughout the decade on subjects such as 'How to Study for the Examinations' and there seemed to be a new emphasis on contemporary features of everyday life, exemplified by the debate entitled 'This House Welcomes the Provision of Motorways as a Contribution to Road Safety'.

The then Minister for Education, Edward Boyle MP, delivered a talk in 1969 on 'Education After School'. Technical subjects also sought to combine emerging concerns with an informed discussion, as featured in the debate; 'That Surplus and Quota Share Reinsurance should be superseded by Excess of Loss Reinsurance'.

Site visits continued apace with many of the companies that had first been visited in the 1950s still featuring prominently. J. Lyons, Babcock & Wilcox, Firestone, The Daily Mirror and Vickers Armstrong all attest to the varied nature of the companies who hosted inspections by IIL Members.

The West End and Ealing were also active centres of the IIL, and the 1960s saw a rapid increase in films that were shown at both of these London affiliated locations. The majority of their titles are fairly self-explanatory such as *Fire Below*, *Rubber from Malaya* and *Rig 20 – Oil Well Fire*. Others, such as *Bash & Grab* made by Security Express and *The Home-made Car*, are more intriguing to today's readers.

Despite the liberalism that featured so prominently in the 1960s, the IIL seemed to adopt something of a penchant for clerical speakers in that decade, with Mervyn Stockwood, the Bishop of Southwark, delivering a lecture on 'The Church in Contemporary Society', the Archbishop of York talking on 'Explosions' (the subject matter of which is somewhat baffling) and the Dean of St Paul's speaking about 'Business Ethics'. It is worth noting that the study of ethics is, today, a compulsory feature for those wishing to attain CII Fellowship status.



Hurricane Betsy, the first hurricane to cause US\$1 billion damage, was one of the most intense, deadly, and costly storms to make landfall in the United States. After skirting Cuba and Florida the storm killed 76 people in Louisiana. Betsy caused US\$1.42 billion in damage, which when adjusted for inflation amounts to US\$10–12 billion. Betsy drove a storm surge into Lake Pontchartrain, north of New Orleans, and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. Levees were overtopped and failed. In all, 164,000 homes were flooded for ten days or more. For the first time in decades overall underwriting losses were made at Lloyd's.



During the 1960s, the marine insurance market's capacity was stretched when *France*, one of the last of the world's great liners, was launched and the non-marine market found technology was beginning to produce risks that would haunt the industry in years to come. In 1962, the world's first communications satellite, Telstar, was launched. In 1965, the USA began to advertise the dangers of smoking when the warning '*Smoking can damage your health*' first appeared on cigarette packets.

Telstar, launched in 1962, was the first active communications satellite, the first satellite designed to transmit telephone and high-speed data communications, and the first privately financed and owned satellite.

The Fire, Auto and Marine Insurance Company collapsed in 1966, following the scam perpetrated by Emil Savundra, leaving 400,000 UK motorists without cover.

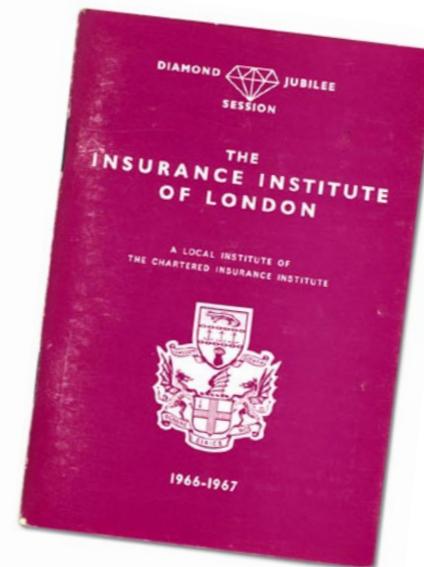
In the London Market, Lloyd's still dominated and in 1962 Lloyd's membership had reached a record 5,126. Membership increased further as non-UK and Commonwealth Members were allowed to join in 1968, followed by the admission of the first lady Member in 1969.

The dominant claims event of the decade in the London Market was Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

The foreword to the diary of events by the IIL President in its Diamond Jubilee Year has a familiar and relevant resonance. President A. W. Grant wrote '... *Let there be acknowledgement*



*of those who over sixty years have given freely of their time and their experience to the advancement of the knowledge of their fellow workers in the Insurance Industry in London, and have thereby built upon the foundations laid by our predecessors ... pride of place (in the Diamond Jubilee Session) should go to the address by Dr C.E. Golding, a distinguished Past-President and gold medallist of the CII ... who was in insurance in 1906 and still is in 1966.'*



*France*, at 1,035 ft, was the longest passenger ship ever built and one of the last ocean liners designed for the transatlantic trade.

