

Who We Will Miss In 2016, And Who We Won't

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 7, 2016



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1,713 people died in Great Britain in 2013, and that was only on the roads. In view of this, it is possible only to touch on a tiny fraction of those recently departed who have enriched our lives – or not – over the past few years. Not all the people mentioned in the second category are dead. Let's begin with music. In no particular order:



Singer-songwriter Errol Brown died in May, aged 71; [his website](#) is still being maintained. Gail Zappa, matriarch of the Zappa family and widow of [Frank Zappa](#) was seventy, as was [Lemmy of Motörhead](#), who died four days after his birthday. This was the second such death within weeks; former Motörhead drummer Phil Taylor died in November aged 61, and the band has now been wound up, although its music will have a much longer lifespan. [Allen Toussaint](#) died the day before Phil, in Madrid at the age of 77. Bruce Crump was the original drummer with Southern rock band [Molly Hatchet](#); he was only 57 when he died after fighting throat cancer for more than a decade.



Family entertainer Val Doonican died in July, and **his website** is also being maintained. He was 88. The singer and TV presenter **Cilla Black** died at her home in Spain following a stroke.

The actress Maureen O'Hara lived to the ripe old age of 95, while Louis Jordan reached a creditable 93 as did Christopher Lee, who although best **known as Count Dracula** had a long career, including in music, becoming the oldest living artist to enter the *Billboard Hot 100*, at 91 years 6 months! Perhaps the most tragic name on this list is that of Cindy Yang, a Taiwanese actress and model who committed suicide aged only 24.

The distinguished English journalist Sue Lloyd-Roberts died in October; aged 64 she had been suffering from leukaemia. A globetrotter, she covered many important stories for the BBC.



Mario Cuomo (Image Credits: David Berkowitz)

On the political stage, Mario Cuomo who was Governor of New York for over a decade, died at the age of 82, while in the UK, Liberal Democrat Charles Kennedy was only 55 when the demon drink caught up with him. **Michael Meacher** was an old school Labour Party man who passed away at 75. Finally, **Vincent Bugliosi** was a district attorney turned author whose no-nonsense style dissected the nonsense of the Kennedy assassination the same way it put mass murderer Charles Manson behind bars.

The world of sport saw many deaths of course including of the rugby international **Jonah Lomu**, a man whose profession belied his ill-health; he died at 40. the TV presenter **Jimmy Hill** who first made his name as a footballer, died aged 87.



Jimmy Hill

While all the people above had positive effects on our lives, there are some whom we are glad to see the back of, none more so than Jihadi John, who if he had appeared in a courtroom would probably have been alluded to as Mohammed Emwazi. This psychopath was complicit in the brutal murders of a number of innocent men before being exterminated by a drone strike in November. While the morality and indeed the legality of such measures remain open to dispute, there is no doubt the world is a slightly less horrible place without him. Earlier in the year another of these lowlifes got his just deserts; Ziad Khilaf Raja al-Karbouly was hanged in Jordan for his crimes.

While these two had at least a pretext of a rational motive for murder, the same cannot be said for serial killer Alfredo Prieto who was finally executed by lethal injection by the State of Virginia. Prieto murdered at least four people and quite likely many more. Double murderer Steven Benson died in prison of natural causes; one of his victims was his own mother. The trial of Christopher May was **reported** here earlier this year. He has since been convicted of the murder of Tracy Woodford. May was given a tariff of 28 years when he was sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court; as he was fifty at the time, it is

unlikely he will ever see daylight again. The same can be said for serial rapist Daniel Holtzclaw who hid behind a gun and a badge when he preyed on his victims. As things stand he will make one more, brief, public appearance in an Oklahoma City courtroom on January 21 when he is formally **sentenced to 263 years** behind bars. After that, we can forget about him.



Morris Beckman

Morris Beckman was not a murderer, but his treatment of history was a crime. The author of *The 43 Group* died in May. This book is listed as non-fiction but it is largely a fantasy as are all such apologia. **Colin Fry's crimes** were not against history but against the sensibilities of the living; he was one of these parasites who prey on people who are at their weakest emotionally, usually when after the death of a loved one they are seeking answers.

Now two women who are still alive, though only from the neck down. Bahar Mustafa and Mattress Girl are both professional victims. Bahar is the one who **thinks white men are trash**; late last year working at a university founded by white men she tweeted her contempt of them using technology invented by white men. Although her clash with the legal system was brief and inconsequential, she has now quit her post at Goldsmiths and is doubtless looking for a job where she doesn't have to come into contact with them. Either that or she is holed up in her bedroom at her rich Daddy's house.

Barmy though Bahar may be, Mattress Girl is in a different class. After her bizarre protest at her phantom rape was over, she decided she really wanted to be raped, albeit vicariously, and the disgusting **hard core porn video** she made was exhibited to the world. Although she is now out of the headlines, she is still claiming to have been raped. She appears to be studying in New York, and recently published a photograph of herself on her Facebook page in the company of a man, very likely a fellow student. Guy, do yourself a favour and don't ever find yourself alone with her, you never know what she might do. It remains to be seen what she will do workwise, a regular job seems out of the question, would the porn industry have her? More to the point, what do her fellow rad-fems think about her video?



Shirley Stelfox as Edna Birch in Emmerdale

Finally, one person who straddles both lists. In the soap opera *Emmerdale*, Edna Birch was a sanctimonious, *Bible*-thumping old bag, but the actress who portrayed her for fifteen years was quite a glamorous individual, even at the age of 74. **Shirley Stelfox** died from cancer on December 7.

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