

# SHERRIE HEWSON

# ON LOVE, LIFE & FEAR OF AGEING

# Unless I have my face burned off with a laser, this is the way I look... it TERRIFIES me



HEY GOOD COOKING Sherrie at the launch of Nana's Kitchen

**MODEL:** Tussauds figure Corrie Bill is back to waxwork

by Janine Yaqoob TV CORRESPONDENT

KEN Barlow's Madame Tussauds waxwork is back on display after Bill Roache was cleared of sex charges. The £150,000 figure of the beloved Coronation Street character, played by Bill since 1960, was removed when it was attacked by vandals in May last year.

It was also misused in inappropriate photos after Bill, 81, was accused of five counts of indecent assault and two counts of rape.

He was found not guilty on February 6.

Now the model is back in pride of place in the attraction's Rovers Return replica in Blackpool, Lancs.

Spokesman Matthew Titherington said: "We removed the model after some comments and some unacceptable behaviour from a small number of visitors."

"Ken" has now been given a full makeover, including a blow dry and new eyebrows.

**SMILEY** CONNIE Shaw, 81, has been told to gag her parrot Alfie after his "fire alarm" squawks caused her Wells, Somerset, care home to be evacuated.

**PEOPLE**

**Ewe's four are so rare**

A FARMER was stunned when one of his sheep gave birth to FOUR healthy little lambs at once.

John Tipcony, who has 17 years' experience, said: "I've had triplets before but quadruplets are very rare."

"I delivered the third then left the room expecting her to be done."

"I couldn't believe it when I returned to see another one popping out!"

John, 33, has 350 cattle and 160 sheep on his farm in St Kevern, Cornwall.

He added: "You can imagine my surprise."

**Undie carriage**

LEARNER Holly Barnbridge, 19, found holes in her new £400 Renault were filled in using old Y-fronts in Great Denham, Beds.



FUNSHINE GIRL: With Benidorm cast



SHOCKING: Sherrie on Loose Women



I THREE FRED: Mrs Elliott on Corrie

**EXCLUSIVE** by Katie Hind BUSINESS EDITOR

**GLAMOROUS** Sherrie Hewson should be the picture of happiness as she continues to enjoy her long and glittering TV career.

She is starring as manager Joyce in ITV's smash comedy Benidorm, she is the longest serving panelist on Loose Women... and she still looks wonderful aged 63.

But while former Corrie great Sherrie has beaten the ageing nife in her fickle trade she has yet to defeat her inner demons.

She confesses she lacks self-confidence and is scared of growing old - but is even more terrified of medical procedures that could make her look younger.

She said: "I'd have my face lasered but I don't have the guts. If someone could get rid of my wrinkles I'd say 'go on then' but I'm frightened of what it entails."

"Older women do get treated differently. But without laser therapy this is how I'm going to look."

"I look back and say 'that's the skin I used to have' and then I look in the mirror and I say 'but this is the skin I have now' and that's what I don't cope with. I have no way of coping with getting old, every aspect of it terrifies me."

"I drew my Loose Women friend Carol McGiffin insane, she couldn't understand why I don't have any self-confidence. I can't grow old, I just can't."

"The whole thing worries me, what I look like and how I realise I have got to a certain age and I think 'how?'"

"I don't want to be 63, I want to be 43. You tell younger people 'don't sit back and moan and groan'. But when I was 43 I'd think '43, how awful'. What a baby I was. Sherrie cemented her place in the

nation's heart by playing scatterbrained Maureen in Coronation Street.

Her marriage to butcher Fred Elliott and on/off relationship with flamboyant Reg Hoolah was pure comedy gold.

Few Corrie fans could forget Keg and Maureen's moment of thwarted passion when drippy Derek drilled into their waterbed from the floor below.

In fact, with stints in Crossroads and Emmerdale, Sherrie has worked constantly since leaving acting school Rada in 1971 - a record many actresses of a certain age would envy.

But it's been a tough time lately for Sherrie as her 87-year-old mum Joy Meakin died suddenly due to an aortic aneurysm in September 2012. The two had a very difficult relationship.

She said: "My lack of self-esteem is part of my nature. My mum was very domineering and controlling so I always felt overshadowed by her. She was a ballroom dancer and a model and very, very beautiful."

"I always felt very controlled by her and the underdog and my brother was so beautiful so people would say he was the pretty one."

"Physically I never felt good enough. When I was on Loose Women she would tell me she didn't like the top I was wearing, or that I looked fat when I sat on the end or that I'd been out late. She would call and tell me that I looked awful or she'd say I was looking very wrinklely."

"We had a strained relationship, it was difficult, she was very powerful. It wasn't easy. I was warned by friends that if I didn't

make amends and deal with it before she died, it would stay with me. And it has."

The death of her mum came a year after Sherrie's divorce from her husband of 28 years Ken Boyd - the father of her daughter Keeley, 29. They had previously split in 2001 after Sherrie had a breakdown.

But despite the heartbreaks Sherrie appreciates her professional good fortune. She said: "I haven't been out of work since I left Rada, it's extraordinary. How lucky am I at my age to be on two top shows?"

"My secret is that I have always been very good at reinventing myself. When something has ended, I undergo a reinvention and do something else."

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and has published a recipe book, Nana's Kitchen, featuring meals she cooks with her beloved grandkids Oliver, seven, and Molly, three.

The atmosphere on Loose Women has altered since the departure of Carol, 53, and Denise Welch, 55, but Sherrie still enjoys living it up when filming in Spain.

"Loose Women has changed so much, my drinking buddies have all gone. I have to drink on my own now - God, it's pathetic."

"They're all tenatal, they're all healthy young fit things. Ruth (Langford) and Andrea (McLean) still like a drink, all of them are so controlled and I admire it, but it just isn't me. Nobody goes out anywhere

and when I think that's a good lesson for people to learn. Never sit back on your job and think 'this is it' as it might not be."

"Now, you can't count on having a job for ever, jobs aren't for life any more. I always say to look at things that are going to carry you on, then you never stand still."

**Singleton** "I tell young actors, go in, learn your trade and move on."

"I give myself an MOT and think, I've got to turn right here, I have to get round that roundabout."

But after three years as a singleton is there any chance that her personal life has headed in the right direction and she has found Mr Right?

"NO," she said with a raised voice. "Boyfriend. What is that? 'Why would a man want me when they could have a 25 year old, don't be so soft."

"In Benidorm they're all married, they're out for work and then they go back to their wives."

"A dog is the only way forward, or maybe a goldfish but then they die on you and leave you lonely."

But Sherrie is keeping busy away from the sun and sangria of Benidorm

any more but I still think the show is fabulous, every show has to evolve and change."

In March she will return to the Costa Blanca to make Benidorm's 2015 series and she can't wait.

"I love Benidorm so much. It's great when we're all out there."

"Everyone is a Benidorm fan so we get heckled everywhere we go but it's

great. We can't do it on school nights but come the weekend we just go stupid, we stay out until 6am."

"We can get sozzled, have wild nights out, everyone karaoke's until 4 or 5am in the morning. It's great fun."

Sherrie loves to laugh, but when I bring up her old friend Bill Roache's name, the smile goes from her face.

"How awful, poor Bill," she says. "It was a witch-hunt, he should never have been named. I strongly believe these people shouldn't be named. He has been through hell."

"How about Maureen coming back to Corrie and having a romance with Ken Barlow? I'd love that, what a brilliant storyline that would be."

"Perhaps I could go out with Bill in real life, he's single. He is a fitzy, so handsome and so nice. All of the women on Corrie have always fancied him, he is such a heart-throb."

"Because he's spiritual, he is so kind and so caring, he is so lovely and nice. But, I'd have to beat off most of Cheshire to get him - they all fancy him, too."

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BOSS: Playing Benidorm's Joyce