

HAIRDRESSER Leslie Cavendish was at the heart of the music, fashion and arts scenes in the 1960s.

The 74-year-old ended up in The Beatles' inner circle, which he wrote about in his book, *The Cutting Edge*.

Leslie's crimping career began at 15 when he started an apprenticeship at Vidal Sassoon in Bond Street, London.

He became Sassoon's junior for three months before he was promoted to junior hairstylist at his Grosvenor House Hotel salon in Park Lane.

Leslie's life changed for ever in the autumn of 1966, when Jane Asher asked him to cut the hair of her boyfriend Paul McCartney.

Londoner Leslie, the son of Betty and Alan Cavendish, became close to the Fab Four and would regularly visit their Apple record label head office.

His celebrity client list also included the Bee Gees' Barry and Robin Gibb, The Who drummer Keith Moon, actor Tony Curtis and racing driver James Hunt.

Leslie's partner is Susan Kaye, and he has two children, Aidan and Oliver.

His new book, *Across The Universe - Some Have Gone . . . and Some Remain*, is a complete record of every Beatles location in which they played around the world.

1. Nickname?

Leisurely Les.

2. Best and worst things about your job?

The best thing is that I am invited to literary events and Beatles conventions all over the UK, Europe and America, and meet many interesting people, such as authors, musicians and politicians.

The worst is thinking what I am going to write next.

3. Favourite musician?

MY LIFE IN 20-ish QUESTIONS

LESLIE CAVENDISH

Neil Young for being able to make a guitar talk to me.

4. Favourite film?

The Sting, with Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

5. Football team?

Queens Park Rangers. Although my favourite sportsman is cricketer Geoffrey Boycott, who decided not to get out while he was at work.

6. What would you call your autobiography?

I already have - *The Cutting Edge*.

7. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Staying healthy and still being able to enjoy sport and life, preferably in the sun.

8. Biggest worry?

Anything bad happening to my family.

9. Last time you cried?

I cried at the invasion of Ukraine as I was there four months ago with my son and his girlfriend, who is Ukrainian. We walked around the beautiful city of Kyiv and visited Babyn Yar, and travelled to Chernobyl.

As I write this, I can see the Russian army is bombing the city and destroying the park dedicated to Babyn Yar, and still have tears in my eyes.

10. Last book you read?

Life, Keith Richards' autobiography.

11. Last film you saw?

Respect, about the life of Aretha Franklin, with Jennifer Hudson.

12. Favourite TV show?

Curb Your Enthusiasm. The best comedy ever.

13. Favourite holiday destination?

Anywhere in Spain.

14. Favourite drink?

Single malt whisky.

15. Earliest memory?

My mum getting up at 5.30am ready to go to East Street market with her father to the set up the stall where they sold shoes.

16. Of what are you most proud?

My two sons and my partner Susan, who is not only a loving person but a very good businesswoman.

17. Most embarrassing moment?

During my first week as a stylist at Sassoons, I had to do a hair demonstration at Lucy Clayton Modelling School in Bond Street. I took along with me large photos with Sassoon's hairstyles to put on an easel and while demonstrating the latest styles I thought I would be cool and sit on the edge of the table. As I sat on the table it collapsed and I fell on the floor.

18. Hero?

Muhammad Ali for his skill and chutzpa and Golda Meir for her strength and belief in Israel.

19. What do you do in your spare time?

I play tennis and bowls, and enjoy going to the theatre. I also organise interviews with people involved in the entertainment business for a friend who works for Jewish charities and sometimes I do them myself for Jewish Care.

20. How would you like to be remembered?

That I made people smile and helped to continue the memory of The Beatles to live on.

21. What's top of your bucket list?

I've been lucky to have visited many places in the world, but I would like to go to the Antarctica to see nature in the wild.

22. What is your most treasured possession?

My Beatles memorabilia.

23. Who in history would you most like to meet?

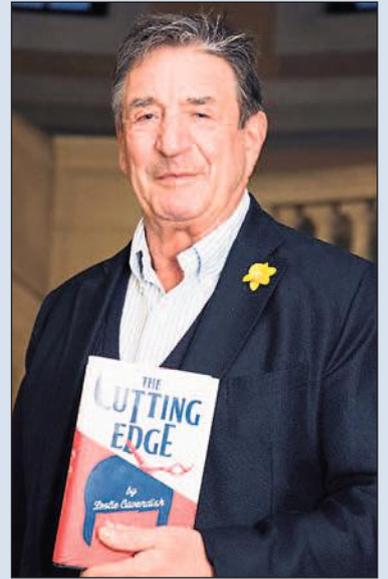
To have dinner with Lenny Bruce and listen to his critical form of comedy which contained satire, politics, religion, sex and vulgarity.

24. Something people might not be aware of about you.

I was the schools' chess liaison officer for Richmond Council and managed to get chess played in most of the schools in the area.

25. Describe yourself in 280 characters - or fewer.

Humour is a major part of my everyday life



with my family and friends. I can be emotional and impulsive. As I'm an optimist I believe that with positive thoughts you will succeed.

26. What does being Jewish mean to you?

I'm proud of my Jewish heritage and to make sure people remember what happened in the past so the same mistakes won't happen again in the future.

27. Sum up your career in three words.

Bloody great time.

28. What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

My mother always said, "if you want to say something say it now, and get it over with and move on". I also remember this quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "The future depends on what we do in the present."

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