

= Julia Baird =

Julia Baird ( née Dykins ) ( born 5 March 1947 ) is the younger half @-@ sister of English musician John Lennon and is the eldest daughter of John ' Bobby ' Albert Dykins ( 1918 ? December 1965 ) and Julia Lennon ( 12 March 1914 ? 15 July 1958 ) . she also had an older half @-@ sister , Ingrid Pedersen . Her younger sister was Jacqueline ' Jackie ' Dykins ( born 26 October 1949 ) .

Lennon started visiting the Dykins ' house in 1951 . After the death of Julia Lennon in 1958 , Harriet and Norman Birch were appointed guardians of Julia and Jackie , ignoring Dykins ' parentage , as he had never legally married their mother . Lennon invited the Dykins sisters to visit after the success of the Beatles , when he was living in Kenwood , Weybridge , with his then @-@ wife , Cynthia Lennon .

Julia Dykins ( Baird ) married Allen Baird in 1968 and moved to Belfast . They had three children together but were divorced in 1981 . Baird worked as a special needs teacher , and after Lennon 's death she wrote John Lennon , My Brother ( with Geoffrey Giuliano ) and gave up working in 2004 to write Imagine This ? Growing up with my brother John Lennon . She is now a director of Cavern City Tours in Liverpool .

= = Early years = =

Baird 's mother , Julia Lennon , was the fourth of five children in the Stanley family : Mary , known as ' Mimi ' ( 1906 ? 1991 ) , Elizabeth ' Mater ' ( 1908 ? 1976 ) , Anne ' Nanny ' ( 1911 ? 1988 ) , Julia ' Judy ' ( 1914 ? 1958 ) , and Harriet ' Harrie ' ( 1916 ? 1972 ) .

John Lennon was Julia 's first child by Alfred Lennon , although she later had a daughter called Victoria ( renamed Ingrid ) after an affair with a Welsh soldier while Alfred was at sea . Julia was forced to give up the child for adoption after intense pressure from her father and her sisters . Although they had known each other previously , Julia started dating Dykins while working in a café near Mossbills , which was Lennon 's primary school . Dykins was said to be a good @-@ looking , well @-@ dressed man who was several years older than Julia and worked at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool as a wine steward . Julia later moved into a small flat in Gateacre with Dykins , who had access to rationed goods like alcohol , chocolate , silks and cigarettes . The Stanley sisters called Dykins a " spiv " , because of his pencil @-@ thin moustache , margarine @-@ coated hair , and pork @-@ pie hat , but the young Lennon called him " Twitchy " because of a physical tic and nervous cough Dykins had . Although Julia never divorced Alfred Lennon , she was the common @-@ law wife of Dykins , although Paul McCartney admitted to being sarcastic to Lennon about his mother living in sin while Julia was still married . Julia 's sister , Mimi , called Julia and Dykins ' home ? at 1 Blomfield Road , Liverpool ? " The House of Sin " and her own house ( where Lennon lived ) " The House of Correction " . When Jackie was born prematurely on 26 October 1949 , Julia went back to the hospital every day to see her , although she was often not allowed ( by Mimi ) to visit Lennon .

Dykins later managed several bars in Liverpool , which allowed Julia to stay at home at Blomfield Road , to look after Baird , Jackie , a cat named " Elvis " , and the 11 @-@ year @-@ old Lennon , who had started to visit and occasionally stayed overnight . Baird would give up her bed to Lennon , and share Jackie 's double bed . Dykins used to give Lennon weekly pocket money ( one shilling ) for doing odd jobs , such as collecting golf balls on the local course , on top of the five shillings that Lennon 's Aunt Mimi gave him . During Lennon 's visits , he would climb trees with Baird and Jackie , test Baird 's spelling , and once gave Baird half @-@ a @-@ crown to leave him alone when he wanted to kiss his first girlfriend . Baird remembered that after Lennon had visited them , her mother would often play a record called , My Son John , To Me You Are So Wonderful , " by some old crooner , and sit and listen to it " . " My Son John " ? sung by David Whitfield ? was released in 1956 . Although Mimi sent Lennon to his Aunt 's croft in Sango Bay , Durness , Scotland , for his holidays , he later persuaded Mimi to let him take short holidays in North Wales with the Dykins family . Julia took Baird and Jackie to Rosebury Street , Liverpool , to watch Lennon play with The Quarrymen on the back of a flatbed coal truck on 22 June 1957 . Baird was allowed to sit on the back , but as the

music was too loud she asked to be taken off . The Quarrymen played twice that day as part of a celebration to mark the 750th anniversary of the granting of Liverpool 's charter by King John . Lennon and McCartney would later rehearse in the bathroom of Blomfield Road because they said the acoustics " sounded like a recording studio " .

= = = Legal guardian = = =

Baird 's mother was struck and killed on 15 July 1958 , just outside Mimi 's home , by a Standard Vanguard car driven by an off @-@ duty constable , PC Eric Clague , who was a learner @-@ driver . Clague later said : " Mrs Lennon just ran straight out in front of me . I just couldn 't avoid her . I was not speeding , I swear it . It was just one of those terrible things that happen . " Baird and Jackie ( aged eleven and eight respectively ) were sent straightway to stay in Edinburgh at their Aunt Mater 's , and were not allowed to attend the funeral . They were told two months later by Norman Birch ( Lennon 's uncle ) that their mother had died . Lennon 's Aunt Harriet and Uncle Norman Birch were made legal guardians of the girls ? ignoring Dykins ' parentage , as he had never legally married Julia . Julia was buried in the Allerton Cemetery , in Liverpool . Her grave is unmarked , and over the years its location was forgotten until it was recently identified by Jackie as " CE ( Church of England ) 38 @-@ 805 " .

Baird and Jackie were taken to live with the Birches and their son at The Dairy Cottage , which was owned by Mimi 's husband , George Smith . At the age of 14 Baird was allowed to go into Liverpool city centre by herself , where she drank cappuccino coffee in the Kardomah Coffee House , although Baird and her friends called it " frothy coffee " . At 16 , Baird started to hitch @-@ hike to London , although her Aunt never knew , as she would never have allowed it . Baird talked about the trips to London , and how relatively safe they were : " Hitching was easy then . It was a way of life . Everything was becoming more free . We 'd start chatting to people in the Tube station and get invited to parties . People always gave us a place to stay ? we were never harmed . "

Baird and Jackie were asked to visit Lennon at Kenwood which was his home in Weybridge in 1964 . Cynthia Lennon ? Lennon 's wife at the time ? took them both out shopping in Knightsbridge , buying them expensive clothes . During the same visit , The Beatles played at the Finsbury Park Astoria , and the sisters asked to be allowed to stand near the front , but had to be pulled out of the audience by security guards because of the crush . In December 1965 , Dykins was killed in a car crash at the bottom of Penny Lane . Lennon was not told about his death for months afterwards . Dykins had married again , but Baird acknowledges that she and Jackie had very little contact with his wife , and did not attend their father 's funeral .

In 1968 , Lennon was told The Dairy Cottage was too cramped for them all , so he told Birch to buy a house , and he found a 4 @-@ bedroom house in Gateacre Park Drive , Liverpool . Lennon told Birch to furnish and decorate it , and to send all the bills to him . The Dykinses heard nothing from Lennon for years , until he phoned Baird in 1975 , and asked for mementos of his childhood life , such as his school tie and photographs . He sent £ 3 @,@ 000 to cover the cost of shipping and as a gift , but wrote , " Don 't tell Mimi " . Lennon continued to call Baird until 1976 , when the calls stopped . Jackie worked as a shop assistant during the 1970s , but battled against a heroin addiction . In the 1980s , and fully recovered , Jackie gave birth to her son , John , later working as a hairstylist . After Lennon and Harriet died , Yoko Ono wanted to sell the house ? as it was still in Lennon 's name ? but later gave it to the Salvation Army on 2 November 1993 , even though Lennon had once written : " I always thought of the house he 's in [ Birch ] as my contribution towards looking after Julia [ Baird ] and Jackie . I would prefer the girls to use it . "

= = Later years = =

Julia married Allen Baird in 1968 , they moved to Belfast and kept her family history a secret . The Bairds had three children : Nicholas ( b . 1971 ) , Sara ( b . 1972 ) and David ( b . 1980 ) , and were divorced in 1981 . Baird went to university and gained an MA in philosophy of education , and during her the course of her degree she spent a year off in France , hitch @-@ hiked around Europe , and

protested against the war in Vietnam in Paris alongside Simone de Beauvoir . Baird later taught French and English before working as a special needs teacher with teenagers in deprived areas of Chester , until she retired to write books and become a director of Cavern City Tours .

Baird and Jackie met their half @-@ sister Ingrid Pedersen for the first time when they were present at the ceremony to place a Blue Heritage plaque on Mimi 's house , commemorating the fact that Lennon had lived there . Baird and Jackie had only recently found out who Pedersen was , after being told by journalist Bill Smithies of the Liverpool Echo . Baird was shocked that Pedersen did not look anything like the Stanley or the Lennon family , having pale blue eyes and fair hair .

After releasing the book , John Lennon , My Brother ? written with Giuliano , and a foreword by McCartney ? Baird travelled to New York during 1989 to appear at a Beatlefest convention , and was asked if she could prove she was really Lennon 's half @-@ sister . Baird declined , saying she was not going to produce her passport , and the audience would just have to take her word for it . In 2000 , Baird was present at the unveiling of six road signs , erected on major routes into Liverpool , saying , " Liverpool welcomes you ? to the birthplace of THE BEATLES " , and in October she planted a tree in Liverpool 's Peace Gardens to commemorate Lennon 's birthday .

Baird retired in 2004 , and published a book called Imagine This ? Growing up with my brother John Lennon , in February 2007 .

From 28 to 30 September 2007 , Durness held the John Lennon Northern Lights Festival which was attended by Baird ( who read from Lennon 's writings and her own books ) and Stanley Parkes ( Lennon 's Scottish cousin ) . Parkes said , " Me and Julia [ Baird ] are going to be going to the old family croft to tell stories " . Musicians , painters and poets from across the UK performed at the festival . Baird now lives in Chester with her partner , Roger Keys .

Baird claims she was never told that her mother was buried in the Allerton Cemetery , in Liverpool , although the graveyard 's location is approximately 1 @.@ 19 miles east of 1 Blomfield Road . The grave was unmarked , but was recently identified as " CE ( Church of England ) 38 @-@ 805 " . The Stanley family finally put a headstone on her mother 's grave . The headstone reads :

Mummy  
John  
Victoria  
Julie  
Jackie .