

Julius Scamper

By Brian Judge

He was well known around town – famous even. Young children followed him everywhere he went tittering amongst themselves while eagerly awaiting the next eruption. Despite being instructed by their disgusted mothers to go nowhere near him, such was the novelty that they could not resist being there to witness the show. And of course they had to relate it all to their friends later.

Julius Scamper had suffered from this affliction throughout his life. Many physicians had prescribed multifarious remedies over the years but none had worked. For his part he was no longer embarrassed when it occurred. In fact he was by now unaware of it since both his hearing and sense of smell had deteriorated with age. So cat-calls from the children passed unheard. He had read of a French Music Hall entertainer who had made a career out of this function but this had no interest for him having no wish to attract even more attention.

Then much to everyone's surprise and the children's disappointment, it stopped and this situation turned out to be permanent.

It later transpired that Julius had contracted a severe diabetic condition which meant that all sweet items were absolutely taboo and one in particular which was now denied him was the reason for the cessation.

But a casualty emerged following the 'cure'. The local grocer was stuck with a large stock of baked beans.