

When I'm 82, or whatever

Published: January 12, 2026, 9:01 pm

There is a [review in the Guardian](#) this morning of the concert played by Paul McCartney yesterday. At the age of 82, he fronted a set that included 36 songs, which took nearly 3 hours to play.

I quite often joke that my nominated real retirement age is 83, which is when my father began to slow down, although I think he did it too soon.

There is, of course, an element of luck as to whether I will reach that age or be as fit as I would hope when doing so, but I like the fact that there are people like Paul McCartney who demonstrate that age is not an impediment to doing things.

Throughout life, I think too many people are impeded by the idea, too often put to them, that they cannot do things because they are too young, too old, do not fit in, do not have the necessary bits of paper, or whatever else somebody who stands in their path wishes to claim. I am not suggesting for a moment that all achievements are available to everyone. That is obviously not true. It is, however, true that everyone is capable of achieving, and often a great deal more than they think. Wouldn't it be great if we had a society that was built upon that premise?

I have no plans to go quietly into the night.