**BBC 1 Sunday Night Drama, *Ridley Road [Oct 2021]***

The BBC excelled itself by creating a very effective atmosphere from the early 1960s, with this drama which focussed upon the temporary emergence of the **National Front** in the UK.

Our heroine, [**Agnes O'Casey**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes_O%27Casey)**as Vivien Epstein**, a Jewish girl from Manchester, seemed to have lost her love, Jack, to London whither she escaped from her Jewish Family to track him down.

She found him deeply involved in **Colin Jordan’s British *Nazi*** **movement**. She, therefore, took on the role of an East End hairdresser and changed her hair blond to infiltrate the movement. She wore a homemade, sky-blue mini-dress which shared her experience until the end.

We were left to guess how close she became to Jordan but she managed to escape with her Jack “somewhere in Europe” in a somewhat improbable happy ending to the drama.

This drama reminded me that in **THS Bulletin, No 1** [available in an updated 2nd Edition] John Moore’s widow, the late Lucile, kindly allowed us to reprint an article by **John Moore** written in 1962 about a **British Nazi Camp** that took place near **Guiting Power** in our county.

**You can read this article by clicking** [**HERE.**](tewkesburyhistory/docs/nazis_in_Glos.pdf)

A bit of googling reveals that ***Ridley Road*** is a 2014 novel by [Jo Bloom](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jo_Bloom&action=edit&redlink=1), in which the [***62 Group***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/62_Group) [A Jewish inspired anti-Fascist group] and opposition to 1960s British neo-Nazis such as [**Colin Jordan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Jordan) are a backdrop to the narrative. **Ridley Road in**[**Dalston**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalston)**in London's**[**East End**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_End) was well known as a fascist meeting place in the 1960s, around which battles took place.

It was adapted by [**Sarah Solemani**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Solemani)**as**[***Ridley Road***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridley_Road_(TV_series))**,** a four-part drama by [BBC One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_One), which was premiered on 3 October 2021.Of course, it is written from the Jewish perspective.

**It seems true that Colin Jordan married Francois Dior in December 1963.** It is suggested that they had a son who our heroine befriended. I cannot find any evidence about this boy or his parentage.

According to Wikipedia: ***In August 1962 Jordan hosted an international conference of Nazis at***[***Guiting Power***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guiting_Power)***in***[***Gloucestershire***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloucestershire)*, which resulted in the formation of the*[*World Union of National Socialists*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Union_of_National_Socialists)*. Jordan was the commander of its European section throughout the 1960s and was also elected "World Führer" with*[***George Lincoln Rockwell***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lincoln_Rockwell)***,*** *founder of the*[*American Nazi Party*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Nazi_Party)*, as his deputy.* **[He appears in the drama]** *On 16 August Jordan and Tyndall, and others, were charged under the*[*Public Order Act 1936*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Order_Act_1936)*with attempting to set up a paramilitary force called the* ***Spearhead****, which was modelled on the*[*SA*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturmabteilung)*of*[*Nazi Germany*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany)*. Undercover police observed Jordan leading the group in military manoeuvres.****He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in October 1962.***

*On 5 October 1963, while John Tyndall was still in prison, Jordan, who had just been released, married Tyndall's fiancée,*[***Françoise Dior***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7oise_Dior)*, the former wife of a French nobleman and the niece of the French fashion designer*[*Christian Dior*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Dior)*. This hasty marriage was ostensibly to prevent her deportation as an undesirable alien. When Tyndall was eventually released the marriage caused friction and he split with Jordan in 1964 to form the*[*Greater Britain Movement*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Britain_Movement)*.* ***Jordan's marriage to Dior proved short-lived though, and she announced the couple's separation in January 1964. She claimed that Jordan had become "bourgeois".***

**The precise chronology of the drama seems a little suspect, but otherwise it is quite reliable- and surely the actress who played our heroine will have a bright future – I am not sure about her dress!**

It can be caught up on ***i-player.***