

# Memories

of

# Edinburgh Streets



the

city  
image

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# THE CITY IMAGE

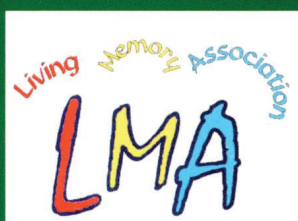
## INTRODUCTION

*"In October 2000 I was given an Age Concern Millennium Award for a reminiscence project in Edinburgh. Three inner-city areas, all experiencing substantial changes to their identity were selected for the project: Gorgie/Dalry, Easter Road and the Southside. Against this backdrop of change, I wanted to record something of people's memories, feelings and aspirations. It was to involve both older and younger people. The finished work, presented in the form of maps, attempts to tell a story about the three communities. These maps will be exhibited at various city venues together with this accompanying publication".*

David Langridge  
November 2001



## THE LIVING MEMORY ASSOCIATION



The aim of the Living Memory Association is to bring people together in order that through reminiscence and oral history work they can share their memories, learn from one another, feel valued and respected and give their knowledge of the past to younger generations. Information gathered is archived and accessible to the public.

# GORGIE DALRY



## Memories and Images

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
 "I remember The Salvation Army used to come every Sunday morning to Dwell Place and played in the street. Your mother would stand in a porch of mine and move a chair to them. When they marched away the children all followed!"  
 -Gloria Galloway (born 1914)



**MCVITIE'S BISCUIT FACTORY**  
 "McVities biscuit factory was on Gorge Road to the left of the bus stop. I was a boy in the factory. You got more for your money. They made more for the more you got paid. I was a white cap and white overall and name. McVities also had a lot of box makers at the top of Stewart Terrace."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**THE RAILWAY**  
 "There was a halt at Balgownie and there was Gorge Station at the top of Robertson Avenue. Dairy Station was up the subway at the foot of Dwell Terrace."  
 "From Balgownie to Dairy it was 1/4 for the bus to go to the bus."  
 "Gorge was always noisy and the steam would be out of the tanks as they went past!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



**MORNING CABINET MAKERS**  
 Specialists in luxury furniture. Picture mirrors, billiard tables and tobacconist coaches. I had some of the coaches on the Dwell Express."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**ROSS THE BAKERS**  
 "There was Ross's the bakers shop in Gorge near White Park. There used to be queues for their pies on a Saturday!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**THE UNION CANAL**  
 "I remember the canal used to be sometimes change colour - red and green. It got the pollution from the rubber mill and the other industries made it like that. It depended what they were making. We used to stand and watch it."  
 "We went fishing in the canal for minnows. You had a jam jar with a string on it. When we were young, children were always fishing in the canal. You used to be able to live both on the canal."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**CINEMAS**  
 The Tuck - Gorge Road  
 The Haymarket - Dairy Road  
 The Royal - Gorge Road  
 The Lyburn - Stewart Road  
 The Palladium - Fountainbridge  
 The Coliseum - Fountainbridge  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**DANCING**  
 "For dancing there was the Palais. The Cosmos at Dalry. The Standard Hall, Stevenson Road. The Palais was considered push when I was young!"  
 "We used to see key we're going to the Agony Song - ballroom dancing. Foxtrot, quickstep, slow waltz or old time dancing - the crock waltz and the South-west."  
 "The bands were good. Bands like Roy Fox!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**KEY CHURCH**  
 PUBLIC HOUSE  
 POST OFFICE  
 FORDS ROAD  
 RESIDENTIAL HOME  
 "Fountainbridge was beating with people. You couldn't get on the bus home!"  
 "Gorge and Dairy was full of small folk from the rubber mill and the Brewery. It was always smelly!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**SA CUTHBERTS**  
 "My father worked in St Cuthberts. He delivered the bakery stuff before the factory. Darkie was his name and if he was too long for his shoes then Darkie would get fed up and wander off to his Ma's. Parents used to wake some out of their houses at a point you get for Darkie. Sometimes at certain places, he would refuse to walk on until he got his shoes and get!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**ST CUTHBERTS**  
 "I worked in an office Frederick Street. Fountainbridge was always noisy. It was interesting work. We always walked. I used to come back home to Gorge Place at lunchtime too. Everyone walked!"  
 "It's funny for the bus!"  
 "What have you got legs for?"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
 Ann Gordon  
 Frank Ross Stevenson from the North Leith School, Dairy Road  
 The Museum of Edinburgh  
 The Living Memory Association Fountainbridge  
 The Lake Photographers  
 David Livingston, Age Concern, Westbourne Avenue Westbourne



Members of Gorge Road Historical Group and those that remember with us the bus



George Galloway (1942)

**ALDER & MACKAYS**  
 "I was 15 when I started working in Alder & Mackays the job center place on Robertson Avenue. I got my first job in Alder & Mackays for the job center. I got my first job in Alder & Mackays for the job center. I got my first job in Alder & Mackays for the job center."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



FYFCastle Heart of Midlothian Football Club

**SHOPS**  
 "St Cuthberts - Old. You all went to the Store. There were stores in Gorge Road and Dairy Road. There were branches across Edinburgh. At the top of Dalry there was the store shop which was the doctors, hardware goods, shoes. And then along Gorge Road there were lots of wet shops and then there was for Cuthbert's grocers and bakers."  
 "The dairy right was the best right!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**MURRESTON PARK**  
 "In Murreston Park there used to be shows. Roundabouts, cabarets. About once a year they came. If you could knock a penny off your mother you could go along!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**WORLD WAR TWO**  
 Children gathering outside Dairy Primary School for evacuation  
 "My father was a boatmaker and he worked in Princess Street. We always had well used boats!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**THE BUTTERCUP**  
 "The Buttercup Dairy was at the top of Dwell Place. The doorway was all beautifully done in tiles."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**HAYMARKET**  
 "Haymarket was always busy. I had everything except boots although the crowd wasn't that far away! Haymarket was full of pubs!"  
 "Pubs - there were lots of pubs but women didn't go in their day!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**HORSES**  
 "I remember the Clydesdale horses used to fall on the cobblestones. They did. The horses would be lying on the stones and often a crowd gathered. I mind them lying to get on the cobblestones and the boys flying off their knees!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**THE RUBBER MILL**  
 "I worked in the rubber mill - mine street and South. I used a lot. The rubber was that big and small. You could never get out of the small. I had a lot of work. I had a lot of work. I had a lot of work. I had a lot of work."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



North British Dairy Haymarket and 1933

**THE BREWERY**  
 "I remember the brewery got used to work close!"  
 "This is the original Catherine Manson."  
 "I got my first job in the brewery. I got my first job in the brewery. I got my first job in the brewery."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



**WARTIME**  
 "I was called up during the war and I was a conscientious objector. I was in the army but I was a conscientious objector. I was in the army but I was a conscientious objector."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



Bus on Gorge Road, 1942

**BUTCHER'S SHOPS**  
 "The rabbit shops would bring outside the butcher shops!"  
 "The bigger shops have space for the smaller shops!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**FISH AND CHIPS**  
 "You get a fish supper for 2/6 in your supper!"  
 "When we were coming from the dancing you'd walk home - get a bag of fish instead of getting the bus and stop of the way."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**CHURCHES**  
 "They were all busy. We all went to Sunday School. Sometimes you went to Evening Services."  
 "You got on your Sunday clothes. We were more from during the week!"  
 "The window looked down on the railway station. My father was off to the airport! My father was getting a job in the airport!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**A MIND FOR THE FUTURE**  
 "My father and mother were in Gorge and Dairy."  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

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 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**GORGEDAIRY INDUSTRIES**  
 Building  
 "Walter and Tom - Higgs and Ashburn"  
 "Humber Green - Scott Mother and Co"  
 "AS J Cameron - David White"  
 "Cook Macintosh and James Ltd"  
 "Jack Patterson"  
 "Shair's Confectionery, Dwell St 111"  
 "James Gerard"

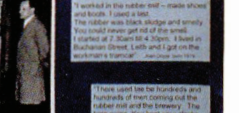
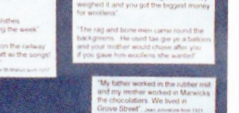
Engineering  
 "West End Engineering Works"  
 "Alexander Mather and son"  
 "James Cairns and Sons - Dairy Road"

Breweries  
 "Catharine Distillery and Brewery"  
 "North British Distillery"  
 "Barracks"

Other Industries  
 "Curne and Co - rubber"  
 "J.O. Cox - Glass"  
 "Mead and Phipps - biscuits"  
 "James Cuthberts - shoes"  
 "Alder & Mackays - gamblers"  
 "Angus - printers"  
 "Ingram - printers"

Childhood  
 "I was Gorge. I had 5 brothers. You claimed on the street where you had to be a really tough. We used to get a one for kicking the ball on the street. There were not so many cars then."  
 "We played sleeping in the street and got played parties. Friends used to get it."  
 "You used to get it of 'Manning King the dog people'!"  
 "Bread and jam rolled up in newspaper!"  
 "When you had a family only everybody took a bit of things. So when he had a family!"  
 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)

**CHILDHOOD**  
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 -Gordon Galloway (born 1914)



Scale 1:2500 (approx. 25' - 1 mile)

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# GORGIE DALRY



*Leaving work at the Rubber Mill,  
Fountainbridge*

## THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER MILL

"There used tae be hundreds and hundreds of men coming out the rubber mill and the brewery. The horn going. You kept your clocks by the time of the horn".

"Fountainbridge was black at the time when people were coming out the brewery".

*Jean Johnstone born 1921*

"I worked in the rubber mill - made shoes and boots. I used a last. The rubber was black sludge and smelly. You could never get rid of the smell.

I started at 7.30am till 4.30pm. I lived in Buchanan Street, Leith and I got on the workman's tramcar".

*Joan Doyle born 1919*

## McVITIES BISCUIT FACTORY

"McVities stretched from Gorgie Road to Slateford. I was a biscuit packer in McVities. You got more for piecework. You made more for the more tins you packed. I wore a white cap and white overall and apron. McVities also had a tin box makers at the top of Stewart Terrace".

*Dora Speedie born 1913*

"I had worked in a factory and then I got ambitious. I did training in typing and went to be a clerk typist in McVities".

*Violet Bowyer born 1921*

"It was 9d for broken biscuits".



## TYNECASTLE

Heart of Midlothian Football Club

"Tynecastle - there were crowds but not a lot of trouble.

Saturday was the Day!

It was great when

we won the Cup in 1956!"

*Cathie Clarke born 1908*



## GORGIE/DALRY INDUSTRIES

### Building

- \* Watherston and Sons
- \* Nathaniel Grieve
- \* A & J Cameron
- \* Jack Paterson
- \* Colin Macandrew and Partners Ltd
- \* Stuart's Granolithic Store Co Ltd
- \* Heggie and Aitchison
- \* Scott Morton and Co
- \* David Wilkie
- \* James Gerard

### Engineering

- \* West End Engineering Works
- \* Alexander Mather and Son
- \* James Carrick and Sons - Dalry Ironworks

### Breweries

- \* Caledonian Distillery and Brewery
- \* North British Distillery
- \* Bernards

### Other Industries

- \* Currie and Co - rubber
- \* J.G. Cox - glue
- \* MacFarlan Smith - chemicals
- \* McVitie and Price - biscuits
- \* James Cruikshanks - ovens
- \* Alder & Mackay - gasmeters
- \* Waddies - printers
- \* Annans - printers
- \* Ingram - organs

Coffee works in Grove Street  
St Cuthberts the bakers at High Riggs  
Martins the baker's bakehouse was in Grove Street  
Mackays confectionary, Fountainbridge  
Co-op stables at Grove Street and High Riggs



*Caledonian Brewery, Slateford Road*

## THE RAILWAY

"There was a halt at Balgreen and there was Gorgie Station at the top of Robertson Avenue. Dalry Station was up the subway at the foot of Orwell Terrace".

"From Balgreen to Dalry it was 1d for the train or 2d for the bus".

"Gorgie was always noisy and the steam would belch out of the trains as they went past".

## THE UNION CANAL

"I remember the canal used to sometimes change colour - reds and greens. It was all the pollution from the rubber mill and the other industries made it like that. It depended what they were making. We used to stand and watch it".

"We went fishing in the canal for minnows. You had a jam jar with a string on it.

When we were young, children were always falling in the canal. You used to be able to hire boats on the canal".

*Cathie Clarke born 1908*



*Dalry Road, March 2001 Taken by Miles Tubb*

"Gorgie and Dalry was full of smells!

From the Rubber Mill and the Brewery.

It was always smelly!".



"This is me at 18 years old. It was when I was working at the Rubber Mill. My friend and I got our pictures taken at Jeromes photographers in Leith Street and that was the same day I met my husband. When we came out there was a car with two chaps in it. My friend knew one of them and we got talking. That night we went to the Palais and that's how it all started. Happy days".

*Joan Doyle (Joey)  
born 1919*



# NICOLSON STREET SOUTH CLERK STREET

## ARTHUR STREET & THE PLEASANCE

"I remember when the coal lorries used to go all the way down Arthur's Street. There used to be all big, high tenements around here. In Adam Street there was a Co-op butchers and a Co-op bakers. You used to go there for your divvy. I was born in 13 Drummond Street in 1917. I remember the electricity being put in for £36 when we changed from the gas.

I was about 17 then".

*Minnie Goodall (nee Grant) born 1917*



*Ruth Small  
born 1930*

"I was born in Dumbiedykes. It was terrible housing then".

*Ruth Small born 1930*

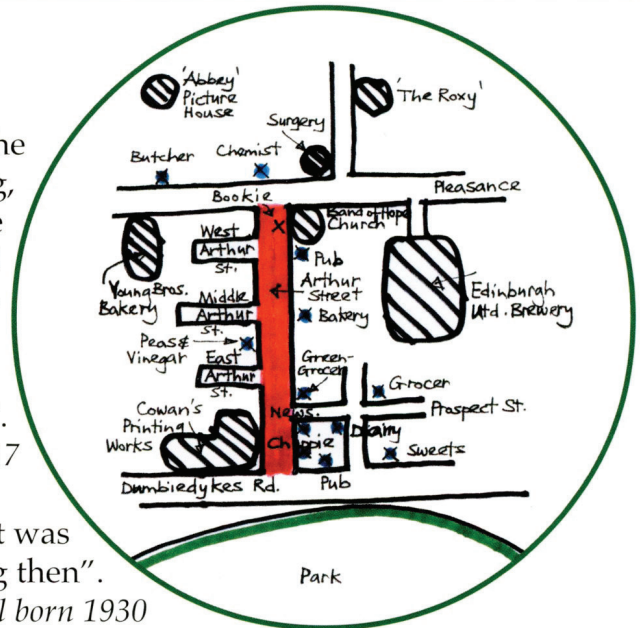
"It was all single ends. Overcrowding. Three or four or maybe more in a bed and the toilets outside on the landing".

"All high tenements. The houses were tiny. No baths, nothing. Tin baths in front of the fire".

"I lived in Dalrymple Place. There were five of us in that house with my mother and father".

*Oswald Millan born 1928*

*Arthur Street*



*Arthur Street and environs.  
Demolished early 1960's*

## DEMOLITION

"Arthur Street was all knocked down".

"All the people that lived in those tenements were all scattered to Pilton, Muirhouse, Craigmillar".

"I think people were glad to move at the time because the houses they went to were bigger and better. Bigger windows and they had baths".

"For years the ground all around here was flat, empty like a wasteland until they started building again".  
*Oswald Millan born 1928*

## SHOPS

"There were lots of wee corner shops. No supermarkets then. Nicolson Street has all changed. The food you buy for a start has changed. You used to get everything at the corner shop. Often the people who owned the shop lived in the stair above their shop and the shops were open often nearly till midnight. They were open late".

"There was the Co-op in Nicolson Street and small Co-ops in Adam Street and there was a Co-op further up in Clerk Street too".

"From Brechin Brothers the butcher in Preston Street, you used to get a tan o' fry for 6d and that was sausages and mince and all sorts.

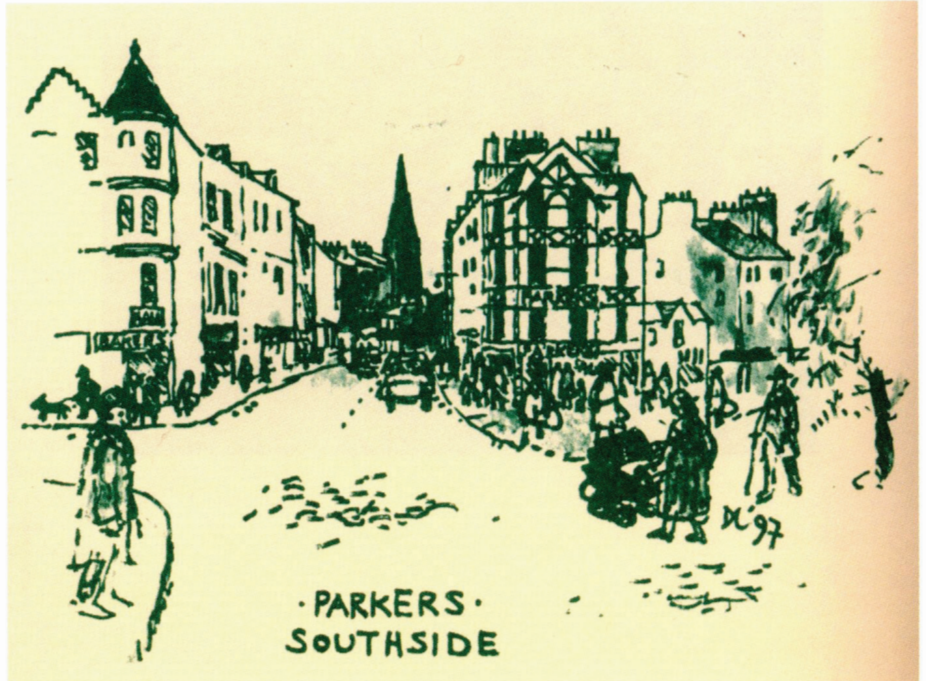
Your father always got the best o'it! He was the head of the house!".

*John Carty born 1916*

## BRISTO

"Bristo Street School was off Potterrow. There was a Paris hat shop at Bristo and The Woolpack Pub was there. Young Brothers the bakers was on Marshall Street and opposite Young Brothers was an ice cream shop and there was also a dispensary where you got emulsion for the bairn! Napiers the Herbalist was always there. It was full of fun. Full of quaint shops. There was a hat shop and Parkers Store and loads of other shops and they knocked it down and made it a place to put cars. They ruined it. I always say that whoever did that to Bristo Square should have been shot".

*Minnie Goodall (nee Grant) born 1917*



"There was J & R Allans and Peter Allans they were both clothes shops on South Bridge and Blairs was a posh clothes shop on the corner of South College Street and Nicolson St. Grants was a furniture shop".

*Minnie Goodall (nee Grant)  
born 1917*

## PARKERS STORES

"Parkers was well known for their ménages. You paid in 2/6 a week and it run for say 8 weeks. It run to about a pound. Everyone used to buy their children's clothes with it. Their prices were reasonable".

"I got my first suit out o' Parkers ready made. That would be in 1928. I got it made for the dancing".

*Oswald Millan born 1928*

"Youngs the Bakers was there and they used to have a machine in the window that made doughnuts. You could get 6d of old bread".

*John Carty born 1916*

## SIMON SQUARE WASHHOUSE

"You used to put washing into a push cart and wheel it along to the washhouse. You took along a scrubbing board, sunlight soap and a pole to push the washing into the boiler. After the washing had been in the boiler you rinsed it out, then you used the wringer and then onto a horse to dry them out. Bairns could be put into a crèche at the washhouse where a woman would look after them".  
*Isa McNeil*



## DO NOT PAWN THESE BOOTS

"There were 5 holes in the sole of the boot. The police distributed them from their office in the High Street. I got them. I've no always been rich you know!".  
*Oswald Millan born 1928*

"There were lots o' poor people in thae days and there was a soup kitchen used tae go round".  
*Minnie Goodall (nee Grant)  
born 1917*

"It was terrible when the means test came and they used to come into your house and say - You don't need that and that's a big chair, you don't need that".

*Joyce Pullen 2001*

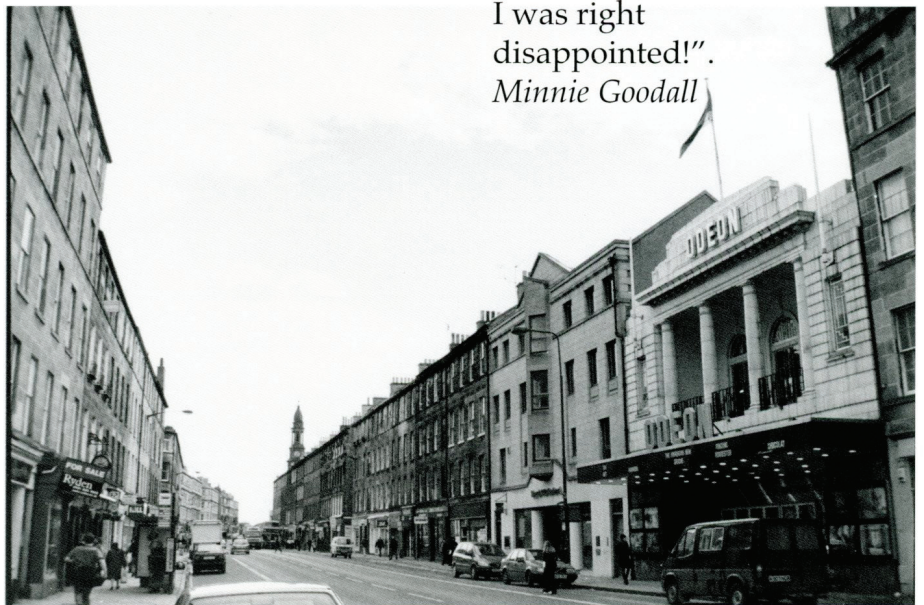


## BARRIE'S TRIP

*"I'm no going to Barrie's trip  
I'm no going again  
I'm no going to Barrie's trip  
Because it comes on rain!"*

"Bailey Barrie was a councillor and once a year he took the poor children on a trip. All the poor children and we all got an orange and an apple. It was a horse and cart. Aye I went and it always rained".  
*Oswald Millan born 1928*

"I once got a ticket to Barrie's trip and I took it home and my mother says - Take the ticket back. That's for children much worse off than you. Children whose dads are not working. I was right disappointed!".  
*Minnie Goodall*



Clerk Street, March 2001. Taken by Miles Tubb

## PUBS

“There were lots and lots of pubs in the Southside. There were tons of pubs”.

“For 2/6d (half a crown) you could get a nip of whisky, a pint of beer, 20 John Player cigarettes, a box of matches and a penny packet of crisps and still get change. That would be the late 30’s. Willie Flemmings was a wee pub I used tae go to and also Omonds in Buccleuch Street. There were 6 kinds of beer to choose from.

In the poor districts like Niddrie Mains you spat in your pint when you went to the toilet or your pint would be away!”.

*John Carty born 1916*

“There was sawdust on the pub floors and they had a spittoon. They got the sawdust from the coffin makers - Huttons”.

*Oswald Millan born 1928*



*Pub life in the mid 1950's*

“We went to The Plaza, the Cavendish, and Oddfellows in Forrest Road. We called Oddfellows ‘The Jungle’.

*Minnie Goodall (nee Grant) born 1917*

“I played drums in a band at the Palais de Dance. I’m still dancing yet! I played in Fairleys where all the sailors and soldiers went and I played in Tommy Aitken’s snooker saloon in Leith Street. I played in Stewart’s Ballroom and McDonalds in Leith. At the interval they used to put the spotlight on the drums and I was off!. You usually got maybe 6d a gig plus meals”.

*Bill Bayne born 1926*

## 'THE CHANGING SOUTHSIDE'

Personal impressions of the recent past, the present and possibilities for the future of the Southside.

(Extract from a talk to the Southside Community Association A.G.M. October 2001 by John Burns, former head of Preston Street Primary School)



*The Meadows*

### THE PAST

8 primary schools, Brown Street and Arthur Street, The Bridges Relief Road, an inner University town, empty shops on Clerk Street, cobbled streets, poverty, a different world, austere, dark, quiet Edinburgh, children skipping one evening in Montague Street, pupils faces from old school photographs, Preston Street School threatened with closure in the 1980's, derelict sites down St Leonards.

### THE PRESENT

Scottish Widows, Preston Street School 350 pupils, Cosmopolitan Southside, thriving Clerk Street, traffic problems, St Leonard's Police Station, new housing, Festival Theatre, students, restaurants, the community centre, a growing sense of identity, no gap sites.

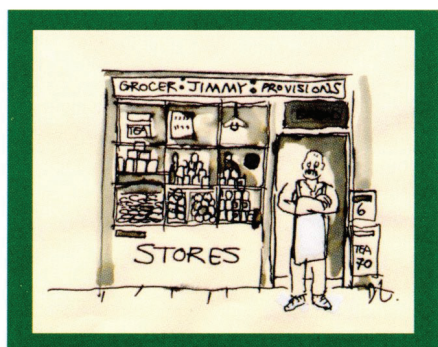
*View of Southside from Salisbury Crags 1950's. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Campbell*





# EASTER ROAD

## EASTER ROAD SHOPS

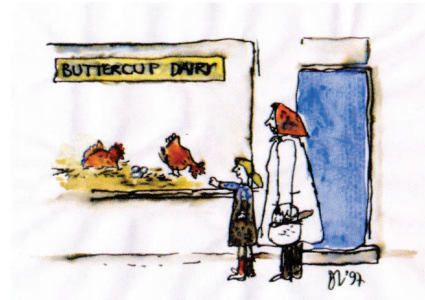


"The victuals shop - thats what you'd call a vegetarian shop now. We used to go on a pilgrimage there every Monday wi' our pillowcase and a shilling and you got your pillowcase filled up with meal to make enough porridge for the week. You had to have this book that your mother got from the Christian mission. They gave all the mothers a book at the mother's meeting and with that book you went down and got a stamp and then your pillow case filled up for a shilling. I remember one boy, he had a wee hole in his pillowcase and there was a trail of meal up Abbeyhill past the washhouse and the dance hall. Billy was his name. His family didn't have porridge all week!"

"Smiths was a well known grocers. They came from all over to that shop. Do you remember their big tins of smoked haddock? and they used to have dried salt fish from Iceland. Cod it was. In the grocers they had it hanging up and they cut a bit off for you and you had to steep it all night and then it all flaked out into a lovely bit of cod. My mother made fish cakes with it". *Rena Barclay born 1916*

"The shops used to have a great big bit of butter on a marble slab. They used to cut a bit off and slap it into a square with two wooden butter pats. They kept the pats in a jar of water". *Cathy Hunter born 1919*

"The sad part is that all the little shops that people went to have closed down. They were family shops. Nowadays, nobody would actually go to Easter Road to shop, except maybe to Iceland. Its not a shopping place now. Before, there were shoe shops, butchers, bakers. The Store at the foot of Easter Road is the main shop now. There used to be three Co-ops in Easter Road all the way down. You used to have to go shopping every day when we were young in the 20's and 30's because we had no fridges then. Now you go to the Supermarket to shop. A little bit shopping looks lonely in the basket!". *Rena Barclay born 1916*



"Away at the very bottom of Easter Road was the Buttercup Dairy. They had hens in the shop window. Straw and everything. We used to stand and wait on them laying an egg!". *Cathy Hunter born 1919*



*Joyce Pullen 2001*

## HORSES

"After the horses had been working all day it was great to see them galloping in at night and into their stalls in Cowan's Yards in Albert Street. There used to be horses all over town.

You could hear their hooves coming on the cobbles.

The tracer horses used to help with the steep hills. I stayed at the corner of Montgomery Street and

could look right up Leith Street. You could stand and watch all the horses coming up and another two being added on to go away up Leith Street where it was steep".

*Joey Robertson born 1915*

"I remember the water troughs in the streets for the horses. When I was a child in the 1920's we used to put our faces in and see how long you could keep your face under the water - go right down to the bottom. Straw and everything floating in it!".

*Rena Barclay*



## DANCING

"Stewarts Dance Hall was at Abbeyhill. They had a room upstairs and one downstairs. You went down the stairs if you were a learner".

"I went to the Palais to learn how to dance and then I progressed to the Plaza and then I progressed to the Cavendish. On a Friday night it didn't finish till one o'clock and we used to walk home.

Getting small men at the dancing, I was famous for that. I would be sitting down and a man would come over. I'd say 'You know I'm quite tall' and he'd say 'Oh that's alright'. Then, when we got up to dance I'd be towering over him!".

*Isobel Kirk born 1927*



"You just didn't go into pubs - none o' thae fancy lounges. Women just didnae go into pubs. The older women went into what they called the jug bar. That was their wee social activity on a Saturday night".

*Rena Barclay born 1916*

## THE CINEMA

"We went to the Wednesday matinee at the Picturedrome straight from school, for a penny. It became the Eastway Cinema later. When it was the Picturedrome, it was a right family thing. It was a man and two sisters ran it. You went up the stairs and there was a wee coal fire up in the hallway, always warm and bright".

*Rena Barclay*

"Gary Cooper was one of my favourites. I had a picture of him in my identity card and my mother said - Is that that Canadian chap you were out with last week?".

*Isobel Kirk*

"Rudolph Valentino in 'The Sheik' and then 'The Son of a Sheik'. He was gorgeous. Oh he really was! Down in the newspaper shop they had a full size picture of him in his sheik clothes and I remember I used to go down and look round the corner just to see this beautiful picture".

*Rena Barclay*

"I used to like cowboys at the time and my favourite was Hop-a-Long Cassidy, William Boyd, Roy Rodgers. I liked the way he laughed Ho Ho Ho! I liked all the cowboys and I used to read all the cowboy books".

*Helen Wright born 1924*

"I remember the community singing at the Regent cinema, Abbeymount. They put all the words up on the screen and a wee ball went along the words to the music and you all sang. Richard Telfer used to play the organ".

*Cathy Hunter born 1919*

"There used to be a showground at Albert Street where the fair came and Dare Devil Peg - he used to come to the fair at Milton Street. He used to dive from way up into a bath of water which was on fire! He had a wooden leg".



*Easter Road around 1900*



## BUSKERS

"The buskers used to come round the streets and sing in the backgreens and you threw your money out the window to them. Singers and dancers and that.

I mind o' the barrel organ wi the wee monkey. They used to come round Buchanan Street" *Joey Robertson born 1915*

"The barrel organ used to play 'Rosemarie I love you!' There was a woman turning the handle and the monkey all dressed up wi the wee hat on".

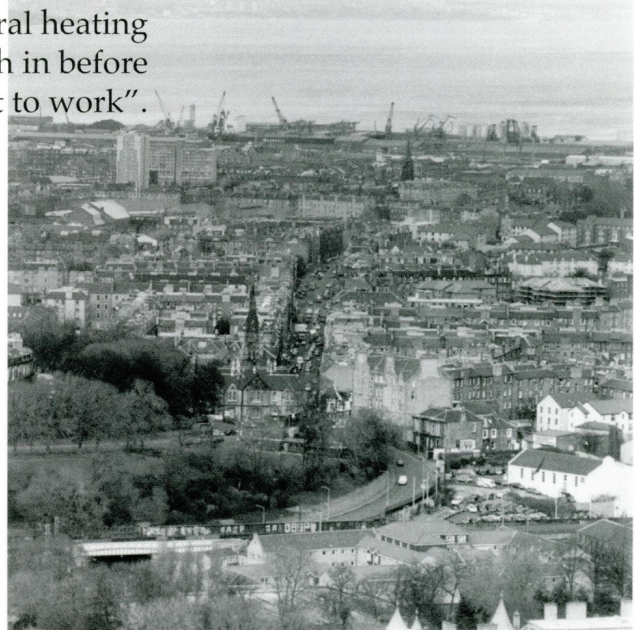
"There was a big coal merchants yard, Christies in Albert Street. Everyone had coal fires with a range in the house. The coal fires were nice but an awful lot of work!"

"It was really cold in the morning before you got that fire going. It was nice to look at but its nice to have central heating at the back of you! There was only cold water to wash in before you went to work".

*Joey Robertson born 1915*



*Easter Road from  
Salisbury Crags taken  
by Miles Tubb 1998*



## GASLIGHT

"All the streets were lit by gaslight - all down Easter Road. I think the streets were lovely with the gaslight. When it was raining the gaslight looked lovely flickering in the streets". *Rena Barclay*  
"The man used to go round the streets lighting the lights and light the stair lights as well. We used to wait on him coming round in the evening to put them on and in the morning to put them off".

"My Uncle Jimmy was a leerie up in Peterhead. He used to have these big, long matches and he broke off a bit and stuck it in to light the gas lamps".

*Frances Moir born 1915*

"We used the gas mantles. You had to be careful when you were changing it in case you broke them they were so fragile".

"It was a penny meter we had for the gas and you used to like when the gasman came. You got a rebate for your penny meter".

*Cathy Hunter*



*Joey Robertson (left) 1920's*

"There were always a lot of lums going on fire. I remember people doing that deliberately cause it saved the sweep coming out. When I stayed in Craigentenny, Loganlea Drive that used to happen regularly and the fire engines would come round".

*Bill McLean*

"People used to have a seat round the fire and you did your toast at the fire".

*Joey Robertson*

## TENEMENT STAIRS

“There were beautiful banisters in the tenements. We used to slide down them and the boys used to climb up on the outside of the banisters”.

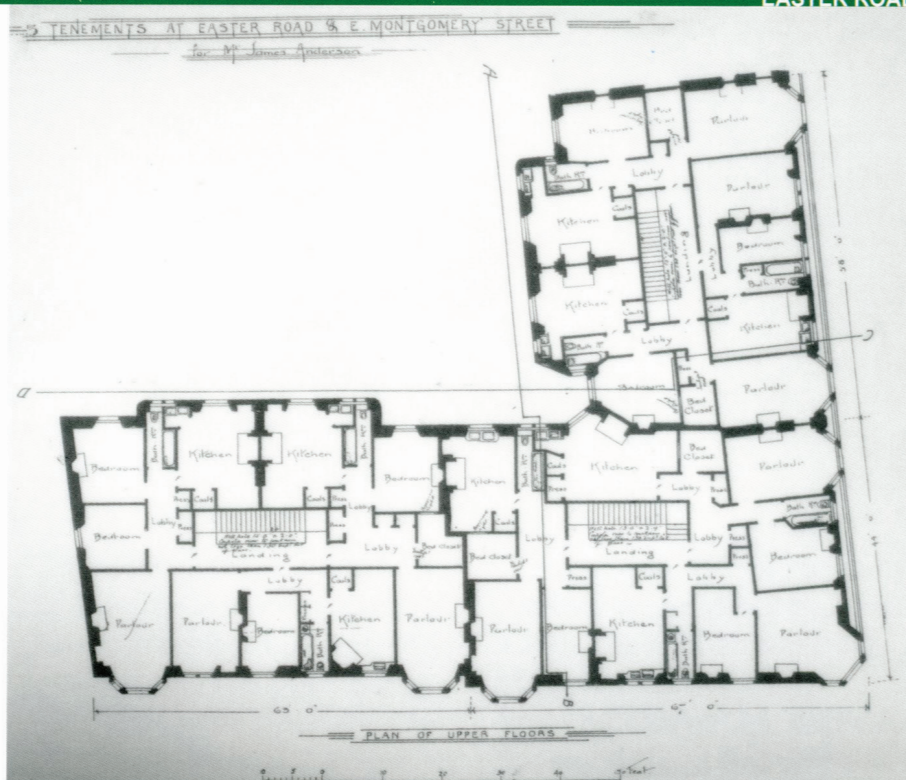
“In our day everyone had bells. There were no intercoms. You pulled on the handle on the main door. Kids used to pull the bell and run away”.

“Everyone used to polish their bell and people had their name on the brass. There was a young lad who used to go round all the doors asking if you wanted your brass cleaned”.

“A lot of people had to share a toilet in the landing, perhaps between three families. I stayed in Beggs Buildings at Abbeyhill for a while and it was like that. I hated it”. *Joey Robertson*

“Some of them even had to go outside to get to a sink. In the Whitehorse Close in the Canongate there were sinks on the balconies and they had to go out and get their water. And some of them used to have a key to some of the wells and have to go there with a pail to get water. That was even in my day and I was born in 1916. My granny used to live there. It was really primitive!”. *Rena Barclay*

“Some people’s toilets were outside and they would have to go out in all weathers. That’s why they had chanties under the bed. They put flowers in them now!”. *Joey Robertson*



*1896 plans of Easter Road tenements. Courtesy of The Plan Store, City Development, City of Edinburgh Council.*



*Easter Road, March 2001. Miles Tubb*

“Usually the houses had a kitchen/living room. There would be a coal cellar in that room and the coalmen would bring the coal up. The fire would have a fender seat in front of it”.

“We had a bed sideboard. We use to bring the bed down at night”.

“My mother lived in 31 Buchanan Street and was moved out to Pilton and she was heartbroken. She wanted a bigger house but she wanted to stay in the area. Now they try and keep you in the area”.

*Joey Robertson born 1915*

## HIBS FOOTBALL CLUB

“Mind the Famous Five?  
There was Eddie Turnbull,  
Gordon Smith, Lawrie Reilly,  
Willie Ormond and  
Bobby Johnstone”.  
*Frances Moir born 1915*



## A TYPICAL WASHING LINE

“We used to have the pulley outside the window for washing. We had a rag to cover the rope because the lines got dirty and that would keep the washing clean. We used dolly pegs”.

“On the washing line we would hang petticoats, men’s long johns and combinations, cami knicks, sheets, pillow cases and bolster cases”.

“At Christmas we used to hang up the long bolster case hoping to get more presents!”.

“You used to have knickers with elastic in the legs with a wee pocket for your hanky!”.

“There were collarless shirts. They had detachable collars with studs and they all had to be starched”.

“I used to live in the high flats at the Kirkgate and one time I put my orange towel out to dry on the window ledge but the wind blew it away and it landed on top of a gravestone down in the kirkyard below! I had to go and ask to get in to the graveyard to get it. I remember apologising to whoever it was that was in that grave!”.

*Rena Barclay born 1916*

“I used to work in the laundry at Abbeyhill, Rose Lane. We had to keep the windows shut. The laundry was right next to the railway line and if you kept the windows open the smoke from the steam trains came in and spotted the clothes”.

*Rena Barclay born 1916*



# EASTER ROAD

## Memories and Images

"I've seen the top of Easter Road on the ground... the community centre and the shops around. After B&Q is lost though. These seem to be things of the way down."

"They had just finished at their shop and other people went to have a drink down. They were family shops. Nowadays, nobody would actually go to Easter Road to shop, except maybe to buy a newspaper or a tin of food. Before, there were shoe shops, butchers, bakers. The shops at the top of Easter Road is the most shops now. There used to be three Co-ops in Easter Road at the top down. You used to have to go shopping every day when we were young in the 20's and 30's because we had no fridge then."

"You miss the shops. There used to be lovely baker's, butchers, butchers. Now you go to the supermarket to buy a loaf of shopping takes time in the market!"

"There were a lot of shops down Easter Road then."



Calton Centre Renaissance Club Easter Road (taken in 2001)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Heather Robertson  
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Miss Tully, Photographer  
David Leverage  
Hill Country Museum Award Winner



Front of Easter Road, Queen Margaret College (old Leith Academy buildings) taken in 1999. Photo: David Leverage



"I remember seeing people taking their washing to the washhouse in the past and I remember lots of shops used to have storage for washing. They were busy."

*David Leverage*  
"I had a bed at night..."  
"I had a bed at night..."  
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"I had a bed at night..."  
"I had a bed at night..."



A Typical Tenement

### A TYPICAL TENEMENT

"They are nice houses in Easter Road. Substantial houses."

"Usually the houses had a kitchen/dining room. There would be a coal cellar in that room and the upstairs would bring the coal up. The fire would have a boiler tank in front of it."

"The ceilings were high and there were big windows!"

"We had a bed at night... We use to bring the bed down at night!"

"My mother lived in 31 Buchanan Street and was comfortable. She wanted a bigger house but she wanted to stay in the area. How busy it was and you in the area!"

"Our Mum moved to Easter Road from the Canongate in about 1930. She missed the great window at the Canongate. We used to see Royally going up and down from the Palace. When she moved to the new house she couldn't get used to having a gas cooker. She had always had a range and she still used to go to her cooking on the fire and not on the cooker!"



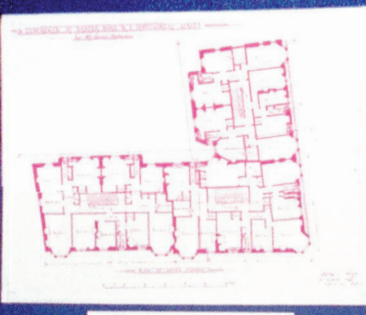
Easter Road (taken in 1999. Photo: David Leverage)



Easter Road (taken in 1999. Photo: David Leverage)



A typical tenement at the Calton Centre (March 2001)



1900 - Plans of Easter Road Tenements (taken from the floor plan, the illustration, the illustration)

"I used to work in the laundry at Altonhill, Rose Lane. We had to keep the windows shut. The laundry was right next to the railway line and if you had the windows open the smoke from the steam trains came in and spoiled the clothes!"

"It used to be a shame to get into the washhouse but I found things used to get done from the washhouse!"



### A TYPICAL WASHING LINE

"We used to have the pulley outside the window for washing. We had a log to cover the line because we were get dirty and that would keep the washing clean. We used to hang them!"

"On the washing line we would hang petticoats, men's long shirts and collared shirts, women's pillow cases and towel cases."

"At Christmas we used to hang up the long boiler case hoping to get more presents!"

"We used to have knives with blades in the legs with a saw pocket for your hands!"

"There were collared shirts. They had decorative collars with studs and they had to be starched!"

### HBS FOOTBALL CLUB

"They're knocking the old stand down now and building a new one. It's all washed now. It used to be standing."

"They used to be able to go into the ground with drink but not now. Now there's no drink allowed in the ground. And now they separate the fans. One lot goes to Easter Road and the other lot go to the other way, which is better too. My son is in the ground for HBS. The name was Callaghan!"

"When we were there used to be the grass and you play with the result. We used to get them up and they score and then and then each other with them!"

"I actually like the football here. I have a son that plays for HBS. The football is part of Easter Road. It's quite exciting with them going down on a Saturday. It brings business to Easter Road. The shops would miss the football if it went away to the outside of town or something like that and the public!"

"At one time there could be about 40,000 at a match. Now you're lucky if you get 12,000 it's expensive now to go to the matches."

"Mind the Famous Five. There was Eddie Turnbull, Gordon Smith, Laurie Hely, Willie Ormand and Bobby Johnston!"

"I hate the football here. I had my windows broken twice in on the ground floor. Even today I read when the pipe falls or things. The pipe after the top matches is awful. Since they stopped the drinking it's been better. Though the shop windows used to be all smashed when Hearts played HBS!"

"I used to live in the high flats at the Kirkcaldy and one time I had my car going down to go to the washhouse but the wind blew it away and it landed on top of a grasshopper. I was in the ground below! I had to go and see to go on to the ground to get it. I remember according to witness, it was that was in that ground!"



Easter Road (taken in 1999. Photo: David Leverage)



### CALTON CENTRE YOUTH CLUB

Almost 2001  
Children's ideas for the future of Easter Road  
A wish for more trees, seats, benches, flowers, a security make Easter Road into a big (Home Park)



HIRIBIAN FOOTBALL CLUB  
Demolition of old stand 2000  
(New stand opened 2001)



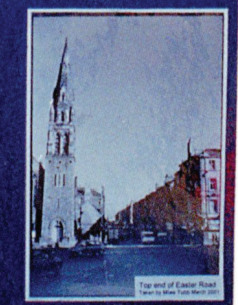
Calton Centre Youth Club  
All Group 2001

### TENEMENT STAIRS

"There were beautiful banisters. We used to slide down them and the boys used to climb up on the outside of the banisters."

"In our day everyone had balls. There were no children. They pulled on the handle on the main door. Kids used to pull the ball and out away!"

"Everyone used to polish their bell and people had their name on the brass. There was a young lad who used to go round at the door asking if you wanted your brass cleaned!"



Top end of Easter Road (taken in 1999. Photo: David Leverage)

### EASTER ROAD - THE CHANGES

"The people are of changing. The whole scene's changing. They're all old working!"

"Lots of houses are up for let but, all down Easter Road!"

"Nearly all the churches are closed except three. One of the big one in the middle and one at the bottom. There used to be lots more."

"St Margaret's Church was getting so bad down recently and they were asking you to put your name on one of the names for the church's roof. My wife gave them out it."



Calton Centre Youth Club  
All Group 2001

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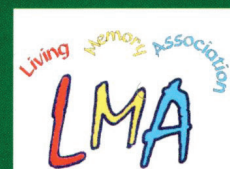
**CITY OF EDINBURGH MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES - MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH AND THE PEOPLE'S STORY**

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*A typical brawl at the  
Calton Centre  
Reminiscence Group!  
February 2001*



