

Foreword

This booklet of memories and research has been put together to complement Citadel Arts Group's Abbeyhill Soundscape. This is our fourth soundscape, created by sound engineers Stewart Emm and Allan Rhynas with the voices of Abbeyhill Primary pupils: Lexi Houston, Cadha King, Amelia Byrne, Eva Wright and Sophie Tait; and professional actors: Mark Kydd, Mike Daviot, Adam Tomkins, Andrea McKenzie, Deborah Whyte and Stephanie Falls. In the soundscape, two Abbeyhill school pupils time-travel back to 1907 discovering how their school and neighbourhood have changed. Citadel Arts Group's intention is to capture and share some of the history of the school and surrounding area. Citadel members carried out research in the archives at the City Chambers in Parliament Square and Central Library. Inspired by the memories and research, Elaine Campbell, Carolyn Lincoln, Alan Mountford, Vincent Maguire and Laure Paterson, all members of the Workers Educational Associational (WEA) Playwrights Workshop, scripted the soundscape scenes and wrote sections in this book. Other information comes from first-hand

sources. We held a lively open meeting in the school in March 2019 attended by former pupils of the school. Fond memories were shared, and transcripts of these vivid stories have been included in the book.

A distinguished former pupil, football legend Billy Hunter and his wife Rona, kindly agreed to meet with Citadel researchers Vincent Maguire and Liz Hare. Billy and Rona also shared their memories and extensive archive of photos of school days and growing up in Abbeyhill.

Further insights into life in the Abbeyhill area came from Graeme Chatham who founded a successful car and motorbike business close to the school where he became a benefactor. Citadel is grateful to the janitor for sharing with us a copy of the Headmaster's logbook for World War II. We used logbook extracts to run a series of workshops with P4 and P6 pupils in which they imagined what life might have been like during the war years. Their improvised scenes helped Laure Paterson create the WWII episode in the soundscape. Stewart and Allan recorded the pupils' improvisations and helped them to add sound effects. Their drawings appear in the booklet.

Citadel Arts Group thanks all the contributors, everyone at Abbeyhill Primary especially

teachers Abi Flowers and Andrew Hamilton and their classes, janitor William Forrest; drama teacher Marilyn Wilson and members of her after-school drama club; The City of Edinburgh Council archivists at the City Chambers and Central Library who guided us to materials on the school; Ilyana Nedkova and the Colony of Artists for facilitating our work in Abbeyhill Primary; Irene Clayton for additional research into James Westwood; Hazel Godfrey who loaned us the Monarchs (speedway) 70 year celebration booklet; Fiona Tennick for introducing us to Graeme Chatham; the WEA who fund the playwrights group; Eric Robinson for designing the booklet, and our benefactor Vanessa Nias for supporting the project.

LIZ HARE, JULY 2019



ABBHEYHILL PRIMARY PHOTO BY SIGRID NIELSEN

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2: 2nd Lieutenant James Westwood, Abbeyhill schoolteacher and World War I casualty

3: Medical Memories – Elsie Inglis and Mona Geddes

4: The impact of World War II

5: 'The Wee World' – memories of former pupil and football legend Billy Hunter; school friends and neighbours of Billy Hunter tell their Abbeyhill stories

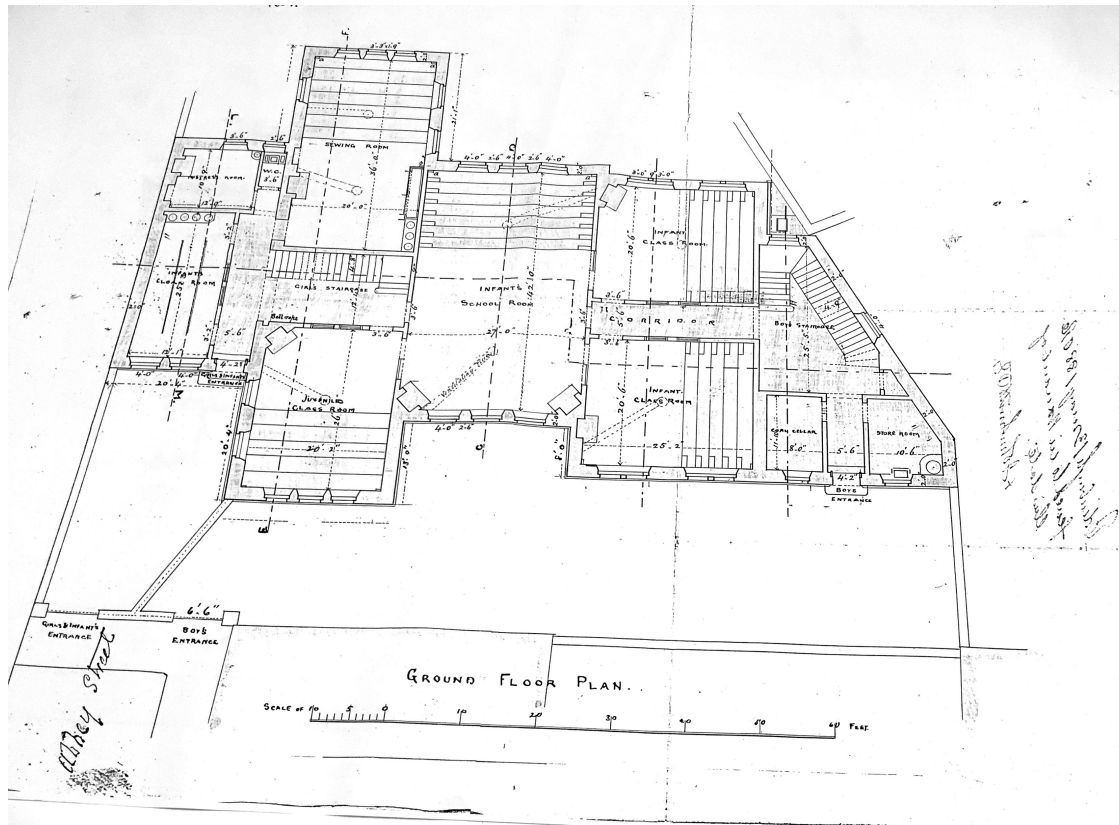
6: Abbeyhill from 1950s-70s – memories of women and men who attended the school and played in the playground

7: The story of the Regent picture house, Abbeymount

8: Reminiscences of Graeme Chatham, local businessman and school benefactor



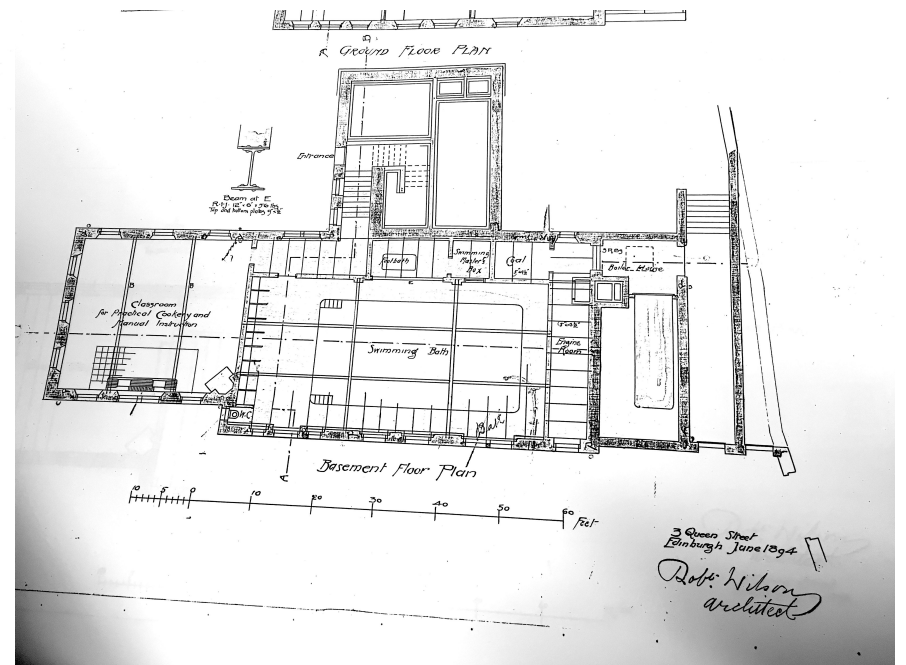
ABBAYHILL PRIMARY PHOTO BY SIGRID NIELSEN



SCHOOL GROUND PLAN 1879 (COURTESY ABBEYHILL PRIMARY)

Handwritten notes:
 1879
 1880
 1881
 1882
 1883
 1884
 1885
 1886
 1887
 1888
 1889
 1890
 1891
 1892
 1893
 1894
 1895
 1896
 1897
 1898
 1899
 1900

GROUND FLOOR PLAN SHOWING SWIMMING POOL 1894 (COURTESY ABBEYHILL PRIMARY)



Abbeyhill Primary School

First there was the school at Regents Road. Then Abbeyhill Primary was part of George Heriot's Hospital. Abbeyhill Primary School Main Building was founded in 1881 and the Infant Building in 1895. The Abbeyhill Public School Log starts in 1897.

Extracts from the school logbooks held in the City Chambers

1897: Discussion of celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. June 21st: there were special lessons on the Queen's life and reign.

In 1897 there were still Pupil Teachers.

30 Sept 1898: The school was closed. The police considered it would be dangerous for the children to cross Norton Place owing to vehicles that would be passing on their way to Musselburgh Races.

25th Dec 1899: 'School closed by order of the School Board.' (So no automatic holiday on Christmas Day until 1899?) 26th Dec: 'School resumed. All staff present. Attendance poor.' In the 1890s whooping cough was the big killer. Popular names for girls were Annie, Janet, Edith, Williamina, Euphemia, Bella, Edith, Emily, Agnes, Bessie, Jeanie, Daisy and Nettie. Popular boys' names were James, Thomas,

John, Joseph, Alexander and William.

1899: The morning attendance for the school was 1,163 and for the afternoon 1,124.

September 24th: there were five notices of scarlet fever this week.

1900: 8th Jan a half day holiday was given in celebration of the entry of the British Army into Pretoria.

1901: Many emigrated to Canada.

1901: The Inspector reported in glowing terms – 'this school scarcely requires inspection.'

1902: 4th Nov Inspector's Report on the teaching of cookery 'the fumes from the gas stove in constant use permeated the room to the discomfort of all. There is no progressive scheme of work . . . an improvement will be looked for'.

1903: 12th and 13th May school closed in honour of the king's visit to the city.

1903: 7th Dec Report on Cookery – 'This was very quietly and ably conducted. Good practical instruction . . . excellent discipline'.

1904: 24th March praise from the School Inspector but 'some hesitation is felt in continuing the highest rate of grant'.

1905: 6th October 'as usual on the days of the Races the school was closed at 1.30.'

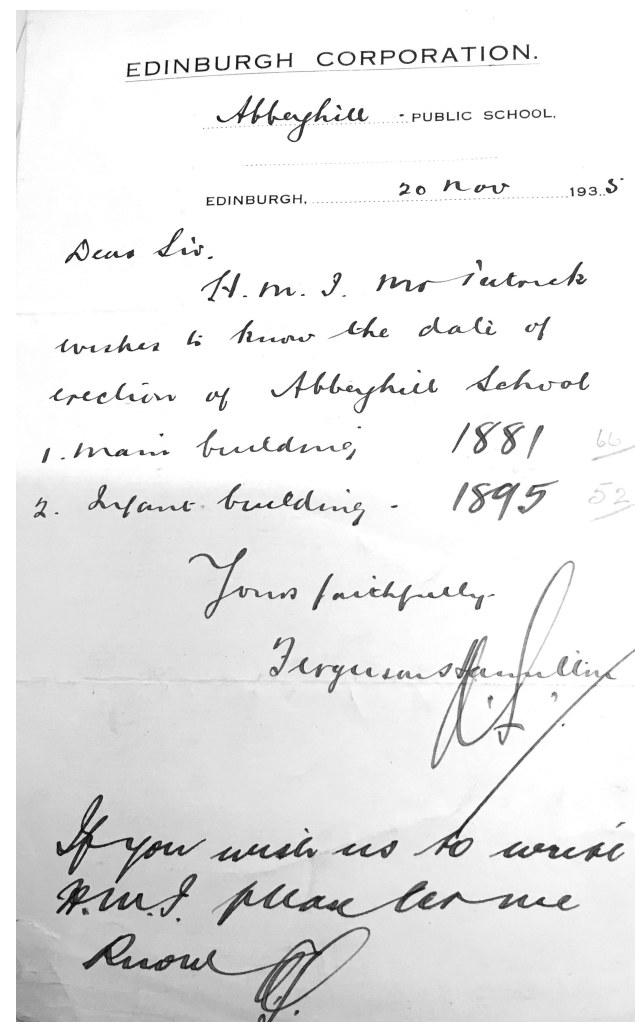
1906: Cooking inspection – 'everything is

scrupulously clean; the pupils are model little cooks.'

1907 6th Dec: Senior pupils addressed on the evils of smoking.

1908 2nd Oct: first reference to school fire drill.

SCHOOL LOG BOOK (COURTESY CITY CHAMBERS)



George Heriot's Foundation School
 Temporary premises Abbey Hill
 11th March 1875

I paid a short visit to this school today while the classes were engaged in singing, this department is very well conducted by Mr Marshall, Miss Isabella Gardens pupils were at this time all engaged at the singing, The children were attentive, clean, and tidy, This school is at present labouring under great disadvantages from the want of proper accommodation, But the new school-house which I visited today is so far advanced as to be nearly ready for occupation, this I consider to be a model school-house, — Robt. Macdonald, Councillor.

HERIOT'S HOSPITAL (COURTESY CITY CHAMBERS)

SCHOOL LOGBOOK 1893 (COURTESY CITY CHAMBERS)

| GENERAL ADMISSION REGISTER. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------|---|--|----------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| (4) No. | (5) NAME IN FULL (Christian and Surname) | (6) Date of Birth (Day, Month, and Year) | (7) Date of Admission (Day, Month, and Year) | (8) If re-admitted —Date (Day, Month, and Year) | (9) FATHER or GUARDIAN. | | (10) Whether occupying premises for school. | (11) Name of last school attended before entering this School. | (12) 81, R. W. A. | (13) What year attending in this school. | (14) Year | (15) Expenses. |
| | | | | | Name. | Address. | | | | | | |
| 5022 | John Lancaster | 29/9/88 | 4/9/93 | | John Lancaster | 38 Regent Place | | | | | | |
| 5023 | Henry Murphy | 4/2/84 | 4/9/93 | | James Murphy | 91 Abbey Hill | | | | | | |
| 5024 | John Mendenhall | 1/9/88 | 4/9/93 | | John Mendenhall | 35 Milton St. | | | | | | |
| 5025 | James Clark | 15/5/88 | 4/9/93 | | James Clark | 51 Nelson St. | | | | | | |
| 5026 | James McButcher | 16/1/85 | 4/9/93 | | James McButcher | 5 Kossie Place | | | | | | |
| 5027 | William Scott | 25/8/85 | 4/9/93 | | William Scott | 4 Beags B. | | | | | | |
| 5028 | Edward Davis | 2/8/86 | 4/9/93 | | Samuel Davis | 5 Lady Margaret St. | | | | | | |
| 5029 | Henry Best | 26/4/87 | 4/9/93 | | Henry Best | 10, N. B. Beags B. | | | | | | |
| 5030 | David Durran | 2/3/86 | 4/9/93 | | David Durran | 5, S. Norton St. | | | | | | |
| 5031 | David Ritchie | 5/2/86 | 4/9/93 | | David Ritchie | 3 Beags B. | | | | | | |
| 5032 | Robert Henderson | 5/9/86 | 4/9/93 | | James Henderson | 17 Abbey Hill. | | | | | | |
| 5033 | James Irving | 26/7/84 | 4/9/93 | | William Irving | 18 Edina Pl. | | | | | | |
| 5034 | Robert Cleghorn | 11/4/86 | 4/9/93 | | Adam Cleghorn | 16 Jane Terrace | | | | | | |
| 5035 | Alexander Kerr | 14/5/87 | 4/9/93 | | Alexander Kerr | 11 Dyne St. | | | | | | |
| 5036 | Isabella Brown | 27/11/87 | 4/9/93 | | James Brown | 13 S. Norton St. | | | | | | |
| 5037 | Amelia J. Shaw | 19/7/87 | 4/9/93 | | John Wallace | 21 Nelson St. | | | | | | |
| 5038 | Louisa Wood | 10/3/86 | 4/9/93 | | Thomas Cameron | 2 Salmond Pl. | | | | | | |
| 5039 | William Bruce | 6/12/86 | 4/9/93 | | James Bruce | 5 Kirkwood St. | | | | | | |
| 5040 | Thomas White | 4/10/86 | 4/9/93 | | Robert White | 11 Edina Pl. | | | | | | |
| 5041 | Joseph White | 27/6/85 | 4/9/93 | | James McNeil | 2 Salmond Pl. | | | | | | |
| 5042 | Mary McPhail | 3/6/84 | 4/9/93 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5043 | James McPhail | 16/11/88 | 4/9/93 | | James Hindness | 11 Kossie Place | | | | | | |
| | James Hindness | 4/1/88 | 4/9/93 | | John Clapperton | 3 Dalgety St. | | | | | | |
| | | 1/1/88 | 4/9/93 | | | | | | | | | |

1 James Ward – The Story Of A Pauper

In 1907 when James Ward of Stanley Street left Abbeyhill School, he was eight years old. It wasn't unusual for children to leave school prematurely. What was unusual in James' case was that he left to go to the poorhouse. Reasons more frequently given were illness, particularly scarlet fever, and emigration, mainly to Canada but also to the USA, England and Australia. Children were sent to the poorhouse in the early 1900s, if they had no alternative means of support. Most were orphans. Others might have a disabled, sick or unemployed parent. There was no social security in 1900. Edinburgh's poorhouse records relating to 'inmates' have been destroyed so sadly James' story ends at the school gates.

We can be almost certain that he was destined for one of Edinburgh's poorhouses, the City Poorhouse, Craiglockhart or St Cuthbert's, Craighleith. The soundscape sees James making his way to Craiglockhart. He would have known what awaited him. The community in which he'd lived feared the poorhouse. James had to face the humiliation and shame alone. Sympathy and kindness tended to be in short supply. At times life was harsh, even cruel and

always regimented and segregated. Men, women and children lived and worked apart. In Craiglockhart:

'Inmates are employed as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, painters, blacksmiths, plumbers, warders, scrubbers, at wood-splitting, flax-teasing, sewing and laundry work; and on the farm, garden, and roads. These are found to be financially profitable.

The children receive an elementary education at the Protestant and Catholic schools in Slateford, and religious training in the Institution.

Thirty-six children have been boarded out during 1905. The daily average number in the Poorhouse for the year was 111.

Girls are trained in sewing, knitting, and housework. Boys are trained in garden work during summer' *

Pauperism was believed by many to be hereditary. Every effort should be made to bring up pauper children to be 'god-fearing, useful and healthy members of society'.

It's possible that James was sent to one of City's boarding schools endowed by philanthropists to educate the poor and orphaned. These schools occupied some of Edinburgh's most iconic buildings. Although the education on offer

failed to reflect the magnificence of the buildings in which it took place, it was an education. It's perhaps ironic that those schools that continue to function today are mainly fee-paying. According to David Mclean, 'Approximately one in ten Scots have ancestors who spent time living in poorhouses between the 1840s and 1930s.'** There but for fortune went you or I!

*EXTRACT, CRAIGLOCKHART POORHOUSE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, QUOTED IN PETER HIGGINBOTHAM, WWW.WORKHOUSES.ORG.UK/EDINBURGH.

**LIFE IN AN EDINBURGH POORHOUSE, EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS, 5 DECEMBER 2016.

Abbeyhill Primary School Log Book entries:

Jan 1910: 'Headmaster conferred with Miss Lambie teacher of cookery regarding the question of inflicting corporal punishment on senior girls.'

Causes of death often given as measles, whooping cough, consumption and 'being delicate'.

July 1910: Miss Margaret Anderson Assistant Teacher 'resigned in view of her approaching marriage.'

Jan 1911: Andrew Weir Class II Supplementary Course 'met with a slight accident practising physical exercises under M Hill Drill Instructor.'



Drawn by Tho. H. Shepherd.

Engraved by W. Watkins.

THE NEW JOHN WATSON'S HOSPITAL, EDINBURGH.

Jones & C^o Temple of the Muses, Finsbury Square. London. Jan. 1. 1830.

JOHN WATSON'S HOSPITAL



NURSERY IN CRAIGLOCKHART POORHOUSE, C. 1905 (COURTESY EDINBURGH CITY ARCHIVES)

19 May 1911: The Board agreed to give a grant of 30/- for the purchase of Drawing Models and also for an annual allowance 10/- for the purchase of flowers for the purposes of teaching drawing.

26 June 1911 Coronation Day: All marched through the crowded streets to Lochend Park for sports. Very heavy rain at 3.15. Back to school for cakes. A 'great success'.

The Rev. Dr. James Begg – a local reformer

The long gone but still well-remembered Abbeyhill tenement housing known as 'Beggie's' was built in 1860, named after the Free Church of Scotland minister James Begg D.D. (1808-1883), an important social and housing reformer.

Dr. Begg's Buildings was one of a number of Model Dwelling projects built in Edinburgh between 1850-61, an initiative of church, charitable and social reform leaders to prove that decent homes for the 'industrious working class' might be provided - and profitably for the builders. 'Beggie's' was built at a total cost of £6,000 and housed 66 families, the lowest weekly rent back then 2/6d (twelve and a half pence). Such homes were a precursor to Edinburgh's 'colony' housing.

James Begg was a prime mover in the great 1843 Disruption within the Scottish church and in the founding of the Scottish Reformation Society. He's name-checked by Robert Louis Stevenson in his 1887 story 'The Misadventures of John Nicholson'. Said to be the most autobiographical of RLS's tales, it whisks the reader round posh Edinburgh houses, including Abbeyhill's neighbouring Regent and Royal Terraces, and an illegal Low Calton drinking den.

The God-fearing father of the eponymous wayward John Nicholson had '... long ago enthroned himself on the heights of the Disruption principles ... about the period when the churches convene at Edinburgh in their annual assemblies he was to be seen descending the Mound in the company of divers red-headed clergymen: these voluble, he only contributing oracular nods ... the names of Candlish and Begg frequent in these interviews ...'

Together with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Chalmers, James Begg was a major influence in the building of Edinburgh's 'colony' housing and indeed laid the foundation stone of the first colony house in Reid Terrace. Construction of these homes, intended for sale or rent to artisans and skilled working-class families, took

place between 1850 and 1910.

Begg had long been concerned about the dire state of the city's dwellings and the gross overcrowding. A prolific writer on social as well as Christian subjects, one early impression of the conditions in which poor people lived recorded:

'... filthy wynds, ruinous damp staircases ... we reached the uppermost flat and opened the door. We were nearly knocked back by the horrid vapour. . . We found two mothers and a number of children inhabiting this miserable apartment for which a shilling a week was paid. There was one bed of rotten straw in the corner for the whole inmates; and we found that this was only one of six houses of a similar kind on the same stair-head, making the whole property of this wretched and ruinous tenement to be greater than that of a considerable country village.'

Moved by such experiences Begg and other reformers campaigned for the provision of decent housing. In 1859, a demand to reduce the working day led to a lock-out of building workers by their employers. An enterprising group of stonemasons, with the backing of such campaigners, decided to set up on their own, in 1861 forming the Edinburgh Co-operative

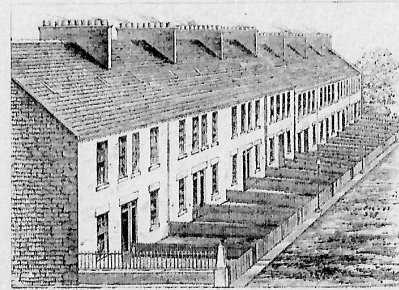


JAMES BEGG, D.D.

Home & Macdonald, Lith



UPPER FLAT HOUSES WITH ATTICS.



HOUSES ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES, EDINBURGH.

HAPPY HOMES
 FOR
 WORKING MEN
 AND HOW TO GET THEM.

BY
 JAMES BEGG, D.D.

"Leave o'er its humble gate, and thinks the while,
 Oh! that for me some home like this would smile."
 —CAMPERDOWN'S *Treasures of Hope*.
 "Alas!
 Nor wife, nor children, more shall he behold,
 Nor friends, nor sacred home."
 —THOMSON.

Second Edition Revised.

EDINBURGH:
 CHARLES F. LYON, GEORGE IV. BRIDGE.
 LONDON: CASSELL, PETTER, & GALPIN.
 1873.

DR JAMES BEGG DD

Building Company Limited to build affordable houses for working people.

Such a home could be purchased by means of a (long and hard saved for) £5 deposit plus repayments over some 14 to 20 years. These model 'colony' dwellings of upper and lower flats were in locations outwith the city centre and convenient for the railway, brewing and other local industries.

Begg was particularly proud of his role in winning for the people of Edinburgh free access to public parks such as the Eastern Meadows and East Princes Street Gardens.

He died in 1883 and was buried at East Preston Street Cemetery, a crowd of 2,000 attending his funeral. He's commemorated in photographs by the pioneer photographers Hill and Adamson and in a portrait by Scottish painter Sir Daniel Macnee - whose great-grandson, the actor Patrick Macnee, played secret agent John Steed in the British TV series 'The Avengers'. Begg would not have approved of TV; he was against hymns and instrumental music in Church.



BEGG'S BUILDINGS (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)

REFERENCES: HAPPY HOMES FOR WORKING MEN, BY JAMES BEGG D.D., 1873

MEMOIRS OF JAMES BEGG D.D., 2 VOLS, BY THOMAS SMITH, 1885

HOUSING THE PEOPLE: THE COLONIES OF EDINBURGH, BY RICHARD RODGER, 1999

REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH, BY HENRY D. LITTLEJOHN M.D., F.R.C.S.E., 1865



WW1 MAP SHOW SECTION OF THE YPRES SALIENT

2 2nd Lieutenant James Westwood – The Tragic Young Officer



James Westwood M.A. was a teacher at Abbeyhill Primary School when World War I broke out. He immediately enlisted as a Private in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Scots. (The Dandy Ninth.)
On the 23rd July 1916 James was wounded at Pozieres in France. After recovering from his wounds he was accepted for officer training and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 321st Siege Battery of The Royal Garrison. On the 25th June 1917 at a crossroads near

Ypres the Battery came under heavy shellfire. James and three of his comrades went to the assistance of a wounded comrade. All five were killed. James had only been back at the front for three days. The map on the previous page shows the location of the 321st Battery at the time of his death.

James along with his other four fallen comrades were laid to rest together at 9am the following morning at a service conducted by a Padre. The company Colonel was also in attendance. His final resting place is in Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery in Belgium. If you look at the graves registration report form opposite you can see the names of James Westwood and the other four all resting together killed on the 25th June 1917.

Life History

Son of David and Mary MA Edinburgh University. Died 25 June 1917 aged 28 years. Buried in Belgium. Taught Abbeyhill Primary School. These are the bare facts. Further research uncovered the following:
Born 24/1/1889 at Lower Viewcraig Rows, Edinburgh to David Westwood, millwright journeyman and Mary Westwood, neé Mackie. Both his parents were born in Fife and married

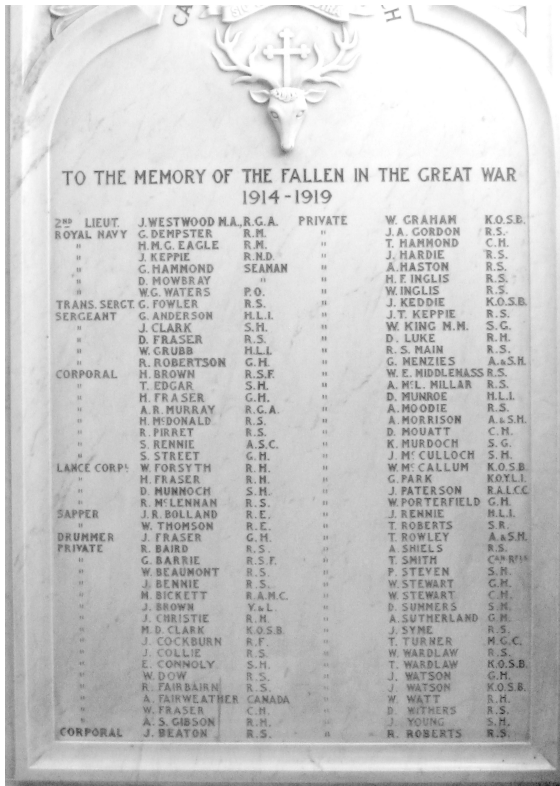
on 18 December 1882 in St Andrews. His father was also a millwright. In 1911 the family moved to 27 Royal Park Terrace. David Westwood had become a patternmaker in a general business. David sadly died a month before his son, from a brain haemorrhage on 6 May 1917, aged 67 at 27 Royal Park Terrace. Mary, whose father was a farm worker, lived till 1940 and died, aged 90, on 22 May at 27 Moira Terrace.

Military

James first joined The Royal Scots as a Private. No. 350525. Later he was transferred to Royal Garrison Artillery, 321 Siege Battalion and was 2nd Lieutenant when he died. No. 103856. His brother Alexander also joined the Royal Scots, Horse Battalion.

He appears in George Heriot's WW1 Roll of Honour. Abbeyhill Primary School was originally part of Heriot's Hospital school. He is also the first name on the WW1 memorial in Canongate Kirk: James Westwood M.A. His next of kin when he joined was his mother at 27 Royal Park Terrace. He never married.

16th April 1919: '427 former pupils are known to have served in the Great War, 92 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. There are 50 families whose fathers have fallen'



WESTWOOD ON CANONGATE KIRK WAR MEMORIAL

**REPORT BY HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR ON
ABBIEYHILL SCHOOL.**
SESSION 1918-1919.
(School year ended 31st January 1919.)

842

Average Attendance for School year £1183 7 4
Grant from Scotch Education Department 1 8 1 1/4
Grant per Scholar in Average Attendance

I.—SCHEDULE OF GRANTS.

On the Average Number in Attendance for School Year (Art. 19 B. 1, 2, & 5)—

| | Juvenile Dept. | Infant Dept. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| (a) Under 7 | 4 @ 18/+1/6 | 179 @ 18/+1/6 | 3 18 0 | 174 10 6 |
| (b) Between 7 and 10 | 242 @ 20/+ /6 | 59 @ 20/+ /6 | 248 1 0 | 60 9 6 |
| (c) Over 10 | 254 @ 22/+ /6 | | 285 15 0 | |
| Drawing (Paid on Average Attendance, Art. 19 B. 4)— | | | 21 3 6 | 5 3 8 |
| (a) Between 7 and 10 | 242 @ 1/6 + /3 | 59 @ 1/6 + /3 | 25 8 0 | |
| (b) Over 10 | 254 @ 1/9 + /3 | | | |
| Supplementary Course on the Average Number in Attendance for School Year (Art. 21)— | | | 286 0 0 | |
| 104 @ 50/+5/ | | | | |
| Practical Instruction (at 8/4 per 100 hours' attendance (Art. 21 (b) (2))— | | | | |
| Manual Instruction, 4181 hours, | | | £17 8 5 | |
| Cookery, 1960 „ | | | 8 3 4 | |
| Dressmaking, 2054 „ | | | 12 14 6 | |
| Housewifery, 1954 „ | | | 8 2 10 | |
| | | | 46 9 1 | |
| Special Grant on Account of Attendances lost through Epidemic Sickness (Art. 19 F.) | | | 14 7 6 | 12 2 0 |
| | | | 981 2 1 | 252 5 3 |
| Total | | | £1183 7 4 | |

II.—REPORT

“Mr. McCaull has retired from the Headmastership, and it seems only fitting to place on record his long period of highly efficient and successful service. He had been some forty-two years in the service of the Edinburgh Board, and for twenty-two years had been Headmaster of Abbeyhill School. All his work was characterised by order and method. He knew his school through and through, and, with the hearty co-operation of a loyal and competent staff, he never failed to maintain it at a high level of efficiency. He has been succeeded by Mr. Walker, formerly Headmaster of Roseburn School. The work that Mr. Walker has already done is the best of guarantees that in his hands the future of Abbeyhill School is assured.”

Received 21st October 1918.

LIFE GOES ON! SCHOOL INSPECTION FOR 1918

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W3872.
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.
D.A.D. & R. & B. SECOND ARMY.
SECTION Serial No. 3731 REPORT No. 29. SCHEDULE No. 18.C.

COMMUNE: VLAERTINGHE.
PLACE OF BURIAL: VLAERTINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY.
Map Ref. Sheet 28.H.9.c.0.3.

Land belongs to

The following are buried here:—
ENTERED: 10/10/1918
SLIPS CHECKED: 10/10/1918

| Regiment | No. | Name | Rank and Initials | Date of Death | Cross Erected or Dispatched | Map Reference |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| PLOT III. ROW "C" (continued) | | | | | | |
| 16/Rifle Bde. | 27853 | OXENDALE | Rfn.R. | 24.6.17 | E | 9 |
| do. | 26814 | BUCKINGHAM | " | " | " | 10 |
| 13/Roy.Sussex R. | 15644 | SHOULL | Pte. A. | " | " | 11 |
| 17/K.R.R. | 613419 | GREEN | Opl.H.A. | " | " | 12 |
| 321/S.B. R.G.A. | --- | MILLS | 2/Lt.H.V. | 25.6.17 | G.R.U. | 13 |
| do. do. | 107701 | THORNHILL | Gnr.A.E. | " | " | 14 |
| do. do. | 41307 | MELWAY | Bdr.H.S. | " | " | 15 |
| do. do. | --- | WESTWOOD | 2/Lt.J. | " | " | 16 |
| do. do. | 102698 | BLUCK | Gnr.S. | " | " | 17 |
| 1/6 Kings Lpools. | 242121 | COONEY | Rfn.J.J. | 23.6.17 | G.R.U. | 18 |
| 2/East Lancs.R. | 49688 | CARNEY | Pte.B. | 25.6.17 | E | 19 |
| 17/K.R.R. c | R.3468 | SHORT | Rfn.G.B. | " | " | 20 |
| 1/5 Gordons | 240645 | PERGUSON | Pte.G. | 23.6.17 | E | 21 |
| 16/Rifle Bde. | 16496 | LEVY | Rfn.J. | 25.6.17 | Jew Mem. | 22 |
| PLOT III. ROW "D" | | | | | | |
| 168/S.B. R.G.A. | 322398 | DANIELL | Sgt.J.A.H. | 1.7.17 | E | 1 |
| do. do. | 86878 | ADAMS | Gnr.A. | " | " | 2 |
| do. do. | 142192 | BROCK | " B. | " | " | 3 |
| 76/S.B. R.G.A. | 166220 | HUNT | " B. | 30.6.17 | G.R.U. | 4 |
| 164/M.G.Co. | 6839 | CANNAN | Pte.A. | 1.7.17 | E | 5 |
| 1/3 W.Lancs. R.A.M.C. | 341609 | APPLEBY | " W. | " | " | 6 |
| 1/6 Black Watch. | 266940 | ROSS | " D. | " | " | 7 |
| do. do. | 200371 | BATCHELOR | " D. | " | " | 8 |

D.G.R. & B.
RECEIVED
28 SEP 1918

(6 81 5) W1169—P126/ 45,000 10/17 HWV(F722) Form 4 3732/1

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT

6 July 1917. Mr James Westwood, M.A. (D. Rank: R.G.A.), a member of the Staff, was killed in action in France on 25th June. Mr Westwood joined the 9th Royal Depts on 18th Sept. 1914. He was with the Regiment in France from Feb. 1915 till July 1916. He was wounded at Pozieres on 23 July 1916. After returning from wounds he received a Commission in the R.G.A. in Apr. 1917. He had only been with his battery at the front three days when he was killed instantaneously by a shell.

SCHOOL LOGBOOK NOTES WESTWOOD'S DEATH

26 Oct. 1914 The following is a copy of the Report by M.M.S. received on this date. Edinburgh, 23.10.14. Abbeyhill School is at present occupied by the military, and the infants are accommodated partly in houses for Debs and partly in Regent Ha. Sch. In the circumstances a detailed report is not now offered. But it may be said that, thanks to the energy and zeal of the Headmaster and his capable staff

SCHOOL REQUISITIONED FOR TROOPS WW1 (COURTESY CITY CHAMBERS)

3 Medical Memories – the Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital.

The story of Abbeyhill would be incomplete without a reference to this much-loved and much-missed institution. The hospital was built in 1925 with surplus funds from the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Services and named after the innovative Scottish doctor and suffrage campaigner, Elsie Inglis. 'Elsie's' closed in 1988.

Mona Geddes CBE

On the gateposts leading into the former Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital are inscriptions in remembrance of Alexandra Mary Chalmers Watson CBE, 1872-1936, and her role in opening doors for medical women and for women in public service.

In 1898 Mrs Chalmers Watson, then Alexandra Mary (Mona) Geddes, who had been a friend and supporter of Elsie Inglis and active in the suffrage cause, had the distinction of being the first woman to receive an MD from Edinburgh University after it had finally opened its doors to women. Graduating in the morning she wed Dr. Douglas Chalmers Watson in the afternoon - proudly able to add MD to her married name. During the First World War she was founder and

Commandant of the W.A.A.C. (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps). Later the WRNS and the W.R.A.F.s were modelled on the same lines.

The gateposts were formerly a handsome archway, the work of architects Harold Ogle Tarbolton and Sir Matthew Ochterlony.

Immediately after the memorial archway was formally opened in 1939 a patient passed through in a car on her way to the hospital - at the time of an air raid warning, newspapers reported that the structure was "consecrated by the birth of a new baby".

Log Book entries:

1920: it is impressed on girls the necessity of continuation classes in sewing when they leave school.

1921: the children of unemployed miners receive free dinners

1922: the filling of the school bath

1923: children come from Regent Road School for swimming classes.

145
 April 26. a Medical Certificate from the Headmaster's
 Doctor was forwarded to day to the Education
 Offices. Miss Stobie returned to duty.
 " 26th Mr Ramsay, Member of the Authority, visited
 several classes to day.
 " 29. The Monthly Attendance Returns were to day
 forwarded to the Executive Officer.
 From Monday 25th Dinners are being
 provided by the Authority at Regent Road
 School for the children of Miners -
 a return of names and addresses was
 forwarded to day of the children of parents
 or guardians who were at present unem-
 ployed and desired dinners for their
 children. Miss A S James, Temporary, left to day.
 May 2nd. The Authority are providing dinners from
 this date for the children of the unemployed.
 Mrs E. Thomson, Housewifery Class, resumed duties.
 H.M.I's Dr Thomson and Mr McLeod
 visited the school to day and inspected
 several of the classes Supp I, Sen I
 Jun I, Inf. I.
 6th. Miss McGillivray absent to day. On Monday 2nd
 Supplemt class III visited the Scottish National Gallery

FREE DINNERS IN HEADMASTER'S LOG BOOK



ENTRANCE TO FORMER ELSIE INGLIS HOSPITAL (BY ALAN MOUNTFORD)

PLAQUE TO MONA GEDDES



4 The Impact of World War II:

*Extracts from the Head Teacher, Mr Hamilton's
Logbook*

29 Aug 1939: The school was due to be re-opened on 4th September but, owing to the crisis in European affairs, all schools were re-opened today.

This school remains open for three days during which we had an evacuation rehearsal of mothers, children under school age and school children.

2nd Sept 1939: War broke out between Germany and Poland on Friday 1st September when half the Edinburgh schools were evacuated to safer districts.

15th Sept 1939: The demand for registration for evacuation was very small. A fair number of parents and children have returned.

2nd October 1939: The children in the Infant Division have been arranged into 11 groups and are being taught in private houses by Infant teachers.

14th March 1940: 70 incendiaries were dropped in the Abbeyhill area.

5th May 1940: School assembled at 10.30 owing to an Air Raid Alarm beyond midnight.

October 1940: Owing to an air raid warning during the night, attendance was very low today. . . . In the event of an air raid warning, the Head Teacher is allowed to arrange a later time of school opening.

February 6th 1941: The examination of gas respirators (gas masks) was carried on today.

March 26th 1941: The air raid warning was sounded about three o'clock. The all-clear was given after 15 minutes and pupils were dismissed soon afterwards.

2nd October 1944: Pupils were weighed and measured today for the issue of extra clothing coupons.

10th May 1945: School was closed on Tuesday and Wednesday on the termination of the war in Europe.

16th May 1945: Whole school marched to Abbeymount this morning to see the Royal Family pass on the way to St Giles Cathedral.

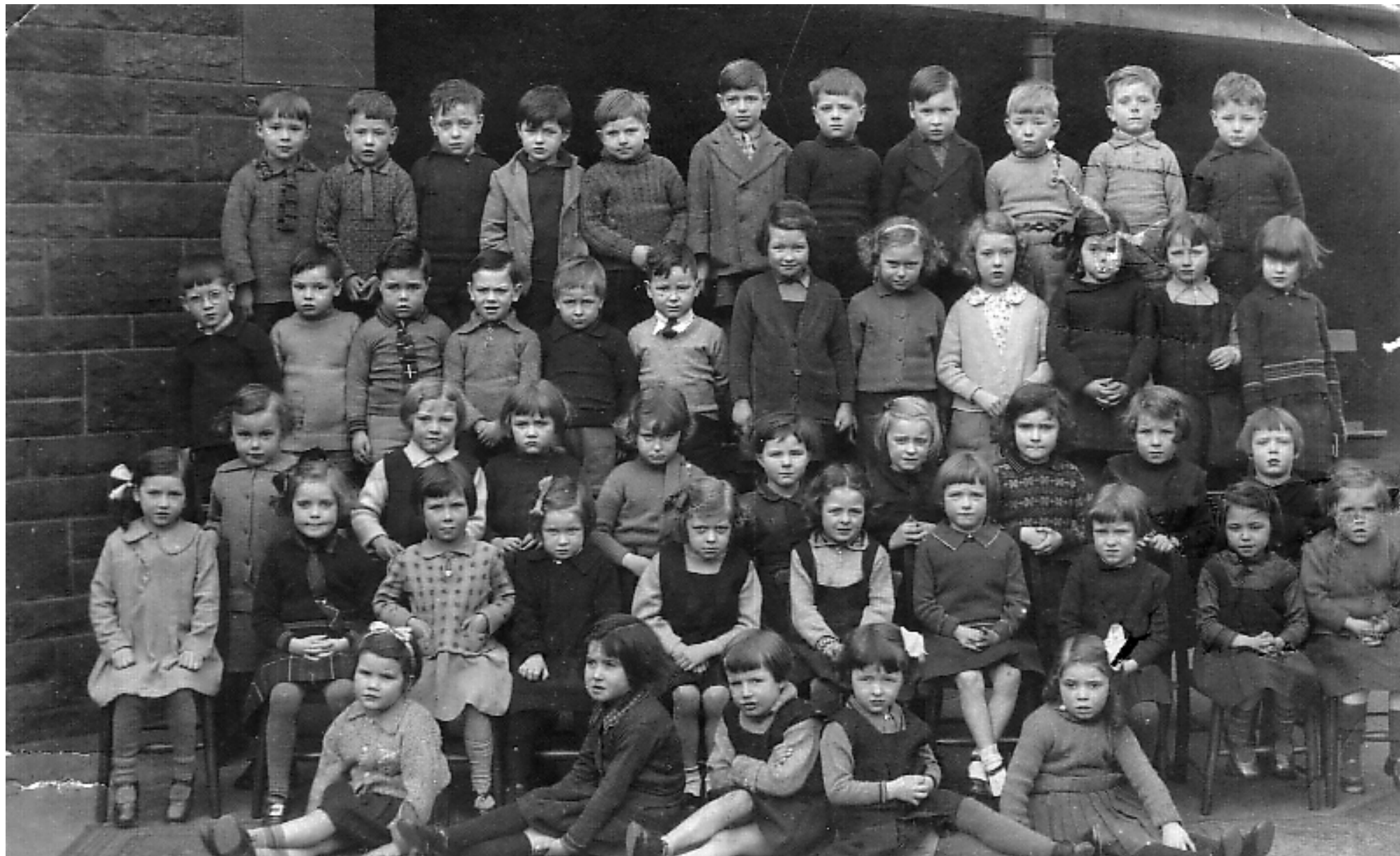
IMAGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ON PAGES 18 AND 19

-1939 LOGBOOK: OUTBREAK OF WAR

-1939 LOGBOOK: EVACUEES RETURN HOME

-PUPILS' WWII SOUNDSCAPE WITH SOUND EFFECTS: PERMISSION TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL LATE AFTER AN AIR RAID

-2019 PUPIL DRAWING OF WWII IN ABBEYHILL : PUPILS RUN TO THE SHELTERS.



SCHOOL PUPILS 1938 (FROM LMA ARCHIVES, WWW.LIVINGMEMORY.ORG.UK)

1939.

29 Aug.

The school was due to be re-opened on Monday 14th September; but, owing to the crisis in European affairs, all schools were re-opened today.

This school remained open for three days, during which we had an evacuation rehearsal of mothers, children under school age and school children.

2 Sept.

*

War broke out between Germany and Poland on Friday 1st September when half of the Edinburgh schools were evacuated to safer districts. This school was evacuated on Saturday 2nd September, when 615 evacuees, accompanied by teachers and helpers, were taken to various places in Fife: Collieston, Strathmiglo, Ladybank, Letham, Auchtermuchty Parish and Brough, Newburgh Parish & Brough and Abdie.

5 Sept.

Head Teachers were recalled to Edinburgh after assisting the Head Teachers with organisation of classes, as there seemed to be widespread demand for further evacuation.

452

9 Oct.

Mr Mills returned from Lauder today owing to difficulty in finding suitable billets, and he was ordered to remain on duty here until the matter was settled.

13 Oct.

A large number of children have returned to Edinburgh from the reception areas for various reasons, financial and otherwise.

20 Oct.

Since Tuesday 17th inst we have had the use of the Railway Museum Hall for 4 or 5 hours per day. A day is devoted to each stage Primary 1 to Primary 5. The children come in groups of 12 or 20, and receive assistance and general direction with their assignments and the opportunity is taken to break new ground.

27 Oct.

The work as organised in school and in the Railway Museum is proceeding smoothly.

1 Nov.

Miss Taylor, Sewing Assistant, who has been on duty at Boroughmuir School for some time returned to Abbeyhill School today.

10 Nov.

There is a steady stream of children coming back from the reception areas. They are absorbed into the present organisation.

16 Nov.

Miss Goodfellow returned from Auchtermuchty and resumed duty today.

we need to go

Siren (sound effect)

foot steps (sound effect)

finally were here

lets play Snap

ok

I think the sirens have gone

foot steps (sound effect)

go to bed you have school tomorrow

cocktail noise (sound effect)

quick you have school wake up

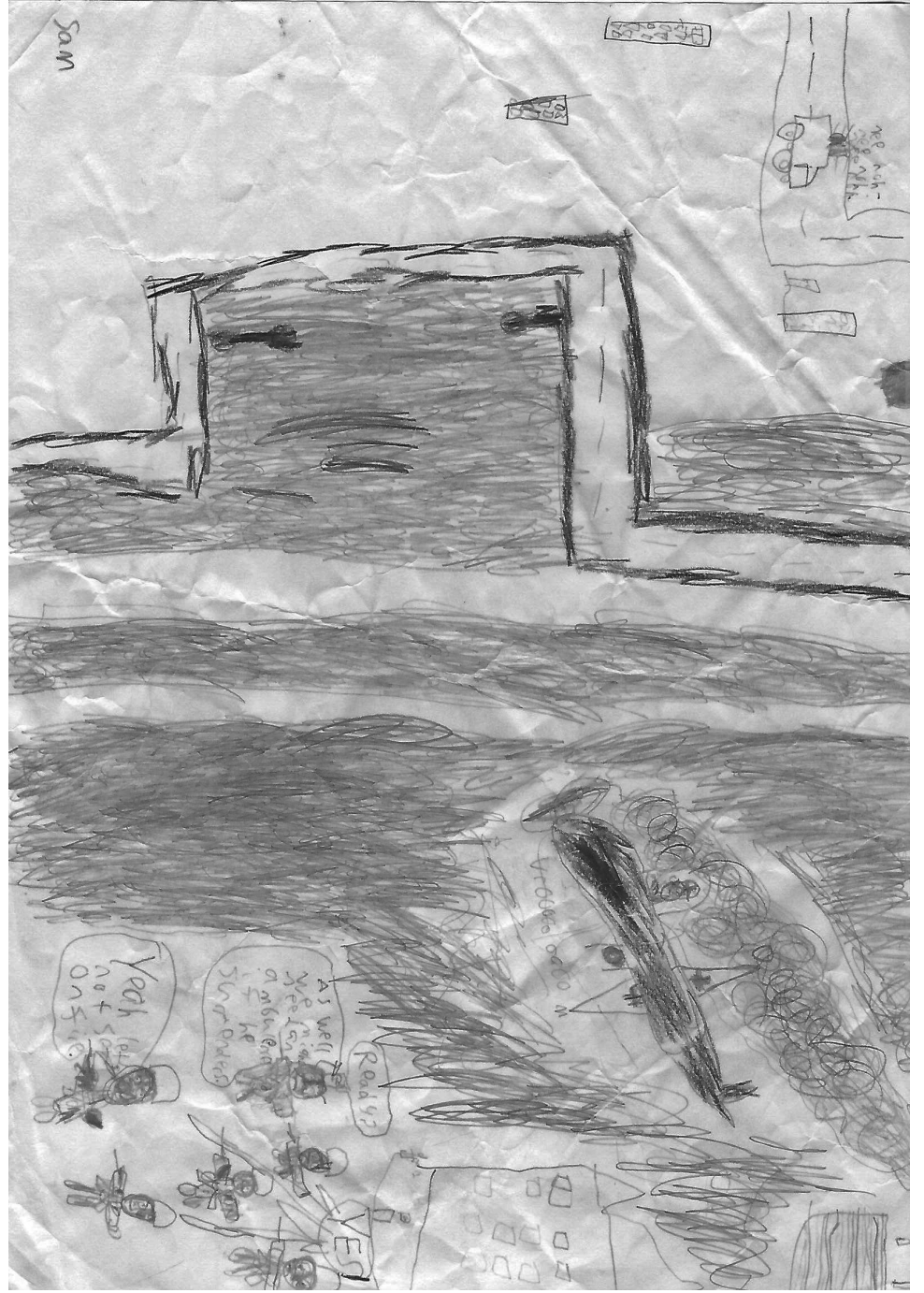
ok im coming

foot steps (sound effect)

flo Jack Ali

sorry sir im late

it is fine i will not give you the belt when a siren goes off you dont need to come back till ten o'clock



5 'Football Legends'

Billy Hunter and Bobby Roberts were both pupils at Abbeyhill Primary

Billy Hunter's Memories of 'the Wee World'

I was born in 1940. I lived in 7/2 Begg's Buildings. 'The Wee World' was the Beggie kids' playground.

The Wee World started from Beggie – down the brae to Mochrie's Shop, left past Brand Place and then up Rose Lane (now Abbey Lane), turn left to the main road - past Berger's Fruit & Veg (occasionally acquiring a carrot or if lucky an apple for nothing) carrying on past the Station, Harry's Cafe (only one in Abbeyhill then), passing Abbey Church and Lyne Street onwards up Regent Road to traffic lights and left down Abbeymount passing the Washhouse, Stewart's Ballroom and the Regent Cinema, then down the steps (opposite Croft an Righ) leading to Abbeyhill and the back entrance to the Regent Cinema and finishing back at Begg's Buildings/Abbeyhill School.

The game was to race your opponent round the Wee World in the opposite direction and the winner was the first back to Begg's Buildings. The best opponent was Norrie Irvine, one of the faster kids in the block with many challengers – Jimmy Gillon, Ronnie and Tommy Hall and myself.

The tarmac area beside the school at Abbeyhill was our own wee Hampden where we played football.

'DOORIE'

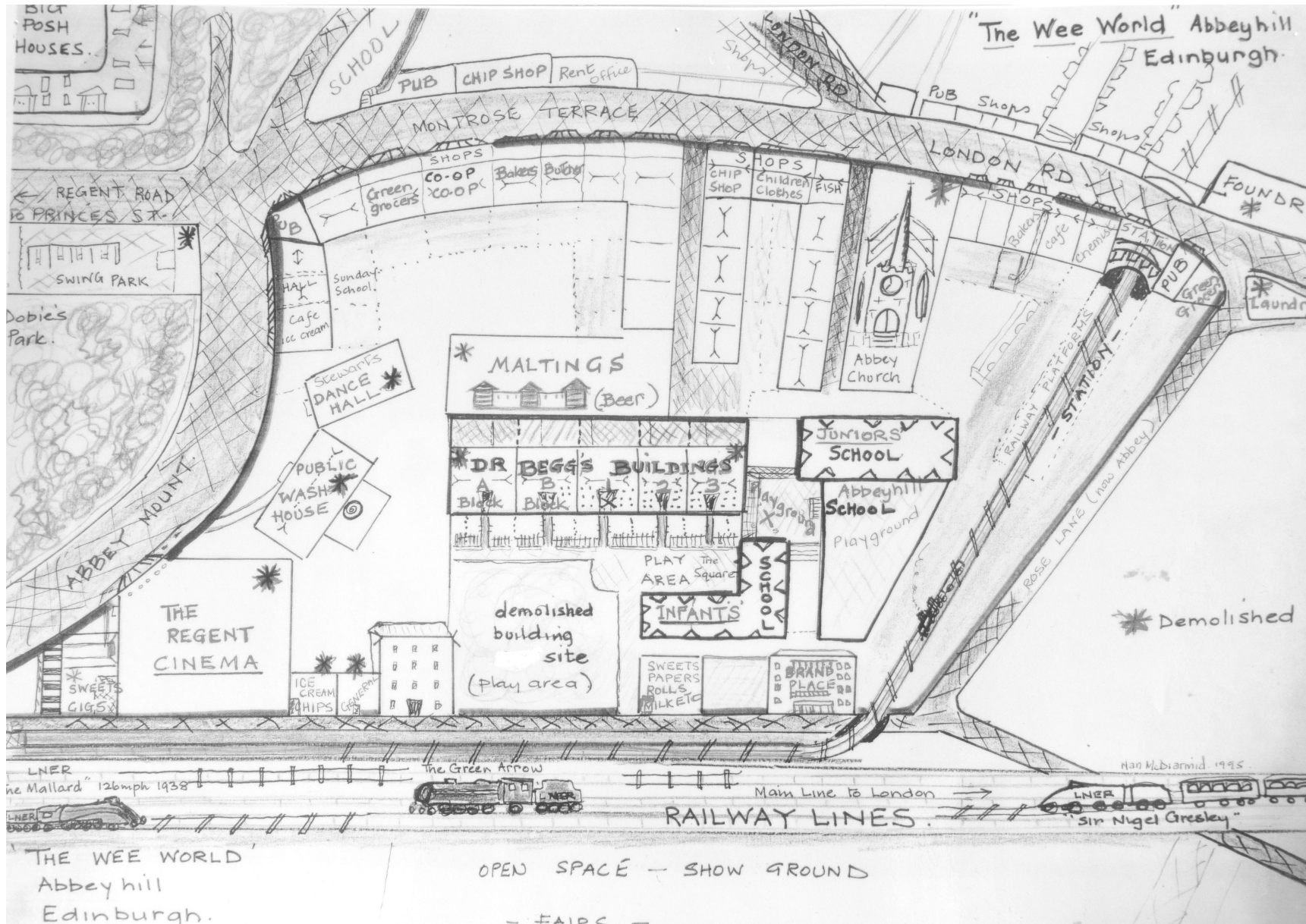
We also played 'doorie' – on the door that led to the smaller part of the school building on the way down to the swimming baths. 'Doorie' was played one against one. There was maybe half a dozen of us. That door was the goal area. So if there was 12 guys, there was six pairs, and a pair would play at a time. We played hitting the door up to seven times – the winners going into the next round. Then there was the next two coming on board. When you got up to the next round, you played up to 12. Don't ask me why it was 7 or 12. The ball was a wee tennis ball till plastic balls arrived on the market.

Next to the 'doorie' door we drew a wicket for a game of cricket. We had two teams playing. Our best bowler was Norrie Irvine. He could throw the ball very quickly. The other one that was good to be in your team was Rickie Brady, because he was a left hander so as one was bowling, he would hit it up to the buildings – a difficult one for the fielders - he was also in danger of hitting a window.

I didnae get playing football till I was eight or nine years old. I remember going down one day and the guy who lived in the next stair to me,

John Allen - he would be maybe five years older than me – said, 'You're too wee to play.' He was called 'Stalin'. I didnae know who Stalin was then. I remember hanging on the doorway trying to make myself bigger.

Eventually we went onto the tarmac. There used to be buildings and shops there right along to 23 Abbeyhill, almost adjacent to the Regent Cinema. Begg's Buildings where I stayed consisted of five stairs and further down the brae there were another five stairs on the main road. That batch of five tenements were eventually flattened and the area made into the school playground – the 'tarrie'. That was where we used to play our take-ons with Milton Street. Milton Street was two minutes along the road from Begg's Buildings. Most Sundays they would come round, so we would have a take-on. Sometimes 10 – v – 10.



'THE WEE WORLD'; ABBEYHILL, DRAWN BY NAN JENKINS NEE MACDIARMID WHO WAS EVACUATED AGED 7 FROM BEGG'S BUILDINGS TO INVERNESSHIRE DURING THE WAR. HER PARENTS DIED BUT SHE ALWAYS HAD FOND MEMORIES OF THE AREA. SHE KEPT MANY PHOTOS OF THE FOLK FROM BEGG'S BUILDINGS WHICH SHE PASSED ONTO BILLY HUNTER.



NAN JENKINS' DRAWING OF A ROOM AT
BEGG'S BUILDINGS



NAN JENKINS (1933-2006) AS A BABY WITH HER MOTHER IN BEGG'S
BUILDINGS



OLD ABBEYHILL
(COURTESY GEORGE TURPIE)



*KIDS ON WHAT'S NOW THE BOWLING GREEN NEAR MILTON STREET
WHERE BILLY AND HIS PALS PLAYED FOOTBALL (COURTESY BILLY
HUNTER)*



*LEFT TO RIGHT: NORRIE IRVINE, IAN CONNOLLY, CHARLIE SHIELDS AND
TAM GLASGOW (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)*

SCHOOL PROGRESS

I was quite good at school. I was third in the class. Sheila Porteous and Sheila Anderson were always the top two. We all went to Broughton Secondary School. We were in the top class.

When Bobby Roberts and I left primary school, we went to Broughton and ended up playing rugby which I quite enjoyed. I was scrum half. W G Macmillan took gym and rugby and I met him later in life. A lovely guy. We played rugby in the morning and football in the afternoon with the BBs Group of Meadowbank Church. In these days there were at least 30 odd kids in our BB Group.

Eventually when I was older and I became a football player, I was still in the BBs. A lot of kids these days were maybe 16, 17, 18-year-old and played for the senior BB teams. The professional teams got them in early if they were good enough. When I was playing at Motherwell, I was only 16, and Ian St John was 18. Bobby Roberts came to Motherwell the year after me, aged 16.

PLAYING FOR MOTHERWELL

We had a game, I think against the Hearts, and Ian St John came through on Saturday – and he stayed with us in Beggie. Ours was a wee tiny

house with a wee tiny bedroom and an wee outside toilet (half-way up the stair, shared by five houses). Ian St John stayed over, and we went to the dancing Saturday night and on the Sunday when we got up, my dad had made the breakfast. My mum had died unfortunately. My dad was quite chuffed looking after all the kids. I said to Ian, ‘You can play against Milton Street.’ He said he had to get home. I said, ‘You can play for a wee while anyway.’ Eventually the Milton Street guys came round, and we got the game started and the ball was kicked over the railings. Across the road there was a house underneath the railway, belonging to the caretaker. I was going to go over to get the ball. I jumped over and somebody was standing in the caretaker’s doorway with a hat covering his face. ‘Come here,’ he says. It was Bobby Ancell, our manager. He knew some of the Motherwell players used to play there. So Bobby Ancell says, ‘You’re no playing there again.’ St John and Bobby Roberts had run to the end of the pitch, at number 23 Abbeyhill, to hide. We were professional players - we shouldn’t have been playing kick-about on the 'tarrie' in case of injury.

Another thing we had to be careful about, on the majority of weekends, the Wee World was

an area for the police patrolling on a Sunday. You werenae allowed to play on a Sunday. Someone would be watching along the road for the police.

Ancell was very quiet – a gentleman. He had a scout in Edinburgh who did all the work looking for players. I was part-time for three years (worked daily in a stock-broker’s office in Charlotte Square). We trained part-time at Meadowbank and once a week through in Motherwell. Our trainer Tommy, who liked a fag, would take us training – we had terrible training facilities. He would take us for training, light up a fag and make us do ten laps round the pitch! Eventually I went full time with Motherwell. There were three of us from Edinburgh – Bobby Roberts, Alan Wylie and myself - we were all young kids and managed to play well together. The Motherwell team were mainly teenagers, apart from Willie McSeveney, Hastie Weir and the odd senior player. However, we beat top teams that were on tour – the Brazilian champions - Flamengo de Rio de Janeiro, Manchester United, Leeds United and several top European Clubs in a two-year spell. We used to run about all over the place. It confused them. We worked that out for ourselves. We used to do wee bits of acting! We’d shout at each other using our own script!

PHOTOS OF BEGG'S BUILDINGS FOLK
GIVEN BY NAN JENKINS TO BILLY AND
RONA HUNTER



PARISIAN PHOTO CO EDINBURGH.

ANNE STEWART m. ARNOLD JOHNSTON
1913 Begg's Bldg 1903-1934
CHILDREN Margaret Peggy/
ANNIE
ALEX



BEGGIE BELLES including
PEGGY & ANNIE JOHNSTON and
MAGGIE ROLLO
THE GUYS incl (APRIL 1924)
DAVE GOWAN Jimmy KERRIG
JIM CONNOLLY - TAM McDIARMID



ALBANY SCHOOL PHOTOS
ANNE & ALEX JOHNSTON
APRIL 1912



ANNE



"SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC"
Mrs. SMITH - BRAND PLACE
Mrs. PEG McDIARMID & NAN. ELEANOR ELDS
YOUNG JIM CONNOLLY - BRAND PLACE



BETTY LEACH -
with NAN McDIARMID
1911 Begg's Buildings



CHRISTIE McPATRICK with
Mrs. McDIARMID, TOMMY & NAN
all of 1 Begg's Buildings
circa 1937



THE BOYS HILLY CROSE
NAN McDIARMID on DEB



ALL OF THE BUNCHING'S



1920's



PEGGY JOHNSTON m. TOMMY McDIARMID
5th ANNES MOUNT 1932
1911 Begg's Bldg then 4B
PEGGY died in 1941
leaving 3 children



ANNE JOHNSTON MAGGIE ROLLO (B. BLACK)
DAD ARNOLD - PEGGY JOHNSTON



JIM CONNOLLY JR. & BILLY KEMP
RAYMOND, SHEILA, IAN, ALEX
CO. HELLBY 50
OF BRAND PLACE - CIRCA 1946/50



CHILDREN
JIM
ERIC
KEMP

PEGGY & TOMMY
BATE
1911 Begg's Bldg



Mrs. MRS BOB PRESTON with ETHEL
and her children. Also
RENIE PRESTON (Eleanor missing
of 201 Begg's Bldg. 1930s-1950s)



SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Going back to our Primary School - we had a good school team at Abbeyhill. George Duthie was one of our teachers. Another was John Barry. My friend Bobby Roberts was a year below me. George Duthie was the main teacher and took Abbeyhill School football team. Two years on the trot we won the league. George Duthie showed us a special throw-in. You shouted 'Switch' and the people who were marking you didn't know which way you would throw.

Now George Duthie at that time was signed part-time with the Hibs. That was three years before Bobby and I signed for Motherwell.

Then George Duthie had moved to Dunfermline. Bobbie Roberts and I played in a friendly testimonial game for the Dunfermline captain. We were sitting in the Dunfermline dressing room, there was a knock on the door and George Duthie, our former Abbeyhill Primary school teacher, came in. He came over to shake our hands 'All the best today, boys.' 'Yes, sir - thank you sir'!!! Bobby and I used the 'Switch' throw-in we were taught by Mr Duthie at Abbeyhill School - we were sure we saw George Duthie smile.

I used to spend a lot of weekends with Bobby's

family. We played for fun up at Holyrood Park close season. There were seven or eight pitches. We used our jerseys for goal posts when the posts had been removed. Most Juvenile Teams used Holyrood Park in those days. We went to watch the teams with Bobby's dad - teams like Broughton Star - our heroes like Alex Young, Bert Slater, Ian King, then we used to watch the Edinburgh Monarchs at Meadowbank in the evening. (see photo page 29)

MOVING ON

I had a great three years with Motherwell but then I had a double fracture of my arm. I was in hospital for a whole year. I nearly lost my arm through an infection and required a bone graft - the bone was taken from my fibula. I was only back six weeks when a slide tackle in a Hearts game had me hit the wall with the bad arm, and I broke the graft. So I was a year and quarter out altogether. By that time Ancell had left to go to Dundee and the new manager in place was Bobby Howitt. I was still only 24/25 years old. I had received one testimonial and was due another (a five-year period for a testimonial). If I remember correctly the testimonial cheque was £750 and it was taxed. I was due a further testimonial which they declined so I moved on -

I went to America.

I played with Detroit Cougars - owners were Ford. We couldn't fill the Tigers Stadium - soccer was still in its infancy then and not as popular as baseball. So Ford cut their losses and we were all returned to England, Scotland, Germany, Nigeria etc the following year. Then I got together again with Ian St John in South Africa - where we signed for Hellenic in Cape Town. The Team was owned by Greeks and the manager of the team was George Eastham. After a very successful two years we moved on to Cape Town City. We returned to UK in 1974/5 and joined Ian St John at Portsmouth, Ian as Manager and me as Coach.



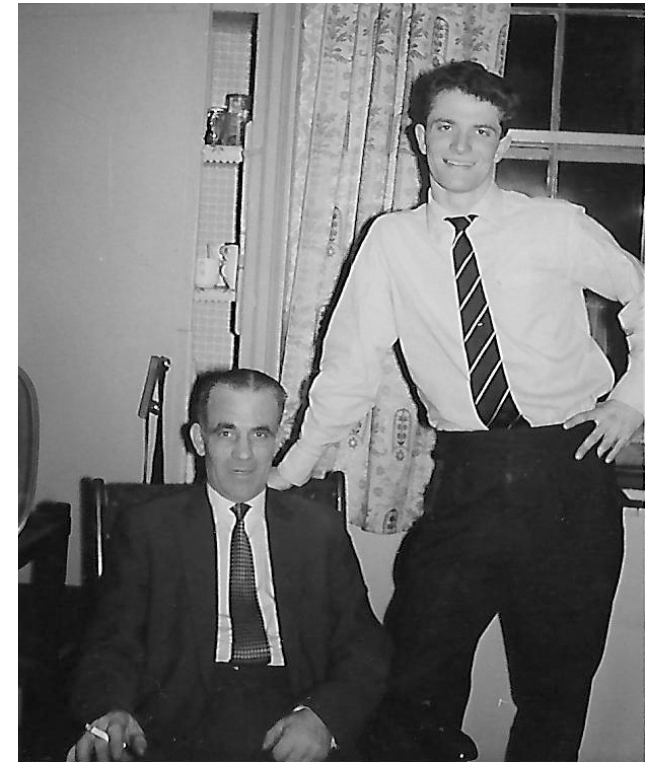
19TH BB GROUP PHOTOGRAPH. BEGGIE AND MILTON STREET LADS JOINED THE BOYS' BRIGADE FOR FOOTBALL, BADMINTON, SNOOKER AND ALSO BIBLE CLASS (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)



ABBNEYHILL PRIMARY FOOTBALL TEAM 1948-9 WITH MR ROBERTSON
AND MR RUTHERFORD (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)



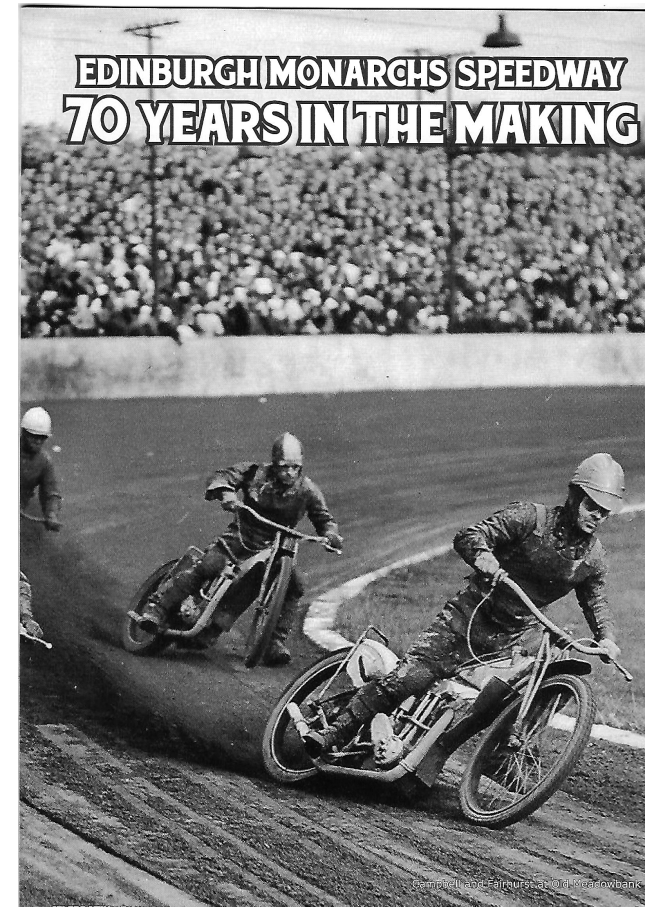
L TO R JOE MCBRIDE, WILLIE HUNTER, PAT QUINN AT EASTER ROAD
1968 (COURTESY SCOTSMAN PUBLICATIONS).



BILLY HUNTER WITH HIS FATHER, WILLIE HUNTER SNR, IN FRONT
ROOM OF NO 1 BEGG'S BUILDINGS (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)



ABBAYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM 1950-1 (ONE STRIP SHORT!) WITH COACHES GEORGE DUTHIE (LEFT) AND MR BARRY. BOBBY ROBERTS, BACK ROW 1ST ON LEFT (COURTESY BILLY HUNTER)



A CONVERSATION IN THE PUB

A conversation about Abbeyhill Primary and life in the 'Beggie' with former pupils and friends of Billy Hunter: Ronnie Hall, Jimmy Gillon, Tam Glasgow, Iain Connolly and Charlie Shields in Wetherspoon's on Leith Walk

JIMMY: THE 'Wee World' (the name of Billie Hunter's book) was the circle round Begg's Buildings and Abbeymount. The 'Beggie' (Begg's Buildings) was in that 'Wee Circle'. We used to race round it, back and forward. Two would go round it and back to Mochrie's shop, and the one who got back first was the winner. We did a lot of swimming – Raymond Hendy and myself. Janitor Young let us in after the school when they were finished about eight o'clock to get a shower and get a swim there an a'. He was an ex-PTI – learned us how to swim properly and there was a wee high dive. He showed us how to do that. That was a big thing cos in these houses we only had a big sink and a cold-water tap. I lived in Begg's Buildings next to the school. We all did. You just come doon the stair and you were at school. We all played together. We did 'kick the can' and football in the street. They called us the 'Beggie

Boys'. They call us that to this day and we're all in our 80s!

RONNIE: I was born in 1936 and I went to Abbeyhill School in 1941 during the war. I remember Mr Rutherford, the teacher who ran the football. He was good.

There was a bomb dropped close to Begg's Buildings. There were three shelters, outside the stair.

JIMMY: There were two at what they called the Dump.

TAM: I remember a firebomb - an incendiary bomb - was dropped at the back of Begg's Buildings. My dad went out. There were bags of sand. You took a big shovel with a long handle and put sand over it. We were evacuated to a farm at Cantie Hall, my cousin and I. We came back soon. I remember we were frightened by a calf in the dark - it moved.

RONNIE: I remember the Sutherlands were evacuated to Lady Bank, Fife. The girl, Millie, liked it in Fife. Some of them ended up staying there and didnae come back. They just came back for holidays.

IAIN: My family were sent to Inverness. But my eldest brother and I didnae go cos we had bronchitis. My two middle brothers went. I don't come from Begg's Buildings. I come from

Brand Place – the one with the balconies. They used to call it 'the Mansions'. We had an inside toilet. Begg's Buildings didn't have that. In the war we used to do training exercises outside the balconies to get a person over in case you were caught in a fire.

RONNIE: I was nine when the war finished. I can remember carrying your gas mask about with you. The bairns had a Mickey Mouse one. We never had to use them.

SWIMMING POOL

JIMMY: Abbeyhill Primary had a heated pool. There was a boiler there. We used to help the jannie stoke the boiler on the QT. He came at night. He was the one responsible for the baths. There was three or four tiles from the top – you put the brush into caustic soda and washed them. They also put chloride of lime into the water – it nipped your eyes. We done that for him. We were getting a bath and a shower for helping him. Once a year he drew off the water. It was cleaned during the holidays just once a year. We put the hose in the water and shot it at each other. It was very dirty water. We were all good swimmers and learned in that pool. Then we went to Infirmity Street Baths. The milk was delivered to the classrooms.



ABOVE
 JIMMY GILLON'S CLASS WITH MR
 RUTHERFORD AND JANITOR MR
 MACKIE

BELOW
 LEFT TO RIGHT RONNIE HALL, JIMMY GILLON, RAB FORFAR,
 WALTER SYME, RAYMOND CONNOLLY, GEORGE WATSON



BELOW
 ABBEYHILL STATION (COURTESY
 GEORGE TURPIE)

ABOVE
 TAM GLASGOW (LEFT) WITH BILLY'S
 DAD JUST OUTSIDE THEIR STAIR



The teachers put them against the radiators, so it was warm. We took the foil tops off and drank it straight out the bottle, nae straws!

We had coupons in your ration books for food and clothes. You got thick leather boots. You knew the ones on benefits by what they were wearing. They had National Health Service glasses. You got coupons for the size of your feet.

TAM: We folded paper in the toes of our boots.

RONNIE: Our family went to the Drill Hall to get our feet measured at certain times.

JIMMY: In school there was a wee room on the half landing for regular health checks by the school Medical Officer.

RONNIE: They checked you for nits. TB was frightening. They found I was short sighted at school and needed glasses.

TAM: People had scabies. Head lice.

CHARLIE: I wasn't at Abbeyhill. My father was away in the war. At the end of the war I remember street parties in the square -The Dump - and bonfires. The Dump is now the tarmac playground area.

RONNIE: I had a brother Tommy - he was two years younger than me, born in 1938. My dad didnae get out of the army till 1946. Tommy couldnae get used to my dad. When he came

back he was a total stranger. My mother was born and bred in Begg's Buildings. It was demolished in 1966. I didn't live in a house with a bath till I was 31. There was no electricity till dad got it put in by a friend in the 1950s.

JIMMY: Beggie was a great place. You could live with your door open. There was no bath. I had to go to my granny's for a bath. We moved to the Inch and had our first electric light.

Duncan's chocolate factory was at Powderhall. The workers brought out slabs of milk chocolate - they put bits in dried milk tins and took them into the shelter. I remember people played a melodeon in the air raid shelter. You could see rats at the Maltings.

Mochrie's sweet shop was at the foot of the brae. There was Jeanie Wylie's to the right or Grant's for sweeties at the steps at Abbeymount. You went with your coupons.

IAIN: The Milton Street Boys went to Abbeyhill and every Sunday, there were 10 to 15 a side on the big new square - Milton Street Boys versus Beggies.

At school we said the Lord's Prayer in the classroom first thing in the day. We had about 30 - 40 in the class, girls and boys but separate playgrounds. Girls at the top and boys at the bottom bit. We wrote on slates then with pens

with nibs you dipped into an inkwell. There was a wee groove on the desk where the pen lay.

JIMMY: We were seated boys on the left and girls on the right. You got the belt for being late, for fighting and not paying attention. Some of the teachers took a delight in giving it. The girls never got the belt.

CHARLIE: 15 or 20 boys came from Milton Street to play football. You could play till 10 o'clock at night. The lights from the buildings would light up the street. You couldn't play on a Sunday.

RONNIE: They chased us from playing in the Square and Holyrood Park on a Sunday.

TAM: The policeman would confiscate the ball sometimes. When the polis came out, we would all run in the stair.

RONNIE: Campbell had the cottage on the main road, and she reported us to the polis for playing football on a Sunday. Our ball went into her garden now and again. They had the stables.

1966 Begg's Buildings were demolished. Janette McLellan who was ages with me went doon to Pilton to stay. Ainslie Park School wasnae built yet. When they demolished Begg's Buildings it cost my brother £50 to get the house demolished.



*BROOMLEE SCHOOL CAMP 1950
(BILLY HUNTER FRONT ROW 5TH FROM LEFT)*



*MARION ANDERSON'S DAD, BILLY WHINNEM (B1906) UP CALTON HILL
WITH HIS PARENTS AND SISTER. BOTH MARION AND HER FATHER WERE
AT ABBEYHILL PRIMARY.*

JIMMY: I remember the Quali dance in the school gym when I was 11 or 12. We went for a week in Middleton Camp, Broomlee, for the school outing. You had lessons.

RONNIE: My brother Tam walked all the way home from camp – he didn't like it. He had a mind of his own.

TAM: I never played football unless my dad was on the night shift. I wore his boots! I once tore the sole off his boot! He worked on the railway and got leather. He mended his shoes himself.

JIMMY: I watched the LNER trains and ticked off the names in a book, all headed towards London.

RONNIE: The driver gave a hoot when he passed Begg's Buildings – a toot to his wife. That was Knowlis.

JIMMY: Munro stayed in Begg's Buildings, he was employed on the line as a 'looker'. He got his leg off – hit by a train. The railway seldom paid compensation.

IAIN: There was Abbeyhill Station.

RONNIE: You went to Tynecastle from Abbeyhill Station at Abbey Lane, right on the 'Wee World'. We called it Rose Lane. There's still the Station Bar. At the bottom of Abbey Lane were horse troughs for the brewery. The horse-drawn coal cart came round.

JIMMY: They had what they used to call brickets and egllets – some fell off – we acquired them for the house.

CHARLIE: Jock Porteous the bookie stood at Abbey Lane. He had a long coat on even in the summer. My dad did that.

TAM: The rag and bone man came round.

IAIN: There used to be a bin for pig swill in Brand Place.

JIMMY: Every stair had a bin for household waste. They were periodically collected. A guy came with a van for the pigs. There was a piggery in Lower London Road.

We had guiders, we'd grab a couple of carrots from the shop in passing. I went to the Band of Hope for a magic lantern show on Monday.

'Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone!' You got a card and a prize at the end of the year - a book - when your card was punched every time you went.

You went to swim in classes and got certificates for swimming tests - I got them all in 1946. We all got our lifesaving certificates. You had to dive for a weight - that was Advanced. Different schools used the pool at nights.

TAM: I got a lifesaving certificate.



*.YOUNG JACKIE MUIR FROM ABBEYHILL MEETS HIBS PLAYER JOCK
GOVAN WITH SUPPORTERS AT EASTER ROAD, EARLY 1950S
(COURTESY BILLIE HUNTER)*



TAM GLASGOW WITH HIS SISTER RAY

6 Playground Games and School Stories – the girls and the boys

Memories shared at the former pupils' open meeting in March 2019, attended by George Turpie, Janet Geekie, Cindy O'Neill née O'Toole, Sheila O'Toole, Irene McTernan née Smith, Ronnie Hall, Irene MacDonald-Smith, Marion Anderson née Whinnem, Joane Nichol née Currie, Linda Pryde, Elspeth Braidwood née Dolan.

Cindy O'Neill:

Four generations of my family were all at Abbeyhill School - my mum's mum, my mum, my brother and myself and my two nephews.

I went to Abbeyhill Primary between 1977- 84. I much preferred it to going to high school. I have fonder memories of Abbeyhill. I met Sharon – we went to Nursery here – and we're still best friends. We still remember all the names of the people. My favourite teacher was Miss Lowe. We had her in Primary 4, 5 and 6. We were lucky. We weren't allowed to have her in Primary 7. In Primary 7 we had 24 girls and eight boys in the class. At the Quali, you were lucky to get a partner! It was still good. We did Scottish country dancing that we learned at school. We had an art teacher from Primary 1 –

3 over in the Infant Building. Miss Lorne, her name was. She was very scary. She was very strict. She missed having the belt. We did have a separate sewing teacher for the girls and the boys, and that went right through the school to P7. We made a draft excluder and a big cushion – and a shoe polisher.

Sheila O'Toole (née Connolly Cindy's mum):

I was here from 1946 – 1953. My strongest memory of the school is – Miss Bruce! I didn't like her. I had four brothers and I think they all had her. When she came to me, I think she'd had enough! 'Peppery Joe' was what she called her belt. She gave it for the least wee thing – speaking, spelling, arithmetic, tables. Our classroom was on the flat with two desks joined together. One of the classrooms had steps. They used all the classrooms then. I think there was about 39, 40 in my class. There was two intakes a year. We marched up the stairs to music. One of the teachers played the piano. Girls at the one side and boys on the other. We never had the big playgrounds they've got now. And the outside toilets were terrible.

Irene McDonald-Smith (née Craigie):

I was here 1955 – 1962. I remember the intake coming in at the Infants. I always remember I learned to swim here and the separate sewing teacher. We had a Mrs Mitchell. She was very nice. Still can't sew, but! I remember the first teacher was a Mrs Matheson and we had a Mrs Caccia and Primary 7 was a Mr Barry. My favourite was probably Mrs Caccia. She was pleasant provided you behaved yourself. I went home for dinner. I met my best friend Jean Thompson at Abbeyhill Primary but unfortunately we have lost touch. I used to stay in Milton Street. Abbeyhill Primary was better than secondary school.

Ronnie Hall:

I was born in 1936 and come to Abbeyhill in 1941. My mother was at this school in 1921, and she went to Bellevue after it. My mother won a certificate for an essay – a competition for all of the schools. My mother ended up being a cleaner at the school. I think she had the brains to be a teacher here, no a cleaner. She was fae a big family. I've got 41 cousins. I couldn't see the blackboard. I had to wear glasses, but I didn't want to. My mother said, 'You'll be able to do without them when you're 14.'

My favourite teacher was Mr Rutherford. He took the football on a Saturday morning. He was dedicated. When I was here the team was in the final for the cup, but they didn't win the final. A girl that was in the school, Jessie Train, her dad invited us down to Rossie Place where they lived, and they had the tables set up ready with the cup to go in the middle – but we didnae have the cup!

My aunties all lived at 13A Abbeyhill. Mochrie's was on the right hand side. It was demolished before I was born. Then most of mother's family got a house in Begg's Buildings. It was demolished in 1966. The shelters used to be where the playground is now. There were a lot of families there. It had one outside toilet for two houses and there was no electricity all the time I lived there. My mother and dad were trying to get a Corporation house, but it was just my brother and I so there was no chance. You got one if it was a mixed house. You only had one bedroom and a wee recess.

Irene McTernan (neé Smith):

I was at Abbeyhill from 1951 – 1958. We lived in Brand Place so we had to go to school. If you skipped your mum or dad would look out of the window to see if you were there! At playtime my

mum would often throw a treat out at the window, perhaps a bag of sweets or a jam piece! I've got happy memories of my primary school. I did get the belt but I quite liked Miss Bruce. My favourite teacher was Miss Clunie cos she took us for netball. We got to play netball on the tar and people who lived at Begg's Buildings used to hang out the window and watch us and cheer us on. My dad was also at this school at 1926 and then my son attended as well. I'm still friendly with a girl I met in Primary 1. We send each other Christmas cards. I sat behind her in the Primary 1 and I think that was a tiered classroom. I think there was about 36 in the class. I liked Mr Barry as well and the Headmaster was Mr Dunnett. He used to come round and the Headmaster would give you a spelling test for a fun quiz type thing. I remember winning a yellow pencil. The word was 'gains' and you had to make another word using two letters – 'against'. I enjoyed playing in the playground, playing 'ledgies' with a ball. There's a ledge in the wall and you bounced the ball into it. I loved the swimming lessons and sewing class.

Etta Dunn :

Dunn was my maiden name. I lived in Brand Place and I went to Abbeyhill Primary from 1949 – 1956. I had a brother here already. I do remember Miss Edwards who was the Primary 1 teacher. I obviously wasn't paying attention and I didn't know how to spell the word 'put'. So I got the ruler over the back of my knuckles and that made a big impression. Since then I've always known how to spell 'put'! I remember the playground and 'ledgie', the outside toilets and I once fell and bashed my head and went home and said to my mother, 'There's a pain in my nose.' I had a sore head. I liked Miss Bruce. I thought she was a good teacher. She had a year out in Canada, and we had an exchange teacher. Primary 7 teacher was a Mr Mowatt and when I think back on it, he was a kind of funny man. Just odd. Years and years later we learned he had been a prisoner of war. His classroom was heated like most of them with an open fire. So if you were at the back and you got talking as I was on a few occasions, they put you right down to the front which was great cos you got to sit right beside the fire! In the winter time you used to get your milk in crates. It had been left outside in the early hours and ice had pushed the top up. We put the crate beside the fire to

melt the ice, and to this day I can't stand hot milk.

I remember my brother's teacher, Miss Clunie. She decided in her wisdom to teach the boys how to knit. I think it was dishcloths or something. He brought it home and granny and great auntie Liz had a shot! My mother was so worried this child would be running round the playground with two knitting needles in his hand so I got the job of carrying them and passing them to him when he was going up to his classroom. It was a lethal weapon! I remember going to school camp. Not every class got the chance. It was Middleton camp. I remember we got kippers for tea. The man was walking about saying, 'Who wants a two-eyed steak?'

George Turpie:

I was at Abbeyhill from 1943 – 1950. I can remember my first teacher, a Miss Swan. I didnae really want to go to school. They had to drag me! Then after the first day I thought, 'Heh, that's no too bad.' I got a shock. I didnae realise I was going back the next day and the following day! It was alright once you got into it, you know. I remember various teachers. We had one - I think it was Mr Rutherford. He went on

holiday and he died. We got another teacher, a Czech teacher Mr Hojeck, and oh boy, he was strict! You got the belt for no dotting your 'i's or crossing your 't's. A good teacher, though. The art teacher married a Dunfermline player – great excitement! I played football for the school. We used to go to Broomlea School Camp in West Linton. It was a great time. You were there for a fortnight, getting away to the country, fresh air. Ronnie's brother Tommy was home sick on his first day. He actually left the camp. He tried to walk home. After three year, I just went to Norton Park, a technical school. The clever ones went to Broughton and Bellevue.

I remember we broke into the air raid shelters. They were padlocked up and we threw in a squib. It was like a treasure trove. It was full of tools - picks and shovels - and everybody helped themselves to them. I got my dad a garden spade. (see photo page 42)

Joane Nichol (née Curry):

I was born and brought up in Castle Place and I went to Abbeyhill School from 1956 – 1963. I wasn't supposed to start school till the summer cos they said there wasn't a place for me because I was too young. But I had two older

sisters, so they told my mum there was a place for me. I remember my mum bringing me up to school on the first day. Miss Drysdale was my first teacher and I screamed blue murder! I must have really upset her. But I settled in once I got to know all my friends. Miss Bruce was our teacher and I just loved her to bits. Later on when I was working up in Gray's in George Street, she came in. She always appeared an old lady to us even when we were at school. She came to the desk. 'O Miss Bruce!' She said, 'Don't tell me – Joane – er - Curry!' All those years later she still remembered. I loved primary but I hated secondary.

One memory, I was ten and we got caught smoking cinnamon sticks in the toilet which we bought from Mochrie's which was round the back of the school. We thought this was cool and we got caught and we had to take a letter home to our parents. I was absolutely petrified giving it to my mum. I put the cinnamon sticks on the back of the chair and went out to play. When I came back in, she said, 'Right lady! What's this all about?' 'I got caught smoking.' 'Where did you get these things?' I told her so she gave me 2/6d – a lot of money in these days - and she told me, 'Get round to that shop and buy 2/6d worth and you're going to sit and

smoke them till you're green in the face.' I started crying and went, 'I cannae, Mum.' 'Why?' 'The shop doesnae open on a Sunday!'

Linda Pryde: I was born in 1951 so I went to Abbeyhill Primary in 1956. I have fond memories of Abbeyhill. I still stay in this district. The first thing that I made was my knitting bag. I've kept it to this day, and it's got my name on it.

One of my memories of Abbeyhill School is the baths. Mr McConnachie taught us. I got my swimming certificate. I think I had to go from one end of the swimming pool to the other. I remember the warm milk and to this day I can't drink milk. I remember my days at Middleton Camp in Aberfoyle where we played doctors and nurses. The other major thing I remember is you went to the Quali dance. I got a wee note from one of classmates saying, 'Can I take you to the Qualifying Dance?' and it was Willie Pitt. I'll always remember. He came up with a quarter pound box of milk chocolates and we went to Harry's Café in Cadzow Place for a coke float. He paid! I stayed at number ten Cadzow Place and he stayed at number 16. He came up and shook hands with my mum and dad and handed over the wee box of Milk Tray.

Years and years later, I was a member of London Road church which is now closed, and I took the Rainbows for 16 years, and the memories I have of that are fantastic as all the girls went to Abbeyhill School. I remember coming back from a school holiday and a boy, Alan Patience had died.

Elspeth Braidwood (née Dolan):

I went to Abbeyhill School from 1949-1956. I loved Abbeyhill School. My memories are outside the school. We were allowed to play in the playground and my mother was a member of the Parents' Association. So this day I was playing at 'Ledgie' and I was awful good at it and I smashed the window. It was six o'clock at night and Mr Cant the janitor came – he was lovely – and I went 'Oh I've broken a window! What am I going to do?' And he said, 'Come back in an hour and I'll tell you.' In between times my mother passed. 'Everything alright, Elspeth? I'll get you later.' I never told her. And the next time Mr Cant came and I said, 'Please tell me what's going to happen cos I'm frightened.' 'I'll let you off this time. But in future aim better.' So that was Mr Cant. I told my mother after when it was all sorted and she didn't have to pay for it. Miss Swan, later Mrs Hart, was just lovely but

Miss Clunie I wasn't impressed with. My main teacher was Miss Ingram, a very stout lady and a super teacher. She left very quickly and I think she had an illness. There was Mr Barry and Mr Duthie – he played for Dunfermline. One time we were allowed to play at Begg's Buildings. It was bonfire night and we all took out our rubbish and this lady came out of Begg's Buildings cursing and swearing. She'd been spring cleaning and put her suite out on the landing and they'd taken it on the bonfire! She just got her chairs back. I did thoroughly enjoy Abbeyhill School and all the fun. Miss Edwards – I used to go in early and punch the milk bottle lids for her to save her bending. So she liked me. Marion and I met when we were four and went to school.

I felt lost when I went to Broughton.



BEGGIE BIKERS (RONNIE HALL 4TH FROM LEFT)



ABBAY CHURCH BROWNIES 1950S LONDON TRIP. L TO R DOREEN CORMACK, EILEEN LUKE, GEORGINA RENTON, IRENE SMITH AND MORAG KLEIN



LINDA PRYDE'S LAP BAG: EVERY GIRL LEARNED HOW TO SEW ONE OF THESE



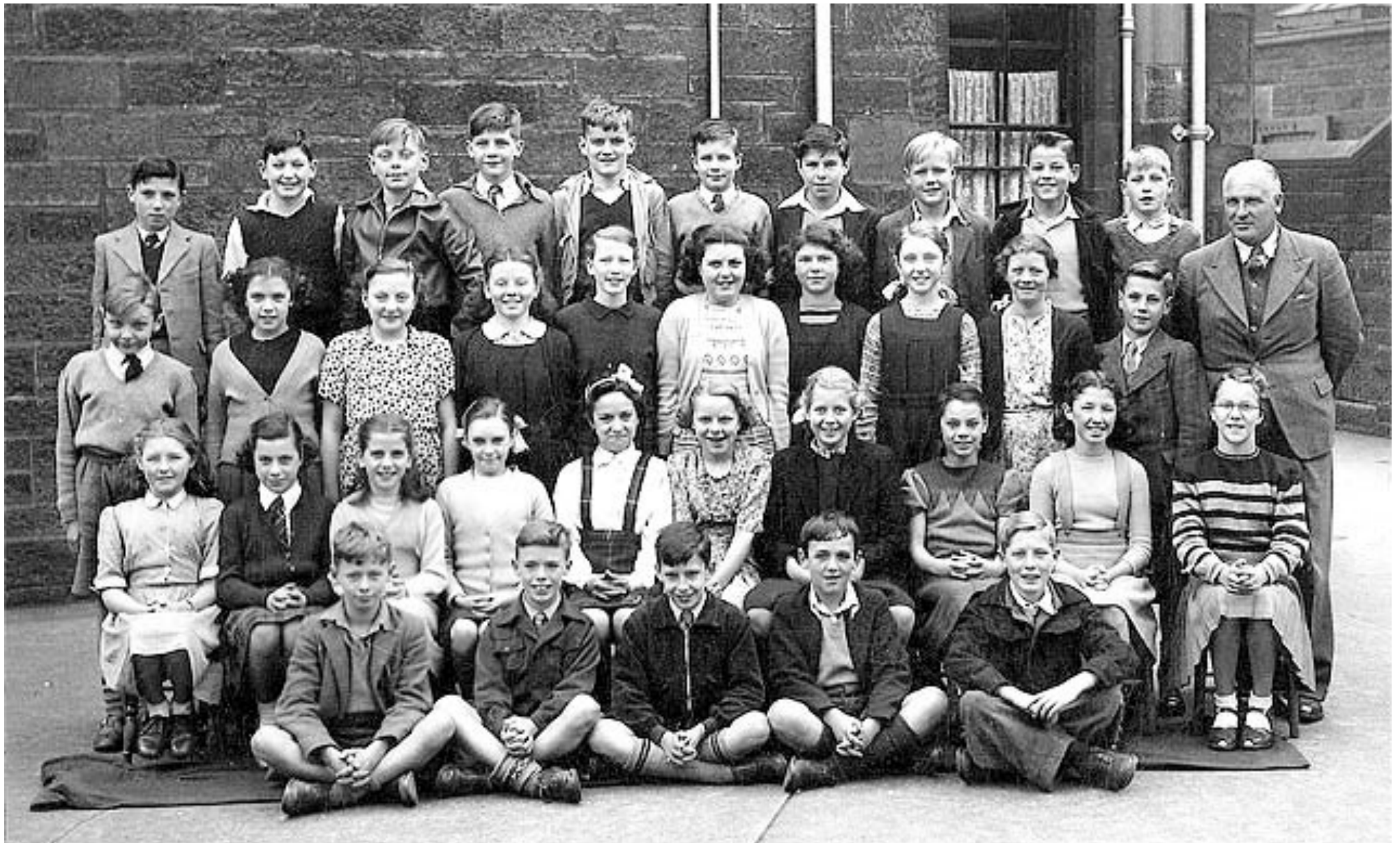
OLD ABBEYHILL (COURTESY GEORGE TURPIE)



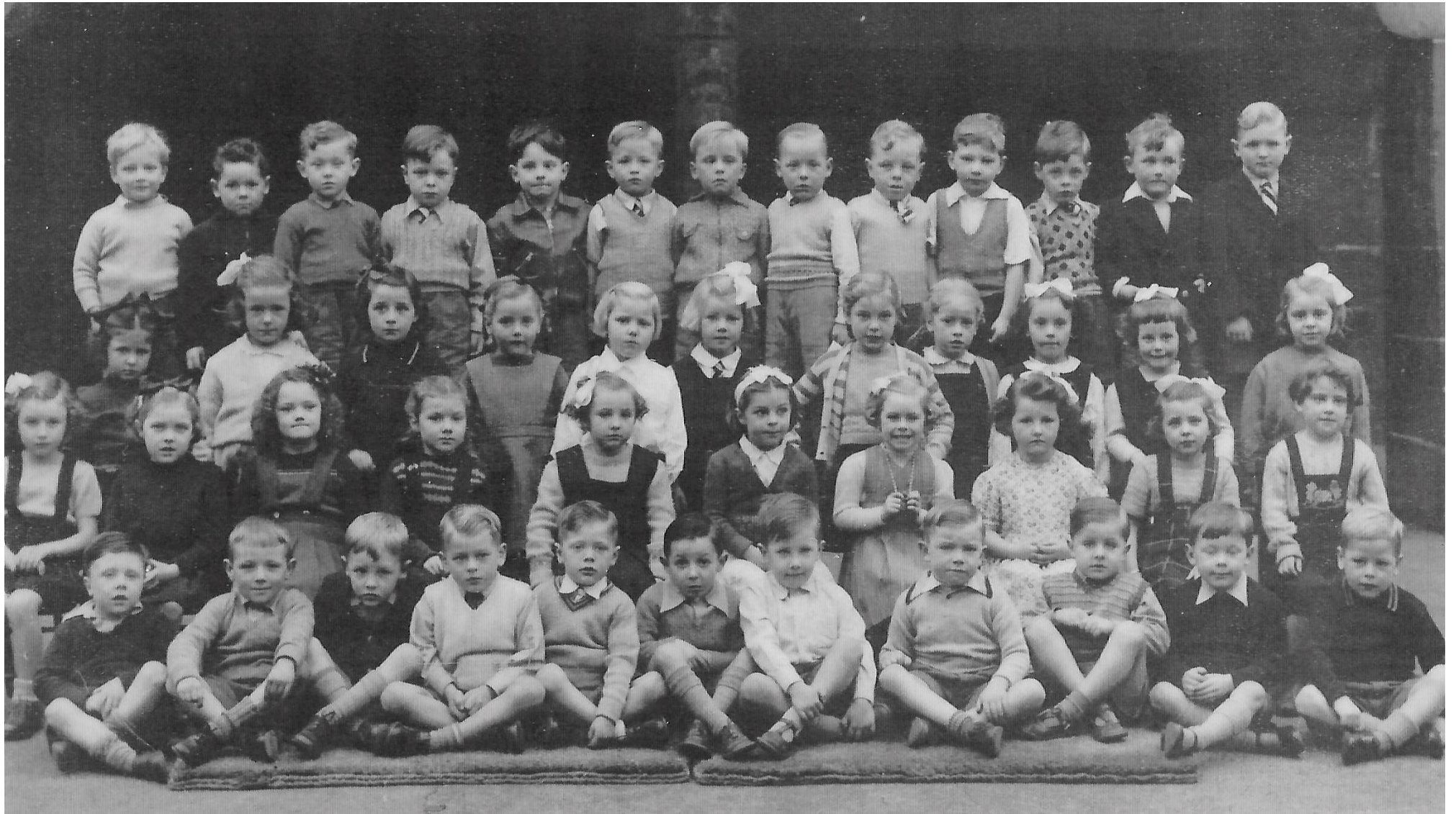
ABBNEYHILL SCHOOL SHOW, MARION ANDERSON
2ND ROW 5TH FROM LEFT



LINDA PRYDE'S SWIMMING CERTIFICATE



GEORGE TURPIE'S ABBEYHILL PRIMARY CLASS AROUND 1950-1
(FROM WWW.EDINPHOTO.CO.UK REPRODUCED WITH
ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO DAVID ELGIN)



IRENE SMITH NEÉ MCTERNAN'S SCHOOL PHOTO



SCHOOL PHOTO, MARION ANDERSON NEE WHINNEM 2ND ROW 3RD FROM LEFT



CLASS OF 1951 (COPYRIGHT PEEM ROBERTS)

Marion Anderson (née Whinnem):

Teachers always had to ask me to spell my surname. I did that with great joy because it brought me to attention. I think I have happy memories of the school. I was at school from 1949 – 1956. At first I thought I didn't remember anything then when I put my mind to it there were lots of memories came flooding back. My first day at school I was sitting in a desk in the back row near the door. I knew the girl sitting beside me. We were listening to the teacher who was far away in front of the classroom. She was standing beside a blackboard with a lovely picture on it drawn with lots of coloured chalks. The door opened and a lady walked in with a big boy. Later when my mum came to take me home, she told me I wouldn't be going to school next day. I wasn't big enough. I'd to wait until a new class was ready to start school. That boy was bigger than me, and he needed my desk. I was so sad – I liked my desk and the nice picture on the blackboard. I liked sitting beside my friend.

One memory I have – I had a very wobbly tooth and I couldn't stop shaking it back and forward. I must have been really very young as I went out to tell the teacher my tooth was coming out. Later that day the headmaster came up to my

desk and asked me about my tooth. I opened my mouth and showed him and the next thing he was holding it in his hand. There was no pain at all. I was happy – I took it home to show to my mum and I put it under my pillow that night. I was in the janitor's room – my knee hurt. I'd never been in that room before – I looked round. All the children who were in the playground when I fell were standing at the door looking in at me. Mr Kant was cleaning my knee with cotton wool dipped in some liquid from a big glass bottle – it was dark brown with ridges on it. He put a plaster on my knee and it felt better. On the way home, a boy who was in my class walked with me – he had a worried look. He told me that ridges on a bottle meant that it had poison in it, and he thought I should wash the liquid off when I got home. I told my mum and she said, 'Yes – but it means you mustn't drink the liquid. It's all right if you put it on a grazed knee – then it only kills the germs.' I liked making things in the handwork room – we had a special handwork teacher. Usually it was just the girls who got to go to that room. We learned to knit – first a tiny scarf for a doll and much later, a pair of socks – on four knitting needles. Our teacher helped us with the tricky bits. Turning the heel was a particular

achievement. We learned to sew too. One of the things we made was an apron. This introduced us to lots of different techniques – making seams, hemming and even a little embroidery. Each stage was checked by our teacher and the words we didn't want to hear were, 'Oh dear! It's puckered, you'll have to unpick it and do it again.' Later we got a chance to try out the sewing machine. I still have the apron – but the grey wool socks are long gone!

Swimming lessons were fun! Mr McConachie taught us to swim, dive, pick up weights from the bottom of the pool and practise 'life saving' each other. We got a certificate for each stage. One day he asked us to bring extra clothes and we had to jump in wearing them. It felt strange. He said we should know how everyday clothes weigh you down – just in case we ever had to help somebody in deep water.

Our teacher was in front of the class as usual. Gradually the class became unsettled and a bit of whispering and nudging started. Eventually someone said, 'Please Miss, xxxx is sleeping.' We all looked and sure enough he was fast asleep – his head resting on his arms on his desk. Oh dear, we thought, the teacher will be angry – but she wasn't. She went over to him then said, 'Let's all be very quiet so we don't

wake him – he must be needing his sleep. Just think how surprised he'll be when he wakes up.' How nice it was to get a new reading book – to take it home. It had to be covered with brown paper. My mother showed me how to do this. She would listen to me practise my reading for the next day. When we were older, we got arithmetic homework too. Sometimes my mother liked to try out the sums so she could check my answers. One day she suddenly realised she had been working out one of my homework sums on the school book itself. There they were – numbers in dark blue ink scribbled all over the margins of the page. She was so upset – I was surprised – could it be that my mum was scared of my teacher? She tried rubbing it out – first with an ordinary eraser and then we looked for an ink eraser – no good. Someone suggested that rubbing it with white bread might work – no good! Eventually she wrote me a note to take to the teacher to explain that it was not my fault – so I would not get into trouble. I didn't hear any more about it – my mother was so relieved!

Pat MacAulay's Abbeyhill Memories from the 1950s

I was a pupil there from 1953 till 1960. I have lovely memories of primary school. I remember in P1 that we marched into school in the morning to the sound of the infant mistress playing the piano. I think the piano was at or near the top of the infant stairs. My P1 classroom was the first one which is now the nursery. There was a coal fire in that room, with, of course, a large fireguard. The teacher, Miss Swan, I think, used to put the crates with the little bottles of milk in front of the fire. By the time we drank the milk at playtime, it was warm. I really hated that warm milk.

Girls and boys had their own playground. The girls' one was in the one next to the infant building and the boys' one was the other one. The grassy playground used to be a row of tenement buildings called Begg's buildings. They were demolished but I don't remember when. We used to do our netball practice after school in the tarred playground next to the road. I loved netball. I played wing defence for the school team.

At the foot of the back entrance to the school where there's two wee houses now, was a shop called Miss Mochrie's. We were allowed out of

school at lunchtime and used to spend our pocket money there on sweets, mostly on the 'Penny Tray'. Of course, there wasn't so much traffic in those days.

The toilets were in the playground. The building is still there but hopefully not toilets anymore! The toilets had no doors only a large wooden board that stood in front of the entrance to the toilets. You had to be really desperate to want to go out there, especially in the winter!

I remember nearly all of my class teachers. We had an exchange teacher from Canada in P4. She really put us through our paces in Arithmetic, yes, that's what sums were called in those days! My mental maths used to be really good. Her style of teaching was very different. I remember making a model of a Norman Castle. Model making and collaborating in groups was unheard of then. Lots of the class corresponded with Miss McIntosh for a while after she went back to Edmonton, Alberta.

We sat in rows in little desks with lift-up lids. In P6 our classroom was at the top of the stairs opposite the secretary's office. The room was tiered. Mr Barrie was our teacher for almost two years. He was an amazing teacher. We went to school camp in P6 to Dounan's. We were away for almost two weeks. We had a fantastic time.

The steps outside that classroom led up to a small attic type classroom where we went to have slide shows. We had a student teacher from Kenya called Mr Daudongegee. On his last day he came to school in his ceremonial robes. We were all amazed.

In April 1960 I started my Secondary schooling at Broughton Secondary school where I remained for the next six years. I was excited at the thought of going on to secondary school, but sad at the thought of leaving the place where I had been so happy for seven years. Schools had two intakes per year, one at Easter and the other in August. I went into a 'Prep' class and started first year in the August of that year.

My mother also attended Abbeyhill School and my two sons.

Happy memories indeed.

My friend's cousin was blown up by a manhole cover just before the Artisan pub. This happened sometime in the fifties. Christine Dolan, was her single name, spent a year in hospital. The story goes that a gas escape was reported and the gas man tried to find the leak by lighting a match!

My friend Kathryn Miller has asked me to send you some of her memories. She was one of my

classmates at Abbeyhill. Kathryn was in my class and attended school between 1953 and 1960. I'll write it in her words.

Pat MacAulay's friend Kathryn Miller

I remember that I started writing with my left hand in P1 and being rapped over the knuckles for this. In P1 two of the pupils would not sit still so the teacher tied them to their chairs with strips of cloth. Looking back this was horrendous, but then the school discipline system and the teachers were not to be questioned. If you got the belt you didn't tell your parents as they would give you a telling off and say that you deserved it!

Our Canadian exchange teacher, Miss McIntosh, demanded an immediate answer to sums and multiplication tables or you would get lines. (No wonder I was good at mental arithmetic!) I was chosen to go and get her a present when her year-long exchange was up. The class bought her a book on Scottish history. I also played netball for the school and remember beating Flora Stevenson's school 54-0. I was goal attack. We were very lucky to have a swimming pool in the school.

In P7 we had a Qualifying Dance, or Quali as everyone called it. It's similar to the modern day

Prom. My partner, John Boyes, came to the house, all dressed up in his suit, as was proper in those days, and took me to the school. We had been practising Scottish country dancing for years, but most of the boys had two left feet. If there was a reel, we usually all ended up on the floor.

I remember some of the children in the class coming from quite deprived backgrounds. One girl in particular was always hungry and would wear thin summer clothes whatever the weather.

In those days, learning support teachers were called adjustment teachers. We had one in the school. I don't remember who went there from our class. I think my first teacher was called Miss Edwards. Although I remember her being good with us and kind, she was also very strict. In the playground we played skipping games, one-no-miss and follow my leader. We also played a lot of singing games, 'The Girl from the Golden City' was one, 'In and out the dusty bluebells' and others that I can't really remember. We played ledgie with a ball on the ledges in the Abbey Street playground.



ABBEYHILL BROWNIES (ETTA DUNN MIDDLE ROW 4TH FROM LEFT)

7 The Regent Picture House Abbeymount

The brewery that became a cinema.

In 2014 a heritage assessment prior to the building of student flats of the site of a former Abbeyhill car dealership - where previously The Regent, a popular local cinema, had stood - brought to light four old wells, three possibly associated with the Palace Brewery which had occupied the site from the mid-19th century. Headland Archaeology's excavations uncovered traces of other earlier buildings including those of a 19th century tenement, some stone walls possibly relating to 18th century buildings, and remains of the 1922 public washhouse. The Abbeymount Brewery had been built in 1865 by Leith grain-merchants J & G Pendreigh. Sold in 1870 to Canongate wine merchant David Nicolson & Son it combined with others in 1889 to form Edinburgh United Breweries Ltd. Production at the Palace Brewery ceased in 1916 because of wartime raw material restrictions, the building used as a hop store until 1925. The Regent cinema opened in 1927, its main frontage converted from the former brewery premises. It was the project of Edinburgh cinema pioneer F. R. Graham-Yooll, the

architect T. Bowhill Gibson. It had a 30ft stage, a customers' tearoom and a fine theatre organ, performances by its resident and visiting organists drawing large audiences.

In 1928 it was taken over by General Theatre Corporation (GTC) who were taken over by Gaumont-British Theatres. A British Acoustic sound system was installed in 1929, part of Edinburgh cinemas' race to embrace the new 'talkies'.

In 1956 it showed **Rock Around the Clock**, 'the screen's first great Rock 'n' Roll film'. Based on the Bill Haley hit song of the same title it was considered shocking by old fogeys because of its beat-heavy music which had encouraged some teenagers to 'go wild with dance in the aisles' - and even tear up seats. Some cinemas had banned it. There was no trouble from The Regent's audience, however. This dramatically tame but rhythmically exciting 1950s film is said to have ushered in youth culture.

When Leith's Capitol closed as a picture house in 1961 to convert to bingo its Gaumont-British run children's Saturday morning cinema club was transferred to The Regent. Activities included quizzes, yo-yo and talent contests as well as short films. The Regent's Boys' and Girls' Club also had a children's choir, run by Mrs Ella

Lamb, which won top prizes.

This Abbeymount cinema closed in May 1970, its last showings **Carry On Again Doctor** and Oliver Reed in **The Trap**. Derelict for some years it was finally demolished to make room for new projects.

REFERENCES: THE LAST PICTURE SHOWS EDINBURGH, BY BRENDON THOMAS, 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW ARCHIVE SERVICES: RECORDS OF PALACE BREWERY, BREWERS AND MALTSTERS, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

CANMORE NATIONAL RECORD OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: EDINBURGH, ABBEYMOUNT, PALACE BREWERY.



REGENT CINEMA (COURTESY BILLIE HUNTER)



STEPS TO THE REGENT (COURTESY BILLIE HUNTER)



MIELE FISH AND CHIP SHOP, EASTER ROAD (FROM LMA ARCHIVES, WWW.LIVINGMEMORY.ORG.UK)

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ABBAYHILL,

Alert and Progressive Trading Community

THE veteran who, while quietly proud of the place of his birth, hazarded the opinion not long ago that Abbeyhill's past was "somewhat undistinguished," was much too modest in his valuation of a district that has not only played a distinctive part in the growth of our Capital city, but, in diverse ways, continues to make very acceptable contribution to our economic well-being, and to that community spirit that is the indispensable foundation of good citizenship.

Abbeyhill's past is, indeed, much more colourful than many of its residents realise, and in assessing the qualities, intangible and otherwise, that give the district its character, due regard must be paid to events and personalities of almost forgotten years.

Place Of Fashion

The compact area that came into being as a hamlet north of the ancient Abbey from which it takes its name, and then, with the dawn of the industrial age, blossomed into a suburb of an expanding city, may not claim arresting architectural features, but, both in the past and the present, there are

noteworthy highlights that clothe it with personality.

The Abbey Hill was a landmark in the days when Holyrood Park was "ane gret forest full of hartis, hyndis, toddies, and siclike manner of beasties"; it looked down upon the Abbey and the Palace as the fabric of history unfolded there, and, not so long ago as time goes, it was one of Edinburgh's fashionable suburbs.

Exchequer Baron

The remains of that pleasant suburb, and of the venerable oaks that sheltered it from the north winds, lingered on until swept away to make room for the railway station and the line to Leith. On the site of the station stood Abbey Hill House, the home for 44 years of the Hon. Fletcher Norton, a Yorkshireman who became Baron of the Scottish Exchequer, and exerted a considerable, and beneficial, influence on Scottish affairs. His name is commemorated to-day in Norton Park, Norton Place, and Norton Place East.

Then, too, there was a time when Abbeyhill enjoyed some popularity among Edinburgh citizens as a resort during leisure hours in sunny weather. The evidence of that can be found in the files of the "Edinburgh Courant" of September 1761, an enterprising citizen, Andrew Gibb, advertising therein the attractions of his pleasure park, "Comely

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND



“There are few places in the city . . . that offer such a variety of shopping facilities within such a small area”—a general view of the main road at Abbeyhill looking eastwards. (“News” photo.)

8 Graeme Chatham

Memories of an Abbeyhill Businessman and school Benefactor

In 1967 we bought a double shop – an old grocer’s corner shop at Abbeyhill. We moved from semi-derelict premises in the centre of Edinburgh, in Bristow Street. I was driving along Abbeyhill looking for premises and noticed the row of railway arches at Abbeyhill and the doors were flapping open. Originally, they were stables with a stable cottage attached. I started asking around. In 1966 there was an air disaster when the Britannia flight landed at Heathrow and everyone was killed including Councillor Stewart. He was a businessman in the area. He had Stewart’s Ballroom and he rented these railway arches. I found his brother and was able to take over the leases of the railway arches which were perfect for workshops.

At the end of the day we had nine arches and spent some money and time doing the shop up. I turned the cellars into offices and stores, so it was a reasonable space we had. And we did a lot of business from there in motorcycle sales. I had managed to get around the stringent hire purchase regulations which meant you had to

put down a massive deposit for the car or a cycle, and there was a short repayment period so the whole industry went dead overnight. But we developed this system so we could sell bikes with no deposit over three years without breaking the rules. No one would work out how we did it! So we swamped not only Edinburgh but half of Scotland with motorbikes, mopeds and scooters.

Expansion Into Abbeyhill

In 1965 we’d taken on the Suzuki franchise in this old derelict building in the centre of town so it came down to Abbeyhill with us and then in 1969 we took on Honda and then Reliant which you could drive on a motorcycle licence. We were well known to be the only people who repaired Bubble cars. Because you could drive one without a car licence, they were a niche market. Everyone needed transport to get to work and the ordinary working man bought a bike because he didn’t have a car licence and he didn’t have the money.

In the 1960s our shop was next door to the famous Elsie Inglis maternity hospital. They had the Regent Picture House which was originally a brewery. Later when we bought and demolished the place, we found part of the old brewery. There was the station master’s house

just opposite our shop in Spring Gardens. The train would stop for him and take him on up to Waverley. Before I had the business there, they had sidings where they shunted waggons. I built a Skoda showroom there as well. We built on the site of the old sidings. The railway went down across the road to Leith. That railway still exists but isn’t live at the moment. There’s also a stop over the bridge, long since closed at Abbeyhill itself. And I do remember – it must’ve been in the ‘50s or early ‘60s – they were working on the bridge and it fell down. I can remember it lying. It caused a bit of a problem at the time. That was the bridge that took off the main line and down into Leith.

Underground

The top half of the playground of the school was Dr Begg’s Buildings. It was demolished before I took Abbeyhill. The other side of the wall was the maltings of Campbell, Hope and King, a small brewery, long since gone, but they did a fantastic beer. The site where I built the showroom was tenement property. All of that area, including Dr Begg’s, the rats ran up and down the street. Eventually the ground was incorporated into the school playground. When we were building, there were all sorts of funny things underground. The most amazing thing



KENNETH CLARK COMES TO ABBEYHILL (COURTESY GRAHAM CHATHAM)



VIEW OF ABBEYHILL CLOSE TO GRAHAM CHATHAM'S BUSINESS

was when we had a big digger on site excavating, the driver found a bit of concrete and he had no idea what he was bashing, and it was a small reservoir. The end of it came out and washed the digger down to the bottom of the hill! I'm not sure if it was part of the maltings or for the war to put out fire, cos they had lots of little reservoirs round about. Being the corner of the site, and the old Regent Picture House being originally a brewery, it had an artesian well, a couple of hundred feet deep under the stage, open at the top and eight feet across with the pumps still in place. We nearly lost the digger down that. Being a scuba diver, I thought of doing a dive down there. It was filled and capped. Under Abbeyhill is the root of the old drain of the Nor Loch. Abbeyhill is low-lying and if you carry on across the road it takes you up to Waverley station and that used to be the old drain down to Restalrig. You can follow it by the damaged buildings that are cracked. The shop was in Spring Gardens. The long-established contractor, Wilson's, were in an old mansion house beside the old station house.

Washhouse

I tried to buy up all the properties around and I did eventually. Beside the showroom was a little tenement with a couple of cracks in the walls. I

did some engineering work to hold it all back in place. We bought each flat. I also bought the public washhouse. In my memory Abbeyhill Washhouse was still working. I kept one of the original tiled walls. It was a big building with cellars and a huge distinctive 8-sided chimney with shaped bricks. I can remember the housewives with a coloured hankie knotted on their heads pushing pram wheels with zinc tubs on top piled up with washing. It was really a gathering place. When I bought it, the floor was still all angled with drains to take away the water. The washing machines had gone. But there was a low sided bit where they had the driers, and skylights in the roof.

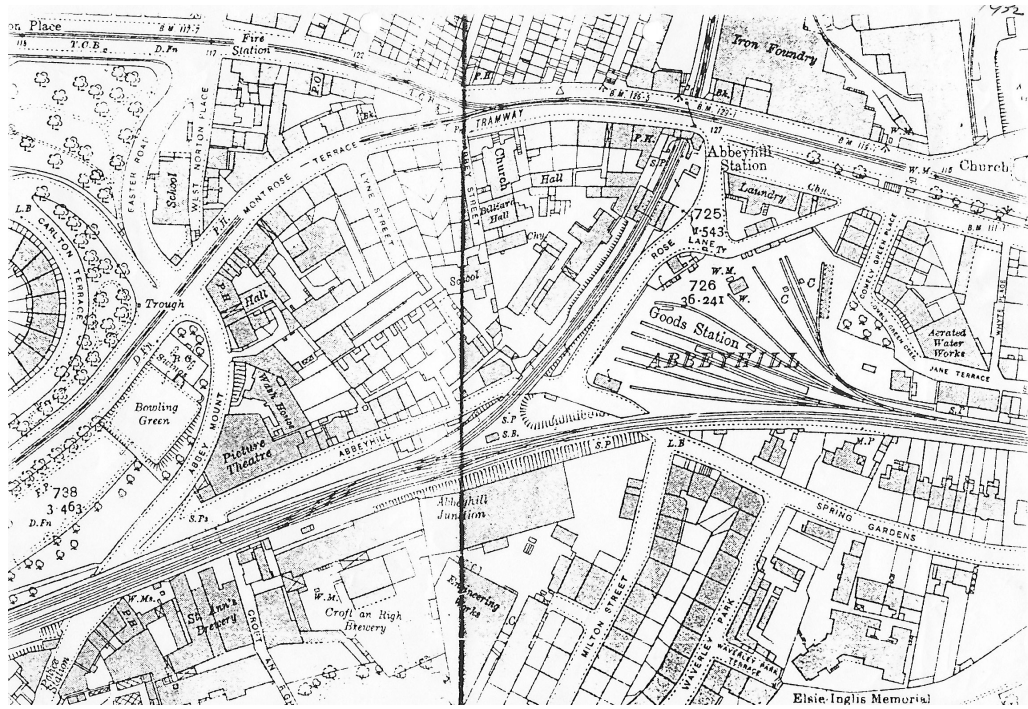
We were bursting at the seams at the showroom, selling hundreds of motor bikes. We sold hundreds of Reliants, Hondas, bikes. I looked around and opposite the workshops was a patch of derelict ground. The city had demolished Begg's Buildings in the '60s. I found Stewart had owned the site so his brother sold me the site where the derelict tenements had been for £1000. That was half of the site of the showroom. Then I bought the title of the old shop beside the tenement from a little joiner who had a business under one of the arches which gave me a foothold and I built a

showroom there on the steep slope there, my first foray into the building trade. It took me 18 months to complete it. We had the workshop upstairs and showroom downstairs. At our peak we had 150 workers in the workshop and coachworks. The girls came from round about. I had to fight to get planning permission. Bit by bit, I picked up the Regent site and the washhouse in 1980, took a few years to assemble it. I bought tenements and converted them to room and kitchens. Before that many had loos on the landings, TB was rampant. They would have a box bed for the parents, and the kids all in one big bed like sardines in a tin. They could have four, five, six children.

Beware The Dog!

The old maltings were being demolished in 1971-2 and as we were building the Abbeyhill premises, the local kids – a bunch of young vandals - were tearing the place apart and creating mayhem. As we were building, they were destroying things. I got the ringleaders of the kids, I gave them ten bob each and I said, 'Right, you watch my building for me, and I'll give you another ten bob next week.' So I paid the ringleaders of the vandals to watch over Abbeyhill.

To stop people getting into the building site I



MAP OF THE AREA



VIEW OF ABBEYHILL CLOSE TO GRAHAM CHATHAM'S BUSINESS

bought a big dog, an Alsatian, a wild brute. I bought it from the carter across the road who lived in the stable cottage. 'Do you want a dug?' This brute was on a chain and leaping six feet off the ground. 'What do you want for it?' 'Couple of quid!' I took the dog on its rope and marched across to Abbeyhill with it. It was leaping above my head so the first thing I did was I fed it. And from that moment on it was totally devoted to me. I put up a notice saying, 'Beware of the Dog!' Bruno, the dog roamed the site through the day and was on a chain through the night, and it was a violent brute. I was the only one that could go near it. The guys wouldn't start work till I'd put it on the chain again. Nobody else could go near it. There used to be an old green wall with doors in it. I kept that up. It was a security thing. There was a guy who had the slot machines at Portobello – a rough and tumble guy – and I used to look after his car. He was wandering about the site looking for me. He pushed open the gates and was standing with his back to the showroom being built looking out towards the stables. The dog was observed sneaking up, poking its head out the door, looking right, looking left then biting him! This guy's bawling at me, 'Yer bloody dug. It's bit my arse!'

When the showroom was going up, I had a rule, everybody had to have a hard hat on site. Standard practice today. We had hoists and things. I came on site and a labourer was digging holes for the drains and we had a big fire burning all the old rubbish. The guy didn't have a hard hat on, so I fined him a quid. That was quite a lot of money then and he was furious because the kids had pinched his hat and chucked it in the fire. I heard this cacophony just like a swarm of bees and a howl outside, and the guy digging the holes was cowered down in the hole and the local kids were stoning him. Me and a couple of others rescued the guy. I asked, 'What's caused all this?' He said, 'They chucked my hat in the fire, so I chucked their football on the fire!'

Abbeyhill Primary

I did a lot for the school in the 1970s. They had a football team, but the school was poor with all these kids from the tenements, so I sponsored the football team for some years. I gave them the football kit and a school bus, and I sponsored the whole school, about 200 of them, to go to the pantomime. The Head Teacher was Sheila Mackenzie. The teachers reminded the pupils I was paying for their trip, so we never had any vandalism. In fact, they protected the

showroom. I was once on the board of governors at Abbeyhill Primary. I think the school survived because of the pool. In 1967 we went to Japan and my wife did a slide show about Japan for the 10 and 11-year-old pupils.

Saving Lives

Hundreds of new bikes were registered on 1st August. The business was growing like nothing on earth. But in 1978 we ran into a brick wall. October 1978 we were on holiday in Plockton and over the week six kids were killed on bikes I personally had sold them. So from that day I refused to sell a novice a motorbike unless they did a four-hour training course off the road. I campaigned and campaigned - it took me twelve years - but ultimately the law was changed. If you see these crocodiles of bikes, there's a guy with a yellow jacket in front and one at the back. That's my scheme which is now the law, but it was a very hard road. We tied up with the City of Edinburgh Police, and they allocated a guy who eventually became Chief Inspector Harkness, and in 1979 we trained over 700 new riders at Abbeyhill. The other dealers found they couldn't sell bikes unless they offered trained so me being magnanimous, I let them use my scheme. Nichols had a warehouse and they generously let us use their carpark on

A LESSON FROM THE PUPILS

EN
23.9.92

Pupils of an Edinburgh primary school dashed in where architects feared to tread — and won £50 and a certificate for forthright ideas on “the Scottishness of Scottish architecture.”

Mrs Roberta Wood, a teacher at Abbeyhill Primary School, received the certificate from the president of the competition organisers, the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, Mr Allan Matheson.

Participants had to show in graphic form what they admired about the architecture of Scotland's villages, towns and cities.

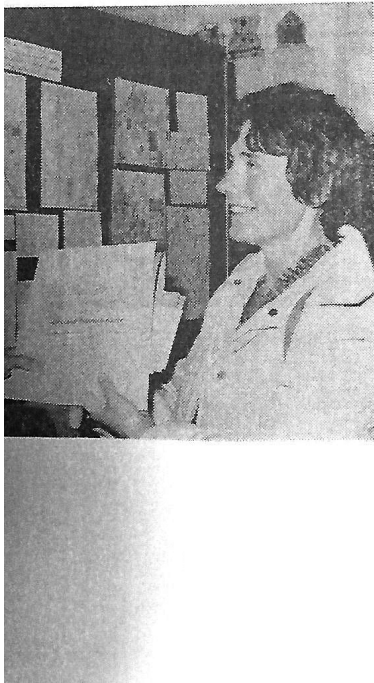
Sad to say, only one professional architect, Sir Frank Mears, of Edinburgh, submitted an entry, but schools, further education colleges, adult training schools and individuals were not so reticent.

Abbeyhill's entry, with drawings of the Canon-gate Tolbooth, White Horse Close and the school itself, was described as “very spontaneous” by Mr Jim Buist, a member of the RIAS competitions committee.

Susan Allan (11), a pupil at the school, said: “We went to interview people in the Abbeyhill area about buildings. Most people said that old buildings were best because stone work was better and there was more space.”

Mr Buist added that the RIAS hoped to repeat the competition next year.

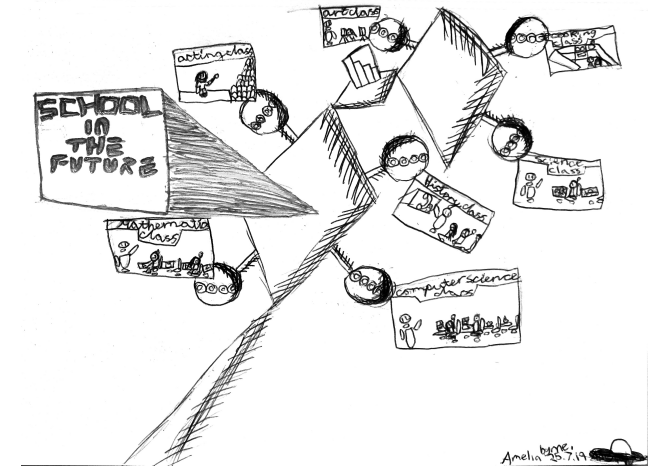
All the entries in the “My Kind of Town” competition are on show at the RIAS gallery, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, until October 1.



1982 PUPILS WIN AWARD FOR DESIGN IDEAS (COURTESY EDINBURGH CITY LIBRARIES)



JOSH WILSON'S IDEA OF ABBEYHILL PRIMARY IN THE FUTURE



AMELIA BYRNE'S FUTURE ABBEYHILL

a Saturday morning. We could have 25 bikes going out on a Saturday morning. In the bad old days when we had the corner shop, somebody could pick a bike up and they would go straight across the road and hit the wall. So they'd be back in the workshops within minutes. Before our scheme in Edinburgh, they reckoned 18% of new riders were involved in an injury accident within six months, 30% of which were fatal or serious. The trade utterly opposed me - the dealers in England and the manufacturers, even though Honda in Japan introduced a similar training scheme in 1971. The scheme soon halved the casualty rate. I had to get hold of a translated version of the Japanese training schedules. The industry even put a lobby group together against it. They thought British kids were less obedient and wouldn't take the course.

I was involved with the Parliamentary Advisory Training Group with the Transport Minister, Kenneth Clark. I eventually persuaded him to come up and do the course. I convinced him and he put through legislation. But the lobby group persuaded him that the training shouldn't be compulsory before you went on the road. The average guy didn't sit the test for six months, so they continued to be killed. It was a very frustrating period for me. Rifkind was going to allow an experiment with some trained

and some untrained riders to see how many were killed. I wrote an angry letter! His official wrote a nasty letter back, so I thought that's my MBE down the tubes! But I stopped the experiment. 'The Dealer' magazine printed my critical letters and Suzuki just sacked me. We designed L plates. A commercial training organisation master-minded the schemes. So in spring of 1990 it became law - you could not drive a motorbike as a novice rider without taking the training course. Later they added a theory test. The casualty rate dropped from 18% to under 5%. Eventually no one in Edinburgh would sell motorbikes without offering my scheme. A lady from Bradford, her only son had been killed and she saw me on Nick Ross's programme on TV. She joined forces with me.

Unforgettable!

In 1962 I used to fix my pals' bikes and rented a lockup in Morningside. I advertised in the Evening News using my mother's phone number. I had this old pre-war Austin 12 and used to drive home for lunch at Mountcastle to pick up any messages and one of them was would I pick up this moped. It was a BSA winged wheel and he bought a converted rear wheel which contained a small two-stroke engine. You slotted it into your bike, and you had a moped. I collected the bike on the way back to work. I couldn't find anything wrong

with it. I redelivered it. It was £2.10/-. I got another phone call - it still wasn't going right. I went round, still couldn't see anything wrong with it. I sees this guy walking down the road towards me and he was young and enormously obese! Eventually he cycled off and I noticed he had a distinctive bottom! I had hysterics. Tens of years later, after I built Abbeyhill in 1967, I'm in the showroom and this great big guy came into the showroom. It was the same guy with his car. I pointed a finger at him - '1962, BSA winged wheel!' 'How do you remember that!' I said, 'I never forget a face!'

I sometimes helped this guy who was an expert in Bubble cars. He needed to get a tow back from Colinton for a Bubble car with the engine out. I had a rope in the back of the car and a big girder for a tow bar. The Bubble cars had looped chromium bumpers, so I hooked him up to the back of the car and set off. Halfway down Colinton I heard a wee bump and I looked in the mirror and there's nothing there - no car! Then I realised the Bubble car was upside down flying through the air with the man in the car! It landed back on its three wheels again. The man was dazed but not hurt. He never asked me for a tow again!



ABBEYHILL PRIMARY (COURTESY NAN JENKINS NEÉ MACDIARMID)



TOP RIGHT
ABBEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL BADGE



RIGHT
PUPILS' PAPER MOBILES IN SCHOOL, 2019