

Interviewee(s): Janice Aitken (JA); Leslie Manson (LM)	Interviewer(s): Janis Macdonald (JMD)
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TITLE	<i>Janis Macdonald interviews Janice Aitken and Leslie Mason.</i>
REGION	<i>Lothian</i>
SUBJECTS/KEYWORDS	<i>Early memories, rural community life, free time, primary school.</i>
COUNTY	<i>East Lothian</i>
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INTERVIEWER	<i>Janis Macdonald</i>
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SUMMARY	<i>Janis Macdonald interviews Janice Aitken and Leslie Mason about growing up in East Linton. They discuss early family memories and what kind of games they would play as children with their families. They discuss renting a television, the channels that were available and the programmes that they watched. They talk about how the children in East Linton who were taken swimming together in North Berwick pool. Janis asks them about primary school, the teachers and discipline. They also talk about careers after school and what types of thing they spent their money on as teenagers.</i>

Keywords: Earliest Memories; Games; Television; Children’s TV Shows; Swimming; Jessie; East Linton Primary School; School Games; Gala Days; Holidays; Leaving School; Fashions.

Earliest Memories – 0h 00m 00s

JM: This is Janis Macdonald and I’m here [REDACTED] with Janice Aitken and Leslie Mason. I’ll let them introduce themselves.

JA: Hello, I’m Janice Aitken, I was born in September 1959, which means this is a special year for me: I’m going to be sixty this year. And I was born in East Linton, as I say, in 1959.

LM: And I’m Leslie Mason, I was born in March 1958, so I’m coming up for sixty-one. I’m from East Linton, I believe my mother gave birth to me in the Vert in Haddington but my father had a long line of people living in East Linton so I’m very a Lintonian.

JM: Very good, thank you very much. And we’ll start maybe with earliest memories. Has anybody got an early memory they’d like to share?

JA: I certainly have, and my early memory is going into primary one, primary one at East Linton Primary School. I remember on the first day going into the room and it was this massive- to me at the time, this massive room, and I just picture the alphabet on the wall. A – A for apple, and the alphabet was right round the wall and I really can remember that, and the next thing is the school milk. And I hated milk, I wasn't a child who liked milk and I hated milk, but the only thing I did like doing was when it was my turn to punch the silver top with the hole punch, and I couldn't wait for it to be my turn to do that.

JM: Was that to put the straws in?

JA + LM: To put the straws in.

LM: My earliest memory, I think, is my granny and aunt and uncle lived about five minutes' walk from my house, so it was before I was at school, I used to put my dolly in the pram and push her all the way up to my aunt and uncle and granny's house. And when ye think that I wasn't at school, so I was just a wee lassie, but ma mother was quite happy for me to walk the streets without any thought. But I often had a problem at their gates because I couldn't reach the catch, so I used to stand and shout 'Auntie Ellen, Auntie!', now, if she didn't come anybody that was passing had to come and open the gate, or on the worst occasions I had to go all the way back and get ma mum. To come up and open the gate. So, walking ma pram is probably my very earliest memories.

Games – 0h 02m 45s

JM: And can you remember your doll?

LM: Oh, I've still got my doll. I've still got my doll, Penny. Well, I had two dolls called Emily, which is a coincidence because that's ma mother's name! But my favourite doll was Penny and I've still got Penny, she's in my cellar with her suitcase full of her clothes. I thought my daughter might have liked Penny but-

JM: Not yet?

LM: But no.

JM: No? And thinking to when you were much younger, and I know you've both got siblings, so did you spend a lot of time with your brothers and sisters and playing games, or not so much?

JA: Yeah, I have an older sister who is four years older than me, and as a family we played lots of games. Evenings, especially weekends, we played lots of games. We had a- we've still got a- I still have it, and it's called a compendium o games, and it was on a wheel, and you turned the wheel, and all these different games came up and it had all the little counters and everything down the side. And ma family, we played lots of games, and then we moved, when we were older, we moved on to Cluedo and Monopoly, and these kind of things. But we did spend a lot of time as a family playing games.

Television – 0h 04m 10s

LM: We didn't. My brother- there's four years between my brother and I and we didn't get on when we were younger. We were completely different. My brother was musical and quite into himself, and he had his own pals, but I was much more out and about and by the time my dad came in from his work, they still had – my mum and my dad still had a butcher's shop – so they still had their, what they called their books to do in the night, in the evening time. So, we just- we didn't seem to- when I was really young, we didn't seem to play games very much. The only thing I can remember with my

dad is if we went away to our caravan, the thing I used to do with Dad was he would hit a ball up, really high up in the air with a tennis racket and he would shout 'five pence!' or 'sixpence!' and if I caught it I would get sixpence. But if it was a really, really difficult one 'ten shillings!' [*laughter*]. And I wouldnae catch it [*laughter*]. But I can't say we sat down and did board games very much as a family, not really.

JM: Can ye remember when television came intae yer life?

LM: Well, I- we always had a television. My mother said that they got a television for the Coronation, and that ma granny invited loads of people round to watch their television and my mother was at the back of the room and could hardly see a thing. But I've got a good memory of colour television coming in, and seeing, ye know the Test Card Girl?

JM: Yeah.

LM: Seeing her in colour, and Dad's Army for the first time colour, and Captain Mannerling having red hair. So, I can remember that more-

JM: Yeah.

LM: But television was always part of ma life.

JA: Yeah, I would say the same. I always remember having the television, but I remember the excitement, the excitement of getting a television, and in these days we didn't buy a television, we rented a television.

0h 06m 09s

JM: Ok.

JA: From [Granada?] Television Place in Haddington. And I remember the great excitement when it was time for getting a colour television because when your- the black and white one broke down, this was the time to get the colour television.

LM: Uhuh.

JA: And I remember, I remember that great excitement and watching colour television for the first time.

LM: And I, ken, I always remember BBC 2 coming as well, and Play School.

JA: Because it was only ever the two channels.

LM: Uhuh.

JA: It was only ever the BBC one- it was only ever two channels that you watched.

LM: And yer telly had to warm up. So did my radio. Yer telly had to warm up.

JA: Yeah.

JM: Ours opened at the top, our first one. Yes, it did.

LM: And ye had sometimes to adjust the vertical hold when it was- the screen was spinning round and...

JA: And I remember, as well, when our television, for some reason, when we went on holiday, even though it was a rented television, my dad hid it-

LM: Oh!

JA: -and locked it in the cupboard upstairs.

LM: Oh.

JA: The television.

LM: The television.

JA: When we went away on holiday, or anywhere. I don't know why, but he always hid the television.

JM: Yeah.

LM: And did they not play em, I don't know how I would know this, but did they not play the national anthem when it finished at night time?

JA: At the end of the night, yeah, yeah.

LM: Aye.

JA: Yeah.

JM: I think you're right.

LM: Yeah, I think they did.

JA: Because it didn't matter what you went to in the Community Hall – was the local hall we went to everything in – and when anything finished everybody stood up-

LM: It was the national anthem.

JA: -and played the national anthem.

LM: Aye. And at the cinema.

JA: And at the cinema. And the guys that had been in the forces or whatever, they always stood and saluted, or whatever they did. Cause Jack [Menis?] from East Linton, remember him doing that? Mmhm.

JM: And do you remember any of the children's programmes that you used to watch?

LM: Oh god.

JA: The children's programmes?

LM: Hundreds. Hundreds, well when we were at- to go back a bit further, when we were at school, ye had to kind of make sure that you were back in time for 'Listen with Mother'. After lunchtime, ye had to get back and sit in your seat, because 'Listen with Mother' was coming on and we had the big, old radio up in the corner, and the wifey used to always say 'are you sitting comfortably?'. I can vividly remember getting myself all comfortable. Yeah, 'then I'll begin'. So, I was- do you remember 'Listen with Mother' as well?

Children's TV Shows – 0h 08m 22s

JA: I do, and I remember the- yeah, I do.

LM: And then of course, it was 'Watch with Mother'. So, it was the wooden tops and flowerpot men, eh, they were my favourite. I did never like 'Tales of the Riverbank', no.

JA: Yeah.

LM: I think that's where my hatred of rats came in. I never liked 'Tales of the Riverbank', that was boring. But-

JA: And Andy Pandy.

LM: He was nice!

JA: Andy Pandy, yeah.

LM: He was quite nice, quite liked Andy Pandy.

JA: Mmhm.

JM: Yes.

LM: And of course, early Doctor Whos. Very early. I can remember William Hartnell and I-

JM: Were you not scared of that?

LM: I genuinely thought I was the only person in the world who hid behind the settee, but I absolutely did. Uhuh. I absolutely did. The Cybermen and the Daleks... Terrified! And that's a Saturday night, and Dixon of Dock Green came on after it.

JM: Mmhm.

LM: And 'Opportunity Knocks' but not so much- my mum and dad didn't watch ITV so much. It was usually BBC-

JA: BBC, yeah.

JM: And 'The Black and White Minstrel Show'?

JA: Yeah.

LM: Yeah.

JM: Did you watch that?

LM: Yes.

JA: Yeah.

LM: And I've never thought for a second how terrible that was. It was the thing, wasn't it?

JA: Uhuh.

JM: It was. It was the thing at the time.

JA: And the London Palladium. The London Palladium.

LM: Palladium.

JA: Mmhm.

JM: Yeah.

LM: And 'Blue Peter' of course.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: 'Blue Peter' in its heyday, with Val and-

JA: And there was 'Magpie'.

LM: 'Magpie'.

JA: 'Magpie'.

LM: And that's when we were older.

JA: A wee bit older, yeah.

JM: Cause that was the other channel.

LM: Yeah, that was the other channel.

JA: Mmhm.

JM: That was the opposition.

LM: Yep.

JM: Yes.

LM: Yep.

JM: So, apart from television and things, out of school what activities were you involved in? Or what did you find to do?

0h 10m 00s

JA: Yeah, well we had- em, there's a chap in the village who worked- he was the manager of the Co-op in East Linton, on East Linton High Street, and he ran a choir in the Church Hall.

LM: Oh, yes.

JA: So, we went to a choir and every so often we'd put on a performance. And, em, his wife, she done Highland dancing. So, the show that we used to put on in St Andrew's Church Hall at the top of East Linton High Street was the choir, plus some of us learned to do Highland dancing. And that was Mr and Mrs Daniel.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: And a story I always remember about Mr Daniel was they lived in...

LM: Drylaw Terrace.

JA: -Drylaw Terrace in East Linton, and he worked in the Co-op in East Linton but he still must have taken his car, and he drove past his house to go home, but when he was passing the first time he peeped his horn so that his wife could get his dinner on. And then he turned round and came back and parked so that his car was facing the right way to go back to work in the afternoon.

LM: Och! Well, quite right too.

JA: And I always remember that. Isn't it funny how you remember these things?

JM: Yeah.

JA: I always remember him doing that.

LM: And another big thing in the village for both Janice and I, and all the kids, was there was a lady called Mrs Gray, lived at Smeaton in the village, and in the summertime she ran a swimming club and it was for every child in the village and there was a bus went to North Berwick swimming pool every Wednesday night.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: And it was fantastic, wasn't it?

JA: Mmhm.

LM: So many people learned to swim. There was not a seatbelt in sight on that bus-

JA: Outdoor pool.

LM: -and we were crammed in and we were all excited, we all had our duffel bags, you know it's duffel bags in those days-

JM: Yeah.

JA: Mm.

LM: -wi your towel. All the way down to North Berwick and the bus driver had to go over the bumpy bit at [Lochton?]-

Swimming – 0h 12m 02s

JA: Yep.

LM: -as fast as possible cos the bus would go, and everyone would go like that-

JA: Wee!

LM: Ay! Jumping up and down. And we all went to North Berwick, all ages, and after our lesson and our fun, all went to Quality Street for our fish and-

JA: Bag a chips.

LM: -our fish and chips, and then back on the bus. And it was wonderful. Everybody remembers.

JA: That's how the kids in East Linton-

LM: Learned to swim.

JA: -learned to swim. Learned to swim.

JM: And how many are you talking about?

LM: Well, it was-

JA: A busload.

LM: A whole busload.

JA: A busload.

LM: I mean, we crammed on.

JA: Oh, aye. Because you didn't worry that there was- it could be mebbe four tae a seat if there was too many kids. Ye know ye didn't worry about having a seat each.

LM: Oh, no.

JA: Ye know?

LM: Or standing.

JA: Ye just- or standing.

LM: Standing.

JA: Ye just stood. Ye just all piled up.

LM: Aye.

JM: And what age range?

LM: Well, ma brother went.

JA: Uhuh?

LM: So, he would be in his teens.

JM: Mmhm? Yeah?

LM: I don't know what the youngest would be, but...

JA: Can't remember what age I'd go but we were young-

LM: I was about nine- I was about nine or ten.

JA: Yeah, yeah.

LM: So, that was excellent but the village also had- it's always had a strong Brownie and Cub tradition. Brownie and Cubs and Guides and Scouts. There was a good tradition of that in the village. There was a good Sunday school that my uncle ran. But as well as organised things in the village, it was a great place to go outdoors. There was lots of good wee points.

JA: The River Tyne, along the Tyne.

LM: Along the River Tyne, which ye would talk about. Place called the Orchard-

JA: Mmhm.

LM: -which was a really- a private place, but it was my friend's family who owned that. So, we were up, what you would say, up the Orchard loads.

JA: Thousands of daffodils in the spring.

LM: Yeah, beautiful place. And we went to- Ravensheugh Beach wasn't too far. So I know my friends and I, we sometimes used to cycle down to Ravensheugh. And you played round about what they called the Brae Heads, and all round.

JA: The Brae Heads, yep. Yeah, and along the Tyne there used to be this- what we called a Tarzan rope.

LM: Oh, aye. *[laughter]*.

JA: And we use to- this was a thing, I mean it was- we were young kids and it was- but it was quite a distance along the Tyne, on the way to the Hailes Castle.

0h 14m 04s

LM: Mmhm.

JA: And this Tarzan rope seemed to be there all the time.

LM: Aye, don't know who put that up.

JA: And we played there for hours. We didn't worry about going home for lunch, ye'd be out all day.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: Ye always got home for teatime, but we could be out- the school holidays we could be out the whole day, and everybody meeting at the Tarzan rope.

LM: Yeah.

JA: Or up the park.

LM: Yeah.

JA: And up the park we had this huge slide.

LM: Oh, it was a big, big-

JA: It was a huge, huge slide. And we used to all play up the park and there was tennis courts and there was a putting green.

LM: A putting green, yes.

JA: And you could buy a season ticket.

LM: The lady- there was a lady used to run the putting green at East Linton, and I didn't know it but ma mother subsequently told me she was an alcoholic. And I used to go up with my flask of orange juice and give her a drink of orange juice thinking I was being very nice and friendly. Unless it had vodka in I don't suppose she was all that chuffed but... But the other thing about our- about East Linton was at Guy Fawkes time there was quite a bit of rivalry with the bonfires. So, Janice was on one side of the village, she- hers was the McCall Gardens bonfire, but I was the Macfarlane bonfire. And ye had to go round all the shops with yer cart looking for any cardboard boxes or anything and I- we used to get right mad if they'd said 'oh, the McCall Gardens have already been here'. And my dad, as I said, had a butcher's shop, and I used tae be really annoyed at him if he used to give some to you lot- some of the stuff to burn!

JA: Yeah.

LM: And it was- but it was... Did somebody not one time set fire?

JA: They did, yeah.

JM: So, it was serious rivalry?

LM + JA: Oh, serious yes.

LM: Yes. But that was only then, at school.

JA: Yes, but it was fun serious rivalries.

LM: Yeah.

JA: Just fun, eh?

LM: Yeah, yeah.

JA: I remember in East Linton I stayed in a place called McCall Gardens, and the fire engine- the fire station wasn't far from us. So, anytime the fire engine was going out, a huge siren went.

0h 16m 10s

LM: Mmhm.

JA: And we all ran. We could be having our tea, whatever, everybody ran to the fire station and we all waited for the fire engine coming out and the guy on the – not the driver, on the other side – always shouted out to us where the fire was and where they were going. And then so we rushed home, told our mums and dads where the fire was and just continued with our tea if it was teatime.

LM: Oh really?

JA: Aye. We always did that.

LM: Oh.

JA: Soon as the fire engine went we all were off.

LM: Oh, my friend, em, Murray Stewart-

JA: Mmhm.

LM: -his dad was a fireman and if you'd been playing with Murray in the house, he had a- his dad had a bell, he was called Sunshine. He was a very well-known East Linton person, Sunshine.

JA: [A painter?].

LM: Had a bell in his bedroom and it would go obviously hell for leather, and he would rush out the door to go to be a fireman. But I didn't realise that you were standing at the fire engine waiting to see-

JA: Yeah, you always went, always. And there was a huge crowd gathered, and they were driving out, someone rolled down the window and told us where they were going.

LM: Where the fire-

JA: Where the fire was.

JM: My goodness.

JA: And then we went home and relayed this news, what it was, yeah.

LM: It was a good village to grow up in, East Linton.

JA: Very good, yes.

JM: It sounds as though it's got a really strong community.

LM: It certainly did in those days.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: And Janice's father, he was a real personality in the village. He was always very good at his-

JA: Poetry.

LM: He was known as a bard.

JM: What was his name?

JA: Hugh Munro. He was Hugh Munro, and subsequently people from the village got together and created a book of all his work, because they came to myself and my sister to ask if we had it, if we had things... And ye know, we found all these scraps of paper, we found these scraps of paper in a suitcase or mebbe they would- he would mebbe be sitting having a pint in the local bowling club and they would ask him to say something. So, he wrote all his notes for his poem on the back of a beer mat. So, there's lots of beer mats with all like keywords on it-

Jessie – 0h 18m 10s

LM: Oh, yes.

JA: -when he got up to say his poem. He would do it if it was people's sixtieth birthdays or anniversaries or any weddings we were at. He would always- he'd always make up a poem, ye know, about the people involved and he also wrote poems about landmarks, landmarks in the village as well.

LM: Yeah. The other place that's got quite a- that marks landmarks is- there's a clock in East Linton called Jessie, and it's attached to St Andrew's Church. It's a big, tall clock and it's always called- it's just Jessie.

JA: Jessie the Clock, yeah.

LM: It's always Jessie. But at the foot of Jessie's stairwell, over the years people have written, ye know, perhaps somebody wrote 'Boer War ended' such and such, 'First World War declared', 'Armistice' and it's all in pencil.

JM: Right.

LM: And apparently it's all been kept and preserved and I can't remember the last thing that they put up, it was possibly mebbe the Queen's Silver Jubilee or something.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: But it was a tradition that was kept up.

JM: That's really interesting.

LM: Yeah.

JM: And how's it preserved?

LM: I'm not sure how they've done it, whether they've put mebbe plastic over it or something, but it's apparently still there for forever, hopefully. But Jessie, Jessie the Clock, in East Linton is called that because over a hundred years ago, this clock was being unveiled but the night before there was some young men had had a bit of a drink...

JA: Oh, dear.

LM: And one man climbed up the outside of Jessie- the outside, and named it Jessie, after his girlfriend. That's the story, aye.

JA: I hadn't heard that story.

JM: That's the story, is it?

JA: I hadn't heard that.

LM: That's the story why it's called Jessie. Yep.

JM: That's really good. So, and what about- I'm thinking about the village, what sorts of shops and things would there be? Because it isn't a big village.

0h 20m 05s

JA: Yeah, but there was a Co-op. But ma memories of going to the Co-op were that you'd go in and there was a massive wooden counter, with the ladies behind it. But you just stood, you didn't have to- you just went in and told the lady behind the counter what you wanted and she scurried off and got- and picked it up and brought it back. And if you wanted, say you wanted something like cheese, ye know she'd go and get this wire, that was called a cheese-cutter, and ye know, ye just said what, ye know, up a bit down a bit, the bit of cheese you wanted. And I remember doing that in the Co-op. Eh, there was none of this- for a long time you weren't picking your own things.

LM: No, no.

JA: You always done that.

JM: Yeah.

LM: if you went shopping in the village, you went to the baker's, you went to the butcher's, which was ma dad's shop, ye went to the grocer's- there were quite a few grocers in East Linton, at the time. There was Dalglish's, and Walker's, and Mrs Kerr's, and Malcolm's...

JA: And there was a shoe shop.

LM: A proper shoe shop. There was a draper, a proper draper. But I know from-

JA: A dairy.

LM: A dairy.

JA: A dairy.

LM: Yeah. Em, aye that was a right- she was a right character, [Myra?].

JA: Myra Broun.

LM: Myra Broun. There was a woman and her brother, Eck, who lived in the village, and they had dairy cattle and they would have the dairy herd down a field at Preston Mill. But at certain times of the day when she brought her cattle up, I can picture this dairy herd getting brought up Preston Road, and obviously making the mess and they would be taken to a field. There was Myra's field near the school, or there was- on Walker Terrace, she had her field, and the remains of her farm is still there.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: But he was a real old guy, the sort of leather gaiters that he wore. And they had a little shop that sold the milk, didn't they?

0h 22m 01s

JA: And Myra would have the black skirt on, away down to her-

LM: Aye, it's got- she had a sister, but I can't remember her sister's name.

JA: No, mmhm.

LM: And they had a big old horse. They had- I can remember their horse, to drive their milk cart and everything. And there was also a horse called, em- used to go with the rubbish cart. And it was called- he was called- the guy was called Jimmy the Cart, and it was horse-drawn cart, and I can remember the dustbins getting emptied into his cart. That would be sort of early sixties, I would say, for Jimmy the Cart. There was a lot- there was a good range of shops.

JA: Mmhm. I remember a chap called Jimmy, and Jimmy delivered the papers, in East Linton, and he was in, it was like a-

LM: Jimmy the Chair?

JA: Jimmy the Chair. They called him Jimmy the Chair, and it was like a wheelchair but bigger at the front, wasn't it?

LM: Yeah, he could- I don't think he actually had legs.

JA: No, but he was just- and in front of him was all these newspapers and he went round all of East Linton in all weathers.

LM: Uhuh.

JA: In all weathers.

LM: Yeah.

JA: And he had a horn.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: So, when he was at your house he used to peep peep the horn, and you used to go out and 'oh, there's Jimmy with the paper'.

LM: Yeah.

JA: And you went out and ye got your paper.

LM[?]: He was, eh, ma dad used to get a pink newspaper on a Saturday night, with all the football results and Jimmy used to deliver these, as you say, in all weather and sometimes we wouldn't hear him but ma neighbour would hear him and go and get the paper and bring it in to my dad. Jimmy, aye, Jimmy Black, I think was his name.

JA: Jimmy Black, his name was, yeah.

LM: But he was Jimmy the Chair.

JM: So, you've got Jimmy the Cart and Jimmy the Chair?

LM: Yes. And then we had Dummy Yeats.

JA: Dummy Yeats, yeah.

LM: Dummy Yeats.

JA: Aye.

JM: Yeats?

LM: Dummy Yeats.

JA: Y-E-A-T-S.

LM: Y-E-A-T-S. So, Dummy, ye had to speak to him in sign language, which I couldn't do, but my dad could. And my dad has a story that- my dad was a great footballer, in his day and Dummy Yeats was his trainer. And I said to ma dad, 'but how could he tell you what to do?' and he said 'oh, we just never- we just ignored him'. Ye know, if he was trying to sign to tell them what to do, he said 'we just ignored him'. [*laughter*]. That was Dummy Yeats. There was quite a- and Doug [Dourie?] had the blacksmith's. There was a blacksmith's in East Linton, Doug Dourie. That's all away now.

Oh 24m 26s

JM: Yeah.

LM: That's all been demolished. I'm trying to think of...

JA: But you just got all your shopping in East Linton, you didn't go anywhere- ye know.

LM: Yeah.

JM: But it's been very self-contained.

JA: Yes, hasn't it?

JM: Hasn't it?

LM: Yeah, and I believe, like in my granny's day, there was shops in another part of the village at Mill Wynd, there was shops down at well, Preston, Kirk and Preston Mill was a separate village. So, there was shops down there as well.

JM: Right.

LM: There used to be a lot- load of shops in the village.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: In fact, I came across an article that my aunt and uncle had kept from the Courier, and it was written in- I can't- '68 or something, they were saying there was only twenty shops and he can- this author can remember when there were used to be about fifty in the village and how terrible, we're now down to twenty.

JM: Yeah.

JA: Yeah.

LM: And now you can count them on one hand.

JM: That's sad, isn't it?

JA: And another thing, there was lots of halls. Ye know, growing up in East Linton there was- they had lots of halls, where ye went to parties and things. There was- just below Jessie the Clock, there was one called Whist Hall. And you often used to go there for parties. Or there was the [Masonic?] Hall. There was [Allegion?] Hall. And these are all-

LM: St Andrew's Hall.

JA: There was St Andrew's Hall, which was the church-

LM: And the Community Hall.

JA: And the Community Hall.

LM: Which was the original Drill Hall for the soldiers-

JA: Was it for soldiers? Uhuh. And, em, going to Sunday school... The church was at Preston Kirk but the Sunday school was always in the hall at St Andrew's Church, which used to be the Free Church. Yeah.

LM: Aye, good Christmas parties.

JA: Great Christmas parties.

East Linton Primary School – 0h 26m 02s

LM: Yep.

JA: Mmhm, great Christmas parties.

LM: And we were lucky that East Linton Primary School was an excellent school. We had really good teachers, I mean, some of them were very, very strict and even yet my brother has the collywobbles about one particular teacher, but-

JM: Really?

LM: Yes, yeah. But, em, like Janice I can remember my first day at school as well, and the sandpit and the art on your easel, your easels, you had your...

JA: That's right.

LM: Yeah. And the-

JM: And can you remember was it set out in rows?

LM: When you were little, I think it was in fours.

JA: Yeah, I think it was fours we were in, yeah. Yeah.

LM: But then when we went on it went into rows.

JA: Mmhm.

JM: Right.

LM: Em, and...

JM: That's quite forward thinking, really, putting you in groups.

LM: Yeah, so little groups, it was little groups.

JA: Yeah, mmhm. Yeah, I remember being in little groups and I remember when they used to put on a concert every year.

LM: Oh, yeah.

JA: They used to- Mrs Scott was one of the teachers and she was a really good pianist. She was very strict.

LM: Yes, she was a strict one, yes.

JA: She ran her class and she was very strict and... But when- the concerts were always put on in the Community Hall in East Linton because it had a stage. And I remember when we were going to the concert or rehearsing for a concert, we all had to carry our chair from East Linton school, down to the Community Hall to have this chair to sit on while we were practising, which is quite interesting because we werenae just expected to just sit on the floor.

LM: That's true, aye.

JA: Cause I remember-

JM: You always had to take a chair?

JA: Uhuh. I always remember taking- we all took our chairs with us.

LM: And I had forgotten that, until Janice reminded me that we used to do that, our wee steel chairs.

JM: And how old were you?

JA: Gosh, well that would be from- we went to school when we were five, didn't we?

LM: Mmhm.

JA: I never went to a nursery school.

LM: No.

JA: Or a playgroup.

LM: No.

JA: Never went to nursery or playgroup.

LM: No, no. No, I don't think they existed in our day.

0h 28m 02s

JA: So, going to school in these days was a huge thing, because you had never really been away frae your mum.

JM: Yeah.

JA: Ye know? We never went tae anything like that.

LM: No, there was no playgroup or anything.

JA: And I remember the police, when the police came to teach us road safety.

LM: Oh, yes.

JM: Was that Tufty-?

LM: The Tufty club. The Tufty club. *[laughter]*.

JA: And the whole school went outside and we stood at the road, and the police car would career up the hill and stop suddenly and all this kind of thing.

LM: Look left, look right.

JA: Yeah.

LM: Look left again, is it safe? You can cross.

JA: You can cross.

LM: Yes.

JA: And then when we were going for school trips, ye know, the bus came and we wouldn't be going far, cause we were never away overnight anywhere, it was just like a daytrip.

LM: Oh, no.

JA: But I remember all the mums coming to wave us off.

JM: Yeah.

JA: And we were only away for the day.

LM: I think Bamburgh was about the furthest.

JA: Yeah. You were never far but all the mums- I remember all the mums coming to wave us off.

JM: So, did your parents both work? Or was mum still the stay at home role then?

JA: Mum, in my family, Mum was stay at home.

JM: Stay at home? For all your school years, or-?

JA: No, latterly she would mebbe go- she mebbe had a couple old ladies in the village that she went and helped and cleaned for and stuff.

JM: Right.

JA: But Mum was, ye know, all our school days Mum was basically at home, because if she was doing things like that she'd do it when we were at school.

JM: Yeah.

JA: Ye know.

JM: Uhuh.

LM: Mm.

JA: But she was always basically there for us coming home from school, and we also went home every day for lunch. We didn't stay at school for lunch, we always went home and ma mum would always be in at lunchtime.

JM: Yeah. When ye went home for lunch was it a snack lunch or a proper lunch?

JA: It would mebbe be something like a plate of soup.

LM: Oh.

JA: A plate of soup, or, em- and a pudding and something like that.

JM: Yeah.

JA: I can't remember, personally, going home and getting a sandwich or anything. But I think it was more often or not ma mum would always be making soup.

LM: Soup.

JA: And it would normally be a plate of soup I can remember having.

JM: And do you think mostly all the children went home?

LM: A lot- most of them did in East Linton.

0h 30m 05s

JM: They went home?

LM: Yes, they went home. There was a few from the, what was called the Country-

JM: Uhuh?

LM: Ye know, my friend lived at Beanston and it was if you were taxied in you would stay for your lunch-

JA: Stay. And I remember, aye-

LM: But most of them went home.

JA: And I remember being really sorry for the people who had to stay for school lunches because when you passed the dinner hall it always smelt terrible.

LM: And they school lunches, they came from the kitchen at West Barns.

JA: Yeah.

LM: I can remember that.

JA: And I can remember just feeling really sorry for the people who had to stay at the school for lunches.

LM: I- see my house looked- was really close to the school, I mean, my brother and I, we could sometimes just wait on the school bell going and then hop across the garden fence and be up to school. So, I always came home as well. Ma mum was mainly a stay at home mum, but sometimes she had to help in the shop or drive the butcher van, in which case ma granny would come. My granny was often there on a Saturday morning making us mince and tatties.

JA: I remember if we were at- somebody in the class had- Mr Roy was the head teacher, and the head teacher always taught Primary Seven.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: And I remember somebody had been naughty he would keep us back at lunchtime. So, of course, he'd only let ye go for a short time, and I remember getting home, yer parents- ye know, yer mum was really angry at you, and what's happened ye know...

LM: Yeah, and what've you done?

JA: Ye know, they had been really angry at us-

LM: I have to say-

JA: -as if we had done something to be kept back.

LM: I have to say Mr Roy never, ever kept our class in.

JA: Oh, gosh, yeah I remember it.

LM: I did get the belt at the primary school.

JA: I never, I never got the belt. What did you do to get the belt?

LM: The whole- it was Mrs Gillan.

JA: Uhuh.

LM: The whole class got the belt because somebody wouldnae own up to doing some damage. The whole class got the belt. But Mr Roy never.

JM: And was the belt used quite a lot?

LM: It was actually.

JA: Yeah.

JM: Yeah?

LM: Yeah, it was.

JM: Do you think there were any discipline problems, or do ye think people really kind of toed the line?

School Games – 0h 32m 00s

LM: I think they toed the line. I think they toed the line. I can remember it was quite a- ye wouldn't, I don't think- ye wouldn't even think of answering back to a teacher, or... Oh, gosh, no.

JA: But in the big-

JM: How many people were in your class? Do you remember?

LM: it was quite a fair size. Well, I don't remember...

JA: It was just really looking back at photographs.

LM: It's difficult, aye, which-

JA: Yeah.

LM: -twenty, or something like that?

JA: Yeah, I'd say between twenty – twenty five, something like that.

LM: Uhuh.

JA: Ye know, just looking back at old photographs. I mean, I can't ever remember there being any discipline problems. There was boys in the class who were silly and done silly things.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: But nothing-

LM: No.

JA: No really... And when we went outside at break times there was never any supervisors. Ye never got supervisors.

LM: Gosh, no.

JA: There was never... If anything went wrong, or somebody got hurt, ye had to- somebody had to go and knock on the staffroom door, but ye were brave if ye did that.

LM: Aye.

JA: And you would leave somebody just, ye know-

LM: Yeah, other than that ye were just left to it.

JA: Ye had to just go knock on the staff door if- the staffroom door, if somebody was ill or hurt themselves.

LM: Definitely.

JM: And did you- were you given any sort of things to play with at playtime?

LM: No.

JM: So-

LM: No.

JA: Not a thing.

JM: -just-

LM: Just our imaginations.

JM: Played without any leisure devices.

LM: The boys would have a football.

JM: Oh yeah.

LM: But other than that-

JA: There was a boys' playground and the girls' playground.

LM: Yeah, but they kinda mixed.

JM: Did they?

JA: Aye, but there was a kind of gate thing, wasn't there?

LM: Uhuh.

JA: So, you could.

LM: We used to- but when we were smaller, we used to play games like 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' and all that. Just ourselves.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: We would start- and somebody would mebbe have a skipping rope or French skipping or something.

JA: But there was nothing to play with at, per say.

LM: There was Mr- 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' I can't remember the other ones, but...

JA: Eh...

JM: There was one about crossing the river.

LM: No.

JA: Oh, yeah.

LM: Was there?

JA: Yeah, I can- I know what you mean, uhuh.

JM: And you had to take baby steps and giant steps-

LM: Oh, yes! Giant steps and baby steps, yes we played that.

JM: Uhuh.

0h 34m 00s

JA: Yeah. One thing at school, another memory, was the dentist, who used to come in a caravan and park at the front of the school.

LM: God, it was horrific.

JA: But my-

LM: Mr Samson.

JA: My mum had always taken us to Dunbar to the dentists. So, when the dentist came to the school, we never had to go. We had to say that we had our own dentist, and I was so grateful, cause again, I used to feel so sorry for the people who had to go tae the dentist.

LM: Mr Samson was actually lovely.

JA: He was nice.

LM: Derrick Samson, he was really nice. He was- he had his nurse was called Monica.

JA: Oh, right, gosh.

LM: Funny the things you remember.

[*phone ringing*]

JM: Excuse me. Um, I'll just need to stop that.

LM: I'll just try to think what else.

JM: Continuing the chat with Janice and Leslie. Ok.

LM: One thing that I thoroughly enjoyed in the village was Guides. I didn't last very long at Brownies because I couldn't do my knots, because I was left-handed and nobody gave me a hand. Ye know, ye were supposed to be able to do your knots and I was rubbish.

JM: Did anybody try and correct your left-handedness?

LM: No.

JM: No?

LM: No. At school, for writing, I was shown things separately.

JM: Right.

LM: The teacher would stand up and show how to- particularly joined up writing, she would show the class how to do writing, but then she would say 'but Leslie, you do it this way'. And my knitting-

JA: So, you were the only one in the class?

LM: I was the only one in the class. And knitting was the wrong way round for me as well. And there was no- but there was no left-handed scissors or anything.

JM: So, did you learn that with your right hand?

LM: I'm quite- yes, and I can peel potatoes with my right hand because there was never any left-handed potato peelers. But school, yeah, I had to be shown things just completely separate from the rest. So, I couldn't do knots, so I went to Guides and it was great fun. Thoroughly enjoyed [Guides?].

JM: Right.

LM: We had- we used to go camping...

JM: Where did ye go?

LM: We went-

JM: We came down to Smeaton.

LM: We never went to Smeaton.

JM: That's your doorstep, isn't it?

0h 36m 00s

LM: Yeah. Tynninghame, though. We went to Tynninghame a few times. Lennoxlove. One time we went to- as far as Kelso. And we had- we were divided up into patrols, and we used to meet in the school hall and it was really great fun, and then we practically had to be kicked out because we were so old. And then I went back to help with the Guides, and eventually I was a Guide leader. And now Janice and I have joined the Trefoil Guild-

JA: The Trefoil Guild.

JM: Oh, right.

JA: We're now members of the Trefoil Guild.

LM: Trefoil Guild.

JM: Very good.

LM: I believe that Guides, and Cubs, and Scouts are still very strong in the village.

JM: In East Linton?

LM: Yeah.

JM: So, are you Trefoil Guild in East Linton, or-?

JA: East Lothian.

LM: East Lothian. So, it's East Lothian branch.

JA: It's East Lothian, yeah.

JM: Right.

JA: They have the meetings all over.

LM: But it's a thing that never leaves ye, actually. From being a Guide, ye know?

JA: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

LM: Yeah, it's still got good memories and it's amazing that ye can remember taps again and all that.

JA: Yeah.

LM: Ye know.

JM: I sang that the other day, actually.

LM: Yeah.

JM: At a funeral.

LM: Ah, of course, yeah.

JM: Well, ye had Allison Cargill House, were you involved in that?

LM: It was just-

JM: Just starting?

LM: Just starting. That's ACH. That's it, yeah. It was just starting, so...

JM: Right.

LM: Yep.

JM: Cause our Guides helped with sort of putting in the bedding and getting it organised-

LM: Ahhh.

JM: -and stuff.

LM: Ok. Ok.

JM: Yeah.

LM: Yep. Em, was trying to think what else activities were in the village.

JA: The village always had the gala day.

LM: Oh, yes, the gala day.

JA: The village had the gala day.

LM: Still does.

JM: Are you talking about the gala day?

JA: Gala day, yeah. Well, ma dad, for years, was the treasurer of the gala day, and... The court and stuff were picked from, well, the queen was Primary Seven. Leslie, here, you were a gala queen.

LM: I was. They- Primary Seven girls voted whoever they wanted to be the gala queen and I don't know how... She got to pick her attendants.

JA: Yes, yes.

Gala Days – 0h 38m 00s

LM: I can't remember how the rest of the court was picked, whether it was just out of a hat or...

JA: Cause ma best friend in the year when I was in Primary Seven, my best friend was gala queen and she picked me as one of her attendants.

LM: Uhuh.

JA: Mmhm. But a huge, huge thing.

LM: Yeah. Big excitements.

JA: Big excitement, yeah.

LM: A stage and all the different stalls, and gala dance at night.

JA: The gala dance at night.

LM: Which was a rammy. *[laughter]*.

JA: Yeah.

LM: A total rammy.

JA: And then ye get to the church on the Sunday morning.

LM: Yes, yes, ye had to go to the church. Yep. My, em, granny lived in the village. She was called Margaret Pettigrew, and her claim to fame was she helped to make the zeppelin down at East Fortune.

JM: Oh, right.

LM: She helped to sew the... I can't remember the- I can't remember its number. But we have photographs of her down there as a young girl at East Fortune, sewing the zeppelin.

JA: The zeppelin.

LM: And the zeppelin did cross the Atlantic and come back, but I can't remember its number. And she told-

JA: It's an air-

LM: It's a big air balloon, yeah, a big air ship, yeah. And I can remember her always telling me that there was lots of dances, and somebody had to keep an eye out for the boss coming. So, when they saw the boss they got back to their machines and got on. But, em, she said they had great fun.

JM: So, was it a sort of rows of machine sewing?

LM: Well, from her photographs, it just seems to be there's- I can see her at a sewing machine-

JA: Yeah, yeah you showed me.

LM: But I wouldn't've said there were rows. But there seemed to be a lot of young lassies-

JM: Yeah.

LM: -sitting doing...

JM: So, what years do you think that would be?

LM: Well, it was during the First World War.

JM: Right.

LM: During the First War.

JA: '14 to '18.

LM: Yeah. Yep. So, she was courting my grandfather, Abel [Crake?], who was a butcher, and he went to the First World War. And she always tells me the story that she was at home, just at Bank Road, I can show you where she lived.

0h 40m 06s

JA: Mmhm.

LM: And her mother came and said 'that's somebody at the door for ye', and she went down, and here was ma grandfather and he'd come back from the- he was on leave. And he'd gone as a private, and he'd said- she'd opened the door and he'd said 'Sergeant Crake to see you'. So, he'd got a promotion. So, they got engaged and they got married, and their wedding photographs, you would think it was the worst day of their lives. There's not a smile- *[laughter]*, wi the pair of them. And he went back to war, but fortunately he came back.

JM: Yeah.

LM: So, he had to leave the butcher's shop. Him and his brother ran the butcher's shop in East Linton. So, I don't know how they decided which brother would go to war, but one stayed in the village and kept the butcher's shop going.

JM: Right.

LM: And he went to war.

JM: So, is the butcher's shop been a family- a longstanding family connection?

LM: Em, it started- my dad's family came from Longformacus, they had a farm at Longformacus near Duns, and two brothers decided to come to East Linton to open a butcher's shop. And that was my grandfather and his brother. So, that was Crake's.

JM: Right.

LM: And then it passed down to my dad.

JM: Right.

LM: My dad ran it. My brother would have nothing to do with it. He used to be a message laddie on the horrible big bike and that put him off for life. *[laughter]*. And actually, it's quite timely to talk about that because there was a sale ground in East Linton that my dad used to go and buy cattle at, which's lain derelict for years and years and years and it's just recently been renovated.

JM: I've seen that.

LM: It's absolutely beautiful, and my brother can remember going with my dad to buy the cattle at the sale ground there.

JM: Right.

LM: And seemingly, one week it'd be Haddington, and one week it would be East Linton.

Holidays – 0h 42m 04s

JA: Did you say it was 1950-

LM: '59 it closed.

JA: '59, it closed down, uhuh.

LM: And my mum has a story that my dad, when he was young, had to sometimes drive whatever cattle and beast he'd bought at Haddington, he had to drive it- walk it to East Linton himself. I can't remember- I can't imagine my dad doing that, but seemingly he did.

JM: Goodness.

LM: Yeah. Cause there was a slaughterhouse in East Linton, down at the- near the river. And they used to slaughter their beasts down there.

JM: East Linton has just had everything, hasn't it?

LM: Hasn't it?

JA: It was the place to be.

JM: It must have been.

LM: Yeah.

JM: Uhuh.

LM: Yeah.

JM: Will we talk briefly about holidays and things that you did for holidays, or where you went, or-?

JA: Well, the first time-

JM: I know we've spoken about being out and about locally and...

JA: Yeah. The first time I went abroad was when I was seventeen, coming up eighteen, and I was working, and I paid for it myself, ye know. I was never ever on an aeroplane. As a family, ye know young, I was never ever on an aeroplane. We would go- my dad didn't drive, didn't have a car, so we used to take- ye know, we would get buses to places like Scarborough, Blackpool, em-

JM: How long did that take?

JA: Oh, that took all day. That took all day because we had to get a bus from East Linton into the bus station in Edinburgh-

JM: Uhuh?

JA: -and then we had to get on a bus that was gonna take us to Blackpool. But the whole journey took us the whole day. Because you went, and I always remember having to go up a big hill called The Sharp, and, ye know, the bus would be stopping at all these different places and it took us the whole day, where now you can probably drive in three and a half hours, or whatever. It took us wherever we went.

JM: Gosh.

JA: And there was a local bus company, in Dunbar, and in the summer months they would have trips, mebbe, to the Trossachs, or something like that ye know, and I always found it really boring. Ye know, ye just had to sit on a bus and then have your lunch somewhere or whatever, and you're meant to look at the scenery and ma parents giving me a row cause I fell asleep and stuff and I was meant to be looking at the scenery. Ye know, and things like that.

0h 44m 22s

LM: Right.

JA: But that's- ye know, that was holidays, that's as far as-

JM: Yeah.

JA: -ye know, holidays went. We didn't have weekends away or anything like that. I can't remember doing anything like that.

LM: We would go to, eh... Crieff Hydro. That was our favourite.

JM: Right.

LM: We always used to go to Crieff Hydro. Yep, I loved it at Crieff Hydro. And we used to take our dog and put it in the kennels at Crieff Hydro, so we were all- always all together.

JM: Uhuh?

LM: And- or, my mum comes from Wallsend, so we would have our- maybe have wee weekends down at Wallsend. But Crieff Hydro, if I'm thinking about the family holidays, that's the place, and doing the country dancing on a Saturday night with my dad, doing the Gay Gordons and learning all these dances. Military Two-step. And we had a caravan at one point, which I hated. *[laughter]*. Worst thing my mother ever did was get a caravan.

JM: I know. Oh well, we used to go to North Berwick and stay in my uncle's caravan.

LM: Aye.

JM: I mean, I fancied holidays to North Berwick [?].

JA: Yeah, my husband that's, eh- they went to North Berwick.

JM: Ah.

JA: They used to go down there.

JM: I mean, I loved it! *[laughter]*. I loved it!

JA: [?].

JM: Yeah. And, oh, we've spoken about toys, and I wondered if we could mebbe touch on some sort of doctor or dentist experiences, because they've changed a lot over the years.

JA: Yeah, I remember-

JM: I know you've spoken about the caravan but-

JA: I remember going to the dentist in Dunbar. And whatever I had to get done, whether it was a tooth coming out or something, but I think I had decided before I went in how terrible it was and I remember screaming, and screaming, and screaming. Ye know, ma mum, ye know yer parents- yer mum didnae get to stay with ye, even although this was all happening. And my mum'd been, ye know- and just screaming about this and getting myself into a right moment.

0h 46m 06s

LM: It was horrible though, because you've had to get gas for anything – it was horrible.

JA: Yeah, they knocked you out with gas.

LM: Yeah, you've got knocked out with gas-

JA: Aye.

LM: -and it was terrible.

JM: So, that's a mask-

LM: Yeah, it was a mask-

JM: -right over or is it over the whole face or-?

LM: A rubber mask over your nose and mouth. It was horrible. So, the dentist's was a terrifying thing in those days.

JA: It was terrifying.

LM: The doctor in- my first doctor in East Linton was Dr Langland's, he was on Preston Road.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: And then Dr Brown at the far end.

JA: Mmhm.

LM: I can't really remember having bad experiences with the doctor's.

JM: And did you go to them, or did they come to you?

LM: Oh, you went to them.

JM: You went to them?

LM: Aye.

JA: Unless you were- yeah, you'd come.

LM: And Mrs [Semby?] was the receptionist, wasn't she?

JA: Yeah.

LM: Gerda. Yeah, oh no. I had- I was off school for a month in Primary Seven cause I took bad tonsillitis, and then I discovered I was allergic to penicillin and the doctor used to come out and see me then, but other than that you were expected to...

JM: Yeah.

LM: Go to the surgery.

JM: And other things that are on Mark's list were just- what about secondary school, actually? We didn't touch on that.

LM: Oh. *[laughter]*.

JA: Yeah, well secondary school for us East Linton village people was- it was a huge occasion because we were very insular in a village.

LM: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

JA: And-

LM: It's a very sad day that you left the primary school.

JA: It was a really sad day, and people that stayed in the village, ye had the choice of going to Dunbar Grammar School or Haddington Knox Academy, or if ye stayed on Preston Road in East Linton you could go to North Berwick. I went to Dunbar because ma sister and brother before me had both gone to Dunbar. So, it was just a natural thing in our family that that's where I was going.

0h 48m 05s

LM: Yeah, I went to Dunbar Grammar School as well, cause my brother was there. It wasn't... I can remember on the first day when you're put into your class, and I was quite disappointed that I wasn't really with ma friends. There was one friend in my class, but actually in retrospect, ye got to know the people from Dunbar and ye just made new friends.

JA: The big difference was it was huge compared to coming from the village school.

LM: Yeah, and of course, we had to get the bus to school every day from East Linton. So, you were given your season ticket.

JA: You got your season ticket.

LM: You paid for a season ticket.

JA: Mmhm. Were they posted to us?

LM: Yeah.

JA: They were posted to you?

LM: They were posted to you, and we used to stand at Gala Green, in Dunbar-

JA: And wait for the bus.

LM: -freezing, waiting on the bus coming home. And I met ma husband at Dunbar Grammar School, so-

JA: And I remember one day forgetting the season ticket.

LM: Oh.

JA: Because I always got a wee leather holder thing.

LM: That's right.

JA: And it went in this wee leather holder, and I remember one day I forgot it and the bus driver just didn't let me on. Ye know, he was aye...

JM: He left you?

JA: Yeah. I'd be first year or second year. I was quite young and I remember he just wouldn't let me on because I didn't have this- because the bus driver didnae have- or the conductor, because there was drivers and conductors, and I remember just not being allowed on this bus because I didn't have my season ticket.

LM: And the bus was a- it was- we were very badly behaved. We were really- I got the bus home from Dunbar recently, and Dunbar Grammar School kids got on and they were perfectly behaved. In our day it was just awful, must have been terrible if you were a member of the public.

JA: We must just have been so- ye know, in school I mean, because the minute you got out it was like [*explosion noise*].

LM: Aye, yeah.

JA: Yeah.

LM: I'll tell you what the other memory Janice and I both have- anybody who went to East Linton Primary School would have, our headmaster was called Mr Roy, and he was a lovely man-

JA: Oh, yeah.

LM: -he was really nice. And at a certain part of the week he always read you *Wee Macgregor* stories. So, we were all-

JA: Loved *Wee Macgregor*.

LM: You could hear a pin drop when he was away to get his-

JA: It was a little red book, a little red book out his bookcase.

0h 50m 00s

LM: *Wee Macgregor* was a Glasgow- a real- it was a wee Glasgow laddie. So, I think- I think the stories must have been written in mebbe the 1930s or something.

JA: Yeah, yeah.

LM: But he made them come alive- I suppose it's like what Harry Potter would be tae modern day kids, but to us it was...

JA: The teacher reading us this *Wee Macgregor* book-

LM: Oh, it was great.

JA: -oh it was, it was the highlight, the absolute highlight.

LM: It was. Even my brother says that, he can remember *Wee Macgregor*.

JM: And was that just to the Primary Seven class?

LM: Uhuh. Yes.

JA: He always took the Primary Seven class-

LM: Primary Seven.

JA: -yeah.

JM: Was that because you'd be old enough to be independent if he was called out somewhere?

JA: Yeah, probably, never really thought about it.

LM: Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh.

JA: But yeah, you would be right. Aye, he always- always the same classroom.

JM: Yeah.

JA: And always Primary Seven.

JM: It was pretty similar across lots of village schools, wasn't it?

LM: Aye.

JA: [so far?].

LM: And we had our caretaker, well, our janny-

JA: Our janny.

LM: -was Mr Bane to start with when I was there, and then it was Mr Paxton.

JA: Mr Paxton. Packy.

LM: Who was a real character too. He was lovely, Mr Paxton. There was a dog that came with him, Rusty the dog.

JA: Rusty the dog.

LM: And he was a brilliant artist, and if you got into his room that he stoked the fire with, he would take a bit of charcoal and draw pictures on the wall of horses' heads and all that sort of stuff. He was a very clever man.

JA: He later became was it an OBE he became?

LM: He got a BEM.

JA: BEM, BEM, yeah.

LM: Yeah. For services.

JA: For services to the school, yeah. Mmhm.

LM: So, we were lucky with the school. Most definitely. Em, and secondary was a bit of a shock.

JA: It was a huge shock and completely different, because you met all these new friends that came frae this bigger place that was Dunbar, and... It opened more up the cinema, and going to the cinema in Dunbar.

LM: That's right.

JA: And things.

LM: Aye.

JA: Going to the cinema.

JM: So, did that open up a whole new world to you, did it?

JA: Oh, yeah.

LM: Oh, yeah.

JM: Broadened your horizons?

JA: Oh, yeah.

LM: Yeah, cause then you would go- well, you'd go to the picture house in Dunbar and then you would mebbe go to a disco or something-

JA: Yeah.

LM: -in Dunbar as well.

JA: We used to go to discos in the church- the Dunbar Parish Church Hall.

0h 52m 00s

LM: Mmhm.

JA: Ye know, at the post office there.

LM: My- I have a terrible memory of Dunbar Picture House, which I will share to the world. I was persuaded [*laughter*], by my friend, to go on my first date with this chap from Dunbar. My so-called best friend [*laughter*]. Anyway, we had to go to the pictures and I met him outside right enough, so we went in and went up to the back row of the picture house in Dunbar, very excited. And I remember there was lots of people came to East Linton, so the bus would be busy and- from East Linton, and the bus would be busy. So, but him and I went up the back row and then we were watching the pictures, behaving, when he turned to me and said 'do you want anything from the shop?' and I said 'no, no thanks'. So, he went away to the shop and he never came back. And he abandoned me in the back row of the pictures. Course, the lights went up, there I was, on my own, in the back row, and I had to go to the bus stop, and everyone was saying 'where is he?' [*laughter*]. I said 'I don't know where he went' [*laughter*]. And somebody met him later and he said well, he went home because Rangers was on Scotsport on the telly, so he went away home. That was my first date.

JM: Ye lost out to Scotsport.

LM: I did! That was awful. It was, aye.

JM: Did you speak to him in the future?

LM: I've never seen him since.

JM: Really? Was he not in the same school?

LM: Eh, I think he was a bit older. I don't...

JM: Yeah?

LM: Yeah. [?]

JM: [?].

LM: Went to get his poppets and didn't return.

JA: I think that's a wonderful story.

LM: Poppets are the toffees. Poppets are toffees.

JA: Yeah, the little kiosk in the corner.

LM: Yes, and imagine going away home and leaving me sitting in the back row.

JM: He must've known it was gonna be on Scotsport, wouldn't he?

LM: Must. You would think so.

JM: Because it was on every week.

LM: So, why... Yes! *[laughter]*.

JM: Oh, dear. Oh, dear.

JA: Oh, that was the funniest first date story.

LM: North Berwick had their picture house too.

JM: Yeah. And what about leaving school? Did you go on to just- what did you go on to do?

Leaving School – 0h 54m 05s

JA: Yeah, I left school at sixteen and I did ma highers, right enough, but I wasn't what ye call really academic, and I joined the Royal Bank of Scotland when I was sixteen. I started in- so that was 1976 I joined the Royal Bank of Scotland, and I started working in Musselburgh branch of the Royal Bank, and then I came to Haddington, Dunbar, and back to Haddington. And I left there- I left there when I was fifty.

JM: That must've changed hugely from the time of you starting, till when you left.

JA: Gosh, yeah, yeah.

JM: And it's continued to kind of narrow down and down, hasn't it?

JA: Yeah, huge, huge, different job altogether. I mean, I remember as a young sixteen year old, ye know when you went in in the morning, we used to get the shopping lists of all the more senior staff, and ye had to go around Musselburgh and get all their shopping things. Aye, ye did that and the worst job was that ye had to collect everybody's tea money, because there was a- the tea thing was a job, but nobody wanted to pay ye- nobody wanted to pay ye their tea money. Ye know, however much it was. And I remember that being one of the most horrible jobs. But the thing was that ye still had to go back and ye still had all the filing, and ye had yer juniors- ye had all the junior's jobs to do, but everybody wanted ye to go all round Musselburgh and ye know, they were always very specific about which shops ye had to go to.

LM: Jesus.

JA: For all the shopping. And yeah, I remember doing that, but everything was written down, ye know any customers we served and everything was written in books.

LM: Yeah.

JA: Everything was written in cashing books, and we had to manually write it all, and we had to manually count it all up, which stood me in good stead for arithmetic, I have to say. Everything had to be done and then manually balance your cash and everything at the end of the night. There was no ATMs, ye know, everybody-

0h 56m 17s

LM: Came in for their cash.

JA: -had to come in, and when I worked in Musselburgh, we had lots of customers who were miners from the nearby Monktonhall colliery. So, every Thursday when it came to miners' time, the bus arrived outside and all these miners just queued up, queued up, queued up, and they all had what we used to call little passbooks. They had their books and ye had to- we had to make them all up and

their money going in, and ye know, give them their money out. So, miners' time was a- was a big time.

LM: Busy. I worked for, em, the Scottish Office and my first department was the very first devolution department. So, that was only 1979, and I was a clerical worker. And of course, there was no computers in those days, everything, as Janice says, everything was written out by hand. All your filing and everything was by hand... And my stand out memory from that time was my pay packet. I had to go down into- I worked in a place called New St Andrew's House, which has just recently been demolished. And every week you went and stood in a line for your pay packet, and it was an actual brown pay packet and you could count it- you could see through it. It had wee holes, so that you could see your coins were right and you could see that your paper money was right. And I remember it was £29, and thinking, oh, one of these days I'm going tae get £30 a week, I'm just gonna- I'm gonna make £30 a week. That's a horrible building to work in, I have to say, but interesting because it was the first devolution-

JM: Yeah.

LM: -you know, division.

JM: Wow.

JA: I remember, ye know, when it was payday and you used to start thinking, 'oh, I'm gonna start saving money' and everything, and I just used to- and I always used to think that as long as I had a pound a day, as long as I had £1 per day, I could save the rest. Ye know, if it was a thirty day month or whatever.

0h 58m 14s

JM: Yeah.

JA: And I remember doing that.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: Mmhm. So, I could start saving. And even although I worked for the Royal Bank, ye always had yer savings in a building society, so ye know ye took yer money from the bank and ye put it in a building society. Ye know ye didn't have your savings account in the bank, ye went to the building society so you could start saving there.

JM: And did you still stay at home?

JA: Oh, yes. I stayed at home till-

JM: And did you pay digs? Because I've had a few conversations recently about dig money.

LM: Yeah.

JA: Yeah, I did. I paid digs.

LM: Yeah.

JA: Until I got engaged. And once I got engaged, my mum said 'I don't want dig money, but ye need to save it for your house'.

LM: I paid dig money.

JM: Oh, very good.

JA: And yeah, but I always paid dig money. And my mum, as soon as we got engaged, my mum started what they always called 'the bottom drawer'.

JM: Uhuh?

JA: And this was the bottom drawer, and if she'd be about, she'd mebbe see a pair of pillow cases, or- and that'll be for your bottom drawer.

LM: I never got a bottom drawer.

JA: Ye didn't have a bottom drawer?

LM: No, but I did pay digs.

JA: Aye, I paid digs, yeah. Yeah, I always did.

JM: I don't remember ever having a bottom drawer, either.

JA: Did you not?

LM: No.

JA: Nah.

JM: Don't think so, no.

LM: No.

JM: Nope, but quite a nice idea, really, isn't it?

JA: Yeah, always...

JM: And you still hear it. You still hear of people talking about having a-

JA + LM: Bottom drawer.

JM: I don't know if they actually do but it's em...

JA: It was no very big, ye know, or anything.

LM: Yeah, just to start ye off.

JA: It would be never anything, ye know...

JM: Uhuh.

JA: Maybe a tea towel fae somewhere or something like that, or six glasses or something like that. But I do remember always paying dig money, yeah.

JM: Can you remember just sort of kinda finishing off, can you remember much about fashion? What sorts of fashion they ye might...

LM: Quite short skirts.

JA: Uhuh.

LM: Short skirts.

JM: If you think of secondary school, cause that's really when you become aware of fashion.

JA: Yeah.

JM: What was the sort of the in thing that ye had to have?

Fashions – 01h 00m 00s

LM: See, I-

JM: Did you wear hot pants?

LM: No, because I didn't have the figure.

JA: Platform shoes.

LM: Platform shoes.

JA: Platform shoes.

JM: How high?

JA: Oh, gosh. I think the platform would be-

JM: What, three inches?

JA: I remember a green pair I had, yeah. I remember a green pair I had.

JM: Right.

JA: Of platform shoes.

LM: I don't- I was never into fashion, but I know like my friend Lin was. She had her Crombie coat and-

JA: Yes.

JM: What's a Crombie coat?

LM: A Crombie was a sort of-

JM: I know the term but...

LM: It was a smart sort of...

JA: Dressy looking coat.

LM: Double breasted-

JA: Yeah, yeah.

LM: -coat, sort of a three quarters length.

JA: Yes. Yeah, I can picture it.

LM: Lin had her Crombie, em, my husband had his... My husband-to-be had his parka, cause they were quite- they were fashionable in those days... Ye know, point-collared, I suppose my blouses had big pointy-

JA: Yeah.

LM: Pointy collars.

JM: Yeah.

LM: I was never really into fashion, no. Nah.

JA: Remember there was a shop opened up in Edinburgh, In Princes Street- no, it wasn't, it was up the bridges in Edinburgh, and it was called 'What Every Woman Wants'?

JM: Oh, yeah.

JA: And we used to- my pals-

LM: And cheap fashion, yeah.

JA: -we used to get all the cheap kind of fashion things then. And when I was young, my friends and I, there was a local farmer called Stewarts, and we used to- at [?] we used to go to the potatoes and he used to pick us up on the back of this pick-up truck thing, and we all just piled in and we went and picked potatoes.

LM: And got money. See, I picked raspberries and that's how I got money.

JA: And we went- there was fields around about East Fortune, at the aerodrome, the old war aerodrome, there was lots of fields round there.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: And we went and we picked potatoes or we planted leeks when it was that time. And ye know, at the end of the week, we got our money for this and we always headed up to 'What Every Woman Wants', ye know, to buy something.

01h 02m 02

LM: I got money, and I suppose most people did have a wee job that they could get their money. I'd go and buy records. I'd go and buy 45s. I was more interested in music and records.

JM: Where did ye go for them?

LM: Well, Amos's in Haddington used to sell 45s, or there was a street- a shop in Leith Street which no longer exists, cause it's all been demolished, I used to go up there and get it. My brother was very into music too, so I would mebbe tell him what I'd want and he'd go and get it. That was more me, would be music.

JM: Yeah. Can you remember any of the names that you were particularly keen to buy?

LM: Em... Even yet I still really like old sixties stuff. I can remember vividly buying Shocking Blue – 'Venus'. I've got a clear memory of that, going into a shop in Leith Street. Ma very, very first single was Joe Brown singing 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'.

JM: Right.

LM: That's my very, very first one, I think that would be. I must have been and got that from Sunday school, I think.

JA: And that was the old record players.

LM: Oh, aye. And you had a big stack-

JA: Yeah.

LM: Which you used to stack your 45s on your record player, and try to get as many on as possible before it went all wobbly.

JA: That's right.

LM: But [Matthew?] and I both really like The Beatles. We had a lot- most of The Beatles' stuff, I would say. And The Monkeys, things like... Yeah, they were great.

JM: Yeah.

LM: And so- aye, not so much fashion. What I can remember, when I was little, if ye had long socks, if the elastic went at the top, and ye were forever hauling up yer blooming long socks and saying to yer mother 'a need new socks!' and pull them up.

JA: And if that happened, yer mum would sometimes make ye a garter.

LM: That's right! Ye got a garter.

JA: A garter of just a piece of elastic.

01h 04m 02s

LM: That's right, ye got a garter to keep them up!

JA: And then ye were at school, and yer leg was all red.

LM: Exactly. Cause it was digging in.

JA: It was digging in.

LM: And if ye did yer skipping, and the skipping rope's on the back of yer long socks, it'd make a right old mess. And ye had to have yer gym shoes, [Jimmies], for P.E. at the primary school.

JA: Yeah, yeah.

LM: And I can remember saying to my mother 'I really, really need new Jimmies' cause I was squeezing my feet into these Jimmies, they were agony. And ye had to get changed into yet wee shorts-

JA: Shorts, yeah.

LM: Yeah. Boys and girls getting changed together. Never even bother.

JA: Nah.

JM: No.

LM: Mrs Small came from-

JA: Mrs Small, yeah.

LM: -Dunbar to do us our gym. Oh, gosh, all these memories Janice.

JA: Gosh.

JM: It really is. We've covered loads-

LM: Yeah.

JM: -loads and loads. So, I think we should mebbe call it a day on that, unless there's anything at all that you want to share, that we've not touched on. Em, and I know you'll go home from here, and you'll think-

LM: We will.

JM: -you should've said, or...

LM: We will.

JA: I think we've covered quite a lot though, haven't we?

JM: We've covered loads, when you see the size of the note box.

LM: Yes.

JM: And you see the keywords that I've written down. *[laughter]*.

LM: Yes.

JA: I think there's plenty there to keep going.

JM: We've done loads, yes. But is there anything?

LM: I can't think of anything else.

JA: Nothing that I can think that, ye know, that I can think that jumps out, that stands out.

JM: Nothing that you're desperate...

LM: Not really, no.

JM: No? Ok.

LM: Well, there was a good community feeling for- ye know I'm thinking about the Queen's Jubilee, having a big bonfire and...

JA: Yeah.

LM: It's quite a good- Traders association with various bits and pieces too, so.

JA: There was concerts that a lot of the village people took part in.

LM: Mmhm.

JA: Cause my mother used to always take part in it and different things, and... Yeah, privileged- we've had a quite privileged upbringing, ye know, coming from a village.

LM: Yes, yes. Nice walks and whatever, so.

JA: Yeah.

LM: Yeah, it's good.

JM: Well, I'll stop this here and thank you very much.

LM: Not at all.

JM: I hope it doesn't buzz round in your head all day.

01h 06m 02s

LM: I know, I'll be texting Janice now saying 'remember! Remember!'.
JM: You will. Thank you, I'll switch this off.