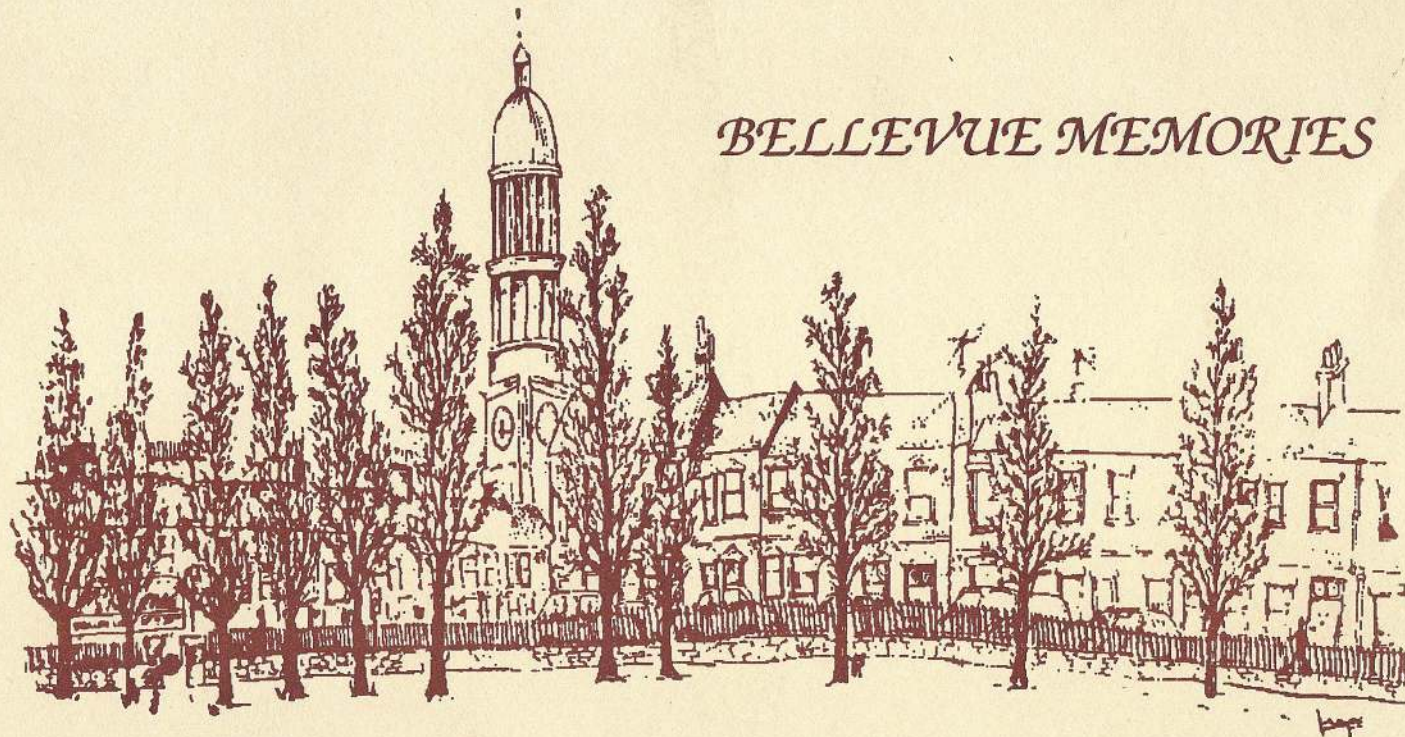


BELLEVUE MEMORIES



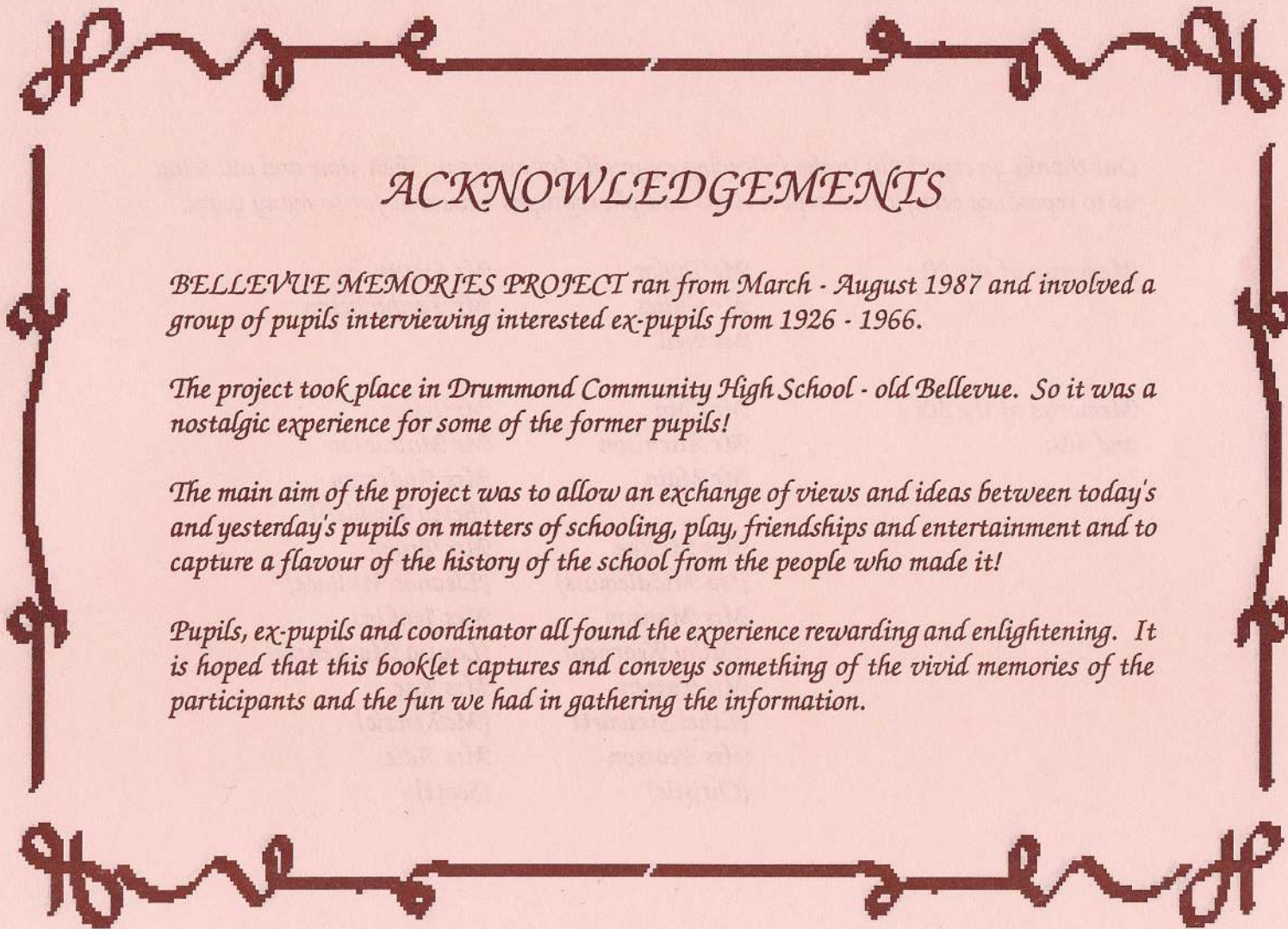
VIEW FROM DRUMMOND SCHOOL

By BAQER RAZA (FORM 3)

BELLEVUE MEMORIES



*Produced by
Pupils and Ex-pupils
of
Drummond Community High School
1987
Coordinator - Hazel Macaulay*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BELLEVUE MEMORIES PROJECT ran from March - August 1987 and involved a group of pupils interviewing interested ex-pupils from 1926 - 1966.

The project took place in Drummond Community High School - old Bellevue. So it was a nostalgic experience for some of the former pupils!

The main aim of the project was to allow an exchange of views and ideas between today's and yesterday's pupils on matters of schooling, play, friendships and entertainment and to capture a flavour of the history of the school from the people who made it!

Pupils, ex-pupils and coordinator all found the experience rewarding and enlightening. It is hoped that this booklet captures and conveys something of the vivid memories of the participants and the fun we had in gathering the information.

Our thanks go especially to the following ex-pupils for giving up their time and allowing us to reproduce certificates, report cards and photographs treasured for so many years:

Memories of the 20s:

*Mr Taylor
Mr Gillies
Mr Neil*

*Mr Stevenson
Mr Farquharson*

*Memories of the 30s
and 40s:*

*Mr Cain
Mr Aitchison
Mr Main*

*Mr Telfer
Mr Mathieson
Mrs Anderson
(Betty Weddell)*

*Mrs McRae
(Isa Middlemass)
Mrs Manson
(Cathy Kearney)
Mrs Patten
(Ethel Stewart)
Mrs Pearson
(Christie)*

*Mrs Bragg
(Eleanor Wallace)
Mrs Jenkins
(Louisa Mackenzie)
Mrs Rae
(McKenzie)
Mrs Adie
(Scott)*

*Memories of the 50s
and 60s:*

(not included in this booklet)

*Mrs Richardson
Mrs Keenan*

And the following pupils for conducting the interviews:

*Mark Tame
Molly Nolan
Pamela Heath
Angela Airlie
Paula Kenny
Asif Mohammed
Joanne Tierney
Sammy Prestage
Louise Paterson*

*Caroline Black
Michelle Cubitt
Susan Grant
Deborah Smith
Miral Bensaad
Susan Leask
Debbie Scott
Kenny McKenzie
Pritam Singh*

We would also like to thank the 16+ Resource and Publications Unit, Dean Education Centre, Belford Road for printing and publishing this booklet.

Bellevue Memories Coordinator:

*Hazel Macaulay
Drummond Community High School*

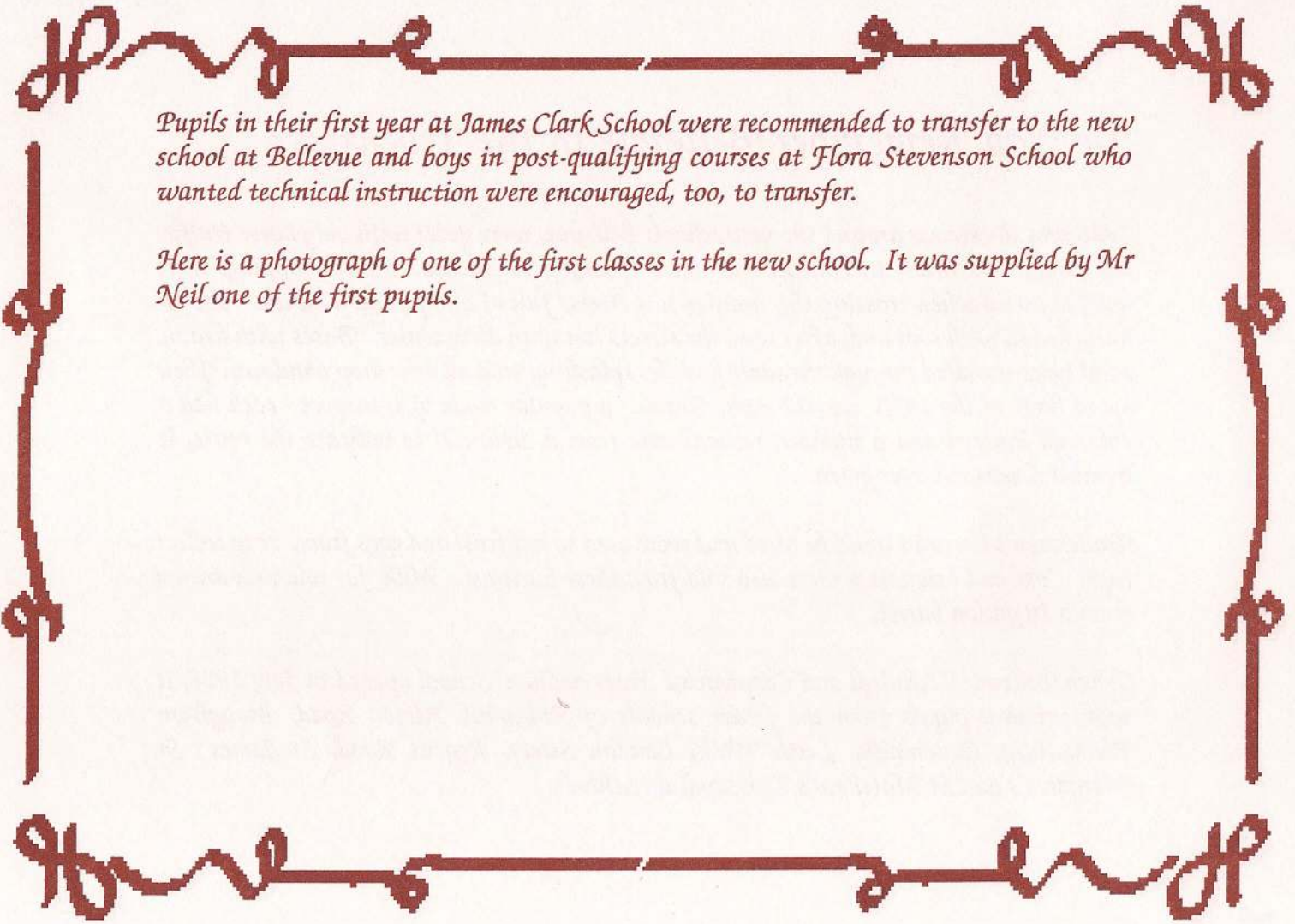


Do You Remember Bellevue in the Twenties?

1926 and the streets around the new school, Bellevue, were quiet with only horse traffic, tradesmen's barrows, and the occasional car breaking the silence. Horse droppings were hard to avoid when crossing the granite-sett streets full of bumps and hollows. The air hung heavy with soot and, after rain, the streets ran with dirty water. Buses with heavy, solid tyres trundled through the sooty puddles splashing mud all over shop windows. Their speed limit in the 1920s was 12 mph. Trams - a popular mode of transport - each had a coloured lantern and a number, recognisable from a distance, to indicate the route, ie number 5 was red over green.

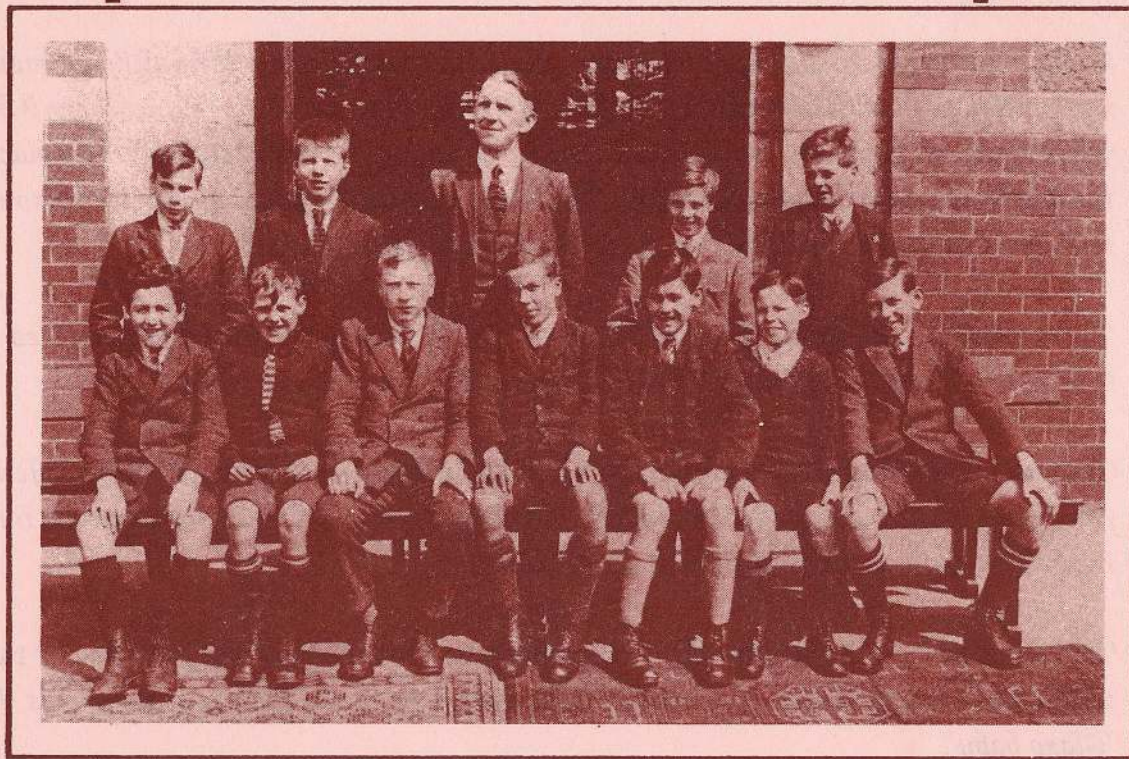
Tradesmen's barrows could be hired and were used to sell fruit and eggs from, or to collect rags. Coal and briquettes were also sold from these barrows. Milk for sale was drawn from a 10 gallon barrel.

When Bellevue Technical and Commercial 'Intermediate' School opened in July 1926, it took primary pupils from the feeder schools of Abbeyhill, Albion Road, Broughton Elementary, Canonmills, Leith Walk, London Street, Regent Road, St James', St Margaret's and St Matthew's Episcopalian Schools.



Pupils in their first year at James Clark School were recommended to transfer to the new school at Bellevue and boys in post-qualifying courses at Flora Stevenson School who wanted technical instruction were encouraged, too, to transfer.

Here is a photograph of one of the first classes in the new school. It was supplied by Mr Neil one of the first pupils.



*Back Row: Graham, Park, Dr T E Black, Campbell, Didcock
Front Row: Duff, Thomson, Mitchell, Stevenson, Gembles, Neil*

As the photograph shows, pupils were not expected to wear school uniform although many wore a school cap with a badge. The badge was designed by two of the first teachers, Miss Watson and Mr Jamieson, and depicted a torch of learning on a disc of gold, blue and black. It could be bought at a shop in Elm Row. Most boys wore strong boots, as they were known to support the ankles, and did not get shoes until they were 16.

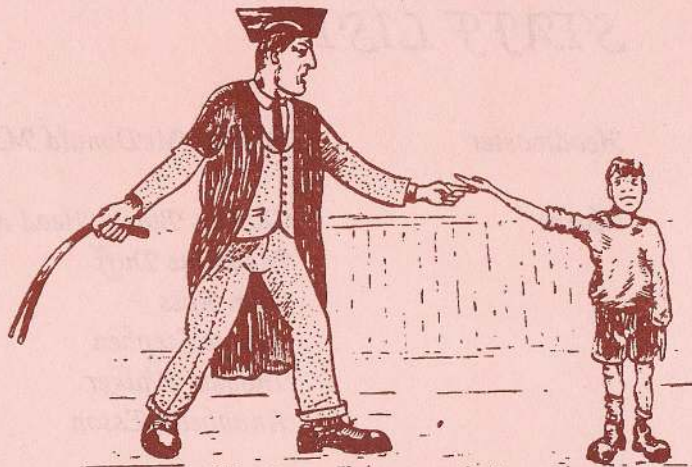
The new school was equipped with all the mod cons of the day and pupils were thrilled to be in a school with electricity. After all, home and streets were lit by gas!

The head janitor lived then, as now, in the house in Cochrane Terrace, but his duties differed from those of today. He stoked the boiler which heated the school by steam radiation, rang the bell between classes and cleaned the corridors.

The pupils of 1926 have generally fond memories of the teachers and gave one or two nicknames - mostly behind their backs. Miss Johnstone, a tall lady, was known as the 'Glaxo baby'.

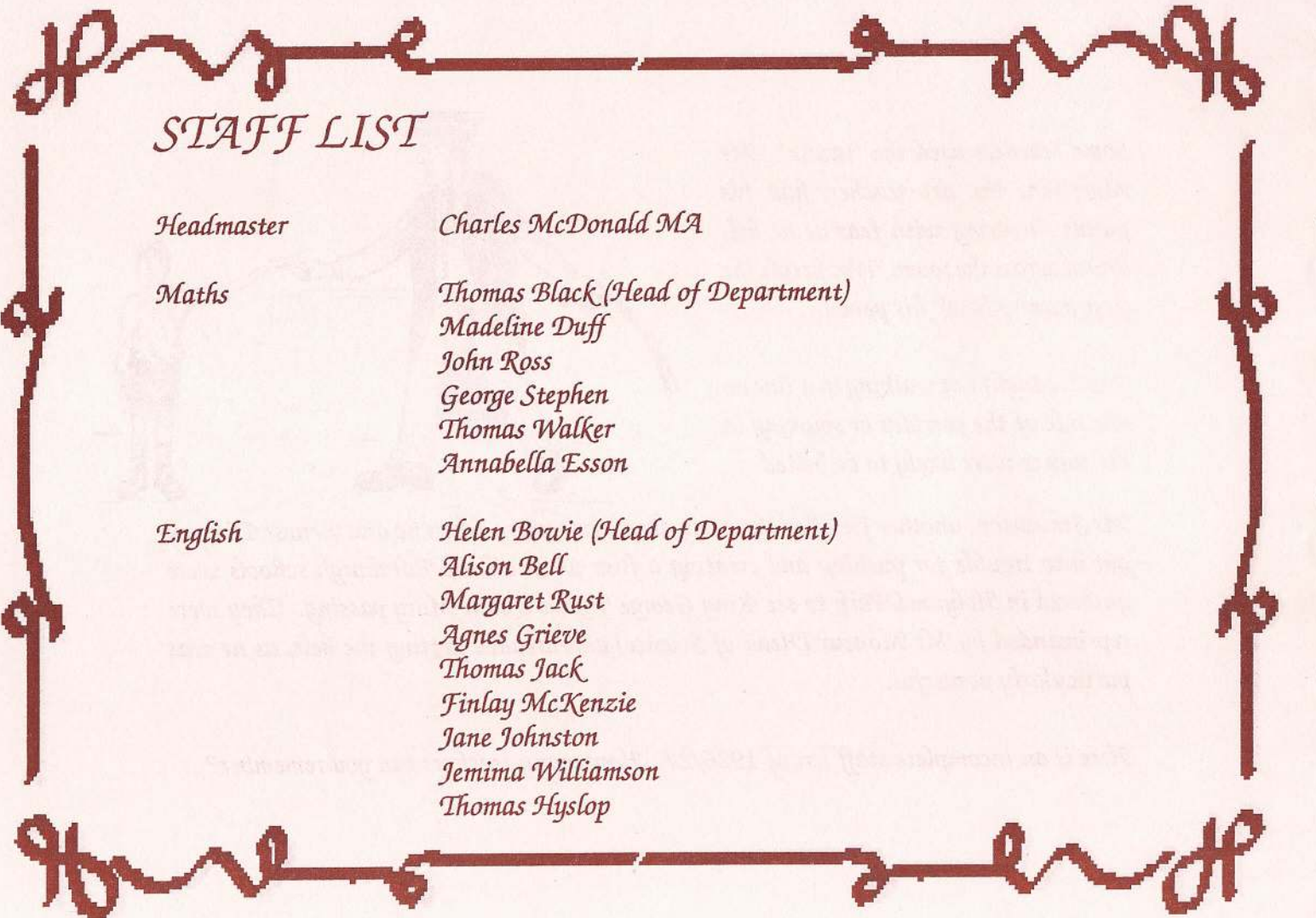
*Some teachers used the 'tawse'. Mr Morrison, the art teacher, had his pupils shivering with fear as he bel-
lowed across the room, 'Woe betide the
first man to break his pencil!'.*

*Pupils caught not walking in a line on
one side of the corridor or smoking in
the toilets were likely to be belted.*



*Mr Stevenson, another pupil of the early days, remembers when he and Ernest Didcock
got into trouble for pushing and creating a fuss when all the Edinburgh schools were
gathered in Holyrood Park to see King George V and Queen Mary passing. They were
reprimanded by Mr Moncur (Head of Science) and dreaded getting the belt, as he was
particularly powerful.*

Here is an incomplete staff list of 1926/27. How many teachers can you remember?



STAFF LIST

Headmaster

Charles McDonald MA

Maths

Thomas Black (Head of Department)

Madeline Duff

John Ross

George Stephen

Thomas Walker

Annabella Esson

English

Helen Bowie (Head of Department)

Alison Bell

Margaret Rust

Agnes Grieve

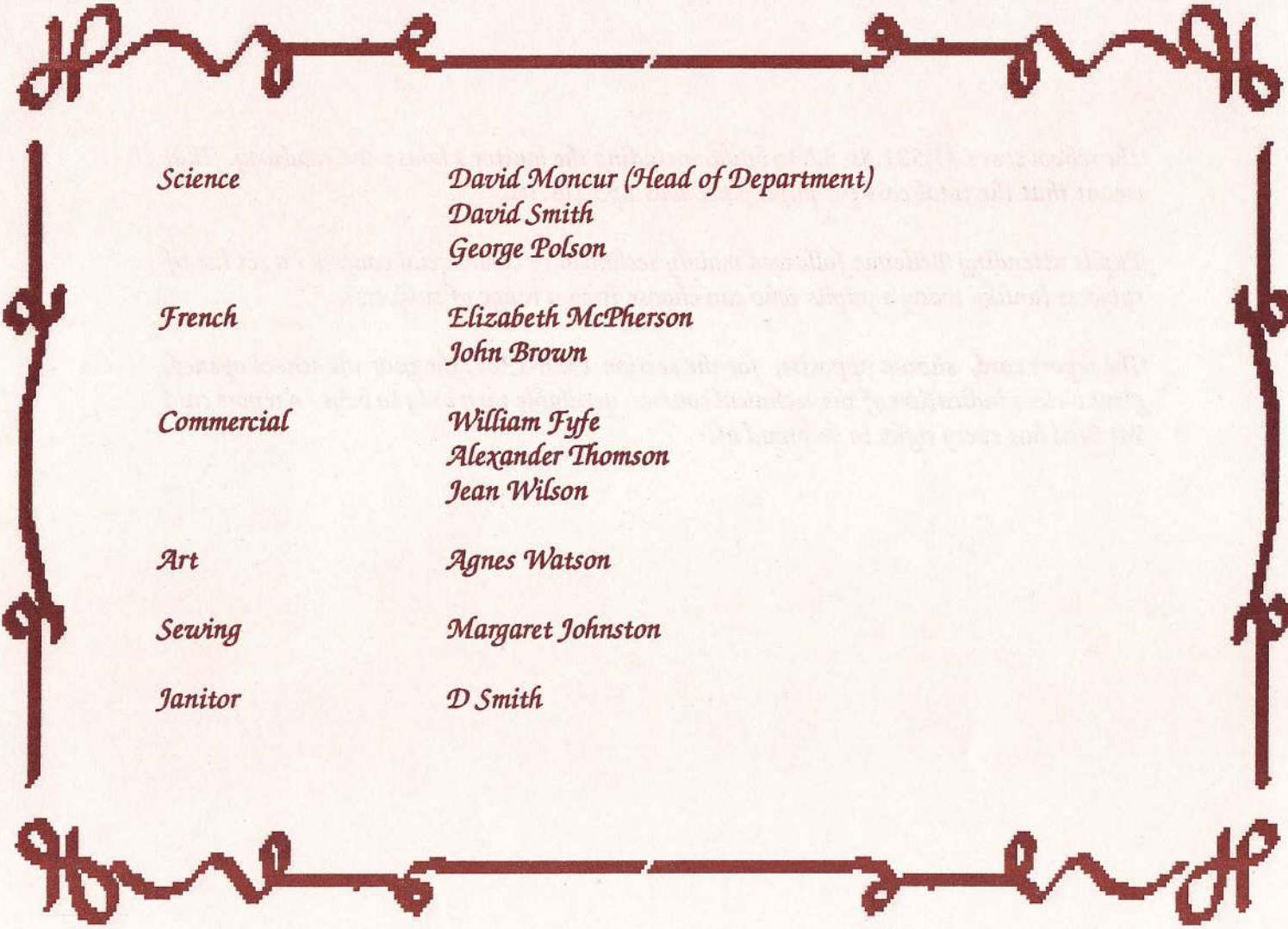
Thomas Jack

Finlay McKenzie

Jane Johnston

Jemima Williamson

Thomas Hyslop



Science

David Moncur (Head of Department)

David Smith

George Polson

French

Elizabeth McPherson

John Brown

Commercial

William Fyfe

Alexander Thomson

Jean Wilson

Art

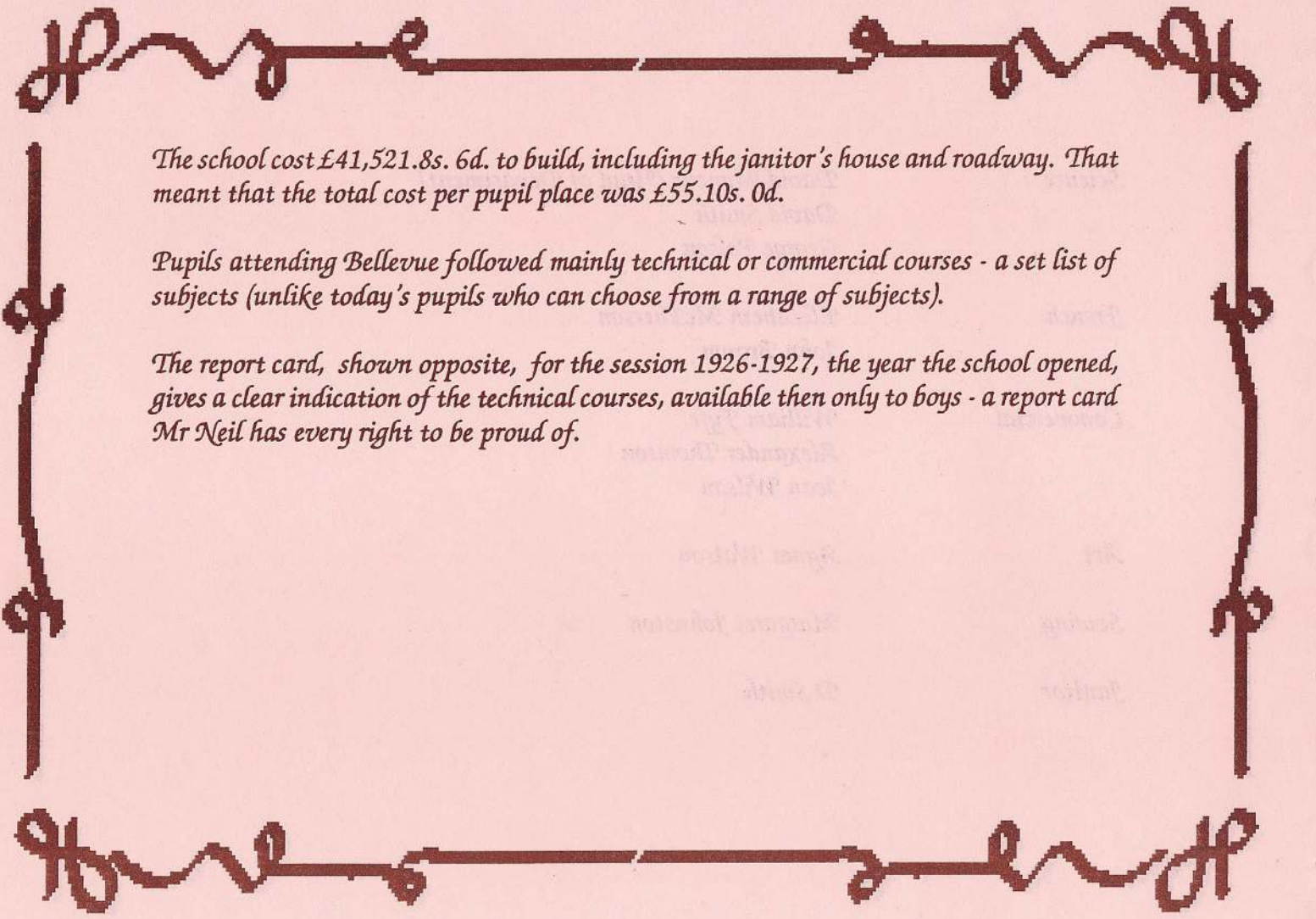
Agnes Watson

Sewing

Margaret Johnston

Janitor

D Smith



The school cost £41,521.8s. 6d. to build, including the janitor's house and roadway. That meant that the total cost per pupil place was £55.10s. 0d.

Pupils attending Bellevue followed mainly technical or commercial courses - a set list of subjects (unlike today's pupils who can choose from a range of subjects).

The report card, shown opposite, for the session 1926-1927, the year the school opened, gives a clear indication of the technical courses, available then only to boys - a report card Mr Neil has every right to be proud of.

THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY FOR EDINBURGH.

BELLEVUE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

Session 1926-1927.

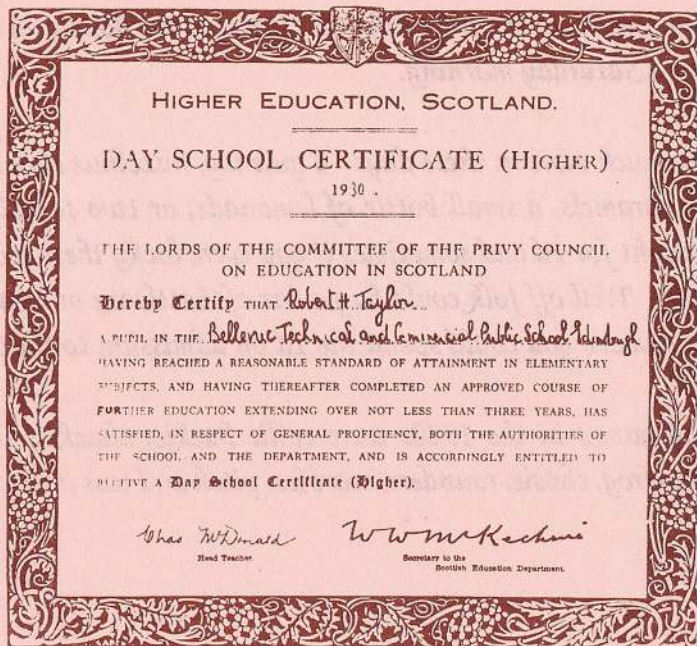
Technical Course. (Boys.)	Percentage of Marks obtained by Pupil.			Average Percentage of Marks obtained by Class.		
	1st Term.	2nd Term.	3rd Term.	1st Term.	2nd Term.	3rd Term.
English	89	92	75	63	54	49
History	66	90	37/50	61.2	36	31/50
Geography	90	68	48/50	64.9	25	36/50
Mathematics	81	99	89	46	50	56
Science	81	64	63	40.9	48	46
Mechanics		45	88/92		46	68
Drawing (Art)	80	80	85	60.7	53	57
Technical	80	44/50	41/50	59.4	32/88	6.7/10
Handicraft (Woodwork)	88	80	85	63.9	63	62
Workshop Drawing		43/50	45/50		36/50	74/70
Rank - class 1st						
Average Percentage	81.9	91.5	82.5	Each Course covers 3 years. This Card refers to the 2nd Year of the Technical Course. (Boys)		
Attendance	104/111	108/108	108/108			
Conduct	62	69	69			

Pupil George Neil Signature of Parent or Guardian W. Neil
 Date of Birth 24th March 1913 1st Term W. Neil
 Address 4 Waverley Park 2nd Term W. Neil
 3rd Term

Certificates were awarded to those who showed excellence in subjects, as the Prize Certificate below shows: Robert Taylor, 1st in Art.

	
Edinburgh Education Authority.	
BELLEVUE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOL	
Session 1927-28.	
Prize Certificate.	
<i>This is to Certify that Robert H. Taylor</i>	
<i>gained the following distinctions:-</i>	
<i>Technical</i>	<i>Course Second Year 2A, Class</i>
<i>1st in Art.</i>	
	<i>Mrs. McDonald</i>
	<i>Headmaster</i>
<i>John Stewart</i>	<i>P. H. Allan</i>
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	CHAIRMAN OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Day School Leaving Certificates like the one shown below which was awarded to Mr Taylor in 1930 were given to those pupils achieving the required standard as they left school.

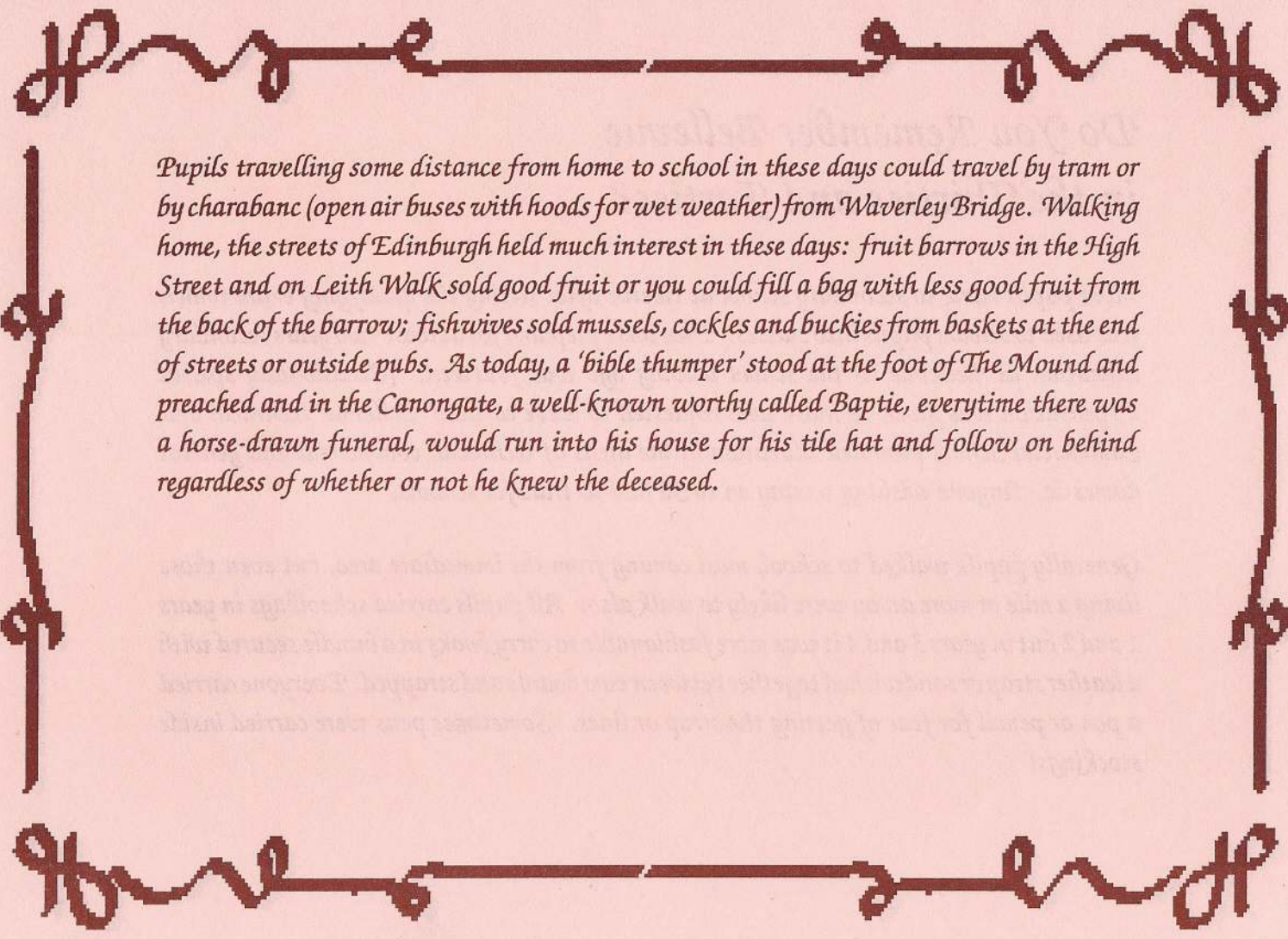


In the twenties, children did not get pocket money but had to earn it - most of the money was handed over to mother to help with the housekeeping.

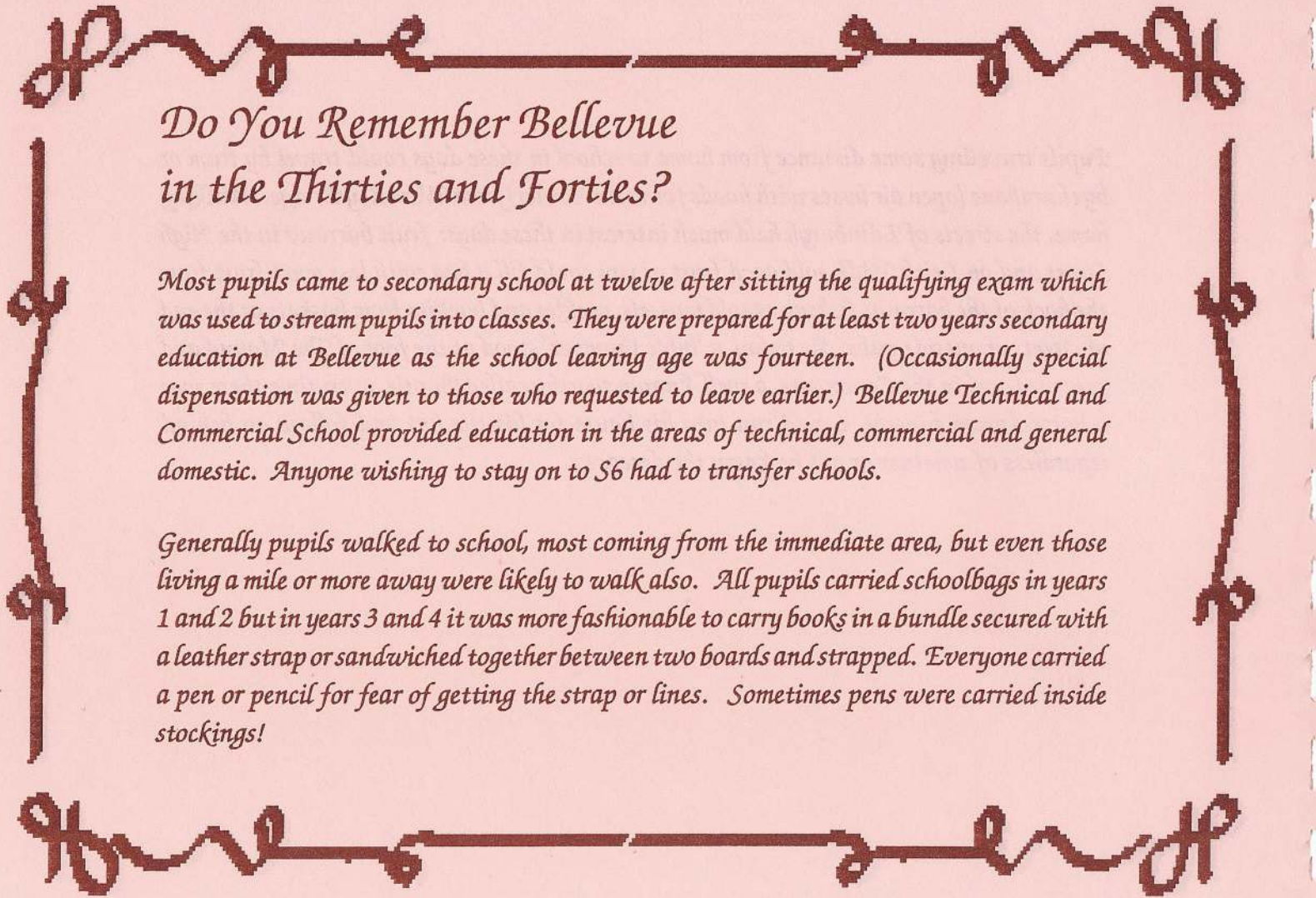
Mr Farquharson remembers selling fruit from a lorry round the houses on a Friday evening or at five o'clock on a Saturday morning.

A penny would buy much more in these days - a yule log, hazelnut chocolate bar, 2 oz of acid drops, twenty caramels, a small bottle of lemonade, or two soda lunches. Broken biscuits could be bought for 1d and sometimes if you were lucky there would be a piece of chocolate in the poke. Well off folk could buy a bar of Battleaxe or treacle toffee for 2d. If you did without sweets, you could spend the 1d on admission to the Picturedrome.

Popular playground games in the 1920s were collie buckie, chuckie, tig, kick-the-can, diablo, peevs, leap frog, chasie, rounders, marbles, pitch and toss (more about these later on).



Pupils travelling some distance from home to school in these days could travel by tram or by charabanc (open air buses with hoods for wet weather) from Waverley Bridge. Walking home, the streets of Edinburgh held much interest in these days: fruit barrows in the High Street and on Leith Walk sold good fruit or you could fill a bag with less good fruit from the back of the barrow; fishwives sold mussels, cockles and buckies from baskets at the end of streets or outside pubs. As today, a 'bible thumper' stood at the foot of The Mound and preached and in the Canongate, a well-known worthy called Baptie, everytime there was a horse-drawn funeral, would run into his house for his tile hat and follow on behind regardless of whether or not he knew the deceased.

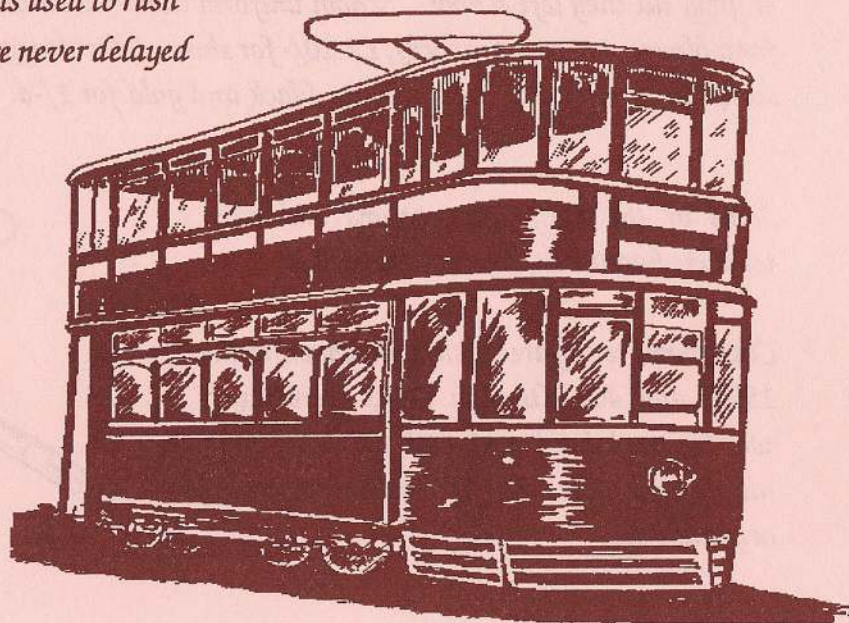


Do You Remember Bellevue in the Thirties and Forties?

Most pupils came to secondary school at twelve after sitting the qualifying exam which was used to stream pupils into classes. They were prepared for at least two years secondary education at Bellevue as the school leaving age was fourteen. (Occasionally special dispensation was given to those who requested to leave earlier.) Bellevue Technical and Commercial School provided education in the areas of technical, commercial and general domestic. Anyone wishing to stay on to S6 had to transfer schools.

Generally pupils walked to school, most coming from the immediate area, but even those living a mile or more away were likely to walk also. All pupils carried schoolbags in years 1 and 2 but in years 3 and 4 it was more fashionable to carry books in a bundle secured with a leather strap or sandwiched together between two boards and strapped. Everyone carried a pen or pencil for fear of getting the strap or lines. Sometimes pens were carried inside stockings!

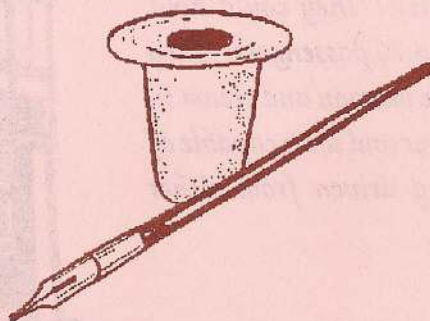
Some pupils would arrive at school by tram - numbers 8 and 9 stopped near the school - and because there were few cars in these days the trams were always packed. Earlier trams were open upstairs and pupils used to rush to get a seat. The trams were never delayed by snow or frost and always ran to time, even in winter. They could hold up to 70 passengers. They were maroon and cream in colour and were capable of being driven from either end.



By the 1930s quite a number of pupils were wearing school uniform in blue and gold (as it is today) with the symbolic torch of learning. Girls were not allowed to wear trousers and were expected to wear a navy skirt and white blouse; boys wore short trousers, black or grey, till they left school. School uniform items cost around 7/6d for a skirt, 3/11½d for a blouse, 1/11½d for socks, £2.10/- for shoes. Mrs Bragg remembers knitting her own socks in the school colours of blue, black and gold for 1/-d.

Some of the staff wore gowns and most teachers had a belt, but not all used it.

Classrooms today are much as they were in the 1930s and 40s although desks were fixed, wooden and hard and had ink wells and nibbed pens. The Science room benches are the original ones.

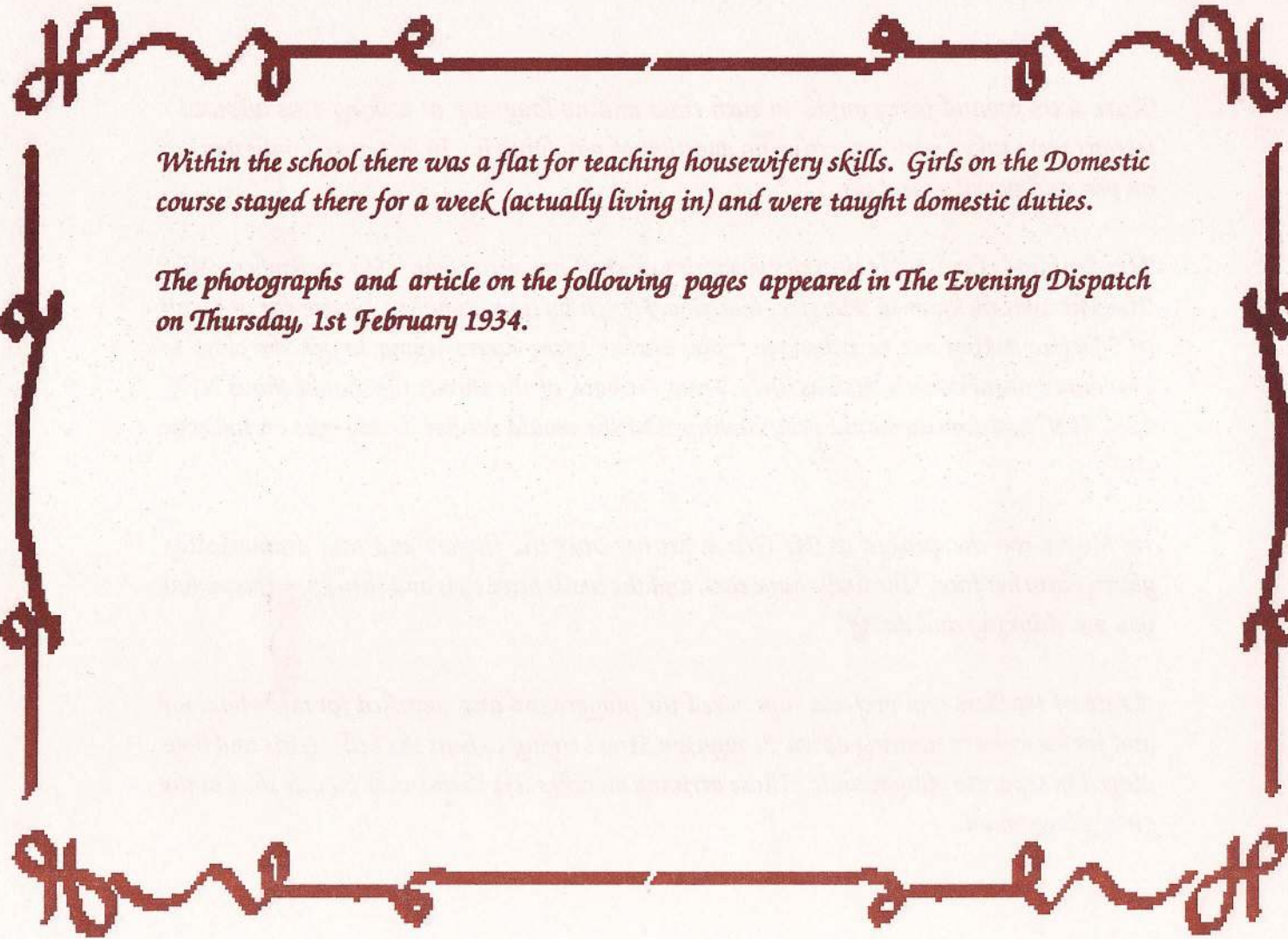


There were around forty pupils in each class and no laughing or talking was allowed - lessons were taken very seriously; no question of not doing it. In Art pupils only worked on pen and pencil drawings.

Mrs Jenkins' (Louise Mackenzie) memories of staff are very clear. She remembers Miss MacPherson, nicknamed Macifec, teaching French by linguaphone. Louise sat in terror of Macifec asking her to translate. The teacher spent hours trying to get the class to pronounce nasal vowels such as 'un'. From the back of the throat she should shout 'UN, UN, UN' and Louise would pray silently that she would set her 'beady eyes on someone else'.

In Maths too she quaked as Mr Grieve hit her over the fingers and said dramatically, glaring into her face, 'The walls have ears, and the walls have eyes and they know just what you are thinking and doing'.

A rota of teachers and prefects supervised the playground and watched for misbehaviour and for latecomers running down Broughton Street trying to beat the bell. Girls and boys played in separate playgrounds. Those arriving on bikes left them in the bicycle shed in the girls' playground.

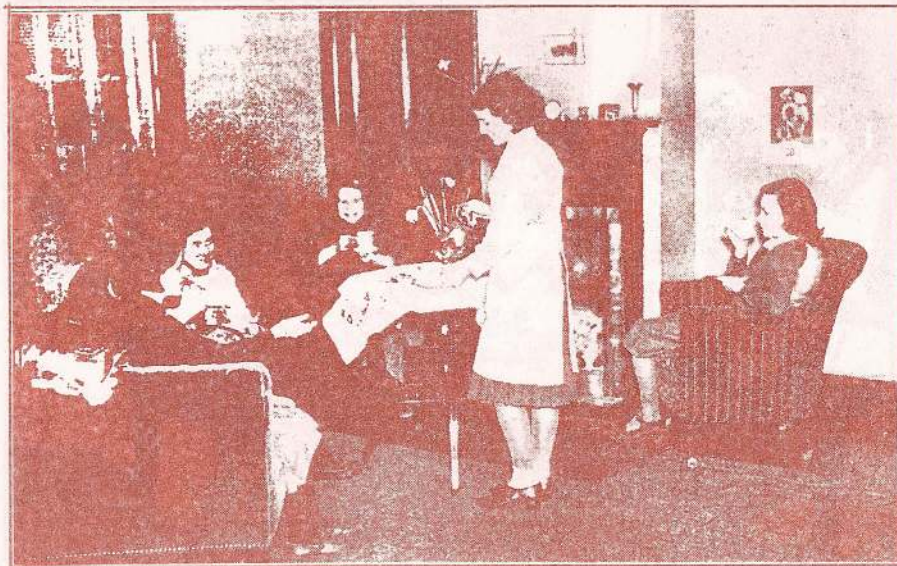


Within the school there was a flat for teaching housewifery skills. Girls on the Domestic course stayed there for a week (actually living in) and were taught domestic duties.

The photographs and article on the following pages appeared in The Evening Dispatch on Thursday, 1st February 1934.



Girls busy at work cooking and laundering in the kitchen of the model house which they run in Bellevue Intermediate School, Edinburgh in connection with their housewifery studies.



Some of the girls having tea in the comfortable sitting-room.

THE EVENING DISPATCH,
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1934.

EDINBURGH SCHOOLGIRLS RUN A HOUSE

IF the visitor to Bellevue Intermediate School has the good fortune to be shown round the various interesting classes by Dr Thomas P. Black, the headmaster, he will see much that illustrates the new directions in which education in Edinburgh is ever proceeding.

There is little doubt that the visitor will at some time or other be led by Dr Black to a door outside which there is an electric bell. Dr Black will ring the bell, and a moment or two later there will come to the door a girl, who opens it, and politely issues the invitation—"Will you please come in?"

Proceeding inside, one is surprised to find oneself not in a class or work room, nor in an office, but in a house complete in every detail.

This is the model house, where classes of twelve girls are taught all the aspects of housewifery, under the able direction of Miss Campbell, the teacher in charge.

The place is quite a revelation. The girls run the house themselves, doing the cooking, laundering,

and those hundred and one duties connected with the running of a household. Everything is scrupulously clean, and there is not a pin out of place.

Twelve girls, as has been said, attend the class for a whole day at a time, and three sleep in the house each night.

Let us in imagination take a peep round the house, as it was the privilege of an *Evening Dispatch* reporter to do in person.

First the kitchen. When the reporter entered this part of the house he found the girls busy with the dinner preparations. Soup was being strained, and tempting shepherd's pie was just beginning to brown in the gas oven.

Only a step or two away from the kitchen was the sitting-room, with a fire burning brightly. This is a room furnished in excellent taste, and cosy arm-chairs and many coloured cushions invite one to sit down, linger a-while, and study the pleasant surroundings.

Opposite each other in the hallway are the doors

of two bedrooms. One is that for the three girls who live-in, by rotation, and the other is that of the teacher in charge.

The diningroom is an airy and well-lit room, and at meal times the table is set in a fashion distinctly in vogue at the present time. No tablecloth is used, the hot plates being prevented from marking the brilliantly polished surface of the table by means of gaily decorated mats made by the girls themselves. Silver gleams and flowers stand in a vase in the middle of the table. Here the girls eat wholesome meals in the most delightful atmosphere.

The value of the class has been tested and proved. The enthusiasm of the girls for this phase of their school life is obvious. They go about their work with a will. They are house-proud.

There is really one interesting thing to be recorded about the schoolgirls' house. There is nothing like it in the Black country, and that would account for the enthusiasm of the working class girls who are so numerous.

In Technical, the equipment was very basic and pupils brought their own drawing boards.

A row of shop fronts lined the upper corridor with doorways and windows which changed regularly. These were used mainly by night school classes training for jobs in retail or window dressing. The changing shop fronts provided a welcome distraction to those pupils dawdling on their way to classes. Mrs Orr, who taught Geography, used to say to pupils arriving late, 'You have been wasting time looking at the windows!'. It was usually true but they always denied it with, 'Oh no Miss Orr!'.

There was a hairdressing salon on the ground floor where hairdressing skills were taught at night school.

The Dux girl of the commercial course usually became headmaster's secretary and was appointed for two or three years. Bellevue was a forward thinking school as the article from the evening paper in 1938 shows.

PLANS FOR BELLEVUE TO BE FREED FROM EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Presiding at the closing concert in Bellevue Technical and Commercial School last night, Dr T. P. Black, the headmaster, said the programme was based almost wholly on normal school work, and the audience must have noticed the joy the boys and girls found in good music and their delight in expressing themselves in song and in action. He made a plea that parents should seek to carry on this good work. In every way, he explained, the high standard of the work of the school had been maintained, and in certain directions their pupils had achieved suc-

cesses higher than any achieved in the past. The school aimed at giving the boys and girls experiences that would lead to their natural progressive development.

Councillor Sir William M'Kechnie, who represented the Education Committee, intimated that after 1939 Bellevue would become a secondary school instead of an intermediate school, and that it would be freed from external examinations so that the headmaster and staff could direct their energies to educating the pupils instead of preparing them for examiners.

The prizes were presented by Mrs Black, the principal winners being:

Dux girl—Jean Hay. Dux boy—Andrew R. Johnston (comm.). General excellence—Doris Spanswick, Edith Johnston, Betty Weddell, Joan Lee, Jack Wilson, James Deacon, John Wright. Sir Walter Scott Club essay prizes—1. Edith Johnston; 2. Jean Hay; 3. Duncan Robertson. Burns Club essay prizes—1. Jean Hay; 2. John S. Riddle. Bible knowledge: Third Year—1. Jean Hay; 2. Andrew R. Johnston (tech.). Second Year—Mary Armstrong, Betty Fruish, Charles Redpath, George Aughley. First year Nancy Pompa, Sheila M'Kendrick, Robert Rodgers, Cecil Shave, Thomas Bows, Jack Guest. House Challenge Shield—Claremont House (captains—Robert Combe and Doris Spanswick). Honours, swimming certificates—Marg. Rose Scott, Marg. Reay Scott, Cath. M'Phail.



EDINBURGH CORPORATION
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

JUNIOR SECONDARY CERTIFICATE

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH

Hereby Certify that Katherine Kearney
a Pupil of Bellevue School

having reached a reasonable standard of attainment in primary school subjects, and having thereafter completed a course of secondary education approved by the Scottish Education Department and extending over not less than three years, has satisfied, in respect of general proficiency, the authorities of the school, and is accordingly entitled to receive this **Junior Secondary Certificate**.

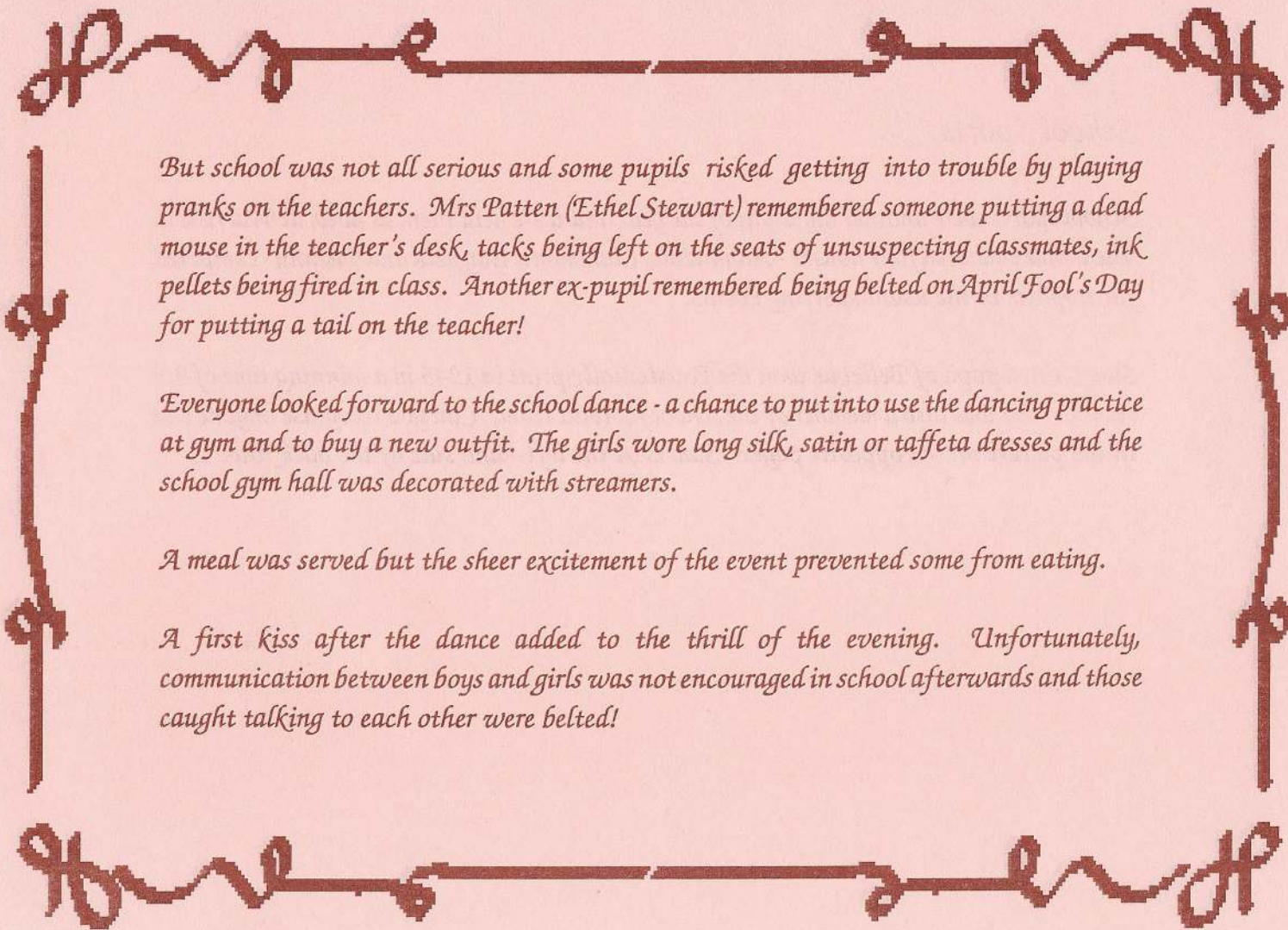
W.D. Lyle

Head Master (Mistress).

Date 1.9.41

James B. Fyfe

City Education Officer.

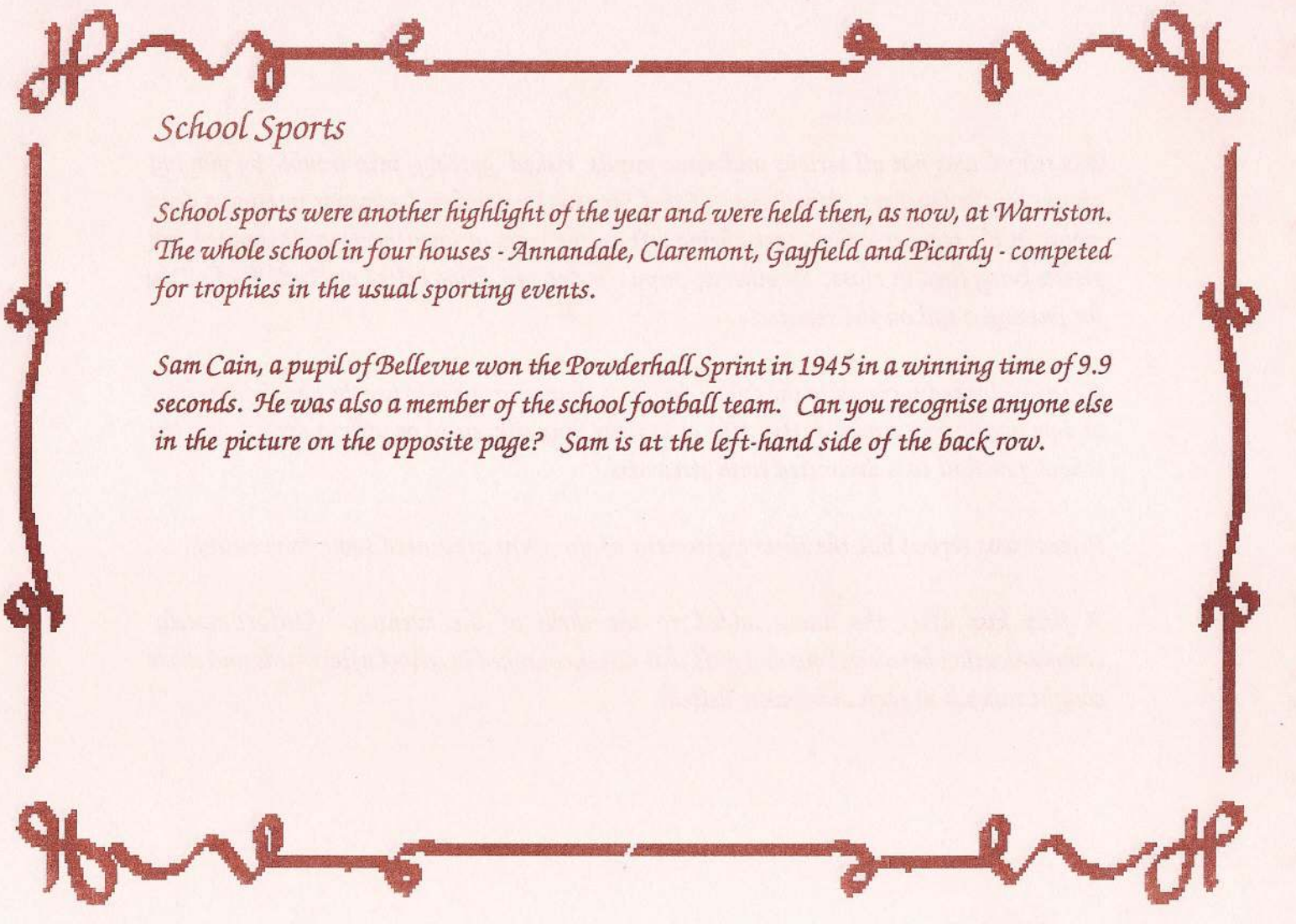


But school was not all serious and some pupils risked getting into trouble by playing pranks on the teachers. Mrs Patten (Ethel Stewart) remembered someone putting a dead mouse in the teacher's desk, tacks being left on the seats of unsuspecting classmates, ink pellets being fired in class. Another ex-pupil remembered being belted on April Fool's Day for putting a tail on the teacher!

Everyone looked forward to the school dance - a chance to put into use the dancing practice at gym and to buy a new outfit. The girls wore long silk, satin or taffeta dresses and the school gym hall was decorated with streamers.

A meal was served but the sheer excitement of the event prevented some from eating.

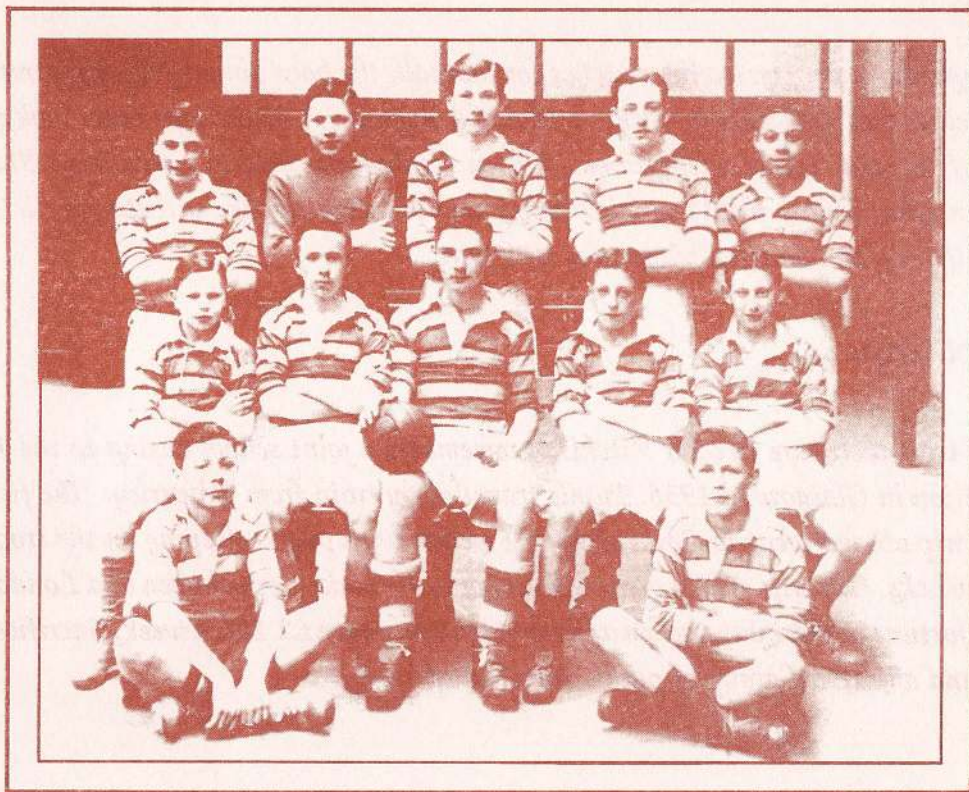
A first kiss after the dance added to the thrill of the evening. Unfortunately, communication between boys and girls was not encouraged in school afterwards and those caught talking to each other were belted!



School Sports

School sports were another highlight of the year and were held then, as now, at Warriston. The whole school in four houses - Annandale, Claremont, Gayfield and Picardy - competed for trophies in the usual sporting events.

Sam Cain, a pupil of Bellevue won the Powderhall Sprint in 1945 in a winning time of 9.9 seconds. He was also a member of the school football team. Can you recognise anyone else in the picture on the opposite page? Sam is at the left-hand side of the back row.



Although there were no league matches for football, the boys played friendly games with other teams and took part in cricket and rugby leagues. A school gym team took part in many of the joint school celebrations. A huge display was held in Leith Town Hall and again in what is now the Waverley Market area to celebrate the centenary of Sir Walter Scott. Piping and dancing teams also took part.

School Trips

School trips were rare but Mr Aitchison remembers a joint school outing to the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow in 1938. Pupils travelled by train from Waverley. The first ever school trip abroad went to Gothenberg in Sweden with pupils sleeping on the troop deck in hammocks. The trip, which visited Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen and London, cost £39, a fortune in those days, when a father might only earn £2.10/- a week. Sacrifices were made and an excited group of pupils travelled abroad.

Special Events

Special events at this time included an end of term concert in the Assembly Rooms in George Street (where the choir once had to abandon a song it had rehearsed for weeks as the headteacher, Dr Black, disapproved of its Catholic slant) and an annual concert, usually at Christmas in the big hall. Mrs Jenkins' overwhelming memory and that of many others is of Ricky Cain, Sam Cain's elder brother, singing a beautiful solo of 'Silent Night'; she muses, 'He was so handsome, one could hear a pin drop as his rich young voice rang out. We used to look on him as this present generation would look on a pop star'.

The Mikado was produced in 1938 and here the girls pose for the camera in their beautiful costumes.



Back row: Ina?, Nancy?, Daisy Georgeson, Mgt Bishop, Mgt Duff, Millie McLeod, Mary Rutherford, Jean Lindsay, Edith Johnstone, Betty Weddell, (Yum-yum) Jessie Brodie, Mary Cowie, Janet Lamb, Marion Scott, Joan Harkness

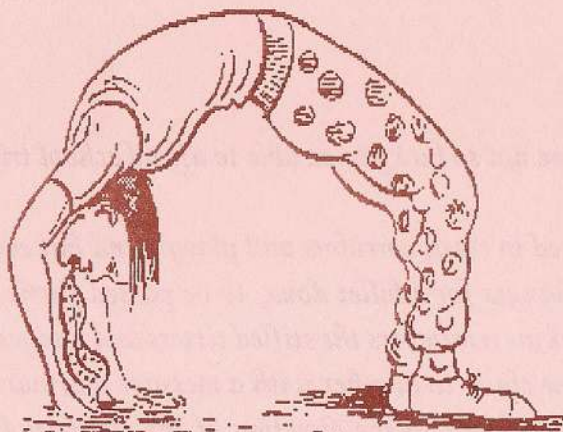
Front row: Helen Cummings, Joan Lee, Isa Middlemiss, Joyce Milne, Muriel Trowbridge, Agnes Burnett, Isa McIntosh, Joan Tait

Playground Fun

Playground fun entertained those who were not so lucky to be able to afford school trips.

In these days, girls and boys were segregated in class, corridors and playground but every opportunity was seized between period changes for a billet doux to be passed furtively between boyfriend and girlfriend. Mrs Jenkins remembers the stifled titters and nudges if some poor red-faced lad was sent from one class to another with a message murmuring the pupils would turn around with a pointed look in the direction of the girl friend in questions.

With the playground space divided between boys (in the noisy, competitive area) and girls - where else could a secret kiss be stolen other than at the back of the tennis courts?



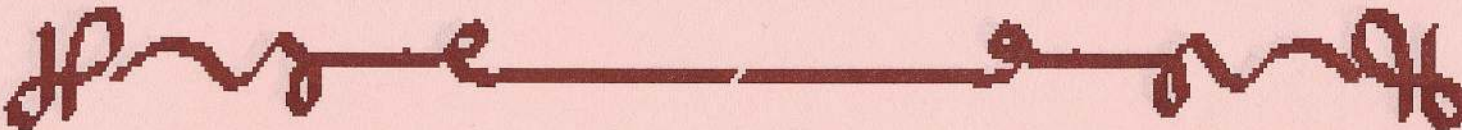
*One of today's pupils
trying out an old game*

Boys and girls played separate games mostly. Girls enjoying the challenge of acrobatics - standing on their hands and balancing then backbending down a wall or backbending to pick up a hanky in their teeth before getting up again.

Winter was popular in the playground of Bellevue School and pupils would arrive early to play on the slides. Snow supplied even more fun and a chance to squeeze a

snowball down someone's back or have it done to you. Then pupils would arrive in class soaking wet, hair dripping and in danger of punishment.

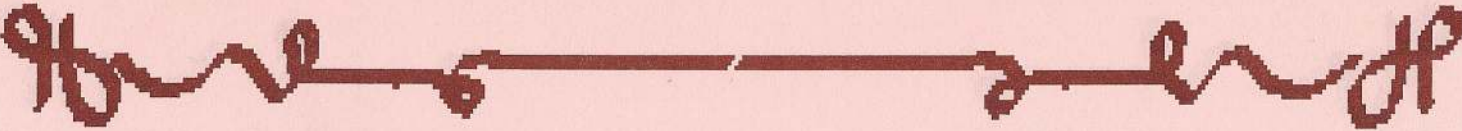
Different games were played at different times of the year but boys had more freedom and after school, once homework was done, they went out to play at the back of East Claremont Street where there were no houses, or in Inverleith Park, flying model aircrafts they had

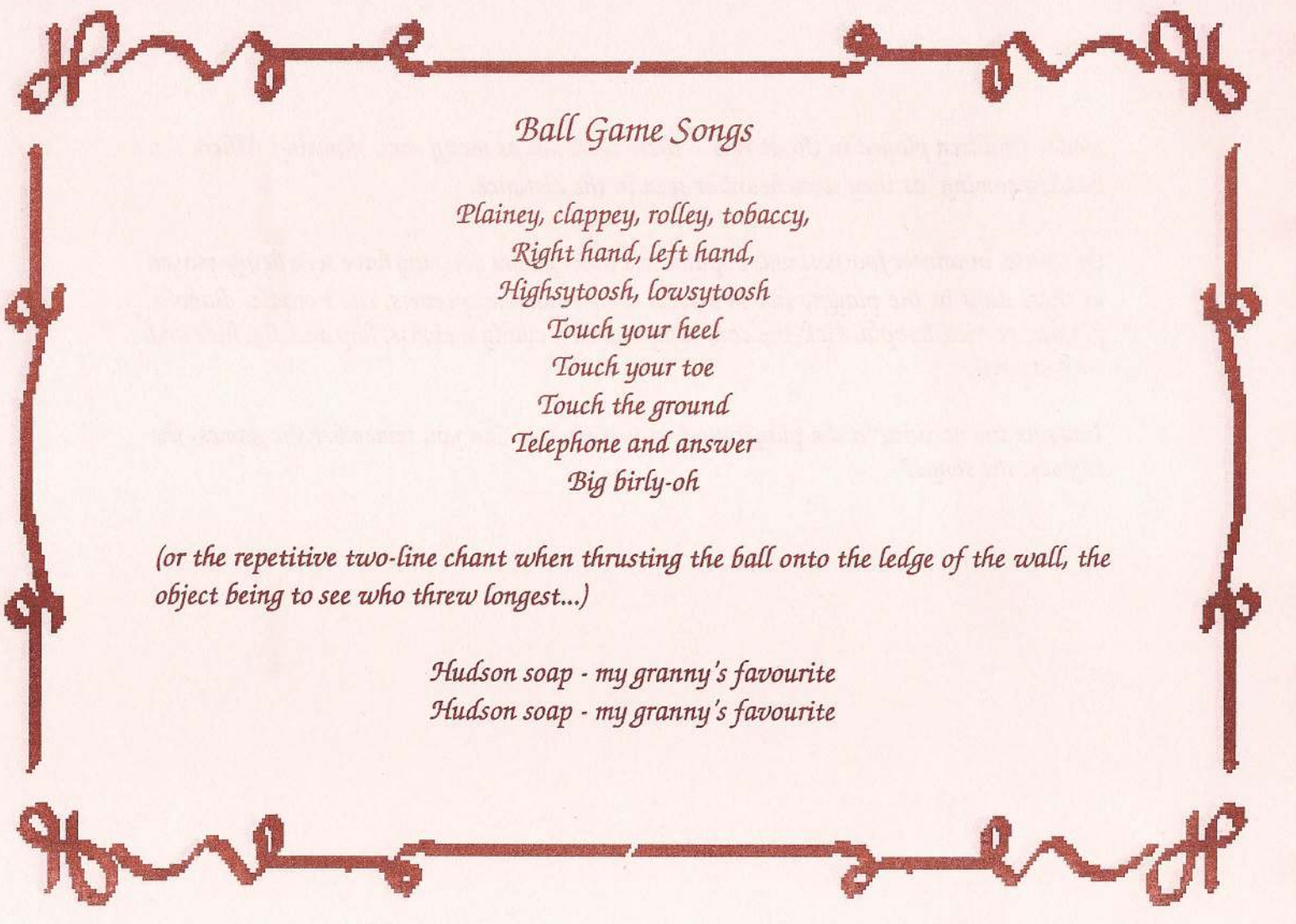


made. Children played in the streets - there were not as many cars, shouting, 'There's a bus/car coming' as they were heard or seen in the distance.

Of course, in winter football was popular but other games you may have seen being played in these days in the playground or streets were rounders, peevers, cat's cradle, diabolo, piggies, peeries, hoopla, kick-the-can, tops, marbles, cuddly weights, hop and dig, hide and seek (hessie).

Imagine the activity in the playground as you pass ... Can you remember the games, the rhymes, the songs?



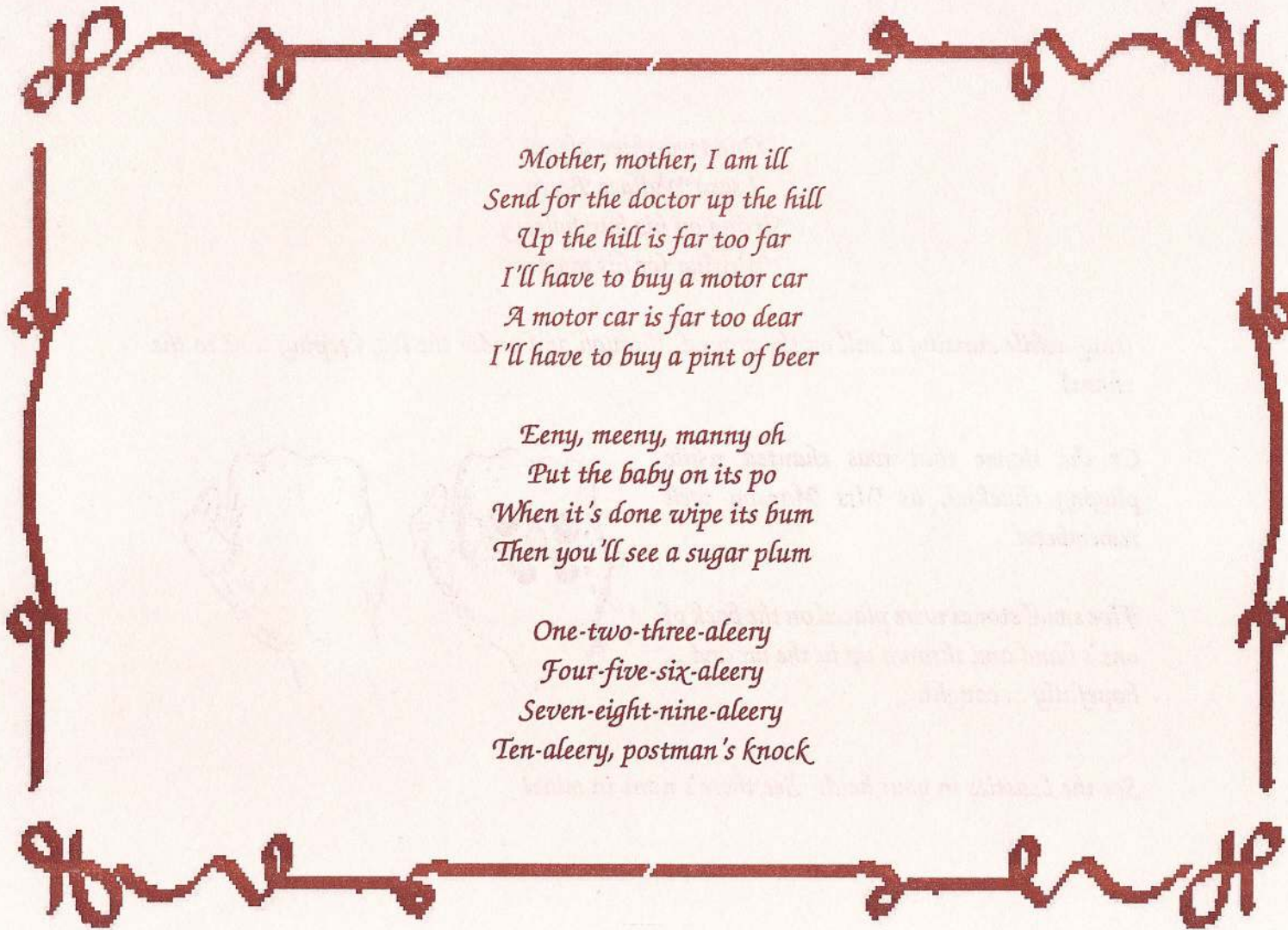


Ball Game Songs

*Plainey, clappey, rolley, tobaccy,
Right hand, left hand,
Higsisytoosh, lowsytoosh
Touch your heel
Touch your toe
Touch the ground
Telephone and answer
Big birly-oh*

*(or the repetitive two-line chant when thrusting the ball onto the ledge of the wall, the
object being to see who threw longest...)*

*Hudson soap - my granny's favourite
Hudson soap - my granny's favourite*



*Mother, mother, I am ill
Send for the doctor up the hill
Up the hill is far too far
I'll have to buy a motor car
A motor car is far too dear
I'll have to buy a pint of beer*

*Eeny, meeny, manny oh
Put the baby on its po
When it's done wipe its bum
Then you'll see a sugar plum*

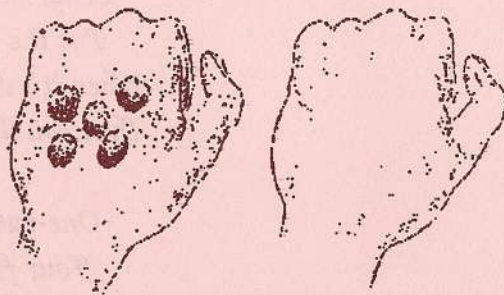
*One-two-three-aleery
Four-five-six-aleery
Seven-eight-nine-aleery
Ten-aleery, postman's knock*

*One-two-three-aleery
I saw Wallace Beery
Sitting on his bumbaleery
Waiting for his master*

(sung while stotting a ball on the ground, through and under the leg, keeping time to the chant)

*Or the rhyme that was chanted while
playing chuckies, as Mrs Manson well
remembers:*

*Five small stones were placed on the back of
one's hand and thrown up in the air and ...
hopefully ... caught.*



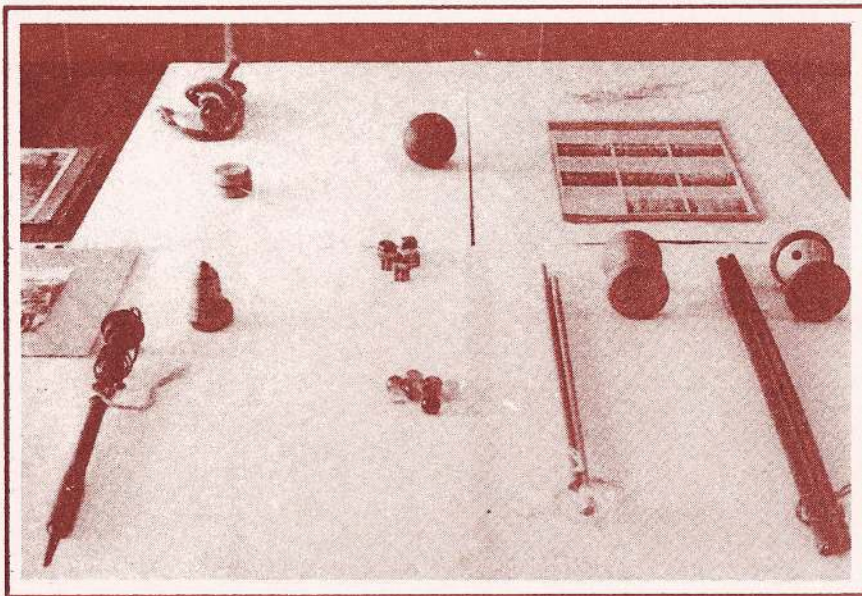
See the beasties in your heid. See there's nane in mine!

Meanwhile in another corner of the playground the boys played rougher games like cuddly weights with 3 - 5 lads on each side. One boy stood against the wall bent down and others jumped on him while he tried to see how long he could stay standing.... one, two, three, four, five (would he make it to ten?).



Here are some of the games of the 30s and 40s.

Can you spot a skipping rope, diablo, marbles, chuckies, cats cradle, whip and peerie, yoyo?



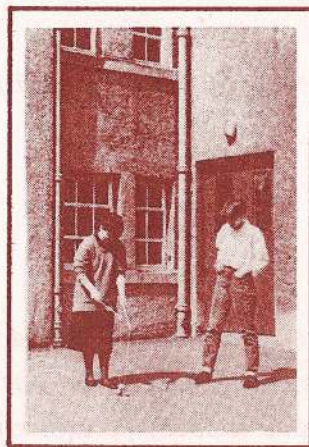
Did the boys have the patience to play cat's cradle? Played simply with a piece of string and your hands, the object of the game was to pass the string from one person to another, changing the shape of the string but not losing it. There were many different shapes to make, eg fish, spear, outrigger canoe.

But where could you find a quiet enough spot to concentrate while in the rest of the playground children played?

Diabolo

The diabolo was a wooden reel which was whirled, tossed and then caught on a string attached to sticks at each end. Sometimes it could be flung as high as a five-storey building before descending sharply through the air to be caught expertly again on the taut string held at the proper angle by the player.

It was a very competitive street game which some of our ex-pupils were keen to try their hand at again, having been experts in the past. Here are some pupils having a go after being shown how by the experts - Mrs Patten, Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Manson





Peeries

Peeries was another popular playground game and was played with a wooden peerie, shaped like a salt cellar, in different colours with a nail stud on the pointed end, which was helped along the pavement by a whip. Children often crayoned their own colours in a jazzy pattern on the peerie, creating a myriad of lovely colours as they were whipped fiercely along.

Piggies

Piggies involved a piece of rounded wood about $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter, sharpened at either end and balanced on the kerb with one end jutting out. This piggy was hit with a stick into the air again and again whilst it was still in mid air. It required quite a bit of skill to keep it aloft.

Peevery Beds

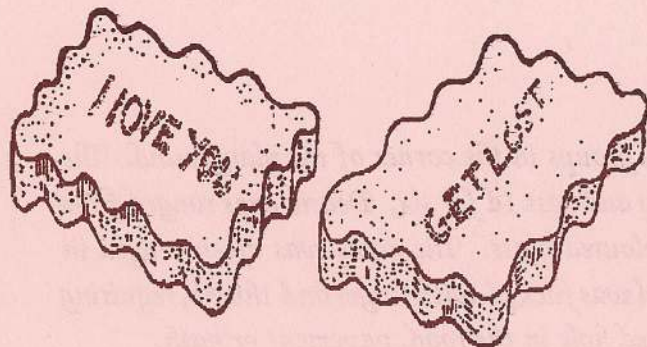
Peevery Beds is a game most people will remember and is still played today in a version known as hopscotch. The 'bed' was chalked in a shape like an aeroplane (or double or triple aeroplane shapes as required). The squares were numbered 1 to 6 and a peeever, if not a flat stone, was often an old Cherry Blossom boot polish tin or an old tobacco tin from your father. Multi-coloured chalks or bits of stones were put in the tins and the children 'scuffed' the peeever to the number nominated in the 'peevery bed' or in sequence starting from number 1.

Marbles

Marbles was a game often played by small groups in the corner of the playground. The cheapest 'bools' available were made of clay and cost 1d for six. Dearer ones ranged from 1d to 3d each and were made of multi-coloured glass. The game was often played in between the cobbles in the street and the bool was flicked with finger and thumb, requiring quite a bit of skill to get them in the required hole in the road, pavement or path.

The Scottish/Irish game was usually played in the winter between Catholics and Protestants in the neighbourhood streets - it was a friendly game and not taken too seriously. Pieces of paper from ordinary newspapers were screwed into balls as tightly as possible and tied securely on a string. When two competitors met, the challenge was shouted, 'Scots or Irish?' and if one disagreed with the other, the tightly packed paper ball was swung into action and thrust at one another in playful contest.

In the playground, messages, serious or otherwise, were passed between girls and boys on conversation lozenges, sweets with messages like 'I Love You', 'He is Handsome', and so on.

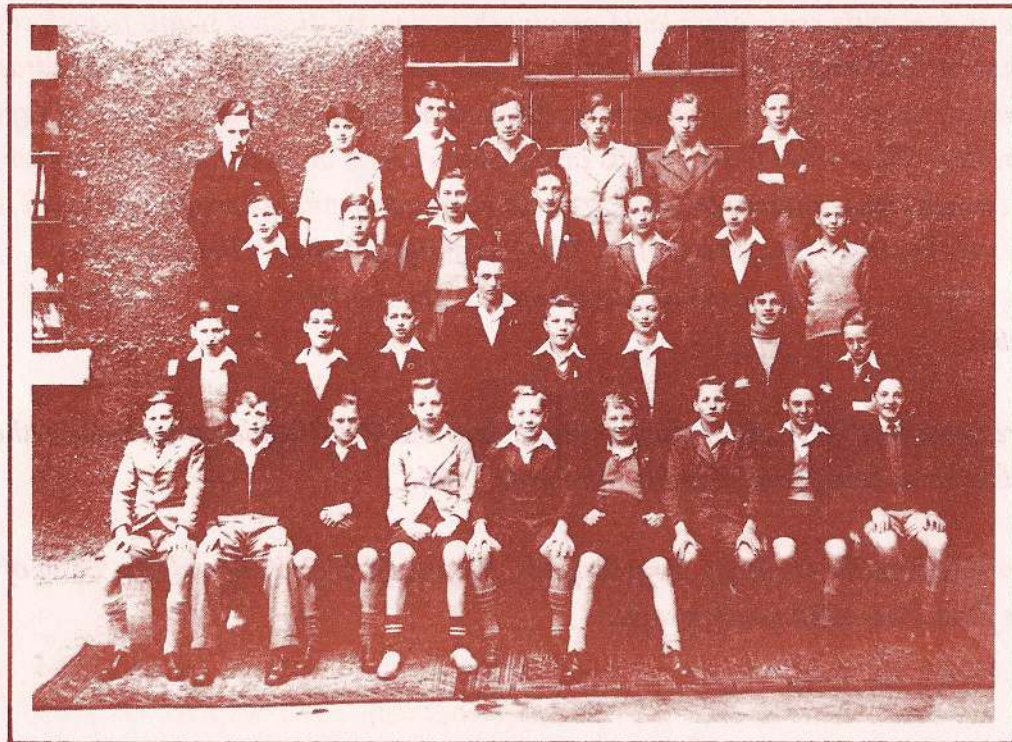


On wet days girls especially would occupy their time in sticking scraps (which could be bought in sets) into a scrapbook, dressing cut out dolls and collecting photocards from cigarette packets. Silk ones were in special demand and could only be got from expensive cigarettes. These were sewn by girls into cushion covers or even quilts if they eventually had enough. The ordinary photocards could be saved up and when you had a full set you were able to send away for a print of 'The Laughing Cavalier', 'The Velvet Boy', 'Cherry Ripe', 'When Did You Last See Your Father?', 'The Boy Blue' and 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'.

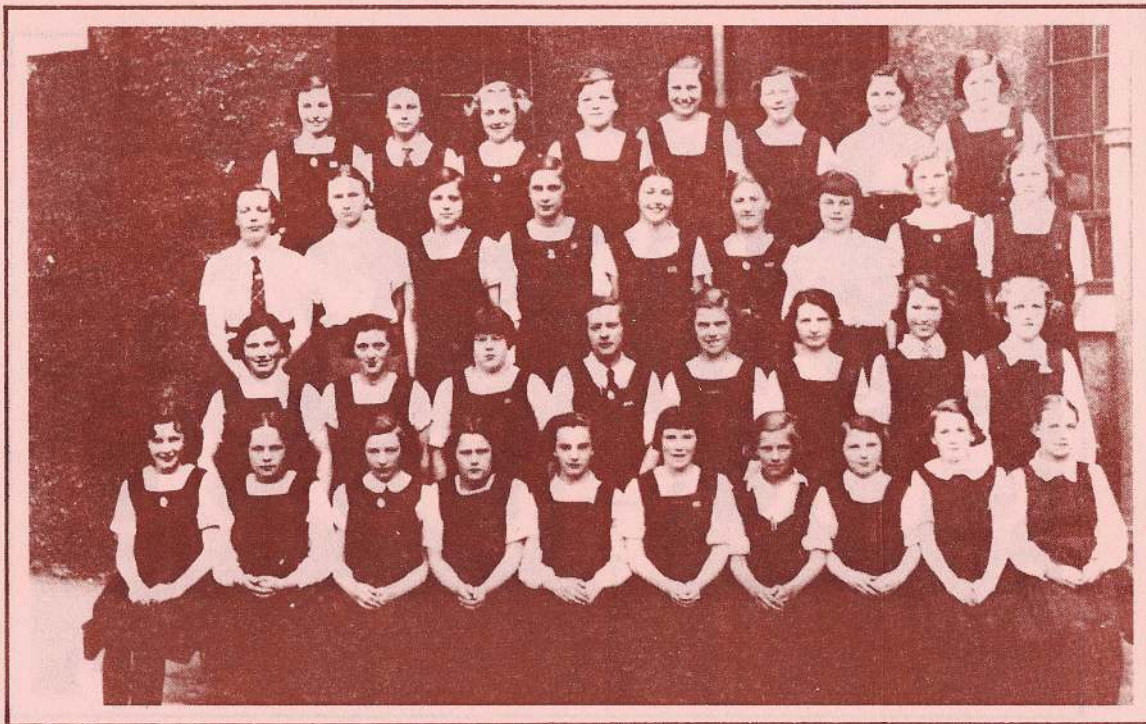
There were very few school clubs in these days but Mr Mathieson remembers the first football team being formed in his third year, 1936.

After school in the evenings, Boys Brigade, Scouts, Girls Guildry and The Band of Hope were favourites with young people.

Bellevue 1936-37 Who do you recognise?



Bellevue 1937/38 Who do you recognise?



Bellevue 1938 Who do you recognise?



Bellevue Hockey Team 1938-41

PE Teacher, Miss Bateman with her team



Pocket Money

Most children did not get pocket money and, if they did, it was only 1d or 2d given to them on a Saturday by their father. Children earned money by going messages and doing odd jobs after school. Those delivering milk had to report to Rodney Street dairy at 6 am and the delivery lasted till 8 am. Earnings for this part-time job amounted to 3/6d per week.

Pocket money could be spent by escaping from the school playground at break through the side gates (the main gates were locked) where the corner shop owner stood with a tray of greasy home-made crisps in greasy bags. Pupils used to dash from class to be first to be served and crowds would jostle and mill around her. Mr Aitchison remembers them tasting much better than the crisps of today!

1/2d would buy a bar of chocolate and money left over could buy the Wizard, Skipper, Rover, Hotspur, Schoolgirls' Weekly, Tiny Tots or Sunbeam comics.

Popular sweets were Fry's cream, gob-stoppers, ogly pogly eyes, sherbet dabs, dolly mixtures, snowballs, walnut whips (all unwrapped). Favourite drinks were sugarolly water with a liquorice stick steeping in it, barley sugar or a drink similar to coke called Vantas. Ice cream was mostly vanilla but there was also a brown ice cream. 99s cost 3d and a cone could be bought for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

There were more corner shops then. Tablet could be bought from a shop on the corner of Gayfield Place for $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. Cochrane Terrace corner shop sold toffee apples for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In St Cuthbert's Coop most goods were served unwrapped. Customers queued on a bench to be served by the assistants who were all men. Goods were scooped out of sacks and weighed into brown paper bags. Butter was cut from a block and weighed. Some goods were prepacked but customers could not serve themselves.

Pastimes

Swimming was a popular pastime at Glenogle and Infirmary Street Baths and often Portobello Pool on a Sunday. Portobello was a place to go for ballroom dancing too and skating took place in the Marine Gardens across from Bellevue School.

There were many more cinemas to go to in these days. The Ritz, Grand and Savoy were all within walking distance of the Bellevue area. Many queues were long, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights when the queue for the second showing at the Playhouse would stretch round the corner and along London Road.

Everyone went to the cinema. There were continuous performances of two films, a cartoon and newsreel for 4d. The Ritz picturehouse changed its programmes twice a week. Saturday morning matinees involved serials which continued week after week with each episode ending with something drastic happening to the hero. In one Leith cinema, behind Woolworths, you could get in with an empty jam jar on Saturday mornings. Favourite singers and film stars at this time were Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Betty Grable, Bette Davies and Lana Turner.

On Sunday afternoons a popular meeting place for 13-14 year olds was the West End Cafe in Shandwick Place where friends met for a coffee. There were no discos or dances for under 18s so girls and boys going out together went to the pictures or to the ice cream parlour or for a walk.

Family Life

In those days families did lots of things together. If your mum and dad went out visiting, then you went too. Families mostly stayed near each other. The town was smaller too. Houses stopped at the zoo and Davidson's Mains and Corstorphine were villages. There were no houses at Oxcgangs, Wester Hailes, Firrhill or Clermiston. Going to Cramond was a day's outing - a day's holiday!

Children rarely stayed overnight with pals as most friends stayed in the same stair or nearby. People did not have extra space for visitors. Sometimes in the winter friends would visit each other in the evenings and together they would make their own entertainment or listen to the radio or read. Of course, there was no television.

War-time Schooling

During the Second World War, for a time - about 3-4 months at the beginning of the war - the school was forced to close and classes were held in church halls and the like. Lorne Street Church Hall was one that housed pupils from Bellevue.

Many children were evacuated from Edinburgh to places in the country. Mrs Manson remembers being all ready to leave for Fife with her uniform, etc, labelled. The evening before her departure she was treated to a night out at the cinema - a great treat with the prospect of being confined to the country for a long time. Luckily her parents changed their minds and decided that, should they be going to die, it would be better to go together. She remembers waving goodbye to her friends next day and feeling very sad.

At that time some of the primary schools were used by the Territorial Army and Homeguard as muster points for action. London Street Primary was used by the National Fire Service and ARP (Air Raid Precaution) posts were set up in some schools also.

As things settled down, schools reopened, firstly on a part-time basis, and then, about 6 months later, they opened as usual.

During the years of the war each pupil was issued with a little cardboard box containing a gas mask. They were issued from the church in London Street and had to be taken everywhere. Their use had to be rehearsed - a horrible experience. Mrs Manson remembers

feeling like Miss Piggy with the suffocating rubber mask on. Even babies had to wear them. The masks used to make really rude noises when you breathed through them.

It was against the law not to carry them and police seeing pupils without their masks would report them to their parents. Because of the 1914-18 war people were afraid of the possibility of gas attacks and didn't have to be reminded too often.

People had to be more tolerant during the war and often teachers would allow pupils to fall asleep in class because of disturbed nights' sleep during air raids and having to go to the shelters.

Pupils of 14 years or over were often used to deliver messages between ARP posts. To be chosen for this job you were given a test of having to find your way to a certain place - unaided.

Girl Guides were given War Service badges for working in hospitals. A badge was awarded for 100 hours work!!

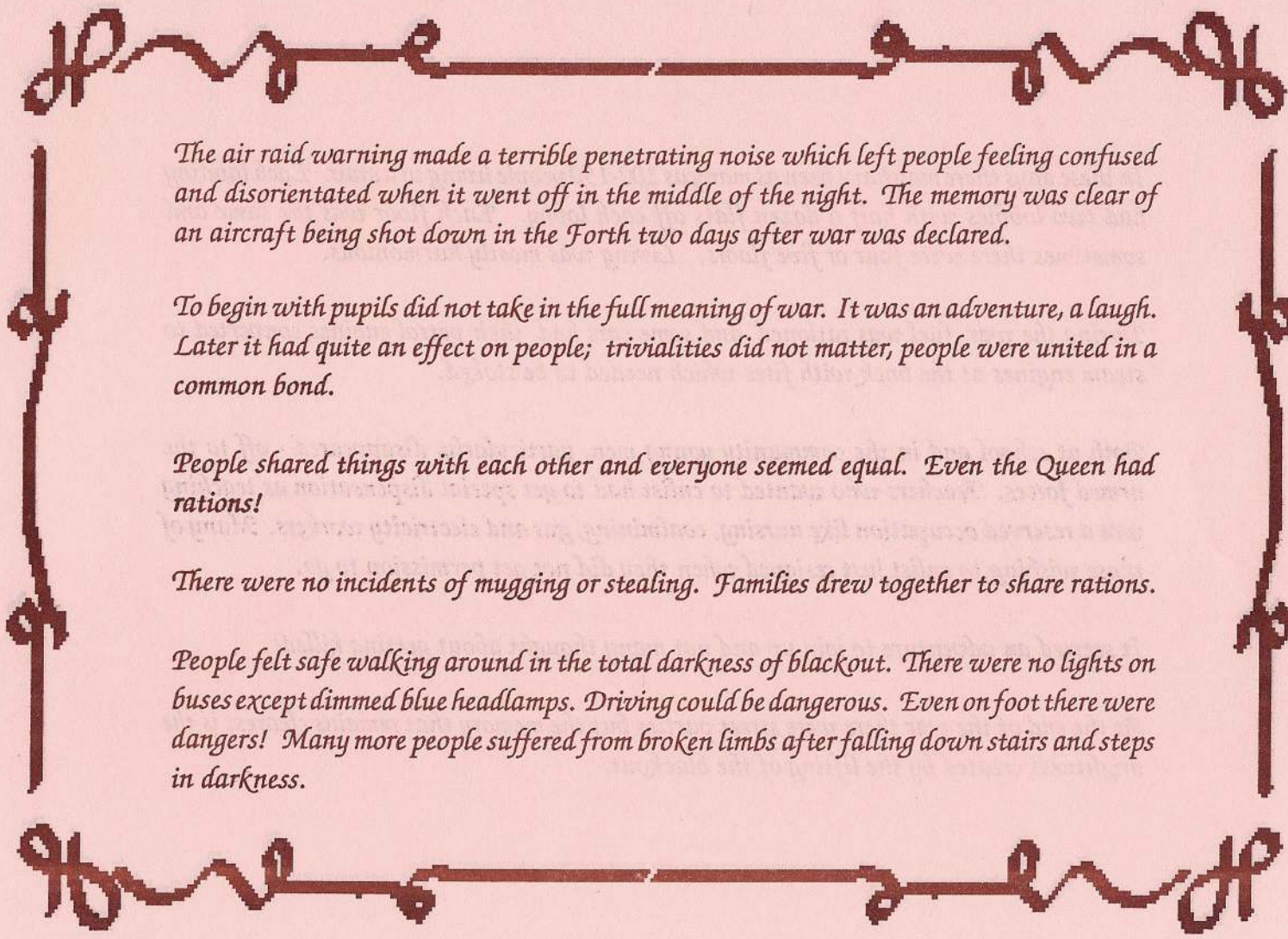
All the windows in the school had to blacked out. Some were painted black and had paper pasted over them to minimise the effect of a blast shattering them. There were air raid shelters in the front playground and at home underground beneath the tenement block,

The school's emergency evacuation procedures were very similar to today's fire drill. Punishments were severe if pupils were late or missing without good cause, because of the fear of not being accounted for. The building was evacuated by pupils walking smartly and not running along the left-hand side of the corridor to the nearest exit.

BLACK-OUT TIMES

From December 5 to 12

	EDINBURGH	GLASGOW	INVERNESS
SAT.	From 5.11 p.m. to 8.56 a.m.	5.16 p.m. 9.00 a.m.	5.05 p.m. 9.11 a.m.
SUN.	From 5.11 p.m. to 8.58 a.m.	5.16 p.m. 9.02 a.m.	5.04 p.m. 9.13 a.m.
MON.	From 5.10 p.m. to 8.50 a.m.	5.15 p.m. 9.03 a.m.	5.04 p.m. 9.14 a.m.
TUE.	From 5.10 p.m. to 9.01 a.m.	5.15 p.m. 9.05 a.m.	5.03 p.m. 9.16 a.m.
WED.	From 5.09 p.m. to 9.02 a.m.	5.14 p.m. 9.06 a.m.	5.02 p.m. 9.17 a.m.
TH.	From 5.09 p.m. to 9.03 a.m.	5.14 p.m. 9.07 a.m.	5.02 p.m. 9.18 a.m.
FRI.	From 5.09 p.m. to 9.04 a.m.	5.14 p.m. 9.08 a.m.	5.02 p.m. 9.19 a.m.
SAT.	From 5.08 p.m. to 9.06 a.m.	5.13 p.m. 9.09 a.m.	5.01 p.m. 9.21 a.m.



The air raid warning made a terrible penetrating noise which left people feeling confused and disorientated when it went off in the middle of the night. The memory was clear of an aircraft being shot down in the Forth two days after war was declared.

To begin with pupils did not take in the full meaning of war. It was an adventure, a laugh. Later it had quite an effect on people; trivialities did not matter, people were united in a common bond.

People shared things with each other and everyone seemed equal. Even the Queen had rations!

There were no incidents of mugging or stealing. Families drew together to share rations.

People felt safe walking around in the total darkness of blackout. There were no lights on buses except dimmed blue headlamps. Driving could be dangerous. Even on foot there were dangers! Many more people suffered from broken limbs after falling down stairs and steps in darkness.

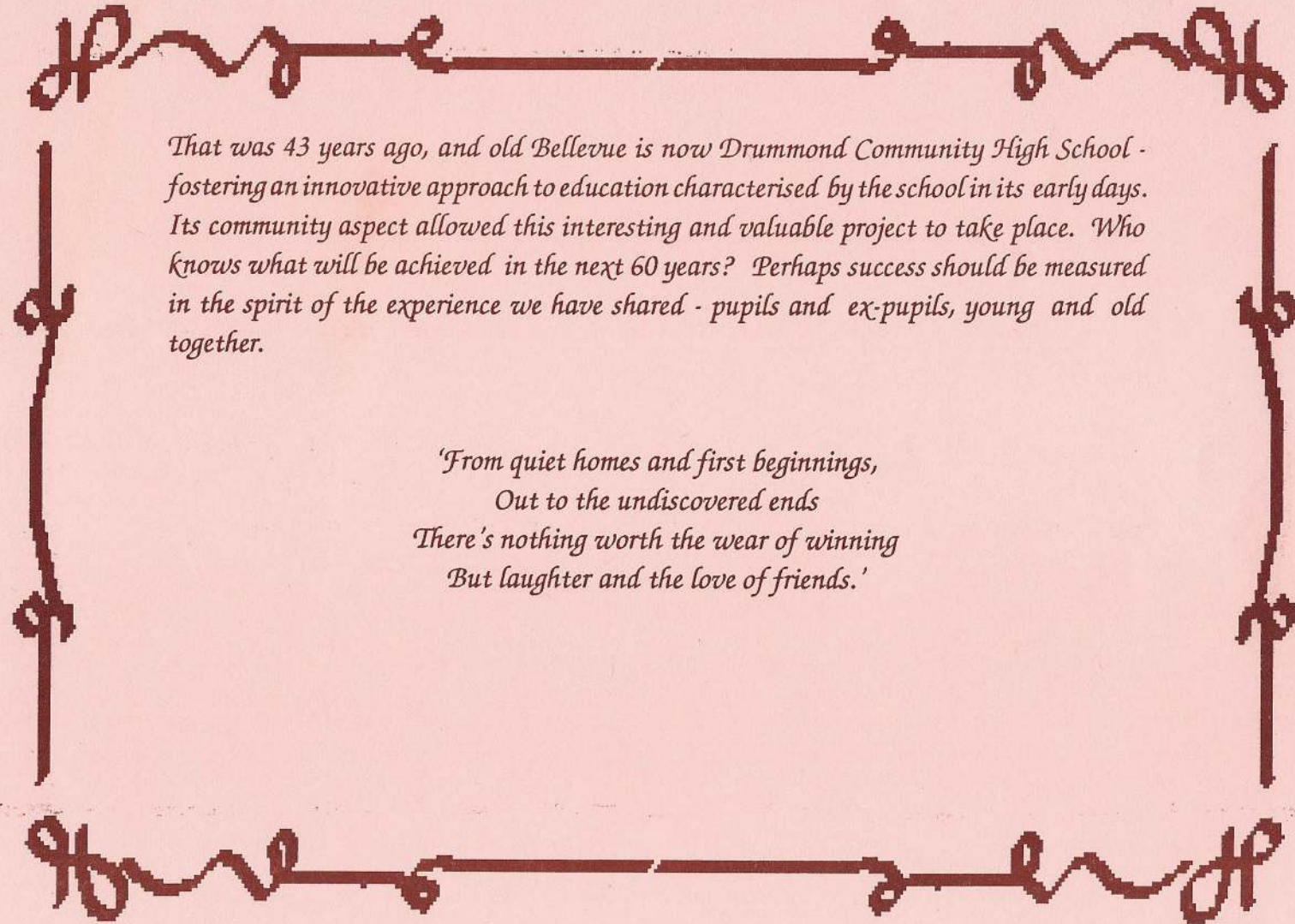
In these days there may have been as many as 100-150 people living in a stair. Each landing had two lobbies with half a dozen flats off each lobby. Each floor was the same and sometimes there were four or five floors. Living was mostly harmonious.

During the war fuel was rationed and some cars had their petrol engines converted to steam engines at the back with fires which needed to be stoked.

Both at school and in the community young men, particularly, disappeared - off to the armed forces. Teachers who wanted to enlist had to get special dispensation as teaching was a reserved occupation like nursing, coalmining, gas and electricity workers. Many of those wishing to enlist just resigned when they did not get permission to go.

It seemed an adventure to join up and not many thought about getting killed!

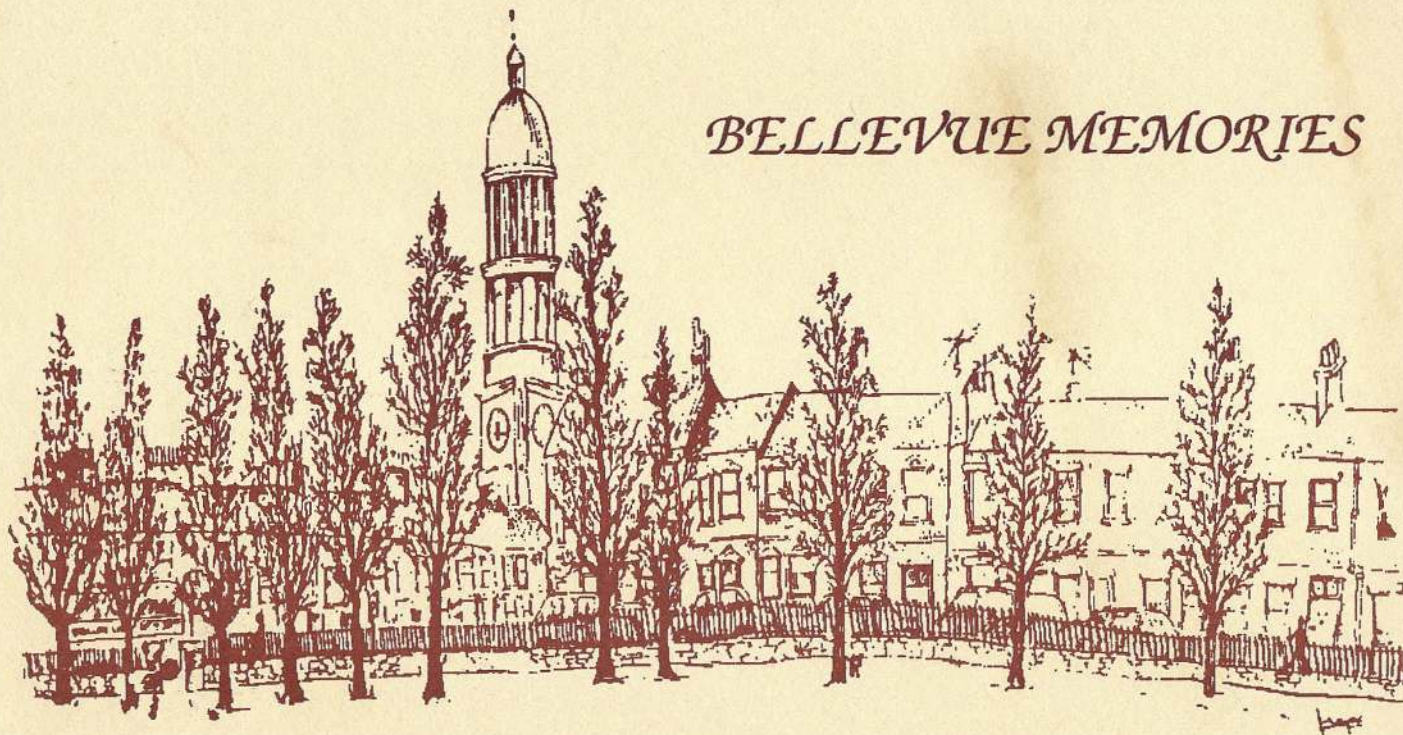
At the end of the war there were street parties but the memory that remains clearest is the brightness created by the lifting of the blackout.



That was 43 years ago, and old Bellevue is now Drummond Community High School - fostering an innovative approach to education characterised by the school in its early days. Its community aspect allowed this interesting and valuable project to take place. Who knows what will be achieved in the next 60 years? Perhaps success should be measured in the spirit of the experience we have shared - pupils and ex-pupils, young and old together.

*'From quiet homes and first beginnings,
Out to the undiscovered ends
There's nothing worth the wear of winning
But laughter and the love of friends.'*

BELLEVUE MEMORIES



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