



THE Living *M*emory *A*ssociation **NEWSLETTER**

THELMA says...

Do you remember LEITH PAGEANT?



‘Leith Pageant was a big event with loads of floats, and everyone dressed up. We used to sit on the pillars of Leith Academy to watch it. It seemed to go on forever. Wonderful.’ Says **Christine Anderson**.

‘Forty years ago, I was Queen of Leith for the Leith Pageant. The Lord Provost crowned me and presented me with a watch. I then got to rule Leith for the day, which I remember meant that I got free rides at the fair all day and free food.’ Says **Sheila Carlyle**.





‘The Pageant was delayed to take in the Tall Ships. Leith Primary won Best Float. It was such a happy day with amazing crowds.’
Says Rita Crombie.



‘My memory of Leith gala is watching the Karaoke stage at ten in the morning in the drizzle with a gentleman singing *Sweet Caroline* very enthusiastically! I think he may have come straight from the Spey Lounge! The response from the crowd was great with the assembled group of fellow Neil Diamond enthusiasts swaying and enjoying the spectacle.’ *Says Ramzan Bibi.*

‘The Jean Carnie Pipe Band wore the McLeod tartan, which was yellow and black.’
Says Jacqueline Bain (Goodfellow).

‘This was my partner Brian’s mum’s pipe band and dance school, Jean Carnie.’
Says Laura Smith.



‘My mum Sheila Campbell played the piano for Jean Carnie and her dancers for years. I used to go along and watch them rehearse in the ballroom above Woolies at the bottom of the Walk. We once went to Wolverhampton on a bus with the dancing school to a competition.’
Says Frank G Campbell.



The Jean Carnie Pipe Band and dancers off to France.



‘The Jean Carnie Pipe Band won this trophy in France in 1965.’
Says Laura Smith.



‘My grandfather Adam Grahame used to drive that engine when he was in the Leith Fire Brigade.’
Says **Fiona Morag Grahame**

‘My mum used to highland dance on a float in the pageant to build Leith Hospital.’ Says **Cath Reid.**

‘Leith Festival is one of the oldest festivals in Edinburgh. Having started in 1907 with a pageant and Gala day (badge day) to raise funds for Leith Hospital (this was before the NHS), over a century later it’s still going strong. The structure of the festival remains the same, on the second Saturday of June a colourful Pageant proceeds down Leith Walk to the Gala day on Leith Links.’
Says **Leith Festival Association** (courtesy of www.leithfestival.com)



The Pageant Queen in her carriage.



A Float in the Pageant


Wee Museum of Memory, Ocean Terminal,
(next to Britannia), Leith EH6 6JJ.
Open 10-3 Mon- Fri and 11- 3 Sat and Sun.

Do you have memories, stories, or photos
you’d like to share? Please get in touch:

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The Wee Museum of
Memory at Ocean Terminal

