



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

THELMA says... **That's Entertainment!**



'Mum was the lead dancer with the Mabel Neill Dance Group. She travelled around and performed in lots of theatres in Scotland, sharing the bill with the likes of Rikki Fulton and Jack Milroy, especially in the Gaiety Theatre circuit.' *Says Aileen Arnot*

'Loved the Empire. I think I was about 8 or 9 when my Mum took me to see the D'Oyly Carte production of Iolanthe, and although I had been to the theatre for summer shows and pantomime I was overwhelmed by the production and have had a love of theatre ever since. Thanks Mum!' *Says Rita Crombie*



The Grace Dryburgh Troupe. The troupe performed all over Scotland. Grace Dryburgh was married to the famous Scottish comedian Lex McLean. Photo is dated as 1946. *Photo courtesy of Dean Village Memories.*



IAN MCLEAN'S ENTERTAINERS BEACH PAVILION
ST. ANDREWS - SEASON 1929

The Ian McLean Entertainers 1929



Harry Lauder gave this signed photograph to Willie Merrilees, who was Chief Constable of Lothians and Peebles Police.

Mackenzie Reid and Dorothy - "Scotland's Accordionists" - a husband and wife act who played the variety circuit. 1955



The first ever pantomime in Church Hill Theatre was The Enchanted Waltz in 1965 by the Edinburgh People's Theatre. *Photo courtesy of Church Hill*



The Kings Theatre at Tollcross. There are American Service personnel in the background from the Air Force base in Kirknewton.



‘They were well known for back-green concerts. My dad is the tall boy in the middle. My dad played the accordion. My Auntie Betty is in the front row, third from the left.’ Says **Jim Taylor**.

Miss Ina Purves and her Variety Follies, 1941



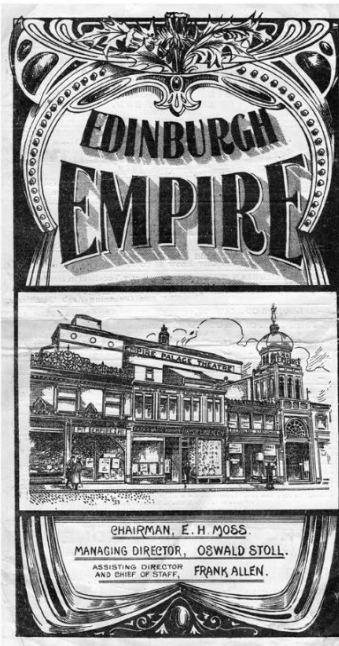
A Brownies Concert at St Anne's Church 1957.

‘I saw Lex McLean in the Five Past Eight Show at the Palladium.’ Says **John Thomson**

‘The Bay City Rollers used to be the resident band in the Top Storey Club in Leith Street. This was before they became famous.’ Says **John Thomson**.

Three of the Rollers pictured with three of their fans. The Rollers are Stuart Wood, Alan Longmuir and Eric Faulkner.





‘The Empire Palace Theatre opened on Nicolson Street in 1892, then in 1899 merged with two other theatre companies when Sir Edward Moss formed the famous company Moss Empires in Edinburgh. This created the largest chain of variety theatres and music halls in the United Kingdom. The Edinburgh Empire closed in 1963, becoming a bingo hall for a number of years before rising phoenix-like again as the renowned Festival Theatre. Performances in the early days were twice nightly and the term "Variety" is certainly justified with everything from singers, comics and burlesque wrestlers to performing cockatoos.’ Says **Evelyn Whitfield**



Jackie Dennis, Scotland's first ever pop star, who rocketed to fame in 1958 at the tender age of 15. Known as 'The Lilt With the Kilt' and 'The Golden Kid', Jackie signed a huge £50000 deal, hitting the charts with 'La Dee Dah' and 'The Purple People Eater' and rubbing shoulders with Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Buddy Holly, Dusty Springfield and John Lennon in a short but glittering showbiz career.



The Beatles on a visit to Edinburgh to perform at the ABC Regal in 1963.



The Wee Museum of Memory
 10am – 3pm Mon – Fri
 11am – 3pm Sat/Sun
 Ocean Terminal next to
 Royal Yacht Britannia

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

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