



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

THELMA says, *'Doorstep Deliveries.'*



Theresa McLay is petting the milk delivery horse in Gardner's Crescent in 1969.

'The horse, called Buddy, was accustomed to getting titbits and one day hearing my door opening, to put milk bottles outside on the step, he took off without his milkman and brought the cart along the street.'

Who else remembers the rattle of the milk cart and the sound of the delivery horse's hooves?

First thing in the morning I delivered milk for the Co-op before school. I used to put 4 crates of milk on my barrow.
Says Stan Eadie.

I used to deliver milk for Leith Provident. I had a barrow and I'd go round the doors. I was 13 and I'd get up at 5 o'clock in the morning. The shop opened at six for the deliveries.

Says John Thomson



St Cuthbert's milk delivery horse at Lauderdale Street, Marchmont, mid 1970s. The horse would get special treats from households along his route.



At 15 years old I was a message boy with Leith Provie. I told them I could ride a bike but I couldnae. I had to push it everywhere. If I went near Leith Links I'd practice and eventually I got the hang of it. **Says John Thomson**

James Hutchison is delivering messages on his bike outside 42 Northfield Crescent around 1960. Ronnie Dunbar who took the photo told us that James was delivering for Laing's the ironmongers whose shop was at the north-west corner of Piersfield Place and Piersfield Terrace. He's got his bicycle clips in place and looks as though he is enjoying his task. Did any of you deliver messages on a bike like this with a big basket to get some pocket money?



In the 1950s in Silverknowes our teenage neighbour had a Walls ice cream fridge on a bike and cycled around selling small ice cream blocks with wafers. **Says Sheila Ross.**

Jane Anne Steele ran a coal business in Dalkeith in the forties. Her family had the business before her. Jane had to retire eventually when lorries took over, as she couldn't drive.

My Granda delivered coal in Tolbooth Wynd and the Kirkgate with his horse Paddy pulling the cart. The top flats were a scunner. **Says Steven Ritch**





This is the horse-drawn St Cuthbert's butchers van delivering around Stenhouse Mills in 1918. Mrs Watson told us: 'The first boy is my brother George and the one next to the woman is my brother Jim. The woman is a Mrs Downie and the other boy is her son.'

I wonder what the butcher would have brought round on his cold slab - mince, sausages, pork chops, no doubt, but maybe also the 'old-fashioned' meat cuts - tripe, scrag end, giblets etc.

The bread van pulled by the St Cuthbert's Clydesdale in Falcon Gardens, Morningside in 1934. I wonder what the driver is bringing round today, probably loaves of white uncut bread, with names like a bloomer or a cottage loaf, maybe some pies and morning rolls. including some 'well-fired' ones.



The Co-op horse, Sandy, wouldn't pass our door in Newhaven until he got a slice of bread. **Says Jeanette Tait.**



My family had a grocer's shop in Portobello, and I used to load boxes of shopping orders into a bike for home delivery. Was a bit of a struggle to get from Porty High Street to Milton Road East with a big order, all uphill! **Says Alistair Mould**

I had a newspaper round, a delivery bike for a butcher's run and still had to go for the messages for the family. I used to break up old wood and bundle the bits together into kindling and sell them for a penny a bunch. A great way to get pocket money. This was in the forties. **Says Joseph Gibson**



Delivery horse and cart outside Cooper & Co Tea Merchants, 71 Lothian Road, on the corner with Grindlay Street in 1905.



A coalman in the 1960s making a delivery.

My mum used to deliver meat etc. on a bike. Her grandfather and dad had a butcher's shop in Great Junction Street. This would be late 40s. Very early morning starts. **Says Daisy Anderson**

Bon Accord used to come round the doors with a van and fizzy juice. I used to get excited as a child, knowing it was Bon Accord day. You got a refund on the bottles or money off your next purchase. Fizzy pineapple was my favourite. **Says Cheryl Adam.**




Do you have memories, stories, or photos you'd like to share?

Please get in touch:

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