



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

**THELMA** says, 'A woman's work is never done.'



British Rail carriage cleaners working in the late 1950s. My mother, Mrs Georgina Reynolds, is in the centre of the back row. The empty trains from the Waverley Station went down to Craigentenny Sidings to be cleaned, ordinary carriages and sleeping accommodation. The women worked shifts: 6am to 2pm, 2pm to 10pm, and nightshift. **Says Helen Reynolds**

My Auntie Gertie worked in an ammunition factory during the war. She used to say that with little or no protective clothing, handling the materials they had to work with and breathing in the atmosphere caused the girls' and women's skin to turn yellow and everyone in their street thought they had jaundice. Even as an old lady, she had very sallow skin. **Says Don Whitfield**

It's dinner time in today's picture and here are the dinner ladies of Silverknowes Primary School, Edinburgh in 1975, ready for action. Being a dinner lady has traditionally been a handy job for working Mums, as the hours fit in with getting back for the children coming home from school.





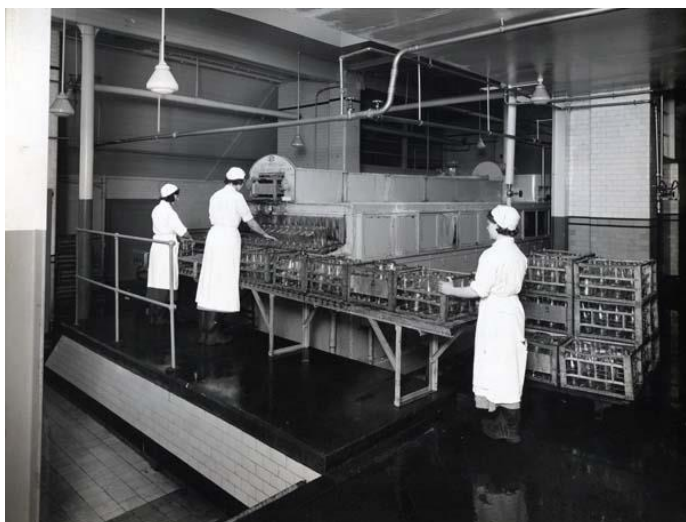
The warehouse staff of William Muir Ltd, Whisky Blenders and Bottlers, are gathered for a photo in 1916. The location was possibly at or near Whisky Bond 9 on Commercial Street, Leith.

This is Helen Lynch (b 1880 – d 1952) midwife nurse, taken in 1925 in Leith. She was married to James Phillip. She was the grandmother of Stan Eadie who told us that Helen lived at 25 Pitt Street, Leith. There was a brass plate on her front door displaying her qualifications. In the days before ordinary people had a telephone in their house, the husband of the woman about to give birth would often go out into the street and stop a passing policeman on his beat. The policeman would then call on Helen, telling her which home to go to, while paying the fee. The community midwife had a unique role, being on call virtually all the time, trusted and respected by all.



My Granny, Mary Mands who lived in Montrose, was widowed in the First World War. With five young children and no welfare state, she needed to bring in some income for her family. Although unqualified, she had plenty life experience and used to go out with the local midwife to assist at home births. In the poorer communities where money was scarce, she was often paid with half a dozen eggs. *Says Evelyn Whitfield.*

Whisky Bottlers at William Muir Bond 9, Commercial Street, Leith in 1960.



Leith Provident Dairy. It was located at Duncan Place, near to Leith Academy.



Workers At J&J Gray Printers Print Room In Little King Street c.1930



Women are making paper bags at a workshop in Leith around 1910. Bella Stead is on the far left and we were told that Bella's father was a sailor from Bermuda. She lived in Bridge Street (now Sandport Place) in Leith. Women (and men too) often worked close to where they lived.

Bonnington Road School Nursery Class Staff, April 1954. Betty Webster (right).

The school stands on Bonnington Road in front of Pilrig Park. This photo was taken in the space reserved for the under-fives to play in. In summer we would lay out canvas stretchers for the children to lie on for their afternoon nap. The buildings behind are tenements standing on Bonnington Road. **Says Betty MacKintosh (née Webster)**





MacVitties, Guest on Comiston Road, 1920s.



Shop workers outside Dairy Shop, Gorgie 1945.



Duncan's Chocolates Factory Girls, 1949.

Employees of the bookbinding department of Warriston, McClagen & Cummings. 1920. McClagen & Cummings was founded in 1872 as a lithographic printing firm at Carrubers Close in the High Street, and moved in 1891 to its Warriston Works.



The National Coal Board Computer Centre at Sighthill 1963.

### The Wee Museum of Memory

10.30am – 4pm Mon – Fri


11am – 4pm 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: [comhist@gmail.com](mailto:comhist@gmail.com)

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