

CYZ



**HERITAGE
FUND**

**TULLIE
HOUSE**

**125 YEARS
CARLISLE**

L I F E L I N E S



L I F E L I N E S

Welcome

NOVEMBER 2018 - OCTOBER 2019

Life Lines is an intergenerational project connecting young people attending Carlisle Youth Zone, with residents of local care homes. The aim is for the young people to learn about their heritage, using a snapshot in time of the city in the 1950's.

Carlisle Youth Zone is a vibrant inner city youth club, a charity serving young people aged 7-18, or 25 if they have additional needs. CYZ members can take part in a huge range of; sports, arts, cookery, social and wellbeing activities. There are clubs six evenings a week and throughout most of the school holidays. Our aim is to provide a fun and safe venue where the potential of every young person is developed and fulfilled.

The fifties were chosen for a number of reasons; CYZ was donated a fifties themed diner which sparked interest in the period, and it was a time of huge change, spanning post war austerity to the start of youth culture. Life Lines was focused on our junior members aged 7-12,

because many of Carlisle's young children have grandparents who are too young to remember the fifties, so memories of this exciting era are in danger of being lost to new generations.

The project started with pen pal letters between members and care home residents; as the relationship developed members invited the residents over for tea- we talked about how Carlisle has changed, steam trains, school, food, fashion, shopping, cinema, and memories of the Coronation.

Life Lines was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and made possible by money raised by National Lottery players. We are grateful to them and to Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery Trust. The Museum provided object handling sessions through which young people learnt about their heritage and decided which objects to display in an exhibition that was held in the museum's Community Gallery to celebrate the completion of the Life Lines project.



Foreword

By Hunter Davies

My ambition in life, when I lived in Carlisle, was not to live in Carlisle. In the early Fifties, it just seemed so grey and miserable, damp and depressing.

It was dirty and noisy, thanks to all the factories and smoke, clattering and clanking everywhere. If you went into town, when a shift was ending, you would be flattened and overwhelmed by all the workers, pouring out of Botchergate, trudging over from Caldewgate, to catch their bus home at the Old Town Hall. There were just so many factories, making real stuff like cranes and tins, now all gone. Dixons chimney in those days was full size, and had been at one time the tallest factory chimney in the whole land. It was still pumping out poison.

At home, I don't know how my mother managed. I remember her doing the washing, standing in the outside wash house, desperately trying to get some hot water, battering the clothes in a tub, scrubbing them on a wooden washing board, struggling to shove them through her hand wringer, then hanging them all out in our garden. Only to find when she brought them in, they were just as dirty. They had been covered with soot from Kingmoor engine sheds which during the war had hundreds of goods trains every day belting out filth.

I was sent to the Creighton School, which was a sort of secondary technical, and then at 16 I was moved to the Grammar School. Today these two schools are part of the excellent Trinity School.

My memories of the Fifties in Carlisle were not all rose tinted. Not that I was personally unhappy. It all just seemed to be normal, how life was, how everyone around me was living.

Later on, moving into what I imagined was the real world elsewhere, to Manchester and then London, I found that what in fact I had been thinking and doing in Carlisle in the Fifties was being reflected throughout the whole country, with people of all classes. We were all on ration books. Few people, even soft Southerners, had cars or telephones and central heating only happened in the USA.

Now, when I return to Carlisle, my heart leaps. I have so many memories, which have turned rose tinted with time - because Carlisle today is such a different place.

I never knew that the Old Town Hall was so ancient and wonderful, made out of pink brick. The whole of Carlisle has been cleaned up, and the centre mostly pedestrianised, so you can see all the historic buildings and streets and sites which, as a lad, I never knew were there. Perhaps I was not looking for them, more obsessed by myself, but you couldn't have seen them properly anyway, for all the dirt and grime, lorries and workers.

I am pleased that today it is not just me who delights in my home town, sorry city, but thanks to the Life Lines Project, young people in Carlisle today are being encouraged to understand where they have come from, how they all got here, take pride and joy in Carlisle and understand how it has changed and developed over the decades. And all for the better, oh yes, I do believe that...

Planning the project



'The fair came to town twice a year. The circus also came regularly, and we were all excited!'

'School wasn't any fun in those days. The teachers were all very strict back then!'

'For leisure we had the Girl Guides, Brownies and dances!'

'I remember long tables set out for street parties for the coronation. Masons shop in High Street had a TV and we watched it through the window there because no-one we knew had a TV'



'The music I listened to in the fifties was called Motown. In Carlisle in the 1950s everything was in black and white'

'The food was plain. Roast beef or tripe. We never ate out like everybody does these days!'

'In the fifties I enjoyed music, going to dances and dancing. I trained as a weaver (a lot of people worked in the mills in Carlisle)'



Planning the project

'When I was young we never had school residentials. We may have gone on a short trip to Silloth with Sunday School, but nowhere exotic'



'Back then, parent's weren't afraid to allow their children out'



'I remember you could park anywhere in Carlisle. There weren't as many cars as nowadays, a lot were Cortina's.'



'There were plenty of trains - steam trains always full going to Silloth for day trips'

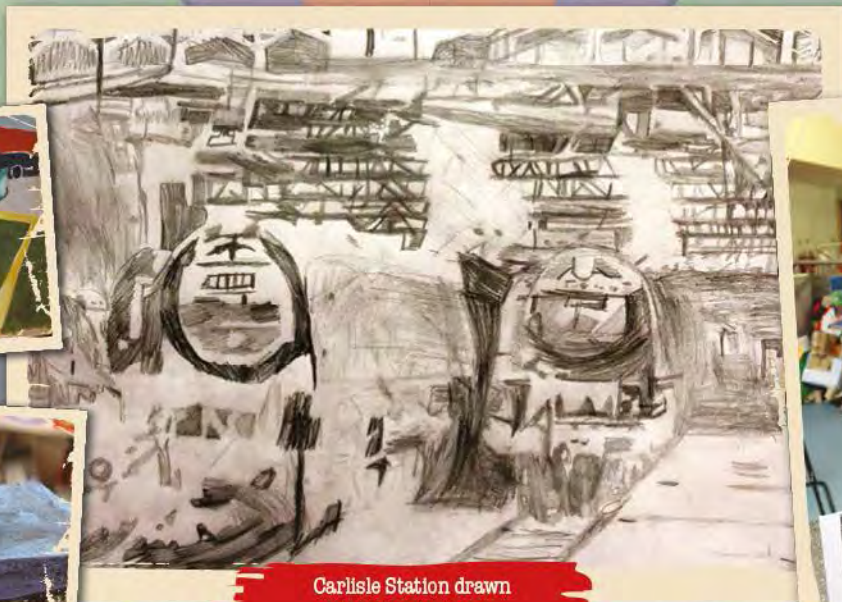


'There were 8 cinemas in Carlisle including The Rex and The Star. Marks & Spencer used to be one. We used to watch 2 films and the Pathé News. It cost sixpence to sit on wooden benches in the front 2 rows, and ninepence for a seat'

L I F E L I N E S

Transport

We learnt it took all day to get to London by steam train.
Don't wear a white shirt, it'll get sooty!



Now and then -
comparing cars



Carlisle Station drawn
by Senior members

L I F E L I N E S

Sport



The Carlisle crowd at Brunton Park Carlisle v Arsenal 1951



Waiting to buy tickets



I can't believe that they played Arsenal back then



It has changed a lot since then, they dress different and use different type of balls and boots.



Twinkletoes shows off the Carlisle mascot, Olga



The football boots look really uncomfortable



The boots don't look very exciting like modern ones



I don't know how they managed a full match in them.



Fashion

After seeing the shop front photos with the women's clothing the girl's said they wouldn't wear those clothes as they were big shirts and hats. The girls asked where the tracksuits and jeans were.

They were surprised that the tradition was for women to wear skirts, and that trousers weren't as popular for women to wear in the 50's.



Trying on glasses



We enjoyed trying on clothes from Tullie's handling collection.



Food & Shopping

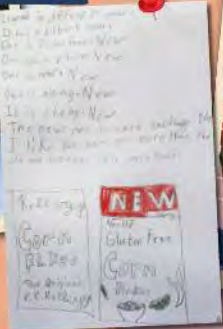


We learnt about rationing, you couldn't just buy anything you wanted. We baked a low sugar 50s cake... it wasn't very nice!



We compared 1950s cereal packets to modern ones

Rationing ended on 5th July 1954



We learnt that fresh pineapple would be unusual, if you had it, it would be from a tin.



School

Junior members visited Carlisle Archives to find out about school life in 1950s; we looked at old photos and school books

We saw a text book of a pupil who had handwriting lessons. One of our members said they still have hand writing lessons in their school.

The group were surprised at the number of pupils in the class room. After counting how many children were in the classroom photos, one of our young people said "in my next school term I will be in a classroom of 35 young people and in the 50's they only had 14 in a class."

One of our young people mentioned that there were no tablets or computers in the photos of the 50's classroom. She said they use tablets within classes.

Handwriting

1. Read the passage carefully.
2. Read it again.
3. Go over the passage again and try and divide it up into sections, in such a way that each section can be summarised in one or two short sentences.
4. Write carefully summarise each section in dots.

Check the number of words in the sentences.

1. Pick up the sentences or words and use as an aid for a sentence flowing and readable form and as you do so turn it into individual pieces.
2. It is often useful to give your pupils a title after first reading.

DO NOT

- use words and phrases from the original more than is necessary.
- divide your pieces into paragraphs

...and a long expansion where a short one will do
eg in many cases - often in the event of - if in spite of the fact that - although

Specimen Poems (1934)

1. Early in August 1492, Columbus sailed before a large crowd who hoped for a success they did not expect.
2. His voyage to the Americas was not as safe as it first proved itself for a long and dangerous voyage.
3. He sailed in a small frail boat and sailed from America early in the year.
4. He sailed his way into the unknown.

The writer tells how early on 1492, Columbus sailed at dawn for a large crowd who hoped for a success they did not expect. He sailed



L I F E L I N E S

Music & Film



B movie poster drawn
by senior members



Now and then:
Comparing comic characters



Palace Cinema, Botchergate



L I F E L I N E S

Coronation



Drawing of the Coronation
by senior members

This drawing was a great talking point when we invited the residents over for tea.

"A neighbour had a television and the whole street gathered around"

L I F E L I N E S

Making the Show



Inviting care home residents to tea at the Youth Zone



Object handling sessions at CYZ and Tullie House



Planning the show



"We liked the games!"

**Exhibition in the
Community Gallery
Tullie House**

Friday 13th September -
Sunday 13th October 2019



L I F E L I N E S

The Fab 50's event



End of project celebration at CYZ



Burying the time capsule

L I F E L I N E S

