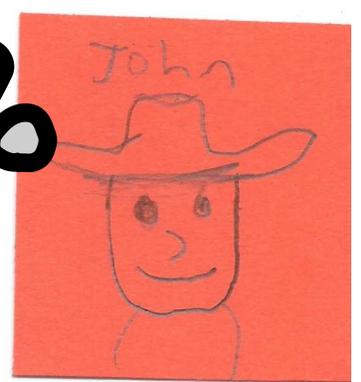
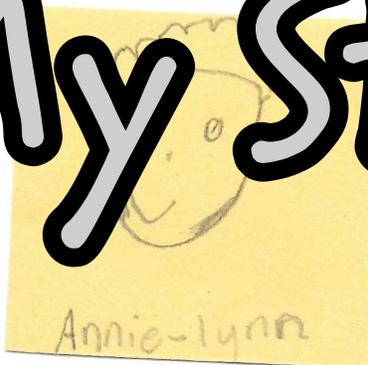
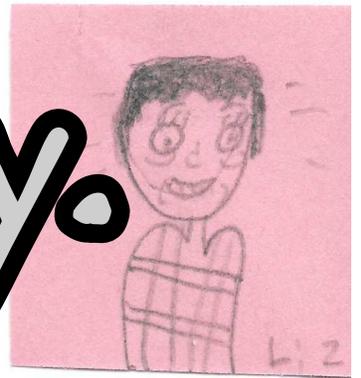
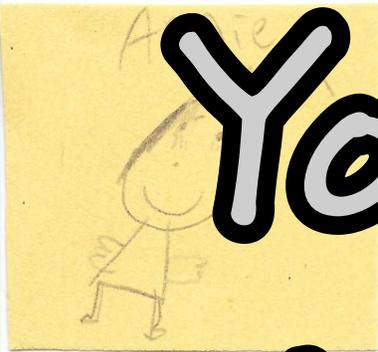


Your story.

My Story.



Memories shared by

Ann Lynn

Des Lowry

Dorris Stewart

John Mooney

Liz Brown

Margaret Morrison

P6 children

Nellie, Reah, Sophie, Tia, Zeva, Damien, Ethan, James, Kirk,
Kyle, Mackenzie, Martynas, Nathan, Nigel, Ronnie, Ross,
Sam, Troy and Tyler

Compiled by K Seeds, West Winds Primary School,
supported by J McKenzie, Blair House.

Funded by Linking Generations Northern Ireland.



FORWARD

Joanne McKenzie, Blair House

From the very start, these links have been a vital part of activities in Blair House. The Residents enjoy inviting the children into their home, helping with the planning of the events. It has enriched the lives of both the Residents and the young people who have taken part. The Residents look forward to seeing the children each time. We have made the ideas simple, interesting and achievable and because of this we have been able to sustain the project to continue to Link the Generations.

The biggest lesson we have all learned is that

AGE IS NOT AN ISSUE AT ALL.



In April 2019, the P6 class of West Winds Primary School embarked on a project to discover more about our recent past through friendship with the residents of Blair House Residential Home. We were building on already established relationships. Over a number of visits the children were able to interview their Blair House friends and learn so much about lifestyle, school, homes and pastimes in the last century. The Blair House residents also were involved in trying to record their own memories and thoughts. We hope this record will preserve these memories for the next generations.





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HOMELIFE

From homes to families, things have changed dramatically during the last century. We asked the questions "what was your home like?" and "tell me about your family". Some of the responses really surprised us.

Annie told us that if she needed to go to the toilet she would have to run outside to her shed in the backyard as in her house they had no toilet inside. If it was a very cold night, Annie and her family would pull out a bucket which they would have used because it was too cold to go outside.

Doris was very lucky as her family had a toilet inside her house and they did not have to use a bucket!

When Annie and Doris needed a bath, their dad would go and get the tin bath which would be placed in front of the fire. The youngest child would get a bath first and then it would go in age order.

I am lucky because I have a nice warm bathroom where toilet and bath are. I have nice warm water which I can use for my bath or shower. I can a shower by myself and not have to share the water with anyone else in the house.

Damien



As a kid Annie's family lived in the Shankill and moved to Sandy Row in Belfast. They had a two bedroom house. There were seven children in Annie's family.

I have always lived in the West Winds estate. I have moved once to a smaller house when my sister moved out.

Ethan

Anne Lynn lived in Belfast Sandy Road and she was born in the Shankill. In her house she lived with her sisters Jean, Margaret and her brothers. She also had a dog there were 9 kids in her house. In my house I live with my Mum & my Dad. I also have a hamster called Henry.

Anne Lynn's house had 3 bedrooms, an outside toilet, a tin bath in front of the fire and no T.V. In her kitchen she no kettles, no microwave and no toaster. They had to toast their toast in front of their fire.



In my house I have 3 bedrooms but my bathroom is inside. When I want to make toast I put my toast in the toaster.

Nobody in her family had a car, so her family had to walk to get places. My mum has a car that she can take me to the shops and to my Aunties house.

Sophie



Dorris had a brother and sister and they lived with their mum and dad. They had a dog called Tweed and she seemed to like him very much. I have a family of 5 in my house. There is my mum, brother, sister, dog Harriet and me. I also have another brother who doesn't live in my house.

Dorris' dad had a car and my mum has a car.

Ronnie

Dorris had to wear the clothes she was given. She liked to wear dresses when she was older and able to choose herself.

My favourite thing to wear is tracksuits.

Sam

When Liz was a child she lived in a place called Killyleagh, near Newcastle. When she got back from school she had to get dressed for church every day. After she had got changed she had to fold her clothes up and go down to church. When she got back from church, she would get changed into her favourite dress and go outside. There was a beautiful castle behind her house which was called Killyleagh Castle.



When she walked up to the castle her friends would be there she would play skipping, hopscotch and Tiddly Winks. When she was done playing her mum would call her in for dinner. It was her favourite dinner roast potato and chopped up cabbage. When all of her dinner was eaten she went upstairs to get ready for bed following with her other 9 siblings, 4 boys and 5 girls. The boys' names were Jimmy, Eddie, Archie, and John. Her sisters' names were Margaret, Marie, Mary, Avril and Jean. Her dad had a car but he didn't let them in it as he didn't have enough fuel.

I live in Newtownards and my school is West Winds Primary. When I get back from school I get changed out of my school uniform then I call for my friend and we go to Londonderry park.

When we finish our dinner we all get washed and sometimes my mum puts my hair and my sister's hair in a plait. My sister and I share a room but we have separate beds. My brothers have their own bedrooms!

Zeva

Liz told me she had 10 siblings and they all lived in one house. I couldn't believe that. Luckily I only have 3 siblings!

Nellie



Liz had 9 siblings altogether that lived all in the same house. They were called Eddie Marie, Avril, Jimmy, Margaret, Archie, Mary, Jean, John and Liz herself, Liz said that her brother Eddie was a Primary School teacher and Liz worked as a secretary. When I grow up I would like to work in Subway as I will get free food.

Liz's maiden name is Calvert. When she got married her surname was Brown. Liz had 4 children. When I grow up I do not want to get married!

I have 5 siblings, 3 brothers and 2 sisters but only 3 live with me, my 3 brothers. My younger brother goes to the same school as me, West Winds Primary School. I also have a nephew called Carter Jay he lives with my sister at their house and he is 4 years old.

James



Margaret told us that she lived in Belfast when she was a little girl. Her house was smaller than mine but she said it was just right. She didn't have a bathroom in her house. The toilet was outside. She said the other family members in her house were her three brothers, her two sisters and her mum and dad.

I have lived in Newtownards in Northern Ireland but I also lived in Scotland for a year in a town called Cupar. I live in a house with an extension and my room is really big. In my house there is me, my dad, my dad's girlfriend, my little bro, my dad's girlfriends son and my dog. We have two bathrooms in our house and three bedrooms.

Margaret said that her favourite food was chips, but she only got them on a Saturday. My favourite foods are chicken nuggets, chips, burgers and sausages.

Mackenzie

Margaret lived in Belfast with her 3 brothers and her 2 sisters. One of her sisters was older and one was younger. Her house had a outside toilet in a wooden house.

I grew up in a town called Soulay. It is the 3rd biggest town in Lithuania. I lived with my mum and dad and we were close to my school.

Now I live in Newtownards.

Martynas



Des lived in a place called Tates Avenue which is in Belfast. He told us that he could see Windsor Park football stadium from his house.

I used to live in America than moved to Northern Ireland when I was 3 years old. I moved house to Newtownards where I joined West Winds. I have been here since Nursery and Rainbows.

Kirk

When Des was a kid he lived in a place called Tates Avenue, which is in Belfast. I live in the West Winds. I used to live at the back of the estate but I live at the front of the West Winds now.

When Des was a kid he said his house was terraced. It had 3 bedrooms that were shared and he had an office in his house.

Well my house has 4 bedrooms. There is one that is all MINE, then there is one that is my mums and dads room. There is one downstairs for my big brother which I AM NOT ALLOWED IN! Then the last one is shared for my 3 little brothers. I have one living room, one kitchen and I have a bathroom upstairs. I have a front and back garden.

Des has a brother who is still alive. He had 2 sisters and 2 brothers and he had his mum and dad.

Well I have 4 ANNOYING brothers, I have my mum and dad and lastly myself. There are five boys in my house. I WISH THERE WERE MORE GIRLS THAN BOYS.

When Des was a kid he said he shared a car with his dad. He said he got his own car when he went to work and worked hard for his own car.

My dad has one car. He said it is ONLY FOR HIMSELF!

Tia



SHOPPING



When Annie and Dorris were kids, they went to a corner shop, down the street, for their shopping. They did not have a choice for food. They could only pick the things they could afford. Dorris said you only bought enough bread to do them the week. She bought her bread from the bakers. Annie's mum used to make her own soda bread at home.

I go to Lidl and Tesco. I can choose my favourite foods and I can get a treat only sometimes. In Tesco I can get cheese, fresh fruit and vegetables, pain au chocolate from the bakery shelf as well as cookies. You can buy lots of different types of bread. You can get baguettes, brown bread, seeded bread as well as muffins.

Ethan

When Doris was a child they only had corner shops and supermarkets did not exist. Doris would have had to go to the corner shop to get the basic things such as bread and milk. If they wanted a treat such as sweets, they would have got to go to a little sweet shop and spend their money. Doris and Annie had to go to second hand shops to get new clothes because they had no money and clothes were expensive.

Today we are very lucky to have so many supermarkets near us. If I need new clothes, food or even a treat, I can get it all in Asda! I do not have to go to a separate shop to get everything I need.

Damien



Dorris' favourite dinner was minced steak with onions and carrots. She loved custard with fruit for dessert.

I love chicken, KFC, pizza and burgers for dinner. I like ice cream with maltesars on top for desert.

Ronnie

Liz said that there was an old lady who lived next door to their family. Liz said that the women gave her 3p and she was able to go and get some food for the family as she was too old to do her own shopping. She was able to get the food that the lady wanted and there was enough money left over for Liz to get a lollipop or a small ice-cream.

When I go to the shop I take £1 and I like to get some crisps to eat. Sometimes I go to Centra.

James

They didn't have big shopping centres like we do now. They would have gone to a corner shop. They would have gone to the baker for bread. Then they would have gone to the fruit and veg shop for more shopping. Annie said bread would have cost a Halfpenny. [That is 1.2 pence in our money]

I always go to big supermarkets because there are loads in the area. We have Asda, Tesco and Lidl all in Newtownards. In our shops we have medicine, food, toys and clothes. We would be able to get everything in one go. Bread can cost round a £1.

Nathan



SCHOOL

These reflections were created by a Primary Six class of 9 and 10 year olds. We attend school six hours per day and have lots of lessons and opportunities to develop our independence. In our class computers and technology are a key part to our learning, but has it always been like this?



Des told us that he went to Ulsterville Primary School which is in Belfast. His secondary was called Grosvenor Academy but he left before he sat his exams. When Des went to school he wore a school uniform which was a shirt, tie, jumper and black trousers. Des told us that they always had to look smart at school. In school Des' favourite subjects were Maths and English. Des told us his least favourite subject was Latin and he found Geography really hard.

I got to West Winds Primary School and I have always been here. When I leave primary school I would like to go to the same secondary school as my cousin. I wear a smart uniform like Des to school. We don't have to wear a tie but I like to wear one sometimes. My favourite subject in school is PE because I get to run around. My least favourite subject is Maths because I hate numbers.

Kirk



Memories of School.
By Blair House

Best part of school, when the home bell rang.
Ducking the flying chalk dusters and the clips
round the ears,
I was good friends with the corner of the
classroom.
Playing hunting, hide and seek,
Skipping and hopscotch
Walking to school and arriving like a drowned
rat.
The smell of wet wool
Warming milk by the fire
Happy enough at school

Sent to Coventry

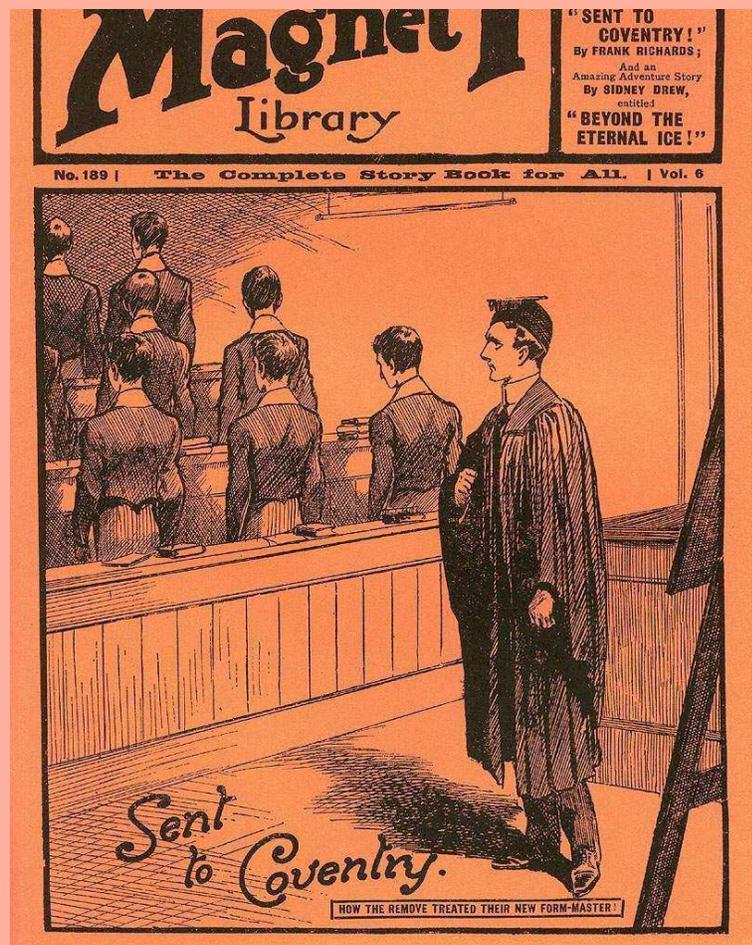
A story by John Mooney (Blair House)

I mostly liked primary school, but was always a bit afraid of one boy in particular, he was an older boy and whilst I was friends with his younger brother, he always seemed to pick on me.

I was always reading and had a liking for old sayings and their meaning. One day I came across the term 'Sent to Coventry', and I felt this might solve my problem with the other boy. I couldn't match him in a fight, but I could use my mind. So any time I saw this boy I would ignore him, this confused the boy, this continued for a while. At this time we were learning algebra and I was quite good at it, the older boy was not.

*"John speak to me", "I will not, I've sent you to Coventry",
"I don't care where you send me John, but speak to me, I promise I won't hit you any more, but speak to me John, because you're the only one who can do those sums".*

I did help him and it was a small victory for me, and his promise lasted. I enjoyed school more after that.





When Anne Lynn was a little girl she went to Blythe Street Primary school and went to Kelvin High school. When she went to school she wasn't allowed to go to the next class until she remembered everything she was taught. She also told us that boys and girls were in different classes. Her uniform that she had to wear was a dress and a cardigan.

I go to West Winds Primary School, but I also went to Abbey Primary. Boys and girls are in the same class, although there are only 5 girls in my class. For my uniform I wear a blue t-shirt, a skirt, a jumper and black shoes.

Sophie

Liz went to Killyleagh Primary School. She wore a pinafore below the knee, a white shirt and a cardigan. She had tights and her hair had to be up. She told me her favourite book to read was Harry Potter.

I go to West Winds Primary School but I haven't always been there. I used to go to Victoria Primary School before I moved. Now I love school. I can wear a skirt or trousers to school. I wear a t-shirt and jumper with the West Winds school logo. My favourite book is Gangsta granny because the granny robs places.

Nellie

Drawing class

In school the teachers were good.
I was good at English and art, I really liked
drawing class.
The teacher brought things, like flowers, bowls
of fruit.
We would do our drawings and the teacher
would put them all on the classroom walls, for
everyone to see.
I once won a prize for my drawing, a box of
coloured pencils.
At the end of the class the teacher would share
out the flowers and the fruit among the class.
I loved art and my teacher inspired me to
become an art teacher myself.



*The drawing class is a combination of memories from
the Residents at Blair House.*

PASTIMES



Dorris liked to play with her skipping rope or make swings from a pole. She liked to play hockey at school and also played a bit of football.

I like to play rugby or hockey. I also like to play Apex legends, a computer game, in my spare time.

Ronnie

Doris and Annie did not have any electronics, consoles or even a television when they were children. When they got home from school they would have to get changed straight away or else they would be punished. When they have got changed, they would have gone outside and played with their friends. They often tried to join in with the boys to play football but the boys did not let them.

I am very lucky because I have 4 consoles which I can play games on all the time. When I come home from school, I usually do my homework with my mum straight away. After my homework is done, I go upstairs and play Fortnite on my PS4 for a while. Sometimes my friends will text me to go and play football outside with each other.

Damien

Annie Lynn liked to play outside. She enjoyed skipping and playing hopscotch. She also liked to read books.

I like playing games outside too and I like to skip. I also like to read and watch things on Youtube.

Reah





Childhood

Scraped knee's, bumps and bruises

Learning to ride a bike

Swing round the lamp post

Daddy driving us to a Sunday

Seaside treat



Dancing by the turf fire

Running and skipping

Sunday school and church choir singing

Friday fish and chips wrapped in Thursday's
news

Penny worth of ice cream in a can

Sharing sweaters and shoes

Top to tail sleeping

Mummy knitting, baking and making do

John used to be a Judo coach when he was younger. As well as being a coach, John used to compete in Judo in Ireland and the UK. He gained his brown belt. John sadly had to stop coaching and competing in Judo because as he got older, he was unable to do it any more, without getting injured.

John is now a poet in Blair house. John writes poems in Blair house.

When I grow up I want to be a pro gamer and I want to be a Youtuber as well as helping my parents.

John likes watching cowboy movies as well as listening to cowboy music.

I like watching action movies like Spiderman, Hulk and Batman.

Tyler



John didn't have a TV at home when he was growing up. It was rare to have one. He liked to go to the movies to see cowboy films.

I have 4 TVs in my house. I like watching movies about the Avengers.

Kyle

John was a judo coach and he is now a poet in Blair House. He really liked to go to the cinema. When he went he watched cowboy movies. John didn't watch any TV because it was very rare to have one back then. His money was called LSD years ago. It stands for pounds, shillings and pence. The milk was 7d and the bread was 10d. They did not have a PS4 or an Xbox so people spent some of their time playing kick the can and stuff.

When I grow up my dream job is to be a mechanic. When I go to the cinema the movies I see are action movies like Marvel and DC because I like all the powers the superhero's have. I like to watch TV half off the day, every day and I watch stuff like The Simpsons, football and impractical jokers. Now in this day and age the milk is £2 for 4 litres and the bread is £1 for a loaf. Now hardly anybody goes outside to play stuff like football or hide'n'seek because they are playing stuff like H1Z1, call of duty Pub g and Apex legends.

Ross

When Des was young he loved to make and play with a guider. It is like a go kart and was made with wood and wheels. You and a friend could take it in turns, 1 pushing and 1 steering. The only problem was stopping!



Des went to Boys Brigade when he was a boy and he also played the piano. He played in a band.

When he started to work he was a sales engineer for Philips, Siemens and Lamborghini.

I like playing chasies or riding outside on a bike or a scooter. I like to play football outside too. I play my Playstation all the time.

When I grow up I want to be a tattoo artist, a taxi driver or work in McDonalds.

Nigel



Margaret told us that going to the movies was a treat. A ticket cost a halfpenny. Some people told us they liked cartoons like Bugs Bunny while others liked cowboy movies.

Liz liked to listen to music by Bing Crosby. He was a famous American singer who was also a movie star.



So, how were the interviews?

The best part of being at Blair House is when I found out a lot of good facts about John. I ended up finding out he was a Judo coach. Ross

When we went to Blair House I loved when we were talking and asking questions. Tyler

I enjoyed writing and being in Blair house. Martynas

I was shy but it was fun. Nigel

Walking there was fun but I was a bit nervous. When we got there, Ronnie and I were talking to Dorris, my nerves went away and it was really fun. Sam

I liked going to Blair House because the people were nice. Ronnie

It was better than I expected. Mackenzie



When I was walking to Blair House I felt nervous and a little bit excited. When I started to talk to Liz she was really nice. Zeva

I liked talking to Annie-Lynn. She told me and Reah loads of stuff from her childhood.

Sophie

When I went to Blair House I was nervous but we had a good talk with Annie and Dorris. Damien

I was excited to visit Blair House. Kirk

It was fun and cool talking to Annie. It was fascinating and interesting to talk about her life. it was so cool. Reah

It was really fun to learn about older people's past growing up in Northern Ireland. Nathan

It was great. I had a lot of fun learning about the past. Kyle

It was fun. The people were pretty nice. I liked the weird chairs. James

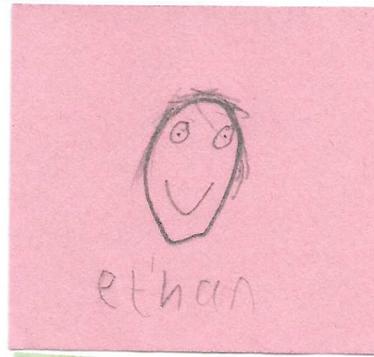




Margret



Sam



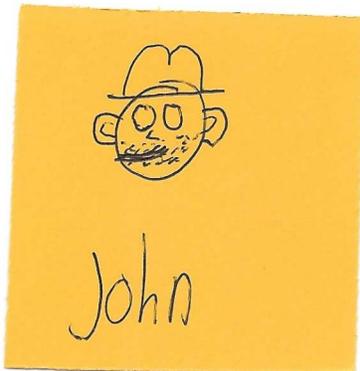
Ethan



Kyle



Damien



John



Mrs Seed's



Troy



Dennis



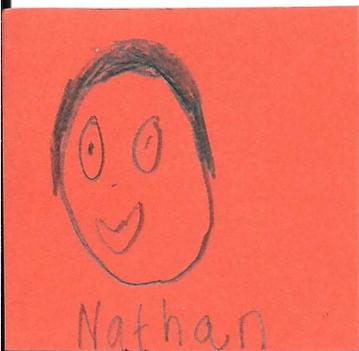
MARTYNA



Sophie



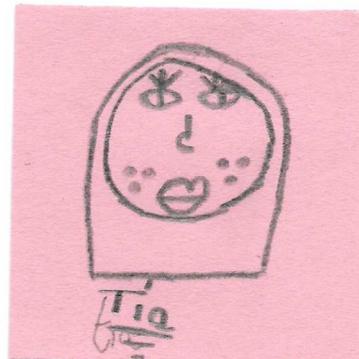
ROSS



Nathan



Annie-Lynn



Flia



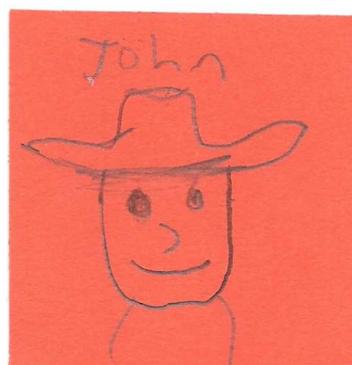
Doris



Reah



Mackenzie



John



Liz

