

MY EARLY YEARS

I was brought up in Winton Park in a 2-bedroom council house. I shared a bedroom with my three sisters, where we topped and tailed in the bed.

My brother had the single room and my mum and dad slept in a bed in the corner of the living room.

My sisters and I used to share our clothes and sometimes my dad was given clothes from people when he delivered fish on his rounds.

At home all the children had to do chores, but we shared them equally between us.

I attended Cockenzie Primary school, but I didn't like going. I used to cry every day until one day the headmaster yelled at me and after that I was okay.

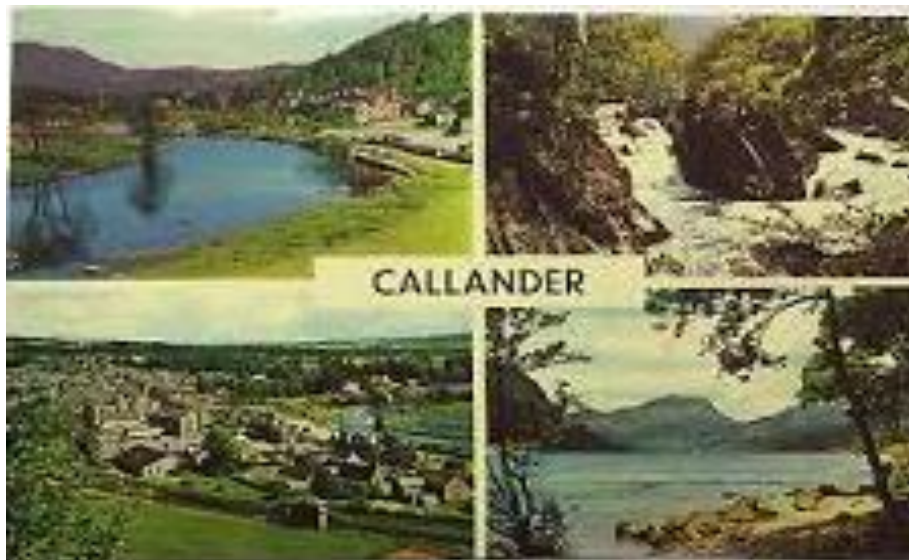
I used to enjoy playtime as we had a big playground where we played peevers (Hopscotch) and skipping. At lunch time we used to eat in a big dining room and then go to the nearby shop for an ice cream.

I attended Sunday school, going to Fellowship meetings and I also went to the Brownie's and the Girl Guides.

My best friends at school were Margaret Stewart and Norma Lawson. Margaret passed away about 15 years ago and Norma emigrated to Canada when she was 16 years old. We met up again in 1991 when she came over from Canada to our school reunion; it was great to see her.

I remember having lovely family holidays when I was young; we would go to Callander and stay in a hotel.

My dad used to like to go fishing and we would go on day trips in his van.



We moved to a bigger house in North Seton Park and I shared a room with my sister Isa.

When she went away to Nursing School, I couldn't sleep on my own, so I used to get into my other sister's bed but had to wait until she was asleep.

I went on to Preston Lodge Secondary school when I was about 12, where I was in the top "A" class which was all girls'.

I was good at my subjects especially Maths & English and I also enjoyed playing hockey.

The school uniform was a maroon blazer, sensible length skirt in black (below the knee), a maroon Preston Lodge tie worn properly like a gent's tie, white ankle socks and black shoes. I had the same uniform for all 3 years I attended Preston Lodge. We were not allowed to wear trousers to school then and neither were we allowed to wear make-up or to dye our hair – we would have been sent home from school. Pupils were put in "houses" at school named Grange, Seaton & Gosford.

Old Preston Lodge burned down around 1967.

After the qualifying exams I left school. I was 15 years old.