

Young Wives Group 12.02.26

Interviewer: So this is Lauren Beatty interviewing members of the Young Wives group on Thursday the 12th of February 2026. Before we get started could I ask you both just to introduce yourselves, your name, where you're from and when you became involved with the Y?

Joyce McLean: Perhaps I'm speaking now because I can't remember when we joined...

Betty Philip: I'm Betty Philip from Blairgowrie, joined the YW when I was 13 for the Red to Learn the Red Cross and then helped with Miss Marshall, she was the leader in the YW in Blairgowrie and then she got me to train as a leader for the YWCA and I have been in the YW since.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Joyce McLean: Joyce McLean, originally from Galashiels, there was a very good Y rugby team. I've been a member of the Morningside group since...

Betty Philip: Probably the children went to school, Joyce.

Joyce McLean: Aye, probably, I really can't remember how long it is, it's a long time.

Interviewer: Do you know the decade roughly would it have been? It would be the 60s or the, yes, it must have been the 60s or 70s.

Interviewer: Great.

Mary Ross: Mary Ross, Morningside group, Young Wives...We call it the YWCA.

Betty Philip: Well, we were the Women's Interest group.

Mary Ross: Yes and I've been in the Y since, I think it must be 60s as well, when, well...Children were that size, you know what I mean? So I thoroughly enjoyed it, you know, it was good, getting all together and we did a lot of projects and things like that, you know, so worked very hard for about 30 years, Betty, Betty was guiding us all the time (laughing).

Betty Philip: Can I say that we met in my house at the beginning and then it got too big and then we went up to Morningside school, sat in desks and then when the Open Door opened in Morningside we went there and had been ever since, you know, until Covid. Well we left before Covid because we were all over 80 and we felt we were trying to make money and things were the way we did. It wasn't possible. So, we still met once a month at the Braid Hills Hotel until Covid. That's when we stopped.

Mary Ross: Yes, I know, it's a long time, you know. We did everything under the sun between dancing, we even sold tickets, didn't we, for concerts and everything, you know. Joyce got a teacher to teach us the Charleston.

Betty Philip: Well, I've got a photograph of that, that was the 30s. (Interviewee is referring to a 30s themed event).

Joyce McLean: I think the greatest achievement was raising money for a guide dog. We raised a thousand pounds and in that time that was quite a lot of money.

Mary Ross: We called it Falcon because there's Falcon, you know, the area just up from us, you know.

Joyce McLean: There was a Falcon house.

Mary Ross: Yes, it was good.

Betty Philip: And we nearly raised, the last project was Braidburn School.

Mary Ross: Oh yes, that's right.

Betty Philip: They wanted disco lights to dance in their wheelchairs, remember? Oh, who was with me when I went up? I don't know, somebody was with me.

Mary Ross: Yes, we did a lot for that as well, didn't we?

Betty Philip: And we raised over £800. We didn't manage the thousand but we raised £800 from them. That was our last big achievement.

Mary Ross: What else did we do?

Betty Philip: Well, here it is written down.

Joyce McLean: We planted, sorry, we planted flowers opposite the Open Door in Morningside.

Betty Philip: It was crocuses.

Mary Ross: Oh yes, uh-huh.

Joyce McLean: And they're coming out, I don't know if you've noticed. **Mary Ross:** Just coming, yes.

Betty Philip: But remember when we planted the tree at Oaklands?

Joyce McLean: Yes.

Betty Philip: I've got a photograph of it. That was another event. Do you remember that?

Joyce McLean: Yes.

Betty Philip: Was it our 25th anniversary or something? Because remember we were going to get a seat, a chair, outside but it was Jesse that said they could be vandalised. Was it Jesse that said that?

Mary Ross: Oh, probably.

Betty Philip: And we stopped and we planted a tree over at Auckland. Exactly, I've got a photograph of it.

Joyce Mclean: Yes, so have I. So, you know, in our time we've done quite a lot of special things.

Mary Ross: And we were married with children as well, you know. We met every week, Betty, didn't we? Every month. Was it a Monday? I think it was a Monday.

Betty Philip: I've got things written here that will maybe jog your memory...

Marr Ross: Decided to do a project and then got on with it.

Interviewer: How did it fit in? I'm interested before you go into some of the projects, just with you mentioning obviously you were married with children and you had busy lives. How did this sort of fit in with that?

Betty Philip: They had a bully... A bully (laughing). They had an organiser.

Interviewer: But how did it sort of fit in with your, or complement, or how did it add to your kind of, your lives?

Betty Philip: It was a family thing.

Mary Ross: Yes.

Betty Philip: We had an Easter picnic in Braid Hills Hotel, er, Braid Hills Park. Braid Park. And there was about 60 of us there...fathers...

Mary Ross: Yes, and all the children were running about. When we had jumble sales, the men came and put, the husbands came and put the tables out and George Willis was always on the door because he was six foot.

Joyce McLean: (Laughing)

Betty Philip: Do you remember that?

Joyce McLean: Yes.

Betty Philip: And George was always at the coffee mornings. And then we had dinner dances with the husbands. Pony trekking, which I did once and never again (laughing). Out at the bush. The husbands, our husbands were quite involved in what we were doing. They were always there to help. I remember them making billboards for the children to go up and down Morningside to say there was a coffee morning at Braid Church.

Mary Ross: I know.

Betty Philip: Gary was horrified making them walk up and down (laughing).

Mary Ross: I think my husband piped a Scottish thing or... what we had.

Betty Philip: I know, this is what I mean, yes. It's, our husbands were very, well...

Mary Ross: We all really enjoyed it, didn't we? I mean, we really enjoyed it.

Joyce McLean: Oh yes, everybody enjoyed.

Mary Ross: We had a big cake one time that you, what was it? It was the, what was that for?

Betty Philip: Betty cut it, was that our 40th anniversary or 20th? The 40th. I've got a photograph of Betty cutting the cake.

Mary Ross: Oh right, yeah, that's right.

Betty Philip: Was it the 40th year?

Mary Ross: Sorry?

Betty Philip: Was that our 40th year meeting?

Mary Ross: It was something, yes, and we had a big cake and that, you know.

Betty Philip: I could, it was just amazing how we just went on and on and on, which was lovely. **Mary Ross:** I know, it was super.

Betty Philip: Because I think I started it because there was no wives group in Morningside.

Mary Ross: That's right.

Betty Philip: And I had been working with wives groups in the YW. And I thought, is there not a wi...? And I went to the church one but I wasn't very fond of it.

Mary Ross: What, the ladies group in the church? **Betty Philip:** Uhuh, but that was after we had started the one at the open door.

Mary Ross: I actually left the ladies group to come to the Y because it was a Monday.

Betty Philip: Well, I left the ladies group because they had their gloves on all the chairs. We never did that.

Mary Ross: No.

Betty Philip: I thought that was weird.

Joyce McLean: People taking their seats.

Betty Philip: What's that Joyce?

Joyce McLean: I'm explaining what you mean by...

Betty Philip: Oh yes, sorry.

Interviewer: To guard chairs?

Betty Philip: Yeah, they put their gloves on the chair so they could sit with their friends.

Mary Ross: Uh-huh.

Betty Philip: I thought that was weird in a church (laughing).

Joyce McLean: Anyway...

Mary Ross: if you've written it down, everything we've done, Betty...

Betty Philip: Well, I've got it headed, just headed there. I've got here, Open Door, Easter picnics, outings when the children were little, bus trips to the seaside.

Joyce McLean: Seaside, yes.

Betty Philip: Oh, the guide dog, Braidburn school, dinner dances, coffee mornings, jumble sales, raffles, films, to make money we had people bring... beetle drives, concerts and speakers, planted tree and planted bulbs, horse riding, skittles. Do you remember going for the skittles up at Hill End here? Helped in the charity shop.

Joyce McLean: Oh yeah, the charity shop in Edinburgh.

Betty Philip: Stockbridge. Remember in May, we used to have evening walks. Do you remember that?

Mary Ross: I think I remember that, Betty, yeah.

Interviewer: Can you tell me a bit about the funds? Obviously, you did a lot to raise money. What did you raise money for at the time? What sort of projects were you raising?

Betty Philip: It was just for our charities.

Interviewer: Can you remember some of the charities that you were?

Betty Philip: Oh well, if we had a speaker from the blind, the blind would get it. If we had a speaker from social work, they would get it because didn't the BB, Hamish, where did he come from?

Mary Ross: Hamish, he spoke about, it wasn't about the Boys Brigade.

Betty Philip: No, he worked in social work.

Mary Ross: He worked in the tax office. **Betty Philip:** No, he worked social work. He came and talked to us about it but we just got speakers... **Mary Ross:** I forgot to bring my bundle. I just rushed out and forgot it. **Betty Philip:** Sorry, I've got arthritic hands.

Interviewer: It's okay, take your time.

Betty Philip: There you are. (Unclear audio) Keep fit, a visit to the Usher Hall, a theme and a beetle drive, Christmas lunch, a visit to St. Giles Cathedral, slides on Edinburgh - That was a man that came in and did it. Back to Pakistan -that was Marie Ogilvie, you know in the church. A visit to Eric Liddell's afternoon tea, Southern light opera, Mary's meals and outings. There it is, you can have that with you if you like.

Mary Ross: Yes, we did a lot more.

Betty Philip: That was just one year, that was just one year.

Interviewer: 2012- 2013 you've got here.

Betty Philip: It was just different speakers every year and we all took a turn. Everybody mucked in.

Interviewer: So, Betty, you basically came up with the idea because you didn't recognise that there wasn't one in Morningside. What made you both kind of join then? Can you remember what?

Mary Ross: It was kind of word of mouth, Betty. It was my friend and I, like Tiny, says, what have you heard about this YW? How about going?

Betty Philip: I think it was when we were going up and down to the school.

Mary Ross: That's how we got started, you know. Well, the children were involved as well in lots of things, you know.

Betty Philip: The children loved it.

Mary Ross: Oh, they had Easter, everything Easter egg rolling and anything you could find to do (laughing).

Betty Philip: Susan Traynor liked the Easter picnic best. Yeah, this is what I'm looking for...

Mary Ross: We'd actually did plays, you know, we rehearsed. Betty was maybe the fat lady, I was the thin lady and Joyce was something else and we sold tickets and the place was always busy with people coming to see us (laughing) had a great audience and we got dressed up and did all sorts of plays and it was such... lovely. I don't know where Betty dug out all these plays, Betty, you know, the one that you were supposed to be on a diet.

Betty Philip: Well, it was the Keep Fit.

Mary Ross: Oh, was that the Keep Fit? Oh, right. Sold tickets for that. Yeah, we kept selling tickets for that.

Joyce McLean: The beetle drives were very popular.

Interviewer: Yeah, Betty explained to me what a Beetle Drive was in our interview because I'd never heard of it.

Betty Philip: I don't know the date, I think Joyce typed this out. I'll give you this, it's the 25th anniversary, 1991. The centenary year was 2000, the 40th anniversary. We presented a cheque. A cake was cut by Betty Anderson and Betty Phillip. That's right. Special meal at Mackenzie's Restaurant.

Joyce McLean: Ah yes.

Betty Philip: A speech by Jesse Thompson and presented a check to Betty, our leaders, for 40 years.

Mary Ross: You must have got presented or something, Betty.

Betty Philip: Fundraising was sick kids and I did extension clubs and I was short of money and you actually give me £330 to keep them going because I was working with three or four.

Mary Ross: That was good of us (laughing).

Betty Philip: The Lebanon Fund donated for five years. We donated for that as well.

Mary Ross: Did we not, you know, give money to the wee girls to get educated or something?

Betty Philip: Well, this is what it is and then the Bosnia Fund, we donated donations there for five years and Opendoor got extra donations and Open Door Christmas parcels. We bought them for the elderly.

Mary Ross: That's right.

Betty Philip: Guide dogs, we raised £1000... I don't know if you girls... It's just what we did. Yeah, that's what we did. If that's any help to you.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Mary Ross: We were always busy, weren't we?

Interviewer: So you met up, was it once a week? Yeah. Was it a Monday, did you say? Monday afternoon.

Mary Ross: Afternoon, Betty, yes.

Betty Philip: Two o'clock.

Mary Ross: Two o'clock.

Joyce McLean: Then did it change? Did we meet in the evening?

Betty Philip: No, we used to meet in the evening when we were young and moved when we got older to the afternoon.

Joyce McLean: Was that what it was?

Betty Philip: It was the other way, Joyce.

Joyce McLean: I see. Right, so it was the evening.

Betty Philip: And it says here you helped on the Henderson Row shop. That was the charity shop.

Interviewer: What was that like, the charity shop?

Mary Ross: It was okay.

Betty Philip: I ran it. I was coordinator for a while down on Henderson Row and Stockbridge. Other Y people would help as well.

Interviewer: So it was all volunteers that ran it?

Betty Philip: Oh gosh, yes. And you went down, I've got you here down, the Christmas toy shop. That was in Randolph Crescent, Randolph Place. Remember they had a toy sale every Christmas. I've got you down here and I've got something made, sadly, no longer. Well, it just depends who helped me.

Mary Ross: That's right.

Betty Philip: Yeah. Elmer West and Ann Smith was mentioned here as well. You must have typed this, Joyce.

Mary Ross: Ann Smith, my goodness.

Betty Philip: This was 1966 to 2006. It's a way back, but I had a copy of that.

Interviewer: So was that 1966 to 2006?

Betty Philip: Yeah, 1966 to 2006.

Mary Ross: When did we finish like Betty?

Betty Philip: Well, we were still meeting for afternoon tea and the braids up until Covid.

Mary Ross: Oh that's right.

Betty Philip: But I'm trying to think when we finished. Oh, here we are. I've got some written here. Continued raising money until 2016. Meeting for afternoon tea, that was, and still doing it until Covid. 50 years plus I've got here.

Interviewer: That's amazing.

Mary Ross: I thought that was, but 50 years we were together. Yeah. That's great. Yeah, it's a long time.

Interviewer: So how many of you were in the group?

Betty Philip: Well, about 20, but laterally we got less because people died. Probably we had a good 12, at least anyway, at the end. Maybe more, maybe more.

Mary Ross: Some people move away and things like that, you know.

Betty Philip: I think it was more people dying.

Mary Ross: You think so?

Betty Philip: You know, there was Elmer West...

Interviewer: So what are some of your really fond memories of your involvement with the Y?

Joyce Mclean: I just think the friendship.

Mary Ross: That's what I think, the friendship wasn't it, because we all really got on well, you know. We were always guided by Betty, you know, who organised us all, you know. We needed somebody like that, you know, to say what, because she had the experience of it, you know but we were in it for a long, long time and when we did a play and sold tickets, you know, we had a great audience, you know, remember Braid Church, it was packed and we dressed up, whatever we were doing, you know, fat lady, thin lady, you name it (laughing). Had great fun. One of my neighbours says it was the best concert, the one we had in Morningside School. My neighbour, her husband says to me, he says, that was the best laugh I've had, he says.

Betty Philip: That's when I had.

Mary Ross: For a long time.

Betty Philip: That's when I had, the kids were little because you had balloons stuck up here.

Mary Ross: Oh, I know.

Betty Philip: And you were singing (laughing).

Mary Ross: I had Balloons stuck up here that I had to burst for some unknown reason, and I was singing these are my mountains.

Betty Philip: And then she burst them with a pin (laughing).

Mary Ross: I know, when I think about it Betty.

Betty Philip: Gary and Kevin Milton.

Mary Ross: I know, I thought, the more and more I think about it, I wonder why I did it.

Betty Philip: But the kids loved it.

Mary Ross: I know, my neighbour says it was the best pantomime he'd ever been to.

Betty Philip: And it was just all...

Mary Ross: It was hilarious (laughing).

Betty Philip: Found something else...

Joyce McLean: I think if people were maybe not in the best of health or had difficulties, the Y people would support them.

Interviewer: Yeah, it was a nice community, so yeah, supportive?

Betty Philip: It was the year 2000 we planted the tree in the oak...

Mary Ross: Oh that's right, I've got a photograph of myself.

Joyce McLean: I don't think it's there anymore. I went to have a look, but I couldn't.

Mary Ross: Yes, I was planting that tree for some reason or other.

Joyce McLean: They changed the area. They made a school along there, and I think that's when the tree disappeared.

Betty Philip: Oh, of course, the morning outside annex had to go along there, didn't it? At the end, Joyce, you've written, no mean achievement from a small group. That was £1,000 for the dog.

Mary Ross: Yeah, I know, it was. It's going back some, really, when you think money was quite hard to get, you know.

Interviewer: So who was the guide dog for at the time that you raised the money for? Was it someone in your...?

Betty Philip: We had a blind lady with a guide dog, was a member of the group and guide dogs are trained in Forfar. I don't know if that's still going, but that's where the money went, Forfar, to get a guide dog, and the guide dog spends the first year out with somebody and then it's taken back into the centre at Forfar and trained as a guide dog. Anne was a member until she died. I think I've got that.

Mary Ross: She was wonderful, because when you took money at the top, we were down underneath in the Open Door, because it was a shop, really, and you had an under bit and

we always went underneath and she used to sit at the top, didn't she, and take the money, because she could feel the money, you know, and she could feel it all, and she loved it, because she was part of it.

Betty Philip: She was being useful.

Mary Ross: Being useful, yes.

Betty Philip: And then we had another member, Jessie Thompson. No, not Jessie. She stayed up here, she had a lovely voice. Campbell, Ella Campbell.

Mary Ross: Oh yes, uh-huh.

Betty Philip: She played the piano, and she was a beautiful singer.

Mary Ross: That's right, yeah.

Betty Philip: And she never lost her Banff accent. She came from Banff.

Mary Ross: Did she?

Betty Philip: And when she phoned me up, she said, that you Betty? She never lost her Banff accent.

Mary Ross: Never lost it, no, no.

Betty Philip: But she had a beautiful, do you remember? She had a beautiful...

Joyce McLean: I vaguely remember.

Betty Philip: She sang in the church choir. That's right, yeah. Gosh, well, we're lucky with the people... I cannae sing.

Joyce McLean: Anne's dog, well, came to the meetings too. Oh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

Betty Philip: Well, it depended which one she had. Because she had four. Babs was the last one. Was it? Opal wasn't as good as the rest of them. She had Hope at the beginning, Babs. No, Hope. Opal, was it Opal?

Joyce McLean: I think Opal rings a bell.

Betty Philip: She was, she had to go back because she kept eating off the street. Opal, was it Opal? And then there was another one, was there not? And then there was, what did I call the last one just now? Opal, no, Babs.

Joyce McLean: Anyway, it doesn't matter.

Betty Philip: No, the last one, her first dog was very good and her last dog was very good. But they only do so many years and they were all okay sitting in... Even at a beetle drive and the blooming bells going off and shouting beetle (laughing). But you know, people loved those beetle drives.

Mary Ross: Oh yes, they were great.

Betty Philip: And John Anderson came and did the dishes when we were... You see, that was a husband coming in and washing and drying the dishes while we were doing it. And as the people were going out, they were saying, when are you having another one next year? And you know who was guilty of saying that? She has died now too, Aileen Haggart.

Mary Ross: Oh, did she?

Betty Philip: They all enjoyed the beetle drives.

Mary Ross: I know, I know. Funny.

Betty Philip: And it's such a simple game to play.

Mary Ross: Sorry?

Betty Philip: It's a simple game to play.

Mary Ross: Oh yes, uh-huh. Eh, we were playing a beetle drive the other, I was playing a beetle drive about two weeks ago, yeah, up at the Morningside Club and a lot of, some of the church were there as well, you know, so raising money for something, I don't know, I can't remember what it was.

Betty Philip: The church has got a roof repair, so have we.

Mary Ross: I know.

Betty Philip: There'll be a lot of roof repairs because of the wind and the rain. Now do you want to take this with you?

Interviewer: If you don't need it, that would be great. That means I can...

Betty Philip: I'm on the way out, so.

Interviewer: Yeah, it means I can go through it. I can always...

Mary Ross: pick out the bits that you want, you know.

Interviewer: Yeah, thank you. If you're happy, that would be, that would be great. I got it muddled up, I think.

Mary Ross: I had a bundle of what we did, you know, the plays we did and everything and all that and I rushed out the door because I saw Aileen...

Betty Philip: Because the plays, I give all my drama stuff, when Gary was here clearing off the top shelves, I give it to Rona McLaren.

Mary Ross: Oh, of course, uh-huh.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Mary Ross: She does quite a lot at the church, she works hard. She hasn't got any family, has she? So it's her sort of what she does, you know. She likes doing all that, you know.

Betty Philip: Here's a list of the girls that were in it. You need to count them. Can you count them?

Mary Ross: It's about 18 or something there, you know.

Betty Philip: And then there's photographs I've got, but I'll go and put the kettle on for it. Do you want to see the photographs and then I'll do the kettle?

Mary Ross: I think there was more than that, I think that was maybe last year.

Betty Philip: Well, I mean, as we went on, some of us died.

Mary Ross: Some of us are here to tell the tale (laughing).

Interviewer: There's about 17 on the list.

Mary Ross: 17, I thought there was about 18...

Betty Philip: There's about 20 we had.

Mary Ross: One time...

Betty Philip: When we were younger, there was more.

Mary Ross: More, oh yes.

Interviewer: Can you tell me, you mentioned the tree that you planted, what was that for?

Betty Philip: Oh, I did tell you. I think, no, it was the 25th anniversary.

Mary Ross: It was for Oakland's home, care home.

Betty Philip: Ah, is it 200, the year 200?

Joyce McLean: 2000, I think that's what it was.

Mary Ross: My mother was in that home and she was there and we did this tree, we planted the tree for them, didn't we?

Betty Philip: Well, yeah, but was it, I'm sure it's... I'm sure it was 2000. 2000, I think I'm sure it's in there.

Interviewer: Yeah. No, I just wondered, yeah, so it was a celebration for that.

Mary Ross: It was very nice, they all enjoyed it and we got tea and that from everybody, didn't we, when we went there, you know?

Betty Philip: When I joined the Y, there's the badge I had.

Mary Ross: Oh, right, Betty.

Betty Philip: I haven't got the other badge.

Mary Ross: I've still got my girl guide stuff.

Joyce McLean: So have I.

Betty Philip: My other one is in, I haven't had time to look at that. I'll show you the photographs and then I'll put the kettle on.

Mary Ross: Oh, yes. Oh right, thank you.

Betty Philip: They're all mixed up, so you're going to just have them as they are.

Mary Ross: I know, I've got photographs myself too.

Betty Philip: Here's the YWCA.

Interviewer: YW in Cyprus.

Betty Philip: Somebody sent, brought that from Cyprus.

Interviewer: That's actually something I was going to ask you. Did you feel very much part of a global movement?

Betty Philip: Yes, because we were sending money to Lebanon for a girl to go to school. Edinburgh Council would get news worldwide from YW Scotland, which was round the corner. One was eventually in Randolph Place, was Edinburgh. Round the corner in Randolph Crescent was the office for the Edinburgh, er, Scottish YWCA. They would send us stuff to Edinburgh.

Interviewer: Yes, so you got updates from the worldwide YW via the Edinburgh office. Betty Philip: And then they would send it out.

Interviewer: Oh, brilliant.

Betty Philip: Because with my group, I was talking to Barbara, and we had a group in Morningside School, and it came out, it was for environmental, clearing up the place. And Barbara and I's group in Morningside School came with wellies and rubber gloves, and we cleared the burn from Braidburn in Morningside to Oxfords, and we took out 13 bags of rubbish. And we won. Well, we just noted that we had done the most. I had to phone up the corporation to come and pick it up. But the kids loved it.

Mary Ross: You do all these things when you're young, of course.

Betty Philip: Could you pass them on?

Mary Ross: Anyway, that's us, that's one of us. Was that when you were doing the play? None of us are there. That's Isabel.

Betty Philip: Are you wanting a better light, Joyce, are you seeing? Joyce McLean: No I can see okay.

Betty Philip: Remember the night we had the Pilgrimage ladies up, and we were doing the night of the 30s?

Mary Ross: Oh, yes. We went to the pill rig group down Leith, and we did Easter eggs with them, did the Easter time, and we did it as well, didn't we? It was really good.

Betty Philip: Interclub, that was what it was and I remember bringing a busload of kids from the three groups I took and we went into the main building in Randolph Place with all the 100 children. Well, as many as there was.

Mary Ross: That must have been a concert or something. I've got one of us, three of us are there.

Betty Philip: That's when it was the...

Interviewer: What was that thing in the back? I can't read that. Oh, Roaring Twenties, it says.

Joyce McLean: Oh, right. We used to obviously get dressed up.

Betty Philip: I'm sorry, they're all mixed up. That is the... This is Easter Sunday afternoon in the Braid Club.

Mary Ross: Oh, yes. That'll be doing... Us running or something or other, yes.

Betty Philip: George Willis brought his gun. Here's my photograph, my back garden. How about that?

Mary Ross: Oh, very good Betty.

Joyce McLean: Oh, that was the Easter picnic.

Betty Philip: Do you want one as far back as Blairgowrie?

Interviewer: Oh, yeah.

Betty Philip: This is a bus trip I organised from Blairgowrie, and I'm second from the left. That's when I was doing clubs in Blairgowrie.

Mary Ross: Second from the left, Betty?

Betty Philip: Yeah, the woman, there's two women.

Mary Ross: Very good. going back, some, eh? (Laughing).

Betty Philip: I'm sorry, this is my teenagers from Birdiehouse.

Mary Ross: Oh, right. Oh, right.

Betty Philip: We're coming, we're coming.

Mary Ross: Just shows you, eh?

Betty Philip: After I did my Red Cross, I had to do home nursing. **Mary Ross:** Oh, right.

Interviewer: That says 1962 on the back.

Betty Philip: Yeah, because I came to Edinburgh, and they put me out to Birdiehouse to do teenagers. When I came from Blairgowrie to here.

Mary Ross: Are you in this, Betty?

Betty Philip: Pardon?

Mary Ross: Are you in this one?

Betty Philip: Yes. Oh, I don't know about that one. I'm in that one.

Mary Ross: Which one are you?

Betty Philip: Can you let me see it, Mary? I couldn't. Oh, I've got, that's me with my head.

Mary Ross: Oh, right, right.

Betty Philip: That's me.

Mary Ross: Oh, right, I thought that was you, yeah.

Betty Philip: I think I'm about 16.

Betty Philip: I think it was, you know when National Health came in?

Mary Ross: Sorry?

Betty Philip: I think that was when the National Health Service came in.

Mary Ross: Oh, right, right, uh-huh. **Betty Philip:** Right, girls, here we are now.

Mary Ross: I think that's Betty.

Betty Philip: Now, there's your night with the 60s.

Mary Ross: Oh, yes, uh-huh, the 60s.

Betty Philip: I'm sorry, they're all muddled up.

Mary Ross: Aw, there's my friend, Tiny. When I think back... Great stuff. She's away now as well. It's just awful.

Betty Philip: Joyce, if you want to put the bigger light on, right?

Mary Ross: I'm all right, it's very good.

Betty Philip: It's just above you there.

Mary Ross: This must be doing a 60s...

Joyce McLean: No, I'll get it, it's okay.

Mary Ross: Thanks, Betty. I should have brought my photographs. I forgot all about it. There's that... Oh, there's me.

Betty Philip: Yeah, it twists round, Joyce.

Mary Ross: That's me standing with the chair, and they've all got hockey sticks. That's I I remember...

Betty Philip: Oh, that was the Keep Fit. Was that not the girl from the Keep Fit?

Mary Ross: Oh, probably. She was sort of, yeah, yeah. There's Rose. I've never seen Rose, I don't know if she is still with us. I know. Don't even know if she's still there.

Betty Philip: Now, here's Jessie. I'll never get this out for Jessie. The rag bag, remember?

Mary Ross: Oh, my goodness. What was she doing there?

Betty Philip: It's something out of the rag bag, the bloomers.

Mary Ross: Right, okay.

Betty Philip: She's got these lovely... When I worked in the charity shop, we got some beautiful things for people dressing up with a rag bag.

Mary Ross: That's right.

Interviewer: 1983, that one's dated.

Mary Ross: 1982? Oh, gosh.

Joyce McLean: (Unclear Audio).

Mary Ross: Who's that, Betty, again?

Betty Philip: That's you.

Joyce McLean: Oh, that's me in the back.

Mary Ross: Is that you?

Betty Philip: You.

Mary Ross: Is it?

Betty Philip: You're...

Mary Ross: Oh, that's right. I'm saying some poem or other amen't I?

Betty Philip: You're doing the boy from Morningside.

Mary Ross: I didn't recognise myself then. That's amazing. That's me saying a... I think it was a boys' poem.

Betty Philip: It was. It was I'm the boy from Morningside. I mean, Jean Fleming wrote it.

Mary Ross: Oh, I...

Betty Philip: Jean Fleming wrote it.

Mary Ross: Yes, she did. I come from Mornings... No, I don't come from Morningside. Like, somewhere else... Senhouse or something.

Betty Philip: Oh, was it? Oh, it can only say, mm-hmm. The Commonwealth, mm-hmm. The old Scotch word, mm-hmm. You ken, it means aye.

Mary Ross: That's inside the Open Door beneath the stairs.

Betty Philip: (Unclear audio) Joyce?

Mary Ross: It's good because there was a big long bit as well. Down the stairs was quite big, wasn't it?

Betty Philip: Oh, God, yes.

Mary Ross: Right through, wasn't it?

Betty Philip: I think that's the Braid Hotel for Christmas. Right.

Mary Ross: Oh, yes, uh-huh, uh-huh, that's right.

Betty Philip: Now, does any of you remember the conferences with the young wives groups and we went to different places?

Joyce McLean: Yes, I remember.

Betty Philip: Here we are then, Betty Phillip with Lady Giles. Is it Lady Giles?

Mary Ross: Got no photographs of when we were young (laughing).

Betty Philip: Lady... It's no Giles. You'll see, I need my magnifying glass.

Mary Ross: What is it, Betty?

Betty Philip: A day out, you know, the day...

Mary Ross: Young Wives Group Conference at Glenrothes, yes.

Betty Philip: That's right. **Mary Ross:** I remember that.

Betty Philip: Lady, what's it, Gilmour. Isn't it Gilmour? I was on the...

Mary Ross: Nan Kelly, Mrs. Nan Kelly. retiring chairman, no?

Betty Philip: Betty Phillip...

Mary Ross: Lady Gilmour. She spoke, yes.

Betty Philip: On the Y, we had lots of ladies.

Mary Ross: Yes, that's right.

Betty Philip: Now, this is when the kids were little down at Crammond.

Mary Ross: We got lost at Glenrothes.

We had to pay a boy on a bike to guide us back to where we were (laughing).

Betty Philip: David Tate and Gary's there. I'm not sure who the other people are.

Mary Ross: Oh, right.

Betty Philip: That's down at the beach at Crammond.

Mary Ross: Oh, yes. Oh, I remember that beach at Crammond. It was a cold, cold time, wasn't it?

Betty Philip: Well, it was May before we finished.

Mary Ross: Yes, a cold one.

Betty Philip: Now, we're back at the Keep Fit.

Mary Ross: Oh, we're back at the Keep Fit again. Good, good, good. It's Isabelle as well, isn't it?

Joyce McLean: Right, thanks (passing photographs).

Mary Ross: We had this lady.

Betty Philip: Sorry, you'll be getting bored with them.

Interviewer: No, no not at all.

Mary Ross: We had a lady who came to Keep Fit. You know Moira, wasn't it?

Betty Philip: No, it was the girl who I was taught by.

Mary Ross: Did Moira not come?

Betty Philip: She did as well. Now, there's Jessie and Elma.

Mary Ross: She did, Moira did belly dancing.

Betty Philip: Oh, my goodness.

Mary Ross: Oh, aye, she was terrific. I saw her doing it. She was really good at it, wasn't she? I think she teaches now.

Betty Philip: Yes, probably, you're right.

Mary Ross: Oh, that would be one of the concerts.

Betty Philip: Are you cold, Joyce?

Joyce McLean: No, I'm standing up just rather than sitting all the time.

Betty Philip: Well, get a bigger cushion if your back's sore.

Joyce McLean: No, no, it's not sore. I just like to move around.

Betty Philip: Mind I was just telling you about cleaning the rubbish out of the water.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Betty Philip: Well, there's the two photographs of the bags... Do you have to be away? I've got to put tea on.

Interviewer: No, no, I'm in no rush.

Joyce McLean: Very good.

Mary Ross: There we go. Very good.

Betty Philip: There's Betty and I cutting the cake. I don't know how we got that in it...

Mary Ross: I should have brought my photographs. A lot of different ones. Oh, that's that cake.

Joyce McLean: I've got quite a few too.

Mary Ross: The 40th, wasn't it? But for some reason or other, Betty Anderson was cutting it.

Betty Philip: Aye, well, there's maybe another one, there. Perhaps because she was the...

Mary Ross: Why was Betty cutting it?

Betty Philip: Because she was one of the first members.

Joyce McLean: The first members, I think that would be.

Mary Ross: That's right. That's quite a big group, when you think about it. Really, there was 20-odds and more sometimes.

Betty Philip: Yes, I think maybe because we were a wee'er group .

Mary Ross: Yeah. Oh, she's not been... What was she doing the Y? She was part of the...

Betty Philip: Oh, she worked in the desk at the office at night when the girls came to get beds to stay in the hostels.

Mary Ross: She was good fun, wasn't she?

Betty Philip: Oh gosh, aye.

Mary Ross: She was good fun.

Betty Philip: Spade was a spade, wi Jean.

Mary Ross: She worked in the office at the beds, giving the girls beds at night.

Betty Philip: But she helped me with the charity shop.

Mary Ross: Uh-huh, she was good. Betty hasn't changed very much, has she?

Betty Philip: And she was 90-something when she was there. She's in her 90s.

Mary Ross: I don't think Betty's changed very much, do you?

Joyce McLean: That's a Pilrig group. As I said, they used to come in every, well, once a year. I think it was alternative years, we went back and forward.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mary Ross: Had quite a lot of films showed, didn't we? You know, we had this chap that used to come a lot with different films, didn't he? That's Joyce there.

Joyce McLean: Quite an interesting programme...

Mary Ross: That's you there, Joyce and Betty. She was blind, that was a lady that had the dog.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Mary Ross: That would be one of the picnics up in the Braid.

Joyce McLean: Do you need any help there?

Betty Philip: No, no, it's okay. **Interviewer:** So these were the Easter picnics? Yes, the Easter picnics.

Mary Ross: That's my friend, she emigrated to New Zealand. That's it, and that's Betty digging. I've got a photograph of me digging the plant as well, digging this tree. Must have been wintertime, eh? That's us digging the tree at that home along in Canaan Lane. Betty, that's me, and I cannae see you, Joyce, right enough. I'm not sure if you're there or not.

Joyce McLean: I've got that one, too.

Mary Ross: Oh, that's when we got presented. I was hoping that somebody would dig up the tree and plant it elsewhere. That's us getting the chap.

Betty Philip: You recognise everybody girls?

Joyce McLean: That's me there.

Interviewer: Yeah, thought that was you.

Mary Ross: It's just all the members. We had great fun, though. That was the best of it. We had good fun, you know. There's you, Joyce. I think you've got something on your head, I'm not sure. All these photographs I've got taken. That's just another three members, I think. They're two members, they're not with us anymore. Isabelle and Elma, she was a great one for dressing up, Elma. She liked to dress up. We were quite young when we started there, but older when we finished.