

Joyce's

Memories

October 2019

Joyce

Born 1941 in Newcastle and lived in a Victorian terrace in the Jesmond area.

She went to school and remembers green tiles on the walls. Tables on wall for learning, a box with cowry shells, used for counting and jigsaw puzzles which had sums on one side and pictures on the other. Other jigsaw puzzles had the Lord Mayor's Parade (with ornate coach), Changing of the Guard and Cowboys and Indians on the other. She was so good at them that she did the 'brown side' up to make it difficult for herself! She also loved singing and music in the infants' school. She remembers milk crates smelling disgusting, and milk bottles with cardboard tops. She saved these tops, cleaned them and put two together which she wound wool round and round to make pompoms. Can't remember what these pompoms were used for! She remembers using a stencil set with paints which she used on little round cork mats, then varnished. She remembers a green felt elephant and an old teddy filled with sawdust and a furry

rabbit, also a wind-up toy with a dancing black man on top, very colourful but when he danced she was terrified. Also being scared when the adults tried to put on a 'Mickey Mouse' gas mask. Her mother had a doll with a china face and one day Joyce fell on it and broke it. Her mother never forgave her!



Great
Grandfather

Great Grandmother with
Joyce and her mother, Lilian,
1941





Eric and Lilian's wedding, 1940

She remembers a park in Newcastle with a bandstand and pond, paddling pool and beautiful flower beds (Leazes Park) The house had a proper



bathroom and Joyce remembers eating the mint toothpaste so then her mother bought Gibbs Dentifrice in a tin, which didn't taste very good! There was a back lane and back yard. The outside loo, 'ash khazi' had become the 'coal

Joyce as a baby, 1942

hole'. Her nose was 'put out of joint' when Alan was born and she remembers taking his bottle away and drinking his milk. The bottle had a teat on each end.

Joyce aged 4, 1945



Joyce with her
Father, Eric.
1945

The pavements were made of slate, when wet lovely smell, which were good for hopscotch.

She remembers an occasion when her mother went into the Post Office, leaving Joyce outside, and a man with very thick lensed glasses offered her a sweetie. Joyce screamed blue murder!

**Joyce with her brother Alan
in Whitley Bay**





Joyce on her bike, 1947

The kitchen had a pottery Butlers sink with a wooden draining board and a range which was black leaded. During the blackouts she remembers sticky paper over all the windows and sticky brown paper hanging to catch flies. Also, apple rings drying, hanging up in the kitchen and a drying line of wooden bars suspended from the ceiling by metal brackets on a pulley system. She has a memory of her mother waxing her chin in the kitchen – heating up the wax on the range and pulling it off!

One of her earliest memories is a man coming around every evening to light the gas lights, also a man with a big stone – knife grinder, and a coalman with a horse and cart. Also, Ringtons Tea delivery by horse and cart.

Joyce with Alan in Scotland



Her favourite sweets were 'fishes in the sea' (green fishes with white balls) and stringy liquorice root which had to be chewed. She remembers going to



Joyce, Brian and Alan,
1950

the bakers but unfortunately when she got home the bread was chewed on all corners – Joyce always said it wasn't her! Another memory was the loo paper, hard like greaseproof! Auntie Brenda and Fred (mother's brother) lived upstairs.

Her grandmother and grandfather moved to Whitley Bay and Joyce moved there when she was seven. She loved school and enjoyed making little books with pictures, putting a label on them 'A Joyce product' and collecting Scraps in books.

She remembers a big lacquered screen with pictures of Japan and an umbrella in grandpa's garage. She had a bedroom to herself as she was the only girl. Alan was 4 years younger, Brian 7 years younger. She remembers taking a ration book up to the grocers to get sweets. ¼ lb each week per child. The owner of the shop let her sample the sweets, it never dawned on Joyce that she ate six sweets before leaving the shop!

**Grandfather Swindon
with Joyce, Alan,
cousin Ronald and
Brian in the pram.
Joyce is aged 8**





Dear Child of Bethlehem, Whose hand
in Mary's hand in trust was laid,
Who trod this world all unafraid,
Guard Thou the little ones who stand
against our knee,
Help us to guide them unto Thee.

HOLY BAPTISM

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost



Joyce Rickaby

When Baptized 2nd September 1941

Where Baptized Jesmond Parish Church

Baptized by Canon F. S. Goddard

DUTY OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

YE are to take care that this Child be brought to the Bishop to be Confirmed by him, so soon as the Child can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose.

Parents should themselves teach their children the faith of the Church, and should also take care to send them, as soon as possible, to the Church Sunday Schools.

CONFIRMED 25th November 1956

at the Parish Church of S. Mary the Virgin, Monkseaton

by the Lord Bishop of Newcastle

FIRST COMMUNION 25th November 1956

Aidan Wilson

Vicar

Joyce's Baptism/Communion Certificate

In Junior School, if you did anything worth a commendation, you were taken to the headmaster's office – Mr Glass – and your name was put in the 'golden book'! When the playground was icy they built up a slide, no health and safety in those days! One of the playground games was holding hands in a circle, one person turned away and the others went into a tangled puzzle, and the person who turned away had to untangle everyone without breaking the hands apart. Another game – boys say 'All in for Cowboys and Indians' or 'Japs and Commanders' and girls would say 'All in for Fairies & Witches'. Other games with skipping ropes, chanting and throwing balls on wall, wooden Jacks with a chuck. Memory of P.E. in knickers (with a pocket for a hanky?) and having to go across the road for school dinners (crossed by a Lollypop man) She wore a Liberty bodice with rubber buttons in the winter and remembers eiderdowns on the bed, and sheets were cut down the middle and turned so that worn bits were put to each side.

Chicken was a luxury during the War, but because her grandpa was in business, he could afford roast beef and turkey at Christmas. Used to have a plate sized Yorkshire pudding for each person as a starter, covered in gravy.

Her secondary school was next door. You were either streamed in 'A' or 'B'. As she failed her 11 plus she was in 'B' but at the top level. You were either in 'G' from the age of 14 (Joyce was), to do GCE 'O' levels or 'T' to do technical subjects. English was her best subject. She stayed until she was 16, got 4 'O' levels – English Language, English Literature, Art & Craft and Domestic Science. The latter included laundry skills, soaking whites first with 'blue bags' starching and ironing with flat irons as well as electric irons. Girls would also sit doing 'tattooing' – a bit like lace, in the playground. She then did 2 years at Grammar School, Religious Instruction.

She remembers people using shields under their arms for perspiration. There was no education

about personal hygiene or sex education. Boys told dirty jokes but Joyce didn't understand them! You had to find out everything by yourself from books, or once Joyce filled in a form on a packet of her mother's sanitary towels to find out what they were!

Joyce aged 16



Joyce with her parents during the 1950's



She left to do two years' supervised teaching in an infant's school in Whitley Bay. It was Victorian, with tall windows with pulleys or hooks to open and a big folding panel which you could draw back to make the classroom bigger for singing classes with a piano. She remembers teaching the 'Janet & John' books to her little pupils, some of which came from very poor homes, were smelly, malnourished and underdressed. Joyce showed them how to eat properly with a knife, fork, spoon

and plate and even took a toothbrush into school to show them how to use toothpaste. A school nurse – Nit Nurse – came to inspect their heads regularly, also a dentist and a doctor once a year. Their height and weight were measured. One boy wore the same suit all year and Joyce remembers a girl called Linda and her brother Billy particularly as they were so neglected.

Joyce worked in three schools in Blyth. Once she set up a 'shop' to teach them how to use money (cardboard) and contacted all the chocolate manufacturers and they sent empty boxes to use as dummies.

She then went to college up in Alnwick – Alnwick castle, owned by the Duke of Northumberland's family – for teacher training. She enjoyed those three years. Some mature students were men, but it was mostly females. She remembers one hard winter – 1963 - when a girl was curling on one of the ponds. She remembers elaborate gardens and water features.



Joyce with friends Jan, Duffy and Avril at a Teachers Training Reunion

In 1964 she went back to the Whitley Bay school but lived in a flat with a girlfriend in Newcastle, her mother wasn't happy about this!

In 1966 she went to work in an infant's school in north-west Germany – RAF Larbruch, close to the Dutch border. She lived in the Officers Mess and remembers the formal dinners and wearing nice dresses. Only stayed for a year and came back to marry Christopher (who was catholic) in 1967. She had to have a 'course of instruction' with a catholic priest in Germany. They got married in Whitley Bay – had to live in Tynemouth for the summer in order



to get married in a 'pretty' catholic church. Her half of the church were her relatives, his half were in the pub!





Joyce in her going away outfit on her
Wedding Day



Joyce and
Christopher going to
a wedding when they
lived in Holmer
Green

Joyce with
her daughter
Lucy, aged
5, in Whitley
Bay



She lived in Holmer Green from 1978 until 1992 when her husband left her, and her daughter Lucy also moved out. She now has arthritis and mobility problems. Lucy, her daughter died three years ago, aged 42. Her brother, Alan, died 14 years ago. Her other brother, Brian, is divorced. Although she had a difficult life with drink and drugs, Lucy helped various boyfriends who had problems and Joyce became a mother-figure to them by becoming their landlady when she was living in Holmer Green. Although they had relationship problems with their own families, this actually helped Joyce as they became like her own children. She helped them move on with their lives. Joyce's house became affectionately known as "The Bolt Hole".

After this she lived in Totteridge for many years, but because there was a steep slope she moved to Hazlemere five years ago.

