



“Back in the Day”

Stories from the past

'Back in the Day'

An Asset Based Community Development project partnership between
Better Action for Families and members of Cardinal Court coffee morning

Funded by Leeds City Council, Adults and Health

To find out more about ABCD www.abcdinleeds.com

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Barefoot Days song lyrics and words by Frank Mee (2ndww.blogspot.com)

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contributions to this project.





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Better Action for Families (BAFF) are funded through Adults and Health to proliferate Asset Based Community Development in Beeston.

Asset Based Community Development is a community development model that focuses on what's 'strong' and not what's 'wrong' in neighbourhoods and communities we live in.

'Assets' can be anything the community identify as an 'asset'; this includes people, who all have gifts and skills, and who share their wealth of lived experiences, memories and stories of Beeston.

ABCD Community Builders from BAFF met with residents attending the coffee mornings at Cardinal Court. Residents shared their stories and experience of Beeston 'Back in the Day'.

This booklet is a record of these stories from the past, the members of the coffee morning at Cardinal Court would like to share these with you.





Christmas

Real candles on the Christmas tree

In the late 40's we had artificial trees – not a real tree

Prince Albert had the first real Christmas tree – roundabout 1840 from Germany

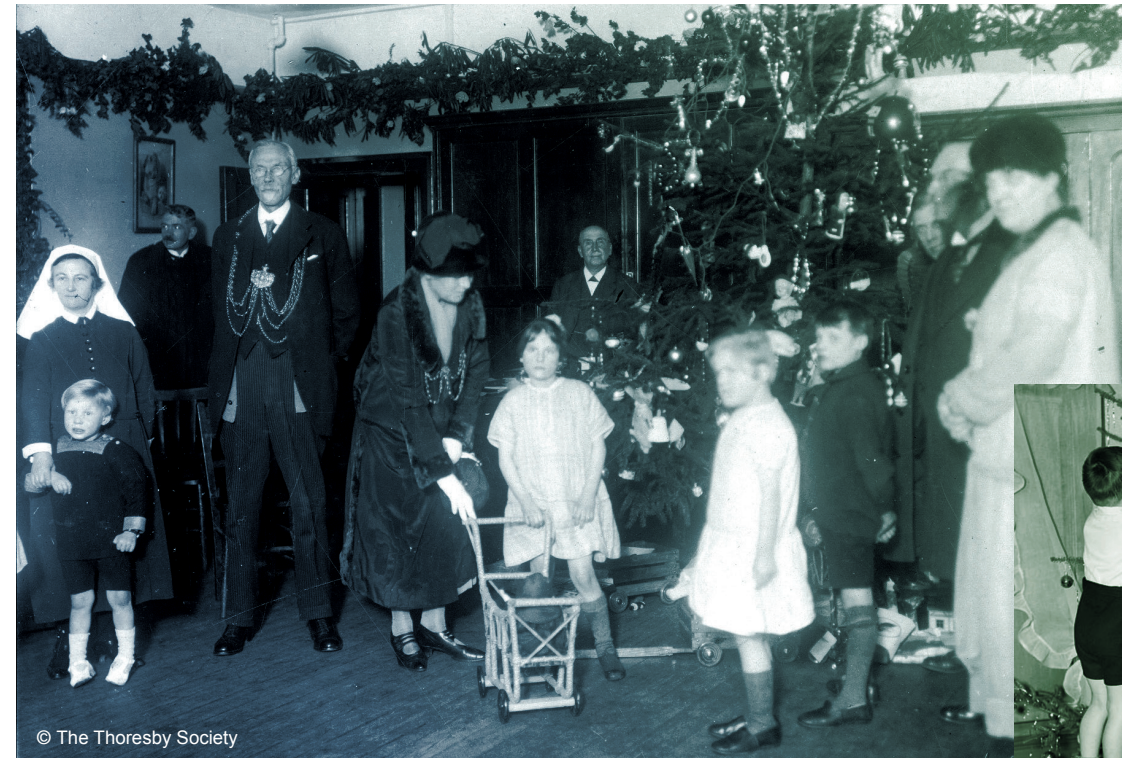
The tree in Trafalgar Square was from Norway for support during the war

Paper link Christmas decorations

We used to hang dad's sock up – we would get two new coins one ha'penny, if rich we got tuppence

We would get a few nuts and an apple and orange – fruit was a treat, not as available as it is now

We used to get a sixpence (we called it a tanner) or two silver threepenny bits – used to put them in the Christmas pudding



© The Thoresby Society



We used to put fruit pastille tubes on the tree

Real chocolate Christmas decorations on trees – used every year – used to go white and funny



Home and Childhood

We were really poor, I had to wear two different wellies

There were no electric irons, we had two and they were so heavy

If you were posh, you had a white fringe around the mantelpiece above the fire

I went to Silverdale for a holiday when I was 8 or 9 years old

Coal men used to come around to give coal bags out

I remember the rag & bone man coming around the streets

There was no danger in those days going to play in Cross Flatts Park

In the kitchen there was a set pot which you lit a fire under to warm the water to wash the clothes in

We were always going to school with holes in the bottom of our shoes, we used to stuff them with cardboard



Cinemas and TV

We had our first telly in 1960, we used to rent

Dad hired our telly for 8 and 6 a week, had a break for holiday and they came and took it away and would bring it back after our holiday

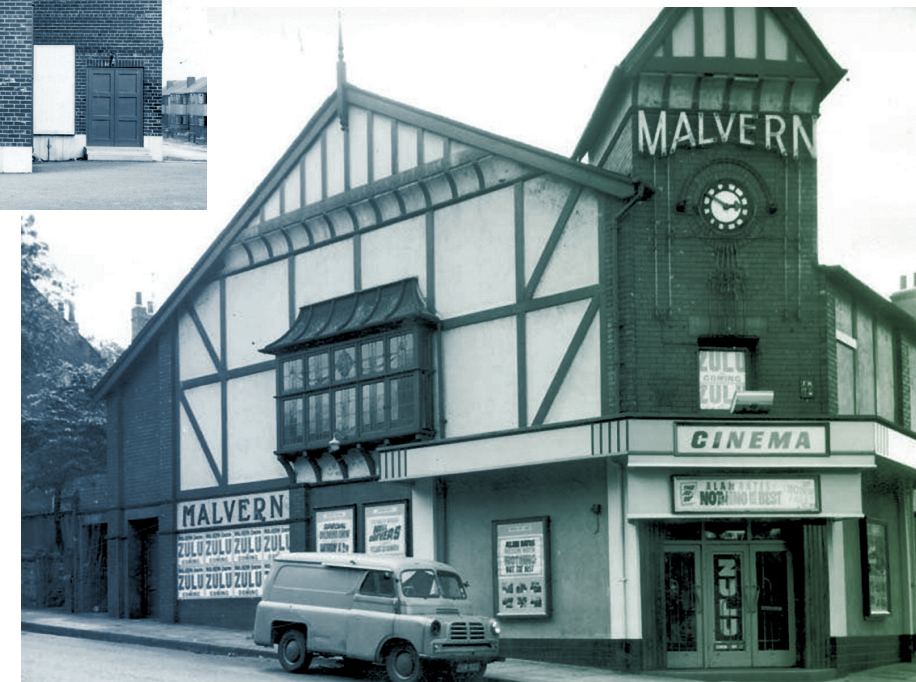
We had a plastic screen with colours on to make the TV brown, blue and green colours



Rex, Pavilion, Malvern

Cup of tea in the cinema

I remember my sister doing knitting in the cinema – when I did it I ended up dropping a stitch

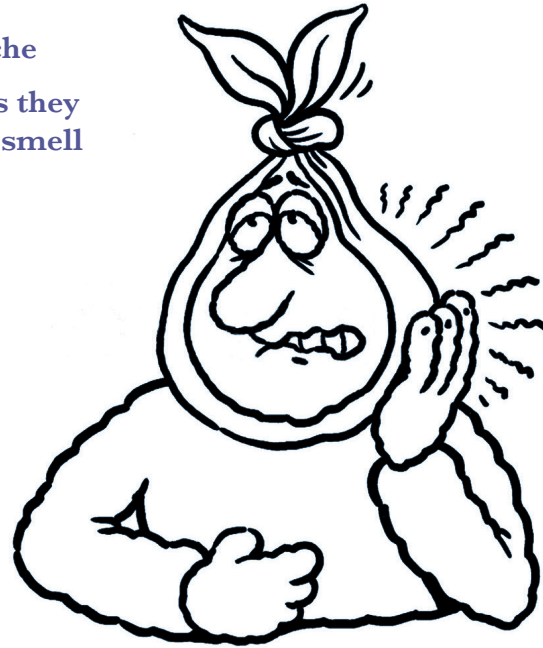


Health

I remember having gas at the dentist

We used to rub cloves on our gums for toothache

In the dentist's waiting room with other mums they used to give us plastic bibs to wear. You could smell the gas from the last person on it



Doctors came out to us in them days

If you were poorly you stayed in bed, there were no messing about

We were given butter wrapped sugar to eat. My mum used to say “Your body is like a machine, it needs oiling”

In 1948 it cost Mum £25 for hospital treatment for having me

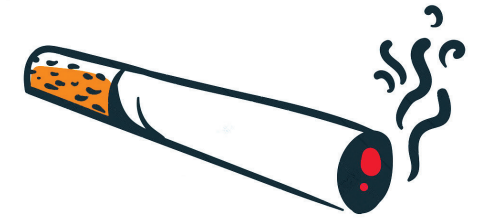


We were encouraged to smoke!

We used to roll our own cigarettes

I remember picking up tab ends to get the tobacco out of them

I tried horse's dung instead of cigs



Food and Drink

At school any milk left over always went to the thin children

My mum used to cut margarine into blocks and put it in the butter dish, because she thought the neighbours were better than us

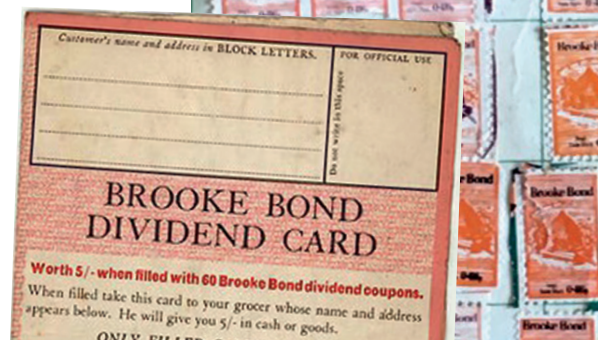
On a Wednesday you were lucky to have a slice of bread, had to get tick from the corner shop

We had to drink out of jam jars

I worked at the age of 15 years got £3.16 shillings a week on a Saturday, we got fish 'n' chips with my first wage

My mum used Brooke Bond tea so she could save the stamps, which she got a wash board with

I remember the pop man bringing screw top bottles – we had Tizer at Sunday dinner





Pubs and Shops

I never went to a pub until after I was married – I married at 21

I remember a pint of mixed – Bitter and Mild

I used to stand outside the shop picking up sweet wrappers
and bundled them up to sell to the rag place

If I had to ask for tick at the shop I would always
wait until no-one was in before asking

They sold cigarettes separately at the local shops

Lots of people smoked a pipe, some women would
have a white pipe



Money

I remember doing a paper round and getting paid 6 pence

I chopped up wood and sold it for fire wood so I could go to the Saturday matinee at the local pictures

We had a gas meter to put money in

Everything has changed for the worse, everything is under new management and there has been many cutbacks

There was a huge gap between rich and poor

My first house cost me £2,000 in 1970, we had a bath inside the house but the toilet was still outside. We had a black oven in the room and would scrub the outside step with donkey stone





Local Area and Attitudes

There used to be a Taylors & Sons, I had my wedding outfit made by them

I used to take my laundry to the wash house in Holbeck

Where the Co-op is situated they used to have a Picture House there

I wore a skirt until I was in my 30s – women weren't allowed to wear trousers

We used to have a knit & knatter club and we used to make blankets to send abroad

In those days you knew all your neighbours

People's manners and attitudes have changed

It was the good old days when people could trust each other

Beeston Hill had a parade of shops once upon a time

The number 9 tram used to run through Beeston Hill

Barefoot days

Children in wartime were much the same as today with our street songs and games we made the best of the possibilities offered. One of our street songs which was sung often was called Barefoot Days.

Barefoot days when we were just a couple of kids,
Barefoot days oh boy the things we did,
We'd go down to a shady nook,
Take a bent pin for a hook,
We'd fish all day, fish all night,
But the darned old fish refused to bite,
Then off we'd go down some old cellar door,
Slide and slide till our pants were tore,
Then off we'd go home to bed,
While mother got busy with a needle and thread,
Oh boy what joy we had in barefoot days.

Children can make the best of the worst times and we did just that.
We remember the fun and companionship, the joy of playing our games always outside, inside was for sleeping and eating.
I am trying to pass on some of this joy to my grandchildren and am happy to see they like the outdoors as much as I did. Never give up on the young.



