

David Blane

BENARTY PRIMARY SCHOOL 1950s

The school had a system of collecting money from pupils each week in order to pay for a “school camp” during the holidays. I was lucky enough to attend one of these and the one chosen for my particular break was Glengonnar Camp School, Abington, in south Lanarkshire.

I remember a teacher called Miss Shaw from Garry Park, Crosshill who accompanied us on our two week camp. Pupils from other Fife schools also attended this camp and we made many good pals from Rosyth and Dunfermline area. We had many ”nature treks” across the hills surrounding Abington and enjoyed our “dooks” in the nearby River Clyde. We stayed in dormitories at the camp school and it was a sad day when our adventures came to an end getting on the bus for the trip back to Ballingry. Aye very happy days!!!

BALLINGRY JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL 1950s

Ballingry JS School also had an activity during the school holidays known as the “East Neuk Trek”. This was organised by a teacher called Mr Christie and the plan was for pupils to walk round the East Neuk of Fife, staying overnight in schools at various towns and villages enroute. I suppose the present day “Fife Coastal Path” took over from our path finding ways in those days. We all managed to trek the route and the highlight was a swim at the Steprock Bathing Pool (outdoors) at St Andrews. Thanks to my fellow pupils I learned to swim here as they threw me in at the deep end, a bunch of lads having fun. I think health and safety officers would have had nightmares at the antics!!!

We were coached back to our homes after the two weeks and looking back these were some of my happiest memories! Skint knees, blistered feet, running about playing fitba, sleeping on camp beds in school halls – aye these were the days!! Happy memories!!