



James Gillespie's High School Oral History Project:

Featuring: 98 year old Alison Laidlaw

Miss Alison Laidlaw was born in 1909 and has lived in her current house in Lauderdale Street, opposite Gillespie's, since then. At 5 years old, Miss Laidlaw went to Gillespie's School, where she was educated until going to Edinburgh University to study an MA. She then went to Murray



House and trained as a teacher and was later taken on as a fulltime member of the staff at Gillespie's. She taught the primary children and recalls well how the boys eventually left and the school became a girls school. She is excited and pleased by this new contact at the school, saying: *"I think the project is wonderful and I am so pleased to be making new friends."*

Her recollections in World War I of the zeppelins over Edinburgh remain some of her most colourful memories. Hiding behind the curtains and watching the action! She was evacuated to Cupar in Fife during the war. She can now point out the original stint marks on the stone masonry, along the old school wall, which she saw being built, opposite her house.

If any member of the Bruntsfield and Marchmont communities are interested in sharing all, or part, of their lives with in the 'Living Stories' project, they would be delighted to hear from you. Please call Frances Benton on 07711 031 567 or email frances.jgtrust@googlemail.com. Contact Frances if you recognise anyone below...

Miss Laidlaw's qualifying class of 1948. Do you recognise anyone?

