

Irene's Ditty - REUNION

We've been left now for near sixty years
We shared many hopes and some fears
At Gillespie's High School
We were ever so cool
And the teachers? Well, they were all dears!

In the first year we had to wear socks
And a hair net protected our locks
Shoes were strapping or lace
And to hot up the pace
On our head we'd to fasten a box!!

For school dinners we'd to walk to the huts
To give gastronomic delights to our guts
Mondays leftover Dutch roast
As Tuesdays meatballs they'd boast
It was all right if you kept your eyes shut!

Slimming clubs would have created a riot
'Cos sponge and custard was our daily diet
With an occasional break
For caramel shortcake or chocolate mousse ...
Then we would all want to try it!

Our Motto was Faithful and Strong
Fidelis et Fortis our song
We were let by Miss Steel
Was she really real?
She certainly had no sex appeal!

(To be fair neither did we in that uniform!!
If my memory serves me right, we had no
sex education, unless you were lucky
enough to take the sciences! In Biology
Miss Ferguson huffed and puffed her
red-faced way through telling us
2 rabbits had a special cuddle)

Now Lamby in the gym, she was queen
Her divided shorts just had to be seen
(Ali Anderson's were frankly obscene!!)
Lamby's home to school link
Was a car that was pink
Unlike the school dress which was green

Once, golf she attempted to teach
In the gym she hit a real peach
But as I recall

When she hit the ball
It went somewhat out of her reach!!
(That's a polite way of saying that she broke the gym window)

Now some will remember the quoir
And Tommy singing "Higher girls, higher!"
In the Usher Hall
We'd give him the call
By stamping our feet till on fire!

After reading this ditty I wish I could fall
Into conversation with our Mr Dall
'Cos the countries you see
That he taught you and me
Are no longer in the world at all?!

Miss McIntyre was the history head
"The natives are revolting" she said
On the new EEC
She taught you and me
How I wish she'd taught Nigel instead.

Zeugma, Hitotes and pun
Oxymoron just another one
That Jimmy did teach
As rare parts of speech
And Essays of Elia were fun.

Our domestic science lessons were great
And when we'd a meal on the plate
Mrs Jenkins would say
"Clear your dishes away"
You've sewing to do that can't wait!

Our punishments fitted the crime
A 'late mark' for not being on time
If badly behaved your name was engraved
In the ORDER mark book as a sign.

In our house we took a great pride
By colours we knew our own side
Roslin and Gilmore were two
They were yellow and blue
Spylaw red, Warrender green as a guide.

I'm so glad we're here for this do
And I am pleased to see you, you and you.

.....

Irene Sime (née Leslie)

JGHS 1959 to 1964

Presented at the 1959 to 1965 leavers 60th anniversary reunion

10 May 2025, Carlton Bridge Centre