Back In The Day

Home, Work & Play



Older people from Nottinghamshire tell their tales of growing up

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Back In The Day

'Back in The Day' is an Arts Council England funded project.

Back in The Day was delivered by Creative Paths (EM) CIC. Through creative workshops participants of care settings co-produced this art book that is inspired by their memories of childhood. The book will be used for reminiscence with older people, and via the education library services and Nottingham libraries will be available for children studying KS1 History.

Participants explored common themes of childhood. Quotes and stories from participants inspired artwork created by them, and content for the book. This project values the creative potential of older people, and helps children empathise with how childhood has changed, dissolving generational barriers.

Sessions were delivered at Eden Lodge, Sutton Manor, Sutton Lodge, & Sutton Court care homes, and Heydays & Marcus Garvey day services.

About Creative Paths (EM) CIC

Creative Paths CIC is proud to be a not for profit. We believe that everyone should have access to good quality arts, culture and creative opportunities, and our services aim to ensure that people living in care settings have equity of access to the arts.

The project and book were led by project co-ordinators Chris Boote & Karyn Stavert. The sessions were led by artists Emma Wass, Rachel Scanlon, and Debra Urbacz. The book design & editing was done by Chris Boote.

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Here We Are!

Here are portraits of some of us. We painted these pictures ourselves!

Val



Betty



Kath



Jane



Pauline



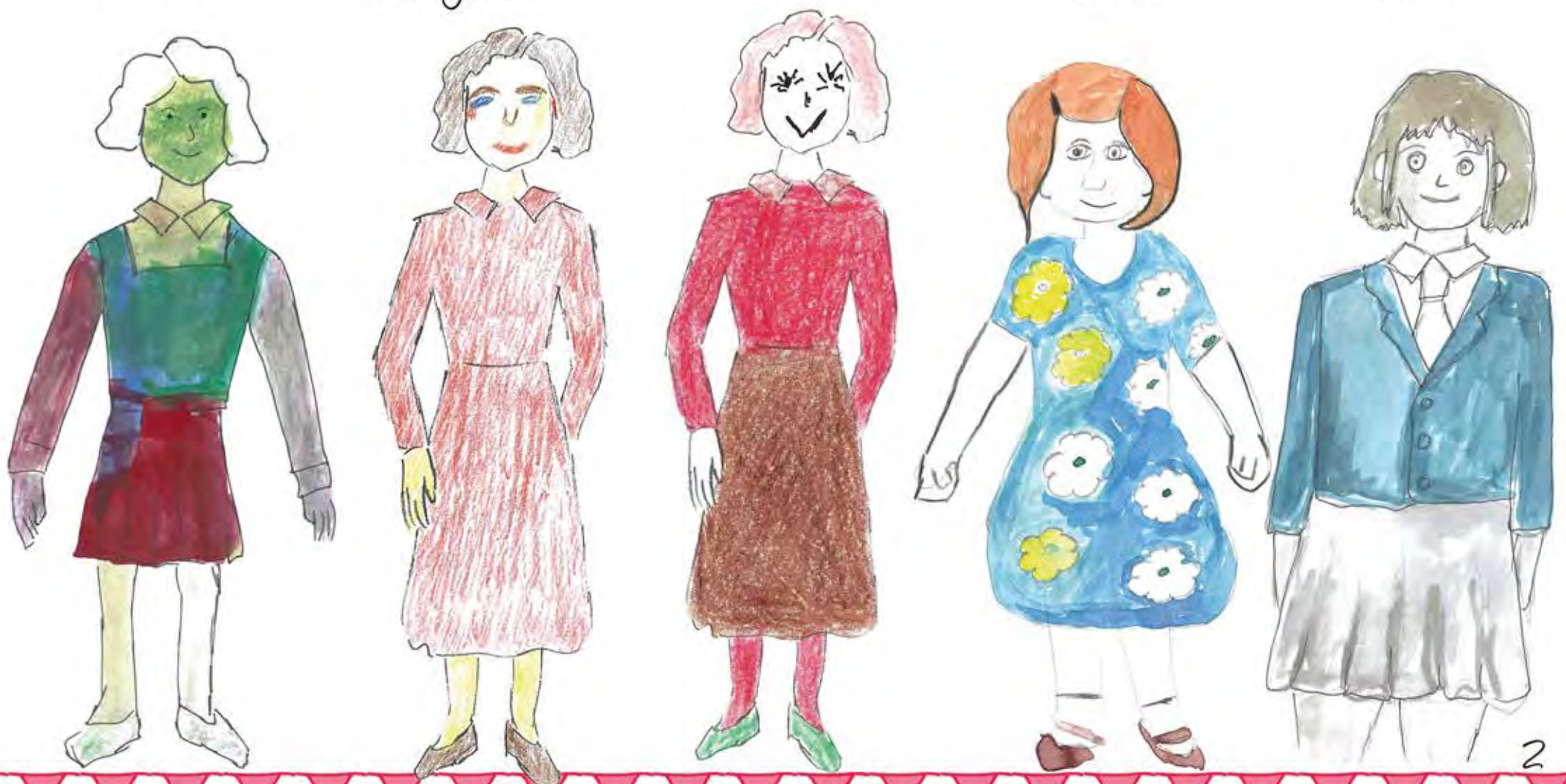
Muriel

Margaret

Sadie

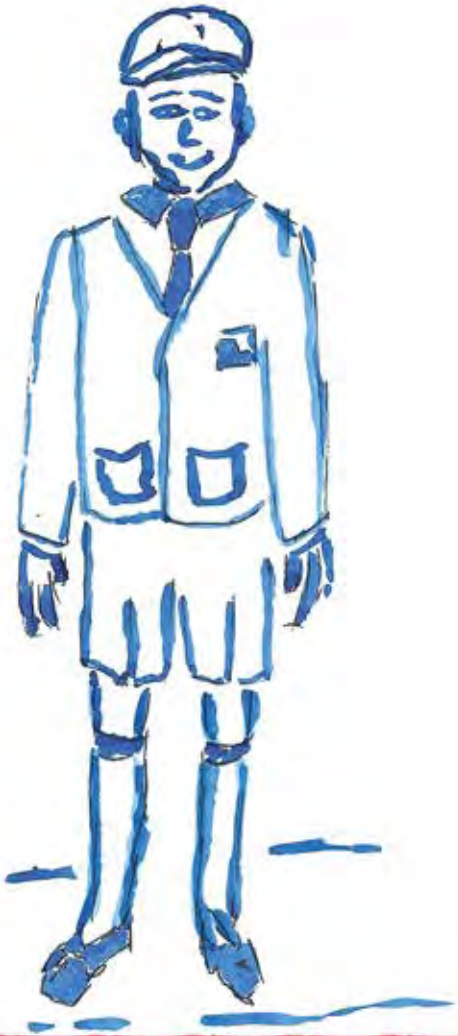
Carol

Rita




Rita
Janis
Derek
Carole
Joyce

Alphonso



Derek



Doreen



Leonora



Toys

Leonora



I love to sing, and skip.

The skipping rope was made out of banana tree.







The boys used to tease us when we were skipping.

Margaret



We had simple toys, often made out of wood.



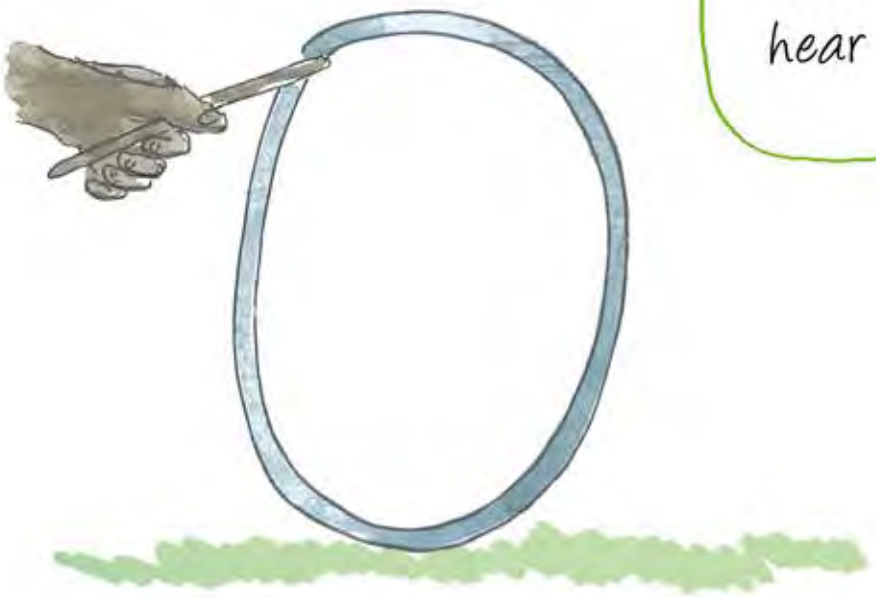
Spinning Top

Once spun, a top will wobble, spin upright for a while, then start to wobble again and finally tip over and roll on its side.





Joe remembers playing with a hoop and stick.



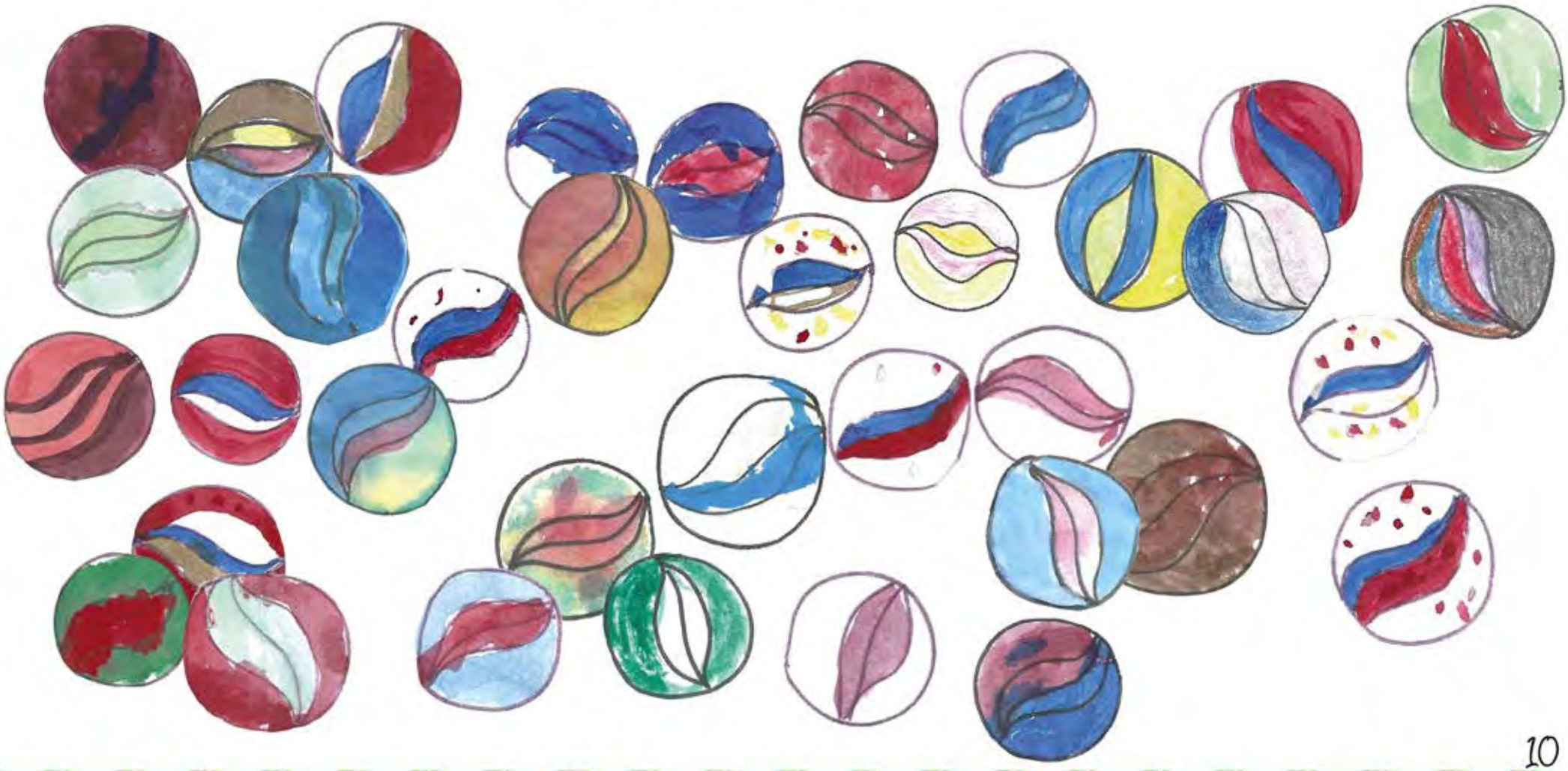
When you put water in the wheel you could hear it running, both boys and girls played it.

Joe



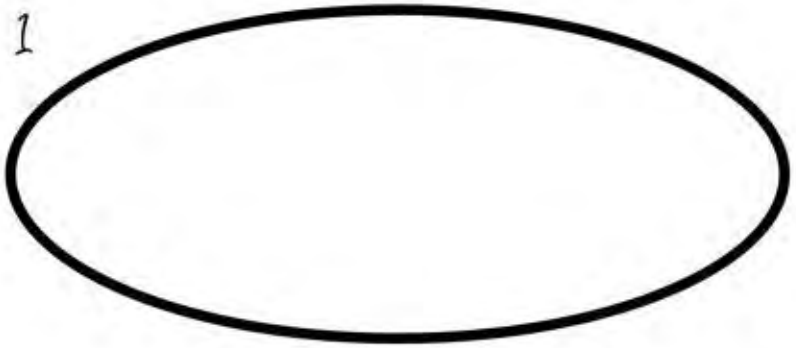
Marbles

This is our marbles collection.



How To Play Marbles

1



1. Draw a circle on the pavement in chalk. A traditional chalk circle should be about 3 feet (90 centimetres) across.

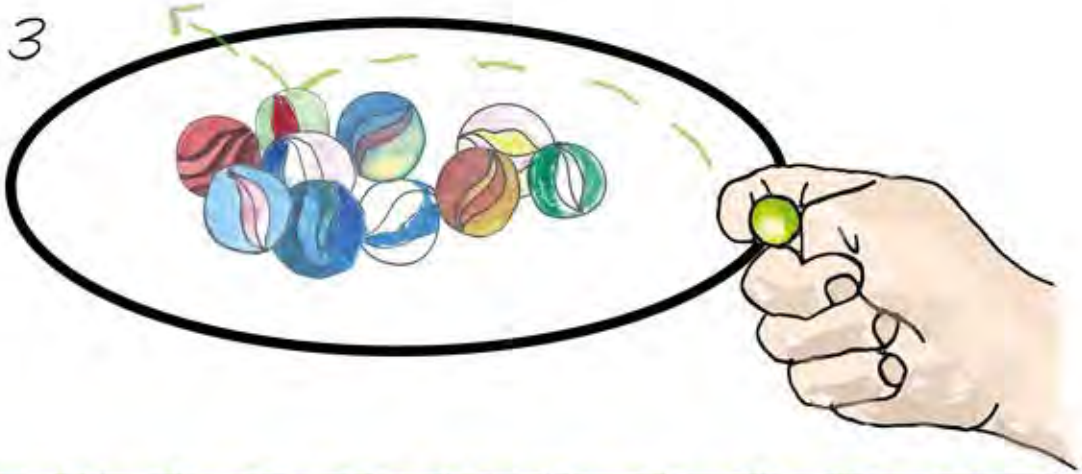
2. Place ten to fifteen marbles in the center of the ring. Space the marbles around the ring, with plenty in the centre.

3. Your objective is to knock marbles out of the ring. To shoot your marble correctly, fold your thumb, little finger and ring finger into your palm. When you're ready to shoot, flick your thumb out.

2



3



How to Use a Yo-Yo

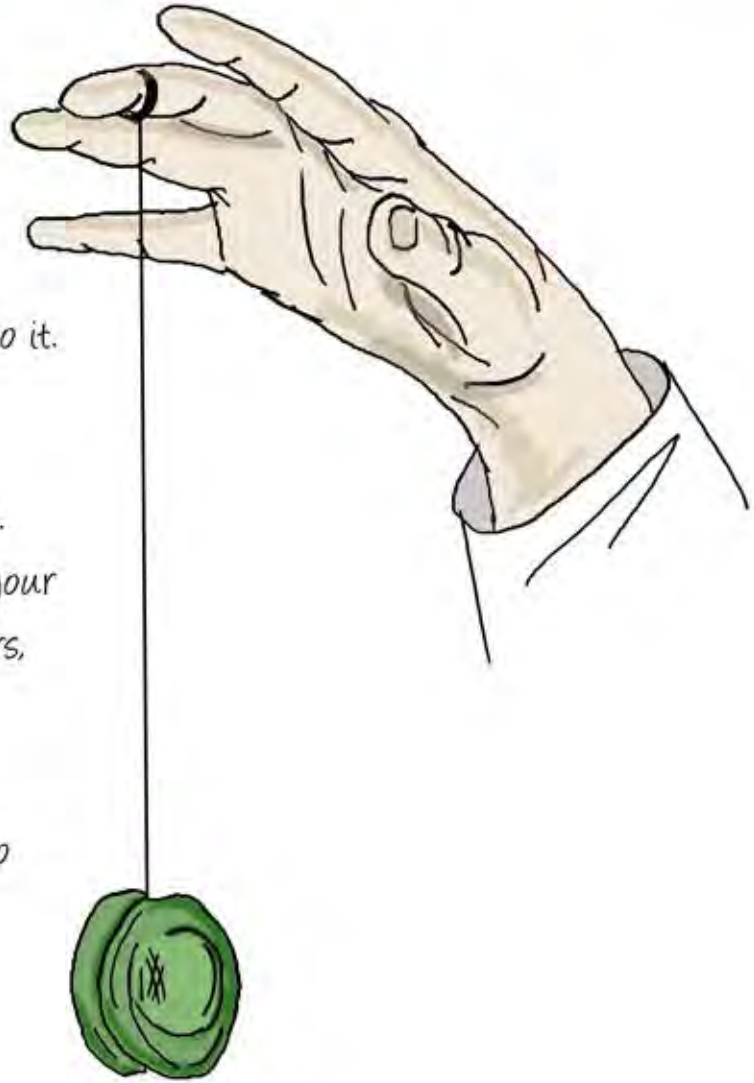
1. Slip the ring of your yo-yo's string onto your middle finger, around your first knuckle, nearest to the tip of your finger.

2. Put the yo-yo in your palm, with your palm facing downwards, now hold onto it. This is the position you'll return to when catching the yo-yo.



3. Start with your palm facing down. Then with an upward movement of your arm and an extension of your fingers, release the yo-yo.

4. Give it a sharp pull when the yo-yo is fully extended to bring it back.



School

We played at the back of St. Marys, it's all houses now. I was 15 when I left school, I went into the rag trade. I did the trimming, we used a big press to do it.

Brian

I was always a good girl. I went to a church school.

Edna







I went to London Road School, then Trent Bridge School. I had to walk, it was quite a way. My older sisters walked me to the school gate where it said 'shoot this cat' but it really said 'shut the gate'. We lived near the Globe Cinema.



Ivy





My school uniform was royal blue with white cord on the blazer, and I had to wear a beret. Even when going home on the bus I didn't dare take off the beret.

Audrey



My school uniform had a brown jacket, grey trousers and a tie. First years had to wear a hat.

John



I was given the slipper as punishment.

Gillian





I got the cane because I was a nuisance.

John



I liked English and Maths at school.

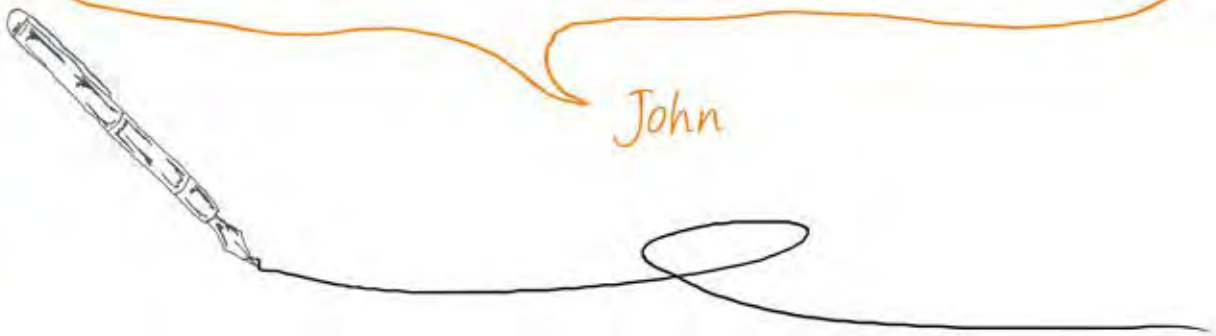
Margaret

They managed to make interesting subjects boring at school.

John

When I left school I worked for a builder, then I did an apprenticeship in printing.

John



We used a fountain pen at school.

Iris

I got the cane for laughing at school.

Joyce

Girls didn't use to get the cane, they got lines instead.

Edna

We got milk at school every day.

Derek



I was 16 years old when I left school.

Joy



I was from a family of 10. I used to have to pawn my dads coat for my school shoes.

Mavis



I got the slipper at school for being naughty.

Gillian

Sport



Leonora played rounders with her hand and a soft bouncy ball.

You had no choice but to skip when the girls came round, you had to impress them.

David

I did ballet lessons when I was growing up.
I did belly dancing, my mum got me into it.

Audrey







I enjoyed sport the most at school, particularly cricket.

Brian

We played cricket with different teams on the field.
I was an all-rounder, I could bowl fast and spin.
I was really active, I played after school most days.

Eddie

I was a sprinter so I never got caught scrumping,
in High Pavement School. I played rugby and football.

Derek



Food

These are foods we had growing up in the Caribbean.
- Leonora, Joe, Vernal, & Eddie

Breadfruit!





Mango!

Plantain!





Pepper!



Pineapple!



Mango!

We grew vegetables behind the house.

Joe



Ackee!

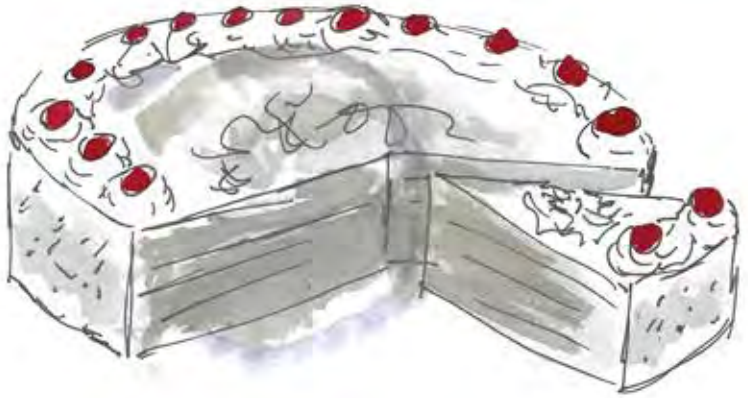


Ackee & saltfish, with fried dumplings



Mum made the best cakes, almost as good as my sisters.

Mavis



We didn't get the sweets and treats during the war years.

Carole



Houses



If I was naughty I was made to sit in a seat in front of a round window.
If I ever fidgeted my grandma would say 'do you have worms?'

Margaret

We had gas powered lights, they fitted on top of the pipe, they were very fragile and they were easily broken, you'd have to go down to the store to replace them.



We had Royal Albert crockery on the table.

Gillian



There were nicer carpets then, we had a big Axminster one.

June

It was nice and warm by the wireless next to the fireplace.

June

We used paper, wood, and newspaper to light the coal fire.

John







I had a nice record player.

Margaret



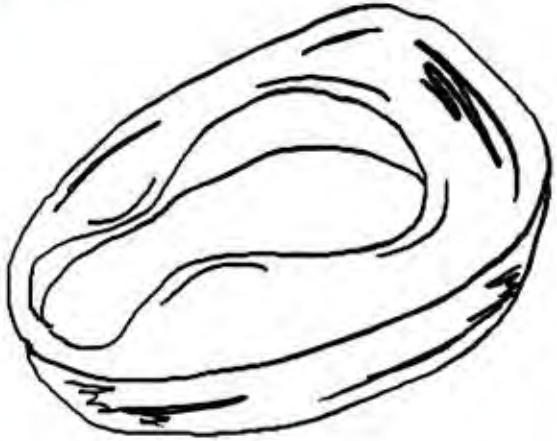


There was no heating in the bedrooms, the windows used to get all frosted up. We used hot water bottles to stay warm.

Mary

We had a potty under the bed, we called it a po or a gozunda.

Margaret



The Coal Shed

Every time a coal train went by a whistle would go and we'd pick up the leftover coal that the train kicked off. Coal was rationed, so when the coal ran out we had no fire.

David







I grew up in a childrens home,
I never knew anything else.
I lived with Kath, May, Maureen,
Winifred, John, and Frank.

Dorothy









Gillian shared a memory of her outhouse, that she used to play in. It had a settee inside, she would charge friends 6 pence to play in it.





The Outdoor Loo



The outside loo was very cold, when we were bursting to spend a penny.

Margaret

We had an outdoor toilet shared with the neighbours, covered in vine. I didn't like it because you got covered in beetles. 1954 was when we got an indoor toilet.



Audrey



You used to have to take a bucket of water to flush the loo if it froze. There were big spiders in them. If it was the middle of the night you needed a wee, you used the po.



Doreen

There was kelly light that ran on methylated spirits, we'd light it and put a glass funnel on it and put it on top of the cistern. It was common for them to freeze when it was a good frost, my dad used to smash it with a hammer so we could use it. All the pipes were lagged with sack fabric.

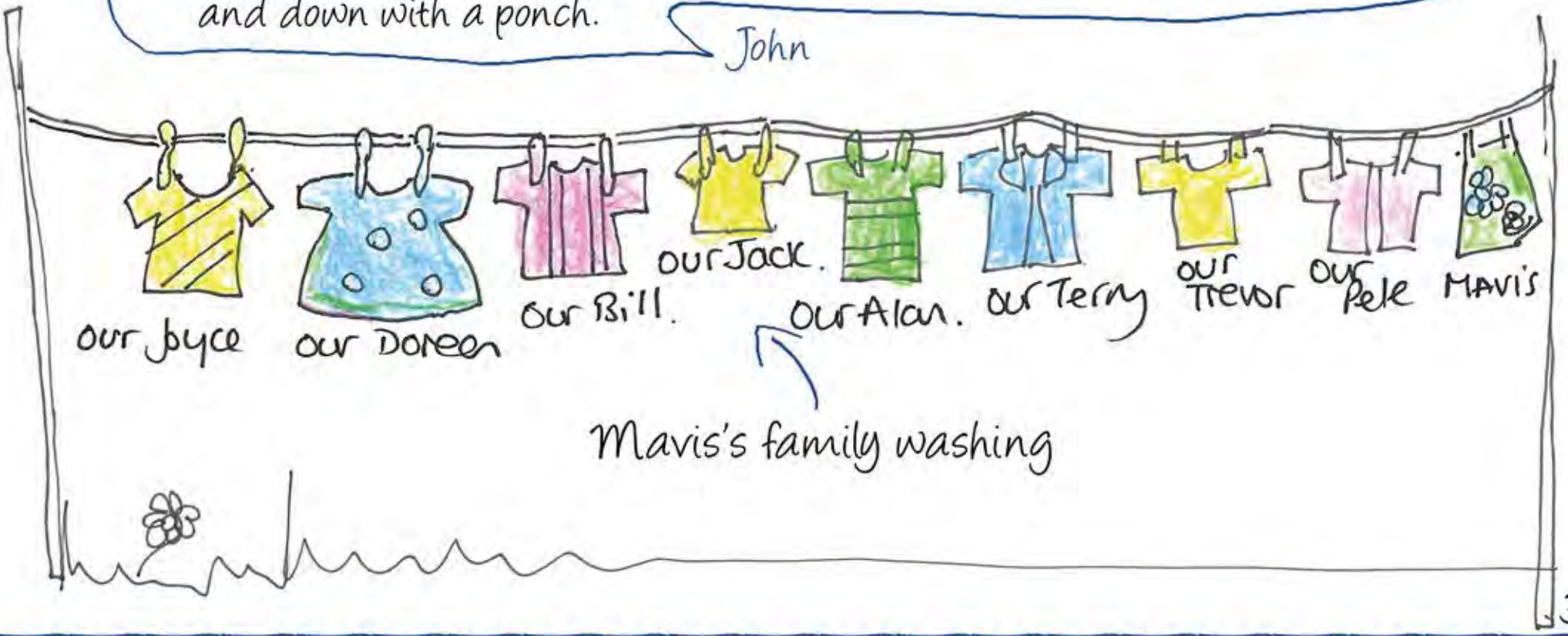
Beverley



Family Wash Day

My mum did the washing in a big tub, she'd push the washing up and down with a ponch.

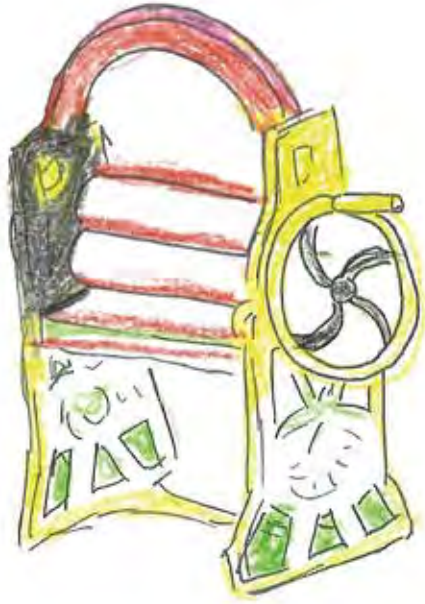
John





I helped my mum with the mangle on wash day, and then homework. The coal fire was nice and warm.

Brenda



Mangle

I was out in the scullery having a wash in the tin bath on the morning of my wedding day.

Edna

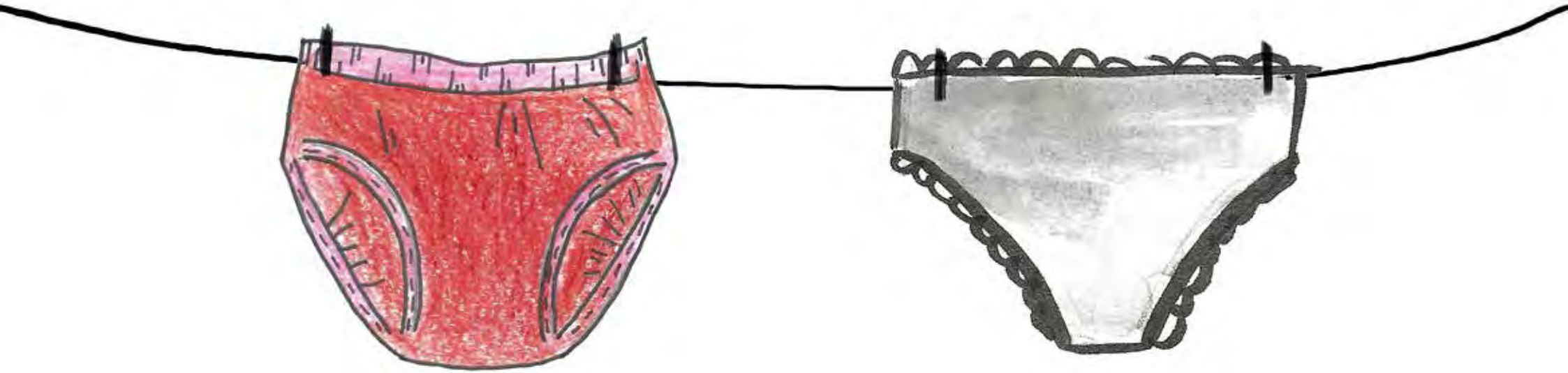


We used to play hide and seek, so guess where I hid? In my mum's dustbin. My mum emptied a rubbish bin right over my head. I went grey. It wasn't grey hair, it was coal ashes.

Ivy







We used to only have one bath a week. Sunday was bath night, with Dick Barton on the radio. The whole family used the same radio.

Doreen



We kept the tin bath hanging outside on the wall.

Maureen

The tin bath was kept on a wall in the yard, we heated the water in the copper and used saucepans to fill the bath. Dad used to dry our hair by the fire.

Edna



Throw the baby out with the bath water.



It cost money to heat water, so me and my twin brother had a bath at the same time, in just five inches of water.

David



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