

Children's Games & Pastimes

You had no mopeds or whatever you call them now. We had a bicycle rim, we went up to Annaghbeg to pass Whitey Hughes's the Cookstown One Hundred, you got a hoop and maybe a scourge ten the hoop during the Cookstown One Hundred. Stanley Woods, George Brockerton you wouldn't remember the old motorcyclists that was our pastime.

Horse shoes, there's no horses shoes now, an iron peg here, an iron peg there and you stood and threw your shoe. If she was closest to it you got five, if you got a ringer you got ten skittles. I told Sean to get horses shoes, wheels and skittles to show the pastime we had. The pictures started in Dungannon in later years but in my youth there was no pictures that time, we had the Brewery Hall where Brewery Close is now that was where the Brewery works next to the bridge was, the hall it was a massive big hall, Browns would put on Christmas concerts and children's parties.

The traffic wasn't the same in the village at that time. This house was here, he would come over the other footpath, you put a spool of thread and you put a button on it and you took the thread across to the other side and you put the thread on top of the window and they would come out and see who was there. You would do it again, pull the thread and rap the window, nobody there, that's the way we carried on.

Things had developed, and I had just got a car a Standard Eight car and we were all around the top of the village rapping doors and throwing things and somebody threw a stick, hit his parents car, we were all happy enough standing here so in about an hour or less the police came from Castlecaulfield, went up the Convent, way down the Backford, up past the youth club at the back of us, just they came in from the back, so I had my first session in the courthouse.

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The skittles and the horse shoes and the ladies and wee girls played wee house gathered up all the broken delph they could find they built a wee corner and they put all the broken delph and played wee house. They were making tea, that's the way we amused ourselves. we used to spend lot of school holidays lying round the river, down at Torrent Bridge, now nobody goes to the river at all.

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