



FROM THE CHILDREN *of*  
STONEHOUSE



he following poetry is from the children of Stonehouse in connection with the 1993 Heritage Exhibition held in St.Ninian's Church. The poetry expresses the children's views of a changing environment and happy memories of the summer months. Included in this booklet are two poems from the past of the River Avon and Gala Day's of past.



There's mony rivers in the West,  
Ayr and Doon, and a' the rest,  
Nane tae us is hauf sae blest  
As oor sweet winding Avon.  
Raise your voices, sing its praise,  
Its placid linns, its benty braes;  
Its mem'ries dear o' ither days  
We've spent by winding Avon.  
Lang syne when evil deeds were rife.  
The Kirk wis torn wi' sturt and strife  
Full mony a martyr gied his life  
Beside the winding Avon.  
Sodom Hill and Drumclog Field  
Where weavers fought and wadna yield;  
Where Scotland's richts were firmly seal'd  
Beside the winding Avon.

Now peace reigns o'er thee cherished stream,  
The fisher's love, the exile's dream  
May simple joys aye from the theme  
Of those who dwell by Avon.  
As long as Scotia's rivers rin,  
Wild woods wave, and flow'rst spring  
We'll bare oor he'rts and proudly sing  
In praise of winding Avon

*Robert Chalmers*





# he Park

*I see yellow swings back and forth  
The beautiful baby birds chirping in the trees  
I hear the cold wind whistling going by  
The wind blowing through the trees  
I touch the metal chutes as I go whizzing down them.*

*The cold water in the pond I smell the beautiful flowers as  
I walk by The fumes of the car that passes me  
I taste the chocolate I brought with me, the apples off trees  
I wish I could live there in the park  
To make sure it does not get destroyed or vandalised.*

**Sarah McInnes**

*Putting is in the park.  
And tennis.  
Road to the park is there but the bridge isn't.  
Kick a ball about the park, climbing up to the chute and sliding down it.*

**Robert Biggar**

*I see the clear, blue sky with the birds flying high,  
The green water flowing in the pond.  
I hear the splashing water of the pond with the boats on it,  
The children playing by the swings.  
I touch the green grass that grows quickly in the rain,  
The picnic basket that the foods in.  
I taste my ice-lolly melting in my mouth,  
My sandwiches from my picnic basket.  
I smell the brightly coloured flowers that grow in the borders,  
The meat on the sandwiches that I am eating.  
I wish I could have a shot of the swing now,  
Could have another sandwich.*

**Lainey Mather**



*Playing has changed alot.  
Usually go to play tennis there.  
Bridges have been knocked down.  
Like the park.  
I'd rather it was better.  
Can play on boats.*

*Playing in the park all the time.  
And anyone can go there.  
Rides like swings and motorbikes and lots more.  
Know you can go all the time.*

**Michael Reid**

*I see the black birds on the tall green trees  
The children playing on the swings  
I hear the boats moving in the water  
The birds singing happily  
I touch the friendly dogs going past me  
The rain that comes down from the sky  
I smell the fresh air all around me  
Food from peoples picnics  
I taste my juicy, green apple  
My big sticky lollipop  
I wish I could be a bird and stay here in this park all day long every day.*

**Diane Maxwell**

*If you go down to the park today you'll get a big surprise.  
The bridge is away but that O.K. because of the bypass.  
The boats are cool and I go to them after school.  
The swings are mad and they're rad.  
The chutes are mad and they make me glad that the park is still there.*

**Scott David Bowers**

*See that the bridge is not there  
What has happened to it?  
In the summer holidays it was there  
Now what are they going to build?  
Go to the park and see yourself.  
Park now has a new chute  
Are they going to build a road?  
Run as fast as you can to see  
Kicking the ball, just get down to the park.  
If you go to the park today you'll see that there is difference.*

**Martin McAulay**



*I see the swings going back and front  
and the boats slowly going along the pond.  
I hear the birds singing in the trees  
and the children shouting at each other.  
I touch the dogs coming by  
and the cold clear water in the pond.  
I smell the fresh air all around me  
and the beautiful flowers near the grass.  
I taste the juicy apple when I have a bite into it  
and my friends drink of orange.  
I wish I could go down that big slide  
and play on the rowing boat.*

**Garie McLuskie**

*So your going to the park.  
This is how it used to be.  
Old bridges in the way.  
Not there now they have been replaced.  
Everyone will miss them.  
How everyone liked them.  
Old bridges are the best.  
Under estimated they were.  
Summer days we'll miss playing on them.  
Everyone used to care.*

*People don't care any more.  
Any number will soon forget.  
Rabbits will miss the railway.  
Kind people will care.*

**Stacey Wallace**

*I see the bright sun shining in the sky, the brightly coloured flowers.  
I hear the fast Avon river rushing by, the noisy birds singing aloud.  
I smell the sticky sweat on my face, the fresh air all round me.  
I taste my juicy apple, the sweat on my lips.*

*I wish I was there right now, my brother was with me.*

**Paul Gemmell**



*Swing is brill.  
Walking to the park is good.  
In the park there are 7 chutes.  
NO I LIKE THE PARK.  
Girl the park is very good.  
Is the park down there?  
None of you coming to the park.  
GONE TO THE PARK MOM OK.*

### **Mark Bell**

*If you go down to the park today  
You are sure of a big surprise  
The bridge is down  
So you will frown  
Skip ady dippaday do  
The birds are singing  
The kids are laughing  
Skip ady dippaday do  
The bulldozers dozing  
The tractors are roaring  
Skip ady dippaday do*

*The chutes are up they're great fun  
Let's go home it's 5 o'clock  
Skip ady dippaday do  
Look at that bulldozer it's in that house  
Skip ady dippaday do*

### **Rosslyn Mills**

*Stonehouse park is fun  
Telling everyone where it is  
On the swings we always go  
Nobody plays music at the bandstand anymore  
Even the small chutes are good  
Having fun is what it's about  
On the boats in the pond u  
Used to have a long chute  
Sitting on the swings for lazy people  
Everytime I go I always play on the swings.*

*Public park is a good place for picnics  
Anyone can go there  
Rabbits live in the forest  
Keeping it tidy is what to do.*

### **Ross Grainger**



*If you go down to the park today you will get a big surprise,  
You will be lying in your bed with a lump upon your head,  
A brick fell down upon your head on your way to the park,  
The next time you go down to the park I'd watch out it might happen to you again.*

*The brick fell down upon your head because of the new by-pass,  
There is rubble and stones everywhere, so watch out'*

*Claire Connely had to move from her house because of all the changes,  
She had to move because of all the noise and mess they were making.*

### **Leanne Monks**

*I see everyone playing in the park,  
the children playing noisily on the boats,  
children playing on the swings,  
them screaming as they go very high,  
I see them enjoying themselves.*

*I hear the birds tweet as the children play,  
them playing tennis,  
I also hear them playing at putting.*

*I touch the strong metal on the swing,  
the dry grass too,  
the clear cold water at the Avon.*

*I smell the alcohol that's left behind,  
the smell that comes off the trees.*

*I wish I could go down every day.*

### **Matthew Steele**

*If you go down to the park today,  
You'll get a big surprise,  
Rubble will fall on top of you,  
Right before your eyes*

*If you go fishing in the park today,  
You'll get a great big shock,  
You won't catch any cod or trout,  
You'll catch a boot and sock'*

*If you go to the woods in the park,  
You won't like it a lot,  
All you'll hear is a bang,  
And you will be shot'*

### **Alan Brown**





*So off to the park hopety hop,  
Ten minutes and I'll be there,  
Over the railway and have a quick step,  
Not to have a beer,  
End my stop and hopety hop,  
Hurry up come on,  
Over the fence and have a quick run  
Under the football net I will sit,  
So let's go on now,  
Ended my run, Whose's for tennis?  
Ping Pong goes the ball,  
And come on let's go,  
Run I'll beat you,  
Keep up come on,*

*That's us there.*

**Fiona Williamson**

*I see the children laughing as they play.  
The brightly coloured flowers as I walk by.  
Some children playing on a boat as it floats  
along the clear green water.  
Some children are throwing crispy bread to the birds that fly down.*

*I hear the birds screeching as they fly.  
The children are shouting and screaming when they play.  
I hear my mum calling my name as I walk by.  
I touch the grass as I do a handstand.  
My friends as I am playing tig.  
I stroke a big black dog with a shiny coat.  
I touch the side of the swing as I play.  
I taste the cold air as I breathe.  
I wish I could play and play forever in Stonehouse Park*

**Heather Thomson**





# The Countryside

*Trees and leaves so lovely and green.  
Houses and hills look neat faraway.  
End of term for children, to go to the park.  
Currants, you'll be picking for your dinner soon.  
Out in the sunshine you get a good tan.  
Up in the sky it is lovely and blue.  
Now is time to go home.  
The time is five o'clock, better dash.  
Running as fast as I can.  
Yea I made it on time.  
Spaghetti is my favorite, that's what we're getting.  
Ink is all over my hands I better wash them.  
Delicious that's what I think of that lovely meal.  
Emma is coming back to the bridge with me so see you later folks Bye.*

**Claire Garvie**

*No longer a peaceful hedgerow*

*Eastmains used to be peaceful and quiet.  
All we could hear were bird's songs.  
Sparrow hawks and kestrels nested in the old railway.  
Tawny owls hunted at dusk, for mice and shrews.*

*Mounds were next to two beautiful trees.  
Another few weeks and they'll be gone.  
I think the by-pass is needed but the spur road isn't.  
Now all the wildlife will have to flee.  
Soon all we'll have is a noisy road.*

*Most of our 'fun' places will vanish.  
All the owls will never be seen again.  
Roads will be everywhere.  
Streets very noisy.  
Hawks will flee to the park.  
Loud screeches of brakes will be heard in the dark.  
And zooming of cars will break the silence.  
Nine years time it will be hard to remember.  
Daft is what I think of the spur road.*

**Colin Lamb**





# The Railway

*Builders working all over the bridge.  
Rides in the park are very good.  
I always go there.  
Dumpers all over the site.  
Girls play tennis.  
Exciting with the workers there.*

**Ross Tennant**

*Bridges that are no longer there.  
Remember all those little roads and old railways.  
It's sad to think they will never be there again.*

*Diggers digging day and night.  
Got to finish the job.  
End of all the bridges but Stonehouse will live on.*

**Gordon McReady**



*The two bridges that once stood,  
Are nothing but piles of rubble,  
It's so sad, oh so bad,  
The bridges are destroyed,  
Having stood for ages,  
It really is a blow,  
To have to let them go.*

*I liked the railway a lot,  
It was brilliant for bike riding,  
And now it is destroyed,  
Except the peaceful viaduct,  
So long ago destroyed.*

*I remember, that there was  
A path, running alongside  
The railway through a load of trees,  
I had a great time there,  
Amongst those cool green leaves.*

**Andrew Ramsay**

*There was once a railway,  
It was really fun,  
I would cycle a long way,  
Before the day was done.*

*I would climb on the trees,  
With some of my friends,  
We would play make believe games,  
It was fun to pretend.*

*But now it is gone,  
There are diggers and trucks,  
It's supposed to be safer,  
It's bad and good luck.*

**Carolyn Nelson**



*Your walking down that road,  
You won't see nothing there,  
Because it is all bear.  
There once stood a bridge,  
That stood nice and tall,  
And now it has to fall.  
It was an old bridge,  
That had a nice ridge,  
It was really fun,  
That old, tall bridge.  
The people beside that fallen bridge,  
Must be very sad,  
But some people are glad,  
Oh, that old bridge.*

**Kim Ruthuen**

*The bridge was taken away today,  
And I was really sad.  
That bridge was there all my life,  
When it came down I was mad.  
My face was red, I suddenly said,  
Why is this happening,  
The work men said go away' when you come near,  
You feel so sad and really mad that you can't go near.*

**Gail Dowsland**



The morn's the Fair  
And I'll be there  
I'll have on my curly hair,  
The cocks will crow,  
The hens will lay,  
The morn's Stonehouse Fair Day.—

I'll hae on my braw silk hat  
Buttons doon ma back  
Silks and satins roon my tail  
An ribbons on ma hat.

Five pair o' blankets  
Six pair o' sheets  
Hauf 'a yaird o' moleskin  
Tae men ma Faither's Breeks.

Green peas, mutton pie.s  
Tell me whaur ma lohnrlly lie.s  
And I'll be there before he die.s  
To cuddle him in ma bosom





# The Gala Day

*Good fun for everyone.  
And you can see lots of funny things.  
Lots of floats go passing by.  
And the make-up you can get done.*

*Day is over we have a party it is brilliant.  
A really good day is had by everyone.  
So come along.  
You can see the lovely dresses.*

**Kim Kilgannon**

*Gala day was ever so exciting'  
And everyone in Stonehouse was joyful.  
Loads of fun and no one fighting,  
All because GALA DAY is here'*

*Dunces are the people who didn't come,  
Along to the GALA, it's so much fun,  
You wouldn't bother if it was raining, or if out came the sun'*

**Chrystal Sumner**

*The Gala Day is excellent,  
Gala Day is brill,  
You can buy ice cream cones there,  
I like them with a flake,  
I would hate if it had to end,  
It would be a total bend,  
I go to Gala Day every year,  
Some people dress up,  
We have lots of fun.*

**Donna MacLellan.**

*Gala days are the best days ever.  
All my friends think so to.  
Lots of fun and games to play.  
And even little cars to.  
Did I ever miss Gala Day never in my life.  
All my friends and me even like playing on the slide.  
You should never miss Gala Day never in your life.*

**Natasha McDonald**



*The gala days are really good  
Happy faces everywhere  
Everyone having fun.*

*Gala floats are beautiful  
And the people dressed up in them  
Lovely paper flowers on the floats  
And watching them is fun.*

*Delightful people watching them  
And the grown ups  
Yi pee here comes the queen in the carriage with the horse pulling.*

**Vicki Gibson**

*Gala day is good fun,  
And you get ice-cream cones,  
Love playing on all the rides,  
All I do is eat ice-cream.*

*Did you go to last years gala day?  
Apples also I eat,  
You would love the ice-cream you get from the ice-cream van.*

**Clair Hill**

*Gunge and goo,  
And fun and games,  
Lots of food,  
Anger has disappeared.*

*Don't get drunk,  
And don't forget,  
Your party at night.*

**Steven Feeney**

*Good things to do.  
Applause for the queen.  
Lots of food.  
All the flags up on the streets.  
Do all the things and you will want to go back.  
All the flowers on the floats.  
You can see the football match and a lot of other things to do.*

**David McLean**

