SHARE YOUR STORY
SHARE YOUR STORY WITH ME

At Abbotswood Court we have nurtured a great friendship with the children from yellow dot nursery. We meet up regularly for a sing song or activity session and have fun painting, cooking, gardening and sharing stories.

In celebration of 2018 share a story month, some of our residents have shared their own life stories with the children.

This book has been compiled from a selection of the stories that were shared and the children have added some of their own colourful pictures.

Illustrations by Grace Parker.
When I was younger I loved to travel to different countries.

I was very lucky because my father was a film cameraman who made films all over the world and I often travelled with him.

When I was married my husband worked on a gold mine in Africa so we lived there for several years.

Africa is a very hot country, very different from England! I’m lucky because I like the heat.

I saw some interesting animals in Africa but they don’t like people so they were usually running in the opposite direction to us!
MY NAME IS SYLVIA.

When I was a child, it was wartime and it wasn’t safe to live in the city. I can remember being evacuated to live in the countryside.

I had to leave my family behind and went to live on a farm in North Hampshire. I was only 9 years old. It was very different from living in Southampton which was a noisy and busy city.

I remember the farm was very quiet except for the animals of course!

As an adult I have travelled to some interesting places. I lived in Zimbabwe for 3 years and I remember visiting a game park. I saw lots of different animals there including giraffes and hyenas. I also saw baby elephants drinking at a watering hole which was really special.
MY NAME IS LILLIAN.

When I was 10 years old it was wartime. I had to leave my home and family because I was evacuated to live in the countryside. I remember getting on a train and not knowing where I was going.

I had to pack a small case and off we went. The train took me to a small village in Wales where I lived with a family.

I have good memories of this time. We did a lot of singing together and marching. It was a very happy time.
When I was very little I lived in a tiny village near Fordingbridge in the New Forest called Sandleheath. My parents kept the village shop and it sold everything from food and sweets to newspapers, animal feed and fuel. I can remember helping in the shop and when my Dad went out in the van to make paraffin deliveries. Paraffin was used for cooking, heating and lighting homes so it was very important that we didn’t run out.

My school was 2 miles away from where we lived and I had to walk there and back every day - whatever the weather! As a child I loved reading stories and I was quite good at writing them too. When I left school, I trained as an electrician and moved to Birmingham which was a huge city. I am definitely a country boy at heart!
MY NAME IS HOPE.

I have a twin brother and during the war we were evacuated together to Devon where we lived on a farm.

I can remember feeding the chickens and riding on the horses. I even helped with the shire horses as they ploughed the fields.

My family lived in Southampton where they owned and ran an antique shop.

I went to St Ann’s Convent School and later became a typist. I love flowers and enjoy arranging them. I am also good at pottery. When I was younger, I had my own kiln and sold the pots I made.
MY NAME IS AUDREY.

I grew up in Southampton and went to St Ann’s Convent School. I was very proud to achieve a scholarship at school and my best subject was maths.

I was always very good with numbers and adding them up- I never made any mistakes! When I left school, I went on to become a bookkeeper and maths was a big part of my job.

As an adult my big love became the arts and reading. I still like to read the newspaper every day.
MY NAME IS ROY.

I was born in 1921 so I am very old. When I was a young boy I was very lucky to live only 2 doors away from my school so I could get there very quickly. My best subject was probably arithmetic, I was very quick at doing sums.

My mother was a strict teetotaller but when I was about 14 years old she encouraged me to get a job at the brewery in Romsey which I thought was funny. I worked there as an office boy and I remember having to sit on a tall stool at a desk. Behind me was a row of bells that rang if an errand needed doing. Number 19 was the Chairman’s bell and when that rang I had to run quickly to answer it!

After I left school I trained in Salisbury to be in the army and travelled overseas during the war. On the ship I got a job as chief potato peeler in the kitchens which was hard work! When we arrived in Durban in South Africa, I can remember it being a very free place where we had lots of chocolate and cigarettes, very different to war time Britain. I also travelled to the Middle East, India and Burma. I was in Rangoon when the war ended and I came home.

After the war I married Iris, the baker’s daughter and we lived above the bakery shop in Romsey.

I returned to work at Strong’s brewery and stayed there for many years.
My name is Betty.

When I was a child I loved my time at school. My favourite subjects were English and History. I still enjoy reading and believe you can never be lonely with a good book!

When I left school, it was 1942 and wartime. I volunteered for the Women’s Air Force and worked in central London for 5 years as a secretary and typist.

I was only a young girl really and I remember the parties and friends I made but of course it was also the time of the blitz in London and there was lots of bombing.

After the war, in 1949, I got married. I remember all of my family having to save their coupons so that I could buy a wedding dress and trousseau (the clothes, linen, and other belongings collected by a bride for her marriage). I was a housewife until my children had all grown up but I did go back to work as a typist when my son was 17 and I got bored at home! I can still remember I could type 60 words a minute and 120 in shorthand! I can still picture the order of the letters on the typewriter even now.

I am so lucky to have such a lovely family: 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.
SOME OF THE CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT WANTED TO TELL YOU A BIT MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES.

My name is Rosetta.

I live with my Mummy, Daddy and my dog who is called ‘Blue moon’.

I go to a few clubs such as drama and karate. I love to go swimming. When I come to Abbotswood I like to read stories and draw pictures.

My name is Daniel.

I live at home with my Mummy and Daddy and my little sister Amelia. I really enjoy playing superheroes! My favourite food is peas and my best colour is green.

I also love chickens.

My name is Jack.

I enjoy playing with my Mummy, Daddy and my little brother Oliver at the weekend. My favourite animals are horses and sheep. I enjoy going to nursery to play with all my friends in the garden.
My name is Harvey.

My favourite thing to do is going to the play park with my Mummy and Daddy. My favourite animal is a cow and I like coming to Abbot's Wood to see my friends.

My name is Theo.

I enjoy going to beach nursery with my friends from Yellow Dot. I am learning to do tap dancing at the weekends. My favourite colour is green and my best food is scrambled egg!

My name is Leah.

I live with my Mummy, Andy and my baby sister Georgia. My favourite place to go is the beach at the weekend. I really enjoy coming to nursery to play with my friends.
“This is a picture of smiling Roy”
By Leo

“This is a picture of Lillian”
By Anna

“This is a picture of the elephants having a drink at the watering hole in Africa.”
By Ellie
“This is a picture of all the things you can buy at Brian’s shop.” By Adelaide

“This is a picture of Lillian getting on the train to Wales.” By Liam

“This is a picture of all the animals on Hope’s farm.” By Sebastian
Goodbye from Yellow Dot Nursery and Abbotswood Court.

Thank you for reading, we hoped you enjoyed our stories!