



### **Ellen Whitelaw**

Born in Glasgow, on the 17th November 1925,  
she was one of 10 children

Aa a teenager she survived the Clydebank Blitz  
of World War II, in fact she ran through the streets to  
get to her two wee sisters, Margaret & Mattie,  
who were in a cinema, as bombs were going off...  
someone grabbed her and threw her into a shelter..

"I cried so much in there, I didn't know if they were alive"

They were - the cinema was evacuated and all the kids were safe

### **ELLEN & STAN**

The Barrowlands Ballroom in Glasgow was where they met  
during the war - it was a neighbour of Ellen's, a young lad who  
fancied her who introduced them. Stan's ship had docked at  
Greenock and the sailors got shore leave - so they went dancing.  
The lad had met Stan on the ship and, that night he said to her  
"well if you don't want me, I know a good lad for you"  
How crazy is fate????



### **Family...**

So Stan went off to Russia, Ellen was a land girl for a while  
but mostly stayed in Glasgow...  
they wrote letters to each other and, after the war,  
they married on the 25th December 1946

They had six children;  
Stanley, Thomas, Anne, Ellen, James, and me

They lost their three boys, my brothers, who are  
in this grave with their great grandad

The loss of the boys, so young, devastated Mum & Dad  
but their three girls gave them six grandchildren;  
Gez, Kirsten, Callum, Ross, Lydia & Trudy  
and, for now in 2024, four great-grandchildren;  
Louella, Evie, William & Stanley



## **AND TIME MARCHES ON (as Dad always said)**

Well, it does... argh!!  
Uch a know... but a Celebration of Life is exactly that..  
And Ellen & Stan's family are still smiling & laughing..  
that is their legacy!!!

New generations, fun, laughter so.... Let's Sing!!!

Oh NOOOOO Someone might get an accordion out :)

**THE LOVELY PIPER - ROBIN**  
The Dark Island

Talking about accordions.. my sister and I played with the Jimmy Blair Orchestra - I was 7 years old when I started, Ellen was 12.. and we went on to win so many competitions

It was all Mums idea.. during the war, she was a kid, there was a neighbour who played.. he promised her that when he got back from the war.. he'd teach her how to play the accordion.. but he didn't come back.. so that passion & driving force was always with her.. plus her family were very musical..

Our grandmother (wee cuz Pamela) had a piano and used to get her 10 kids around it to sing..

Growing up, in the 70's and 80's there were always parties at one of my Auntie's house in Castlemilk and Mum & Dad would be singing & drinking - OMG how did we get home????

