

> Story 157 Hopeit Helps meeting
I've was in Lennox castle for

About ten years But Came out
Before the castle shut down
And patients were put into
the community And into their
own places like Houses in the
Hospital was good at times like
going to the Danceing in the
Assembly Hall But escorted
with nurses As patients would
try and run away at night
comming back to the wards
and Huts like 1 to 10 and
Ward from 7 to villa 9

The men had wards the same
numbers and villas to we
had our christmas party's to
with the staff As they Arranged
the discos to come up to the
Huts and villas then had a
garden Fete in the Summer in
the field up the top side in the
castle grounds the garden Fete was
like the nurse Baking Knitting
Crafts and selling Different things
in stalls they hired for the
day the money they earned went
to funding for Bus runs for the
Disabled patients in the ADAirward
As ALL them had been in
wheelchairs then we went to
Different work Department
During the day like the Occupational
therapy's selfcare units PTO

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The men had worked in the Kitchen stacking up the vans with the meal trolleys like Breakfast Lunch teatime and ~~supper~~ Supper time with cakes for the 7 o'clock tea after our tea at 6 o'clock we had to do our chores like wash the dishes from morning and afternoon as well then empty the broke pails like meal for the pigs in the farms sweep the floor like massive carpets with cleansing sweeping brushes some patients had to wash the floors clean the back toilets and tidy the linen room like put the washing away on the shelves like sheets towels pants like white long johns as some patients kept wetting themselves and beds and had to be changed through the night with the night nurses on night shifts in the wards and some patients wet high at night running up and down the corridors putting their hairs of some of the patients in beds sleeping and disturb them trying to sleep the food we got was steamed like stew mince homemade soup and puddings like rice and custards and cake prunes semolina

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Which I hated All the food was very fattening as the patients went up for extras on their tea plates at night of which was left in the Silver Dinner trays and containers then got their medications Before they did the cleaning up we were up in the mornings from 8am when the early shift started at 7oclock and then had a Back Shift started at 1oclock till tenoclock then the night shift staff started at 10oclock till 7oclock in the morning their was different work rooms for the patients to go to During the Day until Lunchtime like 12oclock As they had to come up to the wards for their dinner then back to the work places till 3oclock in the afternoons even Male patients worked in the garden's growing the vegetables for the Kitchen in the male side Beside the wards and there was a Kitchen ref for the nurses to Buy something out the vending machines for their Lunch like Salad rolls and Salad dinners and hot meals and drinks out of some patients used to go over for the nurses as they gave us money But we always would give them Back their receipt and change in the wards PTO

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When we took their
Lunch over to them in the
Summer time we got to
sit outside some of the
patients but had to be
Kept an eye on as some
patients lost their privileges
and tokens it meant they
couldn't watch TV or go outside
a walk Tokens was like
plastic 2 pence 5 pence ten
pence coins they gave us
As we used different ones to
get to do different things with
Their was a van and a staff
Alan Morgan who took us
Swimming to Allendar
Swimming Baths each week
then brought us back into the
castle grounds with the van
and dropped the patients off at
the wards and huts and men
at the Villa. Myself Marie
Christie worked up at the
hairdressers inside the castle
down in the basement helping
Dorothea out cutting setting
and colouring plus permening
their hair until lunch
time then went back up
until 3 o'clock helping her
out the rest of the day
doing the patients hairs some
werent right and disabled in
wheelchairs to PTO

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even had to be taken down to the dancing at night some were male from the male side and the same in the female side with help nurses at night that brought them back to the wards huts and villas at 9 o'clock at night as the dancing in the Assembly hall went on from 7pm till 9pm at night then there was Chapel on a Sunday in the Assembly hall to from 9pm till 12pm in the afternoon we had good days and Bad Days plus some nurses weren't goods as the others in the top female and Bottom side The Shop was good where we could go to spend our parole money we put in for on a Sunday night out the wages office The patients could put in the money they asked for like £20 pounds £10 pounds or a £5 whatever they wanted plus male patients got their moneys on different days like the females to the money was delivered in a van to the wards and villas During the weekdays not the weekends so the patients spent their money on what they wanted out the shop like

6/ Fags Juice Biscuites or
cakes coffee tea Bags
and Sweets and Crisps in the
Castle grounds was a sewing
room were patients worked
as well to do like the sewing
mending clothes and sheets
that were ripped and then
delivered Back to the wards
in the vans and there was
a MACHans Day Centre like a
hut for disabled patients to
work in through the Day
and Do things like Draw
paint And make things like
christmas Decorations for their
centres plus some of the male
staff would dress up like

Santie Claus in the huts villas
and wards for the patients to give
them their christmas presents
out the red Santie sack the
we disabled patients were
happy and smiled away getting
a present Then something
to eat at the parties as well
in the wards and Discos
untill 930pm as the staff
had to finish at ten at
night The patients in the
wards got their turn
going Bus runs to like going
into Ayr Salcoats troon.
As they hired a coach Bus with
the funding money Storey By
marie christie

that was in the castle long time ago
The patients all enjoyed their
trips buying family's something
each with their parole money
they got from the pay office
were the staff collected their
pay slips or sometimes myself
marie would go and collect
them for my favourite staff
I go on with which I called my
- Deire Then the patients got
their visitors brought up to see
them on a wednesday afternoon
at 2pm on the castle bus until
4pm Then the same on a
Saturday happened to some
patients got upset and high if
their family's never turned up
to see them on the bus it was
a shame to see it in the wards
they had to give them something
to calm them down if not
they'd be throwing things about
in the wards like chairs
cups plates that was made of
china injuring the staff as
well sitting at a table in the
Day hall of a hut with four seats
round it at their tea or coffee
break and a smoke what they
gave patients was to calm them
down and be good or even the
other patients would have been
hurt with a plate towards them
sitting about in the hut watching
TV or doing something as well

hope this Letter gives you
good help and advise of what
happened in the castle when
it was opened then Before
it closed down Because As
you know Celtic park has
took a Bit of the ground
over to use for a training
Area for the trainers
and football players to teach
The Castle had its good Days
plus its a Shame some of
the disabled patients had to
be taken out and put else
were to be looked after I know
there is patients from the castle
in a hospital at parkhead
as my uncle franks 2

Daughters and Granddaughter
work in it as nurses And
you see some of the patients
in wheelchairs going about
the parkhead forge market
with nurses taking them
round it in wheelchairs
and they love it I see some
myself m ariewhen Im out
shopping but their well
looked after with the staff
that take them out and
about even to the other
market across from the
forge And are well wrapped
up in ALL weathers
some are clapping away their hands
in their wheelchairs