

Project: **'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A people's history'.**

Respondent: Tina Blakely

Year of Birth: 1975

Age:

Connection to project: Local Knowledge

Date of Interview: 06/02/2024

Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison

Recording Agreement: Yes/ No

Information & Consent: Yes/ No

Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of: )

Length of Interview: 55.03

Location of Interview: Ruchazie Pantry

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.30	<i>Where were you born?</i>	
	I was born in Duke Street Hospital, Glasgow.	00.35
00.37-	<i>Where did your family live at that time?</i>	
	At that point we lived in the Calton area. I was one when we moved away from there so I don't have much memories from there.	00.39-00.45
00.46	<i>Where did you move to?</i>	
	Then we moved to Easterhouse, right up the back end of Easterhouse. It was just all farm land. It was great housing I suppose. I was too wee but the family would have thought it was great housing because it had an indoor toilet. When we lived in the Calton, it was an outdoor toilet. So aye, we had three bedrooms in a one-up house. We moved away from there when I was five so I don't have great memories of that house either but my family would talk about the house being haunted.	00.49-01.20
01.21	<i>Can you tell me about that?</i>	
	My Mum would say she'd get up in the middle of the night and all the windows would be open wide. She said it was freezing and there was no reason because everybody was in their beds sleeping. One day my sister was coming back from football and we're all big football fans every one of our family and we wee never allowed to wear our scarves home. The man at the top of the street supported a team from the other end of the city and our team had won that day and my sister had her scarf on and he went down to my Dad and said my sister was singing sectarian songs at his window. So, it was a coal fire we had at the time, and my Dad took the scarf from my sister and threw it in the fire, and to this day my sister protests that didn't happen, he was just bitter	01.22-02.49

	<p>because the other side had won, and her punishment was that she was to do the dishes for a week. So she was doing the dishes, washed them all, went to her room to do something and she was going back to dry them and all the dishes went flying off the sink and landed on the floor and all smashed and my Dad was not very pleased and thought she'd smashed the dishes because she didn't want to wash them.</p> <p>So lots of strange things happened in that close. The man and lady up the stair used to stand in the close and the lady used to say she was talking to a man with a bowler hat on and she would be standing there talking for hours. Whether it was happening I don't know. You would get a big draught coming up the house, it was a very eerie place to live in.</p>	
02.51	<i>Was it old?</i>	
	<p>It was just that it was a tenement built in Easterhouse back in the 50s or whatever it was, but I think it was built on old mines or something. So they talk about that, and we lived on a hill and the drainage system was really bad so if it rained there would be big puddles. My siblings are like ten years older than me, so I was the baby and the baby got whatever she wanted and I wanted to go and play in the puddles, so I wanted to go and play in the puddles and they would be sent down to watch me and I would be out playing in these puddles for hours and they had to stand in the rain wanting to kill me, so they were pretty glad when we moved from that house.</p>	02.52-03.30
03.31	<i>Why did you move to the other house?</i>	
	<p>I think at the time the houses were being sold off to what was at the time, the Right to Buy, and the Council had sold these houses off and we had to move into another social rented house. This was about 1980.</p>	03.32-03.48
03.49	<i>What was the new house like?</i>	
	<p>It was a bottom flat, we had a garden with a fence, it was so good. We lived in this type of wee square so everyone was really close. It was quite a small street as well whereas the hill was huge. It was quite a close-knit street, you only came in it if you lived in it really.</p>	03.52-04.21
04.22	<i>Can you describe the flat?</i>	
	<p>You went in the front door and you would turn right and you had two cupboards which I was often hung up in with my dungarees. For some reason my Mum always had me in dungarees, dresses, shorts, whatever it was and my siblings disliked me quite a lot and they would hang me up on the coat hook in the cupboard when I was annoying them.</p> <p>So you would turn right and these two cupboards were there. One of them was actually where the coal would go, like a bunker type cupboard and the other one was shoes and jackets and then just past that would have been the toilet. If you came right up the hall there was three bedrooms on the left and the kitchen and bathroom was to the right and the living room was at the top.</p>	04.23-05.19
05.20	<i>What was the heating like in the flat?</i>	
	<p>It was a coal fire and actually the one we lived in previously on the hill was a coal fire as well. Sadly at the time my sister, she was nine, she took leukaemia and my Mum was up at the hospital with her, there were five of us children and my Dad</p>	05.22-08.25

	<p>was left with the other four. Again they were much older than me and my Dad had shouted for dinner and I'd got up, I was only three, and I fell and my hand went into the coal fire. It used to have like a grid thing in front of it and my hand was kind of melted round that. So my Mum obviously got the 'phone call to say what had happened and she jumped in a taxi and came to Easterhouse to get me and didn't have any money for the taxi, so she was obviously telling the taxi driver my daughter's in, she's got leukaemia and my baby's burned herself. The driver didn't take any money.</p> <p>So moving to the new flat, the coal fire wasn't our preferred method of heating just because of me falling into it.</p> <p>I remember we had this really strange clothes dryer thing. It was like a heater that had the heating bit in the middle and it had like two wee ditches in it and a clothes horse would sit in it. So the heat would come off it and would dry the clothes. We used to just move that round about I think to heat the house and we had another wee bowl fire and we'd share that around. We probably had more clothes on the bed than we needed and lots of water bottles.</p> <p>We had old metal windows, I remember that, and it was frozen. The ice in the inside the house, I don't know how thick it would have been, but it was thick on the inside of the house. We had to put towels down to dry up all the water so it didn't go everywhere. The metal windows had a small window at the top, one long one underneath that didn't open and one other big window that would open wide out.</p>	
08.28	<i>Any memories from living in that house?</i>	
	<p>I remember my brother he's older than me, and had a girlfriend. So he had a letter from his girlfriend, this was before texts and people actually wrote letters, so I read the letter and went round telling his pals everything that was said in the letter and he was raging, he was going to kill me. He chased me up and down the house, but I remember, I was i primary six at the time and my body had changed, so my brother thought I'll just stick her sanitary towels over the window and then sent all my friends round and told them it was mine. So that was him getting me back for telling people about his love letter.</p> <p>The same brother when I was in bed, creeping in round the side of the bed and just jumping up. I did wet the bed that night.</p> <p>Some memories weren't so nice. I think just back in the day, alcohol and a wee bit of domestic abuse or a big bit of domestic abuse going on. I had another family I would go and live with, my Auntie and Uncle, so it was my Dad's sister and she had four boys so I became the daughter she never had. So I would go and stay with her at the weekends and summer holidays and things, so I didn't see a lot of the domestic abuse that would happen within our family but it stopped pretty much. I wasn't that old when it all stopped for the better.</p> <p>So some memories weren't very nice but there were lots of good memories.</p>	08.29-10.12
10.14	<i>Tell me about some of your good memories?</i>	
	<p>Most of them were about fighting. My two brothers fighting in the garden and there was a broken jar and my brother got a bit of his leg scooped out. So I'm running about with this jar shouting David's leg's in the jar. My other brother was distraught at the fact that had happened. It was quite funny looking back.</p>	10.15-14.38

14.40	<i>Can you tell me the story of the sheep?</i>	
	<p>Before I was old enough to drink but you did anyway, we were up the back roads because it was farms and right up the back road there was a wee pub up there, so nobody kind of knew you, knew who you were, we we would go up there and have a wee drink. Of course they knew who we were, of course they knew we were under age, but we didn't think they did. So we were coming back home and Fifty was the farmer at the time and he used to shoot you with salt pellets, it was sore sore sore. So if you were on his land he would shoot you with salt pellets and this night there was this wee sheep and I thought I was going to have a pet and I carried it all the way home. At this point they had put doors on the closes because the closes were very much open at the time, but they put back and front doors on with buzzer entries, like controlled entries, and I got into the close and thought what am I going to do with this sheep my Ma's going to get up and kill me and I can't have a sheep as a pet what am I going to do? I wasn't taking it back up the hill it was miles away, so I took it to the neighbours across the street and left it in their close. I think they just thought the sheep had wandered over because we often had cows and stuff walking about the streets.</p>	10.42-12.13
12.14	<i>What kind of things did you do for fun when you were little?</i>	
	<p>Just your usual street games and stuff like ropes and balls. Balls were just amazing that was my favourite but I think the neighbours were demented by it bouncing off the walls. I remember move down the landing you've been here long enough go into somebody else's close. All we wanted to do was play we didn't realise we were annoying anybody.</p> <p>Ropes and elastics were big as well.</p> <p>We used to have a street dog. It was one of the neighbour's dog but it was always on the street. It used to bite us all the time. So we'd be playing two man hunt or kick the can or whatever and I remember jumping on the dyke to get away from it because it was chasing me when we were playing kick the can and I fell over the other side, broke my wrist and the dog came running and still bit me.</p> <p>I remember coming back from Drumpellier Loch where we would've went in the summer as well and we were coming back on our bikes. I don't know if you remember the plastic shoes you used to get back then, jelly beans, and for some reason I thought it was a good idea to use my feet on my back wheel instead of pulling my brake to slow me down. So I was coming down the hill which was quite steep with my feet on the back wheel, so my shoes melting and melting but I'm not realising because it's summer, it's hot, and before I realised it, the shoe had went in the middle, it had snapped, my feet's burned, I've turned my bike, fell over the burn wall into it and I remember my friend Karen screaming at the time Oh your bike your bike, and I'm like, Aye I melted my shoes, fell over the dyke and burned my feet! Most of our days would've spent at Drumpellier Loch.</p>	12.17-13.48
13.50	<i>Can you tell me about Drumpellier Loch?</i>	
	<p>Drumpellier Loch, a lot's changed now. So it had a few parks, a few play parks, a smaller one and a bigger one at the time. We used to go up, go in the water. I remember being in the water and someone had obviously been fishing with the lead pellets and it being in the water it ended up in my foot and I had to go all the</p>	13.52-16.11

	<p>way from the loch all the way home with this in my foot because I couldn't get it out. It was sore.</p> <p>We would spend days up there. We'd be away with our sandwiches or crisps or whatever we'd have got or whatever we had, and we'd take it there. Away you'd go for your day and come back when the street lights came on. We'd have went in a group.</p> <p>Later on in years the loch kind of became a territorial divide between Coatbridge and Easterhouse. As I said my siblings were older and my brother got into that gang culture of the territorial issue. His girlfriend at that time lived in Coatbridge. He's still with her now, she's his wife and they've got kids and grandkids. It was really hard for him to break into living in Coatbridge. He moved away when he was 17, I think, from Easterhouse to Coatbridge but even to this day he still gets Oh you're from Easterhouse.</p> <p>The fighting stopped the older ones going to the loch but didn't stop the younger ones being able to go and enjoy time in the loch and the travellers were there at the time. They would come and park up for a few weeks at the summer before they got moved on.</p>	
16.12	<i>Did you have any interaction with the travellers?</i>	
	<p>Yes, we made lots of friends and they'd come back year after year. Quite nice and quite interesting because it was a different way of living as well. What I had been told about them was not to go near them because they would steal you. That wasn't what their plan was at all, they just wanted to park up. They were just friends. We used to go horse riding up there and when I think back, it was probably the travellers we were riding with and probably their horses, which I wouldn't have thought about at the time.</p>	16.14-17.03
17.35-17.44	<i>How did the gang fighting impact on the kids?</i>	
	<p>For me it wasn't too bad, for my brother it was horrific. He couldn't go anywhere, he'd have been quite well known back in the day for being the gang fighter. They kind of had their gangs and their wee groups and where they gang-fought as it were, there was a pitch and at one side there was a big hill and at the other side there was a wee hill and we would fight to take over that hill and that was what we were fighting for.</p> <p>I don't remember anybody ever losing their life, but I know there was a lot of serious incidents happening, but I don't recall anybody losing their life through it, like I've heard in more recent years.</p> <p>A lot of it was a game of chases, a lot of it was fun. Seen a lot of not so nice things happening. For me I could go anywhere but for my brothers they were kind of trapped in this one wee corner of Easterhouse. Even in the part where we lived in Easterhouse, the part called Drummy, and we would've fought with Toie and Aggro, but even within Drummy wee gangs started forming inside that, so then it was more street gangs. So that became quite tough. Probably when I was a teenager that was much harder than your area gang fighting was your street gang fighting.</p>	17.48-19.25
19.26	<i>Can you tell me about your school days?</i>	

	I went to a wee school in the back end of Easterhouse called St Clare's. It was a great wee school what I can remember of it. It was freezing cold, our playground was like a wee whirlwind and the winds would come in and just stay there, it was frozen and we were never allowed to wear trousers because girls had to wear skirts. I remember coming out of school one day waving a letter the school had given me. My Mum was saying put it down, put it down. I had head lice, and I'm waving it about like a trophy. I remember getting your polio and sugar cube.	19.27-20.33
20.34	<i>Did you see the nurse often at school?</i>	
	I can't remember but I feel like I did see her a lot. We got our jabs and sugar square from the nurse. I remember the dental woman used to come in as well with a big set of teeth and she would do all your smiles or whatever it was at the time. There was a big clean up in Glasgow at the time and we all had t-shirts with a bin on them. It was a big thing across Glasgow and all the schools took part in it.	20.35-21.24
21.26	<i>Who were your favourite teachers at the time?</i>	
	Mrs Mulrooney, I loved her, she was my primary three teacher at the time. I don't think I remember any other teacher in that school except for her. She was like your Miss Honey from Matilda. She was just lovely, I actually think my brother was in love with her as well at one point. I remember him buying her a gift when she was leaving. It was a sad day, I think the whole school was crying the day she left. She was just such a good energy to be around.	21.27-21.54
21.55	<i>Did you go on any school outings?</i>	
	We would've went to the pantomime at Christmas and probably like the People's Palace and we went to the Oldest School in Glasgow and we all got dressed up as Victorians, so, educational trips I suppose.	22.00-22.31
22.24	<i>Do you have any special memories of your primary school days?</i>	
	The day I told Tracy that Santa wasn't real, we were in Primary 7. I didn't want her to be bullied when she went into first year, so I told her in Primary 7, but her Mammy wasn't best pleased with me. I got more than a clout across the ear that day. Tracy was devastated and still devastated to this day, we often talk about it, and I'm the one who now says Santa is real.	22.27-23.32
23.38	<i>Do you remember your first day at secondary school?</i>	
	It was horrible. Horrible, horrible, horrible. I remember because you had to say your name and blah de blah, and they were like, oh so your brother is so and so, so you must be so and so, and I was like well I'm not like him, but I just got tarred with the same brush I suppose and then being dyslexic didn't help either. So the first secondary school I went to I just hated it from day one so I ended up dogging school and just not going. It just wasn't very nice at all. So this was St Leonard's the Catholic school in the area, but all my friends went to Lochend and I wanted to be in Lochend with my friends but obviously being the good Catholic girl I was, I was sent to St Leonard's. So eventually St Leonard's had enough of me and kicked me out.  Before I was kicked out there were a few teachers who stuck in my mind from that school. You had Mr Burns who was the science teacher and honestly the man was terrorised every day in life. It was a shame, now looking back, it was a shame.	23.42-29.21

	<p>He used to throw test tubes at you and you'd be dodging them with your desk, but we probably deserved it for the things we did to the man to be fair. I remember walking down the stairs and somebody said something and he threw a light bulb down the stairs and then other days we'd be like Sir it's roasting, it's roasting, and he would give the boys in the class the money to go across the road to get the ice lollies, but they didn't come back they spent the money on fags and went to the hill to smoke them and we'd be sitting there melting.</p> <p>Then we had big Jack Duffy, I can't remember what he taught, he was just an amazing man as well. He was an older man, he was one of those guys he was just there for you, like a guidance teacher. What a really good guy to have on your side.</p> <p>After being kicked out of St Leonard's I thought right I'm going to Lochend with my pals but no, they sent me to an all-girls school in town. Charlotte Street it was called and it was run by Nuns and that was a worse experience than I had in St Leonard's. So that school was on two sides of the road, and I'd been kicked out of the class for something, probably masking a lot of not being able to read or write very well but not realising that at the time but playing up in class to kind of deflect that. So I remember being kicked out of class going down a spiral staircase saying Sisters are this sisters are that, all the way down the stairs and when I got to the bottom she was standing there, so what are you saying Tina? I was like how did she get there, she didn't pass me, so obviously there's a lift or corridor that the nuns could use. I ended up in a big fight in the toilets and I remember going getting my cousins and my friends from Easterhouse to go back to outside the school to cause a riot.</p> <p>So from then I thought I can't go back to Charlotte Street, I need to go to Lochend, so that's what they done but by that point you're in third year, they've all made their friends and you can't break into that and obviously I had no education by that point. I remember being in Maths and the teacher was a Mr Chowdry and he wore a mood ring on his finger, and I would go into his class and he would say to me, you get out girl you are the only person ever to make my mood ring change colour get out this class and I hadn't done anything wrong to that man, he wouldn't let me in his class, I had to sit out in the corridor. So then obviously you start to take the mickey. After that I went to the English class and the teacher knew that I couldn't read or whatever and I had to stand on the chair and read and it was just mortifying, so I ended up just throwing the book and said, you know what you read it. That was my very last day at secondary education.</p> <p>So my school days weren't that great. There was lots of fun, lots of madness, crazy things happening, caught shop lifting, but education-wise it just didn't happen.</p>	
29.44	<i>Where were you shop lifting?</i>	
	<p>Me and my friends we had been given our money to buy our school clothes for going back to school, but there was a disco in The Project at the time and everybody was having a drink for it and we couldn't buy our clothes and drink at the same time, so we stole our clothes and I think we'd went to What Every Woman Wants or What Every Kid Wants, whatever it was called at the time, so we'd stole it from there and then we went into Lewis's and we thought we'd steal a pair of socks from</p>	29.46-30.46

	<p>there because it was easy before and we thought we'd just do it there. No it wasn't easy. We got caught and we got took to the Police Station and they wanted to know where the receipts were for all the stuff. We didn't have any. Our parents had to come to get us from the Police Station. It wasn't the best thing.</p> <p>Anyway we did get away with that, so we still had our money for our carry out, our Scrumpy Jack. We went to the disco, I had Scrumpy Jack and was sick everywhere.</p>	
30.52	<i>What was Easterhouse community like when you were growing up?</i>	
	<p>Everybody looked out for each other. I suppose it was like any community like we live in now. I remember one of the neighbours, him and his wife splitting up but he had three wee kids and was a train driver, so he needed to go to work. I remember the neighbour next door to him and my Mum and the neighbour on the top actually, all saying, we'll help with the kids, so they would all take turns of watching his kids so this man could still go to his work. Anything that you needed that was go to so and so and ask for instance my Mum saying can I get a loan of that? We were very happy to share what we had, we were probably all poor, but we were poor to the same level. Maybe on a Monday my Mum got paid and maybe on a Tuesday Betty got paid, so that's how they kind of managed it, looking back on things. I would say very much we all looked out for each other.</p>	30.54-31.51
31.52	<i>Were there many shops and facilities?</i>	
	<p>It probably wasn't too bad. We had what we would've called the wee shops, like the local row of shops that we're in just now. So we had the wee shops and the shopping centre and that was the bigger shops when Mum got paid and we went and did the the weekly shop and the wee shops would've been for newspapers or whatever.</p> <p>We had Easterhouse Swimming where we would spend time, so it would've been between the swimming baths and the loch we did our swimming. Apart from that, probably not much else but we did have The Project Disco.</p>	31.55-32.36
32.37	<i>Can you tell me about The Project?</i>	
	<p>The Project was just a hut, a tin hut. It was a community project where people got together and thinking we've had enough of this gang fighting what can we can we do to bring people together. It was situated in an area which was kind of in the middle of three of the big gangs and they did lots of youth work, lots of intervention, although I didn't realise that at the time, and we had a disco on a Friday night when we'd all go and get drunk behind the schools. We'd have a drink then go to the disco. The Project was always well attended, sometimes you couldn't get in because they were full and you'd hang about waiting to see if somebody would leave so you'd get in.</p>	32.38-33.30
33.42	<i>Do you remember any local characters?</i>	
	<p>There was lots of big gang names kicking about.</p> <p>I suppose there was a few influential now who would've been setting all these things up, like Marie Doc, she would've been a big part of The Project, she was just an amazing woman. She would put you in your place if you needed put in your place, but she was always there, she was a really good person.</p>	33.31-34.25
34.28	<i>What did you do when you left school?</i>	







	<p>When I left school I went to work in John Menzies and I hated it. I hated every part of shop work, still hate shop work to this day. I really really dislike customers, I dislike their attitude and how they're always right. I'm a people person and always have been, but I hate customers and I really dislike shop work and it's pretty strange because I'm running The Pantry the now but I don't actually do the shop. I work alongside people all day and people are fine but when they become a customer, they become a different person.</p> <p>So, I left John Menzies and went to a wee deli in Parkhead and I'd been there about a week and I was eating this big bag of strawberry chocolate sweeties and the lassie coming in, she'd been on holiday, and saying what're you eating they've been there for about twenty years. So that was the first day I had to go out the back to put the bins out and there were rats everywhere and I was like, I'm out of here I'm not coming back. I didn't go back, I couldn't go back after that.</p> <p>Then I met my partner and very quickly I was pregnant at 16 with my oldest daughter. Everybody would've said you've ruined your life at 16, but actually she changed my life, she turned my life around. I would've been going down a different path if I hadn't fallen pregnant with Jamie Lee.</p> <p>I just jumped in and out of different jobs, cleaning most of the time, then five years later I had my other daughter Courtney. Jamie Lee and Courtney are very different. Jamie Lee is very independent and Courtney is my wee shadow and if she was going to a wee club or whatever I would have to go with her. Then I became a volunteer within her club and that's what's led to where I am today.</p>	34.43-37.18
37.20	<i>Tell me about that journey?</i>	
	<p>I started off volunteering in the Kids Club and very quickly I realised that I really liked it and then a sessional job became available and I went for it actually thinking I've got no chance of getting it, but I got it along with another girl in the community. This led to a part time job after the sessional work was done.</p> <p>Again I was working a cleaning job as well as doing the children's work at the time, just to provide for my family. My partner, he worked as a labourer for plastering. So we weren't the worst off but we did struggle from time to time.</p> <p>From that I went on to youth work, still in the same place and then we got a new boss who decided she was going to bring in an Activate Course. An Activate Course is done by Glasgow Uni, it's like an introduction to community work. At the time when the worker came, Anne her name was, I had never done any admin work, as I'd said there'd been no education, I could read, I could write, but basic, and she would be asking me to do these things and I hated her, she knows I'm stupid, why is she asking me to do this and I can't do this, so why is she asking. She would say how many kids at the club and I'd write 17 on a bit of paper and give her it and she was like no no I need a register where is it? I thought why is she doing this to me. Then as I said, she brought in the Activate Course and she made it compulsory that we had to go. I loved it, I absolutely loved it. Activate has just opened my eyes to so much and I would recommend everybody does it. See if all the staff here were paid staff I would make it compulsory for all of them to take part in a Glasgow Uni Activate Course. It has just got so much value in it.</p> <p>From that a few girls went on to college and I remember Anne saying to me at the time saying are you going to college? I said no why would I do that? Previously</p>	37.22-43.03

	<p>to Anne we had another manager who had put me into a Play Course at Glasgow Clyde and it was horrific, it was the worst course ever. I used to go to her after the class and she would help me to do the homework. She's a very clever lady and she struggled with it. It wasn't what they were asking, it was how they were asking for the information. It was terribly planned out.</p> <p>So after that, I took a year out and other girls in the Activate group had went on to college and in that year I thought I should've done that. Then Anne asked if I was going to apply for college and Michelle who had been to college and was going to Glasgow Uni, said she would help me with my personal statement. So you had to write something like 500 words. So we did it and I got an interview and then they 'phoned and said I'd got a place. I went to college and absolutely loved it. I remember being in social sciences and Bobby was the lecturer at the time and he said, Tina has a wee light bulb just came on in your head and I said Aye that just fits in with that and that, and he said, Perfect I knew it was in there it just needed time to come. From that he then started asking if I was going to university. I was like no, people like me from the back end of Easterhouse, no education, had a kid at 17, I was like no why would I? He was like just think about it. So when I came back home again I had Anne and Michelle saying, yes you will do it. So I applied but Bobby the lecturer who'd encouraged me to go never put my statement in so I missed the interview period, so the course was full. I was like I'm not going to any other uni, and eventually at the last minute I got a 'phone call saying could you come in. So I went and it was like tell me a wee bit about what you're doing and then it was like you're in. I remember from the day I walked into Glasgow Uni to the day I left with my graduation thinking pure imposter syndrome, and you shouldn't be here get out, and here I am today, running this project with the support of many others who are employed or volunteers, or people who support me on all different levels. So that was my journey to here. Oh dear that was a long journey.</p>	
43.08	<i>Can you tell me about moving from Easterhouse to Ruchazie?</i>	
	<p>I came to Ruchazie about 25 years ago and the reason being I had been stabbed in Easterhouse. I had been stabbed four times. I didn't move because I'd been stabbed, I moved because my daughter was 5 and she saw it and she was terrified. I would go back every day go up and visit my Mum and whatever else, so that's the reason I moved.</p> <p>Don't get me wrong, Easterhouse is a lovely place, there's good people there, so I'm not saying anything, but the reason I moved was because my daughter was scared and I came to Ruchazie.</p> <p>I remember being in Ruchazie probably about six months and I didn't have a washing machine and I had to take my washing up to my Mum's every day in Easterhouse. People here wouldn't speak to me, they must have thought oh a young family moving here they're going to be partying and whatever and nobody spoke to me, it was very very hard. I remember being down the back with the two kids because I lived two up, he'd have been at work and I'd have been down there playing with them in the summer and the man in the top flat and his wife who used to walk by me every day, and who is now a volunteer here, he started speaking to me and he was like where are you fae hen blah de blah and I said I came from the</p>	43.20-.28

	<p>Calton Easterhouse and he was like my family came from the Calton, so we got chatting away and that kind of broke the ice and from that day on people spoke to me and it made my life so much different, it was perfect.</p> <p>Ruchazie I will always say I feel like I've got a sense of belonging with being here for the last 25 years. I've done a lot of work here with the kids, the young people, even families we do a lot of work and now through the Church in the low end of Ruchazie and with The Pantry, this would be the high end of Ruchazie. So it's working with some of the same families, but a lot of new families too which I wouldn't have been able to do working in the Church in the low end of Ruchazie.</p>	
45.29	<i>What changes have you seen over that period?</i>	
	<p>Ruchazie is very much the land time forgot and apart from us there isn't much else here and there has never been. From I came here there were two schools which got pulled down almost 20 years ago now which have just been left vacant and derelict. It's been dumped on, dog walking, mess, it's what it is a vacant space. The Chapel got pulled down maybe around 10 years ago so now they don't have a chapel anymore. Now the kids go to school in the neighbouring community and the chapel is across the motorway into another neighbouring community. The church closed its doors last August so there's nothing there and that's where all the kids clubs and stuff would've been, so there's nothing happening. The community centre, they used to run a youth club and football club and lots of outside activities as well, so that's now been sold off, that's a martial arts hub now. So actually there isn't anything other than us. Ruchazie Housing in the low end, they do a good bit of work they engage with their members but that's a very small part of Ruchazie, it's not the bigger picture. So there's been lots of change, and not for the better.</p> <p>There's been new houses built and this has been a massive difference to people's lifestyles, they've got front doors and gardens and they're houses that are fit to live in. There are still tenement houses that are damp and whatever else is going on in them. Apart from that there's not been much changed in Ruchazie in 25 years.</p>	45.30-47.39
47.40	<i>When was The Pantry set up?</i>	
	<p>The Pantry opened in 2020. So nearly three years now, though it's been in the pipeline probably a lot longer. I remember probably going back about ten years in the church and having the conversation round about food insecurity and we got together as a group and set up Poverty Action and we would do like a fruit barrel type of thing trying to get healthy fruit and veg into families at a reasonable price. That lasted for a good bit. Brian and Annette and others, they did a really good job there.</p> <p>So The Pantry's kind of lingered about for a while but in the last five years was when The Pantry first came to life and we opened our doors in August 2020.</p>	47.42-48.33
48.34	<i>Is The Pantry making a difference in the area?</i>	
	<p>Food is what brings people to us but that's not the main reason we're here. There's been lots of volunteer opportunities, there's been lots of up-skilling in the community. So when The Pantry was first opened it was held by a steering group of the church, the housing, and various other organisations because the community weren't in a position to take it at the time, so we got together and set up a</p>	48.38-50.28

	<p>development trust called Growing Twenty-One which now has The Pantry. The vacant land which was two schools Growing Twenty-One has got that as well. So there will be growing spaces, play spaces and various other things on there. The two shops next to The Pantry the Development Trust has that as well and that's a social kitchen and a community cafe and that's all came from The Pantry. It's came from listening to what the members of The Pantry are asking for when they come in, what their needs are, what their hopes and dreams are for the community and there's been lots of consultation.</p> <p>Going back to when The Pantry first opened in August 2020 it very quickly became winter, it was dark, it was cold, I remember one night being out there dancing with a tub of sweets because it was freezing, we were in Covid, everybody was miserable and there was these two old ladies who had been seen coming probably from the August and I'd said why do you always come on a Monday night why do you not come on a Tuesday morning when it's quieter and you're not waiting in a queue and they said because so and so comes on a Monday night I've not seen her for years and they only live a street away but they didn't mix because of what I said about Easterhouse about the divide. Ruchazie is very much divided so now they both volunteer here on the same day. It's crazy, so lots of amazing stuff has actually happened through The Pantry.</p>	
50.44	<i>What are the future plans for The Pantry?</i>	
	<p>I talked about the bit across the road, so there will be allotments where people will actually grow their own food and there will be a community garden space as well where there will be food growing locally to be served in The Pantry or the cafe through cooking classes. There will be a fruit forest as well on the land which is different from an orchard. There will be a play space, there will be an education space and there will be a community space. This is all what the community have asked for. We've managed to secure a bit of funding for the growing to actually start.</p> <p>The Pantry is what it is we shop in a colour coded system and it'll cost you £3 to shop with us and in that you can get chicken, mince, fruit and veg, or tinned fruit and veg.</p> <p>In the Cafe, there'll be a free breakfast club for kids in the morning before they go to school. There'll be cooking classes happening. Just lots of groups. There'll be opportunities, training, and right now we've got hairdressing going on. We're going to be doing an Activate Two, we're going to be a pilot for that.</p>	50.48-52/39
52.55	<i>What do you think of Ruchazie as a community at the moment?</i>	
	<p>Ruchazie is an amazing place to live. There's lots of amazing people who live here and have done for a long time and there's lots of new Scots families moved into the area as well who are very keen to get involved in some of the stuff we do. Ruchazie was predominately white Scottish until a few years ago, I think the reason for that being we don't have any high flats in Ruchazie, but over the last five years there's been a high influx of new Scots families coming in and for us it's been amazing, we've had loads of interaction with them. They educate us daily. I've been invited by two of the girls to take part in fasting ramadan for a day. So I'm not allowed to swear, I'm not allowed to eat, I'm not allowed to drink. I can brush</p>	52.56-54.10

	<p>my teeth in the morning that's it, so it'll be a challenge. They do two a year. The first one is March so they've invited me to the March one because it's a shorter period, it's only from 6 until 4, something like that. I can do that, I'm not sure I could do the winter one, that's much more challenging. If I succeed in this one, I might give it a go in the winter.</p>	
54.12	<p><i>What are your aspirations for this community?</i></p>	
	<p>My aspirations for this community is just to bring opportunities, to bring jobs for the local folk but hopefully to bring opportunities for young people. There's not a lot for young people, so as many opportunities as possible for them is my hopes and dreams are probably coming from my youth worker's background. So just creating opportunities as much as I can for this area.</p>	54.35-54.59
	<p><i>Thank you very much Tina</i></p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communities Past &amp; Futures Society</b> cpandfs@outlook.com</p>		