

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

Respondent: Josephine McCormick

Year of Birth: 1960

Age:

Connection to project: Born in Cardowan

Date of Interview: 22/06/2023

Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison

Recording Agreement: Yes/ No

Information & Consent: Yes/ No

Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of:)

Length of Interview: 27.13

Location of Interview: Cardowan Community Centre

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)







Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.40	<i>Where were you born?</i>	
	<p>I was born in Cardowan, in Frankfield Road. It was 113 Frankfield Road at that time. Frankfield Road was right along, now it's halved. It's Frankfield Road and Arto Crescent it's called now. When I was young it was halved in two, and it used to be 113 Frankfield Road and then it went to 59 Frankfield Road.</p> <p>I was born and bred here. I moved out for six months to Calder Street in Glasgow but I found it a culture shock. It was a real culture shock to me so I got a Council house out here, so my husband and myself at that time we moved back out here.</p>	00.42-01.43
01.49	<i>What was Cardowan like when you were young?</i>	
	<p>Back then it was kind of like where all the houses are down at the end of Frankfield, that was all fields and it was a swampy area. There was pathways down to the railway, we used to go picking raspberries, blueberries, gooseberries, all these sort of things. Years ago when we were kids you went out to play in the morning in the summertime and you didn't come back in till it was starting to get dark at night, even then you'd be sitting on the pavement with the old Mothers Pride made into a 'poke'. We used to get a poke of chips and sit on the pavement so we could stay out that wee while longer, you were lucky if you got a sausage maybe in it or something or a fish-finger.</p> <p>It was different from now. You could leave your door opened and everybody just walked in, you know your neighbours and that, you just walked in.</p> <p>My grandparents lived on Cardowan Road, and my Mother was youngest of nine of a family. So all of her sisters and brothers lived around the area as well, so all my cousins and that they were all much older than me because my Mum was the youngest, like all her sisters were old enough to be her Mother, so all my cousins were older than me, so it was like my second cousins that</p>	01.52-05.22

	<p>were my age group and myself and John were the youngest of our family. So things changed a lot. I never ever met my grandparents from Cardowan Road and we moved in here just as the houses were built at first. My Mother came from a place called Blackfalls which is over behind the old pit bing, where the pit bing used to be and it was Cardowan Cottages, so she was born there. That's on her birth certificate, Cardowan Row, Blackfalls. So it is kind of near where the Forge is and there's a wee road that goes up towards Muirhead, Gartcosh and stuff, so there's a wee road up there. My Father, he stayed in Heathfield which is along the Garnkirk Lane which is here just at the side of the pub. They called that the Garnkirk Lane. So that went up to Garnkirk and Heathfield. So my Father came from there and they moved to Bodwin Road in Muirhead.</p> <p>Growing up here, I went to this school. This was my school. I can remember the pit buses at three o'clock, I can remember the horn and all that sort of thing.</p>	
05.23	<i>How often did the pit horn go?</i>	
	<p>It went at three o'clock, it was like kind of when we were getting out of school. I think it went three times a day, I can't remember the other times it went, it was the three o'clock one that always stuck out to us.</p> <p>I can remember the ice cream van. It was Tony's, he was an Italian that lived on Cumbernauld Road. He had a wee café down there and he used to come up and sit because when the miners came out they all wanted a cone. When they came up the pit. We used to always go over there, we used to go out with our bottles to get an ice cream or a bar of chocolate or something.</p>	05.24-06.10
06.15	<i>So did you take the bottles back and they gave you pennies?</i>	
	<p>Well you took the bottles back, the ginger bottles it was in those days, and I think it was a penny back then. I can remember when we went decimal, it was a horror, it was like ahh how do you work this out. All of a sudden you were getting less for your money. It used to be 12 sweeties you got for a penny then it turned to 3 for a penny. It made a big difference, I remember all that.</p> <p>We would go up to St Pat's School from here up in Coatbridge. So we used to go through Mount Ellen pick up people from Mount Ellen, pick up people from Gartcosh. Sometimes we went through Moodiesburn it depends what bus you got, we got bussed up to Coatbridge to school.</p>	06.16-07.13
07.14	<i>Was that a school bus?</i>	
	<p>Yes, we got a school bus. When we started at first we had to take two buses. We used to have to go down to Cardowan Road end, take a bus up to Muirhead and then jump on a bus from Muirhead, but then they started putting the school bus on and we had a pass to get on it.</p>	07.15-07.33
07.40	<i>What did the miners look like after a shift?</i>	
	<p>Oh, black. I mean my daddy came in, and I was just talking to the girls through there a minute ago about that, he didn't like going into the showers after a shift, so my Daddy came home black so all you seen was the whites of his eyes and he would come in and of course my Mum would get the Vim out and scrub the bath after he'd had his bath.</p> <p>There was always soot about everywhere because you would get coal delivered to the house. You had a bunker inside the house they'd put these</p>	07.42-09.16

	<p>wooden slats in, so it was always all over the place and then of course if the chimneys weren't swept properly there'd be a downpour of soot. Aye I can always remember that and the houses were really really cold. I remember we were lucky, we had the coal fire but even like going to bed at night there would be ice along the inside of the window, but my Daddy used to get a shovel of coal from the living room and take it down to the bedrooms and put a wee bits of coal on it just to get you a wee heat and that. It took away the cold in the room, but it was very very cold even though we'd the coal fire. Everybody sat right round it with tartan legs and if you had a dog it used to lie in front of it and it used to get kicked 'get out of there we want a heat'</p>	
09.20	<i>What did you do for fun?</i>	
	<p>Well we played Monopoly that was one of the games we used to play. We played outside all the time. It was we called it beds, peevever people call it now I think but we used to play beds, we played skipping ropes, we used to play the elastic bands, jumping, and we used to play this game called Scabby Touch. You would run behind the hut, there was a fence behind the hut and we'd get a clump of grass and we used to run along and the person on the outside of the hut would have to try and hit you with this clump of grass and we would all dive along the fence, it was quite dangerous when you think about it because it had all the points and all that. Danger wasn't the same, you didn't think about these things when you were young.</p> <p>My Daddy always had vegetables in his garden and flowers, so we were taught when we were quite young to do a bit of gardening. We always had vegetables, potatoes, turnip, carrots, cabbage, all sorts out the garden.</p>	09.24-10.39
10.37	<i>Did most of the houses have gardens?</i>	
	<p>Oh yes. Most of them had big gardens but as more and more houses came into Cardowan the gardens got a bit shorter.</p>	10.38-10.48
10.52	<i>What do you remember about the community at that point?</i>	
	<p>The community was always solid, everybody knew everybody. At one point I could go along my whole street and name every single person in it. Frankfield Road was a big road. Most of the people round about you knew as well. You knew everybody. We were brought like say your neighbours they could skelp your ear, it wasn't like nowadays where the Polis would be round if you hit a kid but if you done anything and you got seen if you done it, then you got another skelp when you came back in. You know, it must've been right enough if Mrs so and so said it. Its strange, we always grew up to call everybody Mrs and still the older (I'm 63), the ones that are older than me, still all them Mrs. Mrs Nolan next door and all that. It's strange, it's dead hard to call them by their first name it just seems disrespectful, even at this age, it's weird.</p>	10.56-12.10
12.14	<i>Who were your friends at that point?</i>	
	<p>Oh God, I had loads of friends. I had four main friends. I had Jane Stones, I think you know Thomas Stones, well Jane is his Auntie, Margaret Ann Donnelly, Rose Robertson. The four of us all went about. I was also friendly with Ann Calligan, and you were friendly with all your neighbours as well, all the neighbours children. You just played with whoever you played with, whoever was out and about sort of thing, but they were the ones growing up. As I got older my friends started to be outwith the community,</p>	12.15-13.45

	<p>you know I'd get friends when I went to school in Moodiesburn and things like that and then older again you're working in the town so you meet different friends from there, but there is people, there is certain families in Cardowan that there is a great friendship and you could always turn to if you needed help or anything like that, the Stones being one of them. Tommy and Helen were very good friends of mine. Thomas's Mum and Dad, they died, they were very good friends of mine. I had a lot of friends over the years, different.</p>	
13.46	<i>What did you do as a teenager for fun?</i>	
	<p>Well actually I was part of the, I don't know if you'd know of it, but there used to be a Social Club, it was owned by the Chapel across the road and I was part of the Youth Group. We used to have our Youth Committee, there was ten of us on Committee and the Priest and there were two other adults that used to come over to oversee it. We were all about 17 - 19 and we used to run wee dances, we had pool, we had quizzes every week. I used to have an old record player, you know the ones you carried about, I used to take that down and people would bring records and we'd play that and then as we got a wee bit older we started going into the town but we always went in in a crowd. It was all boys and girls, we were all just pals but we all went together, you never left the dancing without your friends. We always kept one another safe.</p>	13.50-15.06
15.07	<i>How did you get home afterwards?</i>	
	<p>Usually a taxi, so maybe we'd have two taxis because there was probably about ten of us so we'd take a couple of taxis home.</p>	15.10-15.18
15.22	<i>Do you remember any community issues when you were younger?</i>	
	<p>Well I remember the pit strikes. I remember one of the disasters. I remember the pit horn went and being down at the gates waiting on people coming out and all that sort of thing. I remember the Black & White closing down. The poverty here at one point was very extreme because the mines had gone, Black & White had gone, the steelworks up at Gartcosh had gone. That was where everybody more or less worked, so people then had to start finding employment outside. An awful lot of people from here have gone into the care profession. A lot of the older people I know that's the way they've went.</p>	15.24-16.22
16.25	<i>How did all that upheaval change the community?</i>	
	<p>Well there was a lot of people moved away. Some of the miners moved away, they moved up to Kirkcaldy and different places to work in other mines. Other people just moved to get jobs. So the community broke up quite a bit but I'm finding as I'm getting older, that a lot of the younger ones are all starting to come back here to live, it's almost like homing pigeons coming back home, you know what I mean.</p>	16.28-17.01
17.10	<i>Are these 'homing pigeons' as you call them coming back to the new houses?</i>	
	<p>Most of them are in the old houses. I think there are a few in the new houses, I'm not really familiar with the new set up, I'm quite disabled now and don't get out much. I'm not sort of up in what's happening in the place just now. I do know there are a lot of strangers, there are still some of the same families that I remember as a child but they're getting less and less. There's</p>	17.14-18.01

	an awful lot of the older ones dying off but the younger ones that did come back, most of them moved back into old Cardowan rather than the new houses I think.	
18.09	<i>Did you have any celebrations at Easter, Christmas and things like that?</i>	
	Christmas, we had celebrations, but my Mum wasn't one for doing the big Christmas dinner or anything like that. You see my Mother and Father didn't drink, so they used to say that was just an excuse for people drinking, Christmas and New Year and that sort of thing. I used to go to my Auntie's for New Year, we always went up there to first foot. She lived in my Granny's old house in Cardowan Road. My Mum wasn't big on Christmas, she wasn't big on birthdays either. We did get a wee toy and maybe a selection box or something, but nothing anywhere near what the kids get today. On birthdays what we used to get, my Mammy used to make us a big dumpling with a couple of sixpences in it, so that was your cake. That was more or less it, you didn't get a birthday gift as such, it wasn't a big celebration.	18.12-19.16
19.19	<i>Were there any Miners' Galas back then?</i>	
	No I don't remember there actually being Miners' Galas but there was Gala Days run by people in the area and they used to be good, they also had them down at Stepps as well in the hockey pitch.	19.20-19.36
19.37	<i>Can you describe them for me?</i>	
	The best one I can ever remember was the one we had down in Cardowan Ashfield, just at the end of Frankfield and it had you know like your tombola's and all that, and they had a big tent and they did go on for about two or three days and there was presents and everything. Everybody was going home with all this stuff. It went on to late in the night and later on the kids all went home and the adults all had music playing and brought a bottle sort of thing and used the tent. It was a right community gala.	19.40-20.28
20.29	<i>When was that?</i>	
	I'm not sure, I think I would be about 29. So that would be 89 - 90, round about then.	20.30-20.44
20.48	<i>Do the galas continue?</i>	
	No I don't think so. They had one I think in Stepps but I don't know much about it, I didn't hear much about it. They've started doing a Stepps Food Market and the next one's on the 24th, which was very well attended, you couldn't find anywhere to park your car, everything was sold out for 11.30am.	20.49-21.15
21.17	<i>What kind of goods did they sell?</i>	
	They were selling, they had Arbroath Smokies, they had you know those big cookies, they had a fruit and veg, they had like macaroni cheese, they had all different pies, absolutely beautiful pies, they did some drinks as well. They had a wee doggie thing for all the dogs and all that. So aye, it was good	21.18-21.59
22.03	<i>So had that been missing from Cardowan for a long time?</i>	
	It brought the community out. Actually, I went down to it and I seen people that I hadn't seen for years, so it was nice. It is missing, there's a lot missing, there's not enough here for people to do plus you've not got a bus in and out. The bus service that goes in and out is horrendous, so anybody that's isolated, and I feel quite isolated myself, I'm	22.05-22.47

	lucky, I've started coming to this and I'm on a Women's group on a Wednesday but it's online. There really needs to be a lot more for the community.	
22.47-22.57	<i>There seems to be a lot of people who are activists would you say that's accurate?</i>	
	Yes. I would say that we are all strong minded people and I think if you come from mining stock you do talk up for yourself you're not, what's the words you use, your light doesn't burn slowly. I can't remember what they say now, but aye, people are opinionated, aye they'll say what's on their mind but the thing about it is we've been fighting all these years for these things but it's trying to get the ears to get them to listen. I think the girls are going to some community thing up in Motherwell today	23.00-23.49
23.58	<i>How would you say Cardowan has changed since you were young?</i>	
	There's a lot of different people in it, it's much much bigger and the people around you, you don't know as well that have come in from different areas. It's still the same in that it's still quite a safe place to be, it's always felt safe to me and I still feel safe to this day, so it's still quite a safe place to live. So I don't know if the community that is round about us is affecting us, or how it might affect us differently if there's a lot of young kids about just now and how it might change as they all grow up. I think that's when things do change.	24.01-24.51
24.58	<i>What's your favourite memory of growing up?</i>	
	Well my favourite memories of growing up was my sister who stayed up in Aberfoyle, so we used to go there, that was our holiday. We were out in the fields with cows, we'd go out with the dog and round up the cows and all that sort of thing. That's my kind of favourite memories. We used to go picnics with the neighbourhood kids, we'd walk over towards Garthamlock and if we were very lucky somebody would get a bottle of juice or if not it was just a big bottle of water, somebody would get a packet of biscuits, somebody would get some jam sandwiches or maybe somebody would get a bag of sweets or something and we used to all share. They were good memories. Playing on our bikes up and down Frankfield Road in absolute heat. Anything that you had was all shared with your neighbours and stuff like that. I think that's probably my best memories.	25.05-26.18
26.25	<i>What are your hopes for the future of Cardowan?</i>	
	Well I would like to actually see some of my own family coming back to live here and to keep the Community Meadow started up during the pandemic, to see more of that happening for it to have better affect and for them to gain more, more safe in what's here and what shouldn't be here and for it to remain a safe place to live obviously	26.30-27.08
27.09	<i>Thank you very much Josephine</i>	
	Thank you	27.10
   		
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