Project: 'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A

people's history'.

Respondent: Margaret Colletta

Year of Birth: 1958

Age:

Connection to project: Local knowledge

Date of Interview: 21/09.2023 Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison Recording Agreement: Yes/ No Information & Consent: Yes/ No

Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of:)

Length of Interview: 1.00.21

Location of Interview: The Circle, Blair Tumnock Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)





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Time	Description	Transcribed
(from:		Extract
mins/secs)		(from- to:
		mins/secs)
00.48	Where were you born?	
	I was born in Duke Street, Glasgow	00.50
00.55	When did you move to this area?	
	We moved into Easterhouse in the early sixties, so I was maybe round about	00.56-02.05
	five maybe seven years old. Where we stayed in Duke Street, it was like a one	
	bedroom and I'm one of seven siblings, you know, so it was hard times then and	
	when we moved into Easterhouse we felt as if we'd won the lottery because we	
	had a bedroom and bathroom in the house because we'd had to go outside	
	because it was an outside bathroom and the old tin bath in those days you	
	know, so when we moved into Easterhouse we felt as if it was luxury. So, early	
	sixties we moved to Easterhouse and we've been here ever since.	
	My parents, they've passed away now, but I still stay in Easterhouse and my	
	siblings live in Easterhouse and Baillieston and one stays in Shettleston, so we're	
	still round about.	
02.06	Why did you move to Easterhouse?	
	It was the bigger house because of the size where we stayed in Duke Street, it	02.08-02.38
	wasn't compatible for the amount of family that we had, so moving into	
	Easterhouse, it was a bigger house. It was three bedrooms, a bathroom, and	
	a kitchen, and that was luxury. So that's why we moved into Easterhouse.	
02.39	Were they brand new at the time?	
	Yes, they were just built so they were and when we moved in it was like all	02.40-04.14
	fields, there weren't much of tenement buildings at that point, so it was the	
	start of Easterhouse starting to get built so it was and we had a lot of football	
	pitches. We didn't have a lot for children to play, so we would make up our	
	own games if we were out with our friends, like maybe Kick the Can it was	
	called, we played Red Lights and of course Chap the Door Run Away, you've got	
	to play that you know. So there weren't that much for kids to do apart from	

	when you went to school and played with your friends and that. There	
	weren't any cinemas but as the years have went on and things have improved	
	dramatically and it's all for the better you know, and for to find out what's going	
	on in the community, is amazing. You know, there's so much going on now	
	and still a lot of folk don't know what's going on until they hear it from word of	
	mouth, or if they see a poster or a flyer in the Shopping Centre. That's the	
	way they find out. It's really built up for the better.	
04.17	Can you tell me about your house when you were young?	
	It was a tenement. There were six houses, different neighbours, so we all got	04.22-05.16
		04.22-03.16
	on really well and they had kids, so we all played together and played football	
	and all that as well.	
	We sort of had to make our own entertainment, because we didn't have	
	cinemas or what they have now, which was fine. We all had fun, so it didn't	
	do us any harm. I played football until I was about thirteen, that was fun and	
	if none of the boys passed the ball I would chase after them.	
05.22	Why did you stop?	
	I don't know, I think I was just getting older, maybe I'm sorry now, I could've	05.23-06.27
	been a professional the way it's all getting more established now and I could've	
	been a professional but you don't know.	
	In school I liked Rounders. We played Rounders or Netball and I liked	
	Badminton and the trampoline. I liked P.E. and all the different things you had	
	in those days. It was good so it was.	
06.19	Can you tell me about your family	
00.13		25 22 12 51
	My Dad was part Italian, so that's why our second name's Colletta. My	06.20-10.54
	Grandparents, they came over from Italy and they opened a Fish & Chip shop	
	at Tollcross and that was very well established and everyone from Paisley or	
	wherever, came to the Fish & Chip shop. My Dad used to be a Barber and he	
	also worked in Robinson's Scrapyard. I can't remember the name of the Fish	
	& Chip shop but it was very well known. Unfortunately I didn't know my Gran,	
	she passed away I think when I was one or two, but my Grandad, I knew my	
	Grandad. So when they came over from Italy that's where they stayed.	
	My Mum and Dad met in the Army and got married and stayed in Duke Street	
	and I'm one of seven siblings, so my brothers and sisters, we all stay round	
	about. Some of us stay in Easterhouse, a couple stay in Baillieston and I've got	
	a brother who stays in Shettleston. They're all married, they've all got	
	family. I'm still single and my brother in Shettleston, he's still single. I've got	
	plenty of nieces and nephews.	
	My Mum, she was a housewife. She worked as a Cleaner in we used to call it	
	an orange building in the City Centre and I think it was Colleges, but it was an	
	orange building, so that's what we knew as where my Mum worked. She	
	worked in there for years and obviously she stopped when she had kids and all	
	that you know.	
	My Dad he worked in Robinson's in Partick. Partick was the best place, anything	
	you looked for you'll get that in Partick. He loved his music as well, we used	
	to have family gatherings, like parties and things like that and my Dad was a	
	Mario Lanza fan My Dad worked six days maybe seven days a week. One	
	day he brought home a wee dog and it was inside his jacket. A great animal	
	lover, so we've always grown up with a dog. Apart from working in Robinsons,	

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	he used to be a barber so he used to cut all our hair when we were young, that	
	was good, it didn't cost you anything then, not like what it costs you now. They worked as much as they could because they'd a young family to look after.	
10.55	Was your Dad a Singer?	
10.55	He did sing yes, so did my Mum sing. They were good singers. We used to	10.56-12.09
	have a sing-song at parties and if anybody butted in, my Dad used to say, one	10.50-12.09
	singer, one song. That was so funny. In the sixties we had parties like all the	
	time and then it was safe to have parties. At New Year when we had a party	
	it lasted a week because each member of the family, my relatives, would each	
	take a turn and we'd all go there the next night, you know, so it would last a	
	few days, but now you can have a party anytime.	
	It was good having family gatherings. All my cousins and all that, we used to	
	get put in the room to play because it was more for the adults but when they	
	had the sing-song we used to sit in and listen. Yes, my Mum and Dad were	
	good singers.	
12.12	When did your grandparents come over from Italy?	
	They would've maybe came in the late forties, maybe early fifties. It could've	12.13-13.40
	been earlier, I don't know. My Dad was born in Britain, so it could've even	
	been earlier than that. It could've been early thirties because my Dad was	
	born in Britain. So they came over here and started a Fish & Chip shop and I	
	think they stayed in Tollcross as well where the chip shop was. I think they	
	moved over here for a better life as well. I think we've still got family over in	
	Italy. I think it was Venafro where they came from.	
13.52	Do you know if they experienced any negativity in Scotland?	
	They could've done but I couldn't say for sure with me being so young.	14.00-15.26
	Obviously with them being Italian and not speaking very good English, I think	
	they could've but I wouldn't like to say, yes that was really bad for them, so I	
	think they could've, but I couldn't be certain.	
	My Dad didn't mention anything and he didn't really like speaking about the	
	time when he was in the Army because it was Burma and things like that, so he	
	didn't like speaking about the time he was in the Army. Obviously listening to	
	things like history programmes now and hearing what happened then and what it was, I can understand now why he didn't want to speak about it, that was fair	
	enough, so we didn't push anything, you know.	
15.29	Would you say your Dad was quite a happy man?	
	Yes, yes, he was. If we were cheeky to my Mum or anything like that, she	15.30-16.36
	would say, you wait till your Dad gets home, you know, and the look off my Dad	13.30-10.30
	was enough and telling off, that was enough. So when Mum would say wait	
	till your Dad gets home you knew you were in trouble.	
	My Mum and Dad had a really good life, obviously there were ups and downs,	
	nothing's plain sailing but yes, yes, they had a good life. They were like two	
	peas in a pod so they were, they went everywhere together. I still miss them	
	to this day, there's never a day goes by that I don't think about them. So yes,,	
	yes, they had a good life. A lot of lovely memories.	
16.37	Can you tell me about their friends?	
	Obviously my Dad had friends where he worked and my Mum had friends.	16.42-19.30
	My Dad was a twin, so my Dad's twin and my Auntie Margaret, they were like	
	four peas in a pod, any nights out or things like that, they would all sit together.	
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	Obviously my Mum's brother and his wife and cousins and that My Mum had three brothers, Robert, Harry and Tony and their wives and their families. So when they had a party it was mostly relatives and maybe a couple of friends from my Dad's work would come to a party, but it was mostly family. My Dad's twin, he's passed away now as well, so it only leaves my Auntie Margaret who I still go and visit. She's 82 now and she misses him dearly, so much, so every time you go down and see her that's what she brings up. Any pictures that were took, the four of them were together. They were really close. My Auntie Margaret and Uncle Robert, they had three sons, they're married and got family as well. So yes, a very big family. So in my Mum's family she had a lot of cousins as well. Obviously we don't keep in touch as much now but Facebook's a good	
	thing so we keep in touch that way you know but we have the odd family gathering but not as much as when my Mum and Dad was here so it doesn't feel the same, but we still have maybe a special birthday or if one of the nieces or nephews have got engaged, then yeh, yeh.	
19.31	Can you tell me what the community was like when you were young?	
22.43	The community weren't very much in those days neither they were, the only thing that was socialised was maybe through the Church and even that in the Church, they weren't much good put on in those days. I was brought up Catholic so the church I went to was St Clare and we had the Sisters' Daughters of Charity organisation and we also had the Priests from the Celagen's organisation and they brought a lot of good to build up St Clare's. I think St Clare's just got built in the early sixties. So living with St Clare's being built in the early sixties as well, the Priests and the Sisters, they would organise fundraising, or a kids' club or a wee youth group and that was our community so it was and we didn't have anything like we've got now, like you've got a Hub and all that that you can go to which we didn't have at that time because Easterhouse was just getting built in the early sixties so obviously you had like gang fights and that over in the pitches at that time. We didn't hear a lot of it. If they wanted to fight they went over to the pitches, the Drumies and the Glenboys and they would fight with their hands, they wouldn't fight with, well not that I know of, any weapons, not what they use now. We didn't have much for the community to do in the early sixties and then when things started getting built, like maybe the pubs. Where I stay there used to be a pub called the Casbah. That was the pub where my Mum and Dad and brothers and sisters went to and it was just within walking distance. You do some work at the Pantry, can you tell me about The Pantry?	19.34-22.29
	At The Pantry, it's like a food bank and it's for the community so it is and they get a lot of donations as well which we are very grateful for, like clothes and toys for kids and all this. It was just by chance with the walking group that I go on, on a Wednesday, I've been going to the walking group for two and a half years, so I was going into The Pantry when we come back from the walking group we go in there for tea and coffee and we have a chat with Tina who runs The Pantry. So all this time. At the beginning of this year she was mentioning that they had put in for to see if they could get the next two shops beside them that had been closed down for years, one was a hairdresser and one was a takeaway, I'm not too sure. So they got permission to get the two shops, so Glasgow City Building are in it just now but obviously they're ten weeks behind	22.45-29.57

and they're going to open it as a Community Café. Because of the electricity that's going to be needed for the Café it's got to be a Phase 3 rather than when it was the hairdresser that was a Phase 1, so that is what the hold back is with Tina, so that's where I'm going to be helping out at you know, so hopefully we'll get the green light as soon as. Glasgow City Building are ten weeks behind, but we are also waiting on the electricity for the Phase 3 that we need because we're going to be doing food from it and everything will be home made, made on the premises, all your hearty meals like your sausage casserole, lasagne, soups, you know and I also make like a tiramisu, yeh, so that will be getting made and a couple of the volunteers are bakers so they're going to be baking cakes and there'll also be like a separate kitchen from the Café and that's going to be like a learning for cooking, so there'll be somebody from John Wheatley College that will come in and whoever wants to learn how to cook, then that'll be there, the facilities will be there for to teach them.

So I can't wait till the Café is up and running and it'll be a whole different mindset from working in the restaurant where I was working. I started off in Lewis's and then when it got took over by Debenhams, the staff that worked in there, we got redundant and we had to put in for our job again but I went no. I said I'm going to put in for my redundancy and go somewhere else. So I started in the Rotunda at the Exhibition Centre and there were a Café at the bottom, the second floor was the Italian Restaurant and upstairs was the French Restaurant. I worked in the Italian Restaurant, I was in there for nine years until the two owners sold it to Leonardo's on the condition they kept the staff, which they did, but Leonardo's opened too many chains at the one time and went into liquidation, so we lost wages and whatever we were due. We lost everything. So then I started in Sarti's in Bath Street and in between there I worked in Piaffe's in Shawlands and La Bella Bistro, that was in Uddingston. So when I started in Sarti's I was in there for years. Then I got poached from there to do a Manageress in Café Roberta across the road from Central Station.

So working with the restaurants and having all the busy times with concerts and that and now getting the opportunity to work in the Café at The Pantry in Ruchazie is going to be amazing. It's just going to be a whole different mindset so it is, it'll be a bit more relaxed which I'm happy to say and it's all for the community and help and do as much as we can for them. I'm really looking forward to that. They do so much for the community and Tina who runs it is a gem, so she is and the team that she's got, they're fantastic and there's nothing that she wouldn't do you know, anything and everything like from fighting to get funding and all that, which we're still trying to do to get as much funding as we can because the Café is charity funding, it's Growing 21 that's funding it and it'll be a three year contract, so yeh, I'm really looking forward to doing that, so it'll be a whole different mindset, it's getting into the cooking and giving the community what they want and hopefully we can fill their needs, but we'll do our best.

30.01 You mentioned walks, can you tell me about that?

On our walking group we walk around Hogganfield Loch. It's about an hour's walk and that's led by Gayle from Links Alliance, she's from the Ruchazie Health Centre. It used to be Tracy but with her funding not being guaranteed Tracy left because of commitments and that so Gayle took over. Gayle was actually

30.06-31.32

actually taken over from Tracy and she does the group now. There's only five of us but we are trying to get a lot more people to join. You'll get a lot of people saying they'll come along you know, but they don't turn up, but we've not given up trying. We'll try as much as we can and try and get people to join. 31.33	ı	To the same of the	
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		went home and my Mum said what're you doing here? I says, I came home	
everybody's out. She went no, that's playtime. So we had the Teachers			
looking for me and my Mum marched me up to school again. That I can			
remember as clear as daylight, it was so funny. So getting the opportunity to			
do all this again is through Tina, she went, you know you would be good on this			
course. So yes, I'm taking every opportunity that's coming along because now		course. So yes, I'm taking every opportunity that's coming along because now	
I feel this is me. I mean years ago everything you done was good but you never			
felt, this is me. So now I can say, this is me and I'm enjoying what I'm doing,		felt, this is me. So now I can say, this is me and I'm enjoying what I'm doing,	
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Apart from the day I started school and going home at playtime when I thought it was time to go home and my Mum marched me back up to school when the Teachers were looking for me, my early school days were good and playing with my friends. We played chases or Tig, but I was only at St Claire's Primary for maybe a couple of years then I started kind of falling back on my reading and pronouncing some words, and then my speech wasn't that great so I got transferred to a special school which was a bus would come and pick you up and other kids would make fun of you, you know, call you names. Yeh I got called a lot of names like golliwog and specky four eyes and all that. So I went to a special school and that was St Kenneth in Blackhill and I went to a Speech Therapist to bring my speech on as well. It came on leaps and bounds at St Kenneth's because it was maybe a different mindset to normal schools. I mean we still learned. We had a couple of Nuns in St Kenneth's, one was called Sister Mary and the other was called Sister Bernadette and they were really good. One of my Teachers was a Mrs Murray. The help and support that they gave you was amazing. Then I went to my secondary. That was still under the special school. That was St Aidan's, that was in Carntyne. I went through all different tests to see if I could go back to the normal school but it was Mrs Murray who had a chat with my Mum saying they would rather I stay where I was because if I'd went to the normal school and the difference in the line of education would be slightly different from what I'd been learning there and it could put me back, so I didn't move I stayed where I was until I left school. So, yes, my school days they were good apart from getting called names because a school bus picked you up and you would get dropped off back home, you were made fun of by other kids. Thinking about it now till then, It kind of upsets you because at that time you ould an away the would get may an addition to the proper of the back would have the work of the wo	37.52	What is your first memory from school?	
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	45.09		

46.55	Just at Cortack, across the road. They had a wee island there and we used to play football on that. As for clubs, there weren't any clubs. Anything like a youth group was all to do with the church, it was what the church had organised and then we had the Youth Group and that was on a Sunday so we played games and got juice and as I got older I used to take some of the younger ones and bake. So it was all through the church and what the church had laid on for the kids to do, but there weren't any football clubs or anything like that that you could go to, it was a lot more down the line when these things started getting built. When I was a kid to a teenage when I left school there weren't much going on, I think they were still building houses round about Easterhouse and then they built the Shopping Centre They built the pubs, the local pubs that's round about but for anything for the children to do, no.	45.12-46.53
46.55	Just at St Benedict's when there used to be a dance laid on, once a month. Apart from that there weren't even the Fort that's there now. If you wanted to go to the pictures you had to go into the city centre. If you wanted to go to the dancing you had to go into the city centre, but for round about Easterhouse, there weren't any dance halls or whatever. The only dance night out that we had was St Benedict once a month and we organise a day out for the children and we would put in for funding for that and then we'd get the funding for it and take them away for the day. During the summer holidays we would run a play scheme so they would still have somewhere to go and if it was dry we would take them to the pitches and have the boys playing football and the girls and boys playing rounders and stuff like that. So apart from that, there weren't much to do.	47.02-48.30
50.31	I left school when I was 16. My brother and my sister they worked in Queenslie Industrial Estate. My sister was a machinist and my brother used to work in the cutting room cutting all the material, so I got a job in there. I was in there just under two years and it closed down. Then I got another job machining in Collins in Royston Road. I was in there a year and a half and it went into liquidation. So I thought I'm not going back into machining, so Lewis's that used to be in Argyle Street years ago and I got a job in there in the Italian Restaurant. They had an Italian Restaurant on the fifth floor and on the sixth floor they had a French Restaurant. So I started in the Italian Restaurant and that's where my Chef career started. So I've been a Chef for forty years in different restaurants, so this is why the opportunity when it came up, to work when the Café opens in Ruchazie was a no-brainer. So a whole different mindset, working with the community. Looking back, what are your favourite memories of Easterhouse?	48.39-50.22
	It's just a great place to stay in so it is. I mean everybody knows everybody and when I worked in Piaffe's in Shawlands that's when I got my first flat, I moved out to Shawlands to Priesthill. I always came back to see my Mum and Dad, but I moved out to Shawlands to stay near where I worked because I was getting two buses and all that. When I stayed out in Priesthill, that's when we lost my Mum, she'd passed away. So I put my flat up for sale and moved back into Easterhouse. The flat I'm in just now, it was tenements but they were making them down to four in a block semi detached so I got my Lawyer to reserve one and then when I came to view it my Dad, my brothers and my sister	50.38-54.39

came and my Dad being Italian as he was would be in and out the cupboards, you've got a shelf missing from there, that needs fixed, you know, you need to get these boards off the windows, so I had a list. When I got my flat sold I moved into the flat I'm in just now and that was 25 years ago. It was great to be back at Easterhouse, it really was. It's homely, even although there are different things going on and bad things and all that, you keep yourself to yourself and nobody will bother you.

Neighbours from way back when I was a teenager there's still some of them stay around Easterhouse and yeh maybe bump into them in the shopping centre you get a gab and a catch up and that's the only time you see them.

Anywhere you worked one of the Chefs would ask you where you stay and I'd say Easterhouse and they'd say oh Easterhouse. Then I'd say there's nothing wrong with Easterhouse, it's people like you that's gave Easterhouse the bad name. If anything happened in Drumchapel, they classed it under Easterhouse. If anything happened in Barlanark they classed it under Easterhouse. So how can all these places be classed under Easterhouse? So don't tell me or give me, oh Easterhouse, I said, because other places are just as bad, if not worse, and they just shut up. Anybody that says anything about Easterhouse, it really gets my back up so it does because other places are just as bad, if not worse.

54.46 What are your aspirations for Easterhouse?

54.50-59.40

Well now there's a lot more going on in the community, they've got a community group, so if you need gardening or anything like that done, they've got a Facebook page. They've got a Neighbourhood Watch as well. If any neighbours see anything suspicious they put it on Facebook, if anybody doesn't know that's going on, they'll interact and deal with it. If anybody needs gardening done or something fixed or somebody's needing a plumber or a joiner they'll put it on that, I think they've got a Whats.App page as well. They'll put it on the Whats.App and somebody will be there in a minute. So that's brilliant so it is, and then whatever's going on in Ruchazie for the community that's amazing as well. A few weeks ago, they had a Fun Day for the kids, everything was free so it was because they got the funding for it. They would get two raffle tickets, one would be to get some food and the other would get an ice cream and they had the carnival there as well. I went along to see how it was and what a fantastic day so it was, and all the kids were having so much fun. There was somebody there face painting. They had the carnival there, they had the Ice Cream Van, and then twenty minutes or half an hour before it was finishing, the Fire Brigade Engine came so that the kids could get a picture and see all that goes on in the fire engine. It was just a fantastic day and all the kids had so much fun.

So seeing things like that and maybe doing something like that in Easterhouse with the community that's going on and there's different things for the community. There's still a lot going on that they don't know about. So it's word of mouth and if they see a poster in the shopping centre or even in the library, then it's oh I didn't know that's going on and it wasn't up until I got referred to the Links Alliance that I didn't know how much was going on in the community either. Because with working split shifts and things like that, you weren't thinking on your days off or whatever what's going on in the community. On my days off I'd go visiting or catch up with friends. So now

1.00.18	You will, and thank you so much Thank you.	1.00.19
1 00 10	all your support and I hope to see you at the Café when it opens.	
	and from Easterhouse community as well and thanks for all your time and for	
	opportunity of doing this and bringing the information from Ruchazie to you	1.00.15
	No, I think I've covered everything. I would just like to thank you for the	49.46 -
59.44	Is there anything you would like to add?	
	than done.	
	kids and get them away from computers and things like that which is easier said	
	that and have children growing up now having them doing it and hopefully their	
	next generation growing up. What we didn't have years ago, we want to plan	
	it's on your doorstep. So I think it's going in the right direction, even for the	
	You know what I mean, it just opens your eyes to a lot of things so it does, and	
	didn't until I got referred to the Links Alliance and the amount of stuff they had put me on to like Connect and I did a couple of courses for Connect as well.	
	still a lot of people that don't know what's on their doorstep because I certainly	
	I'm thinking this is a lot of good for the community what's going on and there's	









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