

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

Respondent: Edoardo Ceresa

Year of Birth: 1949

Age: 74

Connection to project:

Date of Interview: 03/07/2023

Interviewer: Kathy Green

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: 28 minutes 42 seconds

Location of Interview: The Old Bank Steps

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)







Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.30 – 1.10	Respondent tells us that he was born in Glasgow the year after his parents moved from Italy to Glasgow for the Olivetti factory. He spent his childhood growing up in Springboig and later opened up a pharmacy in Steps where he continues to reside.	
1.14 – 2.32	Respondent tells us about the house that he grew up in. He also describes the community that he had around him. He describes the Italian community he had growing up and how close they were. He speaks about his early days at school and why he was started early.	
	“Stone-built terraced Villa in Springboig.”	1.15 – 1.20
	“Totally different to what we have in communities just now, in some ways I was spoilt because, they, when the Olivetti factory came over they came over with a group, a cohort of workers and the Italian community just were very very close and they all lived in the roughly the same area. So I didn't really have an awful lot of contact with the indigenous community. Having said that, I started school and I didn't speak a word of English, I didn't speak a word of Italian either because when we came over the Italian community all came from the Northern part of Italy, in the Piedmont, which had their own dialect, so I only spoke the dialect. I picked up the language very, very quickly because I started school early, they got me in at 4, because of my language difficulties. So by the time I was 5 I was accepted as one of the boys.”	1.26 - 2.32
2.34 – 2.52	Interviewer asks if he knows of any political issues at that time, he tells us that he was too young to remember.	
3.03 – 4.20	Respondent tells us that he didn't go to Nursery. His first school was St Pauls in Shettleston, which he has vague memories from.	
	“My very first teacher was a Mrs. Sullivan, I remember that because em, she was the one that helped me to speak English.”	3.18 – 3.29
	“It was the days of the qualifying exam and Springboig was in Lanarkshire and St Pauls was in Glasgow, so I was moved from St. Pauls to St. Bridgats in Ballieston when I was 10, just before my qualifying exam, and I was there for about 6 months, passed my qualifying exams and then I moved on to St. Patricks in Coatbridge, which was the nearest secondary school at the time, so.”	3.32 – 4.06

4.25 – 4.58	Respondent talks about his memories from school and describes it as being a happy time. He also didn't experience bullying for which he was grateful.	
	"I thought it was quite a happy time all around, maybe it was because I was sort of easy going but no problems with eh, bullying say. Cause I was Italian, the war hadn't long finished, eh so there was still maybe some carry over from the hostilities that had gone on in the past but I must admit I never came across anything like that at all and I basically had, I enjoyed my school days, both primary and secondary school."	4.27 – 4.58
5.02 – 5.40	Respondent tells us about the toys and games he most enjoyed as a young boy.	
	"Today, people are spoilt with toys and games, in my day we didn't really get an awful lot, we had toys I can't really put my finger on anything, there's a photograph of me with an old pedal car, which I seem to be enjoying because I had a big smile on my face when they took this black and white photograph of me, and em, I remember playing games like chess and draughts eh obviously we were long before computers and things like that so, we were limited to that type of thing and we had plenty of fun with that."	5.02 – 5.40
5.49 – 6.17	Respondent tells us about the foods he liked and disliked as a youngster.	
	"I hated pasta, and being Italian that's not good news because eh they loved their pasta, I like pasta now, but then I hated it. I didn't like soup, especially the minestrone soup that they kept on churning out, eh, I didn't like that. But specific foods that I did like, but I mean, I really liked sort of everything, so that's why I've highlighted the two that I didn't like, everything else was okay."	5.49 – 6.17
6.23 – 7.11	Respondent tells us about his earliest memories of going on holiday and visits his parents hometown in Italy. He talks about the old farming community over there and fond memories of being out in the fresh air. He sums up his childhood by describing it as a happy childhood.	
	"My first recollection of a holiday was in 1955 when we went for the first time over to Italy, to the village to where my mum and dad came from, virtually every year after that we went there and had our holidays there."	6.23 – 6.41
7.14 – 8.00	Respondent talks about how he enjoyed being a teenager and enjoyed doing the things that teenagers do.	
	"I was part of some groups at school, went to the cinema on very special occasions if there was anything, nothing on a regular basis, eh maybe once or twice a year because that's the way things were at that time. I liked walking, I liked reading and that's basically it."	7.37 – 7.58
8.10 – 8.53	Respondent tells us his memories from taking part in his schools open day.	
	"In the senior school we used to have the open day, which eh, we all had great fun doing things at the open day, mainly experiments that we could introduce people to. I was on, I remember one time I was on the physics table, and we had set up the Van de Graaff generator, the Van de Graaf generator sets off an electrostatic charge, and electrocuted the director at school when he came round and I was actually quite pleased at that. "	8.13 – 8.48
8.58 – 11.37	Respondent tells us that after he left school he went to university and studied a pharmacy degree. He then talks about his first house being in Springboig, he opened a pharmacy in Stepps in 1973 and later moved to Stepps in 1976. He talks about his first impressions of Stepps at the time and how it has changed compared to now.	
	"Very village like, very quiet, population wasn't what it is today. It has no pharmacy's which was one of the reasons why I was attracted to Stepps. It had one doctor, not very many shops although the shops are all	9.32 – 9.55

	changed now, at that time you had the butchers, baker, fishshop, now it's all completely different."	
	"Completely transformed, there are more business' in the area, the road for a start, which was a very, very important thing. At one time it was a 4 carriage way that went through Stepps, people didn't have a chance to stop cause you couldn't cross the road basically. Now the traffic calming has come in, people can move about eh, more freely than they used to at that time. Of course the world has changed a lot in 50 years, eh just to say there has been big big changes in 50 years."	10.01 – 10.33
	"But especially in the last 20 years, when the population of Stepps has gone from about 5000, almost doubled, and I'm gonna say almost doubled, will be over 8000 once the new buildings are all in place, influx of new people. I think the community in some way have actually torn apart, rather than come closer together. The schools I think have got a big influence on community life eh in bringing the primary schools that we have, we have got two primary schools, we've got St Josephs and Stepps Primary and they certainly help to bring a cohesiveness to the community which is a good thing. Unfortunately all communities have got the same type of problem, litter, vandalism, graffiti and all the rest of it. That's all part and parcel of modern day life, which is not good but what can you do to change it?"	10.44 – 11.37
11.41 – 12.30	Respondent talks about his family life. His wife and 3 children. He talks about his children's careers and where they now live.	
12.41 – 13.10	Respondent talks about his interests he has now, he is an avid walker and liked to go walking in various parts of Scotland and further. He still visits his village in Italy every year and has been made an honorary citizen which he is very proud of.	
13.18 – 16.27	Respondent talks about his working life within the pharmacy. He tells how it was taxing in different ways, he tells how it was slow at the start in comparison when he was about to retire then Covid hit which was a very stressful period. From 1990 he was involved with a community council to help the community. He talks about his involvement with the Millennium celebrations.	
	"We did all sorts of things, mainly all repetitive work, I mean most of the things that keeps coming up are, what I've already touched on, the eh littering, eh police matters, fortunately police matters aren't that bad you know in the area but nevertheless they do come up and its always at the community council meetings that these things are brought up. Eh planning, and especially more so with all the development that's going on at the moment in the area, we've always had something to say about that."	14.20 – 14.56
	"In the year 2000, we wanted to set up em, to bring the community together to have a sort of a jamboree for the millennium, I was tasked to get a beacon, so that we could light up and people could come and collect themselves you know at that time. There was 1000 beacons going up all over Britain, eh so I did manage to get the Beacon, however we couldn't get a burner for it because they were just not available because everybody wanted one, so that was it. The Beacon wasn't actually erected, it remained in the yard, in Hugh Logans yard who was the constructor of the Beacon and then it was, eventually a year after it was put up in the Hockey Pavilion, just outside the Hockey Pavilion, basically as a temporary place. Originally the beacon, at the Pavilion would have, eh at the Hockey Pavilion, would have given plenty of space for people to collect for that particular occasion, and of course with it being there it would be a central point for all the other things that were to follow. With	14.57 – 16.27

	hindsight, obviously, there were a lot of things that followed the Millennium, there was the Queens death, the Queens Coronation, these are all sort of fairly recent, em there was something else which would have happened aswell which would have lent itself to something like that, but it was never finished so it's lying up there vanquished that the moment."	
16.32 – 19.49	Respondent tells us about who the local industries and employers in Stepps when he moved there in the 70s. He also goes on to chat about the different types of work that were available in the Seven Lochs area before compared to now. He tells us about his views on the increase of housing within the area.	
	"Well we had the Cardowan Colliery, which would have been, opened I think in the mid 30s, that was going until 1985/86, mid 60s the Buchanan Tower and associated buildings with the Brewers, they moved in there, and at one time they were employing 1000s of women basically, when I say 1000's I don't mean 10's of 1000's, I mean you know 2000 to 3000 women in this area. Then time moves on, they sold out, em smaller units moved in, and now again it seems to be all changing because there are em pioneer television studios I think are moving into the, the site and in a big, big way they seem to be taking over most of the site. A lot of the site after the Buchanan drinks people went, it was sort of, it was really haphazard, there wasn't an awful lot in the building itself, but now it seems to be on the up and up."	16.32 – 17.38
	"And of course, there's all the new houses em, unfortunately transport hasn't kept up with the thing, with the demand, they want people to use the buses and all the rest of it, we don't have that. Eh we've got, one bus every ¾'s of an hour, and for the bigger population if you're wanting them to leave their cars at home, you've really got to sort of up that a little bit. But it's not in our hands, it's not within our power."	17.38 – 18.02
	"There are different types of work, we have already touched on at the beginning you had two main employers, you had the mining community, and well the mines, and the drinks community and that was it. Now there is more diversity, in the area, which is, which is good."	18.22 – 18.44
	"On the whole I think it's actually changed for the good, obviously there are some areas which still require a lot of work. We've lost a lot of green space, but we still have quite a bit of green space which should be maintained, which is why the community council is quite forceful in eh, trying to control the building of, well, after all, the latest build, where the Calla homes are, whats the name.. Ells Rise, eh was a farm, the farms gone now, now we've got 200 houses, so we've lost that. The builders to a small degree are trying to keep, well with pressure from the community council, to keep some trees and all the rest of it going, so we're trying to keep some ecology in the place, rather than just have concrete all over the place."	18.51 – 19.49
19.56 – 20.26	Respondent tells his fond memories of the local Lochs in the area and his memories of the Italian community there.	
	"Infact even before then, I remember one period when I was very young, and eh the Italian community loved their mushrooms, and because they loved their mushrooms they had discovered Drumpellier Park, or Drumpellier Loch which was certainly in the 50s and 60s not what we've got now. But apparently it was very good for mushrooms, and they would go up there and pick mushrooms for eating."	19.59 – 20.26
20.40 – 21.05	Respondent tells us about his view of media portrayal in the area, he says there is more coverage due to the fact that everyone has a mobile phone.	

21.10 – 24.13	Respondent describes his national identity as both Italian and Scottish. He talks about the benefits of him having dual nationality. He informs us about IRE which helps his family get their Italian passports. He talks about home for himself being where he lays his head, he describes Italy being his home just as much as Glasgow.	
	“Sometimes I verge more towards the Italian and the reason for that was also brought on by Brexit, we are all Europeans, we should all be united, and this carry on of Brexit of pulling us out of Europe was ridiculous.”	21.16 – 21.35
24.24 – 26.06	Respondent talks about how he feels like a part of the community in the area as he is a pharmacist there. Although he feels like the identity of the Seven Lochs area has diminished. He feels if there was a change in peoples attitude then it would change community relations for the better.	
	“Changing people’s attitude, you know, towards their neighbour, we’re at the moment, we’ve been trying to get, defibrillators in the area, and we have actually struggled for a long time to get them up and running. We’ve managed, finally managed to access funds by crowdsourcing for two, which is excellent but it was a really big, big struggle. There are some villages which are smaller than Stepps and yet they’ve managed to get six, so, that in some ways explains that things in the community aren’t as close as they could be.”	25.14 – 26.06
26.15 – 28.22	Respondent tells us about his memories of Hogganfield Loch	
	“Well, there was Hogganfield Loch which was eh, when we were young, we would walk from Springboig to Hogganfield Loch which is actually quite a bit of a trek, so we used to walk up to Hogganfield Loch, walk around the Loch, there was some eh rocks that we could climb, obviously when it was em, this was between 5 and 11, we would climb on those and that was terrific. We played at the Municipal Golf Course at Hogganfield, not that I’m a great golfer, I only played maybe 3 or 4 times, but that’s where I played golf, that was it. We’ve been to, well we’ve passed the Johnston Loch quite a few times, but the main ones were Drumpellier and Hogganfield.”	26.17 – 27.13
	“Well they are constantly changing, eh Hogganfield Loch now is opening a big, big golf range or whatever it is I’m not sure what it is, but it’s certainly being talked about. A Few months ago I was on the train to Edinburgh and there was a group of people sitting across from me, and that’s all they talked about was this great Golf, in Hogganfield, I mean obviously they were Scottish, but nevertheless I don’t think they were from the area but they were looking forward to getting this big change coming.”	27.41 – 28.18
28.23 – 28.42	Interviewer thanks the respondent for his time and memories.	
   		
<b>Communities Past &amp; Futures Society</b> <b>cpandfs@outlook.com</b>		