

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

Respondent: Brian Toland

Year of Birth: 1954

Age: 69

Connection to project: Lived in both Garthamlock and Ruchazie

Date of Interview: 23/03/23

Interviewer: Deborah Walker

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: 45mins 10 Seconds

Location of Interview: Ruchazie Pantry

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.21 – 0.40	Interviewer asks whether the respondent has grown up in a Seven Lochs Area, he confirms that he has lived in both Garthamlock and Ruchazie.	
0.46 – 0.58	Respondent tells us a bit about his family, he tells us that he is married with 3 sons and 2 daughters. He comes from a family with 7 siblings.	
1.03 – 1.26	Respondent talks about growing up in Garthamlock.	
	“Garthamlock, just across there, where Craigend is, where it was all fields, there was nothing over there except for fields as far as you could look.”	1.03 – 1.12
	“You just walked out your door, top of the street and that was you in the country, and away you went.”	1.17 – 1.22
1.30 – 3.34	Respondent describes the home and area in which he grew up in. He talks about getting in trouble as a kid in his neighbourhood and having to go to court.	
	“3 bedroom, ground floor, big garden, good neighbours, school wasn't far just up the top of the street, school at the bottom of the street aswell, so we were never far away from a school.”	1.30 – 1.41
	“There were lots of children, know what I mean, cause we were all big families, so everybody knew everybody, and woe beside you if you got into mischief and you got caught and all that, your neighbours, your ma and da knew about it right away, it was a chap at the door.”	1.47 – 2.00
	“Me and my brother, we decided we would go across the fields, and a farmer had cut all his hay down, and he baled it all into bales of hay and stacked it, and me and brother and 4 other people went into that field and decided we would play over there and we knocked it all down, and the farmer turned up with a shot gun and we all got the jail, 11 years old we all got the jail, and we got taken to Millerston Police Station right, where the garage is, just at Millerston, see the wee houses, that was the police station, and we got locked up in a cell, and we to wait there to our ma's and da's came and got us and then we ended up in court, and we all got fined £5 each, and we had to go to the court over in Govan right, so my dad had to take a day off his work, he was not one happy chappy! We went into that court and we all got fined, 11 years of age man and fined a	2.09 – 3.34





	<p>fiver. Then my dad said to the judge, 'may aswell lock him up the now cause I ain't paying it', judge says 'Give you 6 months to pay it, right up to the wire.' 'Nope he's not paying it.' My sister paid it. But we had to go to the farmers house and give him the money, and then get a receipt of him so when you got the receipt of him you had to put a wee stamp on it and then you had to take it back to court. So my dad says 'Yous are not getting a day off school, I'll go to court.', took then in, he says, 'Your honour my boys are not here because I believe they should get educated.' 'Well done you.' And all the other boys turned up, Oft suffered for that for a long time."</p>	
3.38 – 4.26	<p>Respondent describes the community in which he grew up in, he talks about the first Gala day in Garthamlock.</p>	
	<p>"Garthamlock had the very first ever Gala day anywhere, and they had it in Craigend Primary School which was at the bottom of street right and they had just made a new football pitch so that's where the Gala day was. And they had pipe bands and they had the Archery. I always remember archery and all the rest of it you know what I mean, it was fantastic, for a full week. Wee gala coming over the back of a coal motor, by the time she got off it she was poking. They never cleaned it, they never cleaned it, her all white dress wasn't white when she came off the back of that."</p>	3.40 – 4.10
	<p>"June, July, all the big signs were put up along the fences at shops and everybody took a wee part in it. People used to do home baking and just bring it all down and, you know what I mean?"</p>	4.14 – 4.26
4.33 – 4.59	<p>Interviewer asks respondent about local issues, he tells her that he never really had any issues there, unlike other areas with gang problems.</p>	
	<p>"Where I stayed right, you talk about gangs and gang warfare and all the rest of it right, see where I stayed, there was no gangs in in the far side, I thought nothing, you could just go out and walk about and nobody would go like that, 'Where are you from?' and all the rest of it, try and beat you up, naw. Oh aye in Garthamlock aye, go to Easterhouse man, it's a different story, run."</p>	4.39 – 4.59
5.00 – 5.55	<p>Respondent tells us that he didn't go to nursery, he tells us about his primary school days and about the Brothers and Nuns that worked there.</p>	
	<p>"Some were bullies and some were alright. Brothers were bullies, they just wanted to wallop you about for anything and everything, do you know what I mean? Even the nuns, it's amazing what a wee nun can go, with her wee hands up her sleeve and the next thing, Weeo, there's a big belt out there and you're getting cracked with it, maybe going up the stairs talking? You got belted."</p>	5.21 – 5.41
5.55 – 7.14	<p>Respondent tells us that when he left school he began work as an apprentice welder, but only lasted there for a week. He then tells us about working as a van boy. After that he worked in a shop at a bacon boner. After that he worked in a shop at a trainee manager and that was where he met his wife.</p>	
	<p>"I started off as an apprentice welder and I lasted in that job for a week. When I got my wages and I seen what I got for a weeks work I was like that, 'Are you kidding me?', 1pound, 19 shillings and 6pence, less than 2 quid a week, I was like that, forget it, I'm going to be a van boy."</p>	5.58 – 6.12
	<p>"Van boy was brilliant, alright you started at 6 o'clock in the morning, but you were finished at 1 o'clock and that was you for the day."</p>	6.14 – 6.20
	<p>"A bacon boner, I cut up pigs and turned them into streaky and back bacon and middle bacon and all the rest of it and cut cooked meats and all the rest of it."</p>	6.35 – 6.44

7.18 – 7.55	Respondent tells us about his favourite foods, he also tells us about his favourite toys and games and the time. He remembers a prank he used to play on his neighbours at the time.	
	“Food, anything you want to anything you could eat. I’m not fussy I’m fussy now, if I can’t see it getting made in front of me then it ain’t getting eaten.”	7.18 – 7.25
	“Rounders, Kick the can, tying bins to peoples doors, chapping their doors and bugging off and you’d hear them, open the door, shut the door, open the door, shut the door, cause the bin rope was tied to it and the bin was falling from the top of the stairs with all the ashes, so you’d hear them saying, ‘you shut the door and I’ll open mine and I’ll cut it with this knife.’ And they’d wckk, the bin would fall down the stairs. So the close would be full of rubbish and ashes, and you’d hear all the explicit words.”	7.28 –7.52
8.00 – 10.04	Respondent tells us about the holidays he went on, he went to Hogganfield Loch and did Rhubarb picking. He sums up his childhood as having happy memories, he tells us a few things that he did then that you can’t do now.	
	“The only holiday we went was to the rhubarb field at Hogganfield Loch and we did Rhubarb picking.”	8.00 - 8.04
	“We tied it in bundles right and you got paid 2 and a half pence per bundle so you got 12 and a half pence for 5, right, so you worked all day in that field and the guy would come round in a tractor and a big Milk hut full of tea, hundreds of flies all about it and all the rest of it and you get a cup of tea and you get a 10 minute break and you go and get started. So you had all your bundles all laid out right, wee guy came down and marked them all off right, put them on the sheet and covered them in leaves, so when the other people were working right? And they finished we wait until they went away, and the wee guy checked all the bundles and checked yours, then you took the leaves off of their bundles and you moved them over to yours and you added them on to yours to the rest.”	8.06 – 8.47
	“Brilliant, good, happy, plenty of things to do, know what I mean? Ok, you’ve not got computers and all the rest and that kinda stuff, you went out and you made your own thing you know what I mean? “	9.25 – 9.38
	“You went away across that field, over to Gartcosh where the coal pit was, right, Cardowan pit and climbed that big mountain, ah slag and everything right? And came back like a wee coal man, bogging.”	9.38 – 9.51
	“Go up to the quarry in Garthamlock, used to be a big quarry in Garthamlock where the fort is and climbed down that quarry face, oh ho.”	9.54 – 10.03
10.10 – 11.42	Respondent talks about his teenage days, he talked about how his friends would get people to get them a carry out for underage drinking while he just stayed in. He talks about remembering there being the Boys Brigade, but Catholics couldn’t join it.	
	“I didn’t drink and I didn’t smoke know what I mean, so I didn’t bother when your pals were all going out and getting a bottle of Scotsmac and all that, that is whiskey and wine mixed together, just to let you know. They would go down to the Stepps hotel right, and they’d sit on the wee wall and people would go in for a wee carry out right and they’d go, ‘Mister any chance of getting a carry out?’, Get your wee carry out and go back up the road and go over they fields and just get plastered.”	10.10 – 10.34
	“Youth clubs were, Boys Brigade and all the rest of it right? But you had to be a Protestant to go in the Boys Brigade, right? Catholics weren’t allowed in the Boys Brigade, are you kidding? You said to the Priest, ‘I’m joining the Boys Brigade.’ Oh ho, your life was a misery.”	10.45 – 10.59

11.48 – 12.42	Respondent talks about his secondary school, St Gregorys, but he hated it. He tells us that he used to skip school instead of going.	
	“I used to go out and go round the back right and sit on top of the bin shelter right, with the big wall and just wait until my da, walked out the close and down the road and then when I seen the blue bus going along the road right? I just went back home.”	12.08 – 12.24
	“You always had the wee school board guy walking about, ‘What are you not at school for?’ ‘Aw well I’m sick.’ ‘What are you doing out?’, ‘I’ve to go to the doctors and get the prescriptions.’”	12.35 – 12.42
12.53 – 13.32	Respondent talks about his apprenticeship that he had as a welder. He talks about how he earned more as a van boy and so he didn’t stay at it. He preferred being out and about rather than stuck inside.	
13.36 – 15.52	Respondent names the places he has lived in, Dennistoun, Garthamlock and Ruchazie. He tells us what Ruchazie was like when he moved there. He reminisces over playing in the local park in Ruchazie and what the houses used to look like.	
	“The schools only opened in 1959, Ruchazie Primary. Ruchazie was clean. It was spotless right, all the wee gardens in my street. The street I moved into right, was then classified the best street in Ruchazie, the entire scheme, all the wee gardens were all neat and tidy, with their wee fences and their hedges all trimmed and all the rest of it and there was only one motor in my street. I always remember it, John Webbs, a wee red motor and it sat right outside my gate and his da stayed across the road. And if you went out with a ball it was, ‘Park!’, but in the park we had 2 bowling greens, tennis courts, a big massive board on the run, two big massive boxes at the end right, and that was for like the pensioners and they played draughts and checkers and then you had a big line workmans shed and the park was all fenced in and it was shut at 7 o’clock at night and woe betide you if you got caught in that park after 7 o’clock at night cause that wee Mr Lee just grabbed you and ran you right round your door man, ‘Deal with him!’, ‘Don’t you worry we won’t be back in your park again.’ “	14.02 – 15.10
	“Where the motorway is now right, there used to be a big row of old fashioned cottages right and every one of them was all painted different colours.”	15.13 – 15.22
15.50 – 19.08	Interviewer asks respondent about whether there were any local issues in Ruchazie, he tells her that when he moved there that there was none but as time went on it got worse due to issues like drugs. He talked about the Ruchazie Housing Association being formed as the Glasgow City Council didn’t do enough. From there Ruchazie Credit Union was also formed. He talks about the new houses that the Housing Association built and how after that the community got worse. But he still remembers them all coming together to support one another at events such as funerals.	
	“Millencroft Road at the top of my street was classes in the newspapers right as the worst street in Britain by a High Court Judge because of the amount of drugs and everything. So Glasgow City Council then decided, let’s go down and we will tidy these blocks of tenements up. So they decided we will put fancy, we will put new windows in right and we will put storage heaters in the houses and we will do these fancy porches and all the rest of it. About 4 year later they knocked it all down and it became a piece of derelict land for years and years and years. Then the Housing Association got the ground and they built all the new houses down there, but Ruchazie was a bad place.”	17.24 – 18.03

	<p>“Everybody’s door was open, your wee’uns could walk in and out of everybody’s house. So when they built of these new houses it was front door, back door right, lock the front door, lock the back door, just keep yourself to yourself and it kinda took away that community thing, but don’t get me wrong, see if anything happens in Ruchazie, somebody dies, this Ruchazie community all come together, they all come together to help out. You know what I mean? They go round with a sheet and ask them, ‘Would you like to make a wee donation to help that wee family out?’ and all the rest of it. Or chap the door, ‘There’s bread, there’s milk, incase you’ve got visitors.’ They’d cakes and all the rest of it.”</p>	18.11 – 18.45
19.11 – 20.12	<p>Respondent tells us about the main industries in Ruchazie at that time. He remembers the Queenslie Industrial Estate and the canteen there for workers.</p>	
	<p>“Queenslie Industrial Estate you had engineering, labelling manufacturers, manufacturers of making beds, deliveries, foods, warehousing, knitwear factories, coat factories, shirt-makers. All they were on all in a straight, Olivetti, made typewriters, they were one of the biggest, they had a big massive factory going right along the end of the road the full length of Queenslie Industrial Estate was Olivetti, then you had all your wee units behind it, all the way up the hill. They even had a big canteen in there for all the workers who could go over at dinner time and have their dinner and then from 4 o’clock all the buses would be sitting waiting for all the people to take them back down the road to where they were going to.”</p>	19.13 – 19.53
	<p>“Discounted, massively discounted, you know what I mean and it was massive, you could get your breakfast, you could get your dinner in it, you know what I mean. Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches and whatever. Soup, a dinner at dinner time, a proper dinner you know what I mean, It was a busy, busy, busy place.”</p>	19.59 – 20.12
20.15 – 26.31	<p>Respondent remembers the electricity getting turned off on the 1970s. He tells us that it affected local industries but thankfully not the shop he worked in. He remembers all the different shops that he worked in over the years. He tells about the different duties he had working in the shops. He retells a stories about a shoplifter from when he worked in Clydebank.</p>	
	<p>“In the 1970’s, electricity getting turned off and all the rest of it, they’re trading a 3 day week.”</p>	20.19 – 20.25
	<p>“Shops, Shops just stayed open, it was like engineering and all that kinda places because they needed the power, when the electricity went off that was it, they all had to go home”</p>	20.35 – 20.45
26.35 – 30.06	<p>Respondent talks about how Ruchazie had changed from he was younger. He remembers the high end and the low end differences and the separation of children’s schools with religion. He discuss how he thinks work needs to be done to Hogganfield Loch to make it nicer for people to go to and visit.</p>	
	<p>“In Ruchazie, the 1990s right, things was bad because there was nothing coming, there was no clubs for wee’uns and all the rest of it right. People from the low end couldn’t come to the high end to use the community centre, people from the high end couldn’t go down the low end right because high end Colby, low end, all gang fights right so it was divided, but now there’s none of that if Ruchazie there’s no high end or low end or none of that, it’s just Ruchazie, people are saying now Ruchazie know what I mean. It’s just Ruchazie.”</p>	26.39 – 27.12
	<p>“Two schools used to come out at the same time, play time right, they’d all go on the football pitches and play football and then they got a new Head Teacher and a new Priest and he didn’t like this. So the Catholics</p>	27.17 – 27.36

	got a different play time and a different dinner time, and they got a big fence put up to separate them, so to me that was just pure sectarianism.”	
	“This is 2023 right, there isn’t a lot of clubs for young ones right, the community centre was shut down right, the church want to organise clubs right, but it’s got to be something to do with the way they’ve got to be involved in it, whereas before you went to the club in the church right, you just done what you done right but that was it. All the other clubs were football and all the rest of it right, but now they want to bring religion into every kind of group that comes into the Church, and I don’t think that’s right, because Ruchazie is mixed now, so you have all different nationalities, different religions, you’ve got Muslims and you’ve got all the rest of it. And if you want to go to one they clubs down there and they want to preach religion to you, how insulting is it to go to a Muslim wee’un, ‘Here’s a bible, take it home and read it.’”	28.07 – 28.51
	“Hogganfield Loch needs to be reinstated to what it should be. A public park, cut grass, seats to sit on, all that kind of stuff.”	29.37 – 29.44
30.10 – 34.39	Respondent talks about the amount of great charity work that he did in the area to make sure that local people could get fresh fruit and veg before The Pantry opened.	
	“We went to the market right and we sued to buy fruit and veg right, I used to go down there at 5 o’clock in the morning right and I knew all the guys from all the stands right and I used to go round and I used to haggle them and get a good price and all the rest of it and I’d get the stuff and we’d bring it back up and we’d go to Ruchazie Parish Church, and we would set it all up there right. And we would sell it at affordable prices so people could get fresh fruit and veg, and then we applied for funding from the Plunkett Trust and they gave us £5000 worth of funding, it was for someone to come in and learn us about bookkeeping and all the rest of it and give us ideas.”	30.12 – 30.48
	“And then he come up with these ideas, he came in one day and says, ‘Oh yeah I’ve got a big pile of labels for you.’ Ruchazie Poverty Action Group, Ruchazie Poverty Action Group Lentils, Broth mix, marrowfat peas, Keffil New Chillis, Ruchazie Garlic and all that, right and we had them all bagged and everything and we were putting them out, and we were hearing people, ‘Oh lentils I’ll buy a packet of lentils.’ And all the rest of it. We used to put them in the wee, see the wee bags up there? So when you see them, they looked kind of packaged up. So he bought us in these lovely clear bags right, put a label on it, pulled out the lentils, what one are you going to buy first? That one there. Right and wee used to sell 100’s and 100’s of them, even tea bags, coffee, wee tubs of sugar, like ground sugar, salt, pepper oh we done a lot.”	31.05 – 31.55
	“We even did a big, big one at Christmas, where we started at 8 o’clock in the morning and we were still thingmy at 4 o’clock in the afternoon and then the stuff we had left from that, we gave to a church at Parkhead because the lassie was looking for stuff.”	33.22 - 33.35
34.43 – 35.53	Respondent shares his thoughts on Local Councillors and MPs and they work they do. He shares his opinions on what they should be doing.	
35.55 – 39.33	Respondent identifies and Scottish and Proud. He tells us that he considers Ruchazie as his home. He talks about the changes in Ruchazie being for the better. He shares his opinion on the Seven Lochs and tells us that he doesn’t like them because of the destruction they have caused whilst protecting the water voles. He talks about how the Community Council have a good relationship with the Community Police in the area.	

	<p>“Changes are for the better now, it’s getting better, they’ve got the Pantry, they’re gonna have they two other shops right, they’re gonna get that derelict site, it’s getting, it’s going to be used right, it’s going to help people to grow veg right, it’s going to being people together, people with mental health and all their problems right, that might never come out if they go there. It’s going to bring them out, they’re going to start talking to people, they’re going to become a wee community.”</p>	36.18 – 36.42
39.39 – 45.05	<p>Interviewer asks respondent what is the most important thing about the Seven Lochs area. Respondent tells us he is more interested in what happens in Ruchazie, not the Seven Lochs. He expresses his dislike for the Seven Lochs. He reminisces over memories he had of the Lochs. He expresses his opinion on the Parks protecting the water voles which he doesn’t agree with and what he thinks should happen instead.</p>	
	<p>“When the, the boats were there right, the big boat everybody went round and it took you round the Loch right. You had the wee rowing boats so you could go out on the rowing boats. We used to go out on the Island, pull the boat but the wee guy used to come out in his wee fast boat, see you on the island and take your boat away, that was you stuck on the island, so you’d be hoping that your pals would be out on their wee boat and you’d shout them. ‘Mon and get us’, and they’d go to the other side right and drop you off so that he didn’t catch you. Cause you weren’t allowed on the island because it was a bird sanctuary because they used to be in there nesting.”</p>	40.35 – 41.08
	<p>“Cause you used to walk through that park in the summer time right and you’d see all the Crocus’s growing right and the daffodils and everything and it really made it, Springs coming look at that the trees are all starting to open up again, it’s a park. A nice walk round right, you could sit on the benches and all the rest of it, you could sit on the grass. You couldn’t sit on that grass now.”</p>	42.19 – 42.33
45.06 – 45.10	<p>Interviewer thanks respondent for his time and sharing the memories.</p>	
   		
<p>Communities Past & Futures Society cpandfs@outlook.com</p>		