

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

Respondent: Anne Symons

Year of Birth: 1953

Age: 70

Connection to project: Lives in Cardowan

Date of Interview: 23/04/2023

Interviewer: Thomas Stones

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: 29 minutes 24 seconds

Location of Interview: Cardowan

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)







Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.17 – 1.20	Respondent tells us that she was born in Stobhill and raised in Auchinloch. She moved to the village when she was 15. She tells us about her first impressions of the area.	
	“Aw I didn’t like it, my mother brought me out to have a look at the house and it was a main road, what we called a main road bus, so we got off and we started to walk and I thought ‘oh fancy cottages’ and I says to her ‘what one is it?’, she says ‘do you see that hill up there yonder?’, I went aye, she says ‘We’ve away up there to go.’, I says ‘I don’t like it, I’m not coming out here.’ A couple of weeks later we moved out and it actually wasn’t bad. We had good neighbours. It took us a wee while to sort of get used to the place.”	0.39 – 1.09
	“The fact that where we came from in Whiteinch there was plenty of shops there and you’re leaving that to come out to one shop that George had, a co-operative, I mean that was it.”	1.10 – 1.20
1.26 – 4.04	Respondent tells us about her family life when she was younger. She reminisces about her brothers and tells stories of them in their younger years.	
	“My mother worked in town in a wallpaper shop, St. Georges cross, my father worked in the buses, they were working during the day, they come in at night and we had our dinner and that was about it, the boys they went out to play with their friends and what have you.”	1.28 – 1.44
	“When mum decided to get the phone put in, that was funny, they had a thing on the phone for dial a disc, and our George the youngest and he was the worst, if you open the living room door to go to the toilet, he would be standing with his head against the wall and his body going to the music and fingers clicking, and when mother got her phone bill in it was a hundred and odd pound and that was dear for them, so she gave him a rollicking. It never stopped, he used to come in and say there’s Elvis Presley on the phone and he’d be there for a good half hour standing with the head going and the body going and the fingers going.”	1.44 – 2.22
	“Our George was a holy terror, he used to go down to the school and it was all locked up, him and his pals and they’d play football and the police were forever trying to get him to get out of the school. And the bravado with it, I mean he was that brave. He stood this day and he says to the	2.35 – 4.04

	<p>police, 'Come and get me!' so the fella jumped the fence and our George went round the back of the school, big high fences and he got through and he's at the other side with his pals and they're all going 'Come and get us!' and they couldn't fathom it how they got through. The big high fences there was about 3 slits that they could roll back and get through there and bring them back so they didn't move and my mother told them they could clap him one in the ear or clap his jaw but I'll get him when he comes in. And so she did, if she said she was going to do something, she done it. She was a wee maid she was about 4'10"/4'11", and she had wee hands and when they cracked against skin, it was like a crack, you heard it, and she says to him one day, she says 'come here', 'what for?', 'come here' and he walked over and he put his head down and he went 'What?' and you just heard this crack, and he went 'that was my jaw'. She said 'It'll be the other side' she says 'where were you?' he says 'out playing'. She says I had a visitor here looking for you, and he knew, he went 'the police?' she says 'aye, and I've told them if he gets a hold of you to boot your backside.' And that was it, it never stopped him mind you but, that was it at the time."</p>	
4.08 – 9.57	<p>Respondent describes the apartment that she grew up in. She also tells us stories about decorating the house and how she got to decorate her own room. She talks about her job at the time and how she hated it so left. With her determination she got a new job at the buses. She reminiscences about getting taught about the buses and how she enjoyed her new place of work until she stopped working due to getting married and having children.</p>	
	<p>"Here it was a 5 apartment, we came out of a 3 apartment in Whiteinch, it was 2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and living room and when we came out here we had a room each, and this was a novelty for us. Especially when I clocked the coal fire and I went into the other rooms and they all had coal fires. I went 'oh good', as I said we all had bedrooms each. I picked the bedroom between my mums room and the living room. I thought 'aw I'm going to get cold from the outside window'. So the boys they chose their room and once we got all the furniture in and we got settled and it was looking better. We could get things done and one of the things that we did get done was to get the rooms painted and papered and I pleaded with my mother to let me paper my end room, let me pick my paper and let me do it myself. And I done it, and it was quite a good job for somebody who had never done it before. And even getting praise from my mother, that was, that was good she said 'you've done a good job' and I went 'oh good.'"</p>	4.08 – 5.05
	<p>"Then there were things that were getting moved about the room and I couldn't fathom out what it was or who was doing it, anyway got the culprit. 'Anne I'm sorry we were just looking a cigarette.', so I went right fine, so I went to my mother 'Can I put a Yale on that door?', she went 'What for?', 'My privacy.' I was awful polite, my privacy, and she said that would be fine. So I got the lock, got it put in, and that was me I was in seventh heaven, nobody could get into my private bit. That was mine."</p>	5.06 – 5.36
	<p>"At the time I worked for Collins publishers in Cathedral Street and they used to put a bus on for us to take us in in the morning to take us in and bring us home at night, and after 6 years there I was so fed up with the job. And they started picking on me, and I went 'I don't need to take this.' So I put my notice in, it was for a fortnight and my gaffer says to me 'you won't get your cards, it's coming up to a fortnight.' I went 'I don't care.' So I did get my wages and I did get my cards that week, aw I came out of there walking on cloud 9 I tell you it was great. The only drawback was</p>	5.37 – 8.03

	<p>the fact that my mother didn't know and I came home and we were sitting blethering and cups of tea and she went 'Would you like your dinner now?' I went 'No.' 'How not?' 'I'm not hungry' 'What's wrong?' I says 'Nothings wrong' I said 'I'm just not hungry'. So it took me to about 7 O'Clock that night before I could come clean with her and it was just the two of us sitting and I thought 'I wonder if she's in a good mood' and I says to her 'Are you in a good mood?' She says 'Aye' she says, I'm alright', she went 'What's up?' I went 'Nothing' and she went 'I'm getting awfully quick answers, what is it? Talk to me, tell me.' So I did, I went and got my wages and approached her with my P45 and I gave her them, 'Whats this?' I said 'I've jacked it in, I'm not going back.' 'How not?' I says 'I don't like it' I says 'I'm getting sick of it, I am sick of it.' She says 'what are you going to do?' I says 'I'm going to go down to the garage on Monday and get a job in the buses' 'As long as you're sure' and I went 'aye'. The only one left to tell was father and he didn't take too kindly to me wanting a job with the buses so mother told him to just leave off, I was old enough to make up my own mind to what I wanted to do. So I went down to the garage on the Monday, and the boss gave me a form to fill in, which I did and gave him it back. He went 'Are you Bobbys daughter', I went 'aye but don't tar me with the same brush.' And he laughed and 6 weeks later I was going down to that garage every 2 weeks to get a job, and 6 weeks later, Mr Mullin was his name, he says to me 'I've never known anybody as desperate for a job as what you are' and he had a pile of application forms there about an inch, an inch and a half thick and he went down to near the middle one and he got my form out and he says ' how would you like to start on Monday?' I went 'Are you kidding me on?' and he went 'No, no' and I went 'Yes, yes' So he told me to be down at the garage on Monday morning for quarter to 7 and see the duty inspector to get me my pass to take me from here through to Falkirk and back again."</p>	
	<p>"So we got through the sessions and we were talking about the things that you charged for on the bus. You charged for a babies stroller, you charged for dogs, blind folk with a dog, they didn't get charged for their dogs, the guide dogs and we had all this to learn, and there was one fella there from Stirling, can't remember if Jean or Maureen was her name, she went 'Are there any questions?' and this fella sits and he goes 'aye, I've got one.' And she goes 'what is it?' He says 'If you got a monkey on the bus and it's has wee ones' he says, 'Do you ring up a ticket for everytime it shows, it pops?' and we had a laugh that day and she went 'No.' He went 'I just thought I'd ask', and she went 'I just thought I'd tell you.'</p>	8.28 – 9.12
	<p>"The garage was down in Stepps were the Brewers is." "By the Brewers Fayre?" "Aye, that was Stepps garage and it went from the main road all the way it was a good length, good length of buses there and rather than just call it Stepps garage it took it's name of the farm across the road, Gateside Farm, so Stepps garage became Gateside garage. That was a good place to work, you had a laugh, kidding and joking with them all and what have you. It was good."</p>	9.19 – 9.51
10.03 – 11.58	<p>Respondent describes the community she grew up in. She talks about her freedom being able to play outside with her friends when she was younger. She also reminisces about the family dog they had and how they came to have it.</p>	
	<p>"The community itself was good, I mean there was others our own ages we could play with, we played in the street, and that was a good thing then, we could all play in the street and nobody shouted at us to get off</p>	10.04 – 10.22

	the street or get off the road or anything, and we were at the age to know that when a motor appeared you let it go by.”	
	“The other thing was to take the dogs out a walk, we had one dog, Pepe, my cousin brought him up and he says to my mother he says ‘Aunty Nan, will you take that wee dog?’ and my mothers looking at him and she says ‘ it needs a bloody feed, what’s wrong with him’ he says ‘the guy that owns and walks him in the front of ours’ he says ‘and he bit the postman’ and he says ‘ and the guy doesn’t want him put down’ he says ‘and I can’t put him down.’ She says ‘How what have you to do?’ he says ‘Either put a brick round his neck or a bullet through his head and I can’t do that’ She went ‘leave him where he is.’ And do you know, that dog turned out so faithful to my mother he would do anything for her.”	10.32 – 11.08
12.04 – 13.30	Respondent remembers the local club that her parents went to for socialise. She talks about how close the community was. She recalls a girl going missing and how the local boys went out to look for her.	
	“The older folk they had their club, we’ve got a pub here now we never had before, they had their club the Parochial Hall. Anybody could go down there and a lot of the folk went down there to play Bingo on a Thursday night. My mother and father being two of them, she was fairly lucky and everybody enjoyed that, and it gave the folk a chance to mingle with one another, and that’s exactly what they done. It would be my mother would walk in, ‘aw I haven’t seen you for a while, how have you been?’, that would let them get information like, the woman particular maybe hadn’t been well. Or somebody had maybe had a wee’un or what have you and as I say, they all, all came together and that’s what this village reminds me of. Every place has its bad apple and Cardowan is no different.’	12.04 – 12.52
13.37 – 19.23	Respondent tells us about the schools she went to when she was younger and her secondary school in Partick. She tells us a story of one of her sub teachers who would let her class do what they wanted as he wanted to watch the cricket instead. She remembers her Home Economics class baking and drawing in her art class. She reminisces over a few of the teachers she had. She talks about why she didn’t like P.E due to catching asthma and remembers her visits to the school dentist.	
19.27 – 21.15	Respondent talks about her favourite toys and games when she was younger. She also talks about her favourite foods and how she would go to the backdoor to cool her food down to eat. She remembers her grandfathers garden where he used to grow his own produce.	
	“Snakes and Ladders, Draughts and Ludo, Cards. I was a right wee shuffler with the cards. They used to play Jim Rummy, Snap and they kind of games and it was good it used to take your mind of you, off what you were thinking about and it gave you something else to do, think about when you were playing Jim Rummy. Folk think that’s an awkward game but it’s not, it’s easy when you get into the way of it. Blackjack, Pontoon and that was without the money but you got fed up with that. Two cards and that was it. No that was my sorta, I liked the games like Jim Rummy, Patience and even now I still play Patience on my phone, because it keeps me busy, it keeps my mind alert.”	19.27 – 20.11
	“Oh I was Miss Fussy, I was Miss Fussy. I liked mince and I liked stew and I liked eh rolled meat and I liked meatloaf, I loved chips, that was about it. My grandpa grew his own vegetables in the garden and out of that lot I liked cabbage and I liked cauliflower and I loved brussell sprouts. If we were having Brussell Sprouts for dinner, yours truly used to get a fork and help herself. Pass the pot and dig in and go to the back door and cool it	20.14 – 20.51

	down and eat it, I could get away with that two or three times to I got caught.	
	“My grandpa grew a lot of vegetables in his garden, he grew onions, onion trees, turnip, parsnip, tatties, aw he grew just about everything in his garden. Over beside the flowers that’s where he had his strawberries and aw my god the strawberries were good. Everything was good. I don’t ever remember tasting strawberries what we did when we were wee, the strawberries were juicy, they were sweet.”	20.51 – 21.15
21.19 – 23.44	Respondent talks about her holidays when she was younger. She talks about her family going to St. Andrews and she stayed at home but loved it. She eventually joined them in St. Andrews by bus. She talks about the shows which were at St. Andrews and enjoying herself by the pool. She enjoyed going to the beach when it was warm and there they would get a boat to take them about the bay.	
23.47 – 29.15	Respondent sums up her childhood. She describes it as being better than most as she had a roof above her head, clothes and meat. She talks about not remembering much cruelty to children when she was young. She tells her memories from going to her granny’s in Auchinloch and doing jobs on the farm. She has fond memories of having family picnics. She also talks about going to Kirkintilloch on days out. She tells us about playing in the waterfall there. She reminisces about going on a bus day trip to Berwick and collecting shells on the beach, and collecting mussels and wilks to cook and eat.	
	“Latch-Key children, there was a lot of them, where their mothers would be working and they’d leave the key hanging in the back of the door and when they came in from the school they’d put their hand in through the letterbox, got the key and let themselves in and they’d have sandwich and jam or something until their mother came in and gave them their dinner. I don’t think there’s so much of that now either, I think that’s sort of, faded away. There was always something on the go.”	24.17 -24.45
29.17 – 29.24	Interviewer thanks respondent for sharing her memories.	
   		
Communities Past & Futures Society cpandfs@outlook.com		