

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

Respondent: Andrew Watson

Year of Birth: 1940

Age: 83

Connection to project: Lived in Glenboig

Date of Interview: 31/05/2023

Interviewer: Yvonne Ioannou

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: Part 1 – 21minutes 24 seconds

Part 2 – 15minutes 25 seconds

Location of Interview: Glenboig Life Centre





Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
Part 1		
0.00 – 0.40	Interviewer welcomes respondent and confirms his details.	
0.40 – 2.44	Respondent tells us that he was born in the second year of the war in Dunoon. He describes growing up in Dunoon which he described as a warzone. He talks about an incident in Dunoon where a torpedo accidentally hit the shore not far away from him.	
2.50 – 10.54	Interviewer asks when did the respondent come to Glenboig, He tells her that it was after meeting his wife. They discuss the different areas in Scotland in which the respondent lived in. Respondent talks about his life before moving to a Seven Lochs Area, he remembers his first jobs and the schools he went to. He talks about not liking school as he didn't like what they taught. He learnt from his encyclopaedia instead. He tells us the nursery rhymes he knows. He remembers his favourite teacher who was in his school in Fort William. The respondent talks about living in Coatbridge and how it was difficult to make friends because of religious differences. Although despite this he now has Catholic friends. He talks about what he misses from the various places he lived. And also how lonely he was growing up.	
10.55 – 12.50	Respondent tells us the story of his birth and how he was lucky to be alive. He tells us about his gran's house. He remembers that he didn't have many friends and that his mum was his best friend and she used to play outside with him.	
12.50 – 16.54	Interviewer asks respondent why he chose the jobs that he did at the time. He tells us it was very easy to get jobs back then. He talks about working in the Steelworks.	
	"I would be making an 80 ft Derrick for a ship. The centre piece of the Derrick is the diameter of that and it's a circle so there was a big box unit in the factory about the size of that, this bit was open so you got the hand powered bogie, you'd to lift that up, catch it in another one, bring the two of them round and push it into this open bit, meanwhile you're round the other side, you've got the next piece which is slightly a bit smaller, you put it in in your side, there's two great big valves that size on	13.43 – 16.54

	<p>either side of the, and there's black sluggish stuff, you soak a cloth in it, put a match to it and then stand well away and you chuck it in and there's a boof, that's it burning, then the next thing is you do is turn the air on, so you've changed the whole thing you've changed the whole, within 5/10 minutes that piece of tube is white hot and you've got gloves to there, your bare arms. So once it gets to a certain heat I've got to get it ousted up, put a wee bogie on it and it lifts it up, get the other bogie, lift it up, swing it around, take it across to there, sit it in the cradle to put into the staver, push it in, bring it down, push it in, bring it down, push it in. You're at the other side doing the same, pushing it in to fit it like that. Once it fits in like that, I'm in charge and its water powered, all water. Press the lever down comes the crunch, not hard, just crunch, up get the dog, twist it. Its like that, its got two pieces so you push it in like that, and you do that and you done it. So you get that and then I push it down again then get it. Theres some of they lamp posts I probably made them, they were made in the chip pan, that was the smaller ones were made in the chip pan. And I'd get that done and by that time you'd that massive great big bit plus this extension so you took it out and you spin it around. Still bloody hot totally amber, and I'd put the cold bit into there, you do the same with the other bit then we put it in to heat it up, bring it out and line it up. That's when the fun begins, I've got it down, you'd never break it lose because its literally welded, so then I've got to get that thing fooled you, we bring the van, a small overhead tram, as close in as you can get and he puts his chains down, he catches this and he's hanging out at that angle, he's hanging up there like that, I loosen it and he goes 'right go' so he pulls I push and slam it right through the staver and he keeps sliding the chains up til he gets the entire unit out, meanwhile he comes dancing with the 12tonne crack, he comes on the scene and he's got his chains and he's pulling, so the van and the big crane are working it, meanwhile you're down the bottom pushing, still hot. Finally you get it, and they get it onto the big crane and you get it balancing doing this all the time, so you're lying in the road of it."</p>	
16.55 – 18.10	<p>Interviewer asks respondent about when he met his wife they were speaking German. She asks him why he learnt German. He tells us that he could speak it from when he was younger due to living near a big Prisoner of War Camp. He then talks about his German class he did with his wife and how he used to wind the teacher up. He also talks about being a motorbike test examiner.</p>	
18.10 – 19.45	<p>Respondent remembers joining a rambling club through someone in his class asking him to go on a walk. Through this he met his wife. He tells us where they got married and how to priest didn't care what religion he was. He answers the interviewer asking what they wore for their wedding.</p>	
19.45 – 21.24	<p>Interviewer talks about when he first came to live in Ramone.</p>	
	<p>"I liked it, cause I could walk out the back door and I'm in the fields."</p>	19.51 - 19.56
	<p>"I'd demolish half they houses, put it back to what it was, just a wee village."</p>	20.01 – 20.05
	<p>"Infact there was one family in the village, I'd class them as my best friends, was the Hands. There was Charlie Hand, Terry Hand, John Hand, they were all friends with our James. Then I got, I don't know how many brothers and sisters I inherited. Then I got landed with a family, I got a goddaughter."</p>	20.34 – 20.53
21.24	<p>Interview cuts out.</p>	

Part 2		
0.00 – 1.24	Respondent talks about what shops he thinks the area needs, namely a general supermarket. He tells a story from when he was in a bookshop and he asked the person working for a book that he knew they couldn't get. He tells us about his friend who has sadly passed had written 4 books and he has read them all.	
1.25 – 1.58	Interviewer asks respondent about the Seven Lochs Area. He tells us about how he used to like to walk with the rambling club but he is not able to now.	
2.10 – 2.54	Respondent tells us that everybody he used to speak to in the area has sadly passed away.	
2.55 – 3.18	Interviewer asks whether there is a good community spirit in Ramone or not, Interviewer tells us he can't answer that as he doesn't know. He tells us there used to be a shop in Ramone but there isn't now.	
3.20 – 4.08	Respondent talks about his childhood memories of his cat that he had when he was a young boy, he talks about it catching rabbits.	
4.10 – 4.30	Interviewer asks respondent how his wife convinced him to move to Ramone, he said they had got married and he just moved with her because they got a house. He tells the respondent how he proposed to his wife.	
4.30 – 6.19	Respondent gives his thoughts on the Glenboig Life Centre. He talks about the Mens Club and how he misses it. All the guys he went there with have now unfortunately passed away. He tells us that he likes to build model battleships at home and that his wife likes to write although they haven't done much since lockdown. He expresses his opinion that Lockdown ruined a lot of things.	
	"We lost a lot when we lost the men's club, they changed it all. We used to come down here every Wednesday and depending on whether we played Dominos, some of them played bowls."	4.42 – 4.55
6.20 – 6.40	Interviewer asks respondent if he remembers any events in Glenboig, he says that he remembers going to Gala events a few times with his wife to sell books.	
6.40 – 8.14	Respondent talks about the Seven Lochs and gives his thoughts regarding the community at the time.	
	"Aw this Seven Lochs idea, it'll be ruined by the idiots, what we want to do is bring back the law that I grew up with, you killed somebody you got hanged, no ifs no buts, if you were proved guilty, hang them. You go out for a walk with a rope round your night, fortnight today, step out of line."	6.42 – 7.03
	"When I was a kid, Dougie Crawford, the village Bobbie at Sandbank, the main road went like that, straight up the hill and over and away down, or he went that way, down and round on the Showroad, wheres the best place to play? Does he arrive, takes me up by the seam of the pants, carries me like that, on the church wall, sits down on the church wall, puts me over it and boy did he tap my hide, did he done my he done my hide alright, I was fly enough to keep my flaming mouth shut."	7.04 – 7.35
	"Same too the biggest mistake they ever made, schools did away with the belt, 'how'd you get on at school today son?', 'Got the belt mum.', 'Aw you didn't get it for nothing.'"	7.34 – 7.43
	"Gay rights, I grew up with them, you knew they were there and you knew they were going.. they got on with their lives. They kept their mouth shut they got on with their. Some of them were very brave people, they fought during the war and all the rest of it, none of this, 'I can wear a lassies knickers and look at me.' None of that nonsense, they lived their life. Now they run round. I wouldn't allow that."	7.53 – 8.14

8.28 – 10.43	Respondent talks about his memories of going to Fort William. He remembers the train journey. HE tells us about how good his sense of smell is from growing up in the country as he can smell different animals. He talks about memories from when he was younger before he moved to Glenboig.	
	“We had to be in to Glasgow before 8 o’clock in the morning and there was 2 massive Black 5s Steam Trains, 2 massive big steam trains linked up. 7 coaches and a dining cart, we left about 8 o’clock in the morning and it took us to half past 4 to get into Fort William and then they engines worked, they worked bloody hard. I don’t know whether it was imagination or what, from something in the back of my mind, somebody once said, that two firemen shifted 14tonne of coal, it was a hard job.”	8.34 – 9.06
	“You might aswell say I was wild, I can walk into a room and smell if there’s a fox or a badger, same smell, Musky. There’s a fox around. I can be lying in bed at night and I’ll sit up, Teresa says, ‘What’s the matter? It’s alright, what do you hear?’ Theres a fox up at Glenneavis, I can hear it, I’m the one in the house, she can’t, so my ears have been tuned up for her.”	9.21 – 9.44
10.45 – 14.35	Interviewer asks respondent whether he ever visits where he came from. He tells us that he does even though his family have disowned him, but he still speaks to cousins in different countries. He tells us that his father used to own a private pit before selling it on. He talks about his family history and how his family came down from the clearances and where his family all came from.	
14.35 – 15.12	Respondent tells us that him and his wife would never leave Glenboig.	
15.12 – 15.24	Interviewer thanks respondent for his interview and sharing his memories.	
   		
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