

Project: **'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A people's history'**
 Respondent: Liz Ward
 Year of Birth: 1951
 Age: 72
 Connection to project: Moved to Gartcosh and now lives in area.
 Date of Interview: 17/01/2023
 Interviewer: Isobel Padden
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Consent: Yes
 Photographic Images: No
 Length of Interview: 42.16
 Location of Interview: Schoolhouse in Gartcosh
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.40 – 05.03	Respondent tells where she was born and raised. She discusses her early life where she grew up in Clydebank at a time when it was recovering from the Blitz. She tells how a lot of houses were lost at that time and about her original house. It was built by prisoners of war at the time. She tells about how they frequently went on fire due to the materials which were used to build them. She tells us that her family originally came from up North in Scotland and moved down. Her mother's family lived in England.	
05.06 – 06.55	Respondent tells us about her school life in Clydebank. She discusses her favourite subjects, maths, history and science. She tells how she didn't like secondary school as she felt there was too many rules. Yet she still followed a career of being a teacher.	
07.37 – 08.39	Respondent talks about her teenage life and how she was lucky due to having so many cinemas in the area. She tells about travelling into Glasgow City to go to the dancing.	
08.50 – 11.39	Respondent tells about being younger and singing in the choir in St. Andrews Hall just before it burnt down. She tells us that she studied at Jordanhill to be a teacher and how her first teaching post was at her first school. She stayed at that school until she moved to Gartcosh. The distance was too much for herself and her husband to travel so they both left their jobs and got jobs more local to their new area of living. She tells us about her career and which jobs she got promoted to before she unfortunately took a brain haemorrhage.	
11.55	Respondent tells about when her husband and herself first moved to Gartcosh and her first impressions of their home and the area.	
	"Well I think here in Gartcosh there's just not enough to do, and I see huge changes as I've moved here, when I came here it was in late 70s and the house I'm now staying in, there was only about 6 houses in the street and it was actually quite creepy, cause I remember actually the first day I moved into this house, we went to the top of the road and we looked down and I actually said to my husband 'I can't stay here', it was like an old cowboy town if you understand, it was absolutely awful. It was a	11.55 – 13.24





	<p>November evening, fairly dark and you could see the moon through, it was like the skeletons of the old buildings that were here, it was such a creepy, creepy place, this house was all boarded up. It hadn't been lived in for quite a time, and the janitor from the school next door, he was the one that showed me through it, I opened the door, there was no electricity and all you could see were spiders' webs and I was just waiting on giant rats appearing, it was really frightening. The garden was over growing and I did not want to come. Unfortunately, my husband fell in love with it at first sight, and I couldn't move him, he was for coming and that was it, and here we are, what was that, 40 odd years on and we are still here and I love it now too."</p>	
13.34	<p>Respondent talks about her area when she was first there and the changes she has noticed from then. She chats about the old Steelworks and before the Train Station came along. She reminisces about the old Primary School she lived beside and how small it was.</p>	
	<p>"Aw huge changes, as I said the original buildings from the works were still just a shell, they were actually being demolished at the time so you could see that it had been a busy street, they came down and then there was absolutely nothing, nothing at all and then eventually woods appeared, all these trees started to grow where there had been houses, eh, there was no station, you could hear the trains going back over and kept thinking, oh it would be great if there was a station, we knew there had been a station at one time, there was no station and there was also a huge steelworks, smoke bellowed out all the time, which is the reason my house was black as coal at one side, it's now no longer as black, thank goodness. But eh, we could hear the workmen who went up and down the road and horns, from the works, so it was busy with workmen. Although it wasn't busy in this street at all. There was still the hall at the top of the road, the wee school next door, the whole staff and the whole school, you could actually sit on the steps of the school, it was tiny, I think there was about 40 children in that school, that's all there was, from primary 1 all the way to primary 7, it was tiny. You would hardly know there was anybody in there, so there was no problem being a teacher and staying next door to the school, you could hardly hear them. It was unreal, in fact I actually wanted, had wanted to be Headteacher next door, I thought it would be quite a good job, being next door, do the washing, hang it out, nip in next door again. Never happened but never mind!"</p>	13.34 – 15.15
15.17 – 17.26	<p>Interviewer asks about which works had meant houses got knocked down. Respondent begins to talk about both the steelworks and the Brickworks which were gone at the end of the 50s before she had moved there. Respondent also tells us some interesting facts about where bricks from the brickworks have been found all over the world.</p>	
	<p>"Steelworks were still on the go, eventually I heard that there had been brickworks in the village too, but they were gone, they had actually gone down at the end of the 50s, so I didn't know about the Brickworks at all, that was like a little, it's a little village across there, there had been houses down there, there still remains, remained up until about 5 years ago, until Red Row there was still actually quite a few of the remains there, recently there was still a couple of the houses, I don't know if they are still there, but like manager houses remained, but they were there until fairly recently, I don't know if they are still there. But that was like a wee community down there with the Brickworks, they were eventually taken over by Glenboig Brickworks, although they continued under the name Gartcosh Brickworks."</p>	15.22 – 16.12

	<p>“The Gartcosh ones have been found literally all over the world, we’ve got stories from people who have been in the Bahamas and Barbados and all the rest and they found them on their pathways, people over there pay quite a lot of money to get them put on their pathways and their patios and all that, so they’ve got the Glenboig and Gartcosh ones, and we are seeing pictures of them. Also, one was found in Hawaii, the Gartcosh and more recently Glenboig one, at the bottom of the ocean, and we heard about that one and that was near Pearl Harbour, so it is actually incredible where they got to. We thought at first it was ‘Balas’, but no we worked out that they were used for, in sugar, during the Plantations, for building the big ovens and all that for the sugar Plantations so it’s linked a bit to the slave trade so you’ve got to be very careful.”</p>	16.29 – 17.26
17.39	<p>Respondent tells us about the different work that people did in the area, the main places being the Brickworks, the Steelworks and the local hospital. She tells us that most would have worked outwith the area and went into Glasgow. She tells us that the public transport wasn’t great at that time, but it has got a lot better since the train station has opened.</p>	
	<p>“For females it would be Gartloch hospital and for some males for doctors etc, male nurses, Gartloch hospital was another big one, they were really the main three, I would think apart from that people would move outwith the area.”</p>	17.39 – 17.56
	<p>“It’s made a huge difference to this street, this wee quiet street is now like Sauchiehall Street, with people going backwards and forward, and also cars being parked, we hardly ever saw a car here apart from our own car, now it’s like Sauchiehall Street, it’s actually amazing the number of cars and also with the school next door, we never used to see cars, now it’s really very busy.”</p>	18.12 – 18.35
18.51 – 20.15	<p>Respondent tells us about the Seven Lochs area, she chats about her thoughts of the development of the lochs and which Lochs need more work done around them.</p>	
20.25 – 23.07	<p>Respondent tells us about the local history group which started in 2010. She tells us about how it started and what they have achieved and collected in that time and how it brought the old and new community of Gartcosh together.</p>	
	<p>“Right the history group started, I think it was about 2010 it started, it’s been on the go, and just a small group of volunteers decided they would look into the history, mainly because by that time the Steelworks had stopped, there was no, the place was changing, houses were getting built across the road. Red Row had got built, so Gartcosh was beginning to grow. The school was actually getting bigger, no longer could you put the whole row on one step, the way it had been and we decided, naw, we will have a wee look and find out what, how its changed, and we will record it. So, we, there was a wee group of about 4 or 5 decided we will find out if people are interested, and low and behold we had a meeting and people said, yeah we will start a wee group. And it is just a small social group, and we thought we will record around about the 80s when the Steelworks closes, so we did. People handed in photographs, you know they were up the loft and found pictures, here’s my granny in 1920 in the buildings, and slowly but surely we built up a huge, started off we had about 2-300 pictures, and we had a display. At that time I had very little say in the history group, it was run by others, but there was a display down in the Church Hall, which we hired, because there was nowhere really to hire, there was nowhere really to rent, there’s no space. And eh, it was really, it was amazing the number of people who</p>	20.25 – 23.07

	<p>turned up. People who had stayed in Gartcosh years ago suddenly all started to come back to see these pictures, and then the group just got bigger and bigger, we got more and more pictures, so many that we have got nowhere to put them really now, Well over 1000, maybe 2000 pictures and lots of bits and pieces, even we then went back to the war we have got things to do with the war. So further back from the 1980s, We've got bits, now what was it Tommy's got I can't even remember, from a bombsite across in the fields, things like that. Over there you'll see a golf, the first golf club from Mount Ellen Golf Club which is no more. So we are looking for places to put them where we would like to display so that people can see them, instead of sitting about here or just waiting on another display. We've got nowhere to put them. "</p>	
23.08 – 24.31	<p>Respondent tells about a local get together they had with the history group for a very loved local family. She reminisces about how many people turned up to support them and how it was a brilliant event.</p>	
	<p>"So now we have got our membership, we've still to take in this year's membership, maybe about 40 or so. We did have a huge one for a family, eh, 100 turned up in the church hall for a fish supper night we had for them. It was the Dinardo's, the Dinardo family. He was a, he used to go round in an ice cream van years ago, and it was, I think was it, he retired, and we decided to have a night for him and 100 Denardo's turned up down in that hall, the hall was far too small for those numbers, we had a great night, so we had ice cream and fish and chips, it was a brilliant night. And we did the history of him, and see when the Dinardo had a shop down at the bottom of the road one time, where the motorway was, because the village used to go all the way down this road, and this was the main road to Coatbridge before they build the motorway. The Dinardo's had a shop plonked in the middle of where the M73 is now. That was a fish and chip shop down there. So it was actually a brilliant night so again history came out of that too. They had come all the way from Italy and they went back to, back to me and the war again, during the war they went back to Italy."</p>	23.08 – 24.31
24.32	<p>Interviewer asks respondent what are the most surprising things she has found out after researching the area. She tells us about the origin of Bishops Loch name, coming from the Bishops of Glasgow having a summer palace there. She tells us how they did a dig in Glenboig at Inchneuk tower and managed to find a few items dating back years ago. She tells us interesting facts about how the Gartloch area used to be hunting grounds for old Kings and Queens back at the time of Mary Queens of Scots. She tells us about old families who used to live in the area such as the Hill family, and the laws they set and how they are still maintained today. She tells us a story about an old doctor who used to live in the area who got nicknamed Frankenstein and carried out many experiments on dead bodies.</p>	
	<p>"The most surprising went even further back and it's more Medieval history and it's right back to Glasgow and the Bishops of Glasgow, I find that really interesting, I'd like to find out more about that. It's all the way up to Bishop's Loch, and the fact that the Bishops of Glasgow had a summer palace up there at Lochwood, and it's only been looked at once by archaeologists and things were discovered then, and I would love to go up there and dig."</p>	24.40 – 25.13
	<p>"Now they did it at Glenboig, at Inchneuk, the Seven Lochs did that, Inchneuk tower, again fabulous, I don't think they found too much, they did find I think it was a spoon or something, found the odd thing, not a lot, but eh they tried to find out what Inchneuk tower had looked like, an</p>	25.14 – 25.40

	old tower house, but I'd love to go up there and find out what exactly is up at that Loch, because there is a lot of Medieval history."	
	"Seemingly in the forest, the woodland up there, they were the woodlands, the hunting grounds of the old Kings and Queens of Scotland, Mary Queens of Scots and James the Fifth, James the Forth, they all hunted up there around Gartloch, what Gartloch, where Gartloch is now, that was all woodland. There's a whole list of Boar and Deer and all the things they used to hunt, all the way up to Provanhall. It actually amazes me the history there, and that really intrigues me, and I keep trying to find out more and more about it and you get it in the old annuals of Glasgow and all that."	25.40 – 26.19
	"Also, the old families that stayed there, like the Hill family, that's an old Glasgow family and they, one of the Hills, where the family owned the land where Gartcosh is, and if you look at your, whatchacallit, the, what you get when you buy a house, the Deeds! Look at your title deeds, you'll find that it's members of the Hills family that had the land, and if you look at the old ancient laws which should be repealed, no pubs, no betting shops, which is still on the go and no Catholic Churches in Gartcosh, now that's still on, still to this day you will find, it dates back to these Hills, this Hill family, and they were like, I think they were Episcopalian, or them, but the Reverent I'm sure they were from the Episcopalian Church, they owned the land and they, eh, they were the ones that helped, well they actually built this house, they gave all the land that allowed, this land to be given over to the Cadder Parish board to build this house, and the school which was attached at the wee school, the original school, and then they allowed the bigger school to be built, but they had a Church next door, the tin Church and then they built a school at the top of the road where the flats are. So that was all Episcopalian Church. That was allowed, they didn't want Smith McLean to extend their ground, any, to make their Steelworks bigger, there were certain stipulations, they were actually quite strict and they definitely didn't want Betting Shops, no Drinking Gardens at that time, and that still stands today in a By-Law, now I really think if somebody turned round and tried to do something like that, aw there's no room actually for a Catholic Church or anything else, no room for a new School, I don't think, don't think it would be allowed somehow, a bit of appealing would be going on, but these people actually stayed up at Gartloch House, at the original Gartloch House which is no longer there, but you can actually see the driveway as you drive along old Gartloch Road there. You actually see where their house was years ago, and it's actually fantastic, brilliant, the History around that Loch area, Bishop Loch area is brilliant. So that is really exciting."	26.19 – 28.58
	"And the other side is too, on the other side there was a Doctor, now he was a bit mad, eh, now I can't remember his name, but he actually got involved, they called him Frankenstein, now he owned the estate, he was actually related to the people at Gartloch House, he had the estate opposite, the other side of the road, and he was involved with experiments on dead bodies. People were hanged years ago in Glasgow and he conducted, along with somebody else, he conducted an experiment to bring them back to life after they were hanged and seemingly it worked, he took, he took wires to, and put them towards where their heart would be and the dead bodies sort of came to life, and some of his students collapsed, as you would. And that was it, I don't know what happened to him, but ehm, yet again, you'll find all this, it was all true."	29.03 – 30.09

30.38 – 32.36	Interviewer asks respondent about the nature reserve and about when they were going to be building the tyre burning plant. She tells us that they couldn't do it because of Newts. Respondent goes on to tell us about the Nature Reserve being Woodneuk House where the first Steelworks and Ironworks were. She tells us about the Freight organisation who helped to fund the station in Gartcosh.	
	"That was a huge thing at the time, when they were going to build, eh that was over at the old, I wish they would actually do something, at the old works, the old works, I think that's mainly where the Tyre building was going to be and then they found eh, Newts, Surprise, surprise!"	30.50 – 31.08
	"The actual nature reserve is quite interesting historically as well because that was Woodneuk House, that was where the very first steelworks and ironworks were, and there in the middle of it you can still see the remains of the old Woodneuk house, where the Hurls, one of the Hurls stayed, the Hurls from Glenboig, Hurls is a big name in Glenboig, one of the Hurls stayed there in Woodneuk house, he was also a counsellor that Hurl that stayed there, and seemingly it's supposed to be haunted, again if you ask Tommy McIloney you'll find out he will tell you it's haunted that place, but ehm, Woodneuk was the site of an iron works and you've got to protect it, you did not go to any old eh, burning tyres and so on, no way, although to be fair, the mess that came out of that steelworks when it was on, but naw, no tyre works. Naw, I remember that very well, but then again, we had the other works at the other end, What do you call that? They had the freight, remember the freight? And that was a big thing as well there, but they put money into buying the station, they helped, uh-huh they helped build the station, so when they left, they actually did Gartcosh quite a bit of good by doing that. "	31.18 – 32.36
32.49 – 35.15	Respondent tells her views of what she thinks would benefit the area to feel more included in the seven lochs area. She talks about how she feels that Glenboig and Gartcosh are coming together more as a community since she has moved here.	
35.16 – 36.09	Interviewer asks the Respondent her thoughts on what the Hill family would think about Glenboig and Gartcosh in the present day. Respondent tells us that she thinks the Hill family would be shocked with the changes as it used to be a small rural community.	
	"I think they would be actually shocked; they just wouldn't recognise it and that's it. It's not quite what they, what they had planned, to be fair it's totally different time. They just wouldn't recognise it, I mean it was a small rural community when they left. They wouldn't have a clue. I mean if you look at the old maps, when they were about, Gartcosh was just literally a blob, it was a farm and a few houses, that was it. That's all they owned. They tried to change people's lives, once the Steelworks were built and owned. Tell people to live the way they wanted them to live."	35.29 – 36.09
36.14 – 38.39	Respondent talks about the impact of the new houses which have been built in Gartcosh and her personal thoughts on the matter. She tells stories about a local returning a wallet for her husband, to highlight that there are good people in the community helping each other. She tells us about the children at the school next door, she talks about how polite and lovely the children are at the school in the area.	
	"Well at first eh, I didn't like the idea of them building it, and I don't like taking away all the green space at all, but you know, It's actually made it more vibrant, It's actually quite good to have more children about. I mean I think it's, there's real positives as well. I don't like the missing fields, and the fact that our wee geese and all that have disappeared down by the Loch. But they've just moved down, further down to Duffs	36.14 – 37.16

	farm, so it's not as if they've gone completely, they're not stupid these geese we've discovered. They actually realised, aw that's gone and moved further down the road which is great. Now it is positive to have younger people. What is different is, saying hello to people, Gartcosh people are like 'hello', like that, everybody knew each other. Not now, that's not the same, and you've got to be. And you've got to make sure you lock your door and all that more and more. But that happens everywhere."	
38.44 – 40.10	Respondent tells us about what she would like to replace the school when it goes. She tells us that she would love a place for her history group to showcase their collection. She tells us that she would love it to benefit the community. She tells us the age of the buildings and expresses that it would be a shame to lose more historic buildings in the area.	
	"It's also the fact it's a historic building, Gartcosh's loss, Johnson House, which used, to, well, was owned by the pub owners down there, then the Golf Club owned it, torn down for houses, wrong, the old farm building up there, okay, I know it was beginning to fall to bits, torn down. That was an old, old house too. We are losing all our old buildings, so that's and old building 1913, the bit at the back is 1875, the same as the middle part in my house, I mean they should not be pulling down these buildings. The foundation stone is all set in that wall there, that says Gartcosh Public School, I think it says, 1875, they cannot get rid of these."	39.25 – 40.10
40.11 – 41.50	Interviewer asks why the school is going, the respondent tells us that the school is too small to deal with the number of students and that it is too outdated. She tells us the new planned location of the school.	
42.05 – 42.16	Interviewer thanks the Respondent for sharing her memories for the project.	
   		
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