

Interviewee: Dolly Ferries (DF)	Interviewer: Kirsty Robertson (KR)
Date of Interview: 2 October 2012	Ref: DG10-12-1-3-T

Interview No.	DG10-12-1-3 PART 2 OF 2
Interviewee:	Kirsty Robertson
Interviewer:	Dolly Ferries
Date:	02.10.2012
Location:	
Region:	DG8
Keywords:	
00:00 – 05:00	KR takes up the interview after a break, and asks about DFs father's recollection of WWI. People who had bought cattle were looking for someone to look after them on the boat, so her father went to Canada. He was 14/15. He was in the Canadian army during WWI. Came back after the War, met his wife to be. They subsequently went back to Canada. He didn't talk much about this time, "just one incident when he had his leg broken". Using a 'wee' Canadian rifle to protect himself whilst in a trench and being attacked by a German. Returning to Scotland he became a shepherd. He had his boots made for him by Boyd's of Ayr. He paints/soaks his boots in an oil/grease mixture to soften the leather.
05:00 – 10:00	During WWII her father would go up to John Sproat's (his boss) place in the Galloway hills for six weeks for the lambing. Describes the lengthy walks her father took with the sheep. His boss delivered the pay every week. Hill-lambing was done later in the year (as opposed to the low ground) because of the weather. Her mum got a tip at the end of the year (over and above her pay) for helping with the lambing. One pet lamb was fond of sweets: when her dad rustled the sweetie paper in his pocket the pet lamb would follow, and the other sheep would follow this one.
10:00 – 15:00	The story of the chap who sent one of the boys to tell the boss he wouldn't be working the day after New Year... every year. House parties at New Year. The Hogmanay when some of the 'party' were "lying on the railway" when the train was coming. And the aunt who mistook ducks for flying rabbits.
15:00 – 20:00	The story of her dad being told he wasn't allowed in Baldoon Camp without his pass, replying "come wi me some nicht, I'll tell ye another half-dozen routes you can get into this camp without a pass". DFs dad's stepmother had 3 sons and 2 daughters: 2 sons went to Australia between the Wars. An Australian they met they gave the address of DFs gran (step-gran) and he came across on leave. The folk here spoke in old Scots tongue, so there was a lot of translating to do for him. DF describes her granny's

	house at Clay Crop, Kirkinner. DFs granny remembers Burke and Hare.
20:00 – 25:00	They discuss the plausibility of Burke and Hare travelling to Dumfriesshire to take bodies. Her granny told ghost stories. She also knitted socks for game-keepers, with a thistle pattern. DFs grandmother had her family to her first husband; her grandfather also had his family to his first wife: them living together “not right”, so they get married. KR asks DF how she got into local politics. DF describes her husband’s job in transport. Was living at home when she got married. Difficult to get a house. Had to go to Edinburgh with back problems to get a disc removed. This helped to get a house, which caused much talk amongst those long married but with no house (this was in the early 50s).
25:00 – 30:00	The young family didn’t have a car. Did a lot of walking. Started going to the SNP meetings with the woman from next door. At election time, going around tearing down the Tory posters and putting up their own. Taking other parties leaflets from letterboxes and making them disappear. Running in local elections for the town of Newton Stewart before regionalisation. DF was in the Community Council and was doing things in public and speaking to the community. At the election she receives 18 votes short of 50%. Involvement with the local pageant; and not just through the Council connection. But her first year with the Council was the year she crowned the ‘Queen’.
30:00 – 35:00	DF was working at the Galloway Gazette shop. Also worked at The Crown. But needed help with the children. Took on cleaning jobs. DJ did the school cleaning. School rooms that were part of the Old Ewart Library. Starting early, working on her own: as long as it got done, she didn’t have to work to a certain time. DF works at the Cree Mills for a time; they were doing dressmaking then, Talks about a newspaper article covering the time when Cree Mills did a big order for Russia (mohair). DF works at Kirroughtree House Hotel for a while (until it burned down): doing the laundry. Works at the health centre. Did a number of part-time jobs to work around her family commitments.
35:00 – 40:00	Talks about her grandchildren, and her name as ‘granny-Dolly’.

<Sounds of setting up the field recorder.>

Kirsty Roberstson: This is... speaking again to Dolly, to Dolly Ferries, an we're gonna take up a wee bit earlier when we left off, Dolly, because I was interested in your dad- what your dad's- workin as a shepherd an the fact that he had- he was in the First World War, an had memories of the First World War; so-

Dolly Ferries: Yeah, my dad- his father was a contractor, an a contractor in these days was a horse an cart-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -so, of course, when my dad left school he was workin wi his father, and... I don't know how they do it now, this- they must just still use boats when they buy stock from [per sales?] an things, so they must still use the boats for animals, anyway, [1] this man- this family belonged to Port William area and he was talkin to them an they had been over buyin cattle, and they were lookin for people to look after the cattle on the boats, so my dad just up-an-off without much notice an he went to Canada- he was still a young fellah maybe, I would say fourteen, fifteen at the most... at the most, because that was him off to Canada, because he was in the Canadian army durin the war – durin the First World War – an goin by his age, he joined up at- young- an he'd been out there two or three years before he joined up, so he must a been in his very early teens; well, he went anyway- that was him, he came back [2] here durin the war, that's when he met my mother, an of course, they went to Canada after the war, again- but it's no somehin he talked about, just one incident when he had his leg broken, and... he had- the Canadians had these wee rifles- wee guns, an that's what he used to- to protect himself when this German was comin at him, when he was lyin in the trenches wounded; other than that, he never talked about the War- but he went back to Canada and- out on the prairies, an all these big combine-harvesters an that, that they had out there then- so eventually they came back here and he went into shepherdin... well, he was a shepherd, really, all his [3] life, until the latter years- til what? I was, about, well, into my twenties when he got this other job as a farm manager, but before then it was always shepherdin; and... he always wore boots, never wellingtons, an he never had wet feet; he got this- there was Boyd in Ayr made boots, an I hink they'd be one luxury – if you could call it that – but it was always- it was also his lifestyle too, with good footwear, and this Boyd made him new boots when he needed them; he got them, an he had a mixture- a mixture of oil and grease... I dunno what the mixture was but he had these- we had, of course, we had a syrup tin then, an he had an old paint brush, and he mixed [4] this up, an he soaked his boots... he soaked them several times til it softened the leather and made it that they were very comfortable to wear, no- no jus that the new boots that- stiff- so- an that was- he wore them, and he had this mixture, of course, this mixture of oil an- an that- an grease, and every mornin when he had his boots on, he'd this can heatin- this can wi this mixture heatin, an when he went to the door he took this and... painted round the-all the seams on his boots- every day

when he went out, an that was him, he never had- he never had wet feet... when they were past wearin for winter work an that, he wore them out in the summer [5] but that him, every time he got new boots, soaked several times treated wi this mixture he had-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -I dunno where he got- where he got the advice about that, I don't know, it'll no matter anyway-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -but he could walk... durin the war, John Sproat, his boss, he had a place up in the Galloway hills where it was just shepherds, and my dad went up there every year for the lambin- six weeks up there... and he walked miles- unless you know the place you wouldnae realise, the- he lived at Tarf [Essock?]-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an right up- he went every day, up roun the end a Loch Doon an back up in a circular tour-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -wi these sheep- you know the kinda area, Kirsty-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -it was a big area- every day, and he never had sore feet, never... and, again, [6] as I say, Baldoon was a good boss – John Sproat – a good boss; my dad got paid extra, that paid for his new shoes- his new boots- no like nowadays, you can buy a good pair a shoes an still have money left out your wages, but there's where he got the money for his boots; an every week John Sproat was up at my mum's with his regular weekly pay, every week-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -in fact, there was- some- the hill-farmin- hill-lambin was always later in the year because a the weather, the- later in the year than it was down on the low ground, and... there was- Baldoon, he couldnae- he had big hands so he couldnae do anything wi this regarding the sort a tail-end a the sheep that were lambin at [7] home, an he used to get the sheep if he saw them – havin problems lambin – he would take them to this- they were [boxes?] we called them – I dunno if that's the right name of how you spell it-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -but this shelter anyway for the sheep, an he would put the sheep in there an come an get my mum-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -to- to lamb this sheep that was havin bother-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an she got her wee tip at the end a the year too-

KR: Did she?

DF: -over an above the pay-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -an he never- he never... waited til the door was answered, he always just knocked, right enough, an shouted he was needin help-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an off she went to help him-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and that- but that was all his, say- all his workin life in- wi sheep-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -til he started takin charge; anyway, there was one year, wi had a big snow, [8] very big snow, and... they were tryin to get the sheep off the low ground onto the high ground, an of course, the snow bein so deep, an dogs were havin a problem- they were havin a problem, so my dad said... my dad says, "Baldoon, if you walk behind an close the gates, I'll go in front"-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -we had this pet lamb, because when a lamb lost its mother- this is one, the only bad- the only thing regardin havin the cows for use- when the lambin season- it didn't matter whether children had milk or not, the lambs had to be fed, that had lost their mother-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -this was an instance a that- this lamb, we had called it Hawkeye because it [9] had a black eye-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -and, of course, it liked sweeties-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -bein that it was brought up wi us children, it liked sweeties, so- an my dad, he usually had a sweetie in his pocket, so he rustled the paper, this sheep followed him, the rest a the sheep followed that, an Baldoon came behind and closed the gates- <laughs>

KR: Uh-hu. <Chuckles> So that's how you got them up-

DF: -so that's how they got the- the sheep onto the higher ground-

KR: Right. Yes.

DF: -and... an that; but that was- they're just some a these things, you know, they come into your head about the things- an they'd come round every New Year, he had, I hink it was a horn they used to have, they came wi their- he came wi his dram, an I hink it was a horn he gave their- I dunno if he'd bring the other workers or [10] no-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but... he came, an they had their dram, and-

KR: This was Baldoon comin round at the New Year an gave all his workers a dram-

DF: -this was Baldoon, came an gave my dad- aye-

KR: Aye.

DF: -I think he- I hink he did the workers-

KR: Aye.

DF: -and... there was one other worker there... every New Year- and its no that he was a dri- I think he maybe did take a drink but no much, but he always sent word over on the Sunday, or the night before anyway, that he wouldnae be oot the day after New Year workin because he was ill-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -he wouldnae be oot, he sent one a the boys to tell the boss, he went- an every year it was the same-

<Both laugh>

DF: -an he used to say, "oh well, Davy, it's the same every year"- [11]

KR: Year- <chuckles>

DF: -"nae use botherin, nae use botherin, it's the same every year", he's 'ill'-
<laughs>

KR: Aye. So were there big celebrations at New Year?

DF: Oh, there was- well, there always was-

KR: Aye.

DF: -big- big- it was house parties they had then-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -I mean- well, we lived in a- this house on its own, and... we had been- there was other places we could have gone but we didnae, but it was always wi- an durin the war an that, an when we were all grown up there was always people there anyhow-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -we had people comin in – WAFs an airmen – an that, an sometimes other... other friends-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an there was a wee fellah, he used to come to the house – he worked on a farm – but he used to come to our house- wee Francie... and, he come in one- it was Hogmanay, and... he come in- he called my mother Sarah, "Sarah, you'll hae tae [12] gahn" – you'll have to go – "Davy and John" – this is my uncle John that was there – "they're lyin on the railway an that late train'll be comin"-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -an we thought he was kiddin, well, he was- he was- he was well on-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but no, he was goin back out, he wasnae- he had to save them-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because my mother thought he was kiddin, anyway they went out, they listened to him an they went out; but they had got there -the men had- they had fell on the- cos they were walkin down the sleepers an they had-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -just lost their balance- so they had got themselves to the side-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -they were safe in that respect, however, my mum an I hink Jim, my brother, he would be there helpin- got them down an through the fence an down... down [13] the- there was a- a field, a wee field between the railway an the house at that part, and- well, an cos he was helpin our brother, my uncle John... my mum was, an he got to the fence an he says, countin the strands a wire, "one, two, three... this is where I get through", an he seemed to sober up an he walked down the field his-self-

<Both laugh>

KR: Was that your father?

DF: [xxx] No, it was my uncle-

KR: Your uncle.

DF: -just in a heap- my dad was away on-

KR: Alright, aye.

DF: -so this was said, an my mum says, "why?" - they had a good drink in them but they thought maybe just got- walkin in the snow-

KR: Oh it was snowin, aye-

DF: -they had, you know, lost-

KR: -lost their footin-

DF: -their footin, an they just-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -when they talk about this white- a white-out it is, you know-

KR: Aye, aye, aye, aye, oh well.

DF: -well anyway, they had got- after he got to the fence, that was him, he run [14]
down the fields-

KR: He knew where he was-

DF: -no bother-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but these things... then, the other time we had a cousin stayin, an my dad an her
were- they were away at a run- a wee run on the bikes seein this other- another
auntie, and comin back- an he took this shortcut over the field- one a the fields- and,
here, there was a lot a ducks got up, they must a been nestin- at night- it was dark,
an Mary says, "oh look at the rabbits flyin"-

<Both laughing>

DF: -she thought they were rabbits flyin through the air; there we are- these-
shaped- but goin in to the camp we were supposed to- we were supposed to have
passes – my dad an that had –

KR: Mmm.

DF: -to get in an out a the camp, no out, into the camp- aye, because we had to [15]
pass off the bus- if we stayed on the road we had to go through the guard that was
always there-

KR: Mmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -and that... an he hadnae his pass this time, an- I don't know where he would be
comin when he had- when he got off the bus, him, because he wasnae often on a
bus- anyway, the guard wouldnae let him through, "oh well", he says, "give me ten
minutes... we'll see ye", and just walked along the road, down through the field, over
this field that him an Mary took the shortcut an got his pass an come back up, he
says, "are ye pleased now?"-

KR: <Laughing>

DF: -he says, he says, "come wi me some nicht, I'll tell ye another half-dozen routes
you can get into this camp without a pass"-

KR: <Laughing> -a pass, aye. Aye, aye.

DF: -but you could get out an in, as I say, there was the railway in either direction-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -an that- you know, you could get in-

KR: Aye. Aye.

DF: -that- then- well, my dad's stepmother, she had- she had three sons an a [16] daughter, but there was two a these sons had gone tae Australia... that was between the Wars, before the Second World War, of course; in between the Wars these two had emigrated tae Australia, an there was this Australian- was comin over – one that they knew – and he was in the air force too, an they gave him our address, well, they gave him their mother's address actually, because my step-granny, as she was- we never- it was never step-granny, she was always granny tae us-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -and... he got their address an wrote that he was comin on leave, so my mum- cos my granny wasnae too fit, an my mum said, "I think he'd be better comin tae [17] us, an we can bring him up, we'll bring him up every day"-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -"an once he knows the way, he can come up every day", which happened, so he come into our house, an we had a meal-ark... like whats-

KR: Aye.

DF: -meal-ark for the flour an the oatmeal an that-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an he took his belt off an out it on there... there it stayed til he was goin away, however, every day- an they went up to my granny's- an dad- an mum said it was a right laugh because she was speakin in the old Scottish tongue-

KR: Ah right.

DF: -an he- he was Australian-

KR: Oh.

DF: -an they were sayin yes instead a no, an no instead a yes-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -it was [x]- so my mum an dad had a bit a... translatin to do for him-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an that, well, when wee Pat- Paterson, he was... cannae remember, [18]
Paterson was his name anyway, but we called him uncle Pat, and when he went to
get his belt, he couldnae, he had tae open it out-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -he could hardly get it on because he'd put on so much weight-

KR: -so much weight- <laughs>

DF: -even- although he'd had all the walkin, an he thought this wee cottage away in-
sittin there- an he thought he would have miles to walk-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -but by comin along the railway-

KR: Aye.

DF: -five minutes brought us from the station-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an that- so he was- but we never saw him again-

KR: Aye.

DF: -so whether he got home or not, I don't know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -we didnae really- we didnae really keep in touch wi them, it was his mother he
kept in touch wi-

KR: Mmm, mmm.

DF: -an once my mo- once my granny died that was, the sort a- contact was lost-

KR: Mmm, mm-hmm, mmm.

DF: and that- but my granny, she was a great old woman, great old woman, she-

KR: Did she stay in Kirkiner?

DF: -she- aye, she lived in Kirkiner latterly-

KR: Aye.

DF: -[xxx]

KR: Aye, aye.

[19]

DF: -they were Brachan an then they were in Kirkinner-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -and... [x]

KR: So what was her house like? Was it- was it-

DF: Well, it was a- again, it was a livin room an two bedrooms an this wee scullery-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -again, it was a water tap-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -they had, at was at Clay Crop at Kirkinner-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that's- you go up past the cemetery at Kirkinner an its up on the left-

KR: Oh aye, mm-hmm.

DF: -and... she- she remembered Burke and Hare-

KR: Did she!?

DF: -she remembered Burke and Hare, an- aye... cos-

KR: Oh, she remembered reading about them? Or-

DF: No, she remembered them-

KR: Really!?

DF: -she said- she used to say- well, I don't know whether- I don't know whether she would hear about them, an hearin- because she said, they used to hide, if they had to go a message at night, an there was horses an cart, they alway- cos they had the lights on the carts-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -when they were goin-

KR: So were they like- were they like bogeymen for her? Y'hink? [20]

DF: Aye, well you see they're all the- sure, well the- they robbed the graves-

KR: Aye, they robbed the graves, but they were in Edinburgh-

DF: -ah, but they would take them from anywhere-

KR: Oh right- what she ac- she thought she'd actually- down there?

DF: -she said- she said she saw them-

KR: Oh really?

DF: -but mind you, whether- I would think... I don't know-

KR: Oh well. Somehin to find out about-

DF: -whether they would take bodies from this area or not, I don't know-

KR: I don't know, it seems kinda far away, doesn't it?

DF: Doesn't it?

KR: Aye.

DF: -but she'd- maybe readin about them- hearin about them-

KR: Aye.

DF: -they would be- when they heard these-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -about this horse an cart-

KR: That would be kinda like bogeymen-

DF: -aye-

KR: Aye. Oh that's amazin isn't it? Yes- a long time ago-

DF: Aye, she would tell- aye, she told ghost stories, ohh-

KR: Did she? <Laughs>

DF: -she did, an you know, she was- she told them an you couldnae stop listenin to her, <laughing> an you were frightened an you just couldnae stop listenin to her-

KR: Uh-hu, mm-hmm.

DF: -she was a great old woman though-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

[21]

DF: -sat an knitted- she knitted... a lot a socks for people, for game-keepers an things, you know, an she knitted, like, thistle patterns on them, on the head, you know, aye-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an she did a lot a-

KR: Was she a widow? Was she a widow?

DF Aye well, she died- she was a widow-

KR: Aye.

DF: -yeah, she was a widda; she lost her husband, the- she had her family to her first husband – the same with my grandfather – his family were to his first wife-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -an she went to keep house-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -but you see that's not right-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -this man an woman livin- what people would say-

KR: Mmm, no; right, right.

DF: -so they got married-

KR: Oh I see, right.

DF: -yes, they got married-

KR: Right, right, right.

DF: -an that... but there was no family wi their second marriage-

KR: Mm-hmm., mm-hmm

DF: -but, I mean, as my dad said, "she was a great mother"-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -she was a great mother to him, an that's-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -I mean, well we- we were the same, everyone is, you know, wi this- my granny, she was a great woman-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Yeah.

DF: -so she was-

[22]

KR: So was-

DF: -there's-

KR: I was- I was keen for you to tell us, Dolly, about how she- how, after you got married an moved to Newton Stewart an had your family, you got into local politics?

DF: Well-

KR: Didn't you?

DF: Aye, yes, aye-

KR: Had you always been interested in politics?

DF: I was interested, but I never was... my man wasnae a kinda child-mindin type man, he was- although he was workin... when the- they would be goin away early in the lorry- an you had to sometimes Liverpool, sometimes Glasgow, it depended sometimes-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -where they were goin, an they would be away early in the mornin to get there, as near they could- begginin of the queue as they could, so that they could get- load- their load back home an emptied-

[23]

KR: So what kinda thing?

DF: -for the next mornin- well, well feedin stuff-

KR: Ah right.

DF: -from the boats an things-

KR: Uh-hu, uh-hu. Aye.

DF: -emptyin the boats an different things-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an then, well, they used to be when the trains were there an they used- they had the coal- to the- haulin the coal from the train to the hospital an different places-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -maybe farms that, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. [x]

DF: -if people that- that the were buyin two or three tons at a time, maybe-

KR: Aye.

DF: -you know, for their winter-

KR: Aye.

DF: -especially at the beginning a the winter they would be doin that, and... well, I met Bill- I met Bill at the dances an... *pardon me*... met him at the dances, but when we got married, well, I was still livin with my father at home because we couldn't get houses-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and then I was in Edinburgh – I had back problems – I was in Edinburgh, this [24] was still no so long after we got married – mid twenties – and I had a disc removed... in Edinburgh, so that was makin a- out of action for a bit, but that helped us- went towards getting us a house actually-

KR: Aye. Uh-hu.

DF: -because you could hardly- there was a lot a talk because we had got this house an we wereny long married, an the other people had been so long married an they were just getting somehin- still waitin on houses-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but because-

KR: Was that in the early fifties?

DF: That's right, aye.

KR: Aye, aye. Uh-hu.

DF: -an we got this- an we got this house, an that, and...well, over the years, well, we- wi the children an that an, of course, we never had a car tae jump into, it [25] was a case of walk here, walk there, walk everywhere, an then, it was a wee woman next door, an we- I started goin to the SNP meetins-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -an that, and... well, I enjoyed that, an we used to- election time, there was good fun then, because we used to go round- we tore down the Tory papers- posters-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -an stuck- an, of course, we had to get- climb to get up to them, so, of course, we put our own in their place, and we- you'd go round the doors- the Tory paper would maybe- it could be a Labour one- but-

KR: Aye.

DF: -other... other parties, would be- their leaflets would be stickin in the door, but we'd just pull that out an take it away-

<Both laugh>

DF: -we enjoyed it- it's different, you don't get that- you don't get that now-

KR: No, no.

DF: -you really don't- we- an then we took these leaflets out an put our own in the doors, d'you see? Anybody-

KR: Was it quite a big local SNP?

[26]

DF: Oh, there was a good crowd at that time-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -there was a big crowd at that time, yes.

KR: When would this be, Dolly?

DF: This'd be... what- now, I'll tell ye: it was in the paper on Saturday, about... Mellor from Dalry was the chairman at the time-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -now, that would be fifty years ago-

KR: Really!?

DF: -aye, because it's in the *Gazette*- fifty years ago and twenty-five years ago-

KR: Fifty. Yeah, it would be in the sixties then. Ah right, uh-hu, uh-hu. Uh-hu, yeah.

DF: -an I went out [xxx]- I went, I mean, I helped [its sales?], but I hadnae the money to go gallivantin- we didnae have a car anyway, an I hadnae money to go gallivantin- an then- because- an I was interested- an we went to then, an then when it came to election time, well, when Jane Hyslop died, an the seat became vacant, an... what made me decide was: I went down the street an there was this lady, it was, said [27] to me, "you're the very person", I thought, "what for?", "you, in Jane Hyslop's place", cos she's givin up-

KR: Is this the council?

DF: This was the council-

KR: Aye.

DF: -she's- the local councilor-

KR: Was that Wigtownshire?

DF: No, Newton Stewart.

KR: Oh, it was the [x]-

DF: It was the Newton- it was the town of Newton Stewart then-

KR: Oh it's- it's before regionalization-

DF: Aye.

KR: -I see, right.

DF: Aye, this would be, what, you're talkin about '70-

KR: Aye, that would be the early seventies-

DF: -somehin like that isn't it, the seventies-

KR: -aye, late sixties-

DF: -about '75? Somehin like that-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -when that election- and, she says to me, "you're the very person", an I was- so this is what- and she was a Tory-

KR: Oh.

DF: -an I said to her, I says, "I'm no the same colour as you"-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -"no, but you could- you can do your best- you're the best one"-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an, of course, I stood-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... the- there was five-

[28]

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -it was a big election- I'm just wonderin if that'll come in when it comes to twenty-five years-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -there was five, an a had eighteen- I hink it was eighteen short a fifty per cent of the vote-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -so it was- but I had been doin a lot- I was in the community council then, too-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an doin things- when you're doin things an... when your doin things an you're seen doin things publicly-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -it does- an, of course, I spoke to everybody-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -that's what they said, you don't- you don't need to be – “Dolly aye speaks” –

KR: Aye.

DF: -no like some a them, they just speak when they're wantin suhm [something]-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -“she aye speaks”-

KR: Aye.

DF: -“an does it”, an of course, over the years I helped a lot, although I was only in the background a lot a the time-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because I'm not- I wasnae fussy for bein up front or pushin myself, an it- but^[29] you were there all the school... all durin the... children- time at the school an that, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -it... if they were wantin anything done- in fact, one a the teachers is still livin, an she said that, she says, “if you need anything go an ask Dolly, she'll help ye”-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. So what other things were you involved in? The pageant?

DF: Yes. An I was involved in that withoot bein in the-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -council, but I was involved in the pageant an that-

KR: Ah, but this was one a the community-

DF: -aye, you were community- if you're community minded-

KR: Aye. Uh-hu.

DF: -and... the pageant, and ye- in fact, that was the first year I was in the council, that's the year I crowned the queen-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -but we- unfortunately it was a wet day-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -because I would like to have been out on that lorry, an that- [30]

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -lookin over Cairns- you know, over to the hills-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because I think they are lovely hills-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -but, but anyway it was- I enjoyed it, that-

KR: An were you- were you working at that time?

DF: I was workin in the *Galloway Gazette* shop-

KR: Ah.

DF: -at that time-

KR: Yeah. Mmm.

DF: -and... it was lovely- I'm sorry about that bein away-

KR: Aye.

DF: -for a – it was a lovely shop-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -so it was-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -but there we are, there's always changes-

KR: Indeed.

DF: -everybody doesnae like them but you cannae dae anything about them, an these- these are things that go on-

KR: An did you have other jobs when you were married? Did you have other jobs while you were married?

DF: After I got ma- well, I worked in The Crown too-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -for a bit, but again, unless you had somebody tae help ye out wi the children-

KR: Aye.

DF: -you were- you were stuck, you know-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an I just- an I did- I took cleanin jobs-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -I did the school cleanin- where the library is now-

[31]

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -there was... rooms- there were school-rooms there- just an ante- just part a the Ewart-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -cos they needed-

KR: Aye-

DF: -that was the old Ewart, that wasnae, you know, part a the Ewart then-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... before all that extra building went on; an a went there because- I could go there... I could go there- I got up early in the mornin an went there because children werenae up-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that, you know- an it was... I could do that, as long as I did it I wasnae tied to the exact time because I was workin on my own-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an then I went to the- again, I went to the- did the health centre-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and, again, I sortae- as long as I had it all done, I wasnae tied to workin to a certain time-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -cos I said that, you know, at the time, I asked about it, and they... for- but I [32] was in the Cree Mills for a wee while-

KR: Ah right-

<Talking over each other...>

DF: [it wasn't Cree Mills] but it was- when it was-

KR: -when it was- when it was actually makin mohair?

DF: Yes-

KR: Aye.

DF: -yes, when it was- it wasnae doin so much mohair then, but they were finished wi the tweed then-

KR: Ah right, uh-hu.

DF: -because they went- Cree Mills had other mills, they had another one up Stornoway I think it was-

KR: Ah okay.

DF: -an they kept the tweed up there, an I think that tween mill's still goin-

KR: Okay.

DF: -it was goin for a long, long time, I know-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -but I think-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -because of- tweed is still goin at-

KR: Oh aye, it's still goin in the Heb-

DF: -aye-

KR: -in Harris an stuff; yeah, so how many people were workin in the Cree Mills then?

DF: Oh, I don't know, they had cut- they had cut down-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -because they were doin dressmakin then-

KR: Oh were they, mm-hmm.

DF: -so I was at the dressmaking side-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -they were doin skirts an things-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because... they did... an it was in the paper no so long ago too about them- [33]
again this fifty years/twenty five years-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -about the year that they did a big order for Russia, wi Cree Mill-

KR: I can't remember that.

DF: -wi- mohair-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -a big order-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -for- there was something on in Russia, it wasnae- it was somethin they were doin an they were havin all these-

KR: Aye.

DF: -because they're light, an they're warm-

KR: Right, right, aye, aye. Oh well, so you did all that an your-

DF: I did that- I did a wee bit an then after that- an that was- after that I went to the... I went where? Oh, I was at Kirroughtree for a wee while-

KR: Aye.

DF: -until it was burned doon-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -I was- I did the- I went- I helped at night, right enough, too, but I did the laundry-

KR: Oh, mm-hmm.

DF: -you were down there, you know, an you had the laundry-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an they did- an that- it was- until that year it was burned down-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -so that was me, again-

[34]

KR: So-

DF: Where did I go after that? I cannae remember

KR: <Chuckles>

DF:-I think... I think I was- would that be when... would that be when I went to- started workin in the health centre?

KR: Mmm.

DF: -I don't know, but-

KR: So you did-

DF: -I did- I did-

KR: -these part-time jobs all the while-

DF: -well, it was part-time jobs-

KR: -you were married-

DF: -because-

KR: -as well as your-

DF: -I couldnae take on- I couldnae take on a permanent job for a day- for daytime because a the children-

KR: Aye. Aye. Yeah.

DF: -an my family were spread out-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -you know-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -I mean it's... well, my oldest son... I had, well, I had my family over twenty years, shall we say-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Yeah, aye.

DF: -from the first to the last, so I was really- I never was really free-

KR: No.

DF: -to do that- but I've enjoyed- I enjoyed doin different things, it's experience an that, you know-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -an I like- Kirroughtree too, I mean the laundry, an then if there was any repairs, because they had the girls wearin tartan skirts, you see? [35]

KR: Oh, I see. Right.

DF: -well, kilt an pleated skirts, aye-

KR: Aye, mm-hmm.

DF: -and, he had that... so if they were needin attention-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an they needed pressed, that- they had to be done out there-

KR: So, did you-

DF: -so they just put them on-

KR: -did you go into the Council once your family were kinda up?

DF: Up, yes. When I was up- they were up a bit-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an as I say, that was- at the time, you know, an I thought, an it's... an I thought after she said that, an I- the- for the group said to me about it, an I says, "well, I've been thinkin about that"-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because a this- [whit sayin?]- an of course, at the time, I was in the Community Council... I was in the chair at the Community Council, an then I was elected as a local councillor-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -for the district-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

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DF: -so I was- somebody says, "your wife's as near as the provost as she'll ever- as ever, because she's chair a the Community-"

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: "-she's the elected councillor; you'll no get any nearer noo", because they don't have promised- provosts noo-

KR: Aye, aye. Oh well... so, you've had a very busy life <laughs> have you not?

DF: Aye. It- it-

KR: You still do.

DF: -it has been- well, I still do- I still do, an of course... over the years, too, I've been helpin wi my grandchildren-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an they're- they're- you get good fun out a them yet, you know, just- I had, my- Christine's first girl, an she- I finished work an she says, 'would I help her', so that she could keep her job-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -she had a mortgage, all the rest of it, but she still wanted a family, so I says [37] "right, I'll do that"; and, of course, I went out that time too, doin the poppies-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -did that- an we were talkin one day... and- [course?] this person sayin Dolly, you know, Dolly this, Dolly that, an then Katy... says, "Dolly", she's callin me Dolly-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -I says, "aye, granny Dolly"-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -so that was that, so she started talkin to granny Dolly; that was fine-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -the other granny didnae fancy this granny-Christian-name-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -she thought it should just be the surname, you know-

KR: Aye, surname, yeah, yeah.

DF: -granny Ferries or whatever-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but no, an that, so that's how it's granny Dolly-

KR: How your called that-

DF: -aye-

KR: Oh well.

DF: -and- but it just shows you how kiddies, you know, they just pick up things [38]
very quickly-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Aye. It's a term of affection.

DF: -an that was her, you know, aye she's- she went- she was carrying the poppies
up-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an then she would- nah, she didnae want that, an then she wanted to collect
the money-

KR: Aye.

DF: -which she got the tin for that-

KR: Uh-hu. Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that- but it- it was company too, doin these things; but I've been... well, you
just, I think if you're community minded, you just- these are things you do-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an then, of course, back troubles- because a previous things, that's just what
has got to me-

KR: Mm-hmm. Aye.

DF: -holdin me back fae doin things-

KR: Oh, you still do pretty well. <Chuckles>

DF: -a doin things noo, but... yeah-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -you just-

KR: Well that's- that's- thank you very much Dolly, that was absolutely wonderful...
we might get, we might get a few more tales out of you another time-

DF: Well, maybe- aye, we'll maybe talk about holidays next time-

KR: Okay.

DF: I see the things about the barrier reef, it's goin to be lost-

[39]

<Sounds of the field recorder being turned off.>