

Interviewee: Alex Inman (AI) and Richard Kinghorn (RK)	Interviewer: Caroline Milligan(CM); Mark Mulhern (MM) also present
Date of Interview: 6 February 2014	Ref: DG17-3-1-1-T

Key Words: Childhood 02m 23s; Play 10m 31s; Family life 28m 06s; Schooldays 33m 01s.

CM: Maybe in turn I could I ask you, Richard, if you could just say where and where you were born, first of all?

RK: Well, I was born 28/11/45. Ah was born at Cresswell Maternity Hospital, ah'm eleven weeks and six days older as Alex, because ah was premature...

AI: And he doesn't let me forget it.

RK: ...an ah don't let him forget it. So that's me, and we've known each other since we were six.

CM: Ah, ok, so ah was wondering if you were making sure he didn't lie about his age [*laughter*].

AI: Do I look so young? Is that what it is [*laughs*]?

CM: So, Alex?

AI: My name is Alex Inman, short for Alexander, ah just use Alex. I was born in Charnwood Hospital which is just off the Annan Road and, by a quirk, I now stay within thirty yards of where that hospital was. I was born on the 27th February, 1946, at some unearthly hour of the morning – Sorry Mum I[*laughter*]– and ah was a poor wee soul, ah was only aboot four pound when ah was born, which gave me a lot of health problems but here I am, sixty-seven-year-old, but Richard's sixty-eight now [*laughter*]. So that's me.

CM: But you must be due your birthday soon then if you're just that wee bit apart.

RK: It's just, well ah'm November, Alec's February, and ah wasnae actually supposed to be born tae January, so ma mother and faither tell me but ah think it was a quickie marriage [*laughter*].

CM: So, maybe, because we're interviewing you together, and because your lives have sort of run together from the age of six, maybe the first thing to do would be to just have a wee chat with each of you telling me about what you can remember up to the point where you met each other.

AI: Aye sure.

CM: Do you think your sort of very early memories, that would maybe be a nice way to start off?

Childhood 02m 23s.

AI: Well, ah can give ye a cracker because ma Mum an Dad an Granny said 'No, you wouldnae be able tae remember this' an ah was a babe in arms ad I was snuggling into my Great-Granny, into my Great-Granny's bosom and she was very voluptuous lady, shall we say, an ah was quite comfy in there, thank you very much, an they wanted tae take me oot o there an every time they took me oot o there I made a noise, shall we say? And they put me back, where ah was comfy, an then they took me out and they couldn't believe this. So, years later, ah said tae ma Mum about this, 'Do you remember that time?' 'Yes' and 'Aye, ah dae' she says 'Ah couldn't believe that you were so [?] That you would change so much from taking-'. Think about it, ah was lovely an warm in there and then

they were takin me oot, an ah thought-. However, that's my earliest memory so apparently, ah was a few months old, ah was only about ten months or something like that.

CM: Just such a powerful memory.

AI: An they couldn't believe that ah could remember that.

RK: The earliest ah can remember, we were actually discussing, Alex and I were discussing where we lived, an ah was brought up in Steele Avenue which is a part o the town on the other side o the river and, basically, ye can see it fae here. Ma Mum and Dad stayed wi ma Granny Richardson an ma Papa died and there was a lodger there an aw, John, an ma cousin Ian, that's three, an then there wis ma elder brother, maself an ma young sister and we aw slept in one room, an ah was three, four-year-old then. An then we moved to Troqueer when ah wis four an ah can remember the earliest, four year old, taking the furniture out of the van putting it intae the new house an a trike an ma sister's pram, doll's pram, got nicked an it was doon bi the riverside, East Riverside Drive, which is near the graveyard, an we went away doon an we took ma, ah ken whae it wis tae this dae, so that's the earliest moment ah can remember clearly.

CM: So, is Troqueer, is that part of Dumfries as well?

RK: Yes, it's part o Dumfries, the other side o the river.

CM: And then you presumably, did you have quite a lot more room in your new place.

RK: Yes, we moved into a three-bedroomed house, there was jist ma elder brother an I in one room and then ma young brother, he's about six year younger than us so he wisnae born tae 1952, so he come along an then we all shared, it was concrete built house, just after the War, the concrete floors an they were painted, ah can mind o that an we had a wee bit carpet to step onto when ye got oot o bed, and the windaes aw froze up, because there was nae central heatin or anything, ye ken, the icicles on the metal framed windaes and things like that. So ah can mind away, way, way back then.

06m 03s.

CM: So those were new built houses when you moved into them?

RK: New built houses but they had to knock them down about twenty year ago because the concrete wis crumblin, an that, ye ken.

CM: What about you, what do you remember about your first house?

AI: The first house that ah can remember was in Lincluden, 9 Criffel Drive, it was, which was, we stayed underneath another family, Kirks, who stayed upstairs an ah can't remember too much about it, it must only have been a two-bedroomed house but in that house, you know, a lot o happy times there. There wis two bedrooms an ah think Mum and Dad had one, ma brother and sister an me must have been in the other room, ah cannae remember how, what the sleeping arrangements were at that time but ah do remember, a fond story ah remember, that is, that the ladies upstairs were, shall we say, 'ladies of the night', yea.

RK: Yea, ah can remember them.

AI: An when my Mum wasn't well they took me up an ah was only aboot two, three-year-old and they were teaching me to use a knife and fork and 'Oh, can't have you using a spoon, you have to use a knife and fork.' So ah started using a knife and fork an one day they took me up, and they gave me a boiled egg, well what did Alex want, he wanted a knife and fork, 'Ah want-' No, you don't use a knife and fork, you use-', But ye've went tae aw this bother tae teach me how to use a knife and fork an ah can't use it' [laughter]. Cannae use a knife and fork on a boiled egg. But they were very good, they were very good tae ma Mum and Dad an they helped when Mum wisnae too great, she

had to go into hospital for a hysterectomy and they basically, adopted me to let ma Dad go out tae work, jist for two or three days, so that's one o the memories ah had of Lincluden. An another one was when we were playin, this is scary, the gentleman across the road had a...

RK: Oh ah've got a cracker tae tell ye aboot that.

AI: ...the gentleman across the road had a, like a van, but it was a shop and we were playin hide and seek an of course we were everywhere aboot this van an he's 'Get away fae my van, get away fae my van.' So he came out and started the van up, ah wis underneath it. So that wasnae the bad bit, he then put it in gear which meant that the prop shaft started turnin an ah just froze, ah couldn't move, ah thought 'Where is he goin to go?' And he eventually stopped it, thankfully, and as soon as he stopped ah was oot o there like a scalded cat an away.

08m 48s.

CM: So what age were you then? You would be-?

AI: Ah was only aboot four [*laughter*].

CM: Oh, gee wizz.

AI: That was scary.

CM: Can ah just ask you, the ladies of the night who lived above you and were...

RK: They were nice.

CM: ...yea, but I'm interested in, you know, they were just part of the community, they obviously played an important part in your family life.

AI: They didn't carry out their ladies of the night behaviour upstairs.

CM: No they were-. [*laughter*].

AI: They went elsewhere.

RK: They went elsewhere, ah can remember that.

AI: But, their dad, every Friday night, when he got his pay packet, he went tae the pub an when he came in, ah always knew when he came in because it wis, there was a lot of cursing an swearing an thumping of doors. Because me being a wee nipper was terrified because upstairs everything was amplified downstairs. Ma Dad said to him one time 'Dae you think on a Friday night you could be a bit quieter because you're frightenin the wean', me [*laughter*], me. So, aye, they were generally nice girls...

CM: Nice folk, yea.

AI: ...ladies.

CM: And did you, you were saying that you were playing about that chap's van, did you generally go around, was that the same for both of you, you would go around in sort of gangs of children at that time or-.

RK: Yea, ah can remember when we moved tae Troqueer, ah wis four, an there was an old moat house near the sandstone built, it was actually pinky sandstone, more o a red an it was divided intae four flats.

Play 10m 31s.

And there were big families, three and four, and some, the Blyths an then there was the, there were four different flats an ah can remember there was a downstairs toilet, ah was tellin Alex this, an we used to play in gangs, we used to play kissy-catchy an rounders an everything, ye ken. Ah was jist sayin tae Alex, ah can mind ma brother, eldest brother, he wis reminiscin the other day there aboot things we used tae get up tae, cause my Dad was a long-distance lorry driver an ma Mum had tae bring us up herself. Ah didnae ken whae ma Dad wis till ah was aboot eight. Ah says 'Who's that?', now this is true, 'Who's that?' Comin oot o the top bedroom. She say's 'That's yer Dad, but he was there. But the moat house had a downstairs toilet an ah seen some o the kids climbin up an havin a look in an it wis flooded and ah'm gaun like this, ah felt ma legs getting clattered, so using language o a kid an here wis ma mother 'Don't you swear' an she clattered ma legs, battered ma ear an she used tae say tae us, if she had tae go out, like, she had tae leave us in the house oorself which wis one o the things 'Ah'll guess ah'll no be long because there's a bogey man over in that house...ken, so that was it. Then there was the quarry at the back an there was a big tree and we used tae use a rope an it's still there tae this day, this tree. We used the rope an we used to slide on the sand bankin and everything.

CM: Were you told any of the stories about the quarry, you know, to keep you away from the quarry or were you just warned off it or-.

RK: Jist warned. Basically 'Behave or you'll get yer-.' But aye, it was, like Alex, where he lived, we stayed up in a block o four, up an downstairs and there was the Wynnes upstairs and there was five o them, there was five o us downstairs, an then there's Mrs Gott, Nannygoat, Nanny Gott was her name but spelt OTT, GOTT, an she was an awfy wumman her man come fae Huddersfield, English fellie, an she was an awfy wumman, she used tae, oh honest tae God, this is true, it used to be her back door an her back door, oor back door, was the same an ma mother used tae go in for a cup o tea and that an Nan would be, aw the makeup on, aw the hair aw done an she would be rinsin oot the dishcloth an wiping the top and then she'd dae it again an dae it again. But ah think the classic wis she had kittens, she had a cat that had kittens, an ma young brother would go 'Nanny, Nanny, Nanny Gott', the kittens were floatin oot the backdoor in a box because she flooded oot the kitchen an she used tae make candy ah we used tae gaun up tae the windae, this is, ah wis sayin tae Alex, ah enjoyed the fifties, ah enjoyed ma childhood. Ma brother an I were reminiscin the other day there aboot it an the things ah used tae get up tae an aw. Auld Mr Wright, was at the end o West Riverside Drive, an auld fella, an because ah was divin off the quarry and they were buildin the sewerage at Troqueer an they were puttin drainage in an we used tae have gang huts an we used tae raid each other's gang huts ken, workmen's huts, an ah can mind they cut aw the grass an there was a haystack, we were aw jumping off ontae it an somebody set it alight. So, the things we used tae get up tae.

CM: So, was that, was where you were, was that sort of a kind of, almost the countryside.

RK: Oh yes.

CM: Was it just bordering on to countryside, yea.

RK: Bordering, next to the river.

CM: Yes.

RK: Next to the river. Right next to the river at Troqueer.

Al: jist when ye mentioned the countryside, when we moved from Lincluden to a bigger house in Larchfield, it was being built, literally, in the countryside. And we were lucky then because even now beyond Larchfeld there's houses but then there was just the countryside which meant we could just take off into the countryside, it was great.

RK: Colonel's Wood was next tae, we used tae gaun intae the Colonel's Wood an get aw the crab apples an that.

AI: That's right.

RK: An we used to, even yet, ah'm sixty-eight years old, an some o the guys fae Troqueer, ah havenae seen them for years, an years, an years, an they come up tae me, an they say 'Ye havenae chaynged', come up tae me, ah've got the same hairstyle ah've had for years, different colour noo but we reminisce, ken, o the things ye got up tae.

AI: Were you into Cowboys and Indians and things like that?

RK: Yes.

CM: Cause other folk that ah've spoken to, you know, that would have been contemporaries, yea.

RK: Aye Cowboys an Indians, aye.

AI: Sometimes we played Commandos as well, which obviously, being not quite War babies but the next generation after the War, aye, we played Commandos and stuff like that.

16m 21s.

CM: And was there strong rivalries between communities, especially, I would imagine, you know, with new estates, would there be-.

AI: Curiously enough, where we were, in Larchfield, there was the sort of the guys fae the top o the scheme, as like, an us that were at the, jist as ye went intae the new scheme so there was a them an us. There was the Keirys an the Lauders an then there was us doon the bottom end.

RK: Uh huh.

AI: So, aye, there was, ah widnae say it was viscous rivalry, but...

RK: It was rivalry but the [?].

AI: ...if we had a game of football we let them know about it.

RK: We used tae played fitba doon the Home Field, the Home Field is jist next tae where ah lived. Cause ma mother an father's house was built in 1949, the prefab we vacated, they're still there, they were built in 1948 and they're still there tae this day. Ah'm back in Troqueer, ah still live there now, ah was married ten year an moved back, my house is ninety year old so it's great an there used to be, oh aye, next tae Troqueer Church, an then there wis the Manse an then there wis the orchard. Talking about rivalry, we used tae gaun an rump the apples off the trees an Mrs Mangles, the ministers' wife, ma young brother, Billy, he was up the tree an he's comin doon, ye see, an she telt him off an she's tellin us aw off for stealing the apples an aw that, an he says 'Auld Mangles got me, auld Mangle, auld Spangle's got me [?] Ye're a naughty boy' an aw this. But Johnny Dickson that stayed throo the wa an up the stair, he's a year older than me, he yaist tae get the apples an sell them tae the neighbours at the gate, the garden gate [*laughter*].

AI: Entrepreneur, eh?

RK: Oh aye, but talking aboot rumpin aipples, we stayed in the Troqueer area but ye gaun up the Rotchell Park an up the Rotchell Road an there's a big grey house, big mansion type thing, had an orchard an aw, an ma brother Brian wis fifteen at the time, ah'd be fourteen, an ma young brother seven, eight, an Billy an I, again up the tree, an Brian's fifteen year auld, [?] new bike for his work, Raleigh bike, an he's waitin ootside, an ah sees this fella comin oot wi the plus-fours an the hat an the auld jacket, ye ken, watchin, an oor Billy's gaun like this taken the aipples off the tree an ah'm gaun 'Sh, sh, sh' an oor Brian's shoutin 'Will ye hurry up, what are ye daen?' [*Laughter*] 'c'mon, Christ are

ye [?] swearin like a trooper an ah'm tryin [?], Billy's ken, daen that ye ken, an of course come doon an the fellie came oot an clattered oor Billy across the ear an ah'm sayin 'Dinnae you hit ma wee brother' and ah'm hittin him wi the aipple, an we got oot an the three o us were on the bike, Billy was sittin in the hanlebars, ah wis on the bar an Brian was cyclin an he says 'Ye hit ma wee brother' an Billy says 'Ah, but ah've still got ma aipples.' [laughter].

19m 54s.

AI: Talking aboot rumpin aipples, ah remember once, ah think it was Joe Gillespie an I were rumpin aipples in Westfield Road.

RK: Uh huh.

AI: Whae did we run intae when we come oot? A Policeman [laughter]. Ah dinnae believe this, caugh red-handed, 'Right, you boys, come here.' So 'Jist geese these aipples, ah ken where you two stay, ah'm jist gaun up tae tell your parents aboot you rumpin aipples. So he took aw oor apples an ah thought 'What aboot the apples?' Jist 'Ah'll take them back intae that wumman an gie her them. Away ye go.' So he chased us an away we went an we kept watchin an kept watchin, 'Away ye go, go on, away ye go'. So we kept watchin until we knew he couldnae see us but he about turned an away he went wi the aipples [laughter]. An ah thought 'That wisnae very fair' [laughter]. So that was us an oor rumpin aipples, never got one.

CM: Were the police, with the policemen on the beat, would you see them, were they keeping an eye on you?

AI: Aye, this was on the bicycle.

RK: Aye, the bicycle.

AI: In that area, we also used to go, when we stayed in Larchfield, we used to go down and play in what was then St Joseph's playing fields, it's now known as Maryfield or something like that. But there were about nine different football pitches of various sizes an we used to go down there and play football. Now the policeman used to come along on his bicycle and we werenae theoretically supposed to be in there playing so what happened was he'd sit on his bike an watch us for a while an then after so long he'd sort of take off an come along the path to come into where we went in, so when he started movin we were out o there, out like a shot, an he jist used to smile, he never used to chase us or anything like that but we knew we werenae supposed to be in there, but he'd sit there on his bike for twenty minutes, half an hour sometimes, watchin us, so he was enjoying it, so that's what we did wi oor time, we went an played football.

22m 02s.

RK: It just reminds ye o Oor Wullie wi the polisman, an that's the way it was. That's the way it was.

AI: It wis, he would gie ye a cuff on the ear.

RK: Oh ah enjoyed ma childhood, ah really did. Ma brothers an I, we dinnae see each other very often but when we dae we reminisce, ye ken, an ah'm gaun 'Ah wish ah could go back tae it, especially what the kids are like no, it's aw technology an everything, because when ma daughter wis small we stayed at the other side o the town, Lincluden, an we were there for ten, eight year, an there was a pub across the road from us, Lincluden Inn, ah stayed in Abbey Lane an ah've always been, still remember ma childhood, an ah think ye should, ah think possibly wth ma Dad bein away aw the time, ye didnae get close tae him, an we wanted different for ma daughter, when ah worked at the factory, the Carnation

factory, ah never worked any shifts for twelve years, ah never worked overtime till we moved house. We used tae tae Claire, that's ma daughter, away walks doon bi the river, wee fishin rods, make wee fishin rods, hooks an things like that, an we used tae, they used tae caw the wife an I the Pied Pipers o Lincluden because aw the kids use tae follow us an some o their parents would be in the pub, an they used to come wi us. That actually, Alex and I were at the hospital a month ago an we met one o ma daughter's pals, Pam, she works at the hospital, an she was sayin tae Alex 'Aye we used tae have some great times.' because when Claire was a teenager we used to encourage her friends, she's an only child, tae come intae the house. Ah used tae come off shifts an the wife would be cookin for eight, six an eight teenagers an they used to, but Pam and Anne and Lorraine, an the lassies, used tae say 'We used tae enjoy comin to your bit Mr-' an it was always Mr Kinghorn, which is, ah think if ye get kids now, when we were younger we were brought up to respect an call them by their second name, because you get too personal if ye call them by their first name. An ah still feel that tae this day. An another thing that we were learnt an Alex an I have a laugh aboot, is always take your children to the inside when you're walking, and elderly people and your dog in the inside, because if a car was comin down the road and it sheared off it would hit you, basically that's what we were learnt.

AI: Aye.

RK: Alex an I worked wi people wi special need, for years, and we used to go and collect three clients, two wheelchair clients and a walking client.

AI: Yea, up the Craigs Road.

25m 39s.

RK: Up the Craigs Road and Alex has trouble wi his hearin so ah've got tae, me bein older as him ah should be on the inside but ah go tae the outside [*laughter*] because ah cannae-.

AI: It's so that ah can hear him. It's got nothing tae dae wi-.

RK: We still yet, we've been retired four year, each o us has been retired four year an we still see each other on Thursdays, so that's how, cause ah bend his ear.

AI: He gies me aw his worries but that's aw right, that's what pals are for.

RK: What we were talkin aboot, you were talkin aboot remembering Lincluden, well we go down to the Ship Inn once a month, ah havenae been for a wee while. An there's something [?] one night an we're sittin an this fellie says 'Hiya, Richard. Aye yer strugglin.' An ah'm tryin tae think whae it wis. it wis Tom, Tom Maybank. Ah says 'Oh by God so it is' he used to go wi the girl that stayed next door tae the wife. So ah was bletherin away an he turns tae Alex 'An you're Alex Inman', ye ken how long it is since he's seen him? Fifty-seven years an he can remember him.

AI: An then he wondered why ah didnae know him [*laughter*]. Wait a minute here.

RK: Aye, because they stayed next door tae each other, didn't ye?

AI: That's right, in Lincluden, an ah mean, ah think in these days there was a good community spirit, we were the same ages.

RK: That's basically what we're trying tae get through. Aye Tom's the same age as us.

AI: Aye, if ye were the same ages, ye mucked aboot wi, it didnae matter where ye came fae, particularly the same street, an ye were playin, ye know ye were doin right and wrong in these days, an ye tried no tae dae too much wrong because somebody would probably see ye or something like that. But, ah mean, the days o sort o tyin a bit o thread an three wee buttons so that ye can, between three different house windows and pullin it so that they all rattled an seein them aw comin out the houses.

RK: That's right, an wee chuckie stanes in yer pocket when you're runnin on, we used tae cycle the bikes wi nae hands, an ye used tae get wee chuckie stanes an go [ch, ch, ch,] [laughter].

27m 50s

AI: Either that or tie the door knockers thigither an pull one fae a distance, fae a safe distance, an see them comin oot because when they opened theirs it pulled the other one [laughter]. when they opened theirs it pulled the other one. But that was harmless fun.

Family life 28m 06s.

CM: Yea. So was your, both your mums were stay-at-home mums, they were full-time mums like your-.

AI: No, my Mum worked.

RK: My Mum worked.

CM: Ok.

AI: My Mum worked in McGeorge's factory what was a knitwear factory and she worked in the office there and so she had tae juggle her work an us an at times, if she was later home, ma sister an I would be home first fae school, an ma sister bein a couple o years older than me, she would sort of, let is on. Actually, ma brother was six years older than me so he got to the point when he was going to secondary school an we were at primary school an Mum was still workin so we'd be home first fae the primary school, St Michael's, an ma sister would let us in. By the time ah got to secondary school, sister bein at the teenage girlie thing wi aw her pals, ah was usually first home which meant that ah had tae cook the tea or put the tea on anyway. Aye, an ye didnae mind doin that.

CM: Yes.

AI: Ye jist wanted yer sister tae take a better share o sharing it [laughter]

RK: Aye ma sister, ma mother, she worked in the Wolsey, she worked in Wolsey, the early years, like, when she had Brian, masell, Linda, aw in three year, a year-and-a-half, a year-an- a-half, then it was six year an then it wis four year again an then she had one when she was, she was pregnant when she was thirty-nine, an ah mind, ah served ma time as a butcher an ah come in an ma brother Brian says tae me 'Mum's got something tae tell ye.' An a was, ah had ma dinner-hoor fae the butchers, ah'm sittin, an eatin ma soup, 'Mum's pregnant.' 'What!' 'Dinnae be like that' It was jist that ah nearly burnt ma bloody tongue, ken. But no, at the start she was at home, an then she worked at the Wolsey an then she was a cleaner at Troqueer school for years. But we all had oor jobs to do in the house, ah think ye'll agree.

30m 27s.

AI: Aye, we were the same, aye.

RK: Brian an I had tae dae the bedrooms, an dae the kitchen but oor Linda, ma young sister, if she could get oot o it she would, she's the one wi the brains, but see tryin tae get her tae dae jobs, she wouldnae come oot the bathroom yin day an ma brother climbed in the bathroom windae and hauled her oot, hauled her oot, opened the door an hauled her oot intae the thingmy. But when we were daen the kitchen, washin the dishes, we had tae clean up, oor wee Billy, ma young brother, he would was the dishes an leave the stuff in the basin, no even empty the sink or put them away. He says 'Ma mother telt me jist tae wash the dishes, an that's what ah've done'.

CM: *[laughs]* To the letter.

RK: We used tae have a coal, a wee hallway at the end o the kitchen tae the back door an there was a coal cellar an ah can mind o this fine, we used tae chop sticks wi an auld spade that was made intae a cleaver and we used tae, we made a hole in the lino so when we were sweepin the floor we used to sweep it under the lino *[laughter]* till ye got a lump an then ye had tae lift it, ye ken.

AI: Aye, it's strange that, jist when ye mentioned the coal cellar in the back, jist in exactly the same place, like, in the lobby outside the back kitchen, which led to outside, the coal cellar in there.

RK: Oh, ah'm enjoyin this, memories.

CM: And you were the same, you had set tasks, as well, that you would do as children?

AI: Ah've got tae say ah wisnae as hard done tae as Richard, because Mum was, once we got the sort of, put the tea on Mum would be home and she'd do the cleanin an aw that. An ma Dad worked at the Crichton, he was a shoe-maker at the Crichton, so he wisnae home till jist sort of about half-an-hour after ma mum so we'd be home at four, Mum would be home about half-four and Dad would be home about five. We did oor bit, we helped wi the, washed the dishes an stuff like that.

CM: Just before we move on, you said your Mum was at the Wolsey.

RK: Yes.

CM: Is that, what was that?

RK: Knitwear factory.

Schooldays 33m 01s.

CM: Knitwear factory, right. So, maybe we'll move on to schooldays.

AI: Aye, sure.

CM: So, do you want to tell us about your first day?

RK: Ah just passed ma eleven-plus. Ma first day?

CM: Oh, you can tell us about your eleven-plus if that's the memory that's-.

RK: No, no, ma first day was at the Laurieknowe School, ah had tae go early, ma birthday's no tae November but ah had tae go early because ma eldest brother wouldnae go without me. So, ah had

tae go when ah was aboot four, just over four-year-old, ah was four in the November an ah went in the April, mind it used tae be Easter...

AI: Different rules in these days for qualification for going to school, it wis.

RK: ...aye, Easter and August and then Christmas time. So ah started early an ah had tae dae an extra term because ma birthday was no till November so when ah was fifteen in the November ah didnae leave tae the Christmas. That was an extra term fae the August, it didnae make me any cleverer [laughter].

CM: Yep.

AI: You said that, right, me first day was, again, ah went to Laurieknowe School, but we didnae really know each other then. It's amazing.

CM: Yea, that was to come later.

AI: Aye, and we'd tae get a bus fae Lincluden to Laurieknowe but ah was only at Laurieknowe for about, ah think it would be about two terms...

RK: Aye, ah was the same.

AI: ...again because o birthday qualification time and school term time. An ah used tae get on this bus and one o the wee things that ah pit doon was that the bus conductress, ah'm sure she was Hitler's apprentice, cause she 'Sit down, don't move.' you know, an ye couldnae move, or frightened tae move. The bus took ye to Laurieknowe School, which was good, an at that time ma sister was at Laurieknowe School as well. But ah only went there about a couple o sessions because Lincluden School was then opening and being enlarged to take more pupils so ah went to Lincluden School after that, which was handier because it was, like, two hundred yards up the road.

35m 13s.

RK: An then ye werenae long till ye moved tae Larchfield, then?

AI: After, well, when we moved to Larchfield ah went to St Michael's School.

RK: Aye.

AI: That's where we met up again.

CM: So, your first school was quite a small, older school?

AI: It was an older school, uh huh.

CM: And then you moved to, was it a new building?

AI: Brand spanking, new build, aye.

CM: So, can you tell us a wee bit about what the old school was like and then when-

RK: We were reminiscin aboot this.

AI: The old school was...

RK: The teachers.

AI: No, the old school, at Laurieknowe or-.

CM: Yea, well, your very first school, you know, was that-?

AI: Yea, that's Laurieknowe, the same as Richard.

CM: Yea, and was that-?

RK: Ah cannae really remember much about that, ah really remember more about St Michael's School.

AI: Ah think Laurieknowe School was a darker school than St Michael's, it always struck me as that.

RK: Ah know St Michael's School was about a 160 years old...

36m 09s.

AI: Uh huh.

RK: ...because it's eight, ten years since it celebrated 150 years so ah think it'll be about 160 years now.

AI: Ah don't know how old Laurieknowe School would be, Richard, before that.

RK: Ah think that's the 1800's.

AI: It wid be in the 1800s, aye.

RK: Ah cannae really remember a lot about that because, as ah say, Alex and I both were jist there a couple o terms.

AI: A couple o terms, aye.

RK: An then we moved to Troqueer an then we went tae St Michael's.

AI: You went to Troqueer an ah went tae Lincluden, yea.

CM: Yea.

AI: Was Troqueer a new school then?

RK: No, no no, ah went tae St Michael's.

AI: Oh you went to St Michael's.

RK: Right away, no, Troqueer School wisnae built tae, ma young sister's sixty-seven, sixty-six, an she went there, she was the first dux, she was eleven years old, so its fifty-odd year. Aye fifty-odd.

AI: Aye it was a, I would say it was a Victorian building, Laurieknowe School, Laurieknowe School. Lincluden was a modern school, everything was , you know, big windows an steel framed an aw the rest o it which ah thought was great in these days, but it was cold during the winter.

CM: Uh huh.

AI: They obviously hadn't thought that one out.

37m 35s.

CM: So, you were there just for a wee while and then you went to-?

AI: Aye, ah was jist there for, ah think it must jist hae been, well ah moved tae Larchfield in fifty-two, which means ah would only have been six when ah left Lincluden School an went ta St Michael's School so ah was only there for aboot, again, a couple o session, again, mayybe aboot October tae March, something like that. So, that would be September, we started right through to March, something like that an then we moved tae St Michael's School.

CM: And that's when you met-.

RK: Ah can actually remember the first day ah, well, no the first day, ah remember the first time ah seen Alex, he's stannin there watchin me like this, ye ken, 'Whae are you lookin at?'

AI: Hands in ma pockets.

RK: Hands in pockets an basically we ken each other through St Michael's School but we baith went tae the High School, an we were in different classes an we didnae see each other again for years, did we?

AI: We didn't, no, no.

RK: Never saw each other for years.

AI: We met up in Burns Street.

RK: Till we met when we were...

AI: Both care assistants.

RK: ...both care assistants.

CM: Ok, so this is the job that you've done after you both retired from the-.

RK: No, no.

CM: No?

38m 52s.

RK: We were doing this before we retired.

CM: OK.

RK: Ah started, ah got made redundant fae, the Carnation when ah was forty-nine, ah took a year out till ah got ma, ah took a year out an ah wanted tae do nursing, but nursing at the time, the limit was forty-seven, ah was forty-nine comin fifty at the time. So, ah did voluntary work with the mobility scooters an things like that then ah met somebody, an auld neighbour that used to babysit ma daughter, Angela Cameron, and she worked at the day-centre and she said 'There's a job that would

just suit you right down to the ground' because ah like tae take care o people, it's just ma personality and Alex is the same so that's why we get on as well.

AI: Yep. Ah took early retirement from SAI [Scottish Agricultural Industries] ah was lookin for something ese to do, after about six months or something like that, ah was lookin for something else to do an ah went into the care industry an ended up startin at Burns Street where ah met up wi Richard again.

RK: An that's how we've been pals.

AI: Ah was there for about ten years.

RK: Ah was there sixteen.

AI: It was good.

CM: Ok, so, ah'm just thinkin about our time and ah'm wondering, what would you like to do? Would you like to talk more about schooldays or would you like to talk about your time in working together when you were in the care centre, and we can always go back and do the schooldays?

AI: We can carry on with the schooldays if you want.

CM: Yea, do you want to do that? Do you want to talk more about school and then in another interview we can talk about your-?

RK: Aye, if you want to talk about the schooldays, yes.

AI: Sure.

40m 38s.

CM: OK, because there's a lot, you've both had really interesting experiences but we don't want to tire you out all in one by trying to cram everything into one session, so-.

RK: Well, one thing ah'm gonna say, but ah'll watch in the way ah word it, the school, the playground, aye, ye know what ah'm goin to say don't you?

AI: No, I wish to disassociate myself with any comments he's sayin, right now [*laughter*].

RK: Toilets at St Michael's School, the boys' toilets were out, an it was all tiles and we used to see what mark, we used to mark how far we could flow, shall we say [*laughter*].

CM: Have you got anything to say about that, Alex [*laughing*]?

AI: Like ah say, ah disassociate maself [*laughter*], but it's true [*laughter*]?

RK: It's true, an ah can remember, years ago, ah had trouble with some health problems, wi ma prostate, and the surgeon says tae me 'Now, how do you feel Mr Kinghorn' ah said 'Well, ah'm gonna go back tae St Michael's School an see how far I can flow'.

CM: So, is that your stand-out memory from your primary school years [*laughs*]?

AI: How sad are you? How sad are you [*laughter*]?

RK: Ah can mind Miss Peters and Miss Halliday, Miss Halliday, ah wasnae clever at the school, ah'm a hands-on person, basically. Alex is a wee bit more intelligent, well slightly [laughter].

AI: Ah've got ma name up on the board at St Michael's School.

RK: Oh, have ye?

AI: An it wisnae for bad attendance.

CM: It wasn't anything to do with the loo, was it [laughs]?

AI: It wisnae tae do wi anything in the toilets, either.

RK: Ah didnae get a plaque, didnae get a plaque. No, we were actually talking about Miss Peters, the school when we went intae the hall, ah mind the janitor's hut an aw, like.

AI: Ah, you've got me there, where was that?

42m 52s.

RK: Next tae the boys' toilets.

AI: Of course, silly question.

RK: But, no, there was a Miss Peters, she went away to Rhodesia, she was nice, but Miss Halliday, the desk was one like a, ken the big tall ones and she used tae gaun like this, pull up her stockings an that, an aw the boys used tae-.

AI: It was a good school, a good school. We had a good headmaster, the headmaster initially wa a Mr Scove...

RK: Oh ah remember.

AI: ...he got with the EIS [Educational Institute of Scotland] in Scotland so he got promotion up there. An then we got a Mr Graham, he was right into football, he encouraged the football side wi the boys an ah always remember one time, there was a small area where ye could play football and another area that had a slope in it an the area where we used to play football, unfortunately, one o the guys went to take a shot an it was a lowish wall an ah blocked the shot an over the ball went an through the classroom window. Oh dear, so it was my fault apparently because ah blocked the shot 'No it wasn't, you shot', so we were having this row, out the teacher came, Mr Graham, 'Right, who was this?' So we had tae go in and make sure we swept up all the glass and all the glass was there but we didn't get billed for it so it wasnae too bad, put it down as an accident. And again, in the other part o the playground, when ah was younger, it was only the P [Primary] 6 and P7s that were allowed to play football the rest, the wee-er ones just got shoved oot the road, so when ah was younger we used to go wi our toy cars an race them an see how far ye could get them doon the slope but ye had tae let them go.

RK: That slope at the gate?

AI: No, at the far end.

RK: At the far end, ah ken roond the back.

AI: An ye weren't allowed to push them, ye were just to let them go so you were always there adjudicatin 'You pushed that', 'No, ah didnae', so that type thing was humourless, shall we say?

45m 10s.

CM: What about when the weather was bad, were you, did you still go outside or was there would you be kept in your classrooms?

AI: There was a shed out there, wasn't there?

RK: Aye, ah kinna-.

AI: As ye go up into the-.

RK: Aye there was a shed, but there was a bike shed an aw, wasn't there, a bike shed there tae. we used tae, that was at George Street, where everybody used tae gaun roond the bike sheds an have a wee ciggy.

AI: That's secondary school.

RK: That's secondary School.

AI: But primary school at St Michael's, again, ye used tae get, it bounded St Joseph's College, there's a wall and sometimes St Joseph's College, which was a boarding school, sometimes the boys would hurl abuse at us or conkers, if it was the time o year, they used to throw them over at us, an ah can remember that. But they came from world-wide tae St Joseph's College.

RK: Ah can remember their uniform were a purlpy-blue, weren't thae, wi gold braid?

AI: The gold braid, aye.

RK: Oor uniforms were brown wi no braid.

AI: That's right, they were brown, aye.

RK: We aw had tae wear uniform.

AI: An short trousers.

RK: Ah still was wearin short troosers when ah went tae the high school, aye, eleven year auld.

AI: Ah was posh, ah was wearin long troosers.

CM: That was a choice by then was it, you know, for your Mum?

46m 42.

RK: It was if they could afford it basically...

AI: What ye could afford.

RK: ...because ah used tae get hand-me-doons from ma brother.

MM: Ye have tae watch your time.

CM: OK.

MM: Maybe round it off here.

CM: Ah was going to ask you maybe just one or two last questions about primary school. And then that'll give us our starting point next time.

AI: Aye, sure.

CM: You mentioned a couple of lady teachers, or you mentioned a couple, Alex, ah should say, mentioned a couple of male headmasters, an ah was wondering, did you have many teachers who were men or was it more the senior roles.

AI: Ah think it was mainly women.

RK: Mainly women.

AI: Mr Graham was the only teacher who, he was the headmaster as well, in these days, an he was the only male teacher, wasn't he? Mrs Cole an-.

RK: Miss Halliday and Miss Peters.

AI: Miss Peters. [REDACTED]

CM: Well I think, given that we're a wee bit out of time, we'll maybe call it a day there and then we'll have at least another interview but maybe another couple because it would be good to look at your secondary education and then obviously your working lives have been really interesting as well. Is there anything that you would like to add before we finish this interview?

AI: About school?

CM: Yea, or just anything that you want to, you know flag up that you'd like to discuss in the future.

AI: We could take ye a walk, through St Michael Street, at some point if it's possible just to give ye an idea what it was like.

RK: That's what, the wife and I were up there yesterday and saying we should jist mark what shops and what buildings were there.

MM: Well what I suggest we do is, for one occasion, we bring a recorder and a camera and a notebook and we go for a walk.

AI: Aye, sure, we could dae that, aye.

CM: We could do a, yea that would be a good thing to do, yea.

MM: Record as we're walkin round and we could take pictures, we could build up quite a nice wee picture of what you're telling is.

CM: Yes, that would be a lovely thing to do.

MM: I think it would be good because we get to see the shops-.

RK: We did that at the church, a treasure hunt, in the summer, went out in different groups, different areas, we went fae St George's Church which is in George Street, and then we went down and is it Boots, the Chemist, or Blunts?

AI: What is?

49m 38s.

RK: Blunts, in the corner, that was, well ah didn't know, but Donald Henderson, which his dad's got, he runs the museum in Dalbeattie, he was saying that there was the Maxwelltown side o Dumfries and there's the Dumfries side, Maxwelltown's on the other side. We stay in Maxwelltown side.

AI: Two separate burghs.

RK: Two separate burghs and there's the prison up Treble Street but where Blunt's is, the chemist, it used to be a burger bit but seemingly it use tae be the prison for Maxwelltown. But ah'll have tae make sure an find out more about that. So that was interesting, that treasure hunt, things like that.

AI: But one other thing I'd like to add about primary school was on a Wednesday mornin we regularly heard the cattle being taken...

RK: Oh yes, aye.

AI: ...from Craigs Road, from the farms up the Craigs Road, an ye could hear the sheep going down, because you were in your class and the windaes were open, an ye could hear the sheep going down the road an they were herding them down the road to take them to the market which was always on a Wednesday an ye could hear them because there was next tae no cars in these days.

MM: Of course, aye.

AI: So they could take them down there wi the dogs and ye'd hear the dogs, yippin away an the shepherd shoutin out at the dog and aw the rest o it so ye could hear that through the windows and you were always hoatchin tae sort of get up and have a look an ye were never allowed tae, aw ye could do was hear it. So that was a wee thing that wouldnae happen nowadays.

MM: That's a wee thing that's a big thing, though.

AI: Sorry?

MM: It's a wee thing that's a big thing, the amount of traffic now, in towns, it's [?].

AI: That was a wee, jist a wee memory there, you used tae hear aw the sheep, ah don't think they took cattle down, ah think it was mainly sheep.

RK: Mainly sheep.

51m 34s.

MM: Ah saw a video recently of Whithorn, from 1963, and there was a tractor, it's five minutes ah think, there's one tractor drives through, there's one parked car and then another car, in five minutes.

RK: And that was it?

MM: And now Whithorn's full o cars up the middle o the street and either side and there's tractors going backwards and forwards, it's a big change in a short space of time.

AI: When we went tae Larchfield in 1952, ah think it wis, there was one car for, must be about a hundred and fifty yards down the road, which is a lot o houses, there was only one car and then within about five years, about three cars. and then the cars started to expand after that but it's amazin just how few cars there were.

CM: You know the last thing ah have tae ask you, because ah have tae give you the opportunity to tell us this, after casting aspersions on why your name was up on the wall in the primary school? So why was that?

AI: Oh right, [*laughter*], it wisnae for bein bad, honest, no it was for the pupil that made the most progress in the last three years at St Michael's, they had a Noble prize, it wisnae a Nobel Prize, a Noble Prize, and ah got a, ah think ah got an encyclopaedia, to encourage me.

RK: An ah'm the dead opposite, because ah just passed ma eleven-plus by the skin ma teeth, ah'm not academically clever but ah'm hands-on.

AI: Yea.

RK: We've aw got different qualities.

CM: Different skills.

AI: You've got a lot of experience in-.

MM: Intelligence is a tricky thing to measure anyway.

RK: Oh right.

MM: What does it mean anyway?

53m 21s.

RK: Intelligence is ok in the right hands.

MM: Quite so.

RK: Yes, exactly.

AI: In others it's dangerous.

CM: Well, ah think, shall I stop it there?

MM: I think so, yes.

CM: Thank you very much.

End of interview